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## Independent- Dec. 7, 1999

Laura R. Hadley

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# Independent

Vol. 16 Issue 9

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOR OVER A DECADE

Tuesday, December 7, 1999

**Hidden  
campus gem  
page 8**

**See you next  
year!**

**Andy  
Kaufman's back  
REV**

## Educators get lesson from one of the best

by Tim Hill  
Staff Writer

Acclaimed teacher, education activist and author Dr. Parker J. Palmer spoke to a crowded Alumni Hall packed with present and future educators Tuesday for the latest installment in Northeastern's Presidential Lecture Series. Palmer visited NEIU to talk about his latest book "The Courage to Teach" and to offer new, unconventional philosophy on the attitudes an educator should maintain in their work about knowledge, discipline and helping people find themselves.

Palmer said that society's views on how to teach have changed much since he was a student. Technology has become a common substitute for one-on-one learning and modern teaching, in general, has the tendency to lack spirit.

"Our regard for teaching has been diminished or reduced to be about technique [because] we live in a world that wants to externalize everything," Palmer said. Rather than overuse of standard teaching techniques, Palmer feels that the "spirit of the teacher" should teach. With an interesting metaphor about the use of a knife, Palmer explained that the spirit behind the instrument decides its negative or positive outcome, as a knife can be used to

kill or, as in surgery, to heal.

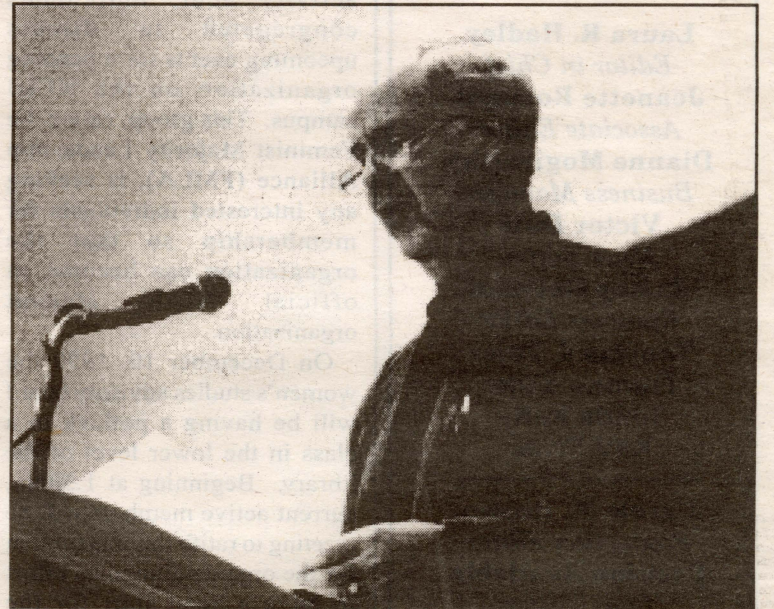
"The academic culture is a culture of fear," Palmer disconcertedly proclaimed. Educators, he feels, are taught to disassociate their knowledge from themselves objectively if they want to know something well. The idea, which Palmer shuns for belief that fear causes disconnection among an educator, his students and knowledge, is that one must distance knowledge from the danger of the self which can taint one's understanding. Palmer believes that though educators and students are taught to be objective while the self and the heart promote subjective thought, knowledge and change for the better can enrich one's life.

Dr. Palmer has been involved with the Teacher Formation Program since 1994. The organization of educators travels around the U.S. holding sessions with teachers in different cities to converse about and promote new education or philosophies such as conquering fear, opening up and forgiving. In these sessions, Palmer targets a new plan for professional living based on spirit, forgiveness, patience, integrity, caring and passion. It is these main ingredients, Palmer feels, that are the basis for effective teaching styles.

Most of Palmer's lecture was

about fear in the lives of professional adult educators. Questions arise from the fear, such as if the students are listening and if they are learning, and the fear can disrupt the educator's professionalism in teaching style and in life. The three main fears at the academic level, Palmer distinguishes, are in the knowledge, the students and in the educators. The fear of knowledge is that it can change a person's solidly established beliefs. For this fear, Palmer says, "we hold our knowledge at arm's length." For students, Palmer believes that fear is lodged in their academic lives because schools at times use fear to "motivate" students, a procedure Palmer finds to be both unhealthy in procuring knowledge and often ineffective. Still, students need to let go of their fear of failure and fear of participation.

Within educators, there are many fears. One main fear is that though teachers grow older, the age they are teaching to stays the same. Educators eventually feel that they lose touch with their students. About this, Palmer paraphrased famous psychologist Erik Erickson's belief that at mid-life, one must choose between "stagnation" and "generativity." To choose stagnation is to surrender one's motivation and



**Dr. Parker Palmer discussed the spirit of the teacher at NEIU. His lecture was another installment in the Presidential Lecture Series.**

will to continue contributing to the outside world. Palmer says an educator must rather choose generativity, to keep procuring a vivacious spirit and energy in young people and in the self.

Dr. Parker Palmer was born in 1939 and grew up in Wilmette, IL as the son of a Chicago businessman. He attended many universities as a college student, including the University of California at Berkley. Palmer has been an educator for thirty years

and his books have been translated into several languages.

After his lecture at Northeastern, from which his niece graduated, Palmer signed copies of his books in Village Square. His lecture ended with advice on how to listen to one's life and self. "Practicing silence is the best way to find one's self away from life's daily commotions. 'The soul is like a wild animal. It knows how to survive in the wild, but it is also very, very shy.'"

### Fifth of July plays to crowded audiences.

Review in REV



**Weston (anthony Whitaker) and Aunt Sally (Dee Dee Wright) search the Missouri sky for UFOs.**

## A promise to Rebecca

**A mother completes her degree despite tragedy**

by Tim Hill  
Staff Writer

Northeastern can be quite a madhouse at times. At least five days a week from seven in the morning until after ten o'clock at night, our school is swarming with students of all ages trying to squeeze their educations into their busy lifestyles. Indeed, people move so fast, they rarely get the opportunity to communicate with one another.

Recently I met a woman who has been a dedicated Northeastern student since before many of us were born. When she attended Northeastern for the first time, there were pool tables in the Student Lounge and people drank coffee, not lattes or mochas. I would like everyone to meet Carol Strubell-Krimm, a multi-credited NEIU student and a darling human being who could use our help.

As you know, graduation this semester is on December 19 and

each student was given four tickets for the ceremony. Acquiring more tickets is nearly impossible and one's only hope is that some graduates who need less than four will sell their extras. This is an odd occurrence though, and those who need more tickets, which are most graduates, are out of luck. However, after Carol told me the sad story of why exactly she needs extras, I knew others would have to hear why, too.

Carol is about to complete her second Master's degree, which will enable her to be promoted from junior high teacher to principal. This accomplishment was not easily earned, but getting a second Master's and becoming a principal was a promise Carol made over four years ago to her youngest daughter, Rebecca.

From what Carol told me, Rebecca was an extraordinary

see Rebecca

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# Around Campus

compiled by Thomas J. Foley, Features Editor

Around Campus will return in January. But, it's not too early to submit announcements for Spring - just send them to the Independent, room E-049 or e-mail them T-Independent@neiu.edu.

## Good Luck with finals and have a safe and happy holiday season.

### FMLA at NEIU

by Lakisha Pelham  
Staff Writer

During the November 30 activity hour, individuals congregated to discuss upcoming events for a pending organization on the NEIU campus. This group, called the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA), is seeking any interested individuals for membership so that the organization can become an official NEIU student organization.

On December 10, 1999 the women's studies advisory board will be having a potluck in a class in the lower level of the library. Beginning at 1:30pm, current active members will be meeting to ratify the constitution for the organization in an effort to have a head start for the Spring semester.

Existing members stressed that this organization is about leadership. In the meetings, attendees will learn what feminism is, how to be a feminist and a leader, and how

to actively pursuing justice for feminists. Other topics/subjects include feminist careers and stressing all forms of non-discrimination.

The organization is still in its formative stages. It is hoped that by next semester the organization will become active on campus.

According to the FLMA, feminism is the policy, practice, and advocacy of political, economic and social equality for women. A feminist is a person who advocates feminism. The mission of the FMF is to develop/build new strategies and programs to advance women's equality, non-violence, economic development, and, most importantly, empowerment of women and girls in all sectors of society. All the programs of the FMF endeavor to include a global perspective and activities to promote leadership development, especially among young women.

The Feminist Majority Alliance is looking for interested individuals.

### Correction

On page 5 of the November 23 issue of the Independent, the second entry of the Board of Trustee's report should have read "Steans" not "Seans."

We apologize for the error.

### Build up your resume

## The Independent is looking for a few good people to fill all editor positions.



If you are interested, please call  
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contact them at  
**T-Independent@neiu.edu.**

## Stress killers on campus Submit to us

'Tis the season for final exams and all the anxiety and stress that go with the times. Health Service is going to relieve some of that stress by providing students with a "Stress-free Zone" during finals week. Come to SU 214 on December 14, 15, 16, and 17 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There you will find dim lighting, mood videos, mindless games and crafts and decadent food. A massage therapist will provide free 5 minute sessions guaranteed to help you forget the last exam you took!

Also, to relieve money stress, the first five students everyday who come to the "zone" wearing their T-shirt from the health fair will get a \$5.00 certificate for the cafeteria. So check your pagers, your cell phones, your text books and your worries at the door and enter our "Stress-free Zone"-it will help you face the outside world again!

Deadlines for the Independent are one week prior to the date of publication. The following is a list of publication dates for the spring 2000 semester.

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.

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### 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

### EXTENSION 200

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

#### 16 November Domestic Battery

Victim stated that person, with whom they had a prior dating relationship, had struck the victim in the face. A search of the area showed that the offender had fled. Complaints were signed. Victim returned the next day and stated that they no longer wished to pursue the complaint.



Lt. JACK BAKER

#### 19 November Lost Property

Victim left wallet in Classroom Building Computer Lab while

using restroom.

#### Medical Assist

Person in A Wing complained of chest pains. Chicago Fire Department Ambulance responded. Person refused treatment.

#### November 23

##### Medical Assist

Student complained of dizziness. Officer transported student to drop off books at student's car and call for ride home.

#### November 24

##### Theft

A chair was reported stolen from the second floor of the Student Union.

Remember, this holiday season, while you're doing your holiday shopping, there are people out there who are preying on others. This is their big season too, so don't make it easier for the holiday thieves. Don't flash your cash when shopping. Don't leave your purchases in plain view in your car. Make sure you get your credit card back when you use it. At holiday parties, don't drink and drive - your Mom doesn't want to have to join M.A.D.D.

By the way, don't forget to drop a nickel in the red bucket when you get a chance.



# Public Safety "Band-Aid"

## Private security hired for ailing department

by Victor A. Dula  
News Editor

Public Safety officers are difficult to come by and getting more scarce all the time. Since November 15, Public Safety has been using two security officers from Initial Security Inc. to assist the understaffed Public Safety Department.

Public Safety Director Steve Horton speculates that among other factors, it is the current economy and job market that contribute to Public Safety's high turnover. "We are currently operating in a full-employment economy; it is easy to get jobs right now," Horton said. As "full-employment" may suggest, most people have jobs. It is, therefore, harder for an employer to hire and retain employees.

It was a joint decision between Horton and Vice President of Student Affairs Melvin Terrell to hire private security officers. "We needed to augment current staffing levels," said Horton. "This was the quickest and easiest way to accomplish that task."

Indeed, the hiring process for Public Safety Officers is a long one compared to contracting out private security. Before the Public Safety Director can even interview candidates for law enforcement positions, which, Horton indicates won't happen until later this month, these candidates must undergo a screening process. This includes

physical, written, and oral tests along with fingerprinting and computerized criminal background checks. If a candidate is eligible for a position and has not yet completed the twelve-week academy training and ten to twelve week field training, Public Safety must allow that person to be trained.

Staffing vacant Public Safety positions with private security officers is somewhat less complicated. These positions may be put out for bid for larger, more flexible security companies who can fill them with temporary assignments. Once an agency is chosen, it will send Public Safety the personal information necessary to run criminal histories on individuals wishing to serve, but those people don't require the same academy or field training the Public Safety officers do.

According to NEIU's department of Purchasing, the only security company which has expressed interest is Initial; all bids were due the week of Thanksgiving.

Private security officers, however, cannot serve in the same capacity as trained Public Safety officers. "They are unarmed and they have no law enforcement powers," Horton pointed out. This means that security cannot write tickets, place someone under arrest or do anything else, only sworn officers of the law have those powers.

As stated in the purchase order, Initial Security Inc. is to "provide unarmed security officers to supplement NEIU Public Safety officers. Duties to include locking and unlocking rooms and buildings, checks on secured buildings, calls for service and general patrol, reporting on unauthorized persons and suspicious and unusual circumstances." They report anything wrong or out of the ordinary to dispatch who then sends a Public Safety officer to the scene.

Public Safety officers' salaries start at \$27,614 per year, excluding benefits which are partially paid for by the University. Northeastern pays the security officers hourly wage of \$14.42; overtime would be \$20.91, and holiday pay would be \$33.89, but Horton says they will not work overtime or holidays. Any benefits they may get would be from Initial, not Northeastern.

Currently there are twelve Public Safety officers, excluding Horton, and there are two private security officers who cover 40 hours of an afternoon shift and 40 of a midnight shift.

If the number of Public Safety officers continues to decrease, Horton said he will hire more security officers to fill those positions. However, as he mentioned several times, this is a temporary solution. He said that the turnover rate is cyclical as it is affected by economic forces which are also cyclical.

# Suicide risk up

## Gun availability to blame, say researchers

By Keri Hyatt  
Daily Bruin (U. California-Los Angeles)

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — Attacking the idea that owning a gun provides protection, a study conducted by the Violence Prevention Research Program at UC Davis concluded possessing a handgun may increase the risk of suicide.

"Mortality Among Recent Purchasers of Handguns," the study, which appeared in the New England Journal of Medicine on Nov. 18, tracked 238,292 people from the time of their licensed firearm purchases in California in 1991 through December 31, 1996. It was the first study to investigate suicide rates by tracking a population.

"Reducing access to firearms across an entire population lowers rates of suicides," said Dr. Garen Wintemute, lead author of the study and professor of medicine at UC Davis.

In total, 22,602 people committed suicide during the six-year study.

"The public is generally not aware that firearms account for more suicides than homicides," said Corinne Peek-Asa, associate director of the Southern California Injury Prevention Research Center and professor of epidemiology at the UCLA School of Public Health.

Fifty-one percent of firearm-related deaths in the United States are suicides, Peek-Asa said.

Suicide, according to Wintemute's study, was the leading cause of death among all handgun purchasers, responsible for 24.5 percent of all deaths and 51.9 percent of deaths of 21- to 44-year-old women.

The increase in risk of suicide after the purchase of a handgun appeared within a week and remained for the six-year duration of the study.

The study states that less than 10 percent of gun owners who committed suicide purchased a handgun for that purpose. Researchers concluded access to a handgun might have added new risk factors.

"Most people don't premeditate suicide," Peek-Asa said, and a person is more likely to survive a critical moment if there is not a lethal weapon in easy access.

But a spokesman for the National Rifle Association said a person who wants to commit suicide will find the means to do it whether or not a gun is available.

Researchers involved in Wintemute's study said their findings should raise a public health concern and an agenda aimed at reducing suicides.

"Focusing efforts on a population at high risk does not substantially reduce rates of suicide," the study states. But some researchers say limiting access to firearms can.

"The most effective means of reducing gun violence lie in combatting the root causes of

much of the violence itself," Peek-Asa said. These prevention methods include teaching life skills and increasing self-esteem among high-risk youth and providing resources to increase community cohesion.

"However, these steps will take a long time and we must address firearm violence now," she added.

Currently, California law requires those who want to buy firearms to fill out an application and undergo a 15-day waiting period and a background check. It restricts gun purchases by people convicted of violent misdemeanors in addition to felons, people under 21 and certain others, as federally mandated.

Two purchasers in the study committed suicide during the 15-day waiting period.

The study obtained information regarding the purchases of handguns and the deaths of firearm owners from records of the U.S. Department of Justice. It did not include an investigation of the relation between gun ownership and violent deaths.

If gun ownership is a risk factor for violent death, researchers underestimated the risk of suicide in addition to homicide as a result of gun ownership, according to the study.

"The most important step we can take in reducing firearm violence is increasing our efforts to understand what does work," Peek-Asa said.

# NEIU ON THE ROAD

## Choir celebrates 25th

by Lakisha Pelham  
Staff Writer

The recent trip to Atlanta, Ga where the Black Heritage Gospel Choir (BHGC) participated in the National Black Gospel College Choir Workshop is only one of a series of exciting scheduled events celebrating its 25th Anniversary.

The choir was founded in 1975 by recent NEIU graduate Marylene S. Whitehead and students, Peyton Harrison and Shirley Williams-Jones. This year, in addition to the usual Board of Education concert February 17, 2000, there will be a special Afternoon Awards Concert in March at the Center for Inner City Studies, NEIU's south campus,

honoring BHGC alumni and musicians.

Along with a number of on-campus activities, including International Day, the choir was invited by Pastor and Mrs. Love to perform in Cary, IL at a multi-cultural musical sponsored by Trinity Methodist Church.

Performing at the Illinois Committee for Black Concerns in Higher Education Conference (ICBCHE) was a special honor that allowed the choir to support outgoing ICBCHE President Dr. Melvin Terrell and at the same time accompany the crystal-clear voice of Ms. Billie Barrett-Greenbay, part of the internationally acclaimed Barrett Sisters.

# Online shops help holiday spending

By Sarah Folzenlogen  
The Daily Free Press (Boston U.)

(U-WIRE) BOSTON — For thousands of shoppers disgusted with crowded malls, long lines and Christmas jingles blaring from loudspeakers, the online shopping trend offers a welcome escape from holiday hell.

Online shopping is the latest attempt by retailers to appeal to the general public and make shopping more convenient. With just the click of a mouse and no complicated computer knowledge required, one can access almost any product in a matter of seconds.

"I buy CDs from Amazon, and it is a lot easier and the same price [as stores]," said College of Arts and Sciences freshman Reema Patel, "I get the CD in about three days."

But, as Patel explained, there are certain cautions that should be taken.

"My dad warns me that you never know who can get your credit card number. It is easy to go crazy and not know your limit," Patel said.

Amazon.com is one of the more popular sites and offers a variety of books, music and gifts. In addition to allowing people to access a certain item, the site also provides gift ideas for people who are not sure what they want to buy.

By clicking on "gift ideas," one can choose from a list of categories including "Sports Enthusiast, Brainiac, Entrepreneur and One Who Has it All."

After deciding which category describes the person they are buying for, online shoppers are presented with another group of categories describing the gift—Trendiest, Funkiest and Smartest.

The site also allows individuals to make their own wish lists for others to access.

"If I want some CDs for Christmas, I can put them on my wish list and give it to my parents. It is very convenient," said College of General Studies freshman James Fant, who often uses Amazon to buy music.

Others simply use the Internet as a reference for prices and then choose to do the shopping on their own.

"Sometimes they get the order wrong," said College of Communication junior Matt Nicholas. "So I usually go online to check out the prices so I know the standard prices and then go to the store to buy them."

Clothing companies such as the Gap, J. Crew and Abercrombie & Fitch have followed suit, allowing users to purchase the stores winter lines over the computer.

The colorful Gap.com website allows consumers to choose from a list of clothing articles of different styles as seen on pictures of models. Buyers are then shown a picture of the clothing and able to pick from a variety of colors and sizes.

Although the prices online are similar to those in stores, and sometimes require shipping and handling fees, users say the vast online selection makes shopping over the Web more attractive.

"I wanted to buy a book for my brother and had gone all over the Boston area to book dealers but nobody had it," said CGS freshman Jonathan Campbell. "I went online and found it, and they sent it gift-wrapped for only \$1 extra."

CAS freshman Mike Hager, a coin collector, has even purchased ancient Roman coins in online auctions.

"I usually online shop for rarities," said graduate student Danielle Arcidiacono who uses eBay frequently, "I buy rare records, music collectibles and antiques that are hard to find."

Gifts are not the only popular items online. "Tickets for events like plays, musical and concerts are good things to buy," Arcidiacono said.

Frequent online shoppers have also learned smart ways to save money.

"If you wait a week you can usually find a coupon for free shipping," said CAS junior Brian Sholis. "The other day I bought \$28 dollars worth of stuff for three bucks."

The most attractive factor of online shopping remains its convenience.

"You can be lazy and avoid the six degree wind-chill outside," Sholis said.



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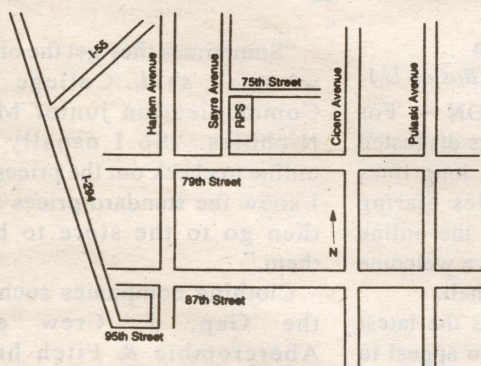
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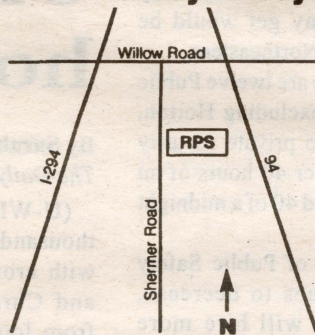
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## Rebecca

continued from page 1

young woman. She made her own jewelry (which Carol wears everyday), sang in a choir, studied fencing, collected antiques with her mother and, by sixteen, was already an accomplished poet. "She was also my best friend," Carol said of her daughter. Sadly though, and despite all of her great

potential, Rebecca was poisoned at a get-together in the north suburbs. Two men dipped cigarettes in heroin and gave them to Rebecca. She was severely poisoned, overdosed, and died that night in front of strangers.

Some months before her tragic end, Rebecca told her mother that it was time for her to move up in the world; to get another degree and be able to help more children. Carol promised her daughter that it would happen one day. Less than a year later, 16-year-old Rebecca was gone.

Carol was devastatingly heartbroken. "I didn't get out of bed for a year. I cried all day long," Carol said.

About a year and a half after Rebecca's death, Carol's eight other children reminded her of the promise she had made. Knowing that it was time to keep

her word to her daughter, Carol re-enrolled at Northeastern for her second Master's degree which she will be accepting on December 19th. Because of her love and devotion to her eight remaining children, Carol wants them to be with her at graduation to share in the fulfillment of a promise made to darling young Rebecca who will only be able to watch her mom's ceremony from Heaven.

Carol swears and assures that she will pay any amount asked for tickets to the graduation. If four students give up one ticket each, Carol's Christmas wish will come true, making the kept promise all the more special. Carol can be reached at 847-459-1935 in the evenings. She would deeply appreciate anyone who can help. Please help give her a happy ending to her long struggle.

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# December holidays; it's not just about Christmas

by Joanna Frigo  
Staff Writer

Every December, people celebrate one of many holidays. There are the traditional two Hanukkah and Christmas, and the recent Kwanzaa. All holidays have their own traditions, symbols, music, and food. All are special in their own way, because they have different meanings to different people.

The first holiday is coming up very fast this year: Hanukkah falls between December 3 and 11. It is a celebration that predates Christmas. The story is a simple one. It starts out about 2,000 years ago. The land of Judea was ruled by Antiochus, a tyrannical Syrian king. Since, unlike today, religious tolerance did not exist, he oppressed the Jewish people and they could not observe the Sabbath, or study their religious text, the Torah. He put up a statue of Zeus, in the holy temple of Jerusalem. Most of the Jewish people followed the orders, because they had no choice in the matter. The ones who did not follow the orders were executed. In 167 B.C. they were desperate, and rose up to the tyrant Antiochus. A well respected priest by the name of Mattathias, got an army together and his five sons were put in charge. One of the sons, named Judah, wanted a

name for the battalion, and so they came up with "Maccabee" which means hammer. It took over three years to fight and the Maccabees drove the Syrians out of Israel, and they reclaimed the temple in Jerusalem.

They got rid of the statue of Zeus, and they cleansed the temple and purified it. Then they got out and rekindled the menorah. The problem, as most of us know, was that they had oil for a single day, but the menorah burned for eight days. The menorah burning for eight days and not one is the miracle. Here are some of the symbols, music, and food that are important to the Jewish celebration.

Some important foods that are symbolic of the holiday are potato 'latkes.' They are eaten because they are fried in oil. Another thing that is eaten is something that is like the bismark. Like the latkes, they are fried in oil. Oil is important to the celebration because the menorah burned for eight days and not for one.

Another part of the celebration is the lighting of the menorah. For eight days, each candle on the menorah is lit. Again this is symbolic of the eight days it burned when the temple was regained, and more reason why they celebrate for eight days. Along with the eight day

celebration is the giving and receiving of gifts. An American custom is that each person receives a gift for eight days.

The games and music are important to the celebration too. The toy they use is called a 'dreidel.' The dreidel has four Hebrew letters on it, which stand for the acronym "A Great Miracle Happened There." The dreidels in Israel have something else written on them: "A Great Miracle Happened Here." The kids play with the dreidels and make a game out of it.

Now on another special holiday during December and one that is important to Christian faiths. Christmas starts out with the birth of Christ, and that is what is the celebration is about. The symbols surrounding this holiday vary from culture to culture and have different meanings too. The food, music, symbols, and stories all come from all over the world.

The time that leads up to Christmas is Advent, which is four weeks of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The name advent comes from the Latin 'adventus' which can be translated into 'to come.' It started when the angel Gabriel came to announce to Mary the birth of Jesus. This brings us to the Advent Wreath, which contains four candles in a

circle of evergreen. The colors are purple and/or blue, which symbolize royalty. Every Sunday until the fourth week a candle is lit, one a week. The Sunday before Christmas the fourth candle is lit. Again, this helps people prepare for the special day.

Next we all know of the Christmas Tree, but how did it come to be a Christmas tradition. The story is, evergreen trees were not always green. Like other trees, they would lose their leaves every fall. When Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were on their way to Egypt they had to hide in a clump of cedar trees.

What happened is that the trees got needles, and the blue berries in the cedars blended in with Mary's blue cloak. As the story goes, that is why evergreens keep their color all year long. The story on how it was brought to the USA is more mundane. German and English immigrants brought it.

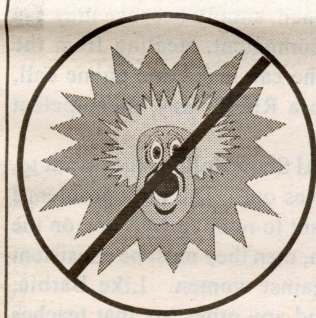
Another symbol of this time of the year is Saint Nicholas, aka Santa Claus. Now the story is basic but varies from culture to culture. The story is that he is born in 280 A.D. to wealthy parents, and he was ordained at an early age. He became a Christian Minister, then a bishop. He was famous for giving to the poor. Another story was that he went out to give gifts to poor children.

The flowers of Christmas

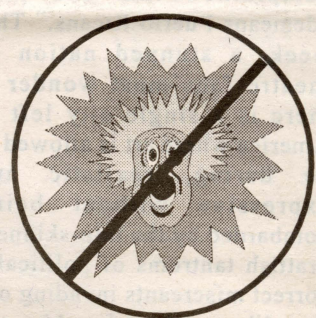
are the Christmas Rose and the Poinsettia. The Christmas Rose blooms in the winter months and is grown in Central Europe. The story is, when a girl who was tending to her sheep saw the three wisemen, she wanted to give them a gift. She realized that she had nothing to offer, and she cried. An angel saw her sadness and brushed away the snow to reveal the white flower.

There are many other symbols of the holidays, and all of them serve to remind us that the winter holidays are truly a season of giving.

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# Perspectus

## DRAWING BOARD



## Canceling art in America

by Tim Hill  
Staff Writer

Last week, production of the musical *West Side Story* was cancelled at Amherst Regional High School in Massachusetts because students and parents complained that the play "demeans Puerto Ricans." This week, a stunned nation of theatre fans must wonder if there is a single city left in America where art is allowed to be daring, realistic and expressive without being bombarded by the thin-skinned, brattish tantrums of politically correct miscreants invading our lives like weeds and sucking the life out of the few remaining blossoms of free speech left in the American garden.

For those who aren't familiar with the play, here is a brief synopsis of *West Side Story*. Two street gangs rival in 1950's New York City. One gang, the Jets, consists of white males. The other gang, the Sharks, consists of Puerto Rican males. The gangs vie for territory and respect in their neighborhood with only partially race-based conflict. A love interest is struck between Tony, a renounced Jet, and Maria, sister to the leader of the Sharks. From there on, if you generally know the plot of William Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, from which *West Side Story* is based, you can guess the rest of the play: true love fails in a life wrought with hatred and malice, but in love's death and though by tragedy and guilt, conflicts are resolved. Both stories are tender, accessible and thought-provoking. So why won't the students of Amherst Regional also get to benefit from the play's insightful, timeless lessons or be entertained by its stunning dance numbers and Leonard Bernstein's brilliant musical score? Because of the conceited whines of people who make

themselves victims of their own selfish insecurities and who behave behind the paper-thin shield of political correctness that is somehow supported by America's common (non)sense.

What those in the politically correct movement fail to realize is that their actions produce nothing but a hindered culture. Rather than teaching people tolerance and open-mindedness, the politically correct movement promotes ignorance and a false perception of reality. The Amherst Regional school board gave compliance and submission to its students and parents who were offended by *West Side Story*, but in doing so, it deprived the actors, musicians and other students of experiencing a modern American classic play. In no way could a concerned, eugenically minded American condone the actions of or congratulate the PC movement when all they seem to work for is making America's youth socially and culturally retarded.

*West Side Story* was written during the 1950's when racism in America was out of hand and Puerto Ricans were immigrating to the U.S. in large numbers. *West Side Story* was written to show the tender side of a culture that many white Americans did not understand at the time; that most Puerto Rican Americans of the 50's, like most white Americans of the 50's, came from a family-based lifestyle. In *West Side Story* the Jets hated the Sharks for being Puerto Rican as much as the Sharks hated the Jets for being white. Each gang in the play is portrayed as equally villainous, but also equally loyal to their family, neighborhood and race. How then is *West Side Story* demeaning to Puerto Ricans if not also to whites? Both groups in the play commit the same crimes for the same reasons and both suffer similar losses while

learning the exact same lesson. As spoken sweetly in a song by classic American rock band Buffalo Springfield, "Nobody's right when everybody's wrong."

What would become of America's artistic history if it were allowed to be tampered with by the PC movement? Most public schools in America have already suffered the loss of Mark Twain's novels about Tom and Huck because of Twain's use of the word "nigger." That word can be very hateful and derogatory, but is that one small word bad enough to ban staples of American classic literature? We must remember that our nation is not that old and American culture is still in its early developmental stages compared to most other world nations. It would be a catastrophe to see our culture wilt before it has even had a real chance to bloom.

Personally, most of the best books I've ever read by American authors have been protested against and banned at one time or another. *West Side Story* now joins a list with such written works as *Catcher in the Rye*, *Grapes of Wrath*, *Howl*, *Invisible Man*, and the list of hits that are missed goes on in no particular order, but that have had their shares of censorship.

To participate in this politically correct movement is to support censorship, hinder America's development and annul free speech. Amherst Regional High School's cancellation of *West Side Story* is an example of how we lose our thoughts and ideas in the delusion of offense we take needlessly; possibly benefiting one's self, but certainly depriving others. If you listen closely now, you may hear the sound of one hand clapping for an encore of America's expressive creativity in the arts. The other hand, though, is being cuffed to the floor.

## OPINION

BY BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI, STAFF WRITER

## Feminists don't like Head

"What does everybody want? HEAD!"

Those five words are familiar to every wrestling fan across the country. It is the calling card of Al Snow, and his severed mannequin head, appropriately called, "Head." Head has become one of the most popular gimmicks in wrestling history. From Extreme Championship Wrestling to World Wrestling Federation, Al Snow's fans break into thunderous applause when they hear the music. He walks down the ramp, raising "Head", and is met with even more cheering. He seems to have finally found his niche.

Enter the feminists. They have all of a sudden cried foul, claiming the mannequin head is that of a female, which glorifies violence towards women. Because of their protests and strong-arm tactics, Al Snow's action figure, recently released with a small "head" replica, has been pulled from several stores, including K-Mart, Toys R' Us, and Wal-Mart. Al Snow dolls are all but gone from the market.

It really makes one think. How can the feminists expect anyone to take them seriously when they attack a doll? Instead of working for equal rights in the work place, they single out Al Snow for their attacks. Instead of reserving their onslaught for countries which punish and hold women down, they decide to pull the "offensive" doll off the shelves. Al Snow's first action figure ever is just the latest casualty in the American Tradition. The "Let's Blame Everyone But Ourselves" tradition, which has become the 90's calling card.

Don't get me wrong. I don't mind the feminists. In fact, I agree with most of their plans and ideas. Women and men should get equal pay for equal jobs. Women shouldn't be discriminated against anywhere. But, like most good ideas in America, feminism has been warped and used for the most bizarre purposes, not the least of which is the Al Snow doll. Feminism is now a shield. Whenever a woman is fired, she is not only able to cry sexism, she is EXPECTED to. Women are able to receive special treatment under feminism protection. I always thought feminism promoted EQUALITY. But, it seems it now promotes superiority. Bosses across the country are fearful of firing women, simply because they can be sued. Even if the woman is lazy, incompetent, stealing from the company, or anything else imaginable. She can make one phone call, make one court appearance, and wind up a RICH, lazy, incompetent woman.

I don't mind the feminists attacking the Al Snow doll. If they want to, go right ahead. Have fun, knock yourselves out! The only problem I have is the lack of consistency. If they want to remove Al Snow on the basis of glorifying violence towards women, then they must be consistent and remove ALL toys discriminating against women. Like Barbie, Cabbage Patch Kids, E-Z Bake Ovens, and any other toy that teaches women how to cook, clean, play dress-up, or keep house. Get rid of everything pink and white, everything frilly or lacy, and every board game that shows women doing any of the things listed above. Then, once all the toys that little girls like are gone, grab their arms, open their fists, and force a toy gun in their hands, and tell them to go play war. If they cry, tell them to stop crying and act like a man. That way, everything will be OK. Right?

Wrong. Forgive what may seem a sexist remark, but girls should play with Barbie's, E-Z Bake ovens, or any other of those type of toys that feminists believe brainwash women. Children should be able to choose which toys they like, not which toys the feminists want them to play with. If a little girl wants to play dress-up, then buy her some clothes. If she wants to play War, buy her a toy gun. But, guns are used in violence against women, too. That means toy guns, knives, weapons, etc. must be removed from the shelves. But hopefully that's a long way away.

Feminism was one of the most noble movements ever, and I support it fully. But, they started using their power to attack small things, useless things, things that have no real application towards their movement. Once that happened, I started seeing feminism in a different light. Now, after they attacked a doll, I am no longer a supporter of feminism. I believe women and men should be equal, but feminism no longer strives for equality. They now desire superiority.

Jerry Lawler, a commentator and former wrestler, has his own thoughts on Al Snow's doll: "For those who get it, no explanation is necessary. For those who don't get it, none will do." It's a beautiful quote, completely true. Wrestling fans understand Al Snow's doll is meant to be a goofy thing held by a goofy man. Something no person should take seriously. The people who don't get it obviously take it too seriously, but I can't change anyone's mind; nor do I want to change anyone's mind. You are entitled to your opinion, as I am entitled to mine. But, when your opinion is backed by a large movement meant to change or take something away from me that I might enjoy, then I must speak up.

In closing, I have a little advice to the feminists. Relax. Stop attacking dolls, and start working for equality. What gives you the right to decide what toys can be sold? Neither you nor I have any right to tell children what they can play with. Only the child's parents can. If you believe the toy is evil, then make your message heard. But don't take away somebody's freedom to buy a toy.



# REV

Volume 4, issue 8 . December 7 1999

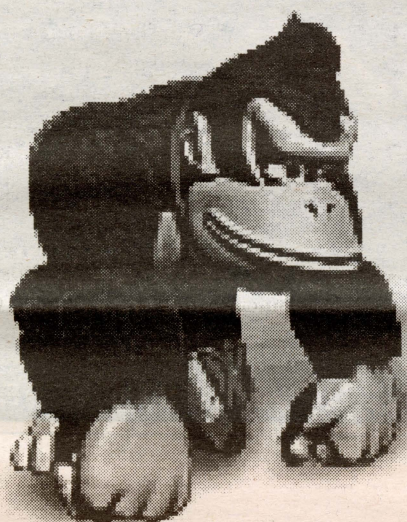
Plug-in and pull-out the *Independent* Guide to Entertainment



See Arnold.  
See Arnold  
fight evil.  
Read REV.  
Read the  
review.  
Turn to  
page 2.

## X(mas) marks the spot

by Lior Alon  
Staff Writer



Like it or not the days are becoming shorter, the weather suddenly colder, and your checking account has become a walking, talking promotion for Jenny Craig's weight loss programs. The holiday season has arrived once more. Yep, those old maxed-out pieces of plastic you carry around in your wallet shall be of great use all over again.

For those members of the readership who consider themselves computer/video game fans or who have one such person to shop for, this Yuletide will be more than sufficient. However, some disappointing trends have emerged in comparison with last year. All this talk of "the good economy" doesn't explain the apparent lack of new and exciting gaming products. 1998's holiday season was peppered with truckloads of new games and innovative gear. The approach of the end or the millennium (and thus of immense sentimental value) has left yours truly wondering what to spend my gaming dollar on- arguably a first! Two factors might serve to explain this enigma.

Between the incessant deluge of Pokemon paraphanelia and the recently arrived *Toy Story 2* army, the leisure industry has voluntarily geared itself toward catering to a younger audience. And since most game manufacturers also partake in the toy business, they have committed their resources to that segment of the market, leaving less room for cutting edge game releases. Also, another change has occurred in the gaming demographic; the industry has become more mainstream and less biased

towards the hardcore gamer.

These newcomer or casual gamers tend to go for well-established hits instead of maverick, trail blazing new titles. Together, these factors serve to limit what's offered both qualitatively and quantitatively. Having said that, the following should help sweeten the festive experience significantly.

### STUFF FOR PC NUTS

I will always prefer PC's to the consoles (N64, PS, Dreamcast etc.) for their versatility, quality and superior firepower. The Playstation I sold off almost two years ago had repetitive, unimaginative and technically inferior games that all the same were superlative party favors. Go figure. Anyway, you'll be much better off playing with your personal (computer, that is).

**Quake III Arena (id Software)** The giant 3D action franchise returns in yet another installment, this time exclusively multi-player, so torturing your friends over the holidays may be easier than buying their presents at Marshall's.

**Delta Force 2 (Novalogic)** This realistic simulation of the legendary US Army crack unit has more than enough blood 'n' bullets to satisfy any craving for field operations. It even comes with a headset to talk to your buddies in internet play. Eggnog slick.

**Half-Life Opposing Force (Gearbox/Sierra)** Semi-sequel to last year's phenomenal Half-Life. Opposing Force expands on the original's groundbreaking 3D-action formula. A must play. (you must own Half-Life to run Opposing Force, though).

**Jane's USAF (Electronic Arts)** Probably one of the most ambitious fighter plane simulations ever, it includes all current and some future jets serving this fine, mall-loving nation. Still an absolute must-buy for would-be aviators.

### PLAYSTATION'S LAST STAND

Although clearly on it's way out and about to be replaced by the imaginatively titled Playstation 2, the PS platform lingers on thanks to a huge user base, cheap hardware and addictive, if shallow, games.

A favorite among NEIU folks due to aforementioned bargains (a system and controller can be had for as little as \$79)

and Blockbuster rental opportunities. Unfortunately one can't rent intelligence...

**Resident Evil 3 (Capcom):** Playstation's flagship series returns for a third round of zombie blasting, puzzle solving, lip synching mayhem. Might scare Santa away on that fateful night, though.

**Final Fantasy VII (Square Soft):** Another PS landmark, this one emphasizes a more novel-like approach to action adventure games and has some of the best graphics seen in a PS product.

**Tomb Raider- the Last Revelation (Core/Eidos):** Featuring the well-endowed Lara Croft, *Tomb Raider's* third and final episode promises plenty of inquisitive, Indiana Jones-esque antics. After that, the augmented heroine will retire until further notice...

**Crash Team Racing (Sony):** Fun filled action racing starring the inimitable Crash Bandicoot and his posse, Crash being Sony's mascot and overall Sonic/Mario Bros.-beater. Exceedingly cool graphics!

**Get N or get some REALLY cool gaming system...**

For all its posturing, N64 never caught on in the US, or anywhere else for that matter. It has been thoroughly crushed by the PS, and also has been put

on the decommission list by Nintendo. All that cannot take from the console the simple truth of having games superior to those of its main rival. It also possesses better technology and equally amusing TV commercials. Well, you gotta give 'em that at least!

**Donkey Kong 64 (Nintendo)** When in doubt, bring the classics out. Just like Coke using that old Santa Clause edition every year like its something new, so do Nintendo refuse to let their early 80's hero go on a well deserved, prolonged leave of absence. Updating the arcade classic with 3D graphics and jazzed-up sound effects has done justice to the old design in what nowadays has become known as "heritage gaming."

**Jet Force Gemini (Rare):** Fast paced action game boasting vivid graphics and frenetic pace. But both can be found for a whole lot cheaper at any Target check-out line!

**Battle Tanx Global Assault (3DO):** Bringing to fruition the unspoken fantasy of every self-respecting American tourist in Europe, this little gem lets you blow the Eiffel Tower into smithereens. Obviously against banning nukes, the designers gleefully let players evaporate whole cities using tanks armed to the grilles with all sorts of devastating contraptions. Battle Tanx allows up to four players engage

see Games,  
page 2

It's a wild time! A screen shot from the new Donkey Kong 64





# Apocalyptic Arnie

by Lior Alon  
Staff Writer

Having been absent from the big screen for almost four years, Arnold's return as an all-out, guns-blazing action hero has allowed for a Thanksgiving weekend of extremely pleasing box office returns as well as strenuous lines at said box offices. Yes, the former Austrian Army tank driver has once more took it upon himself to save the world, this time not from Central American despots, drug lords of maniacal mainframe computers, but from the horned one himself- the devil. Quite impressive eh?

What really impresses about *End of Days* has more to do with earthly matters, though. Schwarzenegger hasn't made any significant silver screen appearances since 1996's pathetic *Eraser*, plus his toned down contribution to *Batman & Robin* (1997). Both roles saw him continue a long line of watered-down, parents-friendly, easy on the rating efforts which included enjoyable but ultimately unfitting episodes such as *Jingle All the Way* (!).

With *End*, Arnie returns to the fold big time in his best role since the original *Terminator*. This flick has a subject matter that'll border on blasphemy for many, and suitably has no qualms about being explicit in more ways than one. I don't think any

of us have ever gotten a chance to hear old Arnold say the F word so many times. Also, no forced plan to lessen the gruesome nature of the action seems to have taken place, and lest we forget the creepy dream-like sex scene featuring the devil's earthly incarnation, plus a mother and daughter team. Quite bold for a holiday season release and thus highly commendable for parting with fake norms.

To recap, the movie revolves around the devil's arrival in New York City just when the millennium draws to a close. The beast needs to locate a girl destined to bear his son, and so he must make love to her on the last hour of December 31<sup>st</sup> or his window of opportunity will close for another 1000 years.

Learning of this, the Church dispatches assassins to remove both the girl and the man walking among us (portrayed by the brilliant Gabriel Byrne). Schwarzenegger plays security specialist Jericho Cane who becomes entangled in the plot, yet refuses to accept the religious explanation: "between your faith and my Glock 9mm, I'll go with the Glock". With that attitude, Arnie eventually manages to save the world amid two hours of well directed, competently performed, and distinctly dark filmmaking. Peter Hyams (*The Relic*, *Timecop*) was born to make this type of thing,

and Arnold clearly has matured since years past, letting him put more emotion into the role, resulting in a most impressive, convincing character.

However, two things were sadly omitted from *End*, namely the prodigious gunplay evident in other Arnold movies, as well as his globally recognized line "I'll be back". What happened to that?

Taking everything into consideration, one must conclude that *End* will not set the world on fire. It contains great ingredients that, as if by black magic, fail to come together in an above average fashion. Although the supporting cast (Robin Tunney as the chosen girl and Kevin Pollack as Schwarzenegger's partner) do a very good job, it actually falls on the superlative Byrne to save the day as a most believable, and ironically amusing, Satan. Just by

looking at him act you know he had a ball doing it.

Another bright spot must be the creature design by Stan Winston, who's a legend among horror fans and terrified moviegoers such as this reviewer. He did dozens of past movies (*The Relic*, *Leviathan*, *Parasite*, and a host of others) and his vision of the final conflict between Jericho and the devil's "true" manifestation will impress even the most jaded monster spotters.

Bearing in mind the movie's praise worthy choice to refrain from conforming to the shackles of political correctness, it still needed a boost of action to become more lively. As it stands, *End of Days* offers a vivid experience, if not a memorable one. It also should have been released BEFORE Halloween, if you ask yours truly. Maybe this explains why I don't get paid Arnold-

style (\$25,000,000).

## End of Days

Beacon/Universal Pictures  
Directed by Peter Hyams  
Produced by Arnyan Bernstein and Thomas A. Bliss  
Written by Andrew A. Marlowe  
Starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Gabriel Byrne, Kevin Pollack, Robin Tunney

**FOR:** Attention to detail, rich production, excellent humor, superb creature designs, believable overall and great performances, especially by Byrne and Arnold. In-your-face attitude.

**AGAINST:** Not enough action, lack of classic Arnold one-liners, inexplicably average in most departments. OK'ish.

**OVERALL:** B Go and see it but don't expect too much.

The homeless prophet (below) wanders the streets of New York City while Jericho (Schwarzeneger) and his partner Chicago (Kevin Pollack) cruise the alleyways looking for evil.



## Games

continued from page 1

in the carnage, leaving numerous world attractions smoldering and in ruins. Kinda like the Mall of America by the 24th.

### KEEP DREAMCASTIN'

Sega's Playstation-beating, internet-ready console has only recently arrived in this country. Yet it has already managed to establish an initial beach head by offering a little beyond the typical video game features everyone expects. Holding quite the advantage over both PS and N64 technologically, the Dreamcast has yet to benefit from a fully balanced line up of game titles. If the past can be any measure, by the time Sega waked up, it'll all be over when Playstation 2 wings its way over.

**Sonic Adventure (Sega):** The venerable hedgehog makes

another appearance to demonstrate the truly inspiring capabilities possessed by Sega's Dreamcast machine. Followers of Sonic's shenanigans in years past will eat this up, and perhaps the addition of more complex gameplay elements will win new converts over from the hideous Pokemon horde.

**Speed Devils (Ubi Soft):** Possibly the best racing game on any console, *Speed Devils* should have room in any real speed freak's heart and collection. Also handy for venting holiday traffic-induced mental stress.

**NFL 2000 (Visual Concepts):** A really stunning simulation of the gridiron encompassing all the vital aspects and getting you ready for that big day early next year.

Happy holidays and merry spending, err, gaming!

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## Hello, my name is Andy, and this is my soundtrack

by Lior Alon  
Staff Writer

Though legendary improv performer and regular Saturday Night Live member Andy Kaufman has carved himself a niche in the American psyche, most people today have little knowledge or recollection of who he really was. Frequently misunderstood and more often than not rejected (Kaufman was actually VOTED off both the Letterman show and SNL by their respective viewers), Andy was all the same an innovative artist, at times hilarious comedian and always possessing a touch of mystery.

The Milos Forman movie *Man on the Moon*, which comes out December 22, centers around Kaufman's relatively brief career up to his tragic death of cancer in May 1984. Many may wonder what exactly warranted the making of a

big budget movie about such a controversial individual, but it is expected that the production will probably do quite well at the theaters, especially since Jim Carey got the role of Kaufman. That was probably the easiest part of making the movie - Carey's style and success owe a lot to Andy Kaufman.

The film naturally comes adorned with its own soundtrack. The CD will shed some light on the whole Kaufman riddle for many, as it includes an appearance by him and by people who were close to him or inspired by him.

Typically, movie soundtracks need to be greeted with suspicion as nowadays they seldom have anything concrete to do with the film in question. This one has to be one of the best soundtracks in a long while, and thus even if it does stick to the usual movie score formula we'll forgive it that shortcoming.

Made up of 15 tracks, the album

doesn't really have any significant weaknesses. It contains the fabulous new single by R.E.M., *The Great Beyond*, which by itself makes buying this record worthwhile. Additionally, R.E.M. have contributed the title track, *Man on the Moon* (off their *Automatic For the People* album) and several outstanding instrumental pieces of a heartbreakingly emotive disposition.

Put together, the various parts of the R.E.M. element really carry this CD through, yet it remains unclear what their connection to Andy Kaufman was to begin with.

Other gems include the theme from *Taxi*, *Kiss you All Over* by Exile, and the original Mighty Mouse theme song. As if that wasn't good enough, we get to hear (and keep) an amazing recording featuring R.E.M., Kaufman and his lifelong friend, mentor and counterpart Tony Clifton singing

*This Friendly World*.

Only two songs feature Andy exclusively, but a delicious extra comes to us in the form of an absolutely gorgeous instrumental version of *Man on the Moon*.

Add to this exquisite brew a bunch of connecting sequences straight from the movie and you'll see both why you should buy this disc and see the movie, as well as why the memory of Kaufman needs to be kept and enjoyed. His premature death was a blow not just to his family and friends, but equally so to creative art.

The soundtrack does a top-notch job of delivering faithful replicas of several spirits- that of the time in which Kaufman lived and operated, the spirit of his existence, and the funny but sad spirit of the upcoming Warner movie release.

Even if you have no idea who Andy was, what he stands for or why the heck you should even

bother with the movie three days before Christmas, you still need to pick the CD up for its sheer quality and inspiration.

*Man on the Moon Soundtrack*  
Warner Bros.

**MUSIC:** A an excellent assortment of original music, older classics and awesome instrumental music of the highest accord. Moving as well as joyful.  
**LYRICS:** A just listen to the irony of *This Friendly World* to experience the true essence of intelligent thought. All the other vocal pieces share a similar level of quality.

**PRODUCTION:** B some of the older recordings sound slightly off, but that might've been intentional.

**OVERALL:** A an instant classic despite the limitation of being a soundtrack.

### Play Review

## "Fifth" does a bang-up job

by Lina Khalil  
Special Contributor

And they're off. Yet another Main Stage is in full swing at the Stage Center Theater. *5<sup>th</sup> of July*, written by Lanford Wilson and directed by our very own, Kevin Long, had it's opening night Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The show is based in the 1970's shortly after the Vietnam War that impacted all of the United States. The characters are comprised of: June and Kenneth Talley Jr. (brother and sister); Sally Friedman, aunt, Shirley Talley, daughter of June; Jed Jenkins, Kenneth's lover; Gwen and John Landis, long time friends; and Weston Hurly, Gwen's musical advisor/ agent.

The show takes place at Ken's home, the weekend of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the whole family and the friends have gathered to celebrate, catch up on each other's news and most importantly, to spread the ashes of the late husband of Sally. Gwen and John have an added agenda, to buy the house from Ken.

Everything from disability to homosexuality to drug use is splendidly portrayed by these talented actors and of course, no play should run without the one or two characters that are trying to "make it big." The arts in this case Gwen and her music and Shirley and her acting. All in

all, the actors were on target throughout the whole show, which is pretty impressive for an opening night.

Our own set designer, Bob Smith, has wowed us again with the green and grassy back patio of this set.

No show should perform without Tina Haglund's fashion expertise. Costumes were a riot

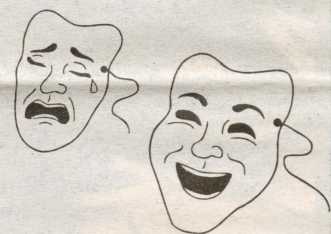
with Shirley's overly dressy dresses and Gwen's period disco outfits.

This show is filled with life affirming moments, commitment to reality and the responsibilities that come along with it. No one should miss this performance, not even for finals. The show runs from now until the weekend after finals, so everyone come on out

and see *5<sup>th</sup> of July*.

Shows are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights starting at 7:30 p.m. Remaining show dates are December 9-11, 16-18 at the Stage Center in building F. NEIU students free with ID, other students \$6, general admission \$8. Reserve tickets by stopping by the Stage Center box office or just call (773) 794 - 6652.

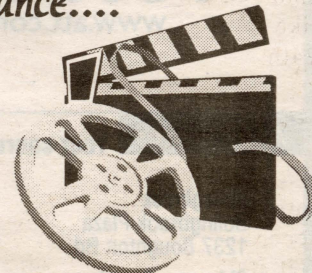
The Talley family gather together for a very memorable Fourth of July. From left to right are Shirley (Sarah Getzov), June (Roxanne Saylor), Ken (Michael S. Warren), Sally (Dee Dee Wright), and Jed (Aaron Reichert).



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# Final probing remarks

## The Preamble

First of all, please allow me to apologize for not submitting an article for the last edition. I say that equally to the editor and staff of the *Independent* as to my 13 loyal readers (my therapist, my 11 friends in Dr. Brommel's Group Discussion Class and my mom). All 13 of you know that my article has always taken a light-hearted, "Awe-Shucks" sort of look at college life. This article will take a sudden departure from that genre.

## The Thesis

What in the Hell is going on around here? Who runs this school? Who is empowered to make the decisions that effects us? While those are rhetorical questions, I assume that the answers to those questions are "us." This is OUR school. We, by our participation in the programs conducted by this institution and through our paying of taxes, are the embodiment OF the school. Northeastern is not the same as, say "Sam's Meat Market," which is a sole proprietorship. Since Sam is the owner, he can decide to raise the price of Ground Chuck to \$2.39 a pound, and no one can tell him he can't.

There is no "Sam Board" that he has to meet with; he just raises the price. The University of Northeastern Illinois is not a sole proprietorship. There are other

people that are allowed to be involved in the decision making process. Yet, when it came to the issue of the willow trees, it seems as though we have slipped into a state of "Sam-dom."

In a previous issue of the *Independent*, we learned how Director of Facilities Management Joseph Kish decided that the willow trees were not "user-friendly" or some other psycho-babble and had to be removed. It was only when the student body began to protest that the statement was revised: "Oh yeah, did we forget to tell you, the roots from the willow trees are causing pipe damage?" Over the next several issues of the *Independent*, articles and letters were written and a photo essay was prepared stating that it would be a shame for the willow trees to be removed.

There was even a letter by Bob Wulkowicz, a contributing writer, who stated that he knew to an absolute certainty that the tree structure could be altered so that the roots and the pipes could live in harmony. We even heard, "don't worry about it, these things TAKE TIME! The removal process has to go out to bid, estimates have to be prepared, the board has to review it, and blah-blah-blah!" No one will decide ANYTHING until AT LEAST the middle of the Spring semester, and THEN they can't yank the poor old trees out because the

GROUND will be frozen."

Taking all of that into consideration, imagine my horror when I came around the corner of the Student Union Building and found the willow trees gone! The true irony was, I had just completed reading the article that Mr. Wulkowicz wrote to the *Independent* and was preparing to write him a letter asking him to elaborate on his theories.

Am I the only one that thinks that this is odd? I certainly am not trying to take anything away from Mr. Wulkowicz, but if he can figure out how to modify the willow trees simply and inexpensively, why can't the Facilities and Management office do so, as well? Could it be that Facilities and Management office did know and didn't care? Could it be that they wanted the trees out and "who cares what anybody else wants?"

Mediated discourses are wonderful things. They allow a few empty-barreled big mouths (myself included) to look as though they have a platform and the support of millions. This may be one such example. And, to be fair to the school, it would create a huge bottle-neck if they had to do focus groups every time they wanted to change the color of the wallpaper in the cloak closets. However, I hope that someone is paying attention, before the voice of the people gets stepped on again.

# Congrats to Trustees

I am grateful to NEIU Student Trustee Thomas J. Foley for writing in his Quarterly Report that was in the November 9, 1999 *Independent* about his Beautification Committee having asked the people in the Facilities Management Department (Assistant Vice President Kish, Mr. Zia and Mr. Murray [sic]) to take clippings from the willow trees in the B-wing courtyard and initiate a replanting program next season. All of this came about due to the suggestion of one concerned student. I further appreciate that *Independent* News Editor Victor A. Dula wrote in this same edition that I put together a compromise that came from the October 29, 1999 meeting. I ever so much look forward to these new trees taking root and flourishing.

I commend President Maria A. Gandara's Student Government Association for, as News Editor

Dula reported in the November 23, 1999 issue, passing Chair Foley's Beautification Committee report's recommendations, even though it functions retroactively.

Much praise goes to the NEIU Board [of] Trustees Chair Daniel L. Goodwin, as written about by Editor in Chief Laura R. Hadley in the November 23, 1999 publication for approving about \$250,000 needed for remodeling of the B-wing courtyard. I am so happy such fine things are happening at our most excellent Northeastern Illinois University, under President Salme H. Steinberg. For more details about the plans for this courtyard, there is a very nice diagram and explanation in one of the windows near the northeast corner of the B-wing courtyard.

-Linda R. Berlow

# For lesser blues: buy two gifts and deliver in the morning

Dear Mr. Foley (and to anyone who has the Christmas Blues):

Pursuant to your article *Holiday Season has Lost its Meaning* (The *Independent*, Nov30, 1999), let your dear old gray-haired Uncle Jamey reawaken your Holiday Spirit. First, go to the Post Office downtown (they may do it at the branches, too). In the lobby, they have boxes of letters from boys and girls who live in Chicago whose parents are poor. They write letters to the "North Pole" or to Santa Claus asking for toys or clothes for Christmas. If you can't get downtown, call them up and tell them what you are looking for. They will be happy send you as many letters as you want (they can DO that, THEY are the POST OFFICE!).

Second, go to the toy store and BUY TOYS! Buy cheap stuff: little cars and hair combs. Go the "The Dollar Store". Buy as much junk as you can carry! You may end up not getting the kids the toys even ask for; they sometimes have rather extravagant tastes. But it doesn't matter WHAT you buy them! It beat what they were going to get in the first place! NOTHING! (Another hint, when you are in the store, ask for the manager, and show him or her the letter. Tell him/her what you are doing and ask for a discount. Tell him/her that if s/he gives it to you, you will merely buy more toys). If you are broke, but you know that your little brother or sister has toys that they don't play with and are in good condition, use them.

Third (here's where you have a choice. Let's call this first one 3 A). Put them in a box and mail it to them. BUT! If you want a REAL THRILL, use 3 b) Get in your car and DELIVER THEM! Go early in the morning (around 9:00 or 9:30) on a Saturday or Sunday. Do it right, don't tell them they are from you, tell

them you are a deliveryman and you have a package from "The North Pole". If you are lucky, the kids will open them in front of you. If you find that the kids live in a bad neighborhood, and you fear being there, go to the local police station. Tell them what you are doing and ask them to send you over there in a squad car. They will be happy to do it. The officer will even go into the house with you.

Seems simple, huh? It is! And you know what? If you do that, do you know what you will be? You will be the personification of "Saint Nick" Himself! YOU, my Friend will BECOME Santa Claus! You will see your reflection in store windows and you won't RECOGNIZE yourself! Forget all of that poopie about Mick Jaeger and Marshall Fields and all of those other inferences you made in your article. Change a life!

You are right when you say that the world has gone nuts! But that doesn't mean YOU have to go with them! Froget about Rudolph and Stinkey the Magic Elf. Follow my simple recipe, and I guarantee that YOU will get Christmas Back! From then on, Christmas will live in your heart!

## 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

In the summer of 1995, a slightly gray-haired man visited Northeastern's campus. He was looking for a four-year college where he could inexpensively complete three Gen Ed classes. Those classes would eventually be transferred to Columbia College, where he was pursuing a Bachelor's Degree. Since he didn't know that St. Louis Avenue was a "no parking" zone, he parked illegally on the west side of the street and entered the A-wing through their easternmost doors. He walked through the A building, through the tunnel that goes to the Bee Hive Building, down another hall and past the book-store. By the time he got to the Information Booth in the Student Union Building, he knew he found something special. I know this story very well, for, you see, that man is....well....me!

I would eventually complete the three classes, as well the Bachelor's Degree at Columbia, but through it all, I couldn't wait to come back to Northeastern. The idea of going to Graduate School didn't appeal to me at first, but it was a good way

to, once again, become a student here. Graduate School isn't easy, but nothing worth while ever is. Just like you and your academic career, there were plenty of cramming for exams, substituting Faulkner for Bears games and an all-nighter or two. But any time it got too hard, all I had to do was walk through the Commuter Center, swim in the pool in the Physical Education building or gaze at the Bee Hive Building, and it all seemed okay.

During my time here, I have been allowed to do many wonderful things. I have written plenty of excellent papers, I have produced and directed three wonderful videos and have written this column for the entire semester. I was able to do these things, not because I am such a brilliant scholar, but because, to quote Nicolaus Copernicus, "I have seen more clearly than others, for I have stood on the shoulders of giants."

On Dec. 19, a long road will be completed for me, for it is on that day that a Master's Degree in Speech will be bestowed upon me. In the years to come, another

student will sit in my desk, my projects will end up in a cardboard box and someone else will assume my job at the newspaper. No doubt, they will be able to pen the views of the Northeastern student more eloquently and more succinctly than I. However, maybe through the work that I have done here, through the friends that I have made and through my involvement at the *Independent*, a portion of me will stay here at Northeastern. Certainly, a large portion of Northeastern will stay with me.

Congratulations to the graduating class of Dec. 1999. As you leave these hallowed halls, take these words of Winston Churchill with you, when he said: "This is not beginning of the end, this is not the end of the end, rather, this is the end of the beginning!" Good Luck, Graduates, in all of your future endeavors.

It is with these humble words that I formally resign as the Opinion Editor of the *Independent*. Thank you for allowing me to share my views of the school with my fellow students. It has been one of the high points of my time at Northeastern.

## QUOTABLES

The great man is he who does not lose his child-heart.

Mencius

Never does the human soul appear so strong and noble as when it forgoes revenge and dares to forgive an injury.

E. H. Chapin

If a window of opportunity appears, don't pull down the shade.

Tom Peters

There have always been hard times. There have always been wars and troubles-famine, disease and such-like-and some folks are born with money, some with non. In the ne dit is up to the man that he becomes, and non of those other things matters. It is character that counts.

Louis L'Amour

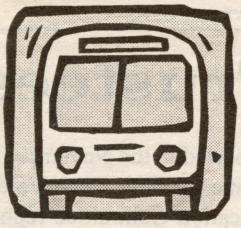
No physician is really good before he has killed one or two patients.

Hindu proverb

It is a pity so many people get a college training without getting an education.

Washington Post





# ***The Commuter***

Your *Independent* Guide to Features

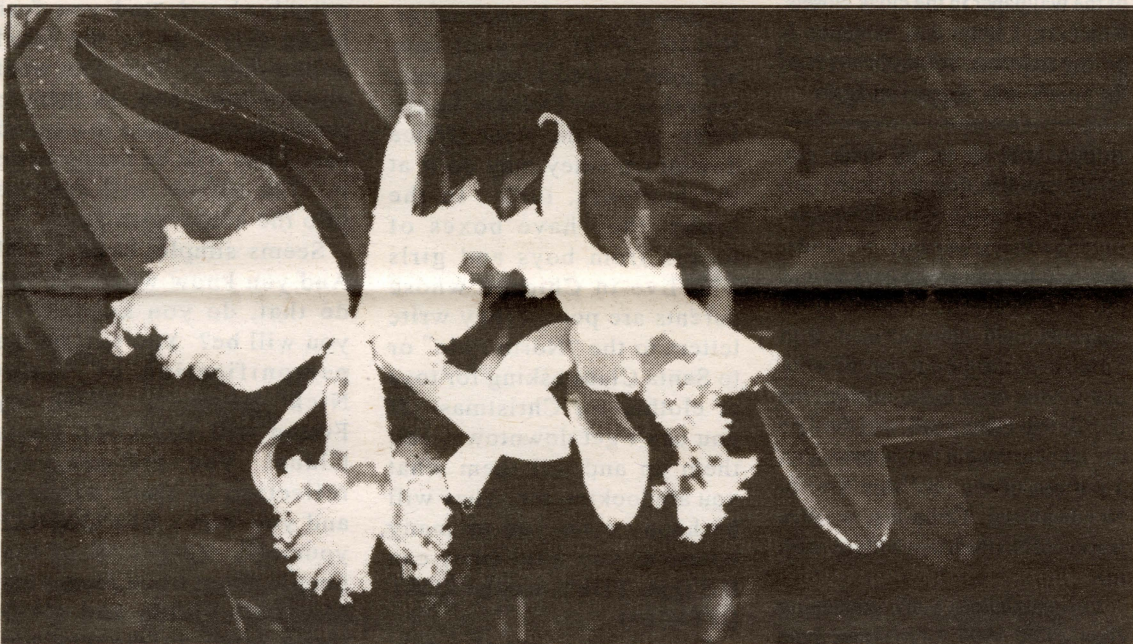
## **A touch of green(red, white, pink, yellow ...)**

Many students on the NEIU campus don't realize the top floor of the Science building hosts a fully functioning greenhouse.



The greenhouse is run by the Biology Department.

Among the scientific benefits of the space: the ability to leave the rest of the world behind and enjoy beautiful flora during the winter months.



Red geraniums (top, right) highlight these full views of the greenhouse. Orchids, including the one below and the Cattelya Orchid (above) help give the greenhouse a wonderful fragrance.



photos by Dianne Mogilevsky





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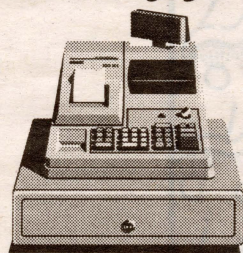
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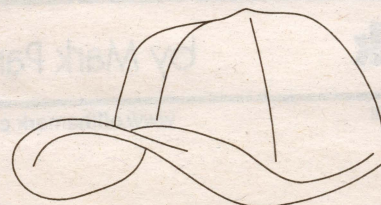
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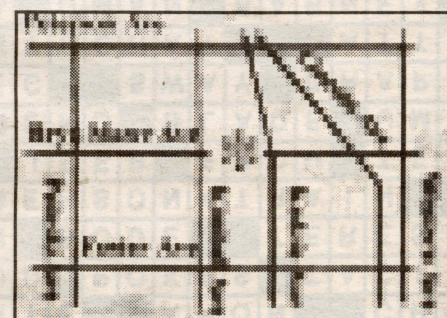
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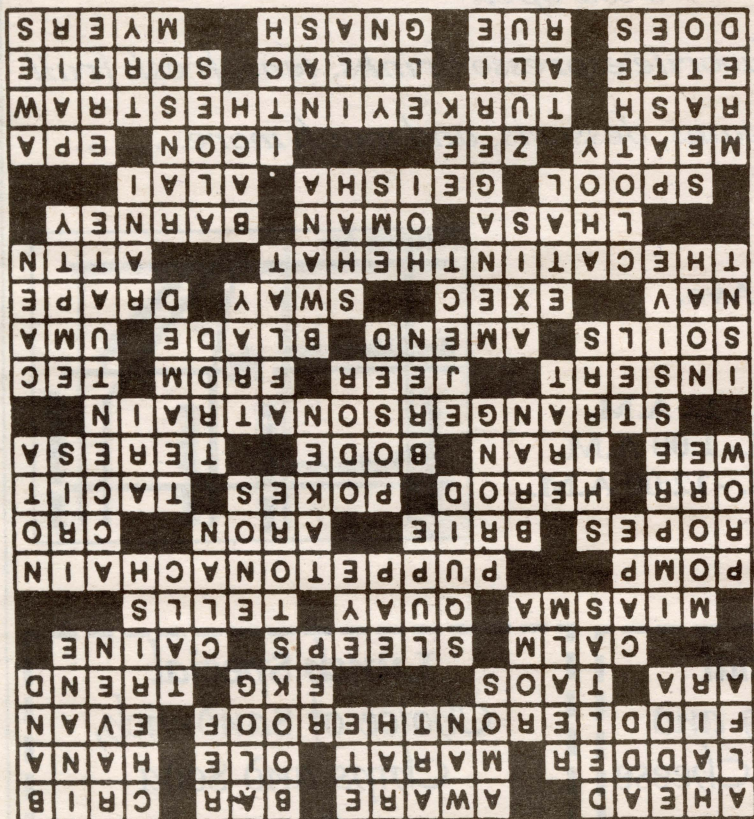
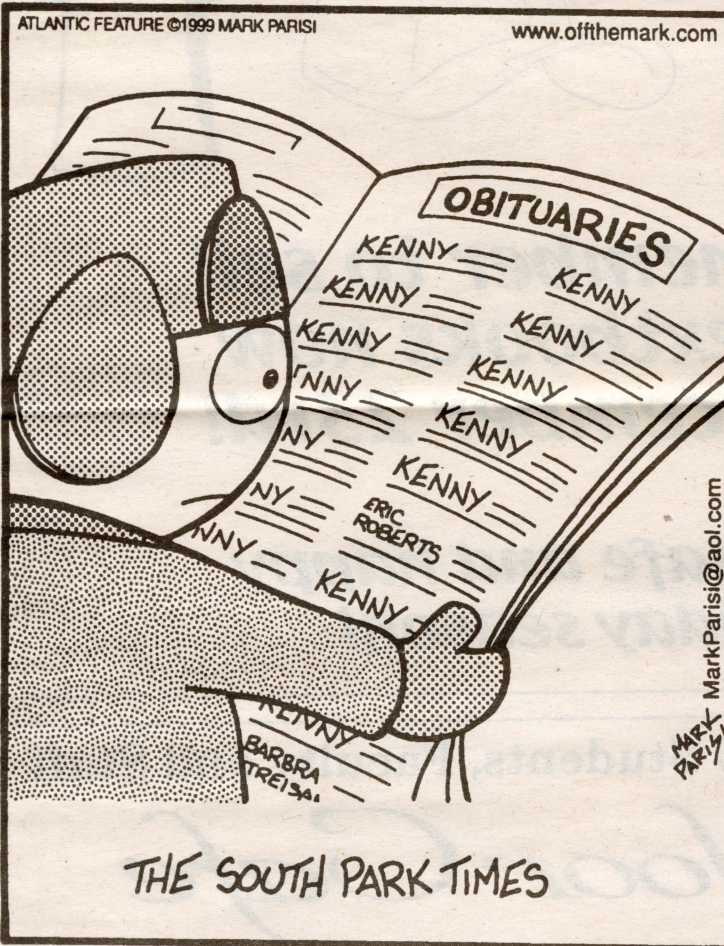
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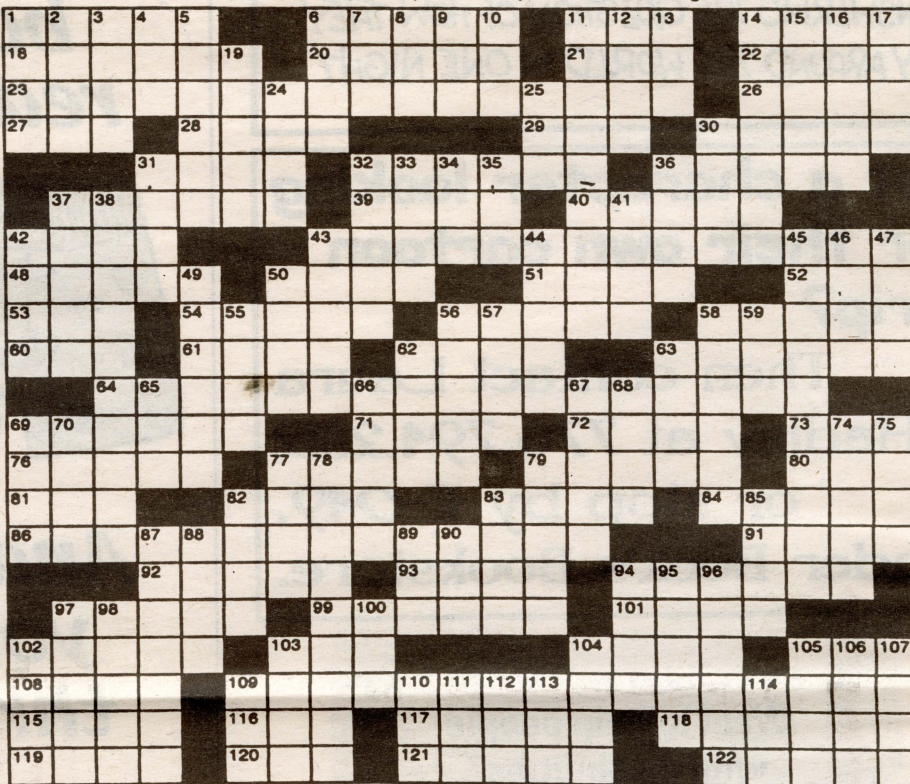
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Answers to Super Crossword

Super Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Winning 6 In the know 11 Ingot 14 Nursery furniture 18 Hook's mate 20 Corday's prey 21 Flamenco dancer's shout 22 Mandlikova of tennis 23 "Sunrise Sunset" musical 26 Writer Hunter 27 Southern constellation 28 New Mexico resort 29 Med. test 30 Statistical focus 31 Unruffle 32 Reposes 36 Michael of "Little Voice" 37 Noxious atmosphere 39 Dock 40 Unburdens oneself 42 Ostentation 43 Alistair MacLean bestseller 48 On the (defenseless) 50 Soft cheese 51 Schoenberg's "Moses und —" 52 —Magnon 53 Benjamin of The Cars 54 "Salome" character 56 Elbows 58 Implied 60 Like a balm 61 Persia, today 62 Augur 63 Stratas or Stich-Randall 64 Hitchcock opus 69 Newspaper circular 71 Deride 72 Starting at 73 Gumshoe 76 Dirties 77 Impose Prohibition, e.g. 79 Propeller part 80 Actress Thurman 81 Part of USNA 82 Small businessman? 83 Fluctuate 84 Dais covering 86 Kiddie-lit classic 91 Envelope abbr. 92 — apso 93 Neighbor of Saudi Arabia 94 Rubble or Fife 97 Bobbin 99 Kyoto companion 101 Jai — 102 Thought-provoking 103 Our omega 104 Sacred image 105 Air-quality org. 106 Hasty 109 Old folk song 115 Kitchen addition? 116 Clay, later 117 Pale purple 118 Combat mission 119 Carries out 120 Regret 121 Grind one's teeth 122 Mike of "Austin Powers" DOWN 1 — Romeo 2 It grows on you 3 Snorri's stories 4 Count up 5 Corinthian consonants 6 — & Andrew ("93 film) 7 Pallid 8 Cunning 9 Stadium shout 10 Nice season 11 Where to find romance 12 Easy as falling off — 13 Part pugilists 14 '66 Association hit 15 Glossy black 16 Pointless 17 Simple ring 19 Domain 24 Downey of "Touched by an Angel" 25 Agt. 30 Lauder powder 31 Promontory 32 Cuttlefish kin 33 Velez of "Mexican Spitfire" 34 "Annabel Lee" monogram 35 Pupil's place 36 Tribe 37 Opera's Grace 38 Striking 41 Cain's nephew 42 Freighter front 43 Pitchfork part 44 Spoken for 45 Stress 46 Author Murdoch 47 — creature was stirring... 49 Prepares eggs 50 Grain husk 55 Part of Q.E.D. 56 Emulated Elle 57 Scent 58 — up (united) 59 "Exodus" protagonist 62 Submachine gun 63 Walked 65 — Aviv 66 VCR button 67 Black piano key 68 Hors d'oeuvre holder 69 "It — Right" ("56 song) 70 First zookeeper? 74 TV's — Nest 75 Columnist Herb 77 Geometry term 78 Williams' was glass 79 Botswana bigwig 82 List ender 83 Asian title 85 Asian title 87 Duds 88 Crow's-nest cry 89 — polloi 90 Printer's measures 94 Cantata composer 95 Fugard's "A Lesson from —" 96 Liberation 97 Cold-war assn. 98 Ersatz emerald 100 Cartoon cry 102 Hoarse horse? 103 South African native 104 Craving 105 "Harper's Bazaar" artist 106 Brace 107 Blows away 109 Gob 110 Actress Taina 111 Chinese principle 112 Stevedores' grp. 113 Advisory org. 114 Go for it



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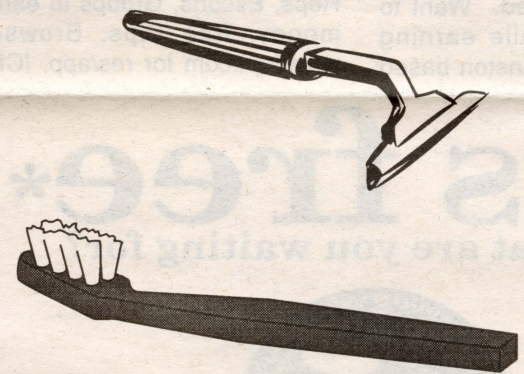
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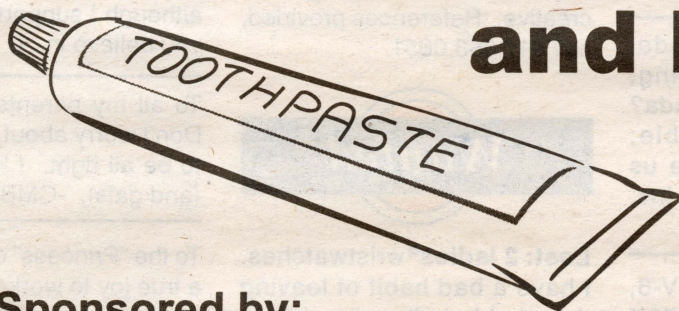
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