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Independent- Feb. 22, 2000

Laura R. Hadley

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Independent

Vol. 16 Issue 13

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Tuesday, February 22, 2000

**Black History
Debate
Opinions**

**DuSable Museum
tour
Features**

**Movie
Madness
REV**

Tuskegee Airman speaks at NEIU

Andrea D. Graham
by Contributing Writer

Aviation Historian Rufus A. Hunt was invited to appear at the Northeastern Illinois University Campus on February 8. His appearance was sponsored by the Northeastern Programming Board (NPB) as a highlight of Black History Month Presentation.

He gave accounts and stories of notable African American personages who were intricately involved in the development of Aviation Aerospace Industry.

Most notably, Hunt told the attentive audience of 25 students and school faculty members about Paul Lawrence Dunbar. He was a classmate of Orville Wright and had handled many of the business affairs of Orville and Wilbur Wright who were the brothers credited with inventing the first heavier than air flying machine.

Other stories were about Bessie Coleman who journeyed to France in order to enter the field of aviation. Eugene Jacques Bullard flew with the French Airforce in World War I. Cornelius Coffey, in collaboration with his wife Willa Beatrice Brown, operated the Coffey School of Aeronautics in Chicago. They were awarded the Civilian Pilot Training Contract issued by the United States Government prior to World War II. Graduates of this program provided the nucleus of the

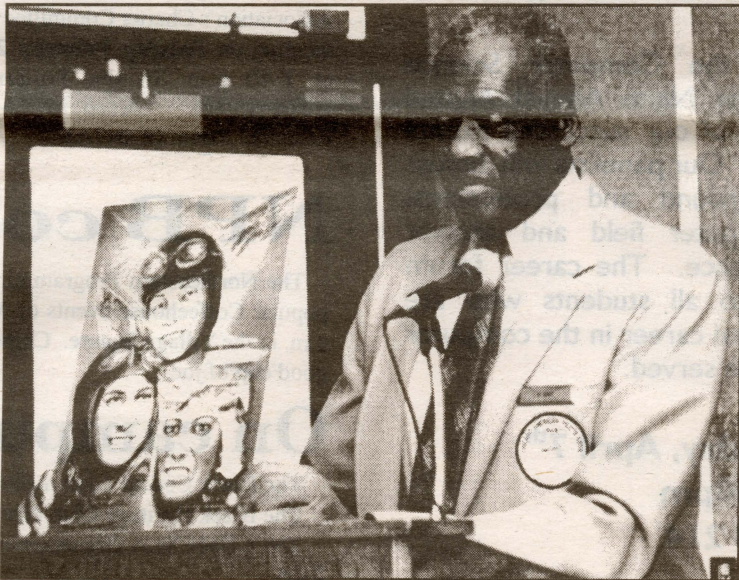
Tuskegee Military effort. The integrated program also trained many of the white women pilots who flew in the Women's Auxiliary Army Airforce at the onset of World War II.

Each year, Chicago observes a special tribute honoring Aviation's Pioneer Colorful Women - Bessie Coleman, Willa Brown and Janet Harmon. This year's observance will be April 29 at Lincoln Cemetery, 123rd and Kedzie Ave. in Alsip. The ceremony begins at 1 p.m.

NEIU Black Heritage Gospel Choir was invited by Hunt to perform at this year's ceremony. A formation of airplanes will fly over Lincoln Cemetery with two airplanes peeling off to perform

low passes over the grave sites of the two celebrated women.

The experimental Aircraft Association is currently involved in a world wide program to introduce young people, ages 7 - 17 to aviation related career goals. They provide FREE airplane rides as part of the process. The Chicago 'dodo' Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. conducts this program every second Sunday of each month. The goal is to fly one million young people by the year 2003. Meigs Field is the airport most convenient for Chicago area young people. For more information, contact the Chicago 'DODO' Chapter at 312.409.5621.



Rufus A. Hunt spoke to an audience of 25 students and faculty members about the Tuskegee Airmen and a special tribute honoring Bessie Coleman, Willa Brown and Janet Harmon, three women influential to aviation.

Students needled LifeSource and Health Services drain NEIU

by Brian Blaszkowski
Staff Writer

By the age of 72, 95% of the population will need blood. However, only 5% of those eligible to donate blood actually do so. Given the fact that odds are you will need blood at some point in your life, you should be more than willing to donate some of your own to those in need.

On Valentine's Day, Lifesource visited Northeastern to conduct a blood drive. Their goal was to get 35 donations, but they surpassed that with a surprising 53 donations. Overall, 71 people attempted to donate. 18 were rejected for various reasons (sickness, anemia, etc.) Receiving 53 donations was up from last year, when in October, Lifesource received 50. The word

is out, and more people are giving blood. It's quick, relatively painless, and very rewarding.

A Northeastern student, who is a repeat donor, claims, "It's the right thing to do." She also has remarked that she will give blood in the future, and encourages people to follow suit. A first time donor, freshman Bahrija Hadzic, says that her motivation was, "...doing the right thing." She too has vowed to continue donating when opportunity arises.

One doesn't have to wait for the Blood Mobile to come around to donate, however. There are many sites for donations in Chicago. Children's Memorial Hospital and the Thompson Center are but a few of the many sites around the Chicago area. With so many

locations, it is hard to understand why people would still refuse to give someone the blood they so desperately need.

One non-donor cites her reason as, "I'm afraid of needles. It probably hurts like hell, too." Not so. Lifesource MUA (Mobile Unit Assistant) Efrain Morales states, "Giving blood is quick, painless, and very beneficial. Each unit of blood drawn, which is about one pint, helps 3 different people. Put your fears aside, and give it a try."

Need more reasons for donating? Listen to Cathy Kuenstler, head nurse of Health Services at Northeastern. "There is always a need for blood. Despite the season, month, year, time...someone always needs blood." Why refuse to help

see Needled, page 5

Speak Out! Be heard Student centered learning: concept to commitment

by Zeenat Desai
Staff Writer

Imagine having your own little world filled with continental breakfasts, stress-free zones complete with massage therapists, a *Chillout Zone* made especially for quiet time to yourself, catchy music and, best of all, having everyone listen to you and your needs all day long. *The Great Campus Speak Out* scheduled for March 2, also known as University Day, is basically all those things squeezed into one day. This year, University Day's theme is "Student Centered Learning: From Concept to Commitment." Led by a dedicated team of co-chairs and committee members, University Day is anticipated to be a fun-filled day that caters to student needs and problems.

The five co-chairs of the University Day team include Sandra Beyda, Linda Chenault, Tony Courier, Laura Hadley, and David Leaman. Together, with many other devoted committee members at their sides, these co-chairs have devised an impressive and awe-inspiring day that is both fun and beneficial to students and faculty. They have been aspiring towards this day since early Fall; extensive planning began as early as September.

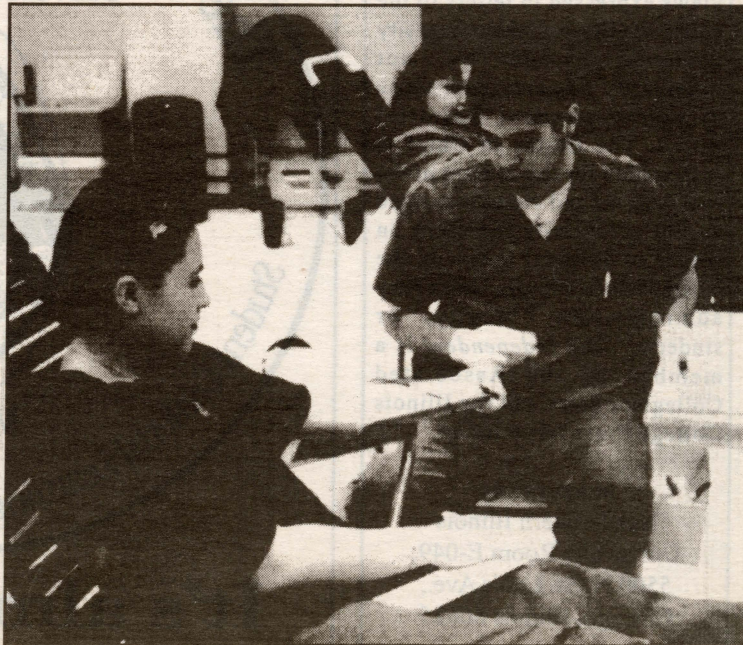
"We want students to have the opportunity to give feedback," remarked Courier, a moderator and co-chair. "We are aiming to make the day more interactive and fun, and we encourage participation from everyone." Courier went on to comment on the various activities of the day, which include a workout zone

from 10:15-4:30, icebreaker exercises led by Daniel Creely, a stress-free zone which includes a massage therapist from 9:00-3:00, a balloon creation artist, and other events. "We have been working on it for about six months now, and we hope to make it a great day for the students and faculty."

Sandra Beyda, a faculty member from the College of Special Education and a co-chair for the university's event commented on the town meetings and forums for University Day. She conveyed that University Day will be broken down into different core issues, which were identified in a survey from students as important concerns. These concerns include class scheduling and availability of classes, faculty availability, more weekend classes, parking and transportation, academic support (advising, tutoring, working with caring faculty members, and overall better quality service), balancing classes with work schedules, time management, and stresses such as money, child care, and study time.

Beyda feels that the input of students is extremely important when posing solutions. "One of the benefits of the student input is that it will be taken to a joint meeting of the Provost Counsel, Student Affairs Committees, and various other administrations on the campus. The intent is to take action on these issues. A lot of action has already been taken, and we want to continue to improve the University experience for students. Every different resource group will be equipped with

see Speak Out, page 5



A Lifesource technician walks a student through the process of giving blood.



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9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

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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.

Independent,

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

Around Campus

compiled by Thomas J. Foley, Features Editor

Events of a special nature

As part of the celebration of Black History Month, there will be a panel discussion on Tuesday, February 22 at 1:40 p.m. in the Cafeteria Meeting Room.

The Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS) is hosting BOMBAZO, a cultural expression on Thursday, February 24, from 6 to 9 p.m. in Alumni Hall.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is hosting *Accentuate the Arts*, a dance. Learn the latest steps in Hip Hop, R & B, Old School, Upbeat Rock and Electric Slide. The dance will take place on Thursday, February 24 at 1:40 p.m. in the Village Square.

The Black Heritage Club is hosting a '70's Theme Party on Thursday, February 24 at 8 p.m. in Alumni Hall. Call Student Activities at ext. 3868 for more information.

Monday, February 28 begins

Islamic Awareness Week, presented by the Muslim Student Association. On Monday at noon, check out Alumni Hall for a luncheon. On Tuesday, February 29, check out the Cultural Art Exhibit from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. in Alumni Hall. Wednesday and Thursday sees two lectures on Islamic issues, so don't miss it.

A Literary Slam will be held on Tuesday, February 29 at 7 p.m. in the Cafeteria Meeting Room. Don't miss it.

Dr. Deepak Chopra will be appearing at NEIU on Saturday, March 4. There will be a lecture at 7 p.m. followed by a reception at 9 p.m. in Alumni Hall. NEIU student discount prices are as follows: VIP lecture seating, reception and autographed book, \$220; lecture and reception, \$120; lecture only \$30. All proceeds benefit the Chicago Sister Cities International Program.

NINTH ANNUAL COMPUTER SCIENCE ALUMNI CAREER PANEL

On Friday, April 7th, the Computer Science Department will host the Ninth Annual Alumni Career Panel with some of our successful alumni participating on the panel. Our panelists will discuss their educational background and professional experience in the computer field and answer questions from the audience. The career forum should be of interest to all students who are preparing for a professional career in the computer field. Refreshments will be served.

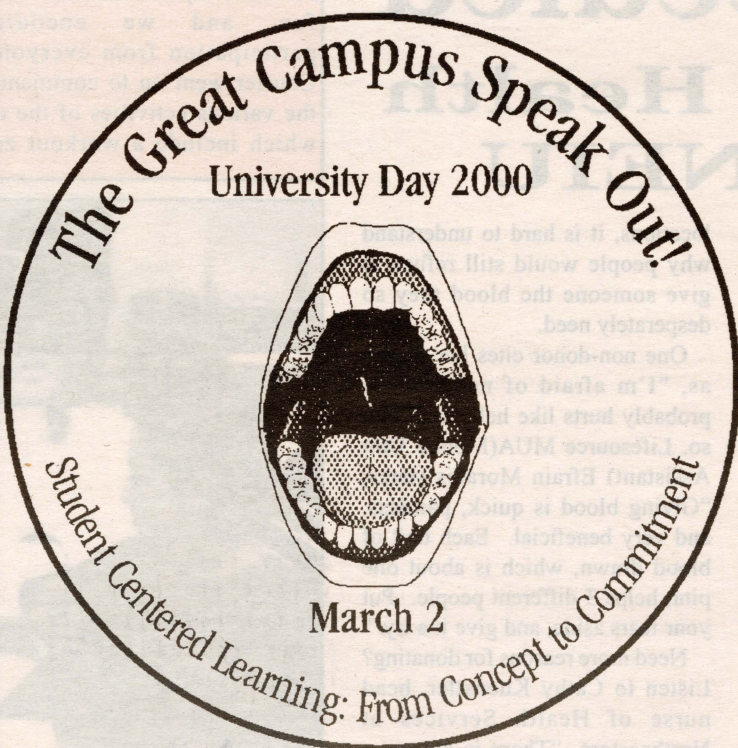
When: Friday, April 7th

Time: 1:00pm

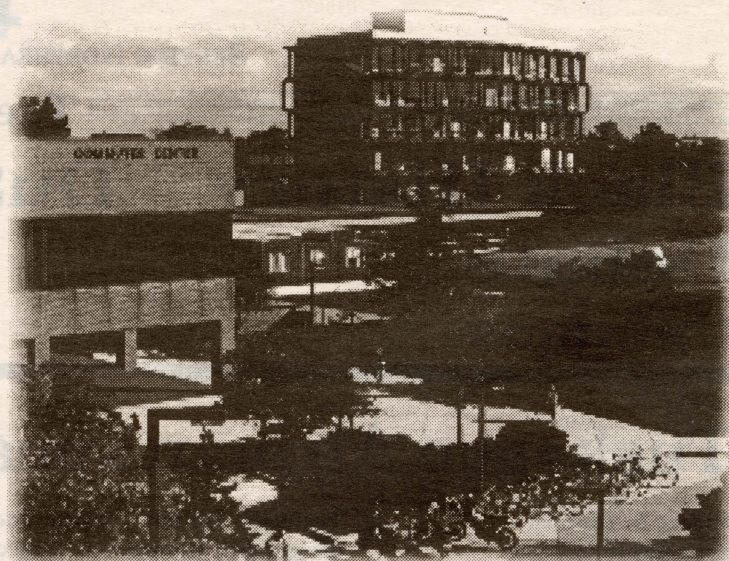
Where: SU 214

Session Coordinator: Professor Christina Georgakis, Computer Science Dept.

Sponsored by: Computer Science Department and Career Placement Office



It's almost here!



SGA

The Student Government Association is having a Student Senate meeting on Tuesday, March 7 at 1:40 p.m. in the Cafeteria Meeting Room. Find out what your elected officials are up to.

The Student Government Association's Beautification Committee is meeting on Monday, February 28 at 1 p.m. The place is yet to be announced.

The Student Government Association's Finance Committee is meeting on Tuesday, March 2 at 1:40 p.m. in CLS-3005.

The Student Government Association's Charter Committee is meeting on Tuesday, February 22 at 1:40 p.m. in the Student Government Association's Resource Room (E-047A).

Performances

The NEIU Children's Theatre Workshop is presenting *Anastasia and Drizella*, a play. It will run every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 10:30 a.m. in the Stage Center Theatre. Call 773-794-6132 for reservations and ticket information.

The Dining Room, A. R. Gurney's prize-winning comic-drama, opens Thursday, February 24 at the Stage Center Theatre. The show runs Thursdays through Saturdays for three weekends. Show time is 7:30 p.m. and admission is free for NEIU students. Call ahead to reserve your ticket today (773-794-6652).

In a tribute to Black History Month, the female jazz ensemble, She, will perform at NEIU on Friday, February 25 at 8 p.m. in the Recital Hall. The music of Duke Ellington, Billy Strayhorn and others will be performed. For ticket information, call 773-794-2787.

NPB coffee time

The Northeastern Programming Board is hosting another of its ever-popular Coffeehouse events on Wednesday, February 23 from 3 to 7:30 p.m. in the Village Square. Come hear blues singer Keith Scott and sip a good cup of joe.

On campus club scene

The Black Caucus Club meets Tuesdays at 1:40 p.m. in CLS-3106.

The Black Heritage Club meets Thursdays at 1:40 p.m. in CLS-3081.

The CHMEXLA Organization meets Tuesdays at 1:40 p.m. in CLS-2105.

The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance meets the second Tuesday and fourth Thursday of every month. Contact ext. 3308 for more information.

The Hip Hop Organization meets Thursdays at 1:40 p.m. in FA-152.

The Student Association for Bilingual Bicultural Education (SABBE) is meeting on Tuesday, February 22, at 1:40 p.m. in CLS-3094.

A special reminder

The deadline for submissions of abstracts for the *Eighth Annual Student Research and Creative Activities Symposium* is Wednesday, February 23! Contact the steering committee for more information. Sample abstracts are available on-line at www.neiu.edu/~srcas.

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 Spring/Summer 2000 semesters

February 22
March 7
March 30
April 4
April 18
May 30
June 13
June 27
July 11
July 25

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

College of Arts and Sciences focus' on the right track

By Maria Raigoza
Staff Writer

On January 28, 2000, sixty-three faculty members, representing twenty-four departments of the College of Arts and Sciences, gathered in the Alumni Hall to discuss its future. They called this gathering "The Meeting of the Minds."

The purpose of "Meeting of the Minds" was to discuss two questions that allowed the faculty members to express the feelings about and sort of "roast" the College of Arts and Sciences. Several groups were arranged and asked to answer the following questions: "What do we want the College to be? What do we need to achieve what we want the college to be?"

The participants were instructed to write their collective answers on large newsprint posters. Once the two questions were answered, the posters were put on display in Alumni Hall for others to read. They were also asked to write responses to the others' comments on Post-it notes and attach them to the corresponding posters. The posters were then returned to their original groups for discussion.

There were many original ideas for improvement represented on the posters, but there were several concerns that the faculty seemed to be most interested in. Some

recurring ideas throughout the posters were that the College needs a better rewards system, a greater sense of community, and a decrease in bureaucracy.

The faculty expressed their disagreement with the rewards system that the College offers. They felt that few incentives were offered for risk-taking. The participants felt that the College should reward good teachers with excellence awards and offer better incentives for accomplishing goals. They also felt that the teaching staff, both full and part time, should receive an increase in pay. Also, they asked for more resources to encourage learning and eliminate competition for the limited resources currently available. This includes money for educational travels.

The faculty of the College posted their opinions on bureaucracy as well. Participants felt the situation could be improved by replacing offices within the College instead of adding new ones. They want the College to be in charge of its own fate without outside influences in decision making. They want the College to treat students as life-long learners instead of simple consumers. They also want to encourage better relationships between members of different departments.

Perhaps the greatest of the



The College of Arts and Sciences posts its project outside the Auditorium for all to see

demands was that the College needs a greater sense of community. The question is, how do you create a sense of community when all of Northeastern's students are commuters and there are no sporting events to attend? Department members suggested that the College offer support for faculty as well as students. They believe that a greater sense of community could be reached by creating better dynamics between students and teachers, better orientation of freshmen and transfers, and more student friendly

facilities. One faculty member even suggested a bar.

Other improvement ideas were that the College needs to eliminate last minute addition or drops of courses and last minute hiring of teachers. The faculty wants the College to become more interdisciplinary and to figure out how to raise standards for classrooms without making the college exclusive to more privileged students.

The posters were on display in the hall across from the auditorium for the whole school to read. Post-

it notes were available for those who wished to post their opinions and ideas. The posters were removed from the hall on February 21, and will be returned to the Dean's office. The comments will be reviewed and discussed in a follow-up meeting scheduled for March.

The contents of the posters are available in print as well as the Dean's opening remarks at "The Meeting of the Minds" at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences office located in the science building.

Healthy hearts for healthy women

by Joana Frigo
Staff Writer

February is national Heart Month, and NEIU is celebrating by bringing awareness of heart disease to young women.

Why is this important? Because, as a Clinician Review article recently reported, "Women tend to wait longer than men before going to the hospital [for diagnosis/treatment]."

For the next two months, Healthy Hearts for Healthy Women, a program sponsored by Health Services and Women's Services, will help show women how to keep up a healthy heart. It will promote awareness for keeping a healthy heart and preventive measures for heart disease, which kills more women than cancer.

Women participating in this program will be informed and taught how live a healthier lifestyle. The kind of things

being offered include a walking program titled Walk With Women, which will meet two times a week on the track in the PE complex. Another program involves intramural exercise, which is important for those who have a busy schedule and you cannot fit in the regular walk.

Another important fact is that stress and eating habits are major factors in the fight against heart disease which is why another program includes hints and ideas for eating right and combining it with exercising.

A support group will deal with eating with a better eye. You will relearn how pack a lunch and look at cafeteria food menu's with a different eye. Other things that will be taught: how your emotions effect the way you eat, help with the Cardiovascular diet, and overall good health.

A third part of the program is the idea of de-stressing, because if you have stress (and we all do),

it can build up and affect you physically. This is where meditation will help. The point is to relax and do your job and complete your studies effectively.

The Healty Hearts program is a pilot, one that, it is hoped, will work out well. If it does, there are plans to hold it twice a year - once in the Spring and another in the Fall.

Judy Mizrachi, a former student, no staff member, is helping to coordinate the event. She is hoping, on top of everything else, that this program will network students, faculty and staff.

"[I want to develop] a community where it is not only a commuter school, but a community school as well," Mizrachi said.

For more information on the Healty Hearts for Healthy Women program of event, call Judy Mizrachi at ext.3699 or Jessica Lettow at ext.2880.

Announcing: Mercatus

In 1998, the College of Business & Management (COB&M) established an e-mail listserv called Mercatus. Although it is primarily targeted at COB&M students, Mercatus is intended to provide any student, staff, or faculty member in the University with information that may be of interest to them. Examples of information which are routinely broadcast on Mercatus include, but are not limited to: Job Openings; Internships; Scholarships; University and Class closings and openings; Exam and Quiz information; University, College, Departmental, and Student Club Activities; as well as other information of an educational nature.

Anyone may sign up to receive e-mail postings from Mercatus. However, only faculty and staff from the College of Business & Management can send E-mail to Mercatus. This was purposely done to keep the SPAM ratio (BS/Useful knowledge) as low as possible. On occasion, information provided to COB&M faculty or staff by Mercatus subscribers may be reposted to the list if it is sufficiently informative.

Subscribers must understand that since the list is intended to be of general use to

all, there will be messages that do not apply to a particular individual. Therefore, when a subscriber receives e-mail from the list in which (s)he is not interested, (s)he should hit the delete key once (s)he has read enough of the message to make certain that it is of no interest.

To sign up: Open your email package (Pine on the UNIX system, Netscape mail, Microsoft Outlook, Eudora, Pegasus, etc. on your PC) and compose a message to the listproc@neiu.edu

On the "To:" line, address the email to "listproc@neiu.edu" (leave off the quotation marks "") Leave the "Subject:" line empty (Don't put anything on the subject line!!!)

In the main body of the email message (where you would write your text) put subscribe mercatus (Your own name)

Send the message and you will be subscribed to that list.

For an example, send your WWW browser to this Uniform Resource Locator (URL): <http://www.neiu.edu/~bschool/listservs.htm>

This URL also provides information on how to unsubscribe when you graduate.

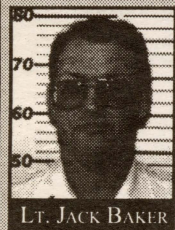
EXTENSION 200

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

1 February

Forgery

Vehicle was found in the lot with a forged permit. Owner was located and admitted to creating the permit. Referred to Student Due Process.
Found Property
Checkbook found in gym, unclaimed at this time.



2 February

Accident, non-traffic

Subject slipped on ice in parking lot, declined medical attention.

Theft

Student reported that someone had

opened their locker and removed two textbooks. Bookstore notified.

Mischievous Conduct

Health service office reported that someone had removed a brochure rack from the wall outside their office.

Found Property

A cellular phone was turned in at Library. Unclaimed at this time.

3 February

Medical Assist

Victim passed out in class, transported to Health Service, treated and released.

Found Property

Cellular phone turned in at Information Desk. Owner located and property returned intact.

4 February

Theft

Textbook left unattended in classroom. Bookstore notified.

7 February

Accident, non-traffic

Victim reported being hit in the head by a falling piece of ceiling tile. Transported by ambulance to hospital.

8 February

Theft

Fire extinguisher was taken from gym.

9 February

Found Property

Wallet found in Classroom Building.

Disorderly Conduct

Victims reported receiving harassing phone calls and having trash stuffed under their office door.

11 February

Criminal Damage to State Property

Sign was reported damaged.

14 February

Traffic Crash

Victim reported striking guard rail on access road, no injuries.

Lost Property

Victim reported loss of office key.

Accident, non-traffic

Victim reported straining knee eleven days earlier.

Theft

A projection screen was reported taken from a classroom in Science

Building.

Theft

A house phone was reported taken from the receiving dock.

Theft

Victim reported currency removed from purse which was unattended in unlocked office, five days earlier.

Winter is tough on car batteries and sometimes tough on people who try to jumpstart a dead battery. Before you put those cables on check to see if there is any swelling or bulging of the battery case. This will indicate a frozen battery. A frozen battery can explode if you try to jump it with cables. Read and follow the safety directions that come with jumper cables.

UNIVERSITY DAY 2000 • MARCH 2

The Great Campus Speak Out!

STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING: FROM CONCEPT TO COMMITMENT



- Ice Breakers • Town Meetings
- Focus Groups • Featured Student Speakers
- Workshops • Presentations
- Refreshments

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

www.neiu.edu/~univday



Nation faces indecision on death penalty

by **Andrea Leptinsky**
The Maneater (U. Missouri)

(U-WIRE) COLUMBIA, Mo. — Capital punishment has been a hot topic in political circles for years. Now, overshadowed by public uncertainty and political indifference, the issue has reared its head at a national level.

Concerns as well as support from politicians and activist groups began in January when Illinois Gov. George Ryan contemplated the idea of a state moratorium on the death penalty. On February 1, Ryan officially declared the halt to executions in Illinois. He said it would stay in effect until he could be sure all death-row inmates were guilty.

"I now favor a moratorium because I have grave concerns about our state's shameful record of convicting innocent people and putting them on death row," Ryan said in his statement.

Following Ryan's announcement, Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis., issued a letter Feb. 2 to President Clinton requesting a federal moratorium on capital punishment.

In his request, Feingold asked the president to suspend federal executions while the government examined all aspects of the death penalty and tried to guarantee that innocent people will not be executed.

"I urge you to suspend all federal executions until the Department of Justice can review the administration of the federal death penalty to ensure that it is fairly and correctly imposed," Feingold said in the letter.

Feingold said he hopes the remaining 37 states that impose capital punishment will follow the example Ryan set when he issued the first moratorium.

"The problems of inadequate representation, lack of access to DNA testing, police misconduct, racial bias and even simple errors are not unique to Illinois," he said. "There are problems that have plagued the administration of capital punishment around the country since the reinstatement of capital punishment."

A spokesman for the White House

said President Clinton is considering Feingold's request.

Many people, though, do not support this request.

Rep. James Traficant, D-Ohio, believes deeply in the death penalty, said Paul Marcone, Traficant's chief of staff. Ohio has the death penalty. Traficant feels taxpayers should not be forced to supply food and clothing for people who committed inhumane crimes, Marcone said.

"He thinks it's wrong that taxpayers have to pay for a brutal murderer for the rest of their life," Marcone said. "It sends a message that society is not going to put up with these types of murderers."

Those who do not support the death penalty suggest a punishment of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole in place of execution.

According to the Death Penalty Information Center, life containment requires the government to spend approximately \$3.1 million.

The cost of death-penalty cases, including the costs of appeals and the execution, is approximately \$1.88 million.

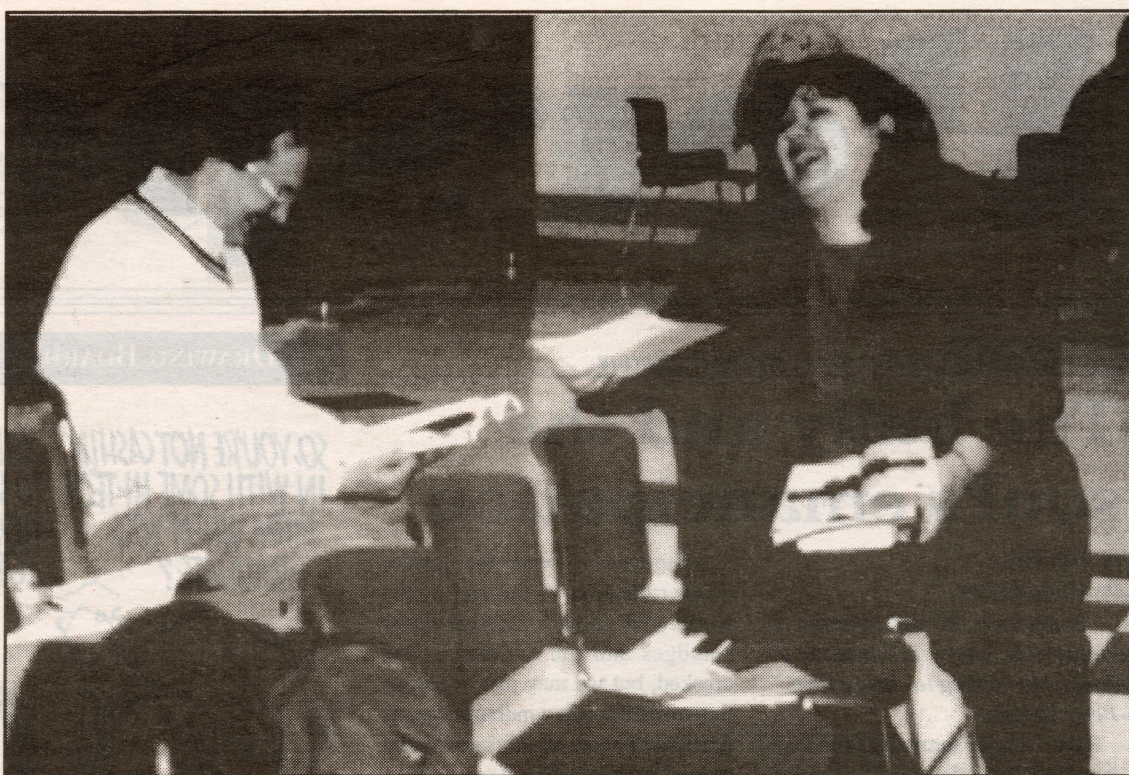
Despite this, Missouri Rep. Mike Schilling, D-Springfield, said he supports the abolition of the death penalty.

"It's just morally wrong, no matter what excuse you have," he said. "It is unbalanced and unfair, and it is discriminatory."

However, Clark County, Ind., Prosecuting Attorney Steven D. Stewart said he believes people who have committed the act of murder deserve the death penalty as a punishment.

"I believe that there are some defendants who have earned the ultimate punishment our society has to offer by committing murder with aggravating circumstances present," Stewart said. Stewart also said the voice of the people should not be overlooked when it comes to federal executions.

A Gallup poll taken in February 1999 showed that 71 percent of citizens support the death penalty, 22 percent are against it and 7 percent have no opinion.



Equal opportunity blood letting - Maria Gandara, Student Government President and George Bagel of the Placement Office await their turn to be needed.

Needled

continued from page 1

someone in need? Giving blood is perhaps the easiest way to help people. They draw about one pint of blood (the average human has approximately 8-10 pints of blood), then you walk away. The fluids will regenerate within a day, and within 4-6 weeks, the platelets and other cells replenish their numbers.

Lifesource has stated that their goal for the future is, "Maintain 50 draws, and perhaps increase this to 60 draws within a year." Perhaps the best way to do this is increase campus awareness of the blood drive. Several people interviewed had never even known about the drive. If Lifesource was to post flyers around the school one week prior, the participation would increase greatly.

Giving to charity can be a rewarding experience. However, if you don't have the opportunity, the extra money, or if you are without the means to donate money, then give blood. With one fell swoop, you can help three different people. It's easy and rewarding. Call Lifesource at (847) 298-0530 and get all the information you need. With 95% of the population in need, how can you refuse?

Speak out!

Continued from page 1

people who know about the particular issue being discussed. The main purpose is to share the concerns in a constructive fashion and brainstorm possible solutions. We hope to integrate the knowledge of the faculty and students together to help come up with solutions to problems. We are really looking forward to a very constructive sharing of ideas to make the student experience more worthwhile here." Beyda added that the whole process will be repeated in the evening time so graduate students can also

have the opportunity to air their concerns.

David Leaman, a professor for the Political Science Department and co-chair for University Day, mentioned that sessions covering different academic and beyond academic areas will last from early morning until late evening. He also informed that this year University Day will be complete with panels led by students as well as teachers. "There were a lot of discussions on creating a learning environment in classrooms that is more student centered, which results in more learning.

"That's why this year a lot of the sessions will feature students talking about particular programs. Another thing I like about this University Day is that there are professors from different courses such as chemistry, earth science, dance, physical education, and other subjects in the panels talking about different educational

methods. There are also panels that are facilitated by faculty authors. There will be a whole range of things across every college and department of the University." Leaman also informed that there are a number of panels on women's history, as well as a panel on African American women as folk artists. "I feel that this coincides nicely with Women's Month, which is also in early March. We hope to have something for everyone. We want it to be a very participatory day."

University Day will be held March 2, 2000 and is complete with panels, discussions on student-related problems, refreshments, a Stress Free Zone that includes a massage therapist, Open Mic, a guitarist, a Work Out Zone complete with Cardio Kick Boxing and Yoga, and numerous other fun-filled and interesting events. Don't miss out on the fun, and definitely don't miss out on your day to speak out!

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Coming next issue:

- H.B. 4182 is the latest legislation in Springfield dealing with last years Student Trustee issue at NEIU. What is it about and how can it affect you? And how is it being presented to the Legislators?

- The Student Government members on campus are working hard for their constituents. Get a behind the scenes look and find out what they've done and what their plans are.

Perspectus

EDITORIAL BY TIM HILL, ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The bully and the soul's emancipation

by Tim Hill
Associate Editor

"In America, through pressure of conformity, there is freedom of choice, but nothing to choose from."
-Peter Ustinov-

Here's a brief summary of violent or potentially violent conflicts going on in the world: Peace may soon shatter between Syria and Israel over occupation of the Golan Heights and other Israeli areas; traditional Moslems and modern Democrats vie for political power and influence within Iran; peace is threatened between Israelis and Palestinians as a peacetalk deadline was missed and both sides blame the other; Sinn Fein continues its efforts to assure the disarmament of the IRA to appease the British government but rogue IRA groups will always threaten Northern Ireland; Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo ordered federal police to raid and end a nine-month-long strike by students at the Western Hemisphere's most highly enrolled university, the National Autonomous University of Mexico, where 632 arrests were made; and in case no one is keeping tabs, Chinese communists still occupy the one-time most peaceful nation on earth, Tibet.

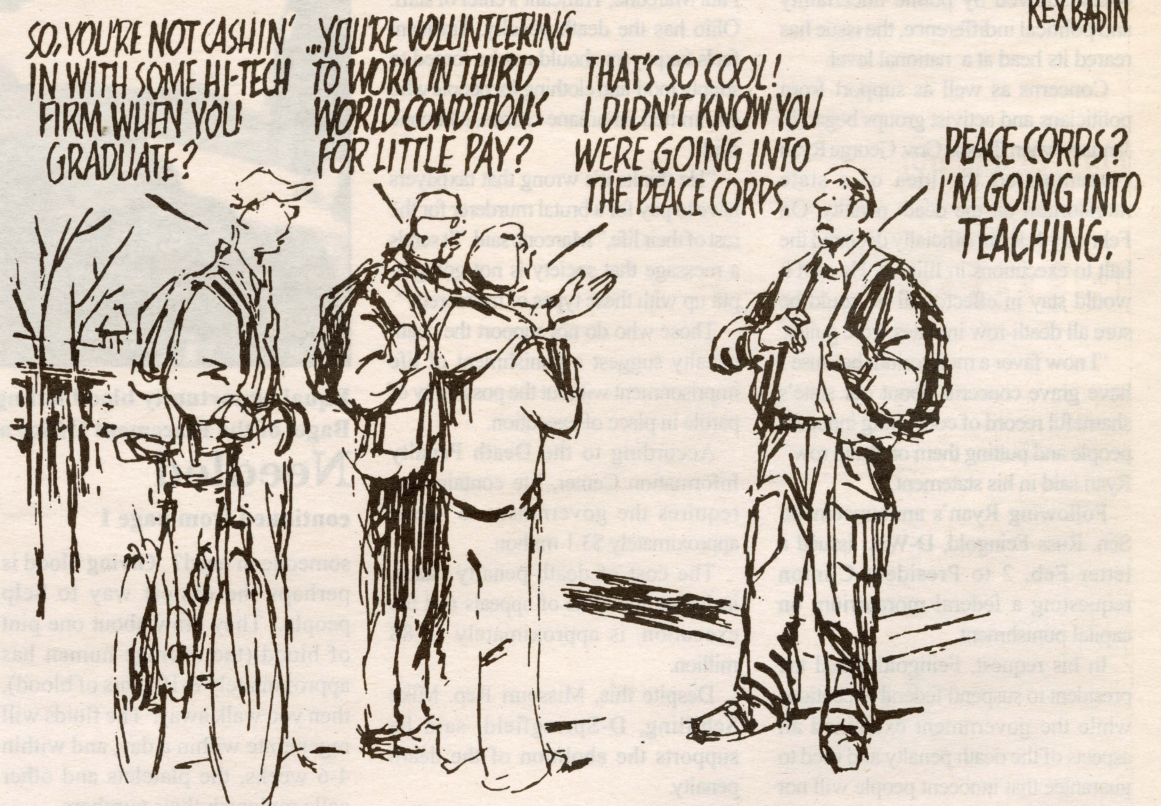
In American news, presidential candidates ride around the country in buses and say small words to big groups of people; Elmhurst College put a coupon for four years free tuition in a helium balloon and let it fly; Leo DiCrappio is topless in a movie; the West beat the East in the NBA Allstar game; and the piece of facial tissue you discarded this morning just got its own website.

America is as usual the upside-down reflection of the rest of the world. Our mirror's face has fewer smudges and our surface is less cracked, but we may just be seeing this world through windburnt eyes as the times have so rapidly been blown around our heads. World news shows play us tapes of the rest of the world as one great imminent civil war. Streets wait for rain to dissipate blood puddles, prisoners wear faces permanently stained in tears and gunpowder, and armies keep doing what armies do. Protection is not an offensive and ignorance is strength. America has fought wars that were none of its business. Now that we've calmed our trigger-fingers and cooled our cannons, the rest of the world is trying to send us a signal. Our muskets have been too long upon our mantles, they say, throwing rocks at tanks. "We're still not free, like you," they seem to call, and in the background, AK-47's blow kisses.

Violence in world media, since all of it looks like war we don't need to worry about, makes the mirror cranky at worst. Change the channel. Ken Griffey Jr. signed with the Reds. Not the communists, the baseball team.

As an American, I wish I was content enough with the state to not question its eerie calm like that of a battlefield before the barrage. I thought voting may ease the anxiety of the world's chaos amalgamating within folds of my newspaper. It is hard to escape the alarm that if I vote, I would only be choosing the wealthy liar I dislike the least in hopes that he will be the next proverbial master of the universe to manipulate me and

DRAWING BOARD



my family for four more years. I haven't lived through many American presidents but I have enough reasons to distrust them all. One president was an actor. Now *there's* a person you can trust! One made me read his lips. In doing so, I missed the writing on the wall and taxes still went up. As for this last one, I think it's safe to say that pretty much everyone gave up on his word sometime around 1998. We should have followed our instincts on that one (Who the hell says they didn't inhale?). Anyway, voting's not going to break this fever.

Civil war bends me. I read about it and can't help but respect it, thinking maybe that what governments call *rebels*, patriots call *heroes* and *martyrs*. Out of respect for the goodness left in the world, I should

start my own. The thought has crossed my mind, but then it occurs to me what a playground mentality America has about such impudence. It's simple: America is stealing my lunch money. It has done so every day since I started going to school. If I say no, I'll get beat up. If I stand up for myself and fight back, America will surely say, "Oh yeah? You and what army?" In that case, if my friends stand with me and are sick of having their lunch money taken too, we'll fight America the Bully and get beaten up worse than ever before, still have our lunch money taken, be imprisoned in the monkey bars, and no one will want to play with us anymore because the Bully will beat them up too.

It's not like I'd be the first one to

try rattling the cage. A few months ago in Seattle, a handful of discontented patriots tried to, as Mencken would say, "stir up the animals." The group consisted mostly of young men who admitted to being organized anarchists. The group mutinied an apartment building to protest for their belief that humans are a product of the earth and thereby human ownership of land is a horrible crime against nature. I liked that. I was on the anarchists' side for awhile. Then the Bully sent it's biggest lackeys and toadies, the National Guard, to beat up the kids in Seattle. After that, I was afraid to be their friend, and even more so, I was afraid to stand up for what I believe.

see Soul, page 8

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

You'd think I was buying the dead sea scrolls...

College students have many fears: pop-quizzes, final exams, guidance counselors. But perhaps the biggest fear happens twice per semester. Every college student must deal with this, and no one is spared. Even mentioning this word sends college students into convulsions, wheezing and gasping for air: books. Buying, selling, and above all, FINDING books.

Beck's bookstore is the local book-buying arena. If you have never heard of Beck's, then consider yourself lucky. For the first two weeks of any semester, Beck's is over-run with students scrambling madly to find the required texts for their respective classes. Books quickly fly off the shelves as the staff of Beck's rushes for order forms. One would think the students are buying priceless volumes of ancient lore, so desperate is their quest. However, these books are certainly not priceless. They are over-priced.

Hardcover texts routinely run about \$60 or so. Many exceed even this amount. I have been forced to pay in excess of \$100 for a single

book, which of course, the instructor rarely used. Such is the case in many classes these days. The first day of class, the instructor hands out the syllabus. Towards the top, there lies a list of "required text" for the respective class. After the class, it's a race with the devil to get to Beck's before your classmates. You must buy the book, you must read the book, you need the book to pass the class, you need the book to graduate, you need the book to land a six-figure job, you need the book to get into heaven, etc....

Once at Beck's, you fly through the store (after relinquishing your bag) desperately seeking "Calculus and You: The Eighth Edition" or whatever book you happen to be buying. Random Beck's employees of varying degrees of usefulness try to aid you in your quest for this, The Holiest of All Grails. If you are lucky, you pick up the book. A sigh of relief escapes your lips, as you turn the book over, and immediately suffer a massive coronary as you gaze upon the price.

Once you regain consciousness, you lug the book to the counter. Once there, taxes rear their ugly head, as an extra 5 bucks is tacked onto the already lucrative price. You fumble for your wallet, wondering how in the hell you will pay for this. You fork over the money, they hand over the book. Your quest completed, you place your newly acquired text into your backpack, where it is immediately forgotten. This scenario is all too familiar. Even more ghastly, however, is the scenario at the end of the semester, when you try to reclaim some of your money.

Again, a mad rush to Beck's. This time, however, you can bypass all the staff and head straight for the returns counter. Once there, they scan your book, checking every page to make sure you didn't leave any important documents in there (which they throw away). Then, they open the register, and you receive a fistful of change. What's this? Only 5

months ago, you took a second mortgage out on your house to pay for this damn book, and now you receive a mere fraction of the cost? This is unacceptable!

This is the biggest rip-off since pull-string boomerang helicopters (Several hand lacerations and infections later, I'm still out 15 bucks!). How can Beck's justify overcharging you on your initial purchase, then underpaying you for bringing the book back? That's

assuming they even accept the return. If they detect even a single dog-eared page, the book is stamped "USED", and you receive even less for it. Of course, they still sell the "USED" books for

insane amounts of money.

And why shouldn't they? They provide a service for students, who grudgingly dole out immense quantities of money to get the required text. Then, like beggars outside a castle, they beg for a miniscule portion of their money



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

REV

Volume 4, issue 12. February 22, 2000

See what they're saying: Campus movie reviews page 2

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

Midwinter entertainment: on campus (and off)



Anastasia Harold and Joe Tiptre in a scene from A.R. Gurney's prize-winning comedy-drama *The Dining Room*. The play is the third production of the Stage Center Theatre's 1999/2000 season.

The Dining Room opens this week

The Dining Room, A.R. Gurney's prize winning comedy-drama about the decline of the American upper-middle-class, opens February 24 at Northeastern's Stage Center Theatre.

An ensemble of three men and three women create a total of fifty-seven characters who represent a

vanishing WASP culture. The play examines poignant and often hilarious moments in the lives of numerous families over a period of decades, the action

taking place within a single dining room of collective WASP dining rooms.

This NEIU production is directed by Rodney Higgenbotham, Assistant Professor in NEIU's Department of Speech and Performing Arts. The show runs

through Saturdays, February 24-26, and March 2-4, 9-11 at 7:30 p.m. at NEIU's Stage Center Theatre. The show is free for students.



At the Fine Arts Center

On Stage and Off with the Great Pianists: A Multimedia Presentation

Tuesday, February 22 at 1:40 p.m.
Fine Arts Center Recital Hall

Professor Elyse Mach presents interviews with some of the world's greatest classical and jazz pianists. For the first time, excerpts taken from some of the original taped interviews with these artists will be featured. Also

presented will be slides of the artists and a lecture concentrating on the life of the concert pianist, the concert scene, the audience, and the anxieties of performance. Pianists highlighted will be: Vladimir Horowitz, Glenn Gould, Andre Watts, Dave Brubeck, Ramsey Lewis, Alicia deLarrocha, Evgeny Kissin, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Leon Fleisher and Murray Perahia.

Discover Northeastern
celebration of the arts



Definitely not a day at...

by Lior Alon
REV Editor

The Beach, based on Alex Garland's novel by the same name, has one outstanding accomplishment in the form of an element of total surprise. The trailer had us thinking here was another action flick centered on the celeb value of its main star, Leo DiCaprio. Yet, quite to the contrary, *The Beach* packs a twist in its tail and results in a much more neurotic experience of the grimly psychotic variety. Of course, if you read the book already you'd know this, especially since it seems the motion picture production people stayed very faithful to the original text. Actually, Garland was extremely active in conceiving the film.

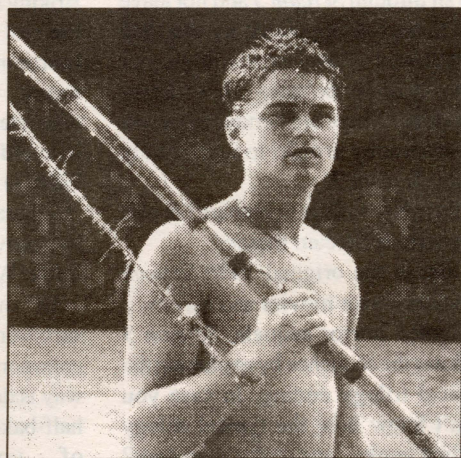
As for Leo, this marks his triumphant return to big budget flicks, the last one being, of course, the gargantuan *Titanic*. Defying outcries by several renowned critics, DiCaprio proves his mettle once more. The guy CAN act, and does so proficiently. He was good as the outlandish Jack Dawson back in that boat thing, and, with his current project, keeps up a usually high standard dating to *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* and *Basketball Diaries*.

Leonardo depicts a traveling malcontent known simply as Richard. This young man has escaped Western (U.S. presumably) society and culture in search of adventure. Although initially he appears to be yet another wide-eyed innocent fresh on the scene, this character soon turns out to have more than its fair share of deviousness. However, nothing ever conspires to portray him as a consciously evil person. The movie, unlike what those previews tried to convey, evolves into a travelogue of sorts, and not into some form of Indiana Jones spin-off. Part and parcel of this process comes in the shape of an inspection of Richard's soul, namely its darker nether reaches.

After arriving in Bangkok, Thailand and going through the usual motions of seeing the sights and soaking in the highly commercialized atmosphere, Richard grows sick of the tourists' familiar path and longs for a truly alternative experience. A chance encounter with fellow refugee Daffy, a crazed veteran of Asia's alluring mystery (played by the excellent Robert Carlyle of *Trainspotting* and *The World is Not Enough* fame) grants Richard his golden opportunity. Daffy hands him a relic-like secret map symbolizing the REAL traveler's spirit. It shows the way to a secret island where a secluded society comprised of pot-hungry recluses has attained absolute tranquility and peace through better chemistry. These former slaves to the capitalistic, hedonistic and generally superficial modern social machine have graduated into a community easily described as the Shao-Lin of slackers.

Richard persuades Francoise (the beautiful Virginie Ledoyen) and Etienne (brilliant Guillaume Canet), two moral and lively French lovers into joining him. Together they arrive on the island and eventually join the group, discovering for themselves that in reality it remains unclear which of the two societies (the island or the rest of humanity) has the moral upper hand.

As can be expected, the cinematography in *The Beach* has a lot going for it in terms of quality and ingenuity. Although the supposed



Leo in *The Beach*

paradise reveals itself to be nothing more than a souped up Martinique, the movie as a whole looks very good. Additionally, the soundtrack adds quite the dimension to the proceedings, with a background of moody, moving and ecstatic electronic songs.

Alas, the second half has less content than the build-up sequences. Aside from the competent moral introspection and good cast (in particular Leo), this movie remains adequate yet ultimately lukewarm. Augmented by decent technical attributes, Danny Boyle's version of the Garland book won't sweep audiences off their proverbial feet.

Sadly, the screen adaptation's warts-and-all approach may have proven to be its downfall as I suspect the source material was somewhat lacking to begin with. Just a thought.

Fans of DiCaprio's work won't be disappointed. He does justice to his role and returns to his original niche of the disturbed, poorly aligned victim of circumstance. The video game scene in *The Beach* must surely be among the kid's best so far.

So in a way, this picture does turn out to be all about Leo. Well, might as well since once more the people factor (a.k.a. actors) elevates a movie from numb dreariness with their talent and charm.

Not a classic by any stretch of the word, *The Beach* nonetheless deserves putting on your floppies and hitting the sand. Just watch out for the broken glass, needles and occasional tail fin.

The Beach

Directed by Danny Boyle
Produced by Andrew Macdonald & Callum McDougall
Written by Alex Garland & John Hodge
Starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert Carlyle, Virginie Ledoyen, Guillaume Canet, Tilda Swinton
Figment Films/20th Century Fox

FOR: good travel atmosphere aided by great audio and visuals. An interesting examination of human values and norms, brought to life by a crew of good actors.

AGAINST: unfulfilled promise culminating in a rushed ending.

OVERALL: C *The Beach* may not be the amazing success everyone anticipated, yet it has several redeeming qualities that cannot be overlooked. Rather impressive technically considering its modest budget (\$40 million).

Let's go out to the movies

A plethora of new ones, what are college reviewers recommending



'Screaming' for more, settling for less

by Burke Speaker
Daily Egyptian (Southern Illinois U.)

(U-WIRE) CARBONDALE, Ill. — To sit through *Scream 3* and not leave the theater disappointed by the final installment of the horror trilogy, you have to obey the rules. Don't know the rules? There are certain rules one must abide by in order to successfully enjoy *Scream 3*.

Rule No. 1: Don't compare the plot to previous *Scream* movies.

Just as the original 1996 *Scream* mocked horror movies and *Scream 2* ridiculed horror sequels, *Scream 3* follows the sequence by exploiting the typical trilogy ending. In case you don't know how the typical trilogy ending works - and really, who does? - final installments are supposed to tie up any loose ends. But judging by the results, the loose ends were never there to begin with. Credit scriptwriter Ehren Kruger (*Arlington Road*) for losing the fresh plot ideas *Scream*-scribe Kevin Williamson penned in the first two. Williamson bowed out because of time constraints, and the result is Kruger inventing an utterly unbelievable back story. And since the plot adheres to examining how the terror began, the twists are replaced with the genre that was so cleverly mocked in the first place.

Rule No. 2: Understand that the characters are basically stupid.

Scream 3 switches the trilogies' focus from poster-child-for-pain Sidney Prescott (Neve Campbell) to news-hound Gale Weathers, played

with full-borne bitchiness by Courtney Cox Arquette, and Dewey Riley, the always dopey David Arquette. It seems the killer(s?) is striking Hollywood, this time offing the cast of horror movie-within-a-horror movie *Stab 3*. Following the scary movie format, many characters act foolish when it comes to avoiding the masked killer(s). But at least you'd expect the characters who survived the first two movies to have some common sense. Well, don't.

In this round, the *Scream* survivors are alive, however, the common sense that kept them that way is dead. We've come to expect half-baked sense from each batch of young, up-and-coming Hollywood hopefuls who appear in *Scream* movies. But please, why do *Scream* survivors Gale and Dewey keep splitting up after being chased by the knife-wielding psychopath(s)? Let's leave the stupidity to dumb, big-breasted blonde characters. Take former SIUC-attende Jenny McCarthy. Her character's reaction to getting stalked is priceless - she hides in a room full of the same costumes the killer wears. Hmm...Wonder where the killer is?

Rule number 3: Realize you'll laugh more than you'll scream.

What made *Scream* such a success with audiences was that the characters poked fun at Hollywood's predictable horror format while getting sliced and

Scary surprises await in *Pitch Black*

by Breanne L. Heldman
The Daily Free Press (Boston U.)

(U-WIRE) BOSTON — Aren't all science fiction horror films the same? Big-scary-sloth-beast- creature-thingy kills a poor group of imbeciles one by one, until the obvious "heroes" remain and finally kill it. The only female leftover falls in love with one of the males, and they all live happily ever after.

Pitch Black is the delightfully surprising exception to that rule. From the beginning, it seems as though the film will fall into the bottomless pit of predictable films of the genre, but just as attempts are made to select the "heroes," the film changes course.

The story begins with a spaceship's crash landing on an unknown planet. Survivors of the crash include docking pilot Fry (Radha Mitchell, *High Art*), Lawman Johns (Cole Hauser, *Good Will Hunting*), and mass-murderer Riddick (Vin Diesel, *Saving Private Ryan*). Also on board, among a few others, is a Muslim contingent, lead by Imam (Keith David, *Armageddon*).

The mystery planet is hot and arid, thanks to two suns in constant orbit, causing endless daylight, with the exception of complete darkness falling every 22 years. This fact, however, does not become clear to the survivors until nearly halfway through the film.

Fear lurks around every corner of the story. In the first half-hour, Riddick is only spoken of and never seen. Johns forces the other survivors, as well as the

audience, to fear him so greatly that when he finally graces the screen, everyone shudders. Even once the creature comes on screen, the audience is forced to fear both and wonder which will be the most dangerous killer.

Unlike most films of this genre, *Pitch Black* is character-driven, rather than creature-driven. It focuses on the ideas of heroism and courage, rather than a gory monster. Each of the main characters is three-dimensional, complete with inner-turmoil and debates. Additionally, the relationships between the three main characters are both distinct and interesting. In fact, it is the fear of them killing each other before the creature does that keeps the film moving for nearly two hours.

"Too often science fiction relies on (stock) characters. They're just pulled off the shelf, dusted off, and simply react to the things that happen to the plot," said director David Twohy (*Terminal Velocity*) at Planet Hollywood in New York City.

"Typically you'll have the professor, the pilot... We do have those icons in this film. We have the cop, the killer, the babe, the holy man, the innocent. Those are icons or archetypes. But that doesn't mean that they have to be static characters, it doesn't mean the characters can't evolve. But science fiction typically doesn't even try to give you characters that have arcs that start one place and end another place. I'm quite proud of the fact that we have three characters that do just that."



Mitchell is impressive as Fry, especially considering her uncanny ability to mask her Australian accent and sound American. Hauser is intense and as detestable as he is likable. However, the best performance is, by far, that of Diesel. His Riddick wears black sunglasses for the entire first half of the film, making it difficult to even see his true expression. Diesel seems to pass this obstacle with ease.

"The idea was to communicate without expression," says Diesel. "That's as simple as the character believing what he feels and helping that come across."

"Not seeing his eyes for the first half, helps dehumanize him, making him more of a presence," Twohy adds.

Director of photography David Eggby, A. C. S. (*Mad Max*), also adds much to the film with his use of bleach by-pass film work.

In other words, for audiences looking for a break from previewing this year's Oscar nominees or searching for something a bit scarier than *Scream 3*, *Pitch Black* might be the best bet.

The Tigger Movie a slow-moving, cute story

by Jun Okada
Daily Bruin (U. California-Los Angeles)

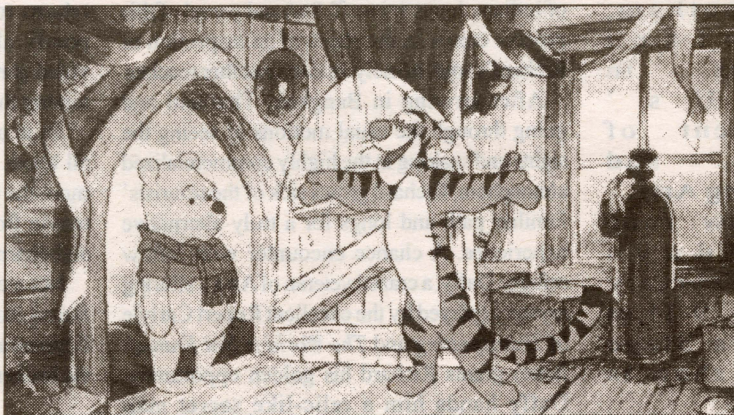
(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — After years of deferring to star Winnie the Pooh, the bouncy, irrepressible Tigger finally gets top-billing.

Disney's *The Tigger Movie* is just that: an animated romp through A.A. Milne's beloved Hundred Acre Wood.

The film reintroduces kids of the new millennium to a classic children's tale and animated film character, Winnie the Pooh and his stuffed animal cohorts: bouncy Tigger, timid Piglet, clever Rabbit, bookish Owl, sad-eyed Eeyore, Kanga and her baby, Roo.

The star of the show is, of course, Tigger, and his plight to find his family in the fictional Wood. It seems Tigger can't find anyone among his friends to bounce around with because "bouncin' is what Tiggers do best!"

Tigger's existential crisis leads him to the realization that he is the "onlyest



Tigger, and Winnie the Pooh, too.

Tigger" there, so he sets out to find other Tiggers, but to no avail.

Pooh, Roo and friends try to help out, but it is Tigger who must realize a difficult, yet enlightening lesson about the value of individuality and the true definition of family.

Besides a strangely unfitting musical interlude that illustrates Tigger's daydream about his imagined family with parodied images from popular culture (*The Brady Bunch*, for one), the story stays strictly within the family confines of the sweetly bucolic Hundred Acre Wood.

The Forest represents a gentle and

safe haven for stuffed animals and their owner Christopher Robin, as well as a fertile ground for children's imaginations.

The Tigger Movie teaches a heart-warming, educational lesson to those who are willing to sit through the relatively slow pace of this cute story.

The animation of the stuffed animal creatures is a bit dated and is no match for technologically superior cartoons like *Toy Story 2*.

However, the timelessness of the characters and the simple wisdom that informs the story ought to find a new audience with today's youngsters.

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Chaos Prime

by Lior Alon
REV Editor

Growing up and learning to be musicians in downtown Memphis, TN, Primer 55 recount horror stories of being shot at, mugged and repeatedly abused while going about rehearsals. However, for all their suffering, this background has evidently prepared them well for their chosen line of work- a band worthy of a place alongside older-school masters such as Pantera, Biohazard and Cypress Hill.

Primers 55 have been together only three years, their debut album, *Introduction to Mayhem*, has been released less than a month ago. Despite this apparent infancy, J-Sin, Bobby Burns, Mike Christopher and Josh McLane manage to deliver a potent message to a rather suspecting crowd. But the fact that you'll quickly know all that needs to be known about them doesn't deprive Primer 55 of their qualities, unique or not. Sure, a very similar kind of sound comes out of any recent Korn, Kid Rock or Limp Bizkit record, yet that cannot take away the sheer energy these guys gathered for their initial effort.

An ideal soundtrack for cruising down, say, Damen in your slammed '67 Impala (or any ride for that matter, even your aunt's Civic), *Mayhem* amalgamates metal, punk and hip

hop in a sarcastic, blunt way that by now has become highly familiar to anyone who happened upon MTV's broadcasts in the last ten years. The lyrics deplore our nation's malaise-infested social makeup, especially with respects to teenagers and the power of state/police. What else can you really expect from would-be punk rockers? As trivial as this outcry might have become, what'll grab the listener in actuality will be the killer beats and force Primer 55 so breezily utilize to their advantage. Other acts play the same tune yet fail miserably in projecting the chaotic, aggressive vibe so crucial to the success of a modern punk metal performance. Take a look at the lame H2O for instance. By sticking to tried and tested formulas, Primer 55 have consolidated their sound to the degree of near perfection. And while not entirely flawless, it comes damn close to the textbook definition of rebel rock. The seminal album opener *Loose* proves this point and will doubtless bring about numerous mosh pit injuries in the months to come.

Following closely behind in a frenetic march of raging hormones, *Supa Freak Love* and *Set it Off* fill the anti-establishment quotient in a way current Rage Against the Machine can only hope for. You see, Primer have the angst yet

avoid encumbering their message with false, pseudo intellectual prancing. This makes perfect sense. If your target audience wants charged, to the point jolts of intimidation, why on Earth would you start quoting Marx and other 19th century thinkers? Fortunately, these fellows have done the math and have passed the pop quiz with flying colors, as illustrated relatively late in the record by *Dose*, a well-crafted, multi-layered song coming closer than its peers to "traditional" alternative rock. Relatively late? Being track no. 12, *Dose* would normally be the straggler, yet Primer have chosen to include 18 songs, presumably to make up for all those album-less years. And while none suck in any way, eighteen exceeds most people's attention span. Additionally, *Mayhem* was remastered in a most obnoxious manner, with the track listing going all the way up to 50! You try fast-forwarding 32 songs. This begs the question: why?!

Overlooking that abnormal mishap, Primer 55's entrance to the market holds up under any level of scrutiny. Hopefully they'll move on to become more of a household name. If Creed did it, they certainly can, too. And you MUST check out their web site (www.primer55.com, surprise, surprise!) for a truly hilarious experience.

Peace out.



Primer 55
Introduction to Mayhem
Island Def Jam Records

MUSIC: A Thrilling, exhilarating mixture of hard metal, punk and hip hop combines the best of all worlds without being trapped by the allure of staying within the confines of the archetypal mould.

LYRICS: B+ Funny and vulgar just like we want it in this type of album.

PRODUCTION: C- "Disastrous effort results in hideous recording" cried the headlines. Although the sound comes off thick and nice, the track over population fiasco lives on in infamy. Also, watch out for those ears- *Mayhem's* default volume levels stay up there throughout.

OVERALL: A Confident and competent debut achieves all set goals. May they reach commercial success with similar aplomb.

www.wonderboysmovie.com

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LINCOLN VILLAGE
Chicago 312/444-FILM #625

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Bloomington 630/444-FILM #544

CANTERA 30
Warrenville 630/444-FILM #635

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St. Charles 630/587-3300

CHICAGO RIDGE MALL
Chicago Ridge 708/444-FILM #532

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Addison 630/932-0864

MARCUS CINEMA
Orland Park 708/873-1900

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Merrillville 219/947-4072

NORRIDGE
Norridge 312/444-FILM #503

NORTHBROOK COURT 14
Northbrook 847/444-FILM #569

OLD ORCHARD
Skokie 847/674-5300

QUARRY CINEMAS 14
Hodgkins 708/444-FILM #631

RANDHURST 16
Mt. Prospect 847/444-FILM #568

RICE LAKE SQ.
Wheaton 630/444-FILM #546

RIVER RUN
Lansing 708/444-FILM #513

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ROUND LAKE BEACH 18
Round Lake Beach 847/546-4983

SHOWPLACE 16
Crystal Lake 815/455-1005

SOUTH BARRINGTON
South Barrington 847/444-FILM #634

STREETS OF WOODFIELD
Schaumburg 847/444-FILM #627

WOODRIDGE
Woodridge 630/444-FILM #641

YORKTOWN 18
Lombard 630/444-FILM #575

SPECIAL ENGAGEMENT - NO PASSES OR DISCOUNT TICKETS ACCEPTED

We Spinned It Our Way

by Lior Alon
REV Editor

An ancient proverb once defined nostalgia as trying to proceed forward while looking back. Their conclusion was one of disdain for the sentiment. However, much like sweet and sour chicken, what must theoretically taste awful in fact turns out to be delicious to most people. Same holds true for nostalgia. Although it inevitably hinders your ability to look into the future, it also feels all warm and fuzzy, and lends a touch of sweet sorrow to our ordinary lives.

Why nostalgia? Well, because exactly that sort of emotion will engulf anyone vaguely familiar with older bands such as Cheap Trick, AC/DC, Kiss, Big Audio Dynamite, New York Dolls and other 70's/early 80's rock and roll outfits when first encountering The Spinatras. With their latest album (*@Midnight.com*), they should be forgiven for utilizing an overdone buzzword in their title selection, if only for holding an immaculate ability to bring back fond memories. The 13 track collection will

have legions of rock lovers headbanging in no time at all- even followers of more "modern" performers such as Supergrass and Green Day have plenty to celebrate here.

Don't get me wrong. Nothing about this record translates to archaic dribble, but rather a superb ode to days past. The Spinatras purvey a tongue-in-cheek, fresh mindset with very little or no sign of forcing themselves. A bunch of guys from Kansas who wanted to

taste success NYC-style, the band not only avoids moneymaking mainstream commercialism, but actually succeeds in taking on a no-nonsense, old-school Rock n Roll pose a la Blondie. Really, it has been a while since we've last detected an effort of this ilk.

To the untrained ear, most of the cuts will have little to distinguish between them at first. This trait goes away either by sustained listening or by being an aficionado of the genre. Pretty soon you'll be driving down Foster or Bryn Mawr and for no apparent reason you'll find your head bobbing up and down erratically, hitting the wheel on occasion. If the *Bohemian Rhapsody* scene from *Wayne's World* or the opening credits

to *That 70's Show* get you in a righteously good mood, get this album pronto.

Three songs rise to the forefront with elegant prowess- first single *My Back Pages*, biographical feet stomper *Kansas*, and the infatuated guy's lament, *She's A Dog*. All thirteen songs, but especially those, further demonstrate that such a thing as a smart, educated rocker exists. Lyrics obviously present no hurdles in the Spinatras' path, as

they tackle this issue brilliantly. Again, just like their musical precursors, they emphasize having a good time for a reason. As a result, none of their material lacks in the contents issue.

One day historians will hang a Spinatras CD in their late 20th century, working class, suburban (probably from Jersey, too) fast paced rock section at the Galactic Museum.

In the meantime, stop pondering the future and submit to our glorious past.

The Spinatras
@Midnight.com
CMC Records International/BMG

MUSIC: B+ Rock like we like it, without any fuss or excess weight. Some songs fall a bit short, but generally anyone who's ever heard of that exotic concept, the guitar, will love *@Midnight.com*

LYRICS: A Fun, funny and smart. Rock's greatest asset has always been its penchant for sing-along anthems. Bad album title, though.

PRODUCTION: B A tad on the scratchy side, so turn down the treble.

OVERALL: A An instant rock classic (still no threat to *Moving Pictures* by Rush, sadly). Imagine the perfect soundtrack to that early Tom Cruise flick with the football team and the Pennsylvania mining town (was it *Winning Moves* or something like that?).

güera

When you say

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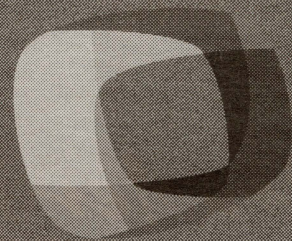
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"I'm black, not white-white"

by La'Kisha Pelham
Staff Writer

Upon receiving the call asking my opinion on the topic of "African-American" History Month, I cringed at the obvious attempt to show courtesy and sugar-coat things. That's the way things are: someone told somebody that it's more respectful to name blacks "African-American," just as someone thought it was showing us respect to call us Negroes and Colored. Well, I beg to differ.

As a woman of African descent, I am proud of who I am and I have the privilege of defining myself. I'd rather be called "Black" than to be called "African-American." Both "African" and "American" are words derived from the names of two men of European descent. So, in my book, to be called "African-American" is to be called "white-white." Believe me folks, I'm far from it.

Now, on to the good stuff. "Is African-American History Month necessary?" My opinion is, yes. First of all, I firmly believe that Black history should be taught, learned, and celebrated everyday. Secondly, it is celebrated in the shortest month of the year and everyone tries to squeeze in information about Black history, which is Native American history, Japanese History, European History, and the history of various other ethnicities across the globe. In two words, it's world history. Blacks have contributed to

societies everywhere, yet most of the information exposed during Black History Month is the same ol-same ol, year-in and year-out: "I was a slave but now I'sae a free," "We shall overcome" and "I have a dream." Dare the media, and/or individuals, display anything about before we were slaves or when Dr. King was no longer going to continue to be whacked on both cheeks?

Black History Month is essential because it is a time when focus is given to our history, which, students attending schools where the majority is non-black and the allocated funds are higher, are learning on a more frequent and thorough basis. Black History is all that we may not have learned in grammar school and/or high school. It is the time-line of how this and other countries were born. Blacks have made tremendous contributions via unpaid labor and harsh and brutal conditions and treatment-physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Black History Month is necessary for our black children and future generations. They need to know that we weren't always in our present state. They also need to know that we were not always slaves that we were initially Kings and Queens who were highly intelligent and well-advanced. They need to know that we can be more than basketball players, entertainers and sell-out politicians that we are the architects of civilization in its true sense. They

need to see and know just what they are faced with; the greed, deception, and merciless beatings, killings, lynchings, and rapes. After all, they have to be prepared for the war that's still raging to this day. Black History Month serves as a reminder that it was only one hundred years ago that blacks were physically oppressed. That's not a long time ago and the physical brutality is in no way obsolete. There are still lynchings, killings, and police brutality in existence. In the Khemetic Papers there's a saying, Know thyself and to thy self be true. There's no better way to learn yourself than through your ancestors how they gained success and which mistakes caused failure.

Black History Month is necessary for races that have afflicted blacks because it shows them what their ancestors have contributed to society what they are guilty of. There's a biblical verse that says "For her sins have reached into heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. Reward

see Black, continued on page 8

I'm not African-American

by Phil Lavine
Staff Writer

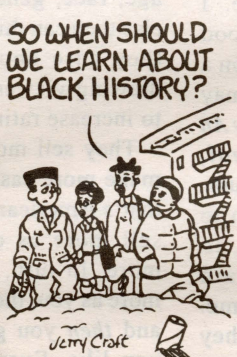
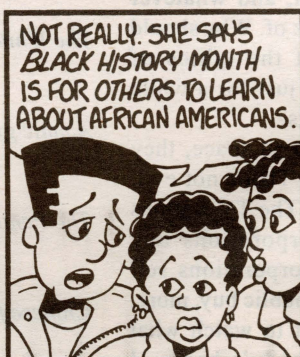
First things first—my question: Is African American history month for the benefit of *blacks* or *whites*? The answer to this question has a great deal to do with determining how beneficial the idea was in the past, is for the present, and it's potential for the future. Clearly the idea is to give all people a respect of African American culture, but in today's media flooded world, the presentation must depend on the audience. If black men are the intended audience, a group that has grown up in a world that regularly (even if quietly) discriminates, then February must be a time to learn how to feel pride in oneself without an accompanying disdain for others. If white men are the intended audience, then the month must teach a deeper respect for others unlike themselves, without feeling shame in their own heritage.

The difficulty then becomes, to paraphrase a Puerto Rican student's comment, finding a way to focus

on one group without alienating others. In the past, February has become a time when a group of Americans—whose history was ignored in standard text books, came into the spotlight. I am not sure if the names W.E.B. DuBois, James Baldwin, or George Washington Carver would have ever come across my path without this month's specific focus. Unfortunately in furthering the idea that America is a smooth blend of multiple other cultures, I question why I can't name three great Latino, Asian, or even French individuals.

Another question I can't help but ask: Does it seem a little strange that the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is separate from the month? The powers that be have already decided that King (like all "memorable" leaders) will perpetually have his birthday on a Monday. As long as the date is not so important, couldn't we just move the celebration a little more and put it in February? History will see Black History, continued page 8

MAMA'S BOYZ by JERRY CRAFT



MAIL BAG LETTERS FROM INDEPENDENT READERS

Woman Speaks Out Hill's observations found to be stinging

So sorry to hear, Tim Hill, about how your aesthetic and moral sense suffered so horribly at the shameless display of a mature woman's physiognomy. I know how terrible it must be for all of you poor, poor males to suffer the indignity of being forced to gaze upon those females who have the audacity, not only to age, but to actually be proud of their bodies as well. Yes, I know that we of the lesser sex owe it to our brothers to maintain a twenty-something-or-less appearance (of course within an acceptable range of weight-to-height ratios) so that we may successfully live up to the careful scrutiny of even the chubbiest, balding, sweat-palmed sci-fi geek. After all, how else can we ever hope to adorn any of your walls or televisions with images of ourselves which might entertain you on the occasional dateless Friday (or Sunday) night?

I can only leave you with two, hopefully comforting thoughts which I pray might begin to repair the damage your psyche has endured. The first being that perhaps, one day you will be fortunate enough to right this wrong by having a daughter of your own. That way you could teach her to value her body and her appearance only during the period between her eighteenth and thirty-fifth years (of course explaining to her that her worth as a human would be based entirely on assessments of her physical desirability to other men). After that you could explain to her, she must hide her body away in shame and embarrassment over the natural aging process. That way she would never, ever offend the sexual

sensibilities of yourself, or any other males.

The other being a suggestion, which may ease the sting you must certainly still be feeling after Mae Young's callous display. Perhaps it would seem less of an affront if you were to view her antics as an attempt to broaden all of our concepts of beauty and sexuality. Perhaps she only meant to free us from the rather narrow parameters of our own sexual aesthetic, enticing us to go beyond our current cultural standards of beauty to include expressions of personal acceptance, pride and courage. What if she hoped that instead of seeing "drooping, wrinkled breasts" people everywhere might have instead seen that a healthy, active sexual identity is possible for all of us, regardless of our age? After all, since every one of us (if we are lucky) is destined to experience the aging process, wouldn't it be great if we could feel optimistic and hopeful about our own sexual and physical maturity?

Maybe you didn't see it this way. But hey, at least you were able to share your lack of vision with others and maintain the status quo — which is undoubtedly the goal of all serious writers.

Shannon Sawyer-Faingold

HELP!

We got a letter from someone on the south side campus. Our computer crashed and we lost the letter. Please send it once again so we can put it in the paper. Thanks!

Racist grafitti on campus

This week I was shocked to find racist graffiti written on a student poster in the Fine Arts Building. One of our many campus groups had put up a poster for a meeting written in their first language, and someone had written on it, "Write in English, you bastard. I don't understand this crap."

Our university community is known for its diversity and part of our diversity is in language. In fact, students in the university who are bilingual bring a bonus to their college education: they are able to read about a subject in two languages and they often have an international perspective because they live or have lived in two different cultures.

Prejudice against bilingualism is, regrettably, increasingly common in American society. On a college campus where students often study foreign languages in the hopes of becoming multilingual, prejudice against bilingualism seems especially absurd.

Let's remember that discrimination against students who choose to communicate in a language other than English is, in fact, discrimination and a violation of those students' rights.

I have also brought this incident to the attention of the Affirmative Action officer, Margo Smith.

Rory Donnelly

A half hearted agreement

Please allow me to congratulate you on your well-written, accurate and poignant article, *Rallying Northeastern* (Voice of the Campus, February 8) As I read it, I breath a sigh of relief knowing that there are other students that feel the same way I do. It is comforting to know that other students realize that while our school's main goal is to educate, it is also called upon to provide us with a central rallying point. I, for one, belly-ached before, during and after the period that NEIU pondered its discontinuation of NCAA Division II sports. I even solicited the opinions of students in a photo essay. The results were astonishing. Students overwhelmingly expressed their discontent for the decision to discontinue sports at NEIU. Additionally, in a recent interview with President Emeritus Jerome M. Sach, he stated that moving away from the NCAA conference at NEIU was a wise choice, but he felt that it needs to be replaced with some other organized sports program.

I do disagree with your point that students don't get involved with campus activities because "...they don't care". It is more likely that they don't have time to care. Let's face it, the reason we choose to go to a commuter school, as opposed to a resident college is because we either choose or need to work. I for one worked full time and supported my family while I was a student at NEIU. Others would rather work, even part-time, to avoid completing their college education with a huge debt circling the heads. They may have to juggle school, plus a job or two, as well as family responsibilities.

But the point remains the same. Northeastern lost its sports program in September of 1997 and there has not been a word of what, if anything, will replace it. Conversely, I am the first to admit that the school improves constantly. The Fine Arts Building is beautiful. Not only has it created a showplace for Northeastern's stellar Arts and Music program, but it

seemed to relieve the overcrowding that was so prevalent throughout the campus. The Student Union Building is a comfortable, modern showplace for students and visitors alike. Soon, "user-friendly trees", whatever that is will adorn the commons just east of the Student Union Building. And all of these things, as Mr. Blaszkowski so cogently point out, has created a body of individuals who have nothing more in common with one another that people on a bus; they are all going in roughly the same direction at the same time.

I sustain your appeal, Mr. Blaszkowski, and implore the administration of Northeastern Illinois University to bring back organized sports. If the administration can't, they should, at least, pretend they are and feed us with false updates. Maybe the hope that we may, some day, get our sports team back will be a rallying point enough. It would certainly be more than what we have right now.

James McDunn

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

Sweep it up

by Niraj Malhotra
Staff Writer

A few times a year the American television stations compete for ratings in what is called Sweeps Month or Week. I suppose it varies from time to time— the duration of the sweeps, that is. The different stations try to hike ratings by doing things that are appealing to John and Jane Q. Viewer. Often there are new pilots aired during that time, or celebrities are cast into episodes of shows, or they might air a really successful show more than its normal number of times. For example, airing *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* everyday for a week is how ABC boosts their ratings, and a good call I may add since it ranked all the way from numbers one through six on the rating charts. NBC might do something lively with *ER*, or *Friends*, or *Frasier*, or one of those miniseries thrillers they're known for. You know, the ones where Victoria's Secret lingerie department obviously funded the female wardrobe. I love those. I mean, there's nothing like a good mystery to keep me satisfied on a Sunday night. CBS and Fox may do something with *Touched By An Angel*, and *Alley McBeal*, respectively. You get the picture.

Now all this stuff goes on to try to capture the audience, to bring viewers, and/or retain viewers in this period of time. They do it by offering what they think the public wants to see, based on what they already know about what the public has been favoring to watch. They put a lot of time and effort into it. Then after that, it usually goes back to normal. Not as exciting stuff goes on and sometimes new shows are pulled off permanently before they even get a chance to flourish, which in many cases has been disappointing to viewers.

So, questions arise. Is this right; is this ethical? Should the media companies draw in the viewers and then leave them hanging wanting more, only having to wait for the next sweeps month to enjoy another double dose of *Frasier*? Why don't they just do that stuff more often, or all year long? Well, I say two things: one, they must have their reasons, no doubt underhanded and deceitful, and two, who cares? That was a dumb question in the first place. I mean TV is TV; there are enough ethical debates on the tube with out trying to debate the ethics of

the broadcast itself. Besides, we watch too much of it as it is. Don't we all know the truth? The reality is they don't care about what you like, but they draw you in with it because it makes money. These guys know what they are doing. Sweeps month is like an orgasm and the rest of the year is like foreplay. If you were in constant orgasm, you'd get used to it, bored of it... I think (too bad there's no way to test that hypothesis).

Anyway, getting back to the case at hand, it's about money.

They make money because sponsors will pay more for commercial space on the hottest channels during the hottest slots.

Then you in turn watch the commercials and run out and buy the products.

They use sweeps month to boost ratings and get ahead by showing the percentages to the sponsors.

They manipulate people by airing commercials by content at times when they know certain types of people are watching, according to age, race, gender, and whatever else they can think of. Why should they care about the ethics of drawing viewers just for a while to increase ratings?

They sell more ad space, they make more cash. That's not evil, that's American. The TV stations sell more as corporations buy more. In turn, corporations sell more as you, the public buy, more, and then you get to watch what you like. Everybody's happy. I know, I know; I hate to think I'm being manipulated to buy stuff too, but spending is good for the economy, and businesses grow, jobs increase, wages go up, etc. *Oh no*, how capitalistic of me. Oh come on, it's for the best. Besides, we love commercials and we wait inevitably for the funny ones. I mean come on, do you know how many people watch the Super Bowl just for the commercials? Okay, me neither, but there has got to be a lot. I guess the bottom line here, searching through my web of tangents, which incidentally I could have gone into more depth with, is to enjoy Sweeps Week or Month for what it is: your favorite programs and other cool stuff provided for you not unselfishly by the greedy media stations, which, also on a tangent, happen to own the majority of corporations in America, and be happy. Oh, and don't watch too much TV, but if you do, look for good commercials.

Black

continued from page 7

her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double." In short, it means what goes around, comes around much harder than was given and they have yet to receive it. So, yes Black history Month is necessary —although its effectiveness may be clouded by its commercialization.

My suggestion to those who don't believe it's necessary or to those who want to know why it's necessary — Think about this: Is it necessary for your heart to beat? Of course, because if it stopped you would die. Consider Black History Month as a lifeline. If it's cut then a major part of the Black movement may die.

Soul

continued from page 6

The Bully sent his lackeys into a similar situation before in Ohio at a little university called Kent State. Four of the kids there got beat up so bad, they could never go to school again. The Bully shrugged, oh-welled, and ho-hummed. There are plenty of other kids on the playground whose lunch money jingles in the Bully's pockets just as loudly. The point was made well that terror is order and a closed mouth is safe from having its teeth knocked out. The Bully will never live the Kent State incident down and I'm sure it doesn't want to.

Outside the playground fences, there are kids who don't have any lunch money to steal. They still get beaten up all the time. All they can

DRAWING BOARD



Hillary Poppins

QUOTABLES

If all my friends were to jump off a bridge, I wouldn't jump with them, I'd be at the bottom to catch them.

Unknown

The American way is to seduce a man by bribery and make a prostitute of him. Or else to ignore him, starve him into submission and make a hack out of him.

Henry Miller

The White House is the finest jail in the world.

Harry S. Truman (1949)

A male gynecologist is like an auto mechanic who has never owned a car.

Carrie Snow

The Pentagon—A place where costs are always rounded to the nearest tenth of a billion dollars.

C. Merton Tyrell (1970)

Chinese food—You do not sew with a fork and I see no reason why you should eat with knitting needles.

Henry Beard (1981)

Dick is a four-letter word.

Democratic campaign slogan about Richard Nixon

Bombing can end the war: bomb the Pentagon now!

Pacifist slogan during the Vietnam War

Opera is when a guy gets stabbed in the back and instead of bleeding, he sings.

Ed Gardner 'Duffy's Tavern'

We want to know what you think!

Visit the Independent table outside of Alumni Hall during University Day 2000. We'll have a table set up so you can write out your concerns about our school. All serious letters received that day will be published in a special University Day pull out in our next issue.

**We'll be there all day. We'll bring the pens and paper
- you bring your comments!**

Black History

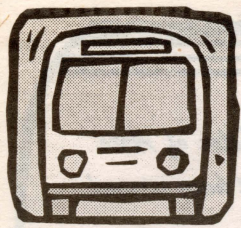
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remember King as a man who, like many white men, changed the world.

Anyone reading the preceding words closely- should have noticed all the gender specific language. The reason for this is to show quite simply that no matter how far Americans have come towards accepting each other—our culture is still deeply rooted with ideas that put straight white males (like myself) above all other people. It was a long time in my life before I could accept such an idea. As a liberal white guy, I don't see much racism. Of course there is the occasional oddball on the talk shows; but who really takes anyone on talk shows seriously? There

have always been jokes that make fun of one group or another, but hey, theses are just jokes, right? . It wasn't until this year that I learned that Rosa Parks was not just a woman who was too tired to move to the "colored" section of the bus. Rosa Parks had studied community activism and planned her actions accordingly.

This year, due to African American History month, I had the pleasure of working with a predominately black cast in the Stage Center's Studio Series. Besides the excellent work of the black student director, I saw people on the stage for the first time. If February does nothing more then give people new opportunities to explore our past and participate in the present—then I believe it will help to promote a better future.



The Commuter

Your Independent Guide to Features

DuSable Museum of African American History Preserving the achievements of African Americans

by Zeenat Desai
Staff Writer

The DuSable Museum of African American History is the sole major institute in Chicago that serves to preserve the achievements and historical experiences of African Americans.

Founded in 1961, the museum began in the home of Dr. Margaret Goss. With no resources or funds, it was hardly a promising beginning. However, in 1973, thanks to community campaigning, the museum moved to Washington Park, its present location. After much time spent in remodeling, expanding the collection, and finding reliable staff personnel, the museum came to be what it is today.

The museum features more than nine special exhibits every year. One of the newer exhibitions is *The Calling and The Courage: The History of African American Education*, which opened January 14, 2000. The exhibit covers Booker T. Washington, W.E.B. DuBois, and George Washington Carver, who were the most prominent African American leaders at the dawning of the 20th century. This exhibit gives a detailed timeline of the various events and significant occasions for African Americans.

The years 1619-1860 were labeled as "Know No Higher Law." This was the time period when the Europeans and Africans were brought to North America as indentured servants. As time passed, the Africans were enslaved for life. The years 1861-1900 brought with them "Cities of Refuge and a Thirst for Knowledge." This was the Civil War era, and with it came the call to freedom. Many slaves walked off of plantations.

The Civil War also made education possible for all. The first great efforts to educate African Americans were made by freed African Americans from the North and South and by white abolitionists. The years 1900-1934 were labeled, "Odds Against Us: We are Climbing." Despite the rise of segregation and racism, small but steady gains were made. As a result, by 1916 over 70% of African Americans were literate and about 7.1 million African American students were enrolled in public schools. The years 1935-1950 brought an end to discrimination in graduate schools and an equalization of teacher salaries.

Another exhibit, *Songs Of My People*, captures the African American experience through the unique viewpoint of the African Americans themselves. In this

incomparable project, a team of fifty African American photographers united to generate a portrait of African Americans today. This exhibit told the stories of pride, determination, tragedy, and the triumph of a group of people much ostracized and misunderstood. These stories spoke of the heritage and diversity of African Americans, as well as the challenges they faced in a changing nation. Each picture tells a different story; each picture captures a different kind of hope—the hope of mothers, fathers, scholars, children, and others. It tells the story of successful African Americans along with not so successful ones. As written on the entrance of the exhibit, *Songs Of My People* is a beat of the rhythm of a song yet unfinished."

Africa Speaks is an exhibit on traditional African art. As Wilbur Tuggle put it, "African Art returns us to a nearness of the enormity of art. African art deals with the forces of the Universe. It has the ability to bring focus, spirit forces, and presence to which we otherwise would have little access. Virtually, all African art proves to be functional in intent and/or use." This exhibit displays masks, carved figures, sacred bowls, and other interesting artifacts.

Some divination bowls were used in ceremonies to sort out valuables. Masks were used as adornments during celebrations and divination ceremonies. These masks were carved differently, each carving reflecting a different purpose. Some of the masks served a purpose in funerary rites, while others were associated with planting and harvest seasons. Other types of masks symbolized increased knowledge or new responsibilities.

Different animal carvings symbolized different things for the tribal people of Africa; for example, a long beaked animal or an animal with a swollen belly symbolized male and female components of prosperity. Objects such as stools, vessels, and staffs were articulated as carvings and make up much of what is regarded as the art of Africa.

The Tuskegee Airmen were also honored in an exhibit in the museum. This exhibit tells the story of African American involvement in the U.S Armed Forces.

The DuSable Museum is an organization devoted to sharing the history of African Americans with all ethnicities in our culturally diverse city. It consists of an assorted collection of exhibits and interesting programs dedicated to their purpose.

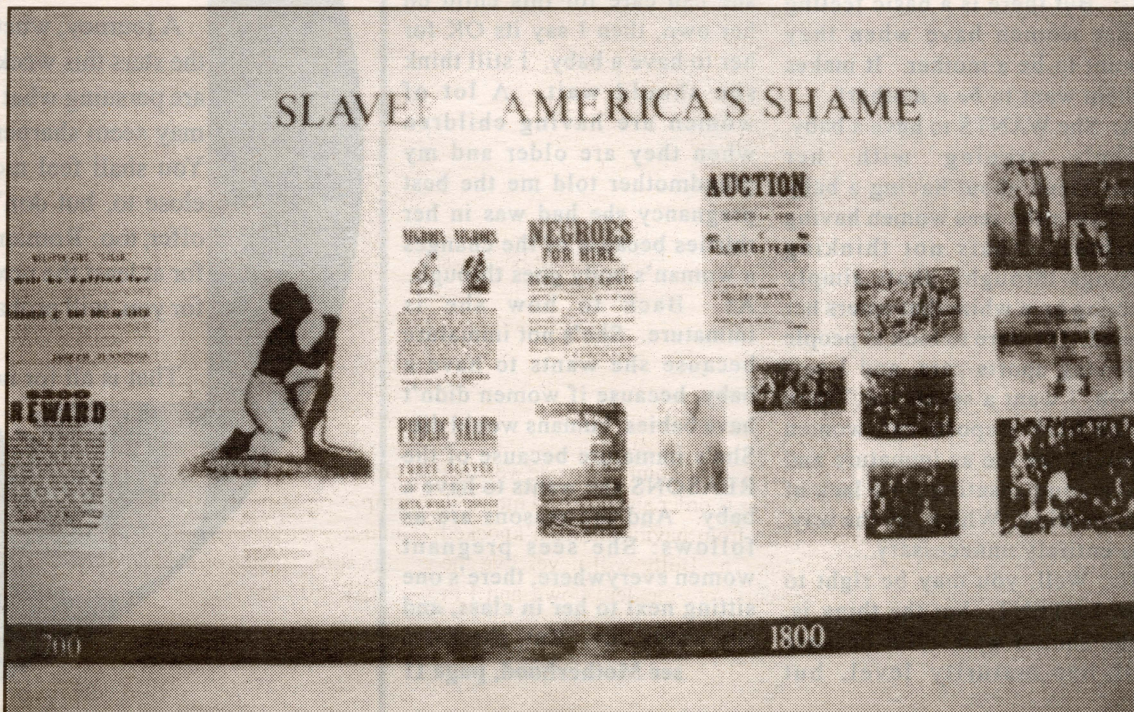


Top: The entrance of the DuSable Museum of African-American History, 740 E. 56th Place. Open Mon to Sat 10 - 5, Sun 12 - 5. Admission is FREE on Thursday. 773.947.0600.



Middle: A powerful sculpture of an African American in bondage.

Bottom: Slavery, America's Shame. A timeline of pictures, posters and announcements marking the days of the slave trade.



HANDLING THE TOUGH, JERRY SPRINGER ISSUES

The agonies of Motherhood

Dear Crabby and Archimedes:
I am a 24 year old college student. Everywhere, I seem to see pregnant women around me, including the girl who sits next to me in class. I really want to have a baby, but my boyfriend, who is also in college, wants to wait a couple years. I really want to have a baby now. What do I do?

— Ready to be a Mother.

A: All right, C. Since you are a woman, I'll let you start. What do you think about this person?

C: First of all, I wholeheartedly agree with the boyfriend. Its better to wait.

A: Very true. He seems to be the mature one in this relationship, which is somewhat of a switch from the norm, but hey. There's always an exception.

C: Just because she wants to have a child doesn't mean she's not mature.

A: She wants to have a child because she sees them around, and "Ooh, I want to have a baby." Its immature and—

C: That doesn't mean—

A: I'm on a roll, here. Shut up. Babies are a lot of work, and I don't want her going out, getting pregnant, have the two of them split up and have her go on welfare, meaning I'll be paying for every kid she decides to have.

C: Well, first of all, there is that motherly urge that women feel.

A: Men have a similar urge, its called sexual drive, and its seen as immaturity by women. Its a double standard!

C: No, its not! Thats not the point.

A: It's total crap, and it's UNACCEPTABLE that women can have all these urges, and every time a man gets a sexual urge, he's seen as a chauvinistic pig. I won't stand for it.

C: But there is a basic feeling that women have when they want to be a mother. It makes them want to *be* a mother!

A: She WANTS to have a baby. She's arguing with her boyfriend about having a baby because she sees women having babies. Thats not thinking things through, thats simply acting on a whim that enters her head. If I were to look at people driving sports cars, and I say, "Oh, I want a sports car," then I go BUY a sports car, women would see me as immature and overcompensating for a lack of something. Which, by the way, is entirely unnecessary....

C: Well, you may be right to an EXTENT, but the thing is, she should wait. Not because of her maturity level, but

because she is still in college and she might not have a good enough job to support a baby. And who knows how long she's been with the boyfriend? What if they do have a baby and he decides its too difficult and leaves?

A: Exactly. They should wait until they are married before taking the next step. Then they know they are committed to this and to each other. Because—

C: Well,....

A: I'm on another roll, be silent. Because, if she has a baby tomorrow, it will put a strain on their relationship, and odds are they'll break up. Where will that leave her and the baby? In college, with a newborn, trying to support herself. And here's what's gonna happen. She might end up on welfare. I'm gonna be paying for her damn kid simply because she was too rash and hasty; she wasn't mature enough to wait.

C: Even though Northeastern provides insurance for this sort of thing, who knows how much it's going to cost? All the tests, the food, diapers, etc. And let's say, for instance, the child is born with Down's Syndrome, or Spina Bifida. If she doesn't have a career, the boyfriend doesn't have a career, and they aren't married, will he stick around? And what manner of care will this child receive?

A: Good point. It came from you, but a good point nonetheless.

C: But if she feels secure in all these aspects, and she does have a job, since a lot of students here do, and she feels confident she can care for this child on her own, then I say its OK for her to have a baby. I still think she should wait. A lot of women are having children when they are older and my grandmother told me the best pregnancy she had was in her thirties because of the changes a woman's body goes through.

A: Back to how she is immature. She's not immature because she wants to have a baby, because if women didn't have babies, humans would die. She's immature because of the REASONS she wants to have a baby. And the reasons are as follows: She sees pregnant women everywhere, there's one sitting next to her in class, and she wants one. But, she has a

see Motherhood, page 11



Congratulations to the following Board of Governors Bachelor of Arts Degree students whose high levels of academic achievement have earned them the honor of being selected for the Deans List.

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What's in the stars?

It is I again, LinMer Encorcer. I have been called down from my high tower once again to spread knowledge to the masses. So once again I must read the stars. O well, if I must, so be it!

A journey, whether mental, physical, or emotional, bodes heavily in the stars this week. Your mind may seem sharper than usual when you are persuing what you truly desire. I warn you, even though your mind may seem sharper, do not fall into the "slave to the grind" mentality. You shall feel more drawn than usual to those that you are already close to, but don't forget the others out there. They have things to offer, too. Romantic endeavors and relationships should remain steady for at least the next couple of weeks. Home life, whatever that may be for you, will probably be a little harder than it has been in recent weeks.

That is all for now. *Now be off, before I turn you into a newt!*

Motherhood,

continued from page 9

boyfriend, not a husband with a secure, high-paying job, but a BOYFRIEND, also in college. How the hell will they support this kid?

C: There's nothing wrong with wanting to bring a baby into this world!

A: You're right, there isn't. but, there is something wrong with the situation she's bringing the baby into. They both are in college, no steady income—

C: You don't know that! Most

students here have jobs!

A: You call working at K-Mart for \$6.50 an hour a job? Oh, yeah. They definitely can raise a baby on K-Mart income. No, they'll end up getting welfare checks, and hardworking people, like Archimedes for one, will end up paying for their damn kid because they were too irresponsible to wait until they were married, until they had a house, until they had a steady income. That's my definition of irresponsibility. It's unacceptable, and I won't allow it.

C: Shut up for a minute. First off, she's not immature, but let's get past that for a second. True, if he doesn't stick around, she may have to go on welfare. And I agree that having a child isn't as simple as ordering dinner.

A: That's because ordering dinner is rarely a well-thought out plan. Its a whim, and she's treating pregnancy like a whim!

C: The only thing she needs to plan on is waiting until she and her boyfriend are BOTH ready. If she puts pressure on him, he may do this unwillingly, and what good is an unwilling

father?

A: It's better than an immature mother!

C: Oh, go to hell. I think she should wait. Where's the baby going to stay if the father leaves, with her in class?

A: Oh, hell no. I for one don't want a screaming, slobbering infant in my class.

C: You probably don't want an infant in your HOUSE.

A: Damn straight, I don't. At least, not yet.

C: Oh, God help us if Archimedes breeds.

A: HEY... There's nothing

wrong with Archimedes breeding, because he's the VOICE OF REASON! These people should wait. That's what they must do, and I'm glad you finally agree with me.

C: This time, I agree with you. On some parts. But, she's still not immature!

A: Typical woman, can't let go of an argument.

C: Typical man, stupid as a brick.

A: I resent that, but I'll chalk it up to your P.M.S.

C: Listen, you little sh—

A: Well, I'll be! We've run out of room!

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BUT YOUR INCOMPARABLE
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Marianne Potter

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Organizations

Apocalypse Literary Arts coalition invites writers/poets to join us for an informal writers group to share work. March 7, Tuesday, 2 p.m., E-035.

New Club! Adventure Games Club is looking for members. For more information contact Brian through the Independent Office, rm. E-049.

NEIU's 28 year old Latino student publication meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month at 1:40 p.m. in E-041.

Come vibe with the Black Heritage Club, the most influential club on Northeastern's Campus, meeting Thursdays at 1:40 – 2:50 p.m. in CLS 3081. President Ricky McCoy. Vice President Tshey (Sahi) Gebre.

Bombazo! UPRS invites you to experience Bomba, on of Puerto Rico's cultural expressions, Thursday, February 24, 2000, 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall

Personals

To the cast of Anastasia and Drizella: Break a leg out there gang! You'll do great! - MJ

BC – You have definitely made life more interesting. We missed you last week. – C&L.

Crabby: So far, so good. Now, if we could just work on your sexist viewpoints. – Archimedes.

Lady Shakespeare, I want to thank you for your poem Claudia, but I would not mind one in person. Let's have lunch! I'm free Tue and Thurs – Joshua.

To one hot Sicilian man: You know who you are. Keep seeing you in the library. Looking good!

The "power" belongs to me! – Vic

You wish!!! – The Office Girls.

To the two star-crossed lovers: Cupid has set his sights on you. Beware - love can strike at any time, in any place.

To that other hot Sicilian man: You're just like a big 'ol, cuddly, teddy bear, and we love you that way.

Hey V: Have you enjoyed the poster big boy? We thought you would.

Dreams come true when you least expect them. Don't be afraid to follow them, wherever they may lead. G/L

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The Independent is pleased to announce the receipt of 3 Illinois Collegiate Press Association Awards at the 1999 - 2000 convention

Classified Page Design - Open Category
2nd Place

Column Writer, Other Than Sports - Non-dalies w/Circulation over 4,000
John Rossi for This Mans World
2nd Place

General Excellence - Non-dalies w/Circulation over 4,000
Honorable Mention

Many thanks to all of the staff members from the past year. Without you, we couldn't have done it.