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University Relations Staff

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Don't Miss Woody Allen's 'Don't Drink the Water'

Stage Center Theatre enacts *Don't Drink the Water* by Woody Allen and directed by NEIU's Rodney Higginbotham, August 1, 6-8, 13-15; 7:30 p.m. For ticket information: 773/794-6652.

A cascade of comedy and a solid year's hit on Broadway, this story takes place inside an American embassy behind the Iron Curtain. An American tourist, a caterer by trade, and his wife and daughter rush into the embassy two steps ahead of the police who suspect them of spying. But it's not much of a refuge, for the ambassador is absent, and his son, who has been expelled from a dozen countries and the continent of Africa, is now in charge. □



"At the Centers" brings news and information about Northeastern's three off-campus academic centers: the Center for Inner City Studies, the Chicago Teachers' Center, and El Centro. Information will appear as available.

Summer Doings at the Center for Inner City Studies

STP -- GOOD FOR ALL AGES

The Summer Transition Program (STP) has been a real benefit to students at the Center for Inner City Studies (CICS) since it started nine years ago. STP – NEIU's program providing an introduction to university life, under the direction of Dean Murrell Duster, – offers academic support and other assistance to incoming freshman students.

A key feature at CICS is the open enrollment program. Once a student is admitted to STP, he/she is enrolled into the university with full academic support and access to all university services. Freshmen of all ages have been taking advantage of the program.

"Utilizing today's technology and some of our many resources, we have expanded workshop activities for our students," notes Arlene Crawford, program associate and STP site coordinator. E-mail has been key in establishing correspondence with the STP students on the main campus. The Internet has allowed students to conduct extensive research for their papers and projects. A video project using a "cinema verite" form will be a work-in-progress exposing students to video documentation and journaling. The students will also complete a newsletter project. The goal is to provide a foundation that will enable students to have a successful experience in their college careers as well as develop leadership skills.

Dr. Aaron Horne, acting director, has said, "We are anticipating an increase in the en-

rollment at the center and the STP program is having a tremendous impact on students – not only traditional students entering the university from high school; it has a very special meaning for returning adults interested in completing their college education."

BRIDGE TO WORK

A new neighbor in the CICS building since March is Bridge to Work, a revolutionary new initiative of the Abraham Lincoln Centre, one of the largest and oldest social service agencies in the city. The program is designed to transition men and women into the job market who have limited education and work experience. Participants expect to attain long-term employment, economic independence, and self-sufficiency. Bridge to Work educates participants about the world of work, places them in appropriate training and development programs, and assists them in securing jobs. The support and training program was designed to help participants become emotionally and economically independent.

Bridge to Work services include basic adult education, computerized GED preparation, child care referral, group and individual counseling, substance abuse counseling, job placement, employment retention, and economic development.

Regarding Bridge to Work participants who express an interest in CICS and the university, Dr. Horne says, "We assist those who wish to become students at Northeastern." □

CALENDAR NOTES

Opera Scenes Recital

The NEIU Opera Workshop will present scenes from the operas *Rigoletto* and *Falstaff* by Verdi, *The Gondoliers* by Sullivan, *Così fan tutte* by Mozart, *The Elixir of Love* by Donizetti; directed by Ronald Combs; pianist, Jane Kenas; Tuesday, August 11, 7:30 p.m., Auditorium; free admission. □

LITER REMINDER

The Northeastern Illinois University campus and adjacent residential neighborhoods make up an attractive environment for us all. By putting waste in its proper place – in trash cans and all other appropriate waste receptacles – we can keep Northeastern's and our neighbors' lawns and sidewalks looking great.

Doing the Trans-Siberian Express

by Edward F. Stuart, professor, Economics (and his mom, Grace O. Stuart, MSW); the second in a four-part story of their recent visit to a land of special memories for many NEIU faculty and staff.

We landed in warm sunshine and were greeted by our city guide, Tatiana. Khabarovsk sits on the right bank of the Amur River and on the other side of the river is the Peoples Republic of China. The Asian influence is very strong in this city. Lots of Japanese and Korean automobiles clog the streets. The city is the main hub of Russian Far East -Asian trade and commerce.

During our stay in Khabarovsk, we saw many Chinese, Korean, and Japanese businessmen bustling about making deals involving timber, metals, food products, and machinery. It is a very lively city and our first indication that, contrary to much negative press, things are looking up in Russia. The shops were full of merchandise and shoppers. The general atmosphere was very busy and active unlike the languid pace of most Soviet cities.

We made a conscious attempt to end our evening early because the next day we were to start our long journey by train.

We boarded our first train on Monday, May 18, and would travel for three days before reaching the city of Irkutsk, our first stop. The train was called "Sibir" and we had a first-class compartment. I had travelled on Russian trains before and knew that a first-class compartment would give us two beds in our own compartment that

we could lock and protect ourselves from the expected "bandits and gypsies" that were sure to attack the train. Unfortunately, I must confess that on the entire trip there were no bandits, no gypsies, no seductive villainesses trying to poison my tea or any other dangerous types that would have made the trip much more thrilling and full of romantic adventures.

The Sibir proved to be very comfortable and the compartment staff was very conscientious about maintaining hot water in the samovar at the end of the car. The Russian railroad institution of the samovar is a great traveller's aide. We had hot water 24 hours a day. This made possible hot tea, provided by the car attendant, hot coffee every morning, courtesy of my mother who had packed two pounds of Starbuck's Sumatra blend in her suitcase, and hot soup, courtesy of me, who packed numerous packages of dried soup in my carry-on luggage. We had also packed rations of crackers, cheese, peanut butter, chocolate, and cookies. The food in the dining cars on Russian trains is not very reliable or tasty, so we had been prepared to make our own meals in our compartment. □

(To be continued in the next **Insights**.)

Reminder: Fall Semester begins Saturday, August 29

Terry Jacobus, supervisor, Mail Services, figures prominently in an article in *The New York Times* (6/16/98) about the recent annual Taos Poetry Circus. Entitled "Celebrating the Rhythm and Rhyme of Victory," by Bruce Weber, it reviews the poetry "bout" that crowned the new "heavy-weight poetry champion" of the world, and then tells how it all started, in

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Chicago. Jacobus, we learn, helped organize the first ever poetry bout at the Oxford Pub on Lincoln Avenue in 1981, and then went to Taos several years later and defeated the Beat poet Gregory Corso head-to-head in a famous bout.

Shu-Shin Wang, professor, Political Science, discussed "Chinese Foreign Policy toward the United States since 1949" as guest speaker at the Men's Club of Northbrook on March 12. . . . Wang presented "The Evolution of the American-Japanese Mutual Security Treaty and Its Impact on World Politics" at the 1998 Mid-America Chinese Professional Annual Convention, June 27 in Oak Brook. (This paper is published in the collected works of the conference, pp. 63-71) He served also as a session chair.

Employees of the Month:

- **Barbara Stovall**, Personnel Officer I, Department of Personnel, was selected as the Civil Service Employee of the Month for June.
- **Joyce Eaton**, Secretary IV, Department of Teacher Education, was selected as the Civil Service Employee of the Month for July. □

5500 NORTH ST. LOUIS AVENUE
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60625-4699

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