by Shawna Wright, Front Page Editor

Fairchild’s Find is about a big city police officer who is devastated by the loss of both his mother and fiancee. He moves to a small rural community, becomes the sheriff, and falls in love again.

The drama continues when his new love is the victim of a violent crime and becomes a protected witness. The story is filled with twists and turns, and could be a true find for readers.

Cora Miller, the author and a 2003 NEO graduate, started writing the book at 16 years old, but left it unfinished after a family member told her “writing is a dream and dreams don’t pay the bills.”

Years later Miller’s niece found the unfinished novel and read it. She thought it was wonderful and persuaded Miller to finish it, as did her husband.

At age 45, Miller finished writing her book and submitted it to Publish America in April, 2003. She received a contract in June and signed off on a book cover December 5th.

“This is a personal achievement,” Miller said. “I plan to give a percentage [of the profit] to the community, like the Crisis Center, Church Youth Group, and Little League.”

Miller has lived in Ottawa County for the past 11 years and tutors elementary students in a variety of subjects. She also likes helping out with various organizations such as the March of Dimes.

“This community has been good to me and has helped me a lot so I plan to return the favor,” Miller said.

In 1997 Miller was left 98 percent blind by glaucoma, a disease which she inherited through her mother’s family. Although glaucoma is a highly treatable disease, Miller was diagnosed in an advanced stage which was too late to treat. Her blindness is irreversible.

Miller doesn’t let that stop her though. She has already started on a sequel to Fairchild’s Find that she says will include a few more twists and turns.

“Baubbie Jo, a victim in the story - I actually got her character and demeanor from a person there at NEO,” Miller said. “A lot (see FAIRCHILD on pg. 2)"
Love Cherish and Whinney

Valentine treats for the horse who has everything

by Michelle Orlovitz

Everyone has special little traditions they do each year or each holiday. Valentine’s Day is no exception, but if your “be mine” is an equine, then maybe you are looking for the perfect gift that is hard to find.

Horses love treats like most “people,” but don’t run to Wal-Mart to buy a heart shaped box of chocolate. Instead, fix a more personal gift that you can share.

There are two books to help:

The Original Horse Treats, and The Ultimate Guide to Pampering Your Horse.

1/2 teaspoon salt
1 egg
2/3 cup milk
1/4 cup corn oil
1 cup chopped apples

Valentine’s Day is a fun day to do something different. Preheat oven to 400 degrees to the barn and make sure they are cool before you serve them to your four-legged companion.

Happy Valentine’s Day from all the animals at the barn.

(Fairchild, con’t from front)

of people at NEO helped me out with this [book]. I acknowledge a lot of NEO people in the book.”

Miller is so grateful to the NEO community that she has chosen to have her first book signing in our library. March 1 is the predicted date of the release and the book signing is tentatively planned for March 5.

“I thought this might be a way to help NEO,” said Miller, “to say to incoming students: ‘If I can do it, you can do it.’”

Miller is currently hunting for a publicist and literary agent. When she’s not working on her book, Miller stays busy with her family which includes her husband, Joe, seven children, and four grandchildren. So how does Miller find the time to write and take care of such a large family?

“My kids are my life and my incentive,” she said. “I am also very organized. I hate to start something and not finish it immediately.”

The book, Fairchild’s Find, can be pre-ordered online from PublishAmerica.com/books/3759. The ISBN number is 1-4137-0748-3.
Snake eyes, Lady Norse go 1-1

by Mike Lavigne and Brandon Smith, Sports Writers

The 17-2 Lady Norse took to the court Thursday night defeating the Eastern Mountaineers 82-65.

NEO and Eastern both stayed close throughout the first half. The Lady Norse showed their perseverance and went into the locker rooms three points up on the scoreboard. Eastern tired and tried to keep up but it just wasn’t enough with the Lady Norse coming out of halftime with a 8-0 run.

The Mountaineers stayed somewhat close until NEO really broke it open with five minutes left in the game. The part of the game that really made the difference was Lady Norse guard Viviane Nascimento hitting a sensational three with four minutes left in the game to put the Lady Norse up by sixteen points.

"I really feel like I did my job to help the team get the win tonight," said Nascimento.

Although the game was definitely sealed at that point, the Lady Norse remained persistent and continued their dominance leading them to a 17 point victory. Overall, the Lady Norse played good team defense as well as good team offense. They stayed focused and ran their system, helping them to get a team win.

The Lady Norse move to 18-2 in the rankings after Thursday night’s game. Following the game the Norse Wind’s own Brandon Smith sat down with a Lady Norse basketball player known simply as Labiana.

BS: Was this your best game?
L: No, I’ve definitely played better than I did tonight.

BS: How did you feel about playing against the other Brazilian players?
L: It feels good, but it wasn’t any different than playing against anybody else.

BS: Do you feel like you’re the leader on the team?
L: Not really.

The Lady Norse’s next game will be a Bi-State Conference match-up against Carl Albert State College on February 12 at 6:00 p.m.

by Mike Lavigne, Sports Writer

The Norsemen put up a good fight Thursday night but it was just not enough as they lost to the Eastern Mountaineers 86-80.

Eastern started off with the first score followed by a quick answer on the part of NEO tying the game up 7-7. After some close play the Mountaineers surged ahead 20-13. At the midpoint of the first half both teams went on a three minute scoring drought, keeping the game at 25-26 in favor of the Mountaineers. That was ended by a Jason Greene three point shot that put the Norsemen up 28-26. NEO followed that up with a 6-0 run closing in on the end of the half with an eight point lead. The Mountaineers slowly crawled back into the game putting them only one point behind at the close of the half.

The home team saw only devastation in the second half. Everytime the Norsemen showed something strong for a potential comeback Eastern showed a 9-2 run which was capped by a Chris Rouse three pointer later through the half. Before anyone knew it, the Norsemen fell victim to a 60-50 deficit. NEO made a late run toward the end involving a series of baskets including Fred Peete’s three point basket bringing the game within six but that was just what the margin would remain until the final whistle.

The Norsemen played a hard game but sadly fell short.

2003-04 Norsemen basketball team (photo provided)
Debate: Cussing, yes or no?

by Marley Dowell

Cussing is an issue that involves us all, even if you don’t ‘tink it does. People say.. “you shouldn’t say this, you shouldn’t say that,” but it’s all freedom of speech. The Constitution gives us that freedom. Sure, some of the words are just vulgar, but it’s your right to say them when you feel like it. Yes, there are inappropriate times when you should watch your tongue, which I think is a good idea, but to just say no cussing at all is a violation of our rights. If you want to cuss you should be able to whenever you feel the urge. Some people are so used to cussing that they do it unconsciously. If you like freedom of speech then don’t tell people how they can or cannot talk.

Bonnaroo DVD Review:

by Marley Dowell

If you like to listen to all kinds of music then the Bonnaroo Festival DVD is right for you. On the DVD you will find all kinds of bands from rap to bluegrass and everything in between. The festival takes place in Clarksville, TN. It is a three day event attended by people from all over the world who come to have a good time, party and listen to good music.

The first disk starts with Les Claypool’s Frog Brigade just jamming for an hour. It goes on to sets of various local jam bands from around New Orleans and the surrounding areas. By late evening Les Claypool (of Primus) had another band come on and play. They were Colonel Claypool’s Bucket Of Berine Brains, followed by a long set by folk singer Ben Harper.

To finish the first night, the final band to play was Wide Spread Panic who put on a three hour set that sent the crowd into a mass sing along. If you were there you probably joined them in the excitement of a live performance that’s tops on my list.

Question of the Week:

Why are we called the Norsemen?

"Because they can’t come up with a good name."
-Devony Teim

"Because we wanted to be original."
-Jayme Petterson

"Because Norsermen were strong people."
-Brandon Siegrest

"Because Vikings are cool."
-Carly Hamilton

"No idea."
-Jodi Fugate
Mame makes musical mayhem

by Cole Dawson, A&E Editor

Auditions are over and Theatre NEO’s spring musical, Mame, now has a cast of student actors to match its peculiar characters.

Unlike other NEO productions, Mame has a much larger cast. Both Steve McCurley and Mary Susan Whaley will be working hard to bring Mame to life, as well as Ashley Webb, the stage manager, and a number of technicians.

“I am so excited to be in this production of Mame,” said Callie L. Kays. “It is a great show and I know that it’s going to be a blast!”

“I can’t wait to do Mame,” said Jessica Crupper. “I am excited that I get to play a big, fat southern mama!”

“I am glad to be in the play because it is a wonderful inspiration to the actors and the audience.”

said Rafeal Corral. “I am sure that you will enjoy it!” Crystal Parker said “I’m very happy to be a part of Mame. I am excited that I get to use a fancy southern accent that is my own.”

Mame cast members Callie Kays and Rafeal Corral (photo by Cole Dawson)

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**Mame Casting Information**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Actor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spencer Neal</td>
<td>Patrick Dennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chelsea Cole</td>
<td>Agnes Gooch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kimberly Johnson</td>
<td>Vera Charles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Ball</td>
<td>Mame Dennis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rafeal Corral</td>
<td>Ralph Devine/Chorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Dyscuss</td>
<td>Bishop/Uncle Jeff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Forler</td>
<td>M. Lindsay Woolsey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micael Robinson</td>
<td>Ita</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chrissy Tipton</td>
<td>Doormaid/Chorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desiree Paslay</td>
<td>Elevator Person/Chorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristina Price</td>
<td>Artist/Chorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jessica Webb</td>
<td>Stage Manager/Chorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Fontenot</td>
<td>Chorus</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Notes:**

- Messenger/Model/Chorus
- Dwight Babcock
- Cole Dawson
- Gregor
- Beauregard Burnsise
- Cousin Fan/Chorus
- Sally Cato/Dance Teacher
- Mother Burnsise/Chorus
- Patrick Dennis (19-20)
- Greg Nuse
- Dagan Mayfield
- Donald Whiteley
- Lee Jackson
- Callie Kays
- Tj Miller
- Chorus
New York State Rep. attempts to rid U.S. of horse slaughter

by Jennifer Rainey

New York State Representative, John Sweeney, is currently trying to pass the American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act. The act is focused on keeping Americans from slaughtering horses for food. The act will also prohibit trading and transporting horse flesh and live horses for food.

Currently, Americans are slaughtering horses for human consumption in Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, Mexico, and Japan. Already, the states of California, Connecticut, New York, Virginia, and Vermont have laws, which were intended to prevent abuses to horses. Organizations supporting the act are Churchill Downs Inc., New York Racing Association, New Jersey Commission, Utah Quarter Horse Association, Breeders Cup National Thoroughbred Racing Association, and the Texas Thoroughbred Association.

Supporters of the act argue their points because of panicked horses which are run into trucks and then killed, the use of stunning equipment designed to deliver repeated blows, and the offensiveness it has on normally accepted morality. Activists have also stated that the horses are sometimes transferred without rest, water, and food, while being unprotected. Many horses that are shipped to slaughter are either, young, healthy horses, or old, crippled ones, which are in no state of long, painful travel. Another factor is that veterinarians often prescribe to sick horses, drugs that reside under the flesh and can be harmful to humans when consumed.

Activists believe there are other ways to control horse populations other than slaughter. Their ideas are to donate horses to equine rescue organizations; making Beltex Corporation in Fort Worth, TX and Dallas Crown in Kaufman, TX employ about 200 people to slaughter horses. Anti-activists argue that if activists are against slaughtering horses, they should be against slaughtering other animals. They believe activists are being hypocritical. Not only are horses slaughtered for food, they’re also used for other things useful to people, such as to make baseball covers, shoes, leather products, and in open heart surgery. They are also used in pharmaceuticals, such as primen, which is used as a drug for menopause. Anti-activists also believe ridding the United States of horse slaughter could potentially harm more horses than it helps. There are potential environmental hazards to burial, cremation, placement in landfills, and composting. All methods activists suggest using in disposing of dead horses. Other problems suggested in the act were economic factors. Having horses slaughtered may be the most economical way to rid the population of sick, or dead horses, rather than having them euthanized and having carcasses hauled away and cremated. Horse owners can sell horses to slaughter plants for anywhere between $150-$800, making it a far more economical option than the $40-$200 that horse owners would have to pay for disposal of euthanized animals.

Another point made in support of horse slaughter is that there is no place for all of the horses and they would starve to death if slaughtering did not take place.

"I like the idea of synthetic. I believe in doing research and trying homopathic options. Pharmaceuticals are out to get your money by making patents. Pharmaceuticals are actually new to civilization; however, not all prescriptions are dead end or bad," said equine student, Ann Bruxvoort.

Currently, slaughtering is the choice of the horse owner; however, if the bill is passed, no American will legally be able to slaughter, or to ship a horse to another country for slaughter.
Freshman:
Stacey Moore
by Jennifer Rainey

Freshman, Stacey Moore is from Minneapolis, KS. There, she was raised around agriculture and found enjoyment out of working on farms. Moore also enjoys the social aspect and people involved in agriculture.

“I like it [agriculture], because I like the kind of work and the guys in Wranglers drive me nuts,” Moore said.

She decided to attend NEO, because she received an in-state tuition waiver and the school was away from her home. She also enjoys the student diversity found on campus. On campus, Moore is involved in the Aggie Society and is a member of the horse judging team. In her spare time, she likes working, riding her horse, and attending parties.

Her major is Farm and Ranch with an Equine option. This she plans to use to pursue her future goals of owning her own horse farm and raising horses.

Moore said that the most fun she's had at college are the "great parties," and that college has made her more independent and more social.

Sophomore:
Matt Watkins
by Jennifer Rainey

Twenty-year-old sopho-
more, Matt Watkins is from Lindsey, OK. He was raised around agriculture his entire life and believes that it's an important line of work. He said that he also likes the people involved in the ag department on campus.

Watkins made his decision to attend NEO when he received a scholarship to be a part of the equine judging team. He also had family members who attended college here, so he knew what to expect from NEO.

"NEO's educational, but small enough that you know most of the people who go here. Everyone's not just another face," said Watkins.

On campus, he is involved in Phi Theta Kappa, the horse judging team, and the Aggie Society. His hobbies include anything to do with horses, roping, and spending time with friends.

Currently, Watkins is majoring in agricultural communications. However, after graduating, he plans to work in Purcell, OK, where he will pursue a second associates degree in either business or banking.

His favorite memory was during his first two semes-
ters during the time he spent with his two cousins, while they attended the college.

Watkins said that the most important piece of advice he could give to incoming students would be, "to enjoy their social life, but also to make it educational and make the most

Aggie Society meets

The Aggie Society held a meeting on February 11 to discuss upcoming events and activities. First on the agenda was a livestock show for the club members. Those who wish to participate will show cattle, hogs, or sheep and be entered into a jackpot. Other people, such as community members can also enter the jackpot by voting on their favorite member and the member’s animal to win the show. The member who wins the show will win the jackpot and split part of the winnings with those who voted for him or her. The show will be held in April. Details are currently being discussed and the society plans to hold numerous meetings between now and then to further discuss activities which will be involved

Aggie Society officers, Alex Tolbert, Jace Beardsley, Jarod Jennet, Travis Schunk, Nicholle Renshaw, Tonya Brown, Natalie Wilson, Julie Biser, and Kali Mossier.

in this show.

Another activity discussed was the annual opossum hunt. Members say this is a way they enjoy getting together to celebrate the past year. They also began planning scrapbook and decoration ideas for the end of the year banquet.
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See Gina Manders, Continuing Ed, LA 109

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Devon,
Be my Valentine.
Love, Irish

Flowers are pretty
and candy is
sweet. But my dear
Courtney, you are the
one that makes my
heart skip a beat.
Love Rich

To my lovely Woo
and my baby Swede,
I love you so much.
Freig the Swede

Don't just ask for a burger,
ask for WAYLAN'S

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