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Independent- Feb. 24, 1998

Michael F. Buino

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independent

Serving Northeastern and the surrounding community

Volume 14, issue 10

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Chicago, Illinois

Dead of Night: Hampton's death a conspiracy?

Assistant Director of Dead of Night and NEIU student Mary Beth Kisner explains in an exclusive interview



The controversy about the death of Black Panther member Fred Hampton (right) is explored in *Dead of Night: The Execution of Fred Hampton*.

by David Grzelak
REV Editor

You're young. You're black. It's the late 1960's. What do you do?

If you're Fred Hampton, you open a National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) office in Maywood, open a swimming pool in Maywood for black kids to swim in, and get gunned down in a police raid at the age of 20.

Dead of Night: The Execution of Fred Hampton examines the story behind his death.

And according to Assistant Director and NEIU student Mary Beth Kisner, it's a story some may not want to hear.

Ind: Who was Fred Hampton?

MBK: Fred saw himself as a revolutionary and realized this at a young age. He was a Marxist and had a "big picture" view. He believed that complete social and governmental change was the only way for black people to overcome where they stood in the 1960's. And he did amazing things before his death. He helped open an NAACP office in Maywood and a swimming pool so black kids could swim. He quelled

racial disputes at Proviso East. Done within the time of his high school career, Fred was socially active at a time when it was dangerous to be socially active as a black person.

He joined the Black Panthers and continued his social involvement through them. He was involved in opening free health clinics on the south and west sides of Chicago. The Panthers also had what is considered a precursor to the HeadStart program. They fed breakfast to over 3000 children daily.

Ind: Where were you at the time?

MBK: I was a teenager in Amarillo, Texas. I got involved in dance when I was 13 and wound up listening to Tchaikovsky and dancing *Swan Lake* while this was happening. At the time, my involvement with black issues was minimal. There was one black girl, Ethyl, in my ballet class. The thing is, we didn't see each other as black and white. I saw her as someone like me, a dancer.

But the area I grew up in was racist. High school classmates would go out on

see Hampton page 5

Outdated safety certificates on elevators explained

by Jeanette Rocuant
Opinions Editor

Students and faculty alike can attest to the frequency of NEIU elevator mishaps, from the breakdowns to the delays. The inconvenience becomes more of a question of safety when one notices the certificates of inspection last guarantee our safety in 1995.

With a statement that reads that elevators must be inspected at least once every six months, a passenger has got to wonder: What is going on

here? And why are elevators frequently trapping passengers?

The *Independent* brought these questions and concerns to Joseph Benning, Assistant Chief engineer to NEIU's elevators and heating plant.

According to Benning, the elevators are checked weekly, though not by the city inspector. Instead they are said to be inspected by Anderson Elevator company. When

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Campus Police Reports

FEBRUARY 03

Suspicious Person: A person begging for money interrupted a student practicing in the A-Wing. He left the area immediately when Public Safety was called.

Medical Assist: A staff member was transported to a hospital after reporting feeling ill.

Disorderly Conduct: A search of a campus building was made after a bomb threat by an unknown person. Nothing suspicious was found.

FEBRUARY 04

Theft: A student left a \$50 textbook in the A-Wing women's washroom. When she returned it was gone.

FEBRUARY 05

Medical Assist: A visitor to the campus had a seizure and was transported to a hospital.

Medical Assist: A sports payer was injured in the P. E. Building. He refused medical assistance.

Traffic Offense: A non-student was issued two state citations after being observed driving in an erratic manner in the D-Lot.

Theft: A student reported his wallet missing after he took a test in the Science Building. No estimate of loss was given.

FEBRUARY 06

Battery - Simple: A student was pushed after a verbal altercation in the P. E. Building. The offenders were gone when

officers arrived. The student was informed of the escort service.

Building Check: A staff member found a lock in the B-Wing covered with putty to keep the door from locking. The putty was removed.

FEBRUARY 10

Theft: A staff member reported a document taken from his work place.

Theft: A staff member reported PC materials missing from his office. No estimate of loss was given.

Disturbance: Two students were involved in a verbal altercation in the Cafeteria. They were referred to Student Due Process.

FEBRUARY 12

Suspicious Persons: Several non-students were found in the Classroom Building atrium area on a school holiday. All were warned and released.

FEBRUARY 13

Theft: A student reported noticing her purse was missing after working in the InfoCommons. It was found in the Commuter Center. A loss of \$34.

FEBRUARY 14

Station Info: A student reported parking on the street near the campus and leaving the door on his vehicle unlocked. When he returned a window was broken by unknown person(s).

Compiled by Public Safety Officer Bob Paprocki

For jump starts, auto lockouts, and all emergencies, please contact Public Safety at extension 200

Independent Personals

A new way to say hello to your friends, significant other, insignificant other, lover, or anyone else.

Here's what you gotta do:

- (1) Write your message
- (2) Send it to us
- (3) Pay us \$2 to place it
- (4) Sit back and relax



Unfortunately, we cannot list telephone numbers, only messages from you to them. Send your message and the two bucks to the Independent in E-049. Call x2812 for more info!

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

DEAN'S LIST FALL 1997

Full-Time

Acevedo, Carmen
Alvarado, Leticia
Andruss, Timothy
Angarone, Dean
Arhin, Kwaku
Asbury, Julia
Athanasios, Constantinos
Bae, Kevin
Baffa, Chip
Benamara, Mohammed
Bergard, Nicole
Bertolini, Sergio
Betances, David
Borland, Collette
Brancato, Nina
Brockman, Christine
Brosnahan, John
Caravello, Eric
Carroll, Alaina
Castro, Jorge
Christiansen, Janet
Chung, Yeonmie
Contos, Selma
Cotter, Mary
Crawley, Mandell
Daniel, Nadav
Del Valle, Emilio
Delaney, Richard
Demma, Angela

Drougas, Stavroula
Dudash, Kimberly
Estell, Marsha
Firestein, Martin
Garcia, Donaciano
Glowacki, Antoinette
Goble, Christine
Graves, John
Haboub, Wael
Hai, Afroz
Hornickel, Ellen
Jacob, Bobby
Janke, Dawn
Jendreas, Michele
Klich, Roberta
Kostuchowski, Chris
Krakowski, Kevin
Kuczvara, Dawn
Lam, Anderson
Li, Sheila Mae
Livaditis, Nicholas
Mager, James
Maldonado, Nicole
Martindale, Michael
Martinez, Alma
Mentink, Phyllis
Mercer, Margaret
Mizwicki, Michael
Mojica, Armando
Much, Dino
Mullenix, Curt
Munoz, Cristina

Nguyen, Hoang
Nguyen, Viet
O'Donnell, Dan
Ortega, Eve
Oshana, Domarina
Pierre, Adeline
Polvere, Michael
Prusko, Maryjo
Purelku, Agim
Queen, Sara
Rahfs, Michael
Regalado, Susan
Reyes, Victor
Reykjalin, Todd
Ritner, Kurt
Rodriguez, Elizama
Roman, Denise
Ruckauf, John
Sagala, Steven
Schmook, Bijit
Searcy, Bernadette
Segal, Sara
Sendanayake, Chathura
Shallcross, David
Shefferson, Richard
Sherwood, Eve
Shmelov, Paulina
Siegel, Amos
Simokaitis, Christine
Soloveichik, Samuel
Spiliopoulos, Ted
Springer, Jody
Stangeland, Kelly

Starek, Antoine
Surlak, David
Swanson, Brian
Tines, Theophilus
Tomczyk, Daniel
Truppa, Roseann
Ushomirsky, Ilya
Valle, Julio
Villa, Carrie
Vojvodich, Candace
Warda, Najla
Welton, Laura
Woldemariam, Azieb
Yellen, Stetven
Yoshikane, Emiko
Zavala, Sonia
Zorn, Mary

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Abraham, Arlin
Adamson, James
Alicea, Maritz
Andruzzi, Jose
Arvidson, Janice
Barnes, Christopher
Bechowski, Robert
Bell, Sheryllyn
Binder, Ronald
Birren-Prange, Mary
Blahut, Eugene
Bleizeffer, Jeanne
Booker, Richard
Borner, Laura

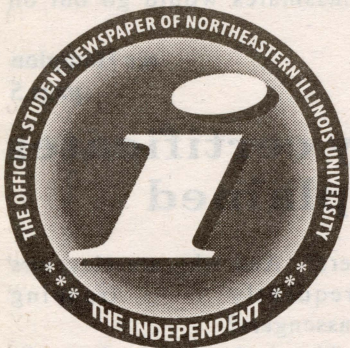
Boylan, Beverly
Bridges, Anthony
Brodsky, Bonnie
Brown, Andre
Brown, Angela
Campbell, Nancy
Cimaglio, Scott
Clark, Abdallah
Claussen Jr., Joseph
Coffman, John
Coleman, Melissa
Coleman, Suzanne
Correa, Vincent
Cruz, Rosibel
Dalton, Sean
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Davis, Mary
Demarco, Gina
Dickerson, Lashundra
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Erickson, Patricia
Feliciano, Sharon
Fenton, Nancy
Feuerstein, Geneveva
Forti, Tammy
Friedman, Jonathan
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Gallagher, Eric
Gentner, Joelle
Gilchrist, Shelley
Ginzburg, Irina
Gjersoe, Debra

Gotter, John
Graham, Nannette
Guy, Carol Ann
Haider, Aftab
Hall, Thomas
Hamad, Rayed
Hedges, Heidi
Helma, Anthony
Helmer, Susan
Hickey, Harry
Hoffman, Cassie
Hord, David
Hunn, Michelle
Jackson, Gregory
Jenkins, Dawn
Jimenez, Petty
Joice, Richard
Kaporis, Christopher
Kendrick, Kathleen
King, Rhonda
Kisner-Griffin, Mary
Kroski, Michael
Kwon, Justin
Lacross, Renee
Lapp, Barbara
Laxner, Michael
Le, Bao
Lee, Dong
Levin, Ellen
Maitino, Robert
Malave, Omayra
Maranto, Mark
Mauer, Esther

McAndrew, Michelle
McNaney, Gary
Motyka, Danuta
Nacy, Maryanne
Nichols, Grant
Norrick, Cynthia
O'Brien, Nancy
O'Phelan, Kathleen
Perez, Suleyma
Peterson, Sara
Pock, Kristen
Rankhorn, David
Reilly, Diane
Roberson, Mary
Robinson, Sandra
Rutkowski, Gerald
Sam, Christy
Shethwala, Javeed
Skaria, Annamma
Spalis, Ivars
Stockwell, Louis
Stratton McKenzie, Teresa
Sullivan, Russell
Tinoco, Daniel
Tunik, Anna
Warling, Eugene
Wendt, Catherine
Westfallen, Paul
Wilson, Maureen
Wolske, Michael
Womack, Lisa
You, Jee
Zaitlen, Nancy

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May we have a volunteer? University Day features opportunities

by Kevin Goldman
Staff Writer

A sociologically important University Day, scheduled from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m., will be held on Thursday, March 5. Many speakers will be on hand to convey the significance of activism and volunteerism in our society. They will also discuss the effects that those actions can have.

Throughout the day there will be 10 panels of speakers, consisting of NEIU students and faculty, as well as representatives from at least 15 volunteer organizations. Some topics of discussion include Volunteerism vs. Activism, Business and Corporate Activism, and Volunteerism in Cyberspace. They will hold the panels in four different rooms; CC-217, the Auditorium, Alumni Hall, and the Heritage Room. Some of the volunteer organizations that will attend include Amnesty International, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, and People for Community Recovery. Many exhibits will be displayed in Village Square.

Professor Hamid Akbari of the Dept. of Marketing and Management began planning University Day last October. Akbari believes, "The civic life is vital to the health of any society," and that University Day will be a chance for students and faculty to see how they can become involved and make a difference in their community. "The idea of University Day is to provide the students with an opportunity to explore various topics through presentations, debates, comments, and questions. The result should be a further understanding of these organizations or a greater appreciation for them."

"This is a very student-oriented topic and it is a meaningful way for the students to help the community," adds Dr. Donna Rudy, Vice President of Academic Student Affairs. She

Schedule of Events		
Morning		
9:00-9:20	Auditorium	Setting the Charge
9:30-3:00	Village Square	Exhibits
9:30-10:45	Heritage Room	Panel#1-Why Mentors Volunteer
	Alumni Hall	Panel#2-Volunteerism vs. Activism
	CC 217	Panel#3-Student Volunteer Staff @ County Women's Jail
11:00-12:15	CC 217	Panel#4-University in Community Building and Advocacy
	Alumni Hall	Panel#5-Students Protest to Close the School of the Americas at Ft. Benning, Georgia
Afternoon & Evening		
12:30-1:45	Alumni Hall	Panel#6-Strategies for Building Community Organizations Around Quality of Life and Survival Issues
1:50-2:50	CC 217	OPEN TIME/videos and organizations
3:00-4:15	CC 217	Panel#7-Student Volunteer Trips to Guatemala and El Salvador
	Alumni Hall	Panel#8-Business and Corporate Activism
4:30-5:45	Alumni Hall	Panel#9-More Shelters, Soup Kitchens, Housing, or Jobs?
	CC 217	Panel#10-Volunteerism in Cyberspace
6:00-6:45	Auditorium	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: Joan Jetter Slay
7:05-8:45	Auditorium	TOWN HALL FORUM w/panelists to answer questions

and two others, Neida Hernandez and Santos Rivera of NEIU's Student Volunteer Corps, were responsible for contacting the organizations that will be sending representatives to the University.

Dr. Janet Bercik feels that the experience of volunteer work is crucial in the development of students majoring in the Dept. of Education. It would help "build learning communities" as is stated in the Dept. of Education's mission statement. She would be pleased to see everyone show up at University Day. As one of the coordinators who set up the University Day schedule, she knows about the topics that will be discussed. She said, "Some students might find it interesting to learn why some NEIU students from the sociology department went to protest at an activist event in Georgia and were arrested for it."

The U.S. Army School of the Americas (SOA) is an institution that was established in Panama in 1946 and relocated to Fort Benning, Georgia in 1984. In its 52 years, the SOA has trained

some 60,000 Latin American officers and soldiers to be killers of their own people. It trained men such as former Panamanian president General Manuel Noriega, who is serving a 40-year prison term in the U.S. for drug trafficking, to be terrorists and assassins. Soldiers of the SOA have been responsible for countless deaths of many innocent men, women and children in Latin America.

Amnesty International (an organization that protests the violation of any human rights) was one of several organizations who investigated the SOA and learned of the atrocities that its soldiers had committed. Many SOA soldiers and officers have been implicated and even convicted of some of these crimes.

On November 16, 1997, 13 students and faculty from Northeastern traveled to Ft. Benning Georgia, to protest the continuing existence of the SOA (nick-named the School of Assassins), along with about 2,000 protesters from all over the country. State Senator John Carey of Massachusetts has been trying to pass a Bill to

close down the SOA for at least the last three years. The vote to pass the Bill was very close, so the protesters went to try and get the remaining votes. Because Ft. Benning is a U.S. military installation, the 600 people who "crossed the line," including seven students from Northeastern, and walked onto the grounds were arrested for criminal trespassing and were isolated on the base for five or six hours. The majority of those arrested, including the NEIU students, were given nothing more than a bar and ban order, prohibiting them from returning to Ft. Benning for one year.

Jill Freund was one of the students from Northeastern who was arrested. After living in Guatemala for three to four months and seeing the death, destruction, and living standards there, she felt a responsibility in Georgia last November. "[What I saw] was horrible. The right to assemble, the right to speak out, we take it all for granted. People are killed for it there."

Some NEIU students have been involved in other volunteer programs and will

appear in panels, three of which were organized by Dr. Renny Golden of the Dept. of Sociology. They would include the panel about the protest in Georgia, a panel about a student volunteer program in the library of the Cook County Women's Jail, and student volunteer trips to Guatemala and El Salvador.

Dr. Golden tries to bring students to Guatemala or El Salvador at least once every summer. Jeanette Hernandez from the Foreign Languages Dept. went on a trip to Guatemala and, with the assistance of other students, helped build homes for landless Mayan peasants. Jeanette remembers, "The houses were small, basic, and not much more than a place to sleep or get out of the rain. They were made of out of lumber, tin and concrete."

Dr. Golden was also responsible for contacting the keynote speaker, Joan Jetter Slay, to come to University Day. Dr. Golden describes her as "an organizer and a very inspiring African American woman." Slay is the co-founder of a very successful educational program on the west side of Chicago that has awarded thousands of hard-earned high school diplomas to adults who were never able to finish high school. She also lobbied in Springfield for the formation of local school councils.

Activism was prevalent in our country in the '60's. "What will the twenty-first century be like?" wonders Prof. Akbari. "Will activism return in the future? Or will volunteerism be favored? Can government and business alone handle the needs of the American people?"

As Jill Freund said, "We are so apolitical in today's society. If you want change, you have to do something about it. And working collectively is the best way [the American people] can get things done."

Around Campus... by Jennifer Dickerson

Staff Writer

The up and coming highlights of Northeastern University throughout its campus are events that students may be interested in attending. Some of the recent past events were noteworthy as well. All events are or were free.

On Wednesday, February 18, the Health Service Blood Drive made its annual visit here to Northeastern University, accepting volunteers who were willing to donate blood for the needy people around the Chicago area. This special event ran all day, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Women's Studies Program had yet another book discussion based on the up and coming visit of Alice Walker, author of *The Color Purple*. This discussion was on Thursday, February 19, in CC-216, between 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

The Ruth Page Dance Series performed in the Auditorium on February 20 at 8 p.m. and ended at 10 p.m. It was a performance worth attending.

Saturday, February 28 finds a



Mathematics Contest, sponsored by the Division of the Teachers Education, located in either the Cafeteria or Alumni Hall between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. It should be fun and entertaining for those students who take delight in competition.

Throughout the rest of February, *Black History Month* continues to exhibit its display case all around campus. Check it out. All exhibits are unique and interesting to see, and may prove to be educational.

On Monday, March 2, students can pick up information on

Increasing Your Self-Esteem in the Commuter Center, room 219. Sponsored by the Counseling Office, students can attend this meeting between the hours of 1 p.m. and 2 p.m.

A very special event known as *University Day* is scheduled for Thursday, March 5 throughout the Commuter Center between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

College Day is here on March 6, which is a Friday, and will be held in the Commuter Center between the hours of 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. in rooms CC-216 and CC-217. This

meeting will be about issues that affect Northeastern Illinois University and/or other colleges in the Chicago area.

A special event on Saturday March 7, sponsored by University Events, is the *Computer Fair*. It will be located in the Physical Education Building, starting at 7 p.m., and should be over by 9 p.m.

Tuesday, March 10, there will be a guest speaker talking about the *Crisis in Algeria*. It will be

sponsored by the Muslim Students Association. This lecture invites all students interested in what's happening in Algeria to attend. It will located in the Auditorium, and will start at 6 p.m. and ends about 9:30 p.m.

Campus events are not only fun and educational, but help everyone get a taste of what college life is really all about. All special events are for the benefit of the entire campus community, including students, staff and faculty, as well as visitors.



Honors Students gather at a recent luncheon and panel discussion. The Honors Program is celebrating its 10th Anniversary.

In Transit

True Friendship: Nothing has brought the joy of true friendship to the public's eye then the recent "best friend" palling around of Linda Tripp and Monica Lewinsky. I can only hope to have a friend that cherishes me as much as Tripp did Lewinsky. It leaves me with a warm feeling to know that there are people who cherish the things you have to say, and that they will hold on to them forever. What is even more interesting is that everyone can be experiencing this sort of friendship right now. Doesn't that make you feel loved?

Whether it be by e-mail, telephone, or postage mail, your words can and in some cases will come back to you. Remember that e-mail you sent about your sadistic neo-nazi professor who hates only you and will do anything to see you fail?



CAROLE BROWN

I would be praying right now that there is one of those inexplicable system errors and that the message is lost for all eternity in the annals of circuitry. Don't forget the written word either. Indelible ink and crisp paper, guaranteed to last forever, or at least 50 years or there about. Your only chance that the letter you sent your friend about how you cheated on your fiancée will never see the light of day is fire or a raging flood (or a city sewer system). Most people are not that lucky though.

Last but not least, let us not forget the 'god' for those people with the gift of gab, the telephone, Alexander G. Bell's revolutionary invention. For those individuals who felt moderately safe with speaking on the telephone (unless of course they were on a cell or portable phone where people with scanners could listen in on their conversation), now you have a chance to be afraid, be very afraid.

At least on the portable telephone answering machines anyone can press the "CONV" on the handset and the answering machine will record the current conversation. Unless another phone call comes in (you hope), whomever listens to the tape next will know all about your lustful dreams of your friends attractive and sexy roommate. I just love modern technology.

Will you be my friend???

* * *

Helping Baby to Grow: Help Me Grow: Momma, Babies and Good Stuff to Know is a new 68-page picture-filled booklet introduced Thursday, February 19 by Governor Jim Edgar and his wife Brenda Edgar. This manual provides tips, hints, and guidelines on having and caring for babies.

This booklet was created with mostly expectant teens and low-income parents in mind as a part of Brenda Edgar's Help Me Grow program to promote healthy children. This booklet contains everything from physical monthly changes in pregnant women to how to set limitations for toddlers. *Free copies of the book may be obtained by calling 1-800-323-GROW.*

* * *

Freedoms?: It seems like nowadays little kids need to grow up a lot faster than even I remember being expected to. I always thought it was oh so cute when a six year old boy would give a classmate a kiss. When I see that happen, this is what goes through my mind: "Aaawwwwwww, how cute, oh isn't that precious?" What goes through a grade school administrator's mind: "What the hell? How could that boy do that? That is textbook sexual harassment. And look at how she doesn't want to be kissed". Why don't they just say the kid was raping his classmate? That's the equivalent of what they were thinking.

Let's change stories and look in on a first grade classroom, shall we? As we are about to observe, little Zachary Hood is about to share one of his favorite stories with his class by reading it out aloud to them, as the teacher had requested. Zachary was about to read a story from The Beginner's Bible about Jacob and Esau when his teacher stopped him because the subject matter was inappropriate and he felt humiliated.

What went through my mind when I read that: That isn't right. Why can't a child decide what he wants to read? Anyway, to some people *The Bible* is thought of as fiction, therefore, if a child wanted to read *The Cat in The Hat* that would be inappropriate, too. Administrator's mindset: "No matter what, religion will not be tolerated in this school, religious freedom does not belong in a public school. Let's just call him a Satan worshipper and ship him away."

Where does a person draw the line on whether it is child's innocence or a blatant disrespect for the law?

Students visit "School of Assassins"



NEIU students bear the crosses of visiting the notorious "School of Assassins" in Guatemala.

by Carole Brown
News Editor

Responsibility 1. State of being responsible. 2. Obligation. (*Webster's Dictionary of the English Language*)

Not many people would continue through with a responsibility they had taken on over three months ago. Contrary to popular belief there is at least one group of students at NEIU who shoulder responsibility and will follow through, no matter what, even if it means getting arrested.

From November 14-16 several members of the NEIU community were among a large gathering of approximately 2000-3000 people who protested and rallied outside of the gates of the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia that weekend. Lisa Dideriksen, an NEIU student, felt that this is "a responsibility to the people I met in Guatemala. To try and make a difference in their lives."

Several members of the NEIU community (see the people in the adjoining photo) even went as far as to "step over the white line." The

white line is a white line drawn at the entrance of the main driveway into the School of the Americas. Anyone could protest at the school, but for safety reasons one could not cross the white line, otherwise they would be arrested. Thusly six NEIU students, carrying crosses to symbolize only a portion of the people killed by graduates of the School of the Americas, or more aptly nicknamed, The School of Assassins, were arrested but the charges were dropped due to the fact that this was their first time being arrested. In the meantime 25 other repeat offenders, two from Chicago, pled no contest to the charges of trespassing and will serve a six-month jail term and a \$3,000 fine.

There is an organization called School of Assassins Watch (SOAW) whose base is located down the street from the School of the Americas. The School of the Americas is funded by U. S. tax dollars and uses military personnel to train Latin and South American armies in commando strikes, and sniper activities, among other things. In fact, in the front main hall of the school, which is known as their Hall of Fame, are the pictures

of several infamous members of international society such as Manuel Noriega and the former dictatorial general of Argentina. This school has gotten this nickname because the graduates are using their training mostly to prevent "civil uprising," or "oppressing their own people." One such incident was the military murder of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter in El Salvador.

This group of students will be traveling to Washington, D.C. this spring to protest before Congress that a bill put before Congress by Representative Robert Kennedy should be passed without a second doubt. This bill would call for the closing of the School of the Americas, and if nothing else the discontinuation of tax dollars funding the running of the school.

For anyone interested, Dr. Renny Golden will be putting together a trip similar to the one they took last summer to El Salvador and Guatemala. Any Northeastern student, faculty member, or staff member who would wish to participate in activities such as this should contact Shelley Bannister at extension 2622.

Elevators

continued from page 1

asked why the certificates are out-dated, Benning explained that it is a delay due to a safety ordinance issued by the city of Chicago.

The ordinance was in response to the accidental death of an 80 year old Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) resident in March 1997. The woman died when she fell down an elevator shaft in an attempt to escape from an elevator stalled between floors.

"Inspection means that elevators are in working condition when workers go out to buildings and check them. We had gone in a week prior to the CHA accident to do safety checks on elevators," states Aurelio Huertas, Assistant Press Secretary to the Mayor. "Ultimately, it is up to the management company to inspect buildings and elevators."

It was shortly after the CHA Building accident that the city, in what Benning refers to as a "panicky move," filed a safety

ordinance. The ordinance required a restrictive device in all elevators in order to prevent doors from being forced opened. As a result, according to Benning, elevator passengers today are more likely to experience delayed elevator rides and stalled cars. Additionally, Chicago elevator inspection has fallen behind on the duty to inspect elevators as regularly as it has required itself to do so.

Paperwork in elevators verify city inspection last in 1995, but Edward Chmielewski, Anderson Elevator Company's Superintendent of Field Operations states it was in July 1997. However, this cuts Northeastern elevators notably close to not satisfying section 13-20-100 of the city-wide safety charter stating, "Every elevator...now in operation...shall be inspected under and by the authority of the Building Commissioner at least once every six months."

There are no certificates assuring inspection in 1997 posted in any of the elevators, nor were any provided to the

Independent at time of print.

Benning states the company that constructed the Classroom Building elevators went out of business nearly twenty years ago.

"The dispatching system that sends the elevator to the correct floor is very ancient and very temperature and humidity sensitive. Adjustments which allow for the new door restriction devices led to another compromise of speed, in the interest of this new door restriction device."

"That doesn't mean elevators are unsafe," reiterates Benning. "We don't tolerate the elevator being unsafe. If there are any doubts, the car comes out of service. The realities of life are just that the city inspector cannot be here to check the elevator as often as he requires himself to be; since the city has filed the ordinance they haven't been able to check because the city is behind. In the meantime, Northeastern's elevators, like many others in the city are put on a waiting list until the city catches up, probably in July of 1998."

Hampton

continued from page 1

Saturday nights and go across the tracks to the "black" side of town, beat up a couple of black people, and brag about it in school on Monday.

Ind: When you think back, what do you notice now that you didn't notice then, because you were young?

MBK: When I got involved in this production, and thinking back to those days, what amazes me is that the information we, as a society, got of the Panthers was an angry, frightening image with the black leather jackets, black berets, and big guns at the ready. And being involved in this production has made me think that this was an image that someone wanted me, as a country, to believe.

And as Robert Myers (playwright) began researching the play, he developed a conspiracy theory through his research. The play reveals that the Chicago Police Department under State's Attorney Edward Hanrahan and the Federal Bureau of Investigation under J. Edgar Hoover (based on Myers' research) lumped the Black Panther party in with gangbangers. They then declared war on the gangbangers, using this as an excuse to "get" the Black Panthers. With Fred, there was a lot of spying and wire tapping done under the guise

to "get" Fred Hampton.

Ind: Wasn't there something to the Black Panthers image as a violent group?

MBK: They were a violent group. In Chicago at that time, there were 40 Black Panthers. They were arrested a total of 120 times. They had weapons, but used them to defend themselves. And after being involved in this production, it appears they had a lot to defend themselves from.

Ind: What do you think motivated the making of this play?

MBK: Pegasus Players commissioned this play. Their artistic director, Arlene Crewdson, taught at Proviso East at the time Fred Hampton went to school there. My guess is she remembers the impact of the event and sees his life story and untimely death as an unfinished story.

I believe the play is timely, because it's 1998, and we are still racially divided. Until we go back and tell these stories truthfully, not with a white bias and not with a black bias, we can't understand where we are now until we fix it. This story is one of the hundred of thousands of reasons it [racial relations] is broken.

But it's risky. This production is not being put out there as a commercial venture. It will be successful in that it puts the truth out there. What really makes the play is that most of those involved in the events are still alive and all have their own

version of what went on. And we've been contacted by some Black Panther members, lawyers from some of the legal battles, and other principals of the events are scheduled to attend.

Ind: How do you think people will react to the production?

MBK: Some people may walk out before it finishes. It's a heated, emotional production. It's no *Music Man*.

What gives me great hope is that director Jonathan Wilson (head of theatre department at Loyola University) hired me, a middle-aged white woman to help him, a black man, tell this story.

Our goal is to expose the truth and let people walk away drawing their own conclusions.

Mary Beth Kisner currently is a Speech/Performing Arts major with a History minor at NEIU. She recently completed a 30 year dance career in 1994 and has directed musicals since. This is her first production concerning a "serious" subject matter.

Dead of Night: The Execution of Fred Hampton performed by Pegasus Players

Opens Tuesday, February 24, 8 p.m. (runs through April 5), O'Rourke Center for the Performing Arts at Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson.

For more info, call Pegasus Players (773) 878-9761.

APICS kicks off new semester

Looking for a fun club to join which will enhance your career prospects? The American Inventory Control Society (APICS) is the educational society for resource management, offering a variety of programs and materials addressing business management concepts and techniques. APICS has its own very active student chapter at NEIU, which has won the organization's prestigious Gold Award for high levels of involvement and participation among members.

For the Spring semester, speakers have been scheduled to give presentations covering Project Management Practice; Enterprise Resource Planning; Supply Chain Management; Stress Management;

plus an International Perspective on Management.

Notices of meeting times, dates, and locations are posted throughout the basement of the Classroom Building.

Everyone is welcome to attend APICS speaker meetings. Also scheduled is a plant tour of Motorola, Inc. for March 27 at 2:30.

Because plant tours have been so popular in the past, the number of available spots is expected to fill up quickly. Those interested in attending should watch for sign-up announcements in early March.

To become an APICS member, contact a club officer or the club's academic advisor (Dr. M. Chen). we look forward to seeing you at a meeting.

Summer Program Employment Opportunities

(Casual Dress Required)

This summer, don't confine yourself to a stodgy corporate internship or job. And forget the "professional" dress code and the water cooler babble. Spend your summer in the great outdoors with an exciting position at the Chicago Park District. It's an "all work and play" environment that is more thrilling than just a walk in the park.

With opportunities available in our Summer Program (June-August), we're looking for enthusiastic college students and professionals who understand the importance of community and take fun seriously. If you are majoring in or have experience with one of the following areas...

- Visual/Performing Arts
- Education
- Child Development
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Leisure Studies
- Sports Management

...send us your resumé! Each day at the Chicago Park District is a big day at the office: running, dancing, playing sports and hanging out at the beach. Chicago Park District, Attn: Glen Barklow, 425 East McFetridge Drive, Chicago, IL 60605. Fax: (312) 747-2020. EOE



NEW BOARD MEMBERS WANTED TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF STUDENT LIFE AT NORTHEASTERN!!!

Become a candidate for the

Northeastern Programming Board

- Four members will be elected between March 21-26.
- Position description and candidate registration forms available in E-221 (Student Activities).
- Election Packets are available in the Student Activities Office above the BookStore.

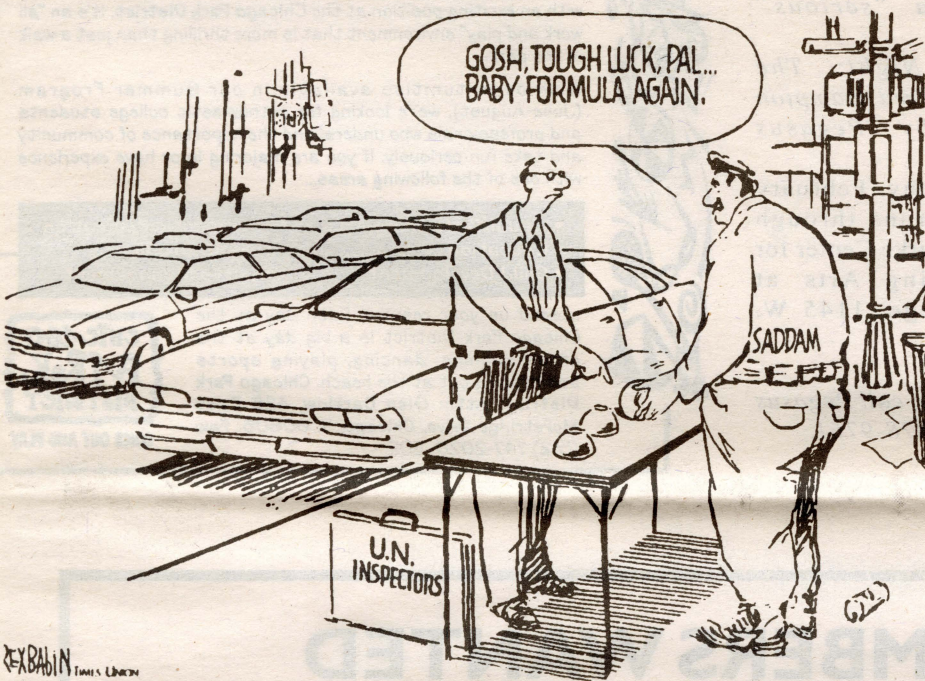
Deadline to be on the ballot: Friday, March 6 at 4 pm



NPB – "Students Programming for Students"

NPB's Mission: to provide a comprehensive program of social, cultural, educational and recreational events and activities which will enhance the quality of student life at Northeastern Illinois University

Another
Perspective



Editorial

Should the cost of safety take away our rights?

Is it worth weakening certain Constitutional rights to get safer streets? According to a survey taken in 1994, 65% of all adult Americans polled said 'yes.' These respondents were willing to waive and/or lessen certain legal barriers that hinder law enforcement agencies in their attempt to aid law enforcement. There is a new wave of just such sentiment cresting in our own fair city. Lately, it has been the policy of the Chicago Police Department to arrest convicted gang-members for being in the wrong place, hanging around the wrong people, and even wearing their gangs colors. There seems to be a strong approval rating for these strong-arm tactics, and there is no doubting their effectiveness. This is disturbing. Consider what is happening; behavior that is legal, but is commonly associated with illegal activities, is being suppressed. While the short-term effectiveness of such policies cannot be doubted, it is imperative that we look at the big picture here. We are simplifying the situation by treating the problem's symptoms, rather than the disease.

There is an inherent danger in requiring a non-incarcerated offender to avoid wearing certain clothes and to avoid acting in ways that are perfectly legal for others, and that is diminishing of our civil liberties and rights. Civil liberties are the things that the government protects for us, such as wearing whatever clothes we can realistically afford, and being able to seek employment or residence wherever we so desire. In that respect, we are a unique country; none other enjoys so many civil liberties.

Civil rights are another matter. Those are the things that the U.S. Constitution protects for us *from* the government, such as freedom of speech, or expression, and the freedom of association. Thus, it is acceptable for a security guard at Wrigley Field to tell a ticket-holder not to wear a "Fuck New York" T-shirt, but when the government tells a certain segment of society that they cannot wear certain kinds of clothing, we enter into conflict with the Constitution.

Remember the family in Watts whose home was decimated? Father slammed to the floor, kids screaming and terrified, bathtub, walls, floorboards destroyed? It turns out that the SWAT team assigned to take out the "crack-house" were off by a digit in their address. Since the newly lenient laws gave the enforcement officials *carte blanche* to assail any domicile they deemed a drug den, the Los Angeles Police Department actually tried to weasel out of paying for the cost of the destroyed property! Instead, the city tried to offer a check for \$1500, and an apology. Later, when the city was sued by the victimized family, the primary defense was basically that the police made a mistake, and since the act was legal, the PD and the city shouldn't be liable! Fortunately, justice was served, and L.A. ended up paying a large settlement to the beleaguered victims. Were it not for our extraordinarily litigious societal structure, those folks would have been out of luck. It is our Government's duty to prevent just such occurrences.

Can you not see an equivalent act occurring here? If the police are allowed to bust people for wearing certain colors or being in the wrong place, where does it end? Certainly, the possibilities are alarming. If the police are allowed to arrest individuals on their mode of dress, could not innocents be falsely accused of the same transgressions? Hip-hop styles and wear do not a criminal make, and even if a criminal act is committed by someone wearing certain clothing, do we as a society have a right to prevent them from wearing whatever clothing they choose?

As for the freedom of association, let us not forget that before the American Revolution, the Sons of Liberty were viewed as a gang and were forbidden to assemble by the Massachusetts governor. Are the Gangster Disciples much different from the Sons of Liberty? Philosophically, definitely. In the light of the Constitution, probably not.

Undoubtedly, it is the people's right to assemble, but when it is the group's foundation to territorialize the neighborhood and execute deadly power struggles, the group must be questioned. What of the Ku Klux Klan? Though the philosophies of gangs and the K.K.K. differ, the repercussions of their actions do not. And though the K.K.K. was outlawed in certain states for a period of time, its members revolted with a justifiable reason: it is constitutionally their right to assemble regardless of how controversial their purpose may be. However, the law is still faced with the dilemma of correcting the situation, which is their job, to serve and protect the public. If an offender already is serving probation, then he has already surrendered a good portion of his basic rights.

If forbidding the gang member from certain parts of town is part of the solution, then it is only a microcosm of the solution. Ultimately, if a Gangster Disciple wants to identify himself in a gang then he will do so by any means necessary. Certainly, the police cannot sever his hands to stop him from flashing any gang symbols. Ultimately, the solution will come from many sources, and one of these sources ironically, has nothing to do with the law. This will be what has stoked the flames of burning crosses on front lawns: the refusal to tolerate, and not fear, the association itself.

Letters to the Editor

I am responding to the February 10 publication. The opinions Ms. Mesikapp expressed in her column were poorly thought through and researched in the same manner. Her words do reflect the title of her article, "Contradiction makes the world go round." She expresses her happiness of living in a country where we all are not forced to think alike, but goes on to say, "if you are pro-life, you have to be pro-life across the board. This means no abortion, no death penalty,

and definitely no murders." My dictionary says pro-life means you oppose legalized abortion and that was the definition I got out of two other dictionaries. Perhaps the pro-life group Ms. Mesikapp belongs to believes otherwise. But in this land of free thought I don't have to oppose the execution of a murderer, or refuse to use deadly force protecting myself in order to oppose abortion.
David May

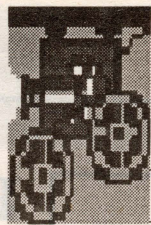
Quotables...

- "You never find yourself until you face the truth."
Pearl Bailey
- "Gluttony is not a secret vice."
Orson Wells
- "The problem with nowadays is that there's too much future and not enough past."
Archie Bunker
- "Religion..is the opiate of the masses."
Karl Marx
- "He who speaks doesn't know, he who knows doesn't speak."
Lao Tsu

Please, please,
recycle this
newspaper
(that includes
the REV section
too).
Thank you.

Letter Policy

Letters to the Editor must be signed and contain an address and daytime telephone number for verification and no more than 250 words in length. Letters are subject to editing for style and space at the editor's discretion. The Editor reserves the right to omit any work received. Letters are accepted through electronic mail, provided they include a telephone number for verification. The address is uindep@uxa.ecn.bgu.edu



Academy's night of **BIG MISSTAKES**

by John Randall
Staff Writer

It's Oscar nomination time again and as always, the Academy provided their share of surprises. From no nomination for Dicaprio for *Titanic*, to nine nominations for the independent film *Good Will Hunting*, to *The Full Monty* actually getting nominated for best picture.

The biggest surprise of all was of the 20 nominees for actor and actress none were minorities. This isn't the first time that the Academy has erred. It started with the snub of Spike Lee's *Do The Right Thing*.

As a side note, he is nominated for best documentary this year with *4 Little Girls*. I have a better chance of winning the lottery and getting hit by lightning in the same day than Spike Lee winning this award.

Then came the travesty of *The Color Purple* snub. The academy, however, topped themselves for having the audacity not to nominate *Hoop Dreams* in 1995 for best documentary. I would have nominated that film for best picture (since it was the best of 1994) and not *Forrest Gump*. Last year the academy failed to nominate Denzel Washington in an extraordinary performance in *Courage Under Fire*. This year it passed over such talent as Hounsou in *Amistad*, who gave a powerful performance.

The Academy also looked over Debbie Morgan's performance in *Eve's Bayou*, which was the best supporting performance by an actress in 1997. It also overlooked Pam Grier and Samuel L. Jackson's performances in *Jackie Brown* and instead decided to nominate the white actor Robert Forster who wasn't as deserving as Grier or Jackson. This year the academy also had turned homophobic as they decided to pass on Rupert Everett's terrific role in *My Best Friend's Wedding*.

For best picture the academy got 60% of its nominations right. *Titanic* is deserving since it was the best film of last year. *L.A. Confidential* is a great film noir crime movie and is also deserving since it was the second best film of last year. *As Good As It Gets* also is deserving of a nomination, with terrific performances throughout the film.

But *Good Will Hunting* is not deserving. It is a good film, but not a great one. The ending is way too predictable and the screenplay took the easy way out in the end, deciding not to probe deeper the main character's emotional suffering and instead decided on a male bonding ending. I haven't seen *The Full Monty* but can come up with a few films that could take its place. *Donnie Brasco*'s biggest fault was that it came out to early last year in February and no one remembered it. Others include *Sweet Hereafter*, and *The Ice Storm* which was probably the best independent film

THE OVERHYPED

OVERTAKE THE

OVERLOOKED



of last year.

Nineteen-ninety-seven was a weak year for film before the big rush for Christmas films. I thought only one film, *L.A. Confidential*, had a realistic shot of getting nominated for best film. Last year was the worst year for film since 1992. There were no independent films last year that moved and shook me like previous ones. Nineteen-ninety-six featured *Shine*, *Slingblade*, *Secrets and Lies* and my favorite, *Breaking The Waves*. Nineteen-ninety-five brought *Dead Man Walking* and the powerful *Leaving Las Vegas*. Nineteen-ninety-four had *Hoop Dreams*, the best documentary I have ever seen.

All this leaves me not that surprised *Titanic* received 14 nominations. It will win a minimum of seven awards.

Here are the major categories and nominees. My picks are in asterisks:

ACTOR IN A LEADING ROLE

Matt Damon
Robert Duvall *
Peter Fonda
Dustin Hoffman
Jack Nicholson

ACTRESS IN A LEADING ROLE

Helena Bonham Carter
Julie Christie

Judi Dench
Helen Hunt
Kate Winslet *

ACTOR IN A SUPPORTING ROLE:

Robert Forster
Anthony Hopkins
Greg Kinnear
Burt Reynolds *
Robin Williams

ACTRESS IN A SUPPORTING ROLE:

Kim Basinger *
Joan Cusack
Minnie Driver
Julianne Moore
Gloria Stuart

BEST PICTURE

AS GOOD AS IT GETS
THE FULL MONTY
GOOD WILL HUNTING
L.A. CONFIDENTIAL
*TITANIC**

DIRECTING

THE FULL MONTY
GOOD WILL HUNTING
L.A. CONFIDENTIAL
*TITANIC**

SCREENPLAY BASED ON OTHER MATERIAL

DONNIE BRASCO
*L.A. CONFIDENTIAL**

THE SWEET HEREAFTER
WAG THE DOG
THE WINGS OF THE DOVE

ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY

AS GOOD AS IT GETS
BOOGIE NIGHTS
DECONSTRUCTING HARRY
*GOOD WILL HUNTING**
THE FULL MONTY

Best Actor: Think this is a two way race between Jack Nicholson and Robert Duvall. Both were exceptional and the academy loves Jack. But Duvall gave the best performance of the year for his incredible film *The Apostle*, which he wrote, starred in, directed and produced. The wild card in this category is Matt Damon. Still, I think Duvall will come out on top.

Best Actress: Since Dicaprio was overlooked for best actor it only strengthens the chances of Kate Winslet winning for best actress. *Titanic* has too much momentum on its side right now. Helen Hunt is a distant second to Winslet.

Best Supporting Actor: This year the supporting actor and actresses categories are hard to figure out. It is a process of elimination. First,

see Oscar
page 3

Dave's RANT

Harry: In his own words

Harry Caray had many fascinations: beer, good times, Arnie's hat shots, and "pretty girls." What some of us remember him for is his fascination with spelling players names backwards and attempting to pronounce them.

In tribute to Harry, here is one of his trademarks spelled backwards for a man who brought far more entertainment and honesty to his job than the baseball team he broadcast for ever did and ever will.

lla thgir! emmeL raeh ay!
A eno, A owt, A eerht...

ekaT eM tuO oT ehT
emagllaB
ekaT eM tuO oT ehT
dworC
yuB eM emoS stunaep dna
rekcarC kcaJ
I t'noD eraC fl I revE
teG kcaB
roF s'ti toor, toor, toor
rof ehT seibbuC
fl yehT t'noD niW
s'tl A emahS
roF s'ti enO, owT, eerhT
sekirtS er'uoY tuO
tA ehT dlOOOOOOO
l l a a a a a a a B
emaaaaaaaG!!!!!!!

yyyyeeeHHHH!!!!

s'teL teg emos snur!

sknahT roF ehT seiromeM, yrraH.

Retro rules *The Wedding Singer*

by David Grzelak
REV Editor

A suggestion for future viewers of *The Wedding Singer*: Ignore the plot.

The backdrop of the movie and its secondary characters co-star with wedding singer Adam Sandler (Robbie).

The music stays prominent throughout the movie. From the opening sequence where Robbie's band plays a credible version of *Round and Round* by Dead or Alive, the audience reaction to each song went something like, "Oh yeah, I remember that song" (for songs by The Cure, Culture Club, The Police, Joy Division, The Smiths) to "Oh God, I don't want to remember that song" (Huey Lewis and the News, Hall and Oates).

And Sandler's performance as an outspoken, center-of-attention wedding singer serves as a fantasy for those of us who have lived through geezer bands or horribly predictable wedding dj's. One of Sandler's highlights as Robbie includes the (improbable) situation of self-indulgence and self-pity turning a wedding into a bar brawl. After Robbie's fiancée and Bon Jovi fan-dressed Linda stands him up at their wedding (Linda's reason: "I'm not in love with the Robbie of now, I'm in love with the Robbie of six years ago." Robbie's reply: "That's something that could've been



brought to my ATTENTION YESTERDAY!"), Robbie launches into a rousing rendition of J. Geils Band *Love Stinks*, pointing out the overweight relative, the woman (man in drag?) with sideburns, and the "losers at table 9." Sandler's talents as singer/comedian blend well throughout.

In Hollywood fashion, he "innocently" flirts with waitperson Julie (Drew Barrymore) who, of course, is engaged to a man (Glen) who dresses like Miami Vice (replete with outfit and theme music blasting from his Lambroguini) and features a vice—cheating on his fiancée—that makes the inevitable joining of Robbie and Julie inevitable.

Including cameos from Billy Idol as himself and Jon Lovitz as a

Sandler's slimy competition, the secondary characters shine. Robbie's friend Sammy regularly dresses like Michael Jackson (sequined glove and red leather jacket included). Rosie, a little old lady and Robbie's legal guardian, sings a mean *Rapper's Delight*. George, Robbie's backup singer steals a couple of scenes, mainly when he's singing *Do You Really Want To Hurt Me?* in Dead or Alive lead singer meets Boy George drag. There is also enough poodle hair, parachute pants, and 80's references to fill a theme night at Excalibur.

Basically, *The Wedding Singer* is a date movie for Gen X'ers. It features cute scenes, sitcom paced one-liners, and Sandler & Barrymore who shelved their egos and let the retro mood take them away.



L-R (front) Christine Kostuchowski, Dianna Meador, (back row) Anastasia Harold, Kamara Rae Thomas, and Amy J. Cichon in a scene from Shirley Lauro's powerful drama, *A Piece of My Heart*, presented by the Stage Center Theatre. The show runs March 5-7, and 11-14 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free for all NEIU students, faculty, and staff. For ticket information call the box office at (773) 794-6652.

Cheeky

continued from page 4

At any rate, once you get past the life-sign-challenged facade you begin to comprehend what the boys are all about.

And they're about thinking man's pop which avoids relying on effects, drenched productions or pompous attitudes. While I myself usually subscribe to bands that opt to kick in the indie-guitar pedals, Cheeky Monkey still managed to get to me with surprising ease. So pop by Jewel's for a 40 minutes' worth supply of bananas, roll down the shades and let go of your apprehensions.

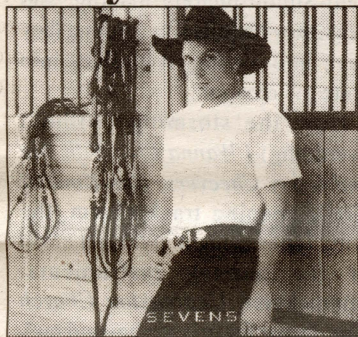
MUSIC: B+ Nothing empowering or tremendously vibrant goes to work here, yet Cheeky Monkey's compositions are competent in the creative sense of the word.

LYRICS: B+ Smart while not deteriorating into the smart-alec variety.

PRODUCTION: A Surprisingly for what amounts to an indie release, Cheeky Monkey enjoys crisp, tight and down right impressive production values.

OVERALL: B+ The duo collaborated well, and short of introducing further variation on their theme to make it all a tad more lively, they got it all right.

Seven's Brooks lucky charm



reviewed by Michael F. Buino

Not since his phenomenal *Ropin' The Wind* album (with the exception of his greatest hits album) has Garth Brooks put together such a collection of songs that says 'even though I'm an ass-kickin'-party going-beer drinking-cowboy-it-doesn't-mean-I can't also be the most sensitive-in tune with my inner child-all-round good guy.'

Sevens is an amalgam of feel-good songs and the more traditionally-themed songs about spurned love that make for a good country album. The album jump-starts with a good, old-fashioned, beer drinking song. *Longneck Bottle* is the classic I-know-I'm-gonna-be-in-trouble-later-but-I'm-havin'-such-a-good-time-now-I'm-never-going-home song ("Hey jukebox don't start playin' that song again, 'cause there's a girl at home who loves me. You know she won't understand").

Do What You Gotta Do is another take-life-by-the-horns anthem that sounds like *Standing Outside the Fire* from his *In Pieces* album. *Gotta Do* has some fancy fiddle work and a fast beat that makes your foot tap involuntarily and before you realize it you're clapping your hands along with the song.

Brooks once again gets in touch with his softer side with songs like *She's Gonna Make It*, *You Move Me*, and *In Another's Eyes*, a duet with Brooks protégé Trisha Yearwood. Her awesome vocal talents blended with Brooks I'm-such-a-sad-man country twang will make this single an instant chart-climber.

In a simple, touching ballad Brooks sings about homosexuality. Although it's a rather sterile song ("You've always been, time and again, the one to take my hand and show me it's okay to be just the way I am, with no apology") the fact that this subject would turn up on a country album at all is a pleasant surprise.

Brooks once again puts together the complete package of new country that put him at the top of the pop charts in the past. *Sevens* is the all-around best Brooks album in the last five years. There seems to be some kick in the ol' boy yet.

MUSIC: B+ New variations on some old themes, with a mix of new, high-energy sounds makes this album more than a pleasure to listen to. From hand-clapping, foot-stomping bar songs (*Longneck Bottle*) to the inspirational woman-triumphs-over-bad-man songs (*She's Gonna Make It*, *I Don't Have to Wonder*) this album has found the spark that was missing from the last Brooks album.

PRODUCTION: A Clean, consistent album with a nice flow.

LYRICS: B- Even the best country albums suffer from corny lyrics ("So bring me two pina colodas, one for each hand. Let's set sail with Captain Morgan and never leave dry land" from the Jimmy Buffet-esque *Two Pina Colodas*).

OVERALL: B+ Brooks covers some new ground while putting some life back into his more familiar themes.

Nothin' to Do

2/26-27 *Bow Wow Wow, Empty Bottle*

I want candy.

2/28 *Cheap Trick, Star Plaza*

I want you to want me.

2/28 *Crystal Method, House of Blues*

I want my crystal light, er, method.

2/28 *Steve Earle and the Dukes, Riviera*

I want my real country music.

3/3 *Leann Rimes, Star Plaza*

How do I live another day without hearing that damn song again?

3/3 *Fatboy Slim, Metro*

How do I live another day without hearing another damn sample as the centerpiece of an "original" song?

3/7 *Jose Feliciano, Congress Theatre*

Seeing him is believing.

3/7 *Sleepy LaBeef, Fitzgerald's*

Wonder what the t-shirts look like?

3/9 *Marcy Playground, Schuba's*

I want neither their sex or their candy.

Oscar

continued from page 1

let's take out Anthony Hopkins who shouldn't have even been nominated for his boring performance in *Amistad*. Robert Forster has no chance of winning. Nor does Robin Williams. We've seen this performance before in *Dead Poet's Society*. That narrows it to Burt Reynolds and Greg Kinnear. Reynolds will get it almost as a lifetime achievement award, since the academy usually does not reward people in controversial films such as Reynolds' role about the porn industry in *Boogie Nights*.

Best Supporting Actress: This is the hardest category to figure out. I have no clue whatsoever. Minnie Driver and Gloria Stuart are not deserving, neither is Joan Cusack. So it will either be Julianne Moore or Kim Basinger. Cancel Moore out since her and Reynolds will not win for the same film. Basinger wasn't that great in *L.A. Confidential*, but the academy has to reward this film somehow.

Best Directing: This category I'm 100% sure will go to James Cameron for *Titanic*.

Best Picture: *Titanic*...DUH!!!

Best Adapted Screenplay: Again the Academy will try to reward *L.A. Confidential*, which was based on the best selling novel by James Elroy.

Best Original Screenplay: *Good Will Hunting* had the best dialogue of any film last year and this is another one that I almost guarantee will win. Remember I said 'almost.'

For most of the technical awards, if *Titanic* is nominated it has a great chance of winning.

I don't think it is fair to talk about the best films of last year without giving my first annual Tylenol worst films of last year. I call it the Tylenol award because after seeing each one of this it gave me a migraine.

Top five worst films from five to one:

#5 BATMAN AND ROBIN: Arnold gave the worst performance of the year. He got millions for doing nothing. I'd rather go to a DePaul Blue Demons game than watch this sorry excuse for a movie again.

#4 CONSPIRACY THEORY: I think at one time this was actually a decent screenplay before Hollywood got ahold of it. A story line from hell, way too confusing. You put Julia Roberts in an action or a drama and your asking for trouble.

#3 THE SAINT: I like Elizabeth Shue a lot. She is a wonderful actress but not even she can save this pathetic film. It has one major thing wrong with it: Val Kilmer.

#2 THE JACKAL: Bruce Willis...enough said.

#1 8 HEADS IN A DUFFEL BAG: Any movie that can remind me of *Weekend At Bernie's* deserves to be the worst film of the year.

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Frozen: Madonna electronica



reviewed by David Grzelak, REV Editor

The single

The rumors circulating about Madonna's new single *Frozen* are true—sort of.

One rumor had it where the single would spring electronic music forever into the pop mainstream. *Frozen* swims in a hybrid of Madonna's musical trademarks while wading in the shallow end of electronica.

The song opens with a distinctively electronic shuffle beat with high strings accentuating Madonna's soaring, lingering vocals. And additional shades of electronic music are present, although the characteristic looping effects and varied grunts and whoops typical of samples are used sparingly. As the song progresses, her vocals become more introspective, even understated (for Madonna).

Frozen is devoid of any big builds or startling transitions leading to the chorus. Madonna's lingering vocal *mmm*'s (comparable to *Secret*) seem a natural extension of the song's mood.

Her vocal rhythm most closely matches *Bedtime Stories*, but the discriminating Madonna fan will notice her vocal maturity. There is a sultry richness that stands out and adds to the total feel of *Frozen*.

The genre of electronica could get a secondary boost from the single. Whether it wants it from a performer who is perched as the top pop female is another question.

The video

It took awhile, but she has finally discovered (or is exploiting) goth. *Frozen* features Madonna at her darkest, literally.

Her outfit is what Stevie Nicks would be wearing today if she was born about 30 years later. The loose, flowing black chiffon gives Madonna the flexibility to mimick some of the pirouettes of the Fleetwood Mac legend.

Set on a salt flat, the cracked dry earth and dusk lighting add to Madonna's take on the goth image. A great visual effect early in the video features the highlight of Madonna falling backwards and shattering into a flock of crows.

An image repeated both near the beginning and at the end of the video features a trio of Madonnas melted into the landscape, swimming in their black chiffon and reaching for the sky.

The overall look suggests a moodier Madonna, a person exploring her video dark side. For comparison, *Frozen* could act as a more barren sequel to Nine Inch Nails *The Perfect Drug*. They both feature the same dark look, same slow motion and drawn out body movements, and two persons at the top of their respective musical genres.

Volcano erupts, sends smoke signals



reviewed by Erik-Bjorn Surbaugh

With a strong hint of gypsy, and a whiff of Carlos Santana, Las Toallitas' torrid brand of smoldering Latin Beat NuJazz knocks you into a rhythmic mood from the first track. I expected these guys to come from East L.A., the new Mecca of progressive Latin Beat, but they're actually local boys from Chicago. Stunningly, they capture the way-cool hip-hop style of the L.A./Mex connection perfectly, incorporating some very sharp and hauntingly familiar New Age tracking in the background.

Doc in Chi. ILL is done in the extraordinary rap style of Cyprus Hill, and is apparently about either pushing, or lechery on the Web, I ain't sure which. But I like it!

Kristin McGee's snaky saxophone playing on *Fetch the Rack* should be X-rated, and the groove is pure punk-love. Four or five tracks in a row like that one, and you and your partner will be missing items of clothing.

Encuentro is an almost straight salsa piece, but with some dark, funky overtones, and *Long Time* is straight out of Aladdin's tall Middle-Eastern tales, complete with cobras, djinni, and sand.

PRODUCTION: A+ Flawless mixing, effortless transitions from

one synth effect to another, sharp, crystalline high-notes on even the finger cymbals....Dark, rich mids and bass. The record label tells of tracks being recorded at different studios in different places, and the liner notes state the compilation was put together over years of playing together, but you'd think it was all one session.

OVERALL: A+/A Excellent jams and style-mix, but no conflicts at all. These guys are really tight, and the whole disc aches to be put on repeat.

There's no business like cheeky business



reviewed by Lior Alon

The overly enthusiastic cover sticker proclaims Cheeky Monkey as an historic collaboration between New Yorker Michael Shelley and 'Scotland's favorite son' (what?) Francis Macdonald, who supposedly was in Eugenius as well as Teenage Fanclub, though despite possessing one of the latter's albums I can't really remember him playing with the wicked popsters. As for "historic," well, I wouldn't be that positive, although the album remains uniquely enjoyable.

The enigmatic sleeve provides no info as to why the project came into being, or even who plays what — always a shame (especially when reviewing). Anyway, starting with the cover and moving on to the

musical content, the affair has a clearly rustic, minimalist feel to it that pervades each and every track, down to the mandatory instrumental piece.

Anyone expecting a pop romp will be sorely let down. Cheeky Monkey consists of a 12-strong assortment of songs (mostly short ones, the longest lasting a mere 3:33 minutes) with the energy of a lethargic 5.25 inch floppy disk, at least in terms of power chords, distortion, etc.

Very little electricity comes into play here, with mostly down-played guitars and adequate bass carrying the bulk of the performing burden. No keyboards were used in the making of this album (so far as I could tell), but whoever played drums (again, a shame the sleeve couldn't be more insightful) did a master's job, with crisp, clean and truly effective drumming single-handedly injecting Cheeky Monkey with a much needed boost of youthful exuberance.

But don't let mild appearances mislead you. Everybody knows the quiet types are the world's best ass kickers.

My cynical overtones may lead you to a wrong conclusion concerning my feelings for Cheeky Monkey. I actually had a pretty good time listening to their brand of intelligent Beatles-crossed-with-Paul-Simon melody making, and when they really put everything they have into a song, it evolves into quite the creation.

Note the storming (without overdoing) *I Wanna Live With You and Gerry Cheevers*, *That Kind Of Girl's* opening track charm, the witty lyrics evident in *Robert Lloyd* or the moving instrumental (monickered *Uddingston Church Gun Terror* for reasons beyond me).

see Cheeky page 3

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Finding a cool summer job

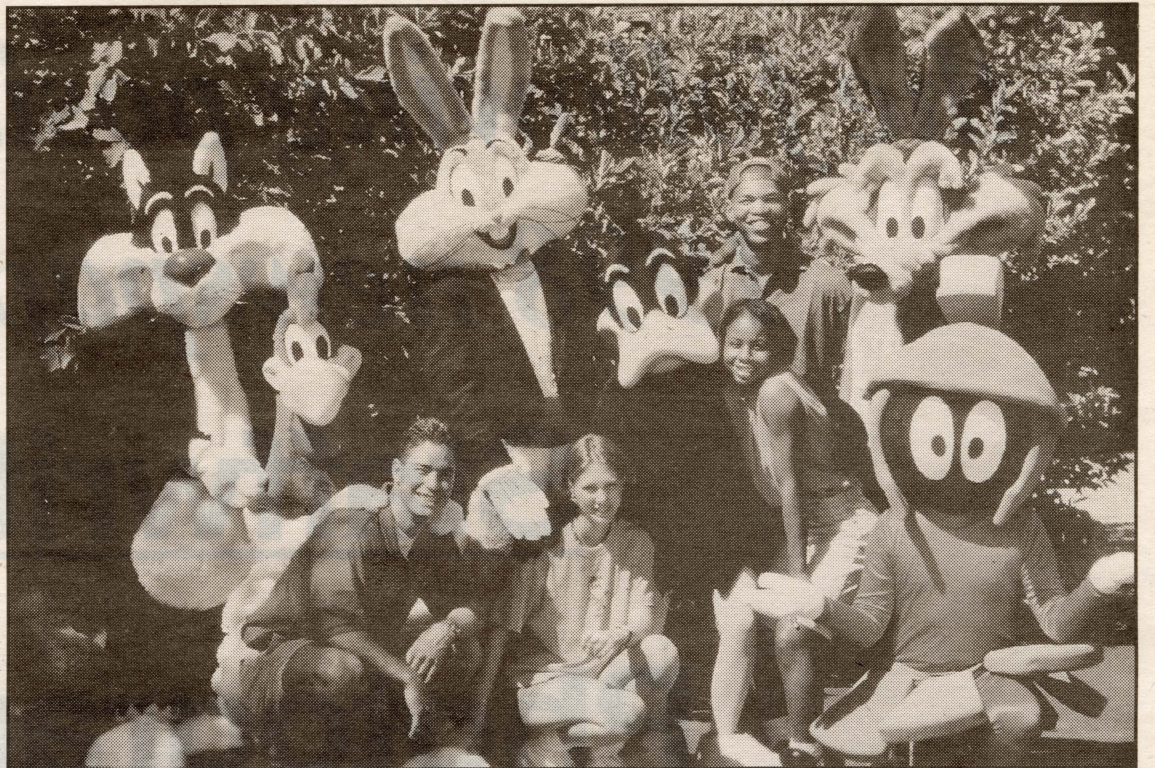
by Joanna Frigo
Staff Writer

As May gets closer, summer also gets nearer and so does the need for finding a summer job. There are many kinds of jobs out there for all kinds of people; from ushering at Cubs games, Sox games and concerts, to being a life guard, to working at the conventional jobs in an office, in a store, or as a waiter/waitress. There is something out there for the all of us. We just have to look. Look carefully so you don't have to quit in the middle of the summer, and also keep your mind open to anything, because the more obscure jobs are the ones that prove to be different. Other kinds of jobs deal with customer assistance like working in an hotel or something like that, but working at a concert or sporting event is the most fun.

Ushering, as a forewarning, is not for everyone. Just be warned that if you want to see a game or a show you might not get to see the show or you might be put somewhere that you do not want to work. There are three different companies that you might work for as an usher.

Safety Service Systems at 3740 W. Irving Park Road is a company that provides year round work. They hold contracts at the Rosemont Theatre, Rosemont Horizon, Chicago Park District (Solider Field), Riviera, Aragon Ballroom, and the Lincoln Park Zoo, to name a few. When the Rolling stones rolled into town, they provided 24 hour/7 day security. Now they will provide ushering and guest services for the new team in town, the Chicago Fire, at the start of April. If you want a job, contact the office at (773)-588-9986. Remember this is not a job for everyone.

At Your Service provides work to just two venues, the United Center and Comiskey Park for Bulls, Black Hawks and White Sox games. This



Work closely with your best friends at Six Flags Great America in Gurnee.

is great if you want to see the games but you have to work at most of the games and this proves that you have to be committed to your job. Like Safety Services, this is a year-round job and you still get to see or hear some concerts, you can call At Your Service at (312)-674-5344.

The Chicago Cubs have their own security and ushers and you have to work at least 40 games. This might prove to be an experience that you will never forget. There is a lot you can do with them, from ushering, to Crowd Control, to Food Service, to Parking (you need a driver's license). This is a summer job pretty much and you can call Cubs Management at (773)-404-4185.

Do you want to do something cool and stay in the city? You can work with the Chicago Park District. You can coordinate summer camps, work the lake front, pools, or do internships. Here are some other camps they have in the city: Nature Camps; the kids will

learn about the environment in their local parks, and do fun activities that focus on trees, city animals, gardening, recycling and other parts of nature in the city setting; Theatre Camps are offered at the lake and local parks, and introduce kids to play-writing, costume design, set construction, acting, voice and movement, and is good for all who want to be in theatre; Urban camps teach kids about how to camp, cook, fish, hike, and spend the night in the wilderness; Adventure Camps teach kids communication skills and team building, and overcoming challenging courses. In Bike Camp, they will learn how to repair and keep up their bikes. They will go across the city on bike tours and the Forest Preserve Trails. City Tours takes the kids to the Chicago Board of Trade, Grand Central Station, and to the Merchandise Mart. They can learn about the city and see how this world works. For more information, call Glen Barklow at (312) 747-

6067 or Mary Anne Vasquez at (312) 747-0894.

For of those who want summer internships you can go pretty much anywhere to look for one. If you like rides and doing something kind of different you can work at Great America. You can be in everything from Finance, Human Resources, Food Management, Recreation, Management, Operations, Merchandise Design, Guest Relations, Marketing, Horticulture, and Mechanical and Electrical Maintenance. Housing is available at two local schools: Carthage and Parkside and for \$25 a week. Send a resume to the Six Flags Employment Office at P.O. Box 1176, Gurnee, Illinois, 60031. For employment information, call (847) 249-2045.

Remember, it takes time to get the right kind of job. You might even want to work here at NEIU. Keep your options open to anything.

Find a Fortune 500 job on the web

WILLIAMSTOWN, MA, FEBRUARY 19, 1998 — Looking to get a foot in the door at a Fortune 500 company? Want some practical on the job experience in an up-and-coming industry? Tripod, Inc., the 1 million member strong Web community (<http://www.tripod.com>), today announced the launch of the Tripod Internship Center, sponsored by Visa USA.

Housed in Tripod's Work/Money content zone, the Tripod Internship Center (http://www.tripod.com/work/intern_vis/), provides free access to the comprehensive Princeton Review Online database of

thousands of companies offering internship opportunities nationwide, as well as insights into choosing a personally fulfilling career.

To identify opportunities that best support their career goals, Tripod members can explore the Tripod Internship Center database using several different search factors, including geographic region, career category and financial compensation. The Tripod Internship Center also provides six original editorial pieces about internships, and links to related Tripod site content, such as:

* *Tripod's Resume Builder:* an

easy-to-use tool for creating or updating a resume, which includes links to sites where you can post your resume for free;

* *Self-assessment quiz:* to help members gauge their knowledge and

preparation to dive into an internship program;

* *The Career Gallery:* more than 100 descriptive job profiles published

by the Bureau of Labor Statistics; * *Career aptitude tests:* two different tests to help match your personality type to various kinds of job opportunities.

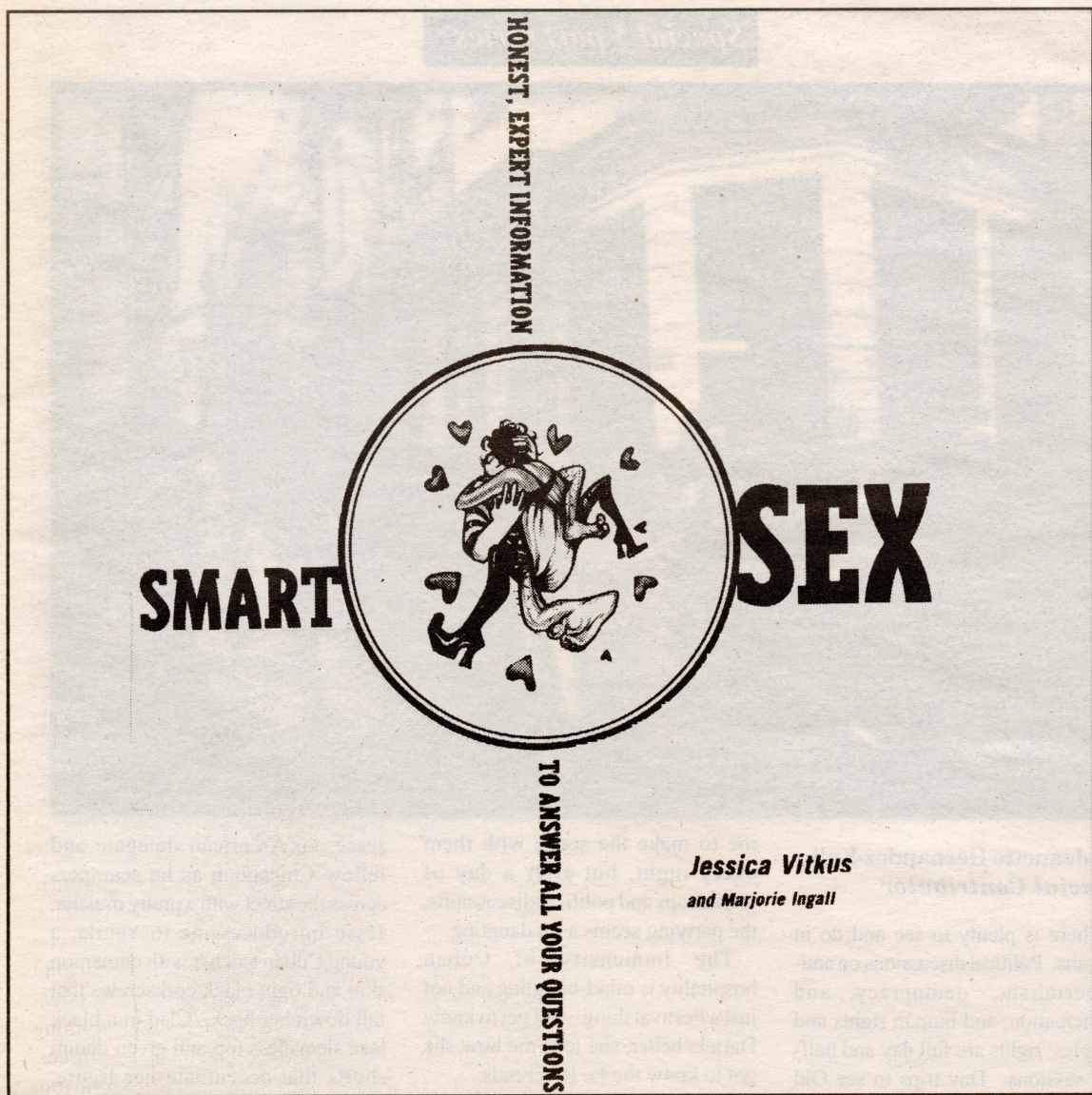
"The Tripod Internship Center is integral to our goal of providing

members with the most valuable resources on the Web, including the tools and information that enhance career decisions," said Bo Peabody, CEO and co-founder, Tripod, Inc.

With nearly 1 million members and a hip, homegrown editorial focus, Tripod is the most popular site on the Web for 20-somethings, and is ranked as the tenth most visited site on the Web. Tripod's rank among the top 10 Web sites has increased as a result of its recent acquisition by Lycos, Inc. (<http://www.lycos.com>), with integration between the two company's services driving traffic between the two distinct sites.



Yet another safe sex book



by **Laura R. Hadley**
Staff Writer

Sex is a hot topic of conversation in almost every area of the average person's life. We talk about sex with our friends, in the classroom, on TV talk shows and in print media of every type. Dr. Ruth became famous talking about it. The problem is that so much of the information that floats around is not accurate, complete, or understandable.

Smart Sex, a pocket book by Jessica Vitkus and Marjorie Ingall, not only attempts to clarify answers to questions about sex, masturbation and birth control, it also attempts to give "honest, expert information to answer all your questions." All is an important word here because the book handles issues of rape, virginity, homosexuality and communication with one's boyfriend/girlfriend as well, all with honest information and quotes from young adults from all over the country.

"The first time I ever had a condom on, I stole it from my dad. I went up to my room and tried it on. I was 15 or 16. It was like, 'Whoa, this is a strange feeling.' Now it's something I don't give a second thought to.

There were girls who didn't even notice that I had one on. If I didn't have one, I'd feel anxious." --Todd, 22.

"After a while, it's no big deal. People say to me, 'now that I've gotten to know you, you're not gay Ryan, you're just Ryan.'" --Ryan P., 22.

Also included amongst the necessary facts of the book are fun and interesting tidbits of information.

For example, did you know that it was illegal to have gay sex in Illinois until 1961?

In that year, Illinois was the first state in the U.S. to make gay sex legal.

And, did you know that in the 1880's, parents were advised to bandage children's genitals, tie their hands or put a boys penis and scrotum in a specially patented cage that sounded an alarm during an erection just to prevent a child from

masturbating?

Although I recommend this book, I must clarify that it's short paragraphs of information and non-preachy approach are more geared toward the 14 to 17 year old group.

The average age of the student body at Northeastern is well above that, which is why I would hesitate to recommend it to my fellow students as recreational reading material.

I do feel, though, that if any member of the student body has children at home that have any questions about sex and the many other aspects of relationships and sexuality, this is a wonderful book.

It has been laid out in a way that makes it easy to find the answer to a specific question without reading the entire book.

I also recommend it as a good book for the personal library of anyone who works or will be working with kids on a regular basis. It is a great resource.

Oh, just in case you're curious - there are no pictures!

The customer is not right anymore

As independent as we may think we are, we rely on people every day to do things for us. We take for granted the fact that we do not need to hunt for our food, but only go to the grocery store.



KRISTIN MESIKAPP

All the services we receive and pay for are a convenience. The services are performed to save us time. We will save time by going to the department store to buy a sweater instead of knitting it ourselves.

There was a time, not so long ago, when stores were concerned with keeping their customers happy. Now, it does not seem that way. It seems like stores know that you need them, so they do not care how they treat you. I am so sick of never getting treated the way I should get treated at stores. I am giving them my hard-earned money, yet I am constantly disappointed.

I was at a department store that prides themselves on "delighting their guests," yet I was totally ignored while standing at the counter. The two associates were talking and hugging each other. They were wishing each other a nice weekend as I stood there waiting.

I just wanted to purchase a gift certificate. It would only take them a few seconds. I wanted to jump over the counter and figure out how to do it myself.

Finally, the one associate left and I was able to get my gift certificate, but only after a long wait and a lot of grief.

I got my hair colored at that same department store, which I now realize was a big mistake. The woman who colored my hair said that she was not feeling well and went into detail about her menopausal condition. She talked about things I definitely did not want to know.

Two hours into the process, I was still nowhere near being done. I was getting so upset, but I did not say anything.

Then, the receptionist came up to me and asked me to pay ahead of time. I had planned to put the woman's tip on the credit card, so I also gave her a generous tip before she even completed my hair.

The shampoo girl washed out my hair. I sat back down at the colorist's station so she could blow dry my hair and I could finally leave. She told me that I had not paid for a blow dry. My face started burning up. I was so angry because I had tipped her for a blow dry.

She said the shampoo girl would blow dry my hair, but by that point I was so angry. I just wanted to dry it myself, just enough so it would not freeze in the cold.

I looked at my hair very carefully and it was green. "My hair is green!" I exclaimed. She gave me a free bottle of shampoo. Almost a month later, I still have green hair. I am too scared to go to a salon to get it fixed.

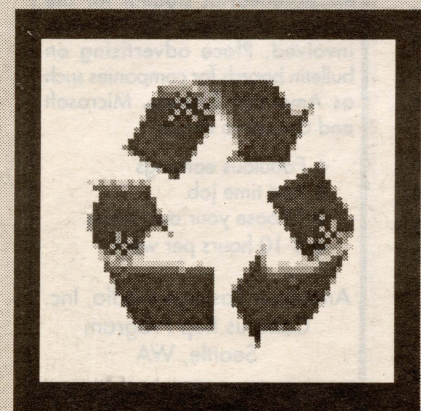
Unfortunately, the bad service does not stop at department stores. A friend of mine went up to a little restaurant in the food court of a mall and asked for some water. "Ninety-five cents, please," he said. "What?" she asked. "It's ninety-five cents for the cup. It doesn't matter what's in it." I can not believe people can be so rude. Neither my friend nor I have been back to that little restaurant.

My boyfriend and I often eat at a 24 hour restaurant known for its breakfasts. I called one morning and ordered the food to take it out. We have never been disappointed when we ate the food there, but apparently if you are not eating in, they could care less what you think.

I was twenty-two cents short and they told me I had better come back with the money later. The food was cold and the strawberries on the waffle I had were sparse compared to what I usually get when I eat in the restaurant. I probably would not have said anything if they had not made me go back with that twenty-two cents.

I do my best every day at work to please every customer that walks through the door. Sadly, I do not feel anyone does the same for me.

The squeaky wheel gets the grease. If you receive bad service, let someone know and keep going up the ladder until you see results. After all, without you, the customer, they wouldn't have jobs to complain about.



**HAVE YOU
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THIS MAN'S WORLD

MAD COWBOY DISEASE

Here in Chicago we're all anxiously following the Oprah Winfrey trial in the newspapers and on TV, hoping that the First Amendment of the Constitution will be sufficient to bail her out of this mess.

Oprah's comments came forward on a show she did about "Mad Cow disease" two years ago. This malady should not be confused with the rash of "Mad Chicken disease" experienced recently in Hong Kong, as the two species were undoubtedly "mad" for different reasons.

Science has yet to come up with a satisfactory answer as to what they were so mad about.

The Constitution is a powerful document, but will it stand up to Texas law?



JOHN ROSSI

As you know, there is an obscure law on the books that states that an individual cannot say anything disparaging about

certain food items, but the Holiday Fruitcake Defamation Act of 1973 is beginning to lose all hope of ever getting on the books.

I'm familiar with the Food Slander Law because I personally have a distant Uncle serving a life sentence in Dallas after getting into a verbal altercation with a plate of *cacciatore*.

This law is even alluded to in the Texas state anthem: "Where seldom is heard, a discouraging word."

I believe the law came into existence in the aftermath of some really nasty remarks concerning broccoli made by former president and Texan, George Bush. His flippant comments were personally responsible for the famous Broccoli Crash of 1990.

While his comments proved favorable for the pork-rind industries, (although not as favorable as former President Reagan's "National Jelly Bean Appreciation Month") the powerful Broccoli Regime was madder than a Japanese dignitary at Bush, and they saw to it that this deplorable action would never occur again.

This law may also be the only thing so far that can be used against famous paranoid schizophrenic, Ted Kazynski, (besides intentional and unusual cruelty to underwear) in that the CIA has in their possession a tape recording of Kazynski saying bad things about the meat-loaf and lima beans he had been served in his cell.

Since I do not wish to join Oprah in Amarillo in what will certainly be her fate, (in all likelihood she will be sentenced to apologize cow by cow throughout Texas), I would like to state that I like cows. Cows are my friends, and I eat them whenever I get the chance.

There have also been recent rumors that the Catholic Church has been trying to reinstate "Meatless Fridays."

Maybe it's just me, but could this not be viewed as a flagrant form of beef disrespect? But you won't see them going after Pope John Paul II for his actions.

They allowed the Pope to go on his merry way, traveling to Cuba to achieve his real mission—stuffing the Papal suitcases with cigars.

I'm also reasonably sure that the Catholic Church has more money than Oprah. You could feed a small nation just on the money it costs to keep the Pope in amusing over-sized hats.

I am not alone in my fears for Oprah's safety in Amarillo. Here in Chicago, where we are a little more sophisticated than many cities, we know and love her.

But if you asked the average Texan about the 1985 hit movie *The Color Purple*, they probably didn't see the film because they thought it was a movie about "those California Raisin guys."

In support of Oprah Winfrey, I suggest we stage a "beef burning" protest here in Chicago, like my wife did with the roast beef last night—only on a larger scale.

Or, we all eat nothing but meatless deep dish pizza, until she's back safely in Chicago—"Where the skies are cloudy all day."

Cuba on my mind: Part 3

Visiting Old Havana

Special 5 part series



by Jeanette Hernandez-Kalin
Special Contributor

There is plenty to see and do in Havana. Political discussions on anti-imperialism, democracy and participation, and human rights and peoples' rights are full day and half-day sessions. Day trips to see Old Havana, to visit the Nicaraguan prosthetic patients or the cancer-stricken kids from Chernobyl are options. Hospitals, coffee factories and sugar mills await us. I even get an opportunity to sit in the Riviera Hotel, appropriated from American mobster Meyer Lansky. Now it is operated by the Cuban state. It's been preserved to perfection except for its casino, which has been converted to a conference hall.

I learn about the intricacies of the embargo. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union and the consequent evaporation of economic aid and an ever-ready trading partner, Cuba has been set adrift in the waters of the global market. The embargo is not simply an American refusal to do business with Cuba—it attempts to bar Cuban trade with other nations, in effect creating a blockade. Real problem areas are where Americans dominate a whole global market, such as pharmaceuticals, to which Cuba is entirely shut out. In the face of possible sanctions from the United States, potential trading partners charge Cuba two and three times the price of goods on the global market for assuming the "risk" of doing business with Cuba. Furthermore, these partners demand payment in dollars, to which Cuba has no direct access with the American travel ban in force.

In the evenings, the place to go is one of the regional clubs. There are live salsa and rock concerts, dances, and cultural performances. All the clubs either are on the ocean or have a swimming pool, so it pays to carry a swimsuit at all times. These clubs are normally used to accommodate Cuban workers who take vacations in Havana, but during the Festival, they are used to entertain the glut of foreigners. From what I hear, there are reports of U.S.-Cuba relations going on at the *Casa Club Cuba* at late hours during the intermittent blackouts. But the ideal situation is to be there during a water outage, in which case beers are handed out for free. Dariela and Lochita encourage

me to make the scene with them every night, but after a day of workshops and political discussions, the partying seems a bit daunting.

The immensity of Cuban hospitality is mind-boggling and not just a Festival thing. As I get to know Dariela better, she tells me how she got to know the Le Riverends:

"My family knew Lochy's family since the 1950s when they were in Mexico. When my mother was single, she came to Cuba and lived here with Lochy for six years while she attended the University of Havana. I'd never met Lochy until I was assigned to shoot a tourist video on Havana. Now I've been here for more than a month."

I take a day off and Doña Lochy shows me around Havana in her gray Lada. She takes me to *Parroquia del Vedado*, a freshly painted church with immaculate. Inside, it is a sanctuary of pristine silence. Doña Lochy tells me that even convents are still operating. Like all abandoned buildings, most churches are in disrepair, or at least are wracked with mold stains and peeling paint. Others have been converted to schools. Many churches are tented in scaffolds in an effort to renovate them for the Pope's historic visit.

Night falls and we drive through a tunnel that traverses Havana Bay. Before we duck under the lights, we pass a marquee that reads "Socialism or Death." On the other side is an ancient fort that offers a breathtaking view of Havana at night from across the Bay. I take pictures among the tourists and lovers as Doña Lochy tells me about the stratification in today's Cuba:

"There are two kinds of Cubans: those with dollars and those without. A lot of those who have relatives in the United States who send them money can live very well here. I have relatives in Miami or where ever they are. I have no contact with them and I don't want any. They didn't give the Revolution a chance, so I assume it's fairly mutual.

"Being a professional, I have no access to dollars. I can't engage in any small business or offer any service like the plumber can, let's say. Since the state paid for my education, it's illegal. The plumber learned his trade outside the university system—he can work at his discretion and charge in pesos or dollars."

I take another day off and run into

Jesse, an American delegate and fellow Chicagoan as he scampers across the street with a pretty mulatta. Jesse introduces me to Yanila, a young Cuban teacher with cinnamon skin and tight black corkscrews that fall down her back. Clad in a black lace sleeveless top and green denim shorts that accentuate her figure, Yanila is in a word, gorgeous. She and Jesse have been constant companions for the last couple of days. They are en route to the Museum of Revolution in Old Havana. I divert my course to tag along.

Yanila insists we stop by her parents before we head for Old Havana. Along Zapata Avenue, we come upon the *Cementerio Cristóbal Colón*, reputedly the second cemetery in the world and first in the Americas. Yanila points out the tombs of famous Cubans like Máximo Gómez and the family of José Martí. Most of the graves are simple marble caches above ground welded shut with crumbling concrete. Others are housed in mausoleums with stained glass windows, statues of saints and elaborate crucifixes. In the heart of the cemetery stands a colorful church where funeral masses are held.

Yanila's parents, it turns out, are divorced and so we arrive at her father's house. We are led to a third floor apartment. "This, I prepare you, is nothing like where you are staying," warns Yanila. Five family members are gathered in the

see Cuba
Page 11

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Cuba

continued from page 10
unpainted kitchen. They welcome us heartily and put glasses of ice water and coffee served in juice glasses in front of us. Everyone is thin, bespeaking the harsh rationing during the "Special Period" of post-Soviet austerity. I venture into the two bedrooms to change camera film and find an elderly man sleeping in one and a newborn baby in the other. I am caught off guard by the ends of the continuum of Cuban life represented in each room.

We lean off the balcony to catch the ocean breeze wafting into the apartment. Everyone wants to know if we like Cuba. Is it different than the portrayal we receive in the U.S.? Would we return outside of the auspices of the Festival? They make it a point to tell Jesse and me that we'll always have a home with them for future visits. Hmmm! We all embrace, take pictures, refuse lunch and are on our way.

Waiting for a bus is eternal. Forty-five minutes go by and the tropical clouds begin to menace pedestrians. Yanila suggests we request a "botella," i.e., hitchhike. She runs over to a vehicle and tells the driver that she is showing two American delegates around Old Havana. The three of us pile in.

We disembark in front of the grandeur of the old train station and give the driver a handful of pens. Yanila's mother lives across the street in a dilapidated building. The staircase to enter is so narrow that we are prevented from ascending by a young Black man bringing down a bicycle. Indeed, the climb makes me wonder how anyone with groceries, laundry or even hips can do it.

Like the staircase, the apartment is small and narrow. There is a sofa covered in plastic, two rocking chairs, a color TV nestled in a hutch, and a

bicycle. A fan sits on the coffee table with no safety barrier to prevent contact with the blade mechanism. The kitchen is adjacent with a large, ancient refrigerator and a table-top set of burners is the stove. There is no sink. I am not invited upstairs where I assume the bedrooms are. The area is in the midst of a power outage, which the residents hope will subside before night falls.

Despite Yanila's promise that this will be a quick stop, she announces that we are all "starving" as she gives her mother, a hefty Black woman, a kiss on the cheek. Her mother sets about her minuscule kitchen to prepare food. Meanwhile, Yanila darts up a stationary ladder and descends with three plastic bags of black and white photos. She narrates proudly as she shuffles through the images of her life: her sleekly straightened hairstyle at her fifteenth birthday party, her parents' wedding, school portraits, etc. She stops at a birthday candid and points to two White girls. "These two friends of mine are in the United States and are doing very well," she concludes wistfully.

We are interrupted by Yanila's mother, who wants to double-check that Jesse and me don't eat meat. The *señora's* eyes widen at our resolute affirmation, lit by the sudden return of electricity.

We sit on wobbly backless chairs at the table. Plates of rice, black bean soup, stewed yucca, bread, and a salad of tomato, avocado and cucumber tempt our palates. Lemonade and strong coffee follow. Jesse and I swallow our embarrassment and go for seconds in this feast for vegetarian foreigners.

Afterward, we climb another narrow staircase to the top of the building. As we take photos of the majestic view of Havana, Yanila's apologies for the way she lives begin to bristle me. "I'll bet you've never seen poverty like this before..." she ventures.

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"I don't think folks in the projects back home can afford to feed a couple of foreigners like your mother just did," says Jesse.

"I've been to parts of Latin America where people live in garbage dumps. None of them have any idea what it is to have pictures of themselves like you do," I finish.

Yanila is resigned to the fact that perhaps real squalor and intolerable necessity exist elsewhere, including where Jesse and I come from.

Before we set off to finally see the Museum of Revolution, I ask to use their bathroom.

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narrow, brick paved streets with balconies jutting out above us, we can see the gilded dome of the Museum. The scene is perfectly Parisian, except for the crunch of huge cockroach carcasses all over the street. Once inside, memories of Versailles are evoked by the ornate chapel, the frescoed ceilings and a Hall of Mirrors freshened with Havana's tropical breezes. Among the palatial opulence rest the photos, letters, rifles and uniforms of both attempts at the Revolution—the successful one on New Year's in 1959 and the thwarted one on July 26 in 1953.

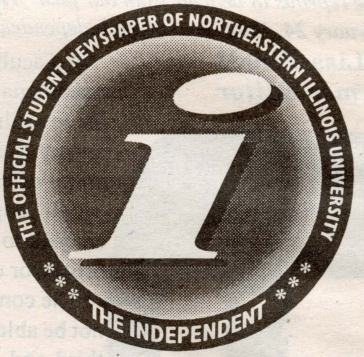
"Es comun," protests Yanila, warning me again to expect little from a common bathroom. We leave the apartment and go down the hall to a bathroom with no sink and no apparent way of flushing the toilet. I ask Yanila for some toilet paper. She hands me a sheet of newspaper.

The Museum of Revolution is housed in the old presidential palace close to the waterfront. Yanila tells us that Fidel doesn't live there—he prefers a simple flat in an undisclosed location and works out of an office a block away from her father's house.

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Team USA Czechs Out of Nagano

by Erik-Bjorn Surbaugh
 Sports Editor

Jeremy Roenick guaranteed Olympic gold for the USA men's hockey team in Nagano, who promptly lost 4-1 against a Czech team with only two bona fide stars. It would seem that the World Cup Champions of this previous summer were so taken with themselves that they went out every night they were in Japan, showed up to practice tired and hung over, and thought they could just glide to the gold medal.

J.R. tried to play his best, but watching him skate on the larger ice surface that the International rules favor, one gets the impression that Mr. Roenick longed for home. Unable to play the usual NHL thug-style garbage that passes for hockey in North America, Team USA was smoked by superior athletes who could just flat out skate. It seemed as if most of the U.S. stars were not so much focused on winning the gold as where they would put it when they won it. In fact, the only team that mighty Team USA could beat was the one from



Belarus, a country nestled between Legosi and Karolyi.

Other than Jaromir Jagr, is there more talent on the Czech team than the USA's? One would think not, but then again, one would not expect the arrogant Team USA members to go out until three in the morning drinking and carousing the night before their biggest game to date.

At another rink, the underdog Finnish team beat the highly ranked Swedes in a duel on ice that had to be seen to be fully appreciated. The speed and conditioning of both teams was impressive, and their stick-handling superb. While surprised that the Finns pulled out a victory against the faster Swedish team, neither team choked like the

Americans, and both played their hearts out. The European style of skating at full speed while keeping their sticks on the ice caught my attention. The NHL boys all skate with their sticks knee-high, looking for the next body to hit, while the European style seems to be oriented around putting the puck in play.

Thinking about the pathetic performance put up by our boys, I am reminded of baseball: Every year, the Major League all-stars get together and travel to Japan to face the best that country has to offer in an exhibition game of great popularity. Frequently, the American teams get demolished by the Japanese teams in these exhibitions, largely because the Japanese teams are trying to win at all costs, and the Yanks are just having a good time. There is one big difference here, however. The Olympics count.

*Congratulations
 to Team
 USA's
 Women's
 Hockey
 Team,
 Tara
 Lipinsky,
 and
 Michelle
 Kwan for
 being true
 Olympians!!*

Winter Olympics don't warm American hearts

by Erik-Bjorn Surbaugh
 Sports Editor

There seems to be no interest in the U.S. when the winter Olympics come around. For some reason, speed-skating, the luge, and hockey have never had the prestige here that sprinting, basketball and gymnastics has. Watching the U.S. teams lose in hockey to athletes I have never heard of, it's easy to see why. Most sports enthusiasts in the US have always been big fans of winning, and it isn't often that we win anything in the winter O's.

Could you imagine a team of all-pro football players losing to anyone on Earth in their sport, if such was an Olympic event? Not a chance. But I read that even though Denmark is about the size of one of our States, and about as populous, that Denmark has ten times as many participants in winter sports, not counting hockey! No wonder the Scandinavian countries win most of the medals. Certainly, if one were to scan the rosters of NHL teams, one would certainly find more Canadian, Slavic, and Scandinavian players than American born ones.

As far as the artistic events go, figure skating is the weirdest from an American perspective. While the athleticism of the participants in the men's events is unquestioned, the typical American male is seemingly uncomfortable watching men's figure skating. To blame this on homophobia is too simplistic. I suspect that this discomfort stems rather strongly from our society's preference of power over grace. Even the most graceful athletes in the American public consciousness are graceful *in addition to* being strong, fast, what have you.

As a consequence, figure skating gets a bum rap here, and looks

like it will always be a second echelon sport in America. Michelle Kwan and Tara Lipinski do draw some attention, and rightfully so, but aren't the draw that the average NBA'er is. As extraordinary an athlete as Kulik, the Russian figure-skater is, it would seem unlikely for the typical American male to look up to a man who wins his contests wearing diaphanous bat-wing costumes and steer suits.

Those downhill racers are maniacs, and there is certainly more power than grace to a man pushing 75 miles per hour down a winding slope, but one can only wonder at their sanity. I suppose it's no nuttier than letting defensive linemen hit you in the NFL, but it sure looks more dangerous to me. It would take a lot for downhill racing to become a highly rated event, despite the curiosity factor from the inherent dangers of the sport. Perhaps that's because skiing, like many many of the winter Olympic sports, is a "money" sport. It costs a lot to learn the sport well, and most folks haven't the leisure or the disposable income to teach their children how to become championship-caliber skiers or skaters.

At any rate, the U.S. women's teams have performed very well, with the hockey team capturing gold, and two of the three female figure skating representatives competitive to the end. The women's hockey club played like demons, astounding me with their drive. I confess, I had no clue that they were so fundamentally sound. Every player looks to pass, and scoring is a team effort almost every time. Cammi Granato is a stunning player, as dominant in her sport as Gretsky is in his.

I guess we can also take heart in the fact that we have the best sky-surfers in the world, dude.

Money used for athletics needed by education departments, says faculty

In celebrating the Independent's ten-year anniversary, we proudly present some reprints of articles from our past. This article first appeared in the February 24, 1992 issue of the Independent.

by Lisa Mandl
 Former Editor

Independent

A Faculty Senate Committee on Intercollegiate Sports was formed in order to evaluate the necessity of as much money financing the many sports programs offered on campus while the education programs are being merged, according to Chairman Charles Barber, a professor of history.

The committee is worried that it will not be able to deliver, said Barber at the third and final Senate hearing on last Wednesday.

It's becoming a political issue," said Barber. "We could advertise on the Ph.D. to classroom ratio."

That is not the biggest concern to the committee though. "We're concerned with the reality that we may not be able to deliver if the mergers go through," he added.

The education departments at the university are saving \$150,000 by merging the departments, but are spending \$900,000 on the sports department because they are in Division I, according to Larry Bernstein, former Cross Country coach and sports information director.

In 1987, the state gave \$94,470 to the department and now in 1992 is giving \$354,309, according to Bernstein. Athletic fees that all students must pay have risen from \$206,098 in 1987 to \$402,210 in 1992.

The committee isn't happy with all the money going towards this department when so many teachers are leaving, for unknown reasons, and are not being replaced, said Barber.

Barber said he felt there must be a freeze in the hiring of teachers for academia but, "I must assume there's not a freeze in athletics since they're trying to hire an assistant swim coach."

The state has also given different standards for faculty and athletic personnel, according to Barber, which is "Fueling tremendous resentment from

the faculty to all athletics." Barber added that the faculty doesn't desire to completely get rid of the athletics department and is considering every angle to keep both education and athletics from suffering any monetary set-backs.

The committee has kept correspondence with Senator Miguel Del Valle. In a recent letter sent to Del Valle, the committee wrote about several of the budget cuts that were being made in the education departments.

"The English Language Program [ELP] and Linguistics an ELP instructor was terminated from the position and replaced with an already-employed Linguistics instructor.

"A Reading tutor position that paid approximately \$1,000 was eliminated. Departments are losing their tenure-track positions without replacements that are valued at approximately \$450,000 of re-allocated funds."

The students are already aware of the merging of the departments, that were not consulted with the departments.

Tutorial cuts are devastating the students, the report states. A restoration of \$15,000 would go a long way to alleviate this need.

"I think the administration has shown fiscal irresponsibility by cutting a \$1,000 tutorial position and then sending \$1,360 worth of Christmas cards out that same year," said Student Senate Secretary, Harold M. Hutchings. "The fact that the dean of education, Ahmed Fareed, hasn't allocated funds and staff to meet requirements for accreditation in the past 10 years is absurd. The ugly truth that in those 10 years, from 1980 to 1990, the Illinois Board of Higher Education had research budgets grow 44 percent, administration 28 percent, and public service by 13 percent, while money for instruction declined by 11 percent is enough to make me wonder if anyone has thought about putting educators in charge of education."

Dr. Dennis Keihn, director of the athletics department, was not able to be reached for comment as of press time.