

11-23-1999

Independent- Nov. 23, 1999

Laura R. Hadley

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Independent

Vol. 16 Issue 7

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOR OVER A DECADE

Tuesday, November 23, 1999

Great games
page 8

Happy
Thanksgiving

HMO solutions
page 6

NEIU GEARs UP for future

by Thomas J. Foley
Features Editor

A youth rally helped kick off the Chicago GEAR UP Alliance in the P.E. Building on Thursday, November 18 at 11 a.m., and more than 1600 Chicago-area fifth and sixth graders showed up to participate in the festivities.

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) represents a major grant to a partnership of institutions in the Chicago Education Alliance. The \$31 million grant will be used to

provide comprehensive services to middle and secondary school students over a period of five years in order to prepare them for high school, success in college and toward becoming life-long learners.

"Education makes a person good, useful and powerful," said NEIU President Salme H. Steinberg to the collected children, dignitaries and community members, "and that's why we're gearing up."

The Chicago GEAR UP Alliance consists of NEIU, which acts as fiscal agent for the grant, DePaul University, Loyola University, Roosevelt University, the University

of Chicago, the City Colleges of Chicago, Truman College, the Chicago Public Schools, the Steans Family Foundation, and the Future Teachers of Chicago.

The Alliance will work with fifth, sixth and seventh graders in the first year of the program through tutoring, mentoring and team building. There will be programs for parents as well, such as informing them about financial assistance for college. The program will also incorporate teacher and school development plans.

In year two, the program will focus on fifth through eighth

graders, then fifth through ninth graders, until the first year seventh graders graduate high school.

The rally saw some familiar faces, too. On hand from McDonald House Charities was Virginia Ojeda, an NEIU graduate.

"Just remember," she said to the children, "you can do anything you want to do."

McDonald House Charities helped throw the party in the P.E. Building, bringing along a giant, inflatable Ronald McDonald as well as the real thing. Life-like Ronald told jokes and performed sight gags for the attendant children.

McDonald's also brought along The Happiness Club, a multi-cultural group of children of all ages and both sexes, who performed a peppy song and dance routine, complete with an ASL translator and tumbling, too. Also part of the performance were a B96 deejay and a magician.

Some of the other special guests on hand included the president of Loyola University, Chicago Police Superintendent Terry Hillard, and Miss Illinois.

The Chicago Education Alliance received the largest GEAR UP grant in the country.



photos by Thomas J. Foley

NEIU President Steinberg wasn't clowning around when she enfranchised Northeastern's commitment to education on all levels. (left)

Ronald McDonald plays around with Loyola University President Fr. John Pesseret. (above)

Project Millenium A link of cultures

by Tim Hill
Staff Writer

This week, Northeastern featured a variety of multicultural presentations and performances in celebration of "Project Millenium - Transitions: The Legacy of Ethnic Linkages through Culture, Values, Attitudes, and Experiences." The events were sponsored by NEIU in collaboration with Columbia College, and were successful in expressing a festive tribute to various cultures.

Beginning on Tuesday, November 9, the Senior Dance Troop of the Natyakalayalam Dance Company of Chicago performed "Bharata Natyam," a South Indian classical dance. The performance was entitled, "In Myth and Dance" and was preceded by cultural backgrounding for students in some of Northeastern's anthropology classes.

Choral performances were given by Northeastern's own Gospel

Choir, the Presbyterian and Baptist Hispanic Ensemble, and North Park University's Choral Ensemble on Monday, November 15 in the Auditorium. This performance was appropriately entitled "Voices of the Millenium" and featured both choruses and soloists. The performance demonstrated how different cultures, though individually unique, can be brought together to share in the beauty of heritage and spirituality through song.

From November 15 through 19, Northeastern enjoyed a variety of art exhibits in the Fine Arts Center. On the 16th, dance historian Rosa Guerrero gave a program of dance, music, poetry, and lecture from her extensive background in the art and education worlds. On the 18th, artists met with guests in the Fine Arts Center to talk about the place of culture and diversity in the art world; how it can be a colorful blend of history, remembrance,

emotion, and consequence.

Also on the 18th, actress/performer Lauren Tom, acclaimed for her performance in the film adaptation of Amy Tan's novel *The Joy Luck Club*, gave a one woman performance of the play *25 Psychics* in the Fine Arts Recital Hall.

All the events celebrating "Project Millenium" were open to the public and free of charge, an essential standard for expressing the true essence of what the festivities represented: sharing. Often the apparent differences among cultures separate their members from experiencing the common interests and values they share. Project Millenium was important for displaying the joyous experiences of various peoples to others. This November at Northeastern, many cultures, even if for only a week or so, were brought together in an enchanting, harmonious circle of history, ethnicity, celebration, and art.

Look-out Bach!

Students to put the future to use

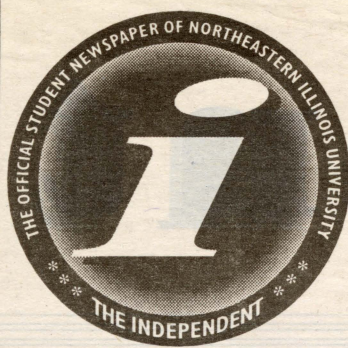
by Jennifer Green
Staff Writer

Northeastern unveiled its Multimedia Learning Resource Center on November 16. This center houses state-of-the-art equipment, ranging from DVD players on computers to electronics capable of composing music. Also, other than housing CD's, cassettes and videos, it has a whole collection of great albums too. Mary Jane Hilburger, one of the librarians, explained that the current center used to house only the Curriculum Materials Center, but now there is so much more. It has the Standardized Test Center and collections such as the Margaret Farish Collection of 20 Century String Music for Students, the Sylvia Koval memorial Collection of string

chamber music and Gomberg-Koval chamber music collection.

The Multimedia Learning Center is open to all students, alumni, faculty and staff of Northeastern for use of materials or to reserve one of three rooms for music and other media formats and to duplicate and digital reformatting of materials. One example of such high-tech equipment is the Band in a Box. This is an accompaniment program that includes 5 instruments. Or try the Cakewalk Pro audio, which is used for authoring sound and music on a computer. Finally, there is the Finale 2000. This is an integrated software program for transcription, notation, playback and publishing.

This center allows someone
see Multimedia, page 5



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The Independent is published every two weeks except during finals and semester breaks. Deadline is one (1) week prior to the issue in which a contribution is to appear. The views expressed in letters to the editor are those of the university community, and do not necessarily coincide with those of the Independent Editorial Board. The Editor in Chief is responsible for the content of the Independent and views presented do not necessarily represent, in whole or in part, those of the Northeastern Illinois University administration, faculty, or students. The Independent is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and the Illinois College Press Association.

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Around Campus

compiled by Thomas J. Foley, Features Editor

Many things, one day

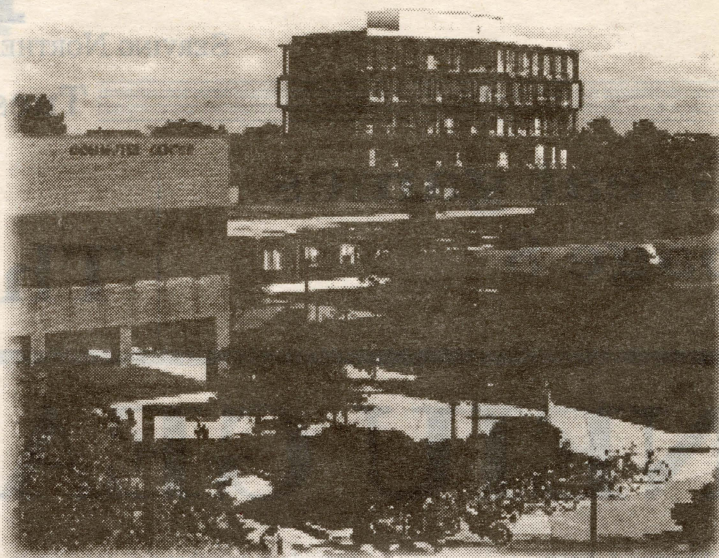
Please help out with the All-University Charity Drive, which is on-going now in the Village Square. Donations being accepted in the drop off boxes are non-perishable foods, clothes, coats, toiletries, and toys. It will run through December 10. For more information, call the Student Volunteer Corps. at extension 6115, or stop by E-205.

There is a meeting of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance on Tuesday, November 30 at 1:40 p.m. in CLS 2020. Be an activist, fight for equality. For more information, call extension 3308.

There is a meeting of the Student Government Association Finance Committee on Tuesday, November 30 at 1:40 in CLS 3005.

The Union for Puerto Rican Students is sponsoring a video presentation entitled *La Gaugeria* on Tuesday, November 30 at 1:40 p.m. in the Cafeteria Meeting Room. Don't miss it.

Also, noted educator Parker J. Palmer will be speaking at NEIU as part of the Presidential Lecture Series on Tuesday, November 30 at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall. He will be talking about his current book, *The Courage to Teach*. A reception and book signing will follow. Palmer is a writer, teacher and activist who also serves as senior associate of the American Association of Higher Education. The event is free and open to the public, but tickets are required to guarantee you a space. Call the University Box Office at 773-794-2787 for more information.



Crime Awareness and the Campus Security Act

In compliance with Federal Regulations and the Campus Security Act, NEIU takes this opportunity to inform you that its Safety and Security Information Report is available on the university's Web page at http://www.neiu.edu/policy_1.htm#opening. This report contains information on: (1) the reporting of crimes or emergencies, (2) law enforcement authority and interagency relationships, (3) security awareness and crime prevention program, (4) maintenance and security of campus facilities, (5) access to campus facilities, (6) drug and alcohol policy, (7) crime statistics, and (8) policy and procedures regarding sexual assault (including prevention and awareness of sex offenses, procedures to follow if a sex offense occurs, procedures for on campus disciplinary action, possible sanctions, and distribution). Any individual who wishes a paper copy of the Safety and Security Information Report may obtain one upon request from the office of Public Safety.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

THE STAGE CENTER THEATRE PRESENTS:

Fifth of July

directed by Kevin Long

December 2-4, 9-11 & 16-18

Free admission for all NEIU students

Reservations recommended -
773.794.6652

Submit to us

Deadlines for the Independent are one week prior to the date of publication. The following is a list of remaining publication dates for the remainder of the year.

November 30
December 7
January 10
January 25
February 8
February 22
March 7
March 30
April 4
April 18

The Editor in Chief reserves the right to alter all content for space, style and editorial considerations. Submissions are not guaranteed to be printed.

If space needs to be reserved please call (773) 794-2812 for information about advertising rates.

Hot tip?



Do you know something we don't? Tip us off about news affecting the NEIU community by calling (773) 794-2812 or e-mail us at T-Independent@neiu.edu

Coming Soon: 10th Annual University Day The Great Campus Speak Out

Individuals
interested in
participating on the
planning committee
please contact Tony
at ext. 3865



ALL THINGS CEREMONIAL

Historical Asian Art

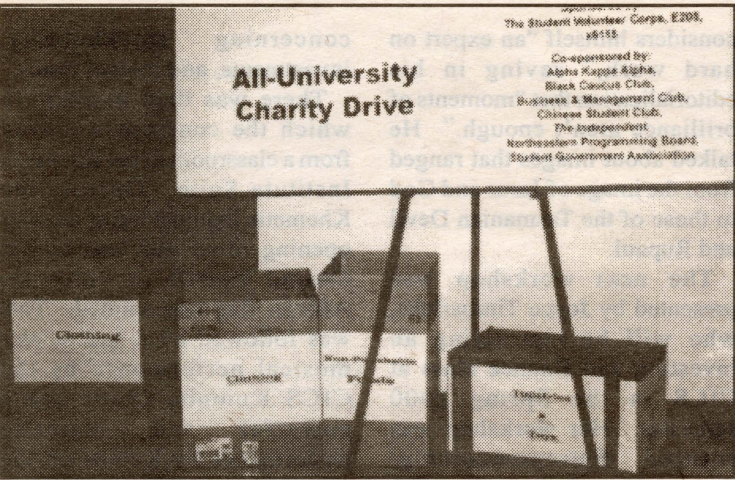
Selections from the May Weber Museum of Cultural Arts

Through December 3, 1999

NEIU Art Gallery-Fine Arts Center

(773) 794-5234 for Hours

In the spirit of giving



The All-University Charity Drive is accepting anything from toys to toiletries. It continues until December

by Tim Hill
Staff Writer

The Student Volunteer Corps is sponsoring the All-University Charity Drive throughout November until December 10. Northeastern students and faculty are asked to show our school's generous nature in donating non-perishable food, clothing, coats, toiletries, and toys to Student Volunteer Corps to be distributed to various needy agencies throughout the Chicago-land area this holiday season. Drop-off boxes are located by the information desk in Village Square.

Probable beneficiaries of the charity drive include Salvation Army, Night Ministry for Homeless Youth, Debra's Place (aiding homeless women), the Erie Neighborhood House offering family and child care including after-school programs, and the Inspiration Cafe located at Wilson and Broadway, giving transients classy, restaurant-style meals free of charge.

The Charity Drive is also sponsored by Student Government Association, Northeastern Programming Board, the *Independent*, Business and Management Club, Black Caucus, Chinese Student Club, and Alpha Kappa Alpha. All the sponsors lend huge helping hands to donation, collection, and promotion of the drive.

In addition to donations, students can volunteer some time to the Student Volunteer Corps for moving, packaging, and/or delivering goods collected in the drive. All volunteers are welcome, and everyone's donations of goods, time, and effort are greatly appreciated. If interested, contact Laura Savage, Tony Courier, or Kim Lamb in the Student Activities Office, or at extension 6615.

The weather lately has not felt very

much like Christmas. Still, NEIU has already begun the season of giving. Charity and volunteer work yield rewards that are not always apparent for donors. When one works at their job, they are rewarded with money. When one studies, they are rewarded with education. The rewards of giving, however, are not always as clear, but for a kind heart and generous soul, the rewards can be the most valuable, most special treasures that, unlike a paycheck, last forever.

Visualize that on Christmas morning somewhere in this hard-knock city of Chicago, an underprivileged kid wakes up having never experienced what Christmas is all about; never feeling the benefits of a world shared by humanity, rather than hoarded by its individual members. We can help that kid as well as many more men, women, and children enjoy clean food, warm clothes, and a couple more well-deserved niceties on that glorious Christmas morning or Thanksgiving day.

Now visualize the tenderness in their smiles when they understand that though life can push you down into a dirty puddle at times, there are still people in the world who have love in their hearts, and who will even take a little bit of time to show they care about these down-trodden children, these single teenage moms, these homeless HIV victims, these deserted veterans, and these battered wives.

Unless you fall into one of those categories, certainly you can give back to the world just a little something, because even a little can mean the world to someone who needs it. So if you can, check out your closets and bottom drawers in your homes to see if there's anything a person less well-off could use more than you. After all, every little bit does

New vice-president appointed Beautification report finally approved

by Victor A. Dula
News Editor

President Maria Gandara appointed Senator Ali Askar as new vice president for Student Government at SGA's November 18 meeting after former Vice President Larry Gonzales resigned.

Speaker Michael Hill made clear that this in no way reflected Gonzalez's appreciation for SGA or any failure on his part. Gonzalez had personal obligations and classes that took precedence over his duties as Vice President. Hill indicated that his decision was respected and was in the best interest of SGA.

Gandara briefly told the Senators why she felt Askar would be good for the position. "I've seen him grow since last fall... he's dependable, reliable," she said. She also expressed how happy she is that he is there to serve as Vice President.

When asked why he wished to serve, Askar said only that he thought he was good for the position and that he wanted to help SGA as best he could.

Student Trustee Tom Foley urged "post haste" approval of three Charter Committee reports concerning the proposed charter for the *Independent*. Before they were put to a vote, IBHE-SAC representative Yahale Yadede proposed an amendment to the November 16 report, the report in which the Committee recommended passage of the charter.

Had this amendment been seconded and passed, it would have required that the charter be approved by two-thirds of the *Independent's* membership within 60 days.

During a period of discussion for the amendment on the floor, *Independent* Editor-in-Chief Laura Hadley complained about Yadede's tactics in his opposition. She cited being approached by staff members Yadede had called at home, including one at approximately 10:30 p.m. on November 17, the day before the Senate meeting, to garner

support for his position.

The *Independent* had been trying to get this charter passed in its current form for over a year, and the organization had overwhelming membership approval a year ago. Because of this delay in the Charter Committee's action, Hadley maintains that an amendment requiring two-thirds approval rating is a redundant action brought on by the Committee's own recalcitrance.

In an interview, Yadede confirmed that he called staff members, but he said it was to find out their opinions and extent of knowledge about the charter; he more or less sought to probe them for information to see if he should continue his opposition to the charter rather than to persuade them to his stance.

The amendment died because it was never seconded, and the report passed by a vote of 4-1-7. There were many abstentions because Speaker Hill urged those Senators who did not understand what they were voting on not to vote.

In other business, while discussing an email notification resolution, Senator Kendra Young brought to the Senators' attention a website to contact to show opposition to a federal email bill. The bill would allow the internet providers to charge long distance charges to emails as if they were phone calls. The site is www.house.gov/writerep.

In President Gandara's report, she told the Senators to get the things done that they need to get done in a timely fashion in reference to how the charter was handled in the past year and a half.

Also, she made known that anyone interested in donating service hours to Christopher House, they can do so a number of ways. For example, people can sort gifts or load and unload gifts from trucks. She instructed them to contact the Student Volunteer Corps at extension 6615 for more information.

Student Government also passed the Beautification Committee report they were scheduled to pass at their last

meeting. It really functions retroactively, as the recommendations contained in it (growing new willows from clippings of the old ones) are already being carried out.

In Student Trustee Tom Foley's report, he indicated that there was word that a member of one organization was undermining and disparaging the leadership of another.

While Foley did not get specific as to what individual or organizations he referred to, Yadede seemed to take offense, storming out of the meeting and declaring "This is obviously about me, and this is an absurdity."

Near the close of the meeting, Speaker Hill expressed his disgust at the hostile dealings between Foley and Yadede. He does not wish to see any of it again and hopes everyone will rise above it.

"I am not taking sides," Hill said. "As mature adults, we should be able to work together... It is time to put this issue to rest."

In an interview, when asked if he would pursue the issue of his discontent with the *Independent* charter any further, Yadede stated "I have no present desire to pursue this matter any further. In the end it's up to [the *Independent* staff]."

Yadede also showed disapproval for Foley discussing what he did in his Trustee report. "It is very sad that he'd use the Trustee report for that purpose; it had nothing to do with the Board of Trustees."

In another interview with Trustee Foley, Foley made this statement: "There is nothing wrong with Mr. Yadede trying to defeat the Charter Committee report in the Senate. However, when Mr. Yadede deliberately attempts to subvert the recommendations of the Charter Committee by going to the organization in question to undermine that organization's leadership by disseminating false information to them, he has crossed an ethical line."

Rookies show the ropes

by Edmond C. Bochnia
Staff Writer

NEIU Future Teachers Club hosted a seminar on November 13 where three newly hired teachers shared their experiences. All were graduates or current students of Northeastern's Education Program.

Gloria Caraveo teaches bilingual first grade classes at Josefa Ortiz de Dominguez Elementary School, Alma Martinez teaches eighth grade history at Northwest Middle School, and Jackie

Maldonado is in her second year of teaching fifth grade at Waters Elementary School.

The speakers shared freely on the current reality of managing the real-world classroom, and participants provoked a lively discussion with numerous pointed questions. The rookie teachers recommended living near the school they teach in because of the benefit of knowing the students community and seeing them on the street. They also recommended sharing

some personal information right off the bat to show the students that they are indeed human and have lives outside the classroom. All three had no problem finding a teaching position, at least after several interviews.

One of the keys to classroom management, according to Maldonado, is the maintenance of a regular schedule of activities and switching gears only when necessary. The students learn better with routine and structure. She

see Rookies, page 5

EXTENSION 200

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

2 November Suspicion

Library staff reported a number of personal belongings found hidden in the library study carrels, leading them to believe that someone was attempting to live in the library. Investigation revealed no live-in residents.

Criminal Damage to Property
Student's vehicle was vandalized in parking lot.

Found Property
A musical instrument belonging to Northeastern's Music Dept.

was turned in after being found by a student. The instrument was returned to the department.

Theft
Radio belonging to a Building Service worker was taken from Fine Arts building.

**3 November
Found Property**
Building Service Worker found a gym bag containing a CD player and several recordings. Property returned to owner intact.

Found Property
Student turned in a found wallet. Property returned to owner intact.

Suspicious Person
Non-student was requested to leave Computer Lab.

Found Property
Purse turned in by student, owner contacted and property returned intact.

**4 November
Forgery**
Student was found with forged parking permit. No charges filed at this time. Matter referred to Dean of Students.

Found Property
Pager turned in by student, property returned to issuing company for return to owner.

Disorderly Conduct
Dispute between two students, officers calmed both parties, dispute settled, no charges filed.

**5 November
Medical Assist**
Student fell out of a wheelchair, refused medical attention.

**9 November
Disturbance**
Angry student lost temper at Parking Office, created disturbance. Police called, student was counseled by officers. Student apologized for outburst, no charges filed.

**10 November
Disturbance**
Student initiated verbal altercation with Library staff over use of computer terminal. Police called. Officers counseled student who then apologized for outburst.

No charges filed.
Found Property
Staff member turned in wallet. Owner notified and property returned intact.

**11 November
Theft**
Victim reported theft of vehicle license plate.

Got a question for Public Safety? Want to see it answered in print? Send your questions and concerns and we'll try to come up with an answer. Don't bother asking, "Where can I park?" We're already working on that one.

Empowerment of Africans

Y2K 'readiness' pushed on more than one front

by Lakesha Pelham
Staff Writer

On Thursday, November 18, 1999, a conference was held at the Center for Inner City Studies (CICS) branch of Northeastern's campus. The conference, entitled *Empowering Blacks in the 21st Century and Beyond*, was an all day event which promoted awareness, unity and preparation. The conference, sponsored by the Black Student Movement, was developed under the leadership of LaDelphia Boyd.

LaDelphia gave a warm welcome, which was followed by an opening ritual and opening address by Gimbu Kali and Conrad Worrill, respectively. Next, was a workshop with Ms. Marylene Whitehead, who addressed the topic of Arts and Education. At noon, attendees were enlightened by Dr. William Speller, who spoke on the topic of using education to build communities. The workshop was followed by a luncheon providing lots of food for the edification of the body, as a compliment to the food for thought.

After lunch, Gimbu Kali presented a workshop on the Y2K situation. During the workshop, literature was distributed which would make those in the African community

aware of some things that could possibly occur after the clock strikes twelve on December 31. Among this literature were copies of two laws that are waiting to be put into effect. Under one law, entitled King Alfred, the Chairman of National Security council writes:

"The Minority has adopted an almost military posture to gain it's objectives, which are not clear to most Americans. It is expected, therefore, that when those objectives are denied the Minority, racial war must be considered inevitable. When that Emergency comes, we must expect the total involvement of all 22 million members of the Minority, men, women, and children, for once this project is launched, it's goal is to terminate, once and for all, the Minority threat to the whole of the American society, and, indeed, the Free World." It goes on further to outline the plan of action, which includes detainment of Africana leaders and "Minority troops... along with all white sympathizers, under guard," and positioning of troops - including the local, state, and federal police and forces, Public Law 831 (also called the McCarran Act) from the 81st Congress, Title II: Sec. 102, 103, and 104, addresses the procedure in which all Africana civil rights

would be suspended, as if in war, and the institution of "Concentration (Detention) Camps should the President proclaim 3Internal Security Emergency." It reads:

"... acting through the General Attorney, is authorized to apprehend and detain each person as to whom there is reasonable ground to believe PROBABLY WILL CONSPIRE with others to engage in, acts of sabotage Persons apprehended shall be confined in places of detention prescribed by the Attorney General." Indeed, brother Gimbu's point was well taken. That point was that Africana peoples should be concerned about the Y2K situation. He outlined a few basic needs that should be secured for the preparation of Africana families. These things include the basic necessities in life: a supply of food, lots of water, shelter and heat (since this will be taking place in the winter time), and self-defense.

Next on the agenda was a workshop with Muhammed Akil, Principal of Lost Link Enterprises, Inc. Brother Akil focused his workshop on the destructive images that have been portrayed to Africana people, especially the Africana male. Brother Akil began his presentation by saying that he

considers himself "an expert on hard work," saving in his editorialization that "moments of brilliance aren't enough." He talked about images that ranged from the image of Jesus and God to those of the Tasmanian Devil and Rupaul.

The next workshop was presented by Joyce Timberlake, who will be instructing an investing and finance class at CICS in the Spring 2000 semester. Her workshop was entitled Entrepreneurship/ Owning Your Community. She posed the question "Why should we start businesses in our community?" In answering, her first response was, "Because we have a history of entrepreneurship." In example, she used the Asante (or Ashanti) peoples, whose economic strength thrived for three reasons. unity, military, and control of trade.

Timberlake suggested economic power as another reason for black owned businesses. "We spend about \$500 billion and it's spent in other communities." She continued the discussion on how to gain wealth without working a job by becoming an individual stockholder. She closed her discussion with a question and answer session, in which attendees asked questions

concerning stockholding, investments, and mutual funds.

There was then a break, in which the conference moved from a classroom to the Khemetic Institute Suite. Once in the Khemetic Institute Suite, another opening ritual was lead by Dr. Conrad Worrill, in which the African flag was saluted. This was followed by a spectacular musical performance by the CICS Kuumba Choir and a powerful and dramatic performance by Kemba on the experience of Harriet Tubman and her escape to freedom. The evening was completed with keynote lecturer, Dr. Leonard Jeffries. His focus was Preparing African Americans for the 21st century and beyond. He said, as Africana people we must be involved in, "self-determination, humanization, and liberation" of the African and his mind. He spoke of "the new negro" mind state that is being cultivated here in the U.S. and abroad. He lectured of Kings and Queens from the first Dynasty in Ancient Khemet, saying, "With Black women in the world, we can make it." He then talked heartily of his nephews and their graduations from college. According to Dr. Jeffries, empowering blacks for the 21st Century and beyond means, "We have to recapture our minds."

Help Wanted

Part-time

Medical Supply distributor is seeking students to work part-time in our warehouse, preferably on a year round basis.

Responsibilities include picking and packing of medical supply orders and preparing orders for delivery to our customers.

You must be a team player, and be willing to work in a fast-paced, professional enviroment. Accuracy and attention to detail are absolute requirements.

After the initial training period, if you demonstrate above average performance, you may become eligible for our team program. This is an unique opportunity, in that you will be paid for 8 hours of work, but you will be required to work only until the orders are completed. The efficiency, speed and motivation of the team will determine how quickly the job is done. **In most cases, if the team is dedicated, the work should be copleted in 5 to 6 hours, but each team member will be paid for a full 8 hours of work.** (If for some reason, a particular day the work takes more than 8 hours, you will be paid for the actual time worked.)

For those students who are science, majors, there may be an oppportunity for a position in our medical sales training program after you complete your degree.

Details are as follows

Starting Time:	4:00 p.m.
Ending Time:	When orders are completed
Work Days:	Monday through Friday
	Choice of 2-day or 3-day per week schedule.
Earnings:	\$9.00/hr or \$72.00/day (see above)
Location:	Caligor Scientific Supply Co.
	9405 W. River St. (Near O'Hare Airport)
	Schiller Park, IL 60176

To apply for this position, call Liz Craig at (847)671-9310 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. weekdays EOE, M/F.

Board of Trustees ponies up the dough

by Laura R. Hadley
Editor in Chief

The NEIU Board of Trustees approved some major expenditures on Thursday, November 18, such as the almost \$250,000 needed for the remodelling of the B-Wing Courtyard, over \$600,000 for the modernization of elevators at the Center for Inner City Studies (CICS) and the Classroom Building. With the disbursement of the funds from the GEAR UP grant (see article, page 1) to the cooperating educational institutions the expenditures totaled more than \$2.5 million.

The Board also approved a wage settlement agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police and an extension of the faculty collective bargaining agreements. The step adjustment cost is \$13,624 for the Fraternal Order of Police, while the faculty collective bargaining agreement calls for a \$97,000 increase for additional equity increases for faculty during fiscal year 2000.

But the highlight of the meeting featured President Salme H. Steinberg accepting a check from Professor Charas Kinkle, of Accounting, Business

Law and Finance, in the amount of \$5000, to be used to pay the tuition of those students who fall between the financial cracks of the higher education system, according to Kinkle, a chronic problem with some CICS students.

"Let me say that I'm glad to appear before this body with something good to say," said Kinkle.

The Board also approved a revised fiscal year 2001 Capital Appropriation Request, largely because some items slated for the original request were approved this fiscal year instead, such as the elevator modernization. This request includes such items as \$2.8 million for replacement of the windows and heating, ventilating and air conditioning components in the C-Building, and \$6.2 million for the remodelling and expansion of Buildings E and F, which will complete the NEIU Fine Arts Complex.

The request also includes \$580,000 for modernization of the Science Building laboratories, replacement of the exterior window wall in Buildings D and E, and \$714,000 for modernization of two elevators in the E Building and four elevators in the Ronald Williams Library.

NEIU Board Chair Daniel L. Goodwin brought the good news that a decision appears imminent on the additional members of the NEIU Board of Trustees, and he was hopeful that Luz Solis and Willie Taylor would be reappointed. Solis and Taylor's terms expired June 30, 1999, and they were replaced by Robert Hartman and Niranjana S. Shah. Solis and Taylor represented the sole Hispanic and African American voice on the Board. This still leaves three vacancies at the present time on the Board, two from the legislation passed by the Illinois General Assembly earlier this year that expanded the Board by two members, and one from the resignation of former Trustee Kieth Brown, who resigned quite some time ago and whose spot was never filled.

Goodwin indicated that the formation of committees was possible if these vacancies are filled soon. These committees would look in greater detail at some of the areas that Trustees have interest in, such as a committee for finance, budget and employment contracts, a committee for buildings and grounds, and a committee for academic and student affairs.

Rookies,

continued from page 1

encourages group-work, but separation is sometimes necessary because the students are still learning to work in groups and maintain discipline in the fifth grade.

The question of social promotion was raised during the discussion. The Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is allegedly eliminating social promotion of students and the resulting incompetence it breeds. Speakers indicated that students are routinely retained (held back) in the third, sixth and ninth grades if they make insufficient progress.

Some of the issues of the modern classroom pertain to abuse and violence. The teacher has to be prepared for all kinds of situations. They are required to report possible abuse indications and DCFS officers may make inquiries. One of the teachers told of a student who complained of being abused at home

but no physical symptoms were ever manifest. The student later admitted to lying. Another boy asked his teacher what to do with a gun he found. Upon further questioning, it was determined that the boy didn't have a gun in his possession, but observed gang activity in his neighborhood and had seen a gun lying somewhere.

The question of motive often pops up in job interviews for teaching positions. One rookie indicated that some people teach because they want to have evenings and weekends off, or they want to control children. Even the motive of "liking children" is prevalent but insufficient. The best motive which moves the successful teacher is a pure love of teaching or instruction. Interviewers look for candidates who love teaching and have a history of achieving results.

Martinez spoke extensively on the ins and outs of job interviews. As a history major in secondary education, she finally obtained a position a few weeks before the school year began,

after numerous interviews. She brought her portfolio along and recommended being assertive in getting the interviewer to really look at the portfolio. Many principals try to minimize their efforts in examining candidates, and they may not take initiative in viewing a particular candidate's portfolio. A proactive plug of one's portfolio can give an edge in getting one's foot in the door, and interviewers look for assertive character in teaching candidates.

Martinez's portfolio included: her teaching certificate; a letter of recommendation from the supervising teacher during student teaching; letters documenting her appointment to NEIU's Deans List; her educational philosophy; three lesson plans; a unit exam; photos of a bulletin-board with a list of questions based on the board; a research paper on adolescent behavior; 9) extra credit papers from World History Class and 10) letters of recommendation from students she taught.

Plane goes down for \$350



photo by Thomas J. Foley

NEIU President Salme H. Steinberg and sophomore Art major Rob Wilkinson, trade airplanes. Wilkinson's new airplane is worth \$350.

by Thomas J. Foley
Features Editor

The impossible has been done; sophomore art major Rob Wilkinson successfully tossed a paper airplane more than 50 feet from the first floor of the Student Union into a glass bowl no more than six inches wide in the lower level of the Student Union.

The contest, which began the second week of school at \$100, was held each Friday, from 3 to 3:15 p.m. Each week that there was no winner, the prize grew by \$25. On Friday, November 12, at 3:13 p.m., Wilkinson arced a narrow, bullet-shaped airplane into the bowl, after bouncing one off the rim earlier in that day's competition, to win the prize of \$350.

Wilkinson had been trying to win this for eight straight weeks. About three weeks into his participation, he hit upon the idea of making up a bunch of airplanes ahead of time and bringing them with to the competition. Sort of a 'more shots on goal equals more

potential points' mentality.

"I noticed that everyone was spending their time making planes," Wilkinson said, "so I figured I'd make them beforehand and save time."

On Friday, November 19, at 3:30 p.m., NEIU President Salme H. Steinberg presented Wilkinson with a check for \$350, ironically folded up in paper airplane form.

Wilkinson solved this problem from all angles, noting how important it was to throw the plane up first, to create an arc so that the plane might fall straight into the upright glass jar. Wilkinson wasn't alone in trying innovative techniques. Other competitors used rubber bands for added acceleration, or premade planes, like Wilkinson did. Wilkinson, however, averaged about 10% of his shots as near misses.

Dave Jonaitis, Director of Auxiliaries and Procurement, said that there will be another contest next semester, but that he wasn't sure what kind it would be.

Multimedia

continued from page 1

to create his or her own CD. This can be done off the Internet or from other CD's or cassettes. Not only will this Multimedia Learning Center be of tremendous help to music majors and minors, and helpful to students for viewing videos for class, but it is going to revolutionize the way we understand music and its history. Bradley Baker, the university's librarian, said he wanted this center to support the whole university and its curriculum.

For students weary of technology, the staff on hand at the center will train you on any of the workstations and any other equipment available. If you are majoring or minoring in music, like to listen to music or are just interested in this fascinating place, go check it out on the third floor of the library.

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Perspectus

DRAWING BOARD



Maine joins chorus for medical marijuana, why can't we?

by William Steele
Staff Writer

Maine voters have approved by a large margin a referendum to allow the medical use of marijuana. They join a rising tide of support for this cause that has won every election where it has been placed on the ballot. Sixty-one percent of the voters in Maine voted "yes" to the question, "Do you want to allow patients with specific illnesses to grow and use small amounts of marijuana for treatment, as long as such use is approved by a doctor?"

Maine now becomes the sixth state to legalize marijuana as medicine, joining California, Arizona, Washington, Oregon and Alaska. Also, Nevada has approved an initiative last year, but will also vote again in 2000 in order to amend its state constitution. The District of Columbia also approved one in 1998, but Congress is considering legislation to override the voters' overwhelming opinion. Colorado will have a chance to approve one of their own in 2000. Now 20% of Americans live in states that have passed medical marijuana initiatives.

There was no organized opposition, but there was some protest. Governor Angus King spoke out against legalizing marijuana along with the Maine Medical Association, but nothing was organized. Maybe this was

because there was strong support for medical marijuana. A Gallup poll earlier this year shows that 73% were in favor of medicinal marijuana. Interestingly enough, 29% of those surveyed in the Gallup poll were also in favor of legalization.

Over the past few years, there has been a great deal of study regarding the use of marijuana. Recently, the federal government's own National Academy of Sciences' Institute of Medicine published the leading report on marijuana and medicine. The report found that there has been "an explosion of new scientific knowledge." It also found that marijuana quells nausea in cancer and AIDS patients and isn't addictive or a gateway to harder drugs. Note the latter part of that sentence. This not only could open people's eyes to the medicinal benefits, but some of these findings could be intriguing as they relate to possible decriminalization and legalization. This study could be important down the line as well as all the other ones showing the relative lack of harm, the relief of pain, and other affects of cannabis.

I'd like to have the ability to vote on this myself. Anything to relieve pain and to do no harm to another I probably could support. I definitely would support the legalization of medicinal marijuana. However, under the election laws in Illinois, I

will never get the chance.

One other subject this vote brings up, as well as any other initiative, is the very small chance we in Illinois have to state our opinion. In Illinois, the only statewide binding referendum rights I am aware of are to amend the state constitution and the change the makeup of the legislature. During the last election cycle, some townships had an advisory referendum on the ballot in honor of Cardinal Bernardin to establish health care as a basic right and to enact universal health coverage. However this was solely advisory to the legislature. As far as any direct effect in the laws, there isn't all that much available.

Why is it limited to this? Many states believe that the constituency can be allowed to help guide the state. California has been one of the leaders in this endeavor. There is a current plan to allow a few more referendums in Illinois, however this does not go far enough. Why does our state leadership not trust its citizens to approve laws that it feels are justified? Many other states have no problem with it, it does not seem to slow the legislative process. It simply seems to invigorate the people to think that they may be able to speak their minds directly. Hopefully we may soon join Maine, California, and the other states that allow their voters to take full advantage of democracy.

EDITORIAL BY SCOTT PLENCNER, STAFF WRITER

Solutions to the HMO Problem

Candidates for office in the upcoming 2000 election will be pressing the Health Management Organization (HMO) button. Voters will be thrown stories like that of Jennifer Gigliello, who died in 1986, after her HMO denied her surgeries and pain killers that might have treated a mysterious intestinal disease that was slowly overcoming her body.

They will tell us about Barbara Garvey, who while vacationing in Hawaii, had a bad reaction with her arthritis medication and had to undergo an emergency bone marrow transplant. Against the advice of doctors in Hawaii and Chicago who warned any flight might increase a chance of brain hemorrhage, the HMO made it clear that they would not pay for any service performed outside of Chicago. Garvey was forced to fly home and en route suffered a stroke that left her partially paralyzed and mute. Nine days later she died.

They will tell you the story of Carolyn Verzcico, whose doctor was told by her HMO to halt treatments of chest pains and numbness because the particular treatments were said to be said to be unnecessary and too expensive. Verzcico now lies in a Philadelphia nursing home in a permanent vegetative state. Now a California-based HMO is forcing its patients to call them before calling 911 so that their accountant can conclude whether you are suffering something worthy of an expensive emergency room visit.

Stories like these are endless and though it's obvious something must be done, the question is what?

Can insurance companies fix themselves before the government steps in, or is it already too late? United Healthcare has taken these, first, but very late, steps with its move to accept whatever treatments its doctors prescribes for patients. But United did NOT do so in an attempt to offer better service and maintain its obligation to provide healthcare to those who give large portions of their salary to the HMO. Because United claims reviewers were approving 9 out of 10 classes, United decided to cancel the claim process altogether. Perhaps the almighty dollar is what will motivate HMO away from irresponsible practices.

Or perhaps the American Medical Association (AMA) and other doctor's organizations have the answer. Doctors are disgusted with the amount of professional freedom that has been lost because of HMO policies. Some medical doctors (MDs) have to charge more money to make up for huge write-offs forced upon them as the result of countless denials, both big and small. The family doctor who once was free to prescribe whatever treatment necessary, now finds himself a slave to HMO accountants. Many MDs are considering themselves employees, able to form unions to negotiate wages (charges) and employer/employee practices. One such doctor, pediatrician Barry Liebowitz, was a pioneer in MD unions, forming the Doctor's Council in 1973, an organization of doctors fed up with their loss of autonomy. "Union membership," Liebowitz said, defending his union, "provides doctors with a countervailing force against the denial of medical care for the sake of corporate profits. It's that simple." Much controversy in the medical profession erupted over AMA's unions regarding their most recent convention. Many MDs find just as much of a lack of autonomy in unions as they do in HMOs.

I work 30 hours a week for a large neurology practice located in Niles. My job at the practice is to call insurance companies and harass them for the money that is rightfully ours. My usual call involves pressing a series of buttons that get me no where and then pressing zero to sit on hold in the futile hope that one day I may talk to a coherent, live service representative. When I see the size of the Blue Cross and CNA Buildings downtown or the size of the Prudential claims center in Rolling Meadows, I cannot believe that I have to stay on hold for as long as I do to speak to someone. There have to be entire floors of operators on the phone with doctor's offices looking for their money. How can insurers say that there is no problem when doctors, patients, and the government are aligned against them and poised to strike and strike hard. And what industry is as arrogant as this one in the face of its own destruction, a destruction caused by a long line of deaths? Or would it be better to call these deaths murders? How long can we allow HMO's to hide behind legal technicalities while they rob us and leave us alone to die?

It's time for the consumer to take a stand. We must boycott HMO's and have our employers do the same. Although PPO plans cost more, they also provide for the freedom of both the doctor and the patient. Can you put a price on something so important? The only thing that will kill the HMO's is when they are no longer profitable. The insurance companies, who deal more lies every day at work than I care to get into, listen to only money so let's talk in their language. Consumers hold the power, but just don't know it. For more HMO nightmares check out www.consumerwatchdog.org/public_hts/medical.



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So, I married a rotweiler

by Tim Hill
Staff Writer

Recent studies by the State University of New York at Buffalo have shown that dogs and cats (and possibly buffalo) are better companions to people than spouses, for relieving stress. Forty-eight stockbrokers, already on medication for high blood pressure, were put in little lab cages like rats (I guess) and half of them were given loving little felines and K-9's to play with. Thereby, the stockbrokers divorced their husbands and wives to elope with the animals and started a little colony in Utah called "Pervertsburgh."

That is not entirely true, but wouldn't that be great?

Here are the facts: When the studied stockbrokers were asked to weasel their way out of shoplifting charges or attempts to verbally subdue clients who lost huge sums of money, "the ones who had pets had a fifty percent reduction in stress responses," Karen Allen of the State University said. When it comes to stress related occupations,

Allen, a pet-owner herself, said, "the spouse is the worst person to be there. The pet is the best."

And the winner of the Person Most Likely to Own 100 Cats before She Dies Award goes to....

Keep in mind that this natural stress reliever is limited to dogs and cats. Therefore, mountain lions and barracudas as pets may not hold as much relaxation power.

The most interesting comment in all of this is what Karen Allen had to say about spouses—they are terrible for stress relief. Gee, and I thought the American divorce rate was unsettling! Now I'm left thinking that the only reasons that people should get married are if they really don't like to be alone and are also allergic to cat hair.

Personally, I've never owned a dog that thought I was a god or which treated me in that 1950's Lassie-esque way, like fetching my slippers, the morning paper and a cafe mocha, all the while helping me fight crime. However, I've been a dog-owner for years and have enjoyed nothing but happiness, companionship and the occasional messy carpet. Cats, on the other

hand, are probably the most worthless, lazy creatures I've ever seen incarnated on Earth (next to mosquitoes and talk-show hosts). The most laborious task I've ever seen a cat undergo was when my friend Jordan's cat (called Phil or something) touched both of its front paws to its nose with its eyes closed while half asleep. This stunning display of physical prowess proved to me beyond a shadow of a doubt that Phil was, in fact, not drunk. And why would a cat need to get drunk when its entire life revolves around laying comatose on your coffee table while previously ruining all your other furniture?

Truth be told, I've never owned a cat, or rather; a cat has never owned me. Also, I've never had a spouse because, I suppose, my standards are too high (Marge Simpson, why won't you love me?) I have learned in my life, though, that stress is all in your mind. If you let things bother you, they just will. You've got to learn to relax and kick back once in a while. If all else fails, take a nice vacation. I hear Pervertsburgh is lovely this time of year.

MAIL BAG LETTERS FROM INDEPENDENT READERS

Viet victims needs

Dear Friends,

We've probably all heard or read somewhere by now regarding the worse flood, which had recently hit Central Vietnam. From news and resources, we have researched that it is a fact: million of Vietnamese's, lives are in danger due to food shortages and dire sickness. So far, hunger and suffering stalked central Vietnam yesterday as the death toll from the region's worst flood in a century climbed towards 500. After seven days of raging floods and incessant rains, millions of people have become increasingly desperate for food and other supplies despite the "best" efforts of the military-led relief operation. To be exact, statistics compiled from official media and relief agencies showed that most of the region of seven million faced food shortages and illness. In addition, officials have estimated damage in central Vietnam so far at \$50 million.

All my generous friends, we are lucky to live in a country that is full of opportunities and hope. Let us lend a helping hand to our less

fortunate country fellows who desperately need our assistance. Despite how small our contributions may seem to be to us now, we surely know that it will make a big difference in lives that are unfortunate. Besides raising funds to assist them in materials that they might lack, what else can we do as a small group of friends to contribute at least something to ease those that are suffering? Are there any ways we can start collecting certain supplies or maybe clothing to be shipped to Vietnam somehow or someday? If anybody knows or can research other ways, please feel free to write us and keep us all informed.

As for now, Viettask "non-profit" organization had collected about \$1500 and intended to send the money "directly" to those victims within two to three weeks. If you or any of your compassionate friends are interested in this project, please contact Annie through email at nntannie@viettask.org. Just remember that a gift can save a dozen lives. May He bless you all for your compassion and kindness.

--Annie

MAIL BAG

LETTERS FROM INDEPENDENT READERS

Censorship and re-education

During the 24th annual International Day Celebration sponsored by the Foreign Language Department the principles of Que Ondee Sola came into conflict with the organizers over a particular policy.

The situation began when we, members of Que Ondee Sola, were approached almost immediately after laying out two small stacks of Que Ondee Sola issues on our table. We were told that we could not have our issues on display because they were "too political." I was told that the T-shirt I was wearing was making a political statement, so therefore I was instructed to cover the shirt. The infamous T-shirt was filled with pictures of the Puerto Rican political prisoners and declared (as most of Puerto Rico) "Que Salgan Ya", translated as "Let them go now."

According to the rules of participating in the celebration, "no political statements, displays, or activities are allowed." We were unaware that Que Ondee Sola fell only into that category so we did not think twice about promoting our publication, a Latino publication. Several organizers told us that International Day was solely for culture. The idea was put forth to us that politics and culture are completely separate; and that during this event to be separate in effect like church and state.

The first problem we have pertains to who determines what. Who is to say what is or is not political? Are we political because we demand the decolonization of Puerto Rico or its right under international law to self-determination? Is it political to demand that there be justice in this nation or that we speak out against the hypocrisies of this nation? Que Ondee Sola feels it is our responsibility to address various

issues that can be deemed political. We make no apologies for our publication and its perspectives but we do disagree with being labeled as only political. We deal with cultural, historical, political, and student related themes throughout the course of every semester and this stereotype only attempts to reduce the validity of our work.

Que Ondee Sola would like to know what the organizers consider political. For examples, are flags not political? Yes, flags are very much part of political identification. Ironically, the flags were allowed. If anyone doubts the powerful political statement flags make then look at history. For many years in Puerto Rico, the United States government virtually made the Puerto Rican flag illegal. Surely, this was not to stifle a purely cultural symbol. In that time, the flag was made illegal because it was the symbol the Puerto Rican Independence movement. If I had been wearing a Vote for W. Bush t-shirt, would that have been inappropriate? How about a "Stop Police Brutality" one? More uncertainty lies whether the policy was intended to silence non-mainstream and otherwise non-accepted political views. So one can only wonder who determines what is allowed and barred from representation.

Que Ondee Sola affirms that politics is part of any culture. The same way that traditions, religion, and food are. By attempting to separate culture from one of its integral elements, it reduces culture as a whole. This reduction devalues the worth of culture rendering it incomplete, diluted, and superficial. I guess to the organizers, ethnic foods and entertainment is the true representation of culture. After our (unwarranted) censorship, we talked about the implied premise that suggested a bowl of arroz con gandules and a salsa performance would help non-Puerto Rican students

grasp Puertorriqueidad. I am not implying that food and dance lack importance for they are very much part of our identity. But to reduce culture to just those elements is denying the struggles and accomplishments that shape any people. Culture is very important to any group of people and any reduction of that is shameful and disrespectful.

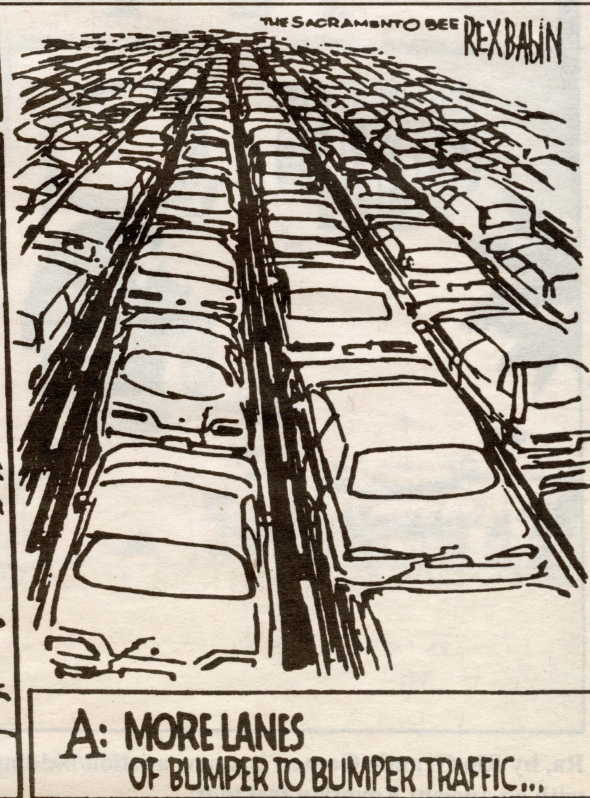
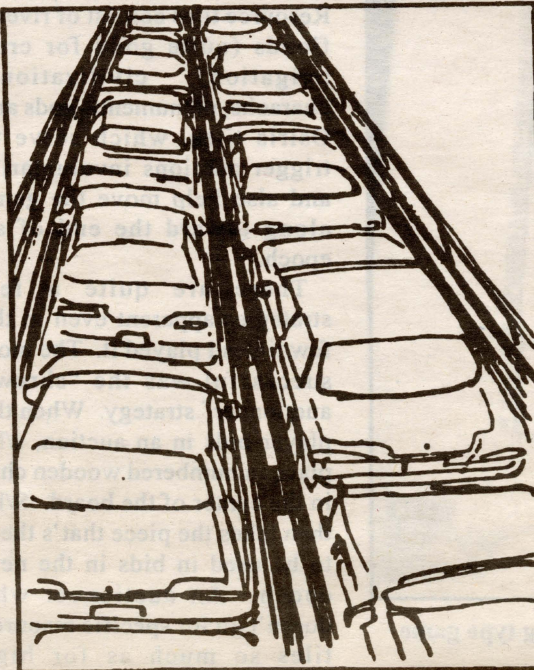
We encourage the Foreign Language department to look into this policy and the meaning of culture and politics. Que Ondee Sola will be looking forward to your response. This editorial is not an attack on the professors that respectfully spoke to us but instead on this policy and the act of reducing culture.

As far as the "political" issue is concerned, if it is political to stand up for your beliefs, then so be it. And if Que Ondee Sola believes in human and student rights, Latino empowerment, and a responsibility to better this world, then so be it. "Political" or not, the mission is the same and our struggle at Northeastern will continue.

--Michael Rodriguez-Muniz,
Editor of Que Ondee Sola

DRAWING BOARD

Q: WHAT SOLUTIONS DO LOCAL LEADERS HAVE FOR BUMPER TO BUMPER TRAFFIC?



A: MORE LANES OF BUMPER TO BUMPER TRAFFIC...

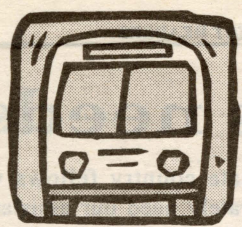
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Letters are subject to editing for style and space at the editor's discretion. The Editor reserves the right to omit any work received.

Letters are accepted through electronic mail, provided they include a telephone number for verification. The address is

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The Commuter

Your Independent Guide to Features

Games people (should) play

All a-board' for good, old-fashioned fun

by Thomas J. Foley
Features Editor

We've reviewed just about everything else in the *Independent*, except board games. Everyone's played them from time to time, Monopoly, Sorry, Clue, Stratego, Battleship. But those games need no reviews; everyone knows how to play them already. So the *Independent* did a little digging and came up with five newer, fun, challenging, sometimes thought provoking, available games for between \$30 and \$50 (I know, that sounds expensive, but even Monopoly falls in this range now).

While you may not be able to buy these games at Toys 'r Us, they are available at specialty game stores such as Gamer's Paradise (Harlem and Irving Plaza and Century Mall), and the Game Stop (Mt. Prospect), as well as a host of other locations. Most of these games were winners of local awards, many are imported (with English rules), and many were 'tested' at GenCon, the world's premiere gamer's convention.

India Rails by Mayfair Games, \$30, A+.

This game is the latest release in a series of games by Mayfair that all use the same general rules system, but different maps with different situational rules. A roughly accurate map of the area, in this case India, parts of Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, is covered with a series of equally spaced dots. On some of the dots are cities, represented by larger red dots and their name and the symbols of the products

available there. Each player is given a train piece and locomotive card, a correspondingly colored crayon, 20 million "empire builder" dollars, and three cards, each containing three possible payoffs.

Reference charts are provided in such a manner that a player can look up things by type of product or by city name. Each player then takes their turn building railroads (drawing a line on the erasable board representing your track laid), moving their train, picking up products or dropping off products (if you do it where one of your cards says to, you get the money and a new card), and receive payoffs. Track (drawing with your crayon) costs money, so if you want to draw, you better earn some money with your drawing.

The object of the game is to be the first player to have \$250 million and a continuous piece of track connecting all the major cities; Calcutta, Karachi, Madras, Bombay, and Delhi. Due to the recent tensions between Afghanistan and India and the fact that both are now members of the nuclear family of nations, there is also a variant available that allows the playing of some cards from Nuclear War, a game about nuclear destruction and its futility (in Nuclear War, as in nuclear war, often no one wins).

India Rails teaches people about other cultures, in this case Indian culture, as well as geography. But I feel it also



If looking for an unique gift this holiday season, why not try a challenging alternative to Nintendo.

teaches its players how to think inductively, from the inside out. It's hard to explain, but I've tried it and there is immense value in it. A great gift idea.

Ra by Rio Grande Games, \$30, A-.

Billed by the company as "a challenging game of gods, men and their monuments," this game turns out to be just that, a complex-yet-simple bidding game involving all things from ancient Egypt. The game consists of a high-quality, nicely decorated board, score pieces, numbered wooden tiles, numerous cardboard resource tiles, and a "Ra" piece.

The object of this game is to be the player with the most victory points at the end of three epochs of building civilizations, controlling aerable land, controlling the Pharaoh, building enduring monuments and invoking the ancient gods of Egypt. Victory points are gained by obtaining resource tiles. Resource tiles are gained through successful bidding during the frequent auction rounds.

A turn consists of a player either playing down a resource tile from the box, or calling an auction. When a player calls an auction, s/he takes the Ra piece and the player to the left either bids or passes. Be careful, though, because if you call an auction, you must bid. Resource tiles consist of rivers, floods (quite good for crop irrigation), civilizations, pharaohs, monuments, gods and Osiris tiles, which serve to trigger auctions involuntarily and also help move the game along toward the end of an epoch.

There are quite a few strategies apparent even in the few times I played it. The most successful was the "shrewd auctioneer" strategy. When the player bids in an auction, s/he places a numbered wooden chip in the center of the board. S/he then takes the piece that's there to be used in bids in the next epoch. An auctioneer who doesn't go for specific resource tiles so much as for high

numbers to exchange stands a good chance of winning, maybe even more than those players maximizing points by collecting tiles that enhance what they have already.

All in all, this was a fun game that was simple to learn, yet hard to master. I highly recommend it.

Vinci, the Rise and Fall of Civilizations by Descartes Editeur, \$35, B+.

A French import, this game explores the "what if's" of the tribal invasion of Europe in the first through tenth centuries. The object is to be the first to reach the predetermined number of victory points by using your civilizations to sweep across Europe. The goal of this game is to teach how different tribes with different strengths swept a T h e secrets to winning this game are simple to know but hard to implement. You must know when to abandon any particular civilization and declare it "in decline." This is what allows you to bring in a new civilization on the following turn. It's similar to Risk, but shorter and easier to play. I enjoyed it.

Durch die Wüste (Through the Waste) by Kosmos, \$45, B.

This is a game about being a camel herdsman in the Arabian desert, imported from Germany (hence the German title). The object is to be the player with the most points at the end of the game. Points are gained by connecting to oases, collecting watering hole points, and gaining a majority of one color camel under that player's control. What's often confusing in this game for the players is the concept of who they are. The player is not represented by a particular color of camel, even though there are multiple colors of camels. Each player is represented by a uniquely colored rider who sits on one of the six black camels.

This is an engaging little game with many variants and some simple, easy to master strategies, such as closing off large areas of the board from

your competition (camel lines may not be crossed or broken), and controlling the most of a single color of camel. It is a short game, averaging just under an hour to play.

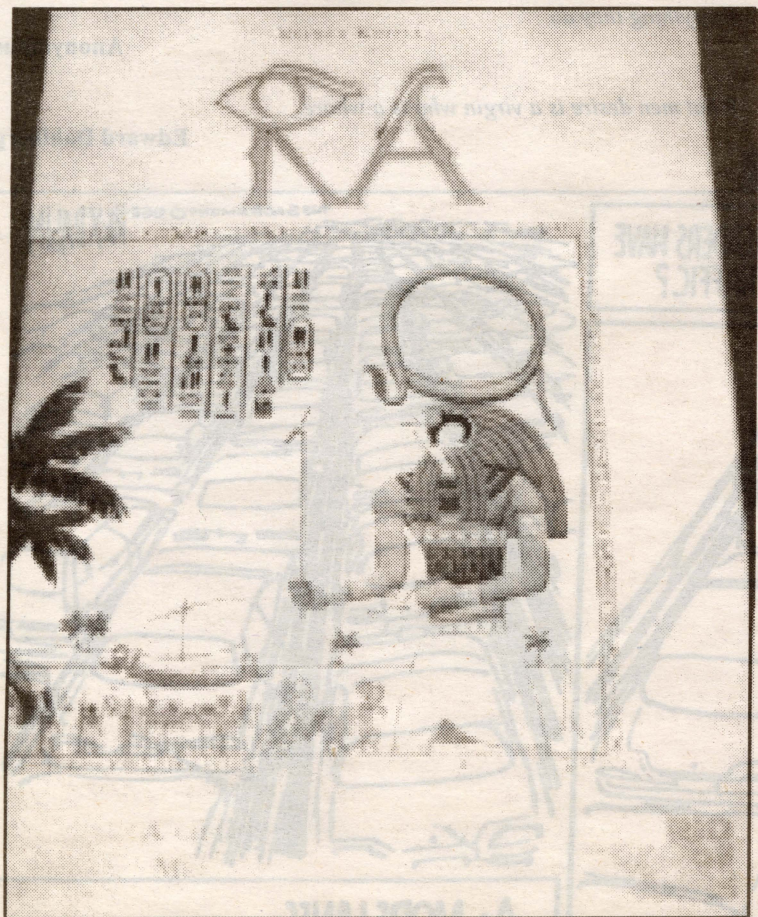
Tikal by Rio Grande Games, \$50, A+.

This is the most elaborate of the games reviewed here, hence the high price. This game is named after a Central American archeological site said to be possibly the richest of all the Mayan temple complexes.

Each player is the head of an archeological team sent to explore Tikal. The goal is to be the player with the most points after five volcanic eruptions. Points are gained by controlling pyramids and gathering artifacts. The more tiers on a pyramid, the more points its yields. More points are also gained by having two or three of a kind in artifacts.

The game consists of a large board, numerous hexagonal tiles representing the geography of the Tikal site (the random placement of them allows for a different game every time), a set of archaeologist markers to represent your team, extra tiers and artifact chips. A turn consists of a player placing a hexagonal land tile (which might be a pyramid, a clearing, an artifact site, or a volcano) and spending 10 action points. Some of the actions allowed include bringing in more team members at the tent sites (1 point), moving (various points), placing a new tent (five points), digging up artifacts (three points), and unearthing more pyramid tiers (two points). There is an auction version of this game, too.

All of the games just reviewed are not only affordable and educational, but they're also easy to learn. I believe the longest of the rule books involved is not more than six pages in length. Now if that don't sway you over to a game-playing holiday season, I don't know what will.



Ra, by Rio Grande Games, is a new auction/bidding type game with an ancient Egyptian feel to it.

REV

Volume 4, issue 6. November 23, 1999

Plug-in and pull-out the *Independent* Guide to Entertainment

Play Review

25 Psychics enchant NEIU

by Tim Hill
Staff Writer

"This is a beautiful, wonderfully emotional night!" an older gentleman in the audience projected about Lauren Tom when she came out to talk to audience members after what truly was a beautiful performance of her one-woman, autobiographical play *25 Psychics*. The presentation took place Thursday, November 18 in the Auditorium.

Though playing to a small crowd of about 150 people, Tom put on a marvelous, spirited, energetic performance of her life story, growing up as a confused Chinese girl in the predominantly Jewish Highland Park, getting a rocky start in her acting career, and all the while striving in constant pursuit of spiritual enlightenment that always seemed elusive and unattainable.

"I've been to 25 psychics," Tom explains early in the play. Each one was sought to help calm and appease her inner voice, which she frequently pantomimed as being a little ball she could extract from her stomach and talk to when she needed. Her "psychics" included everyone from a palm reader with a bad back and a blunt, Jewish tarot card reader to Swami yoga instructors and a 94-year-old Japanese Zen Buddhist master. Tom's constant conflict was that all paths to enlightenment never seemed to suit her well enough in dealing with her descendance from China, her Jewish-influenced childhood, her acting aspirations, romantic relationships, and the trauma of the untimely death of her domineering father.

Tom portrayed her father as a chain-smoking, abrasive man with a gruff voice who forced his wishes for his daughter upon her, leaving their love for each other never fully expressed before her father died.

Tom's most entertaining

character portrayal though, other than herself, was her grandmother Helen Dare, a short, old Chinese know-it-all who gave less-than-flattering nicknames to everyone, including strangers, insisting, "I help them! They NEED my help!" Helen Dare, all the while calling Lauren "Midget," charmed the audience with tales of the small village in China where she grew up, how she came to America, and how she gained her success in a restaurant cooperated with her husband "Buffalo-face." Helen sampled from a large collage of both wisdom and humor. Tom played all roles impeccably unabashed though the audience, which included Lauren's mother, could sense the outgoing display was from a naturally shy girl at heart (i.e. "her inner voice").

In her relatively short career, Lauren Tom has amassed quite a list of notable acting credits, many of which we have probably enjoyed without specifically knowing her. She played Ross's girlfriend Julie on the hit NBC sitcom *Friends*, Emma Zoole in *Homicide: Life on the Street*, and was most recently a regular on the series *Grace Under Fire*. Tom also does voice characterization on the Emmy-winning Fox animated series *King of the Hill*, as well as *Superman*, the upcoming *Batman Tomorrow*, and in Simpsons-creator Matt Groening's new animated series *Futurama*. Lauren Tom's film credits include *The Joy Luck Club*, *When a Man Loves a Woman*, *Cadillac Man*, and *Mr. Jones*. She recently finished filming projects with Gary Marshall, Penny Marshall, and John Landis.

25 Psychics was preceded by exhibits and demonstrations of Korean brush painting in the lobby outside the Auditorium. The stage set-up inside was multi-sensual: hazy purple lighting graced the simple stage, the faint scent of

incense curled through the smoky air from floor candles onstage, and playing from the speakers was a mysterious, eclectic meld of traditional Chinese music and wailing female vocals mixed with primal and modern tribal percussion added to by synthesized sound effects.

Introducing the performance was Murrell J. Duster, NEIU's Dean of Academic Development, followed by Northeastern President Salme H. Steinburg. Both explained NEIU's partnership with Columbia College and the Field Museum in presenting November's *Project Millenium - Transitions: The Legacy of Ethnic Linkages through Culture, Values, Attitudes, and Experiences*. The final intro guest speaker was Nancy Tom, Lauren's mother and founder of the Center for Asian Arts and Media at Columbia College. Nancy Tom explained that *25 Psychics* was originally created for a special presentation on HBO showcasing ethnic writers and performers. Since the show's original creation, it has evolved with every new performance, and the version conducted Thursday at Northeastern was its first live presentation ever.

After the performance, closing remarks were given by Provost Estela Lopez, who presented Lauren Tom with a plaque honoring and thanking her for her brilliant performance and participation in *Project Millenium*.

Following the show, audience members could be heard exclaiming praises for Lauren Tom and her very autobiographical, accessible story performance about a girl who grew up in Highland Park and went on to become a successful actress, all the while growing more spiritually enlightened, but remaining at heart a nice girl; shy, friendly, and down to earth. Of the heart, Lauren said in the final lines of her play, "All you can do is open it, to let in more and more and more."

Dave's Rant

by Dave Grzelak

Beautiful and handsome

Did Johnny Carson (the guy before Jay Leno) leave The Tonight Show? He did? Ok. Just checking. The reason I'm asking is because I think some relics of Carson's mannerisms still live on. With Letterman. And O'Brien. And Leno.

The most annoying of them all is the use of the word "beautiful" in describing a female actor or performer (but strangely, not usually a female animal expert, cook, or other female guest). I realize that the use of the word "beautiful" may just be a polite and easy way to make the guest feel comfortable. But with the awesome amount of adjectives available in the English language, can't these educated millionaire talking heads come up with something more than the adjectival equivalent to "unique"?

How about reading the guest's biographical information, or "bio"? I'm sure some information may bump up the description of the female performer to "smart" or "diverse." How about talking to them before the show? Are the female guests comfortable with the description? My guess is that less than 100% are.

And why aren't men treated in a similar fashion? Besides the "funny" comedian and the "talented" actor, why don't you hear from any of these hosts, "Tonight on the show, we have the handsome and talented Pierce Brosnan." Could it be because men complementing other men on their physical appearance apparently is on the low end of the TV taboo spectrum, but still taboo nonetheless? On the rare occasion it does happen, it's often offset with some humor.

This "beautiful/handsome" issue is a mere symptom of an overriding problem. If late night talk shows are to survive as a format, the younger audiences won't put up for these old-fashioned standards for long. That's why shows like The Man Show and The X Show are ironically liberating, as bizarre of a concept that sexism can be liberating is. On these shows, at least it's blatantly obvious that the dog-tongued men see women as sex objects deemed to be exploited.

But the exploitation is much more subtle on big time, high profile programs. The stakes are higher. The revenues are higher. Rather than taking chances by changing conventions, late night talk shows continue to follow the conventions of a time long gone by. Are the hosts even aware that they are contributing to this continual and subtle sexism? These conventions may be so ingrained, that no one has bothered to address the problem or tell the hosts.

My advice is that someone does, possibly starting by sending this column to the producers of these shows. And sure, I may not be privy to some internal standards and practices at these networks. And of course, I may be making a big deal out of nothing. But, I am also an educated viewer of a new generation, a critically-thinking and observing generation, the remote-control generation. And, we are carefully watching and listening to every word you say with our finger on the button.



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Millenium**

Star Signs

Luna Tells All



Dear Vieja,

I have a "fair weather" friend. Everytime everything is going well in my life, she is calling me to come hang out. We go out to the clubs or shopping. You know, regular friend stuff. However, anytime that I'm having a bad day or going through hard times, she acts like she doesn't want to be around me. I call her to talk about my problems and she can't talk because she has something else to do. I thought friends were supposed to be supportive. I thought they were supposed to stick with you through the good and bad times. It really hurts my feelings when she disses me like that. Is she really a true friend?

Friend-less?

Dear Friend-less,

From what you describe, no, your friend is not a good friend. A true friend does stick through good and bad times with you. A good friend will also support you in all that you do. Just remember, though, a good friend is not to be used, either. Before you write your friend off, make sure that you are not asking her to give up her life to take care of yours. A good friend will take some time out to listen to your problems or help you, but they cannot do this all the time. Ideally, you should be taking care of yourself and your friend should be offering you encouragement. A good friend will also tell you when you are trippin' or slippin' up in a nice and gentle way. If your friend isn't holding you accountable to yourself and encouraging you in your endeavors, then look to another source for emotional support and stick with her for casual outings.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
Balance is key for you right now. Give and take equally for success in your latest endeavor.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Start focusing on something other than your clothes and money. They have their place, but you are getting way too obsessive.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
This is your lucky break! Look for success in the workplace to happen soon.

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
Start hiding your money in all those little secret places. Now is not the time to spend.

LEO (July 23-August 22)
Move on to something entirely new and different. Stick with the old at your own risk!

VIRGO (August 23-September 22)
Be especially tender and sentimental to those you love. A poem sent to that special someone will bring positive results.

LIBRA (September 23-October 22)
Look for new friends to come into your life who share your values.

SCORPIO (October 23-November 21)
Pay attention to your fantasies. The love you dream about is around the corner if you don't settle for less.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22-December 21)
Concentrate on staying confident when dealing with family matters.

CAPRICORN (December 22-January 19)
Your ambition and sense of individuality is helping you achieve financial independence.

AQUARIUS (January 20-February 18)
Thinking of making a certain relationship exclusive or permanent? Go for it!

PISCES (February 19-March 20)
Incessant arguing with friends is a sign that temporary or permanent separation is necessary.

Wrestling Round-up

by Brian Blaszkowski
Staff Writer

Rumors about Stone Cold's absence from Survivor Series range from managerial conflicts to neck problems. It's most likely the neck, which may sideline Austin until Wrestlemania.

Planned finals for the WCW world title tournament are Bret Hart vs. Chris Benoit, but Jeff Jarrett is being considered to replace Benoit.

Chris Jericho is not a popular man backstage. Evidently, he gave Chyna a black eye during one of their scuffles, and never really apologized. That's not sitting well with HHH, Chyna's real-life boyfriend. In fact, much of Jericho/Chyna feud is legitimate heat between the two, since he believes she is holding his career down.

WWF is treading on dangerous ground. Their cancer angle and their fake

rape angle are both rather tasteless. And with WCW's recent surge in the ratings, WWF may be close to losing their number one wrestling show spot.

Shawn Michaels, despite rumors, is not heading to the WCW. WWF, for one reason or another, has chosen to leave him out of TV for awhile. He has stated in several interviews that it is the WWF's move, and he wouldn't mind going back to work.



Meet Tina Soni.

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A full-time student at a local junior college, Tina plans to transfer to a four-year college in the Chicago area soon. "My ultimate goal is to get my degree in business and a minor in acting. My job at UPS helps me do that."

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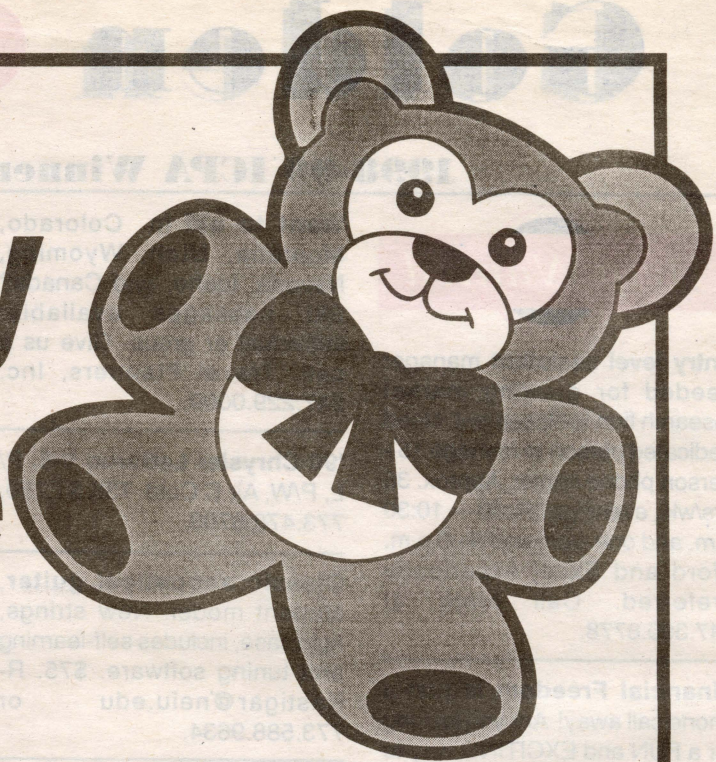
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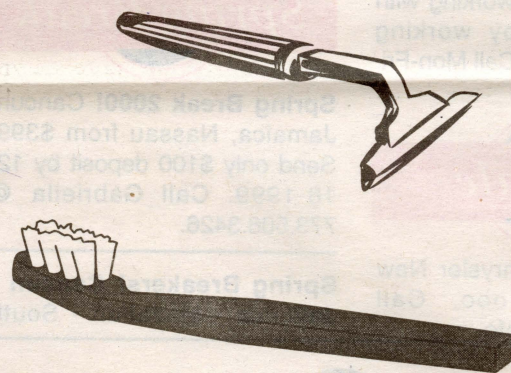
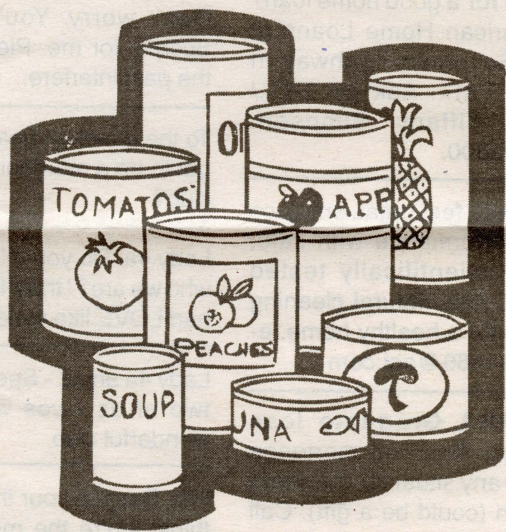
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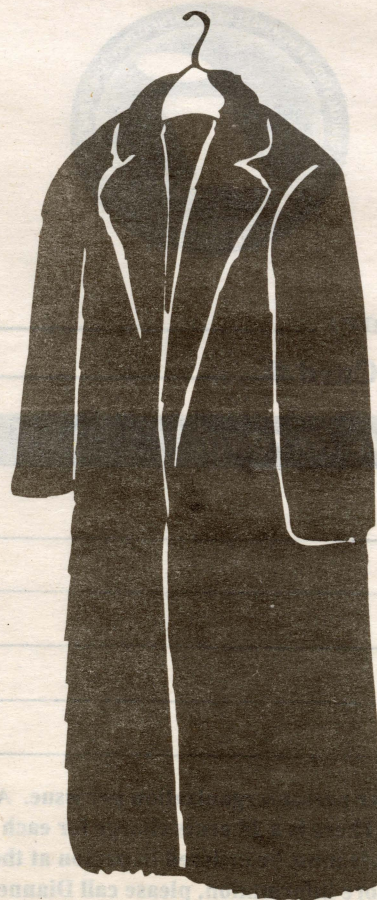
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Organizations

Apocalypse Literary Club is seeking members to help edit the bi-annual literary magazine. For information visit room E-035 or call extension 3804.

Join other re-entering adults for helpful workshops and advising. Women's Services offers support to all female students. ext: 3699.

Chimexla Student Union invites students to attend their meetings every Tuesday @ 1:40 p.m. in CLS-2056.

Personals

Break a leg to all us Studio Series actors. Denise, you've done a wonderful job. Thanks.

J. It's okay girl. Just chill out. When we get in ATL relieve all that stress. Kisha.

To my "straight-laced" friend. Don't worry. You're the only Scorpio for me. Please don't let the past interfere.

To the queen of hearts: How do I get to be a member of the AAAA club?

Lady 4a. Do you think they know who we are? I think they wish they had LOVE like we do. Z

Lady 4a and Z - Speaking just for two of us - yes we do. It's a wonderful club.

VD- Despite your initials, we still think you're the most attractive stallion in the office. Much love. --The Office Girls

"You'll be in my heart, Yes you'll be in my heart..." P. Collins from me to you *_^

V-man: Having a blast living the high life. Found myself some satisfaction with some good books. - 'Ol Blue

Joey, tempers may flare, but it's good to know that when the time comes you're an all-weather friend. CMB.

VD- Glad we're getting to be friends. --DMZ

To the two lovebears: One step closer, we're anxiously waiting.

Good luck in Atlanta Jemimah -- Dianne

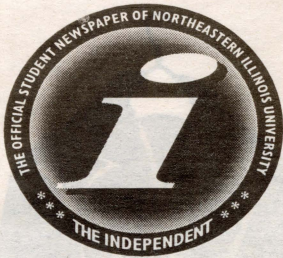
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