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## Independent- Feb. 9, 1999

Laura R. Hadley

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# independent

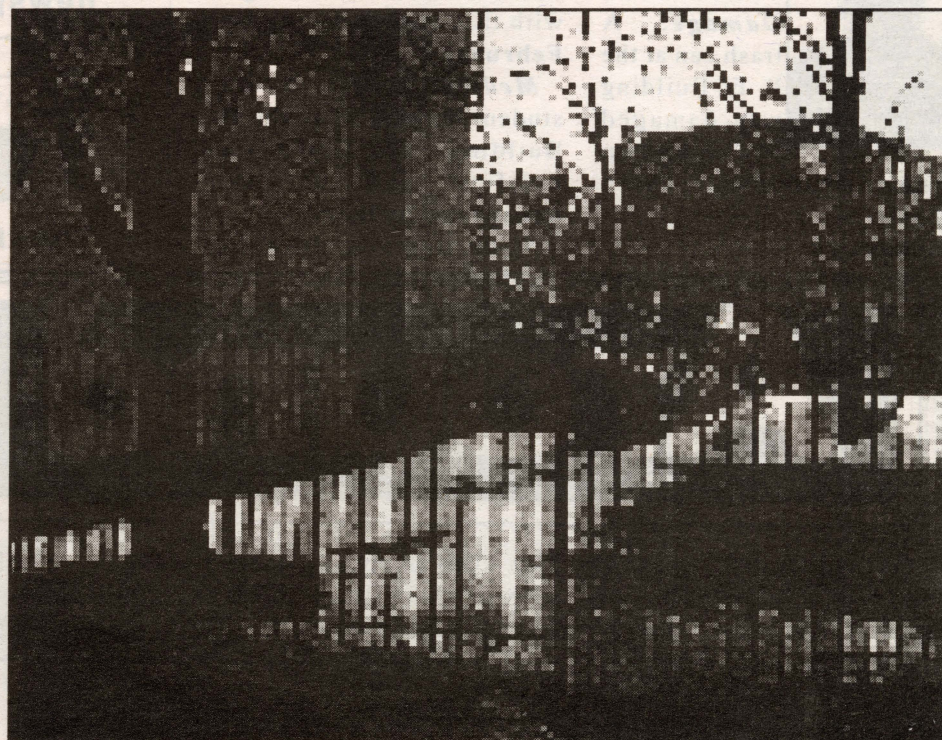
Serving Northeastern Illinois University for over a decade

Volume 15, issue 13

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Chicago, Illinois

## Bloody Valentine revisited



(Left) The sight of the infamous St. Valentine's Day Massacre in 1929. (Right) Today, a small park disguises the grim reminder of the slayings that took place on Feb. 14, 1929.

by Thomas J. Foley, News Editor

Before the era of Michael Jordan, Chicago had a different reputation. Anywhere you went, if you told people you were from Chicago, they'd say, "Chicago?" and make tommy gun style shooting motions. Ever wonder if there was one event that gave our fair city this reputation? It was called the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.

Early on the morning of February 14, 1929, seven men, most of them members of the infamous North Sider's Gang, were shot to death in a commercial garage, the S. M. C. Cartage Co., at 2122 N. Clark St. They were killed execution style with machine guns and shotguns. A Chicago Police paddy wagon was seen leaving the scene, after two uniformed policemen had led two plainclothes men at gunpoint into the wagon.

Killed were six members of George 'Bugs' Moran's gang, namely Adam Meyer, John May, James Clark, Al Weinshank, and Frank and Pete Gusenberg, as well as an optometrist named Dr. Reinhardt Schwimmer, who had no apparent connection to the gang. Although there was no doubt who ordered the killing, who the triggermen were remains a mystery today.

The hit was intended to kill Moran, but he arrived late at the garage that morning. Moran's main rival in the bootleg liquor industry was the infamous Chicago mobster Al Capone. Capone, however, made sure he had an alibi for the murders. He was in his Florida condominium at the time.

This was the culmination in a long war between Moran and Capone. It was the height of Prohibition and the bootleg liquor industry was an excellent way to get rich quick. Numerous attempts had been made by both men to eliminate the competition, including the Moran gang firing over 1000 rounds of ammunition into Capone's Cicero headquarters, the Hawthorne Inn.

Capone reportedly set up the deal far in advance. He had a mobster from Detroit (probably one Fred Burke) set up a deal to sell Moran a quantity of liquor that had

been recently hijacked from the police. Moran accepted and arranged to take possession at a garage at 2122 N. Clark on February 14, 1929. The Detroit man informed Capone of the plan, and Capone's men proceeded to acquire a police paddy wagon and uniforms, either by theft or bribery.



Al Capone

On that fateful morning, two of the four man hit team dressed in the police uniforms, while the other two dressed in long coats, in an attempt to look like detectives. They pulled up in front and ran into the garage as if it were a police raid. What happened next is mostly speculation, but one thing is clear; the seven men were made to stand against the wall and were then shot. The most likely scenario is that the killers announced their visit as a raid. The Moran men, thinking it a routine police raid, complied. Each victim was definitely hit with numerous rounds from the .45 caliber Thompson submachine guns.

Moran and two associates (Willy Marks and Ted Newbury) reportedly were rounding the corner as the police wagon rolled up. Figuring it was a routine bust, Moran and friends planned to stay out of sight until the police left, but when the shooting started, they took off. Moran was later picked up by police and questioned about the shooting. He was quoted as saying, "Only Capone kills like that."

An eyewitness who lived across the street heard the shooting and looked out her window. She saw two uniformed police officers leading two men with their hands

raised in the air into the back of the paddy wagon.

The next day, the newspapers carried the story that it was actually the police who committed the murders in retaliation for the theft of some booze from some crooked cops a few weeks earlier. Chicagoans didn't find this at all unbelievable, considering the extent of corruption in the police force at the time. In fact, Dr. Calvin Goddard, a forensic scientist from New York, was called in to test all the machine guns in police possession in order to rule out such a scenario. Goddard was unable to match any of the bullets found at the scene to any police weapon.

One victim, Frank Gusenberg, actually survived the shooting. He was taken to the hospital, where he eventually regained consciousness long enough to say, "I'm not gonna talk." He then laid his head down and died.

While there are many suspects that may be the killers, no one was ever arrested for the crime. Although, one mobster in



George "Bugs" Moran

Detroit, Fred Marks, was found by Detroit police to have in his possession the tommy guns used in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, but he was never brought to Illinois for trial for the murders. He was instead tried for the murder of a Michigan policeman and sentenced to life in prison. He was known to have done some jobs

for Capone in the past, though.

Some other suspects include 'Machinegun' Jack McGurn, who is commonly suspected of playing a part in the planning of the hit, and Tony 'Joe Batters' Accardo, one of Capone's closest henchmen. Also mentioned in connection with the Massacre are George 'Shotgun' Ziegler, Claude Maddox, Gus Winkler, and 'Crane Neck' Nugent, all members of the Brooklyn-based murder-for-hire gang known as Murder, Inc.

But probably two of the most likely suspects are John Scalise and Albert Anselmi. Both men came to Chicago in the 1920's from Sicily and began working for the Genna crime family, which was at war with the Moran Gang. During one shootout, Scalise and Anselmi killed two police officers during a pursuit. With the help of a Capone lawyer and a hefty bribe, the two were freed. Even still, it took three trials.

Since they would've then been able to link Capone to the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, it should come as no surprise that both men were killed in May of 1929. Although this would be reason enough for Capone to have them killed, there is also evidence that they were conspiring with another mobster to become independent of Capone.

Urban legend has it that Capone invited them to a testimonial dinner at his Hawthorne Inn headquarters on May 7, 1929, and personally killed them by bashing in their heads at the dinner table while the other diners watched. Both men were found in a car on a back road, beaten to death. It is more likely that Capone would have had them killed, as opposed to killing them in front of witnesses. This rumor was probably started to intimidate enemies and instill fear in allies.

As for Moran, his power structure was broken by the Massacre. He hung around Chicago, but his power was greatly diminished. By the mid 1940's, he was reduced to robbing banks to survive. He was eventually caught, and died in jail in 1957.

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# Campus police report

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

January 26

**Traffic Violation:** An auto stopped near the campus had four bullet holes in it. The car was fired at a few days before. The occupants, frequenters of the campus, were issued four state citations.

January 27

**Criminal**

**Damage:** A trash can at the P. E. Building was damaged by unknown

persons. No estimate given of loss.

January 28

**Damage:** A student reported her auto damaged by unknown persons. A loss of \$800.

January 29

**Service to Another Agency:** NEIU police arrested a non-student after he caused a disturbance in a store near the campus. This person had also broken a car window, and was charged with that also.

February 1

**Medical Assist:** A non-student became ill in the D-Building. His family was notified and he was transported by them.

**Stray Dog:** A stray dog

was found in the A-Wing. Animal Control responded, but the animal was claimed by a faculty member.

February 2

**Theft:** A student reported leaving her purse in an unlocked classroom. When she returned an hour later, it was gone. A loss of \$20.

Please recycle this newspaper.



Thank you!

By John Prusko, Jr. 02.10.97

## Love to Teach?

Highland Park learning center needs part-time reading and math tutors. Must be able to work at least 8 hours / week. Flexible scheduling on Monday-Friday after school hours and during the day on Saturday. Certification (or certification in progress) required. Fax resume to 847-579-1103 or call 847-579-1100.



HUNTINGTON  
LEARNING  
CENTER

# Around Campus

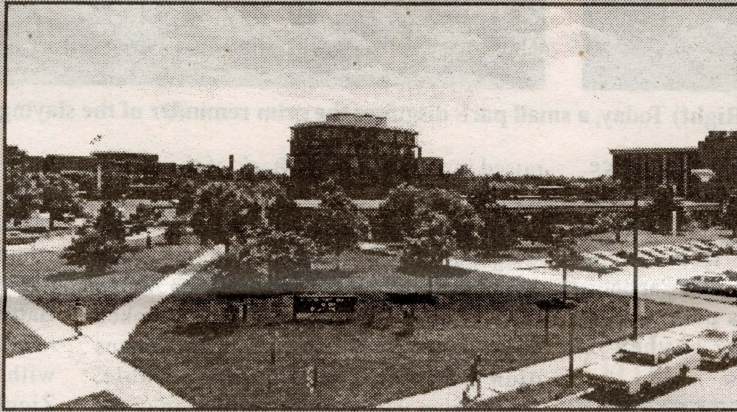
Hello again, gentle readers! Welcome to our special Valentine issue of *Around Campus*! What's so special about it, you ask? Other than me offering my (in the words of Barry White) unlimited love to you all, not much. Anyway, in the words of Mills Lane, let's get it on!

February 9: Today is lecture day. Three are being sponsored. The first is by the Music Department, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Auditorium, and is called *A Tribute to Katherine Dunham*. From 1:30 until 3 p.m., the Black Heritage Club is holding a lecture in the TV Lounge. Call Student Activities at ext. 3868 for more information. Also during that time, the Northeastern Programming Board is holding a lecture on *The Spirit of the Rainforest* in CLS-1002.

February 10: The Hip

Hop Club is hosting a bake sale in the Village Square from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. If

do, or complain about the things that they don't do, stop by and bug your NEIU



compiled by Thomas J. Foley, News Editor

you want to try some baked goods that'll keep you hoppin', check it out. The Student Government Association is sponsoring a Student Government Information table from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the Classroom Building Lobby, so if you're interested in running for Student Government or just finding out what the heck they

Student Government representative. The Department of Recreation is sponsoring an Aikido lessons workshop in the Auxiliary Gym from 5 to 6:45 p.m. This is a good way to stay fit and whup some booty, so check it out. February 11: The Music Department is hosting a Faculty Concert by Brian

Torosian in the Auditorium from 7:30 until 9:45 p.m. This is likely a good opportunity to see if the music faculty practice what they teach!

February 14: This is St. Valentine's Day, so give someone you love an indication of just how much you love them, and that's an order! It is also Sunday, so don't bother coming to school. February 15: The Northeastern Programming Board is at it again, hosting one of their spectacular Coffeehouse programs, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Village Square and the Auditorium, so get yourself a few cups of hot java, relax, and just groove, baby!

The Black Heritage Club is sponsoring a Pageant in the Auditorium from 7 to 9 p.m., so don't forget to stop by and say "Hi!"

February 16: On this momentous day, the Office of Student Activities begins its Student Leadership Conference

from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Student Lounge, the TV Lounge, and the Student Conference Room in E-053, so if you're interested in being a student leader, check it out.

Entries close today for the Department of Recreation's Walleyball Activity, so if you think you're good enough to win the whole Walleyball, don't be shy, give it a try! Go to the P. E. Building before 1:40 p.m.

This also happens to be the day that the *Independent* comes out with another award-winning, stellar issue. Don't forget to pick up your copy today! Remember, not only does the *Independent* provide you with valuable news, opinions, features and entertainment, it is also a dietary supplement high in fiber!

Well, until next time, keep your eye on the sparrow, lest it keep something else on you.

*Independent*, Northeastern Illinois University, Room E-049, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60625

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# A gamer's paradise



by Lior Alon, Staff Writer

Now that the Xmas shopping frenzy has completely subsided, we can indulge ourselves in some sober post-Yuletide market evaluation, namely the games, or gaming, market from the little guy's perspective.

Yes, with the holiday season behind us, venturing to the local games store no longer requires SWAT-like assault tactics in the face of rampaging hordes of credit card totting seasonal consumers bent on getting their hands on that elusive piece of software.

Before we engage in our market assessment, however, we must know exactly what kind of environment and what type of customers we must deal with. When we say "gaming market" we refer to a \$40 billion a year industry rivaling fellow leisure industries such as the home video and music fields. No longer the premise of a select few MIT geeks, today's gaming industry comprises thousands of producers, developers and manufacturers, some of which have grown to huge proportions. Both on the video game console and the home computer front, games have exceeded many experts' hopes

## Playing the shopping game. Who has the best price?

	EB	CompUSA	Best Buy	Beyond.com *
Half-Life	49.99	39.99	49.99	44.95
Brood Wars	29.99	19.99	29.99	24.95
Jeff Wayne's War of the Worlds	44.99	39.99	---	---
Grim Fandango	44.99	44.99	44.99	39.95
Need For Speed 3	39.99	---	39.99	39.99
Blackhawk Joystick	---	19.99	19.99	---
N64	129.99	129.99	129.99	---

\*Beyond.com's prices do not include considerable shipping charges.

and predictions by not only surviving, but also actually thriving. This year the market remained dominated by three major platforms: the venerable PC, the Sony Playstation and the Nintendo N64 machine, all of which had their own hit releases lined up.

These three outshine traditional gaming forms such as the local coin-op arcade, which has become a virtual thing of the past. And games

have clearly obtained a greater penetration of society's psyche than ever before, witness Lara Croft and her rising to pop icon status (36DD Lara stars in the successful Tomb Raider series).

And whom exactly do we mean when we say "gamer?" Well, supposedly anyone who plays electronic games. Yet, that definition stands far from true completion. For this constitutes one

of the industry's main problems: gamers suffer from clan mentality. This attitude means that over 80% of games purchased go to the same thin class of dedicated people who see this hobby more as a way of life and thus carry most of the industry's welfare on their burdened shoulders. These folks not only buy games and game accessories, they also subscribe to magazines, log-on to online gaming sites and provide

vital feedback to the market's creative element. This may sound good, but in actuality goes to diminish the industry's ability to infiltrate greener pastures and larger audiences so long as it remains a relatively secluded enclave.

Therefore we traveled to our local software and games stores to see what were the hottest items this season, what roughly typifies the various categories within the gaming industry and, most importantly, how much we should expect to pay. Game retailers echo their contemporaries in other economic endeavors since they operate on the same assumptions and seek the same rewards. They also seem to be divided into either national small-scale store chains or national superstore behemoths occupying thousands of square feet. The independent retailer has all but vanished from the scene. Whether this trend serves the end users or

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Graphic by Lior Alon



## Dave's RANT

### Video Cliches

MTV has created a music video-based (\*\*gasp!\*\*) half-hour primetime show called *Video Cliches*. In it, one of their (very few) talented personalities, Dave Holmes presents videos that show the same ol'-same ol' in videos: T & A, bathroom scenes, making out, choreographed dance numbers, etc.

The show is fairly entertaining and rather ironic, since MTV is knocking the videos they actually show between episodes of *Road Rules* and *The Real World*. But this metacognitive look at programming actually has value that can be applied to all television.

The major networks should take a queue from MTV's vision. The largest amount of cliché fodder comes from sitcoms. Do we need the overbearing in-laws, the quirky relative, the swishy/sassy gay guy, the precocious child, the odd-ball neighbor, the blue-collar/Bud Light commercial mentality for married men, the always smarter-than-husband wife, the smart-ass service-oriented retail employee, the smart-ass anyone, the spacey office assistant, the spacey friend or the intimidating-but-turns-sensitive-right-as-the-episode-is-ending-to-save-the-day boss? Of course, this is an abbreviated list. And, in your life, does every person you meet have a witty retort for everything you say? Apparently, it's a prerequisite for the "sitcom world."

How 'bout TV magazine shows like *Dateline NBC* or the granddaddy of them all, *60 Minutes*? Do we need the "dramatic" setup for every story? Here's a typical example: Fade into a wedding picture of a "traditional" white-bread couple from Nowhere, U.S.A. As the picture focuses on the faces of the loving couple, the voiceover chimes in just as a foreboding classical string ensemble piece sets the mood: "Bob and Mary James had a seemingly perfect life. With a beautiful house. And two beautiful children. Until..." Aside from sounding like a line from a Talking Heads song, hasn't this perfect-to-tragic/controversy cliché been used as much as the name Monica Lewinsky?

Another query: What possible use do the hosts for these shows serve? Usually, they're not even the ones who construct the stories. At least I see Ed Bradley (*60 Minutes*) out in the field once in a while. They may as well bring back Max Headroom (an animated Talk Show host from the 80's). And instead of the frequent practice of doing one story per one-hour show (*Dateline NBC*), networks should "squeeze" in a couple of more stories and cut down the amount of times (*Dateline NBC*) that the show broadcasts during the week (*Dateline NBC*).

More recently, the word "expert" is seemingly being confused with "the only guest(s) that were available for this time slot." Especially with shows like *Rivera Live* and *Crossfire*, the main focus seems to be to instantly digest and resolve issues in a 30-minute show by people who have marginal knowledge and maximum opinions and agendas on the issues (i.e. the President's impeachment). While it's possible to address issues, the viewer is hard pressed to know what the "experts" are talking about, because they keep TALKING OVER EACH OTHER. It makes the WWF look like a debate on global warming.

And looking at myself as a columnist who writes about these things, do I need to continually harp on this? Aren't these type of columns a cliché unto themselves? Do I need to complain and kavetch about things that haven't changed in years and probably won't anytime soon?

Yes, I do. Even technology is offering a whole new media to criticize (Internet), a majority of Americans still watch at least a few hours of television a day. And as long as network television churns out more of the same and cable creates more niche programming, I will be there to watch it—and watch them.

**Note:** There was an error in the February 2 Rant. In the category concerning newsreporters, I identified the newsreporter as Gwen Inawat. Her correct name is Gwen Ifill. Sorry, Gwen.

## Usher in the Quiet

by Lior Alon, Music Critic

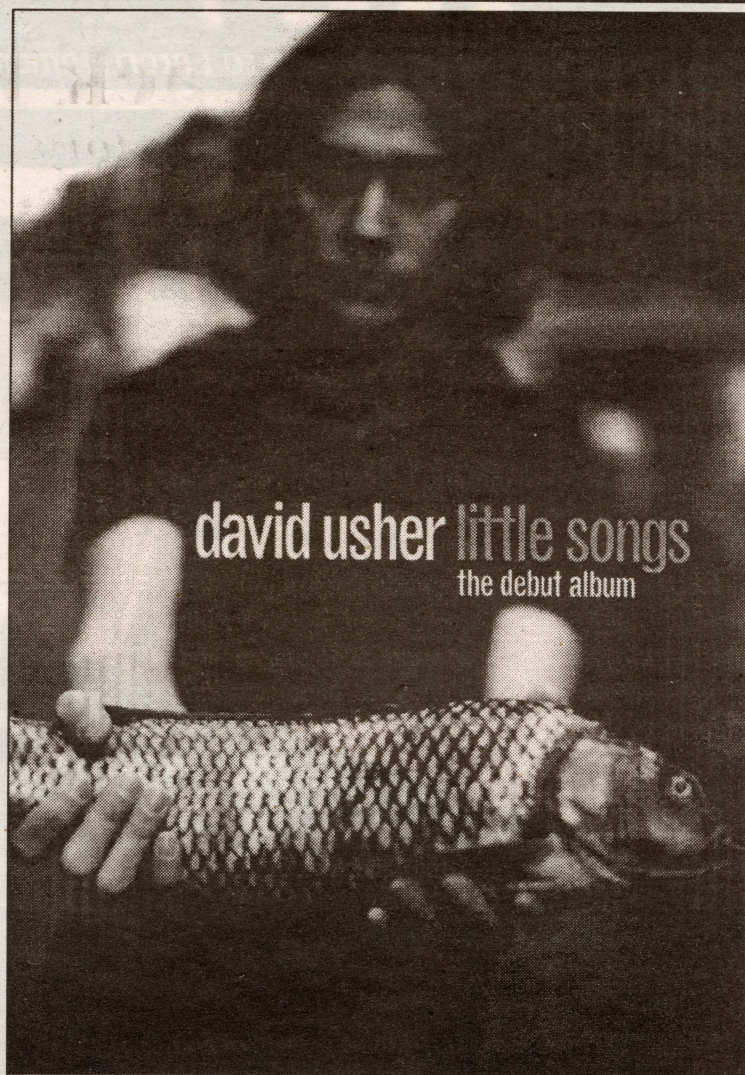
Traditionally, artists from the Third Dakota (aka Canada) migrate south to meet greater success in the States. Just look at Miss McLachlan and old man Adams.

However, exceptions to the rule always crop up, and thus we have the case of one David Usher whose debut solo LP just got released in the US without anybody really noticing - a shame if there ever was one.

Usher's other day job, as guitarist and singer with Canada's mellow alt rockers *Moist* brought him to the fore among Canadian indie advocates (all six of 'em) and won the band some critical acclaim in other places on the global map. However, neither he nor the band from whence he came, gained much recognition with American audiences.

The lad's first solo excursion sees him veering off in wild directions. Signed by Vancouver's Nettwerk label, Usher's new sound probably caused considerable unrest in now-

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## Gamer's

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harms them remains debatable.

The Product Line Up

*Half-Life* (Valve/Sierra): first person and first rate shooter filled to bursting with fresh ideas and superlative design, complimented by a vast array of terrific graphic and audio effects. A must have by any criteria.

*Starcraft Brood Wars* (Blizzard): expansion set accompanying Blizzard's smash hit *Starcraft*. Real time strategy buffs gobbled this one up over the holiday, as it enthusiastically adds new characters and levels to a way cool game on its own merits. Cheap, too.

Jeff Wayne's *War of the Worlds* (Rage/GT Interactive): this one serves as the token hard core item, seeing as only die hard gamers would even consider buying a product as esoteric as this. Not a particularly able game by any standard, it still possesses a hefty licensed plot (one of sci-fi's foremost classic tales) and the 1978 album's breathtaking musical score.

*Grim Fandango* (Lucasarts): coming from George Lucas' highly capable team of adventure game writers, this highly cynical yet ultimately hilarious piece of software went down well both with the genre's old guard and younger inductees searching for something to sink their collective teeth into. Anything based on Mexico's Day of the Dead has to have something going for it.

*Need For Speed 3* (Electronic Arts): launched by the world's largest games producer, *NFS 3* quickly proved its mettle as the best racing game ever for the presumably "serious" PC. Mind blowing graphics and addictive gameplay combine to dish out quite a tasteful stew.

Blackhawk joystick: the first of two hardware items listed here, the Blackhawk contributes a substantial addition to the aging and often failing game controller market since it performs with flying colors both as an action-oriented apparatus and as a contraption well-adjusted to the

most exacting flight simulation - no mean feat to pull off.

N64 Basic Package (Nintendo): Playstation-busting game console N64 managed to arrive at a considerable market share in the face of stiff competition from Sony's soon-to-be-replaced wonder machine. The basic package comes with little more than a controller and some demo games, yet acts as a portal to a dimension of accessible, visually pleasing game titles carrying Nintendo's revered seal of approval.

The Contenders

Electronics Boutique: a network of mall-bound stores operating across the nation, EB caters more than anyone else to the out and out gamer. Featuring the largest selection of game titles around, EB does not need huge spaces to get going and generally advocates reasonable prices. For a true game shopping experience, EB comes highly recommended despite a weak presence in our neck of the woods. Location surveyed: Woodfield Shopping Center, Schaumburg.

CompUSA: Leviathan-sized retailer largely responsible for the computer superstore concept, CompUSA nonetheless treats gaming as merely one of many departments, as alongside the latest game titles, these guys also stock up on laptops and Katie Holmes mouse pads. Good all arounders, CompUSA glances over the committed gamer as an afterthought and aims for the lowest common denominator jugular. Prices range from fair to generous in a good way. Location surveyed: Golf Rd, Schaumburg.

Best Buy: another huge electronics retail conglomerate, Best Buy take the definition of "comprehensive" to its ludicrous conclusion by crowding in games together with CD's, washing machines and automated can openers. While their gaming section never really reaches a pathetic state of affairs, it obviously fails in voicing or fulfilling the needs of devoted gaming cohorts. You'll need an MBA to figure out their pricing

policy, although as a rule of thumb they can be placed on the moderate to economical end of the price spectrum.

Location surveyed: Golf Rd, Schaumburg.

Beyond.com: Newcomer online retailer bragging non-stop via annoying radio commercials about how good, clever and cheap (!) they must be when compared with the likes of CompUSA. Do the letters B and S mean anything to them when joined together? A selection limited to mainstream hits, no hardware and a lack of competitive prices keep Beyond's claims confined to the realm of fantasy. Best left alone for now, unless standing in line REALLY gets to you in a big way. Location surveyed: cyberspace (for crying out loud, not that stupid buzzword again).

Aside from CompUSA coming in from nowhere to challenge EB's hard core niche (by carrying *War of the Worlds*) and surprising us for the better with the best prices in town, it seems as if a status quo persists throughout.

Beyond.com indeed fell short of functioning as a viable alternative to the reigning "real" stores (much better online game shopping sites do exist-Chips N Bits Online store, to name one) and completely miss out on the hardware factor. The other three come very close to one another in terms of price range, although CompUSA's sticker prices obviously undercut everyone else's in some cases.

Best Buy's selection turned out to be better than anticipated, and both CompUSA and EB suffered from shameful omissions on their store shelves.

Even though the gaming industry continues sending healthy life signs, the absence of an underdog-like retailer with rock-bottom prices and a fresh faced approach cannot be good. Avid lifelong gamers truly fork out, with zombie-esque glee, whenever possible, but at an average of \$35-\$50 a pop can you blame Joe Public for not taking up this costly pastime?

See you at the next status check!



## 48 hours of Black History

### Stage Center presents the story of Durham's groundbreaking *Destination Freedom*

by Dave Grzelak, REV Editor

A little over two full days of radio broadcasting today is usually pretty pat stuff. On WMAQ today, there's news, traffic, and weather. On WMAQ from the end of June 1948 to August 1950, a half-hour radio show called *Destination Freedom* brought Black History to life every Sunday.

The stories of great African Americans and their struggles for liberty was the brainchild of African-American Richard Durham (1917-1984), who honed his radio craft during the Great Depression. After his studies at Northwestern University, Durham worked as an editor for *The Chicago Defender*, a local black newspaper still in existence today. After brief stints in writing a radio series called *Democracy U.S.A* and a black soap opera *Here Comes Tomorrow*, Durham created *Destination Freedom*.

NEIU Professor Emeritus of History J. Fred MacDonald wrote an extensive book about Durham, *Richard Durham's Destination Freedom—Scripts from Radio's Black Legacy 1948-1950*. "Destination Freedom was a major statement by an African-American artist. It was an honest and frank description about the historical condition of people of color and the ill-treatment they regularly received," MacDonald said. These pieces, according to MacDonald "were not historiographical" but rather "stories drawn from historical reality but fictionalized in terms of conversation and dramatic pace."



One of the pieces to be performed in the Stage Center production (February 9, 1:40 p.m. and February 11, 1:40 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.) is *The Rime of the Ancient Dodger*. It tells the story of the first Black person in Major League Baseball, Jackie Robinson. MacDonald thinks that of the over 90 stories that Durham told, this was one of the best. "Rime of the Ancient Dodger is a delicious drama of the integration of baseball done in a distinctive style," MacDonald said.

The list of Black historical luminaries that Durham covered in the over 90 episodes of *Destination Freedom* reads like a who's who of Black History: Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Langston Hughes, Duke Ellington, Lena Horne, Booker T. Washington, and Charlotte Hawkins to name a few.

But aside from the \$125 per story he earned, Durham earned his place as another luminary in Black History. His story will now be told.

## The Chicgao Cultural Center celebrates rich African culture

by Janet Henderson, Staff

Writer honor of African American History Month, five festivals will be presented at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington. These festivals explore the roots of African American culture as exemplified by each of the five regions (North, East, Central, South, and West) of Africa.

"This series of festivals creates an opportunity to appreciate how rich African culture is and how it varies across the continent, just as American culture does," Mayor Daley said. Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Lois Weinberg adds that the events for the month are "inspiring, educational, and tremendous fun."

Some of the remaining festival highlights include: *South Africa*



**Fikile Mazibuko shares Zulu stories.** of Zulu drum rhythms and dance movements; Alyo Children's Dance theatre perform the gumboot dance.

#### East Africa

An Ethiopian choir sings sacred music; Chef Atsede Yimer of the Ethio Village Restaurant and Cafe demonstrates traditional cooking techniques; Dr. James Makuyuba tells age-old stories of Uganda and provides an interactive traditional music and dance experience; Simon Ogeto of Kenya shows and discusses Kenyan artifacts; one of the films of East

Africa to be shown is *Quand les Etoiles Rencontrent la Mer (When the Stars Meet the Sea)* from Madagascar, which explores the roles of magic and destiny among the Merina people.

#### West Africa

The *bantabaa*, or welcoming ceremony for distinguished visitors and those returning to the region, includes;

Carver David Philpot displaying examples of his work and explaining their ceremonial significance; traditional stilt walkers of the S.P.I.R.I.T.S. Dance Ensemble; the Muntu Dance theatre performing traditional dances of Nigeria and Senegal; one of the films of West Africa to be shown is *Three Tales from Senegal*, which tells the story of the basic beliefs which support ordinary Africans as they try to survive in a rapidly changing world.

For specific times and additional information, call the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs (312) 744-6630.

## Nothin' to Do

### The Transformation of Spanish Folk Art in the Americas

The Department of Cultural Affairs, 78 E. Washington, is putting on quite an exhibition. *El Alma del Pueblo* runs for the next two months and features the folk art of Spain and its impact on artistic impression in the Latino communities of the United States and Latin America. Over 250 objects are on display and include a multitude of materials since the 16th century, such as household saints, maritime folk art, regional pottery, and votive offerings.

You also can check out the dance, music and tours available through April 3. Highlights from these categories are listed below.

#### Dance

NEIU's Ensemble Espanol performs on Friday, March 12 at 6:30 p.m. at the Claudia Cassidy Theatre.

#### Music

**February 10**  
Flamenco Guitarist Jose Soto "Sorderita" and Moraito Chico.

**February 14**  
Music in the Galleries: live music and special gifts.

**February 24**  
American Blues Guitar with Corey Harris.

#### Tours

A Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs curator leads a tour of the exhibit on Friday February 26, Friday March 19, Sunday March 21, and Thursday March 25. Group tours and bilingual tours are available upon request by calling (312) 742-0179 to make reservations.

#### Special Events

**February 25**  
Curator of the exhibition Dr. Marion Oettinger presents a slide show/lecture, *Stalking the Folk Art of Spain: Spanish Folk Art and its Transformation in the Americas*.

For more information, call (312) 744-6630 or visit [www.ci.chi.il.us/Tour/CulturalCenter/](http://www.ci.chi.il.us/Tour/CulturalCenter/)



Musician Morkeba Kouyate (left) and Dr. James Makuyuba (right) will both take part in the Chicago Cultural Center's celebration of African culture.



## Usher

continued from page 2

defunct labelmate Skinny Puppy's encampment. Gothic industrialists do not take too kindly to gentle-hearted bards on a mission to put their body surfing fans to sleep. Yes, Usher suddenly went all-quiet, with this record being a testimony to the definition of sparse music.

A very short album, *Little Songs* amounts to just that. Ten songs featuring little beyond acoustic guitar, some bass and an 8-bit drum machine. Without resorting to overt hippiness, Usher pulls off the stunt of being thoughtful while never getting on everybody's nerves, an admirable accomplishment in this day and age.

David's inability to join US rotation radio with its resultant publicity and wealth probably has something to do with his songs' tendency to focus on lyrical, melodic intonations rather than on addictive pompousness. At times slightly difficult, *Little Songs* nonetheless faithfully conveys an emotional landscape devoid of pretentiousness. Joining Simon and Garfunkel's tenderness with an Ani

DiFranco like attitude (including a few tracks suffering from somewhat uncalled for foul language), Usher's remarkable fluidity makes the whole record sound as if it was recorded in one spontaneous go.

The singer/songwriter's intelligence shines throughout. *Trickster*, *Babyskin Tattoo* and *St. Lawrence River* all have what it takes to make a good, solid song. *Final Thoughts* and *The Last Day on Earth* sounds uncannily like Fleetwood Mac's *Landslide* (come to think of it, Usher sounds uncannily like Stevie Nicks!).

Highly recommended to people who enjoy soul searching material, Usher's premier proves the point of honest, earthy music. This genre usually suffers from self-appointed environmentalists and bleeding hearts that quickly grate and go a long way towards building Rob Zombie's listener base with their annoying antics. Usher has no axe to grind and brings along no excess baggage or redundant agenda. He simply wants to sing and maybe make some money in the process of his experimentation.

For that we can only commend

him.

David Usher  
Little Songs  
Nettwerk

**MUSIC:** B toned down amalgamation of British sarcasm with Canadian spacious tranquility. Cronies looking for action will be sorely disappointed, unless suffering from insomnia. **Minimalist yet far from minimal.** **LYRICS:** B other than a bit of bizarre expletives shining through, David's words have plenty of meaning and adequacy. **Poignant while never in anybody's face.**

**PRODUCTION:** B+ will have you believing it was done in one casual afternoon sitting. *Little Songs* sounds good enough to bring out its sonic innuendoes even though very little instrumentation was applied.

**OVERALL:** B a fun album that'll grow on the listener like any desirable habit, it also stimulates thought and garners understanding. Not to be confused with The Faculty's Usher.

## Coming up Roses in February...



Fourth Wall Productions presents *A Loss of Roses* by William Inge. The production opens February 12, 1999. As a special treat, they are offering free tickets to all NEIU students on Northeastern Night, Thursday, February 18. For more information, call (773)481-8535. Mike McNamara (sitting) performed in the Stage Center Theatre's 1998 production of *Front Page*.

## Special Northeastern Pricing for students and faculty from our on-campus student rep:

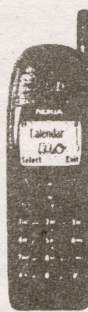
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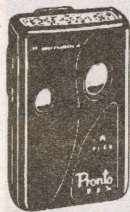
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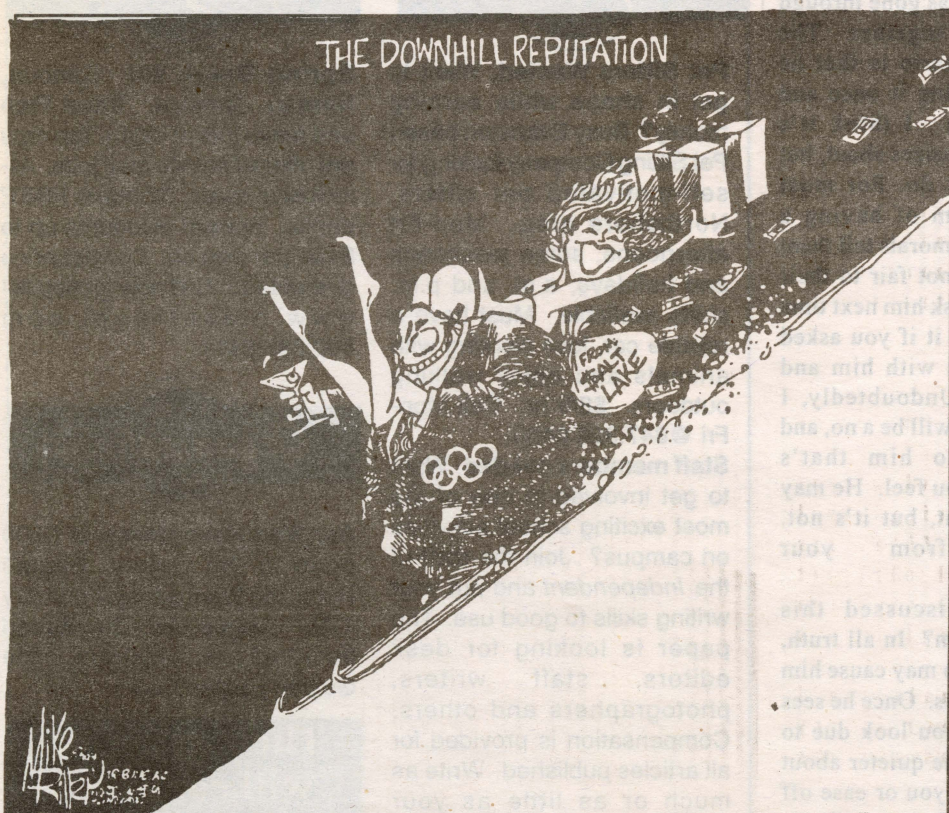
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## Another Perspective



## Candy for the sweets

HUG ME. TRUE LOVE. URA 10. Ahh, who could resist those sweet, slightly chalky words of confectionery lore on Valentine's Day? Certainly not me!

Being a girl, I have to say that my favorite type of candy is chocolate, obviously, but I do enjoy snacking on those pastel-colored conversation hearts during this time of year. Forget whatever amorous meaning this day may hold for some. In reality, it's all about the AWESOME candy, which hits the shelves at least a month early. No complaints from me!

Well, all right, perhaps I have been somewhat deprived as of late. I must admit, I haven't exactly been spending my Valentine's Days eating dark chocolates out of heart-shaped boxes, smelling fragrant, long-stemmed roses by the dozen, or parading around in any red, feather boas. GET REAL.

Hey, give me some credit. I do partake

in a few of the above activities every once in a while, just not on Valentine's Day. For one thing, I think I've long since outgrown this particular holiday. HELLO, Valentine's Day is for little kids! You've got the grade school party where the children bring treats, pass out valentines wrapped in tiny paper envelopes, and giggle themselves silly over the funny messages contained within. When I was eight years old, Valentine's Day was fun. And as far as I know, it hasn't changed much for grade-schoolers, except for one thing. Back in the 80's, I never dined on conversation hearts bearing the words, GO GIRL, Error! Bookmark not defined., FAX ME, or WEB SITE.

Which reminds me, what does WEB SITE have to do with Valentine's Day, anyway? Did a major typo occur in the candy factory that day? Or is it a reflection of popular culture, indicating the vast number of people who now link

## Editorial

### Imagination keeps romance alive in our cynical times

Hearts, roses, and chocolates make up the famous holiday that falls on February 14 every year.

Oh, and red, we can't forget the red. Red clothes, red ink, red lips and more often than not: red tape, yeah, red tape. Just like any business or legal transaction is flooded with documents or tedious details to iron out before they can actually get to the core of the matter and hand, the realm of love and relationships seem to be plagued with the same disease.

Maybe its just me, but I see a serious problem in our present day society of net junkies and cyber-nerds who seem to be sufficiently gratified by just talking about the size of their hard drive (believe me I wish there was a pun intended).

The closest thing that involves romance here, is e-mail greeting cards, which, while I admit there is a certain charm to them, they don't compare to the "in the flesh" quality of human contact that is dying out these days. What ever happened to being well rounded? You know, excelling in studies, as well as physical activities, and still making time for extra curricular activities.

No, in the age of computers, everything has taken a back seat to work. Hey, I'm just as much an advocate of a strong work ethic as the next guy, but you don't have to give up your love life for it. Besides, I think money and not ethics is what the motivation here is.

But enough about microchips, because that's not even it. People are just cold these days. They aren't personable, or accepting, or willing to take chances. Granted, there are a whole lot of nutcases out there, but not everybody is. Can't life be like it was in the 1950's, where you'd go up to a girl and say *wanna* go to the drive in, or grab a milkshake or *sumthin'*, (ok, a little on the corny side, but you get the point, and the part about "asking out the girl" that's reversible, I'm flexible, I'm not sexist). Everyone is so afraid these days. We should be open, let people know us, get to know others, we have nothing to lose by giving someone a chance, or taking one.

My friends constantly say to me, "life is not a movie!"

"Yes it is!" I refuse to believe that romance is dead, and I refuse to accept that what happens in the movies can't happen to you. Movies are modeled after our lives. Anything that happens there can happen to us, (with the exception of theme music following you, well unless you're Bill Gates), but the point is, *you have to believe, you have to imagine*. So this Valentines day, do something outrageous (but legal), take a chance, be out going and open, and let the red hearts fill your eyes.

--NIRAJ MALOTRA

romantically over the Internet? I myself am guilty of doing so, but geez, I didn't think it was that common! Is the candy industry actually recognizing on-line romance as part of the norm, up there with BE MINE, and KISS ME? If so, HOW NICE! Perhaps my friends and family will now lighten up and stop cautioning me about MY LOVE. But enough about that.

My real concern is, what do the blank candy hearts mean? Am I supposed to fill in the blank? (I never have liked those blank Scrabble tiles, either. They are literally pointless.) So, when I close my eyes and solemnly decree that the message on the next heart I select will predict the

overall outcome of my current relationship, and the heart is speechless, does that mean that my relationship is beautiful beyond words, or simply void of meaning? Sigh. WHATEVER. I'll eat it anyway. I chomp the mute candy with vigor, glad that it's fat free and sad that it may cause cavities, as well as a major sugar-induced headache at some point. COOL. I like this holiday! I DO. And remember, when Valentine's Day is over and the last conversation hearts have been sold, you can always rely on assorted tropical fruit flavored TUMS, which taste exactly the same and provide calcium! IT'S TRUE. Happy Valentine's Day!

-- JEANNE MCGOWAN

## Letters to the Editor

### Remember your heritage

Close your eyes, just for a second.

Can you see it? Look over there!! A group of white slave masters, yelling, and screaming at the top of their lungs—bidding for fresh young meat. Who, you ask is up for bid? A 7 year old boy and his strapping father. And the winner is....., the gentlemen in the blue suit, and top hat. What a deal he stumbled across, 25 dollars for the whole package!! Oh well, they won't stay together very long, the man in the blue suit and top hat plans to sell the boy for a better price to the highest bidder.

As I begin to reflect on Black History, I recollect unforgettable instances. A time when a people labeled as "Second Class Citizens," suffered and died for a liberty and justice that should have been extended to all.

During this pursuit of justice that seemed unreachable, our people stood tall and strong, believing that the storm would soon be over. Families were separated, identities changed, all to keep the black race from remembering the blood that ran warmly through their veins.

We must examine ourselves, as well as others in the way we proclaim, confess, and express our freedom, liberty, and justice. Our ancestors paved the way, providing us with the

opportunity to build, build, build, and rebuild our integrity, esteem and trust. The moment we begin to show love towards one another, everything else will follow.

For this cause, let us all celebrate life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Most importantly, we must not forget God, who created us in His likeness and His own image. While celebrating, we must never forget our roots or our heritage, for our ancestors first walked and breathed on African soil. Remember: "A people without origins are dead, a people deaf to purpose are lost. Their bodies are mere corpses awaiting final burial..." (Armor, two thousand seasons.)

-- KENDRA DENISE YOUNG

### 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 T-Independent@neiu.edu

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## ADVICE

DOCTOR HOLLYWOOD  
(absolutely not a licensed physician)

Dear Doc Hollywood,

My boyfriend is obsessed with pornography. He even wants a threesome. Is this how all guys are? I know he loves me, and I have tolerated this before, but I feel so unattractive compared to all those women he looks at in porn. I love him so much, and this is just my one main problem with him. What do I do?

Dixon Vixen

Many men are fascinated by the porn industry, but not all of them. You have just found yourself a horny one, that's all. So, no, this is not in any way how "ALL" guys are, but it isn't uncommon for your boyfriend to have the tiger within him awakened by visions of other women going at it.

I'm glad you're reassured that he loves you, because in many cases, if you felt neglected and totally ignored, that would mean he values fake-women he will never meet more than the beautiful goddess in front of him. In that case, I would advise you to reconsider this

relationship.

However, when it comes to feeling jealousy or angst because of his porn habit, that's a sign of insecurity. If you don't believe me, think of it this way: he may look at those other



women when he feels the impulse to choke the chicken, spank the monkey, flog the dolphin, etc., but when it came down to having a relationship, and someone to love, he chose you. The difference is LOVE and LUST. Lust comes and goes, and that's what he occasionally feels for those women that he may watch on videos or see in magazine pictures, but his undying love is for you. It's also just another way to relieve sexual tension when you're not around. Sweets, if you were around for every single time he had that impulse, you'd be torn up!

A threesome, on the other

hand, is a very, very bad idea. Rarely have I seen a relationship where a couple has gone through one and stayed together. The worse case scenario is that he would enjoy doing it once and expect it again. I think it's something he fantasizes about, but really wouldn't do. For most guys who dream of having a threesome, their morals tell them it's wrong, and not fair to their girlfriend. Just ask him next time if he would like it if you asked for a threesome with him and another guy. Undoubtedly, I think his answer will be a no, and just explain to him that's precisely how you feel. He may say it's different, but it's not. Especially from your perspective.

Have you discussed this problem with him? In all truth, just bringing it up may cause him to change his ways. Once he sees how distressed you look due to it, he may become quieter about his habit around you or ease off on it. You never know until you try.

Happy Humpin'  
Doc

## Golden Opportunities

## Help Wanted

**Pet Sitters Wanted.** Want to get in shape while earning money? Busy Evanston based Pet Sitting Company looking for self-motivated pet sitters, Northshore area. Mon-Fri afternoons, some weekends and holidays, a.m. and p.m. shifts available. Must have a reliable car, love working with animals and enjoy walking outdoors. \$8/9 hr. Call Mon-Fri @847.328.0460

**Staff members needed.** Want to get involved in one of the most exciting school activities on campus? Join the staff of the *Independent* and put your writing skills to good use. The paper is looking for desk editors, staff writers, photographers and others. Compensation is provided for all articles published. Write as much or as little as your schedule permits. For more information, call Editor in Chief Laura Hadley at 773.794.2812.

## Spring Break

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## Organizations

**Ash Wednesday Mass** at 12:00 noon in the Golden Eagles Room, on Wednesday, February 17th. Ashes also distributed from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Golden Eagles Room.

The next issue will come out February 16, 1999.

## Fights in tights: the spandex report

by Adam Rivera, Staff Writer

## Stone Cold in a Valentine Massacre

The World Wrestling Federation will present *Saint Valentine's Day Massacre* this Sunday from Memphis, TN at the Pyramid.

The tentative line up is Stone Cold Steve Austin taking on WWF owner Vince McMahon in a steel cage match for the *Wrestle Mania XV* title shot. Mankind will defend the world title, in a last man standing match, against The Rock. Ken Shamrock will defend the Intercontinental title against Val Venis, but this will most likely be turned into a triangle match, for the belt, with B.A. Billy Gunn. The Road Dogg Jesse James will take on Al Snow for the Hardcore championship and Jeff Jarrett

and Owen Hart will defend the tag team titles.

Other matches will include X-Pac taking on either Shane McMahon or Kane, Too Much in tag team action, and Christian will wrestle Gilberg for the light-heavyweight title. There has been no further word on the gay marriage between Too Much that was supposed to take place at this event, so it appears the idea has been dropped.

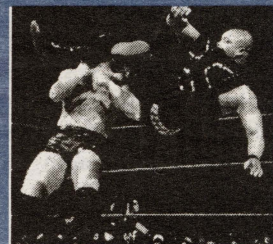
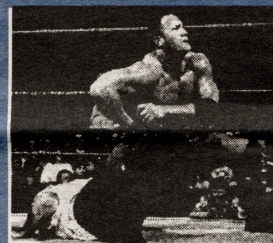
In World Championship Wrestling news, Goldberg will wrestle Bam Bam Bigelow at *SuperBrawl IX* and this match will also most likely turn into a triangle match with Scott Hall. The Great Muta has expressed

interest in bringing in Goldberg to wrestle in the Japanese Egg Dome show later in the year. Muta feels that Goldberg would be a huge draw in Japan. Buff Bagwell was supposed to be back wrestling again but is still not 100%. Look for him to return to the ring sometime in March. Sting and Randy "MachoMan" Savage should both be back in action in mid-February. Sting is scheduled to go back to the old black and white gimmick and feud with the New World Order (NWO). Savage is coming back with a new valet, who is his real life girlfriend, and will begin a feud with Lex Luger who is being managed by Savage's ex-wife,

Elizabeth.

According to Dwight, on option two of the hotline, there is a lot of bad blood between Kevin Nash and Konan. Apparently Nash, who is now part of Hulk Hogan's clique, has been attempting to bury Konan.

Harley Race, former wrestler/manager with WWF and WCW, is starting his own wrestling organization. The World Legion Wrestling League (WLWL) has taped about a dozen shows and is in the process of shopping the product around to television markets. Bob Backlund, Iron Sheik, and Greg Valentine are just a few of the wrestlers who will make up the roster for the new organization.



## THIS MAN'S WORLD

## BE MY (GAWK WHOOCK) VALENTINE

My first memories of Valentines Day were of giving and receiving Valentines with classmates in grade school—the teacher, boys and girls alike.

At the time, I wondered what warped mind would force me to give Valentines to all the boys in the class. What kind of message were they trying to send us with this folly? I still don't understand grown-ups even though I vote, have a mortgage and am watching my receding gums wave bye-bye each night while flossing.

I didn't mind giving a Valentine to the teacher, Mrs. Gallotti—she was a "babe"—stacked and loaded for bear—at least that's what I overheard the principal and the custodian telling the gym teacher. I also liked giving Valentines to the girls. Even back then I was a randy little runt that would have enjoyed having their attentions forced upon me—maybe participating in a little teeter-totter at recess if you know what I

mean. Especially with Wendy Westerberg.

I worshipped the very dirt Wendy treated me like. Although there were times when she looked at me as if I were the guy from *Sling Blade*, she must have liked me—she was the only girl who ever thought enough of me to hurl stones at my head on the way home after school. I lost track of Wendy after high school. Unfortunately, some incompetent boob at the city records department got her address wrong on my copy of the restraining order.

All thoughts I had of Wendy ceased when I met my wife. She was, and is, the woman of my dreams—someone with the capacity to find me tolerable. For us, Valentines Day remains a special day for a celebration of



JOHN ROSSI

togetherness, romance, and eating chocolate until we're light-headed.

On Valentines Day, women expect romance, tenderness, affection, love, flowers, jewelry, dining, dancing, and expensive chocolates. Men are pretty much into it because they think that there's a slight chance they might get sex.

Our first Valentines Day together we lived in the country and didn't have much money. For some reason my TV repair business, serving the nearby Amish community, had not yet taken off, despite my efforts to expand into micro-wave ovens. I squirreled away enough cash to buy her a three pound assortment of cholesterol-filled chocolates in an appropriate heart-shaped box, with a white lace ribbon encircling it.

When we returned home after a romantic dinner out, we were horrified to discover our 90 pound dog, River, looking rather woozy—and with part of a white lace ribbon hanging out of his mouth. Even the brown paper wrappers that separate the chocolates gave their all to satisfy River's sweet tooth.

Chocolate can not only make a dog very sick, in large doses it can kill. This is because dogs are lacking the internal organs necessary

to process it—a pancreas or a brain. Dogs have an instinct to eat large amounts of grass if they're sick. If it happens to be February and there is no grass to be found, they will settle for whatever is handy that resembles grass, the fringe from the oriental carpet, house plants, the business end of the dust-mop, etc. This is what River did. We kept a close watch on him until we were sure he wasn't going to explode, and then we went to bed.

My wife and I were doing what came natural to us on Valentines Day when River began to emit a noise like Ralph Kramden when he accidentally catches his finger in the window latch on the set of the *Hooneymooners*. Dogs only make this noise after it's too late to do anything except watch it happen. I was three seconds too late in getting him outside. I don't wish to be gross here, but I was quite surprised at the sheer volume and capacity that River was capable of holding. I know of some mini-vans that would boast to be able to hold that much cargo. I would have not been surprised to see the running shoes that had mysteriously disappeared in 1974 exiting our pooch in his process of purging.

After a lengthy clean up ordeal in which

he showed great interest, as if I was stealing something that belonged to him, he settled at the foot of our bed. I settled back into my spot next to my wife, hoping she was still in the mood, and not put off by her dog reenacting a scene from *The Exorcist*.

Throughout the night, every time I would initiate the slightest expression of love towards my wife, River would do a Ralph Kramden and I would just miss getting him to the door. I was wearing myself out bolting to the door every few minutes—not to mention cleaning up the blast zone afterwards. I had to admit that even I was finding it hard to concentrate on lovemaking, knowing that at any second the dog was about to start his count-down for another missile launch.

Two in the morning we all settled in for the night, my wife alone in our bed, River and I dozing on the rug close to the back door—not exactly the partner I had cuddling with in mind. Since then, every Valentines Day, after purchasing candy for my wife, I eat the whole box, then comply with her solution for preventing anymore Valentine's Day disasters—jewelry. I also make sure to get something for the dogs—paper towels and a dust-mop.