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Independent- Oct. 13, 2000

Tim Hill

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SINCE 1988 | 3 TIME 1999-2000 ICPA AWARD WINNER | CHICAGO, ILL.

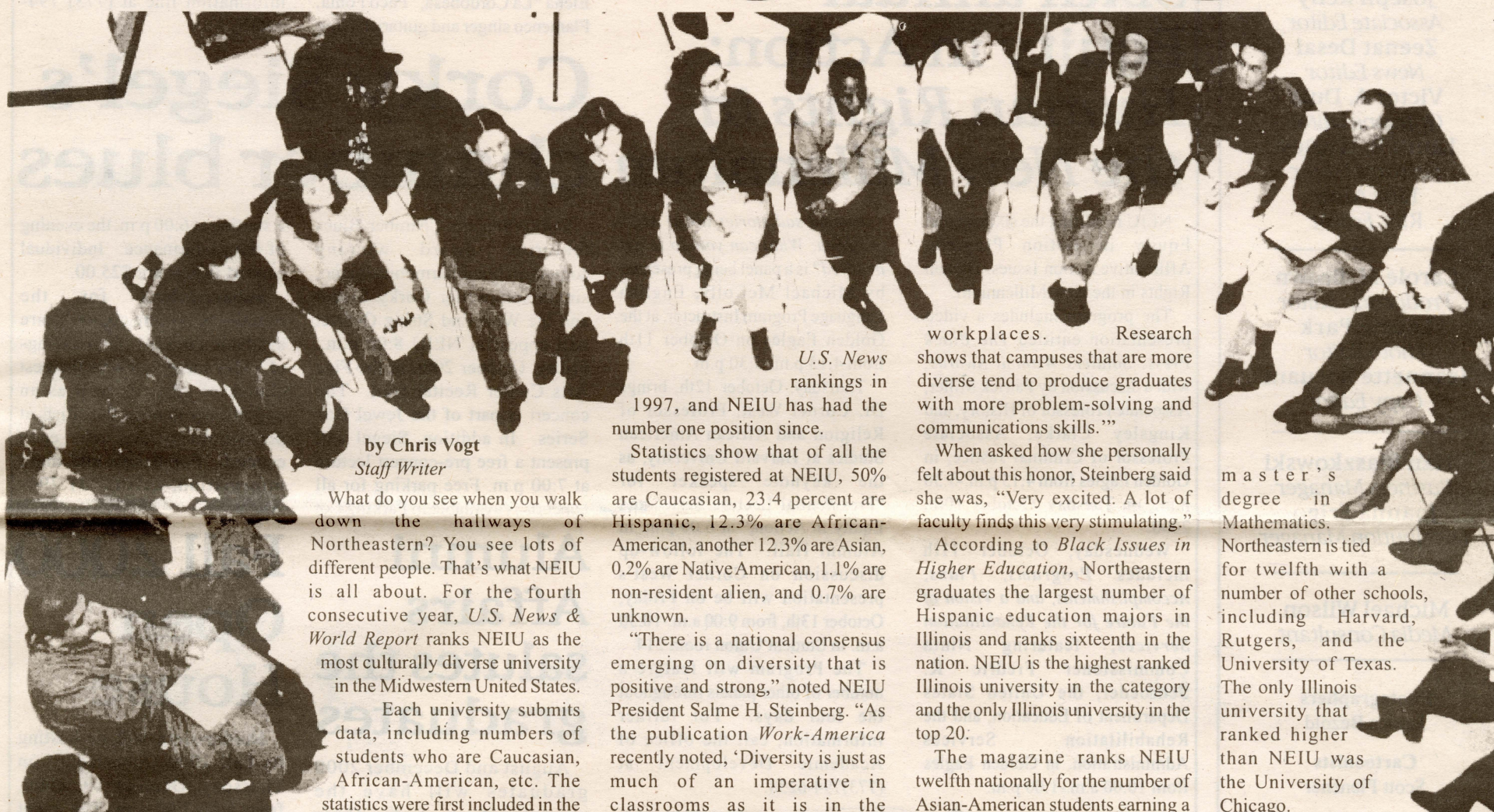
Independent

Vol. 17 Issue 4

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Friday, October 13, 2000

Diversity reigns



by Chris Vogt
Staff Writer

What do you see when you walk down the hallways of Northeastern? You see lots of different people. That's what NEIU is all about. For the fourth consecutive year, *U.S. News & World Report* ranks NEIU as the most culturally diverse university in the Midwestern United States.

Each university submits data, including numbers of students who are Caucasian, African-American, etc. The statistics were first included in the

U.S. News rankings in 1997, and NEIU has had the number one position since.

Statistics show that of all the students registered at NEIU, 50% are Caucasian, 23.4 percent are Hispanic, 12.3% are African-American, another 12.3% are Asian, 0.2% are Native American, 1.1% are non-resident alien, and 0.7% are unknown.

"There is a national consensus emerging on diversity that is positive and strong," noted NEIU President Salme H. Steinberg. "As the publication *Work-America* recently noted, 'Diversity is just as much of an imperative in classrooms as it is in the

workplaces. Research shows that campuses that are more diverse tend to produce graduates with more problem-solving and communications skills.'"

When asked how she personally felt about this honor, Steinberg said she was, "Very excited. A lot of faculty finds this very stimulating."

According to *Black Issues in Higher Education*, Northeastern graduates the largest number of Hispanic education majors in Illinois and ranks sixteenth in the nation. NEIU is the highest ranked Illinois university in the category and the only Illinois university in the top 20.

The magazine ranks NEIU twelfth nationally for the number of Asian-American students earning a

master's degree in Mathematics.

Northeastern is tied for twelfth with a number of other schools, including Harvard, Rutgers, and the University of Texas. The only Illinois university that ranked higher than NEIU was the University of Chicago.

IBHE meets, discusses finance

by Zeenat Desai
News Editor

The Illinois Board of Higher Education held the Budget Overview Meeting on October 6th, 2000, in which they discussed the university's programmatic initiatives and priorities, the fiscal year 2002 operating and capital budget requests, and the legislative initiatives and strategies.

Instructional staffing was one of the items discussed relating to the fiscal year 2002 program priority requests. The university requested six full-time faculty positions, totaling \$370,000, to fill the needs of two exceedingly demanding colleges: the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education. Provost Estella Lopez commented on the request, saying, "By positioning more faculty in these key areas...we can fill the gaps by using external force."

Learning communities, totaling \$200,000, were also proposed by the University. These learning

communities aim to promote "academic coherence" by providing courses where students and faculty can work together to achieve the same academic goals; both the students and faculty have the opportunity to learn and assist one another in teaching.

An in-service apprenticeship program, totaling \$150,000, was proposed by the College of Education. The program intends to strengthen teacher preparation by broadening and improving teaching strategies, while creating a support system that will "increase competency, reduce stress, and as a result, will increase the overall teacher retention rate, a major national goal."

Instructional support in technology, totaling \$200,000, supports the Computer Science Department in establishing a lab for students majoring in a Computer Science-related field. Hoda Mahmoudi, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences,

see IBHE

continued on page 4

Different approaches taken to meet student needs

by Maria Medina
Staff Writer

Dr. Raymond Padilla presented his Student Success model in the Golden Eagles Room on Friday, September 29th as part of Northeastern's Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

Padilla is a professor at the Arizona

State University for the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. His Student Success Model provided information on why some students that enter college walk out with a degree while others don't.

According to Dr. Padilla, the campus experience is composed of a "Black Box." In this Black Box, there

exists barriers that interfere with the student, therefore disallowing him/her to have a successful academic career, and preventing graduation from college. Before achieving the baccalaureate degree, the student drops out of school, unable to overcome the barriers.

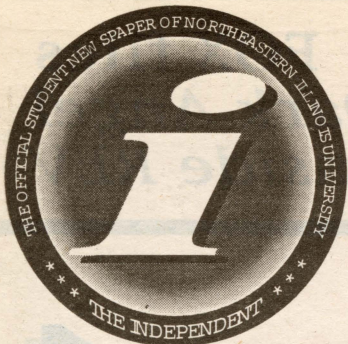
Padilla's Black Box model is composed of an input, representing the student entering college, and the output represented in two channels: the graduates and the drop-outs.

This Black Box contains the unknown. No one really knows what goes on in the time period when the student enters college and after the student leaves. It is this Black Box experience that determines if the student will successfully graduate with a degree. Although it is not exactly known what goes on in the Black Box, Padilla explained what he hypothesized are "geographical barriers" that account for the student's either being able to overcome the barriers and graduate, or what barriers prevent graduation, forcing the



Dr. Raymond Padilla of Arizona State University discusses new educational methods for helping more college students graduate.

see Padilla
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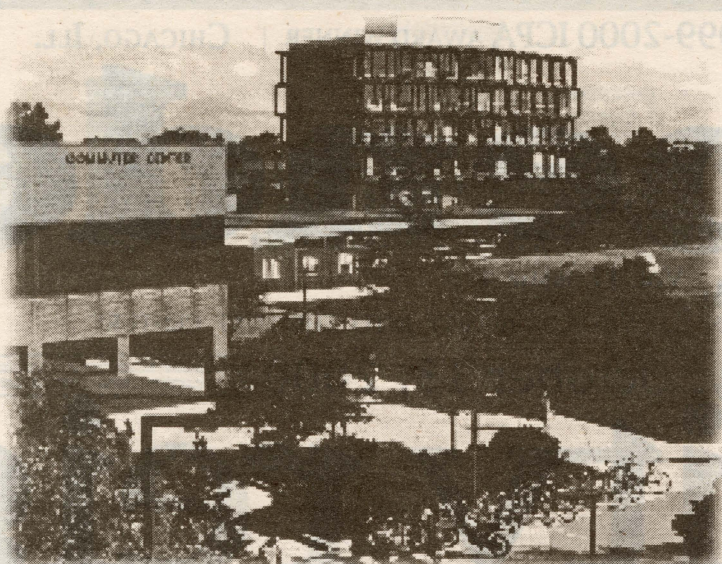
Jessica Bezold, Tom Croon, Iris Giannakis, Henry Jones, Maria Medina, Doris Nodarse, Scott Plencner, John Rossi, Chris Schneider, William A. Steele, Chris Vogt, Position Available

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

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AROUND CAMPUS



Sixth annual Equity in Action: Human Rights in the New Millennium

NEIU is hosting the sixth annual Equity in Action Program, Affirmative Action Issues: Human Rights in the New Millennium.

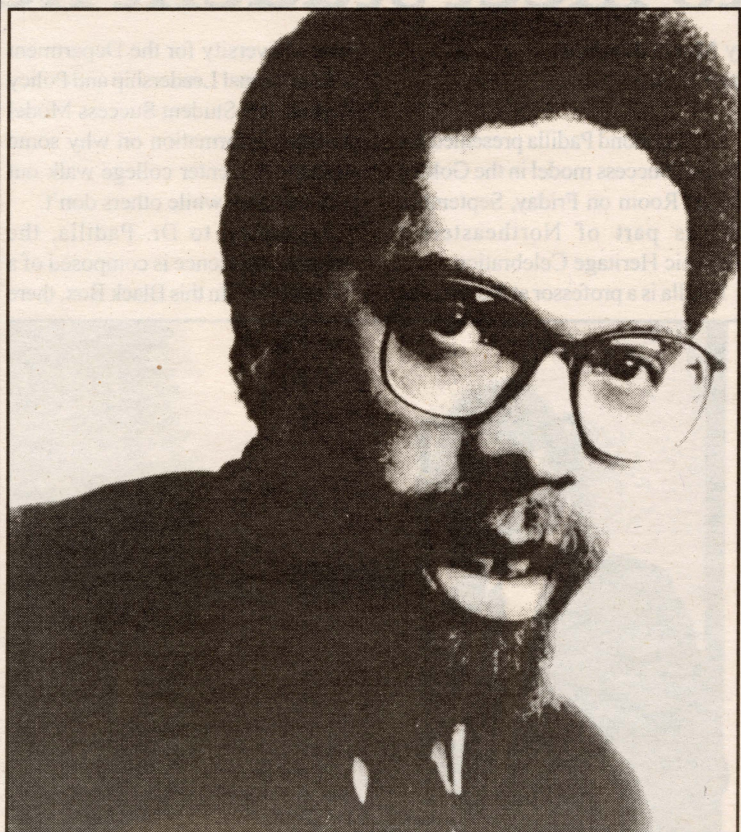
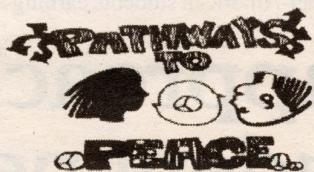
The program includes a video presentation entitled *The Black Press: Soldiers Without Swords*, with a discussion by Patrick Miller, Associate Professor of History, and Kingsley Clarke, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice, in Golden Eagles from 4:15 p.m.-5:30 p.m., on Tuesday, October 10th, 2000.

Wednesday, October 11th includes *Programs, Plans, Accomplishments, and a Vision of the Future for the Rehabilitation Services*, featuring Ninth Commissioner Fredric K. Schroeder, the United States Department of Education, and the Rehabilitation Services Administration, in Golden Eagles from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Beyond sad stories about AIDS in Africa: What can you do to get involved? is a panel being presented by Michael McColly, English Language Program Instructor, at the Golden Eagles on October 11th from 4:15 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

Thursday, October 12th, brings Dr. Cornel West, Professor of Religion and African American Studies at Harvard University, as the keynote speaker for "Presidential Lecture Series and Equity in Action," at 6:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall. The follow-up discussion on Cornel West's presentation will be on Friday, October 13th, from 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. in Student Union room 214.

The Program will feature a number of other panels throughout the four days. For further information, call the office of Academic Development at (773)794-6258.



Harvard professor Dr. Cornel West will be speaking at NEIU as part of the Equity in Action-Pathways to Peace/Presidential Lecture Series.

photo courtesy of Media Relations

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates with *Ritmos Unidos*

Ensemble Espanol Spanish Dance Theater, in residence at NEIU, celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with *Ritmos Unidos* (United Rhythms) at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, October 14, at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, and at the J. Sterling Morton High School Auditorium, 2423 Austin Ave., Cicero. The concert will feature a full company of dancers, along with guest Flamenco musicians Maria Elena "La Cordobesa," Paco Fonta, Flamenco singer and guitarist; Greg

Wolfe, Mateo and Hector Fernandez, Flamenco guitarists; and percussionist Mick LaBriola.

Ticket prices for the October 14th concert at the North Shore Center for Performing Arts are \$15 to \$30; call the center at (847) 673-6300. Tickets for the special family matinee concert on October 15th at the Morton High School Auditorium are \$10. For ticket information on the matinee concert, call NEIU's ticket and information line at (773) 794-ARTS.

Corky Siegel's chamber blues

Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues featuring award winning composer, blues harmonica/piano, singer/songwriter Corky Siegel and the West End String Quartet will appear at NEIU 8:00 p.m., Friday, October 20th, in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. The concert is part of the Jewel Box Series. In addition, Siegel will present a free pre-concert lecture at 7:00 p.m. Free parking for all concerts is available in Parking Lot

F starting at 6:00 p.m. the evening of the performance. Individual concert tickets are \$25.00.

Subscriptions for the remaining seven concerts are available for \$131.00 (a savings of 25%) and guarantees the best choice of seats as well as an opportunity to meet the artists at private receptions after each concert. For tickets and more information, call (773) 794-ARTS.

Alumni Affairs salutes the graduates

August and December 2000 graduates will have the opportunity to order their class rings, take graduation photos, register for prizes, obtain information brochures, pick up Commencement Tickets, and much more on Wednesday, November 15th, from noon to 7:00 p.m. in the Village Square. For more information, call the Alumni Office at extension 2892.

Fall 2000 Open House

Northeastern will be hosting its Fall 2000 Open House on Thursday, October 19, 2000, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The event will take place in the Student Union.

Prospective undergraduate students and their parents are invited. Students will be able to obtain admission information, tour the campus, meet informally with faculty and staff, attend a student panel and financial aid workshop, and hear about grant and scholarship opportunities.

WATCH OUT! Deadline coming

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

October 24

November 7

November 21

December 5

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

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

Hot tip?



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

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

by Henry Jones
Staff Writer

Northeastern Illinois University has hired Erika M. Malek as their new director of media relations. Malek received a Bachelors Degree in Communications at the University of Millikin. She also worked as the media relation's coordinator for Millikin University. There, Malek made the public aware of the university by writing a story that was featured in the 2000 college guide issue of U.S. News and World Report. Like taking an average team to the super bowl, Malek sparked a flame that will be hard to put out. All of this came from just one story pitch. If this is what she has done for Millikin University, imagine what Malek can do for Northeastern.

Malek seeks to form positive images for Northeastern. She intends to use her expertise in public relations to fortify an already solid base here, while enhancing Northeastern's rapport with the media and the public. Northeastern has achieved a lot over the years, and Malek wants to explore every aspect of those achievements. She wants to get a feel for how to put Northeastern on the map with some of the other top colleges in Illinois. Without a doubt, a major task is at hand. Nevertheless, Malek is up for the challenge.

With that in mind, Malek intends to put her plans into action. Her goals are to enforce newsletters, messages and press releases that inform and express the essence of Northeastern events. She intends to build a positive relationship with the media by demonstrating honesty

and looking at issues from a ethical point of view. Moreover, she plans to create media coverage that is specific to events.

Malek strongly believes in researching information and interviewing. She feels that directly quoting from the source is the definite way to go when you're writing a news story. While speaking in a public relations class at Northeastern, Malek told students, "If you want to go into public relations, you should at least write two articles for your school newspaper because it will look good in your portfolio." Malek is a strong advocate of writing because she feels it is one of the best ways to express one's ideas and know-

how.

Malek's primary focus is to place information about Northeastern into the mass media. Some of her research involves visiting different media workshops throughout the Chicagoland area. Malek explains that this is how she can get the insights on developing stories. In other words, she intends to get up-close and personal. Her style of media relations will definitely have a lasting impression on Northeastern. Malek's mission is to express the core messages about the affordability, academic quality, and diversity that Northeastern Illinois University has to offer.



New Director of Media Relations, Erika Malek.

photo courtesy of Media Relations

Padilla

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Attendants of Padilla's discussion listened on attentively.

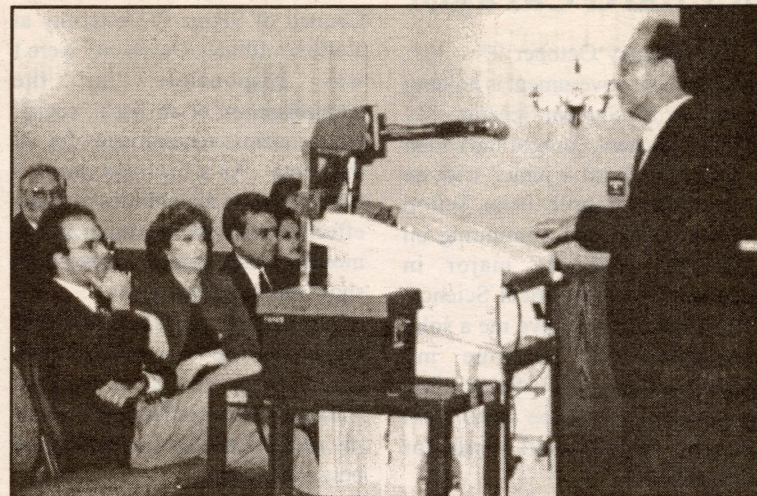


photo by Maria Medina

student to drop out.

Padilla explained that every student has their own set of barriers to overcome. He provided an example as follows: A particular barrier for a student may be money, while another student may be wealthy and money is not a barrier for him/her, but that person then experiences a different set of barriers. Padilla stated that the campus itself is a series of barriers, but the institution knowing that it contains barriers provides a range of solutions to them. That is why there exists such programs and departments like student financial aid, student advisement, and mentoring/tutoring programs, all of which are designed to facilitate students' successful college experience.

Padilla then asked, "How is it that students that are successful are able to negotiate the geography of barriers?" Padilla explained that a student becomes successful by becoming a scholastic "expert." In order for students to become experts, they must acquire knowledge through their college experience, as the level of knowledge that students enter with is not enough to survive throughout their college years.

Knowledge that the student acquires during their college experience has two components: theoretical knowledge and heuristic knowledge. Padilla explained that theoretical knowledge is knowledge that is learned in a classroom environment and from books that students study and read. Heuristic knowledge, on the other hand, is acquired through first-hand experience.

Padilla says such heuristic

experiences are rules of thumb. For example, going to the financial aid office in order to know how to fill out certain forms, or knowing what to do in order to declare a major or minor in a certain area are situations that cannot be dealt with by merely opening a book. This heuristic knowledge is what makes a student an "expert student." Padilla mentions that students tend to drop out during their first or second semesters because of lack of heuristic knowledge.

An approach taken by Padilla to obtain information on the barriers that existed in one particular university was to use an "Unfolding Matrix" approach. This matrix was conducted on a group of students to gather information on the barriers that they came across and the approaches they used to overcome these barriers successfully. As a result of this "qualitative survey," once the information was obtained, that particular institution was able to remodel their services to fit their students' needs.

Dr. Padilla's new approaches were developed to increase the success in college for anyone experiencing barriers in their education, and as a result, not successfully completing college.

Dr. Raymond Padilla's presentation on the Student Success Model was sponsored by Provost Estela Lopez, the Chicago ENLACE Partnership, and the Enrollment Management Committee. There is a series of events dedicated to the celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month that will be running through October 15th.



photo by Maria Medina

Padilla explained the rudiments of his "Black Box" model.

EXTENSION 200

Officer James R. Murray
Public Safety

September 18
Medical Assist

A student had a seizure in the Science Building. The student was taken to Swedish Covenant Hospital via ambulance.

Medical Assist

A student passed out while working out in the weight room. The student was able to leave under own recognizance after re-hydrating himself.

Found article

A black wallet with an "NEIU" logo on the front was turned in at the Public Safety office.

September 19
Theft over \$300

A visitor to the NEIU Library left a lap top computer unattended while using the restrooms. A loss of \$3000.

September 20
Criminal Damage to State Supported Property

Unknown person(s) de-faced pillars in the student union.

September 21
Medical Assist

A student tripped and fell in the Classroom Building. The student was taken by ambulance to Swedish Covenant Hospital.

September 25
Medical Assist

A student had an epileptic seizure in the Science Building. The student was treated by Health Services staff.

Hit and Run

A student was struck by a vehicle in the G-Lot. No major injuries were reported.

September 26
Theft \$300 and under

A victim had a set of keys and a remote control car door opener stolen from a locker in the P.E. Building.

Medical Assist

A student was taken via ambulance to Swedish Covenant Hospital after dislocating a hip.

Traffic Violation

A driver was cited for disobeying

stop sign. The driver was arrested after it was discovered that he was driving on a traffic citation. The driver was I-bonded and a court date was set.

September 28
Traffic Violation

A traffic arrest was made in the C-Lot after it was discovered that the driver was driving on a suspended license.

Theft \$300 and under

Victim had money and credit cards stolen from a locker in the P. E. Building.

Medical Assist

Victim taken to Swedish Covenant Hospital after having a seizure in the Fine Arts Building.

Found Article

A brown wallet was found in the Science Building, Room 208, and turned into Public Safety.

Criminal Damage to State Supported Property

Unknown person(s) smashed a university house phone in the H-Building. Cost of phone is undetermined at this time.

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

Candidate statements

Richard Caragol

On Monday October 9th – 12th, your student government is holding elections for Student Senator. My name is Richard Caragol and I want your vote. I am a junior with an Associates Degree from Triton College, and I am continuing on towards a double major in Economics and Political Science. This I believe will give me a solid foundation to continue my education through Law School. My qualifications to be your next Student Senator will speak for themselves.

I was a member of the Executive Council of Sigma Pi Fraternity at Northern Illinois University where I was responsible for the administration of all fiscal, social, and academic requirements for all members. As a business owner I capitalized on my abilities to make effective decisions on a moment-by-moment basis geared toward both short and long term goals. The election starting October 9th will set the tone for your next school year. Once you elect Richard Caragol your next Student Senator my abilities will be utilized to your best advantages.

Editor's note: Caragol was the only candidate who submitted a statement for this publication.

IBHE

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addressed the increase of Computer Science-related majors at NEIU, stating, "As a result of the undergraduate number of majors increasing in the Computer Science area, we must meet technology needs on campus." Instructional support in the Handicap Educational Liaison Program (HELP) and the Math Lab, totaling \$100,000, was presented by Murrell Duster, Dean of Academic Development. Duster noted that the number of students with disabilities registered with the HELP Office has raised from 40 to a remarkable 403 since the HELP program has started. The Math Lab requires additional staffing, as it "supports students not only in the beginning courses, but throughout the entire math program," according to Duster. A general university equipment

replacement request, totaling \$200,000, supports university efforts for regular replacement for all classroom and study area furniture and equipment, including the Library and the Facilities and Management large equipment and shop tools. The regular capital projects and capital renewal projects of the years 1976 to 2000 were viewed. The remodeling of Buildings A, B, and E was included under the 2000 regular capital project. According to the NEIU Office of Institutional Studies and Planning, the comparison of student credit hours by level and by college have increased significantly since the past academic year. Provost Lopez correlated this to the emphasis placed by the university on classroom environment, and to an increase at the undergraduate level. As Hoda Mahmoudi stated, "We are hoping we can meet the demands of these students in the most efficient manner."

Nontraditional methods succeed

Where can you find graduates of the Nontraditional Degree Programs (NDP) of NEIU? Chances are good that they can be found attending graduate schools. Students enrolled in NDP at Northeastern are typically older than traditional students. Their average age is thirty-eight. They usually enter the programs with focus and dedication. They have specific reasons for enrolling in these programs, such as job advancement or additional employment opportunities. Therefore, it should not be surprising that these students have remained motivated to complete additional education degrees. Both the University Without Walls Program and the Board of Governors Bachelor of Arts Degree Program, which comprise the NDP's offered at NEIU, were designed to offer options and flexibility to older, returning adult students. In addition to job responsibilities, returning adults often have families (many are single parents). The flexibility of NDP's enables students to balance their responsibilities and succeed in their educational goals. A survey of 1994 graduates of Northeastern Illinois University conducted by Institutional Studies determined that more than 30% of NDP graduates had already completed a post-secondary degree. Another 17% were enrolled in graduate degree programs. In addition, the survey indicated that 75% of NDP students were satisfied or very satisfied with their current employment; a total surpassed only by the College of Education, and 76% were satisfied or very satisfied with their NEIU education; a total higher than any of the three other types. Except for business graduates, the median salary of \$35,250 for NDP graduates compares favorably to grads of other colleges. This survey testifies to the fact that nontraditional education is a vitally important part of NEIU. Nontraditional Degree Programs offer returning adult students opportunities to achieve their objectives. Information provided by Janet Sandoval, Director/Nontraditional Degree Programs

An unplanned pregnancy can make you feel like you're out of options. But The Cradle can offer support and assistance on matters of adoption. Talk to women who have been where you are. And have the option of choosing your child's adoptive parents and staying in touch. There is more than one solution. And together, we'll find the right one for you.

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Variations on a Wreath

Inspired by the Hall of Wreaths at the Botanic Gardens last year, the Library will host "Wreath O'Rama" in December. We invite the university community—individuals, departments, student clubs—to make wreaths for display. Variety is welcome, imagination encouraged. Prizes will be awarded for the most creative ideas, courtesy of the Library Administration.

Please contact Jo Mortland at ext. 4460 if you are willing to participate.

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PERSPECTUS

EDITORIAL

1-point for Bush

Most people have already decided, but in the spirit of tradition and due to our long national love affair with good old-fashioned political mudslinging, the first of a series of three presidential debates was held last Tuesday in Boston. While the opinionless fence-sitters, christened by the media with the dubious title "the moderates" and touted as the only reasonable American voters, told their focus group moderators that the time has come to end partisan bickering and personal attacks, Gore and Bush got busy sharpening their arrows and collecting plenty of mud. The candidates know that such an impersonal, issue-oriented election is not only impossible to win, but is also not what their base wants. While more Americans may identify themselves as moderates, whatever their intention, and may loathe such a campaign, the candidates know that it is the opinionated base that actually votes, and therefore wields the real power. Gore and Bush had the tough task on Tuesday of placating both their respective bases and the media's darling moderates. In the end, George W. Bush proved the most able of the two candidates to do this.

The modern debate, like the modern political convention, is hollow in significance. With the advent of cable TV, most apathetic Americans were able to tune into reruns of Springer, albeit they may have had to pass PBS or C-SPAN on their way to the blissful safety of being opinionless. Most viewers of the modern debate already had their minds made up before they sat down in front of the TV. It is a meaningless exercise to argue about who is winning. This is too simplistic. Instead, we must examine who was able to ignite their base most effectively, since we learned nothing particularly new about the positions of the candidates as they spouted out bits and pieces from their campaign speeches.

Gore's constant sighing and over-eagerness to get the last word (at one point, asking point blank for "the last word") helped to paint Bush as the more calm and presidentially transcendent of the two candidates to moderates. Bush's constant jabs at Gore may have countered this. Although, the numbers speak for themselves, and Gore was wrong about many of the numbers he threw out to question-man Lehrer. Bush's accusation of "fuzzy math" may have countered anything the already left-leaning, over-sensitive moderates may have seen in him. Despite this, let's give one point to Bush via Gore's childishness.

Ten times and often at inappropriate moments, Gore accused Bush's tax break of being overly-beneficial to the

wealthy. Gore said the top 1% get most of the tax break under Bush's across the board tax cut. Bush failed to point out that this is so because the top 1% pay most of the taxes. Since they make incredible amounts of income, their taxes reflect this. As Bush stated, it is not the government's place to pick which people are worthy of tax cuts and which ones are not. Gore's targeted tax plan reeks of redistribution, and that word reeks of socialism. Under Bush's plan, everyone who pays taxes will get an equal proportion of their money back.

The proposed surplus exists as the result of over-taxation. The government is taking in more money than it needs. All Bush is trying to do is to return a measly 5% of this excess cash to, as he said, "the people who pay the bills." Gore says no. Gore quite clearly said that he believes the government is best suited to handle the money made by the labor of the American people. Don't worry though. Gore, a lifelong politician and DC insider, will make sure he spends your money wisely. Sorry Al, but that's two points for Bush now. The workers of America are not children.

Neither are the elderly. Gore and Bush railed on each other about how long it would take their opponents' respective Medicare prescription plans to redistribute income taxes in the form of medicine to the elderly, regardless of need. Gore, in the style of a kindergarten teacher speaking to five year-olds, called for an immediate and total immersion into this new welfare program, although his party has been in power for the last seven years and have done nothing as of yet. Bush began with the words, "You had your chance." Bush called for a careful entry into the program, which was for his party a great compromise in the first place. Three points for Bush and caution.

When asked whether he would outlaw the RU486 abortion pill recently passed by the FDA, Bush explained quite clearly that the president has no jurisdiction over the matter of abortion and the FDA's decision. Gore proceeded to accuse Bush of lying about what he said, and told the same American public that heard Bush state that his hands were constitutionally tied that Bush was going to launch a full-scale war on the pill through litmus-tested appointments to the FDA. Bush denied this and promised to extend his no litmus-test policy to his potential Supreme Court appointees, although, as a conservative he would appoint strict interpreters of the

DRAWING BOARD



THE BABYSITTER

Constitution. Gore said "strict interpretation" is code for anti-Roe v. Wade.

If this is the case, then what Gore is saying is that the court that made the famous decision was not making its decision on firm constitutional grounds as they argued they were doing. The same was true of education. Bush clearly stated that the federal government has very little say in an educational system, constitutionally (10th Amendment) left to the responsibility of the state governments. Although promising questionable federal tax credits to those burdened by a private school tuition, Bush scores his fourth point on knowing the constitutional limits of the presidency.

As the debate fizzled and died with talk of foreign policy, a place where Bush and Gore often agreed, the talk came around to the topic of character. It was here that Bush brought up the Buddhist Temple scandal in which Gore, a self-appointed spokesman on behalf of campaign finance reform, took in thousands of dollars in illegal campaign contributions from a foreign communist nation. Gore tried to skirt the issue, but Lehrer persisted. Gore labeled the accusation a "personal attack," although there is nothing personal about inviting foreign influence to wreck the American process that belongs to the American people, and NOT Beijing. Gore then pleaded to the camera, "You want to focus on scandal. I want to focus on results."

For Gore, the ends justify the means. He met laughter from the audience when he continued and said, "I want you to see me for who I really am," and told Lehrer that he refused to respond to questions about his character. It is not hard to believe that the man who stood behind the impeachment-stained and perjurious presidency of Bill Clinton holds no regard for character. One more point for Bush.

Bush 5 - Gore 0.

VP debate: Not as boring as Gore used to be

by Victor A. Dula
Opinions Editor

Before I delve into the vice-presidential debate held Thursday evening, October 6, in Danville Kentucky, I must make a few comments on the presidential one held two days prior. Gore is no longer the two-by-four so many have made him to be; he is animated, vivacious, and determined. I would now consider him to be a gnarled tree branch with an interesting, lively shape rather than the boring, flat piece of wood he once was.

Bush has been roundly criticized for appearing, and even being, unintelligent, often stuttering over and mispronouncing his words. It is good to see that he has corrected one of his two problems.

The vice-presidential debate Thursday evening did not bore me as I had expected. Indeed, I did not find myself turning to PAX TV for some wholesome, family entertainment like *Touched by an Angel*, or *Supermarket Sweep*, a game show whose big money prize is \$5,000.

This debate could have benefited from more personal attacks and scathing remarks, but both candidates agreed to be positive and civil at the start of the debate. Joe Lieberman, Gore's running mate, remarked that his mother requested him to "be positive and know that I will love you no matter what your opponent says about you."

Dick Cheney, Bush's running mate, certainly gave little, if any, reason for Lieberman's mother to question her love for him except to say, "... and I promise not to bring up your singing," to which

Lieberman replied, "And I promise not to sing." Thank God he didn't.

The first topic that came up was that of the much heralded surplus over the next ten years. Cheney's projection is \$2.4 trillion, more than Lieberman's \$1.8 trillion. The true figure is, well, a mystery.

The fact is that projecting a surplus is like forecasting the weather. However, the science of forecasting surpluses is quite new territory for today's economic psychics and could result in false predictions. When compounded with policy decisions forged under the assumption that there will even be a surplus, let alone one in the trillions, many who vote one way or the other stand a good chance of being disappointed if that surplus fails to arrive as promised.

Lieberman informed the nation that \$300 billion of the surplus would be set aside in a reserve fund, that's about 6%. If it were up to me, I would spend tax dollars under the assumption that there would be no surplus. Also, if it were up to me, surpluses would be unheard of, as I would not overtax to the point where a surplus would exist.

After all, it really is not a surplus if the feds are already deciding how to spend it. It is really a tax increase. Only, if Bush is elected, they would use 75% of it as Cheney informed the country that one fourth of the surplus would be returned in the form of tax cuts to the people who pay the bills.

If anyone understands this, they recognize that essentially both candidates will raise taxes, but Bush will raise them by fewer dollars because some will go towards tax cuts. But then I'm reminded that

see Vice-President
continued on page 7

Stripping away misconceptions about strippers

Low lights, cool drinks, beautiful women. Strip joints are becoming increasingly popular, and as with anything popular, it has its enemies. Mostly feminists, of course. Feminists charge that strip clubs exploit women, and make a mockery of what it means to be a woman. Well, I think I'll just have to prove them wrong.

First off, what does it mean to be exploited? Paraphrasing *Webster's College Dictionary*, to be exploited means "1. To be utilized, especially for profit. 2. To be taken advantage of. 3. To be used selfishly for one's own end." Now, after reading this, you may think that I am wrong, and it's obvious that men use strippers selfishly. But, you must look at all three definitions, and read the underlying meaning., which is that the exploited person is being used against their will.

First off, one of the main feminist points is that women are strong, independent creatures, and don't need anything from anyone. This is true in some cases, but not in all. Just like certain men need women, certain women need men. That's just how it is. Aside from that point, I don't know of any strip club(not that I know *any*) that grabs women off the streets and forces them to become strippers. Strippers *choose* to become strippers. That is why they are strippers. It is a conscious choice on the part of the woman to take off her clothes for money.

So, nobody forces a woman to become a stripper. If that were the case, then I'd have to argue that women aren't quite as independent and strong



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

willed as feminists would have us believe. But, before you send me letters saying how sexist I am, let me say that women are strong, and therefore aren't forced to strip. That is obvious, and if any feminist says otherwise, then she is a hypocrite.

So, it's safe to say that women are not being exploited as strippers. Logic dictates that this is so. So, who *is* exploited? An argument that has much logic to it, but is still wrong, says that men are exploited. I'll explain this to you, then tell you why it's wrong.

Three vectors must come together for a successful strip club: attractive women, horny men, and money. The attractive women take off their clothes, the horny men watch them, and then money is given to the women. So, it seems that strippers are exploiting the over-all horniness of men. But, this is again not true.

Look at my arguments above. In order to be exploited, someone must be used against their will. I don't know of any man who would have to be dragged, kicking and screaming, to strip clubs. In reality, men are dragged kicking and screaming *out* of strip clubs. Men don't go to strip clubs against their will, which means they are not being exploited. But, who *is* being exploited?

The answer, surprisingly, is no one. Nobody is exploited by strip clubs. A strip club is an agreement between two parties: the stripper, and the man. The stripper agrees to take off her clothes, and the man agrees to pay her. There is nobody being used against their will in this equation. Men get to see naked women, and strippers get attention and good money. That is what they all want, after all. If a woman hated attention and didn't like money, then odds are she wouldn't be a stripper.

So, feminists should lay off the strip clubs. They may try to say strip club owners exploit women, but this is again not so. Strip club owners provide a safe environment for strippers to work, and in return, they get some of her money. It's another mutually beneficial agreement. Strippers can work safe, and strip club owners can reap the benefits of her profits. Where is the crime? This is the perfect symbiotic relationship. Women get naked, men give them money, club owners protect the women, and the women pay them for it. Everyone gets exactly what they want out of this equation.

I hope I haven't offended too many people, but what I just said is the truth. So, feminists must find something else to be upset about. Recently, I heard they were after the strippers themselves for exhibiting their bodies for money.

But, I thought it was her body, and nobody could tell her what to do with it?

QUOTABLES

All you touch and all you see is all your life will ever be.

Pink Floyd, *Breathe*

She fancied what the flame of a candle looks like once it is blown out.

Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

I don't drink. I don't like it. It makes me feel good.

Oscar Levant

I hate a song that makes you think that you are not any good. I hat a song that mas you think that you are just born to lose. I am out to fight those songs, to my very last breath of air, and my last drop of blood.

Woody Guthrie

They say one day it rained blood. All the people, they run into their houses. They cry, they pray, pero your great-grandmother Luz she had cojones like a man. She run outside, she look straight at the sky, she shake her fist. And she say to the evil one, 'Mira... cono Diablo, aqui estoy si me quires.' And she open her mouth and she drunk the blood.

Milcha Sanchez-Scott, *The Cuban Swimmer*

Gender Identity Disorder: The struggle continues

by Iris Giannakis
Staff Writer

Yes, another problem society doesn't want to admit that exists, let alone deal with. Society is in the middle of moral and spiritual erosion that shows no immediate signs of changing anytime soon. Gender Identity Disorder (GID) is already becoming a national epidemic.

GID is typical behavior(s) of dissatisfaction with one's gender. According to the recent September 25 issue of *Time Magazine*, GID is what the Lipscomb family, who live in Westerville, Ohio, know everyday of their lives.

Before the Lipscomb's son turned two, they noticed that he wasn't like the other little boys his age. Zachary (so the Lipscomb's son was called) would wrap his blanket around his head like a wig and drool over sparkly dresses.

When Zachary announced to the neighbors, "I'm a girl," the Lipscombs concluded that after struggling with GID for years, it was wrong not to let Zachary express "her" gender in public. Zachary was renamed Aurora, (Rori for short) after the princess in Walt Disney's *Sleeping Beauty*.

When the Lipscombs told the local grammar school that "Rori" would be enrolling, not Zachary, the school freaked. An anonymous phone call to the Franklin County Children Services agency requested to have Rori removed from home. The court granted the agency temporary custody, citing reasonable grounds to believe that the child is suffering from an illness and is not receiving proper care. What solid proof did they have? The word of a

tipster? We know what the word of a tipster is worth: nothing. Since when did the court justice decide to become a doctor? Yesterday, perhaps?

This may seem trivial, mundane and yes, stupid for being removed from one's home because of a "gender" change. But according to *Time Magazine*, the Franklin County Children Services agency had actually first encountered the Lipscombs in February when they voluntarily began working with the agency to get help with a host of family problems. Both parents have bipolar disorder. Rori has Asperger's syndrome (related to autism), bipolar illness, obsessive-compulsive disorder, in addition to gender-identity disorder. The agency removed Rori, even though they knew damn well what was going on in that household from day one.

What upsets me is that the county saw that it's not a crime for a family to be dysfunctional. They never saw a reason to break up the Lipscombs until they began to refer to their child as a girl in public. Is it a crime to express who you are? A crime to be different? Sorry that I asked.

According to the Lipscombs, Rori told them the foster parents won't use the name Aurora and hid the dresses that Aurora had. County officials call him Zachary and according to them, Rori did have access to the dresses but didn't want them. Now which is it? Is Rori lying, or are the county officials lying? Neither side has provided a proper solution on how to handle the situation.

What's best for this child? First off, the child is the victim of this whole legal mess. Rori's wounds are

as visible as daylight, and no one is paying any attention. GID is already a murky area of understanding. Secondly, some child psychologists believe that children who express discomfort with their birth gender may have other problems. According to Dr. Ken Zucker, a psychologist who runs the Child and Adolescent Gender Identity Clinic in Toronto, "There's a lot of pain in many of these families, and part of the way the child has dealt with the pain is to have this fantasy solution."

Dr. Zucker says hormonal disorders and imbalances may explain some of these anomalies, but parents can also influence their child's gender behavior. Depression in the mother, or a parent's preference for a child of the opposite sex, can lead to abnormal gender behaviors in the child. So in other words, there's a possibility that in Rori's case, GID was influenced by the parents. (information courtesy of <http://www.leaderu.com/>)

Dr. Zucker encourages children and parents to recognize that boys and girls don't have to maintain their gender roles to remain boys and girls. Other therapists say screw the gender-variant children and force them to conform to gender rules.

In the midst of all the problems, Rori has supporting parents. Support from his parents may be the only hope of developing a stable self-esteem. Coping with GID means a change in the environment, consulting a therapist, refocusing, or possibly starting a new life. Whether Rori remains Aurora, or returns to Zachary, or decides on another identity, the kid will have to conduct this quest with the sharks battling nearby.

Laziness doesn't win elections

by Thomas J. Croon
Staff Writer

Carrying the belief that I might actually learn something about why young Americans are not voting, I attended the Politics Club meeting, held on Tuesday, September 26. I sat down with the hope of engaging in conversation that was both stimulating and informative, with fellow students eager to enlighten me on why the number of young voters today has tapered off to a few random idealists. Without welcome, the discussion ensued. Excuses for voter apathy ranged from not enough time off of work to not knowing how to register to vote. Let us explore this a while.

First, what is this about not having enough time off work? I both work and attend school full time and somehow come up with a few spare minutes in which to cast my most heart-felt vote. Perhaps a better excuse is in line. If you can find time to eat lunch, you can find time to vote. Even if it means skipping that new Sushi bar you've been meaning to try. This one seems the more hasty excuse, so I'll dip into my bag and find another.

Ah yes! "Nobody speaks for me!" Unless you live with your

mother, nobody will. It's time to take the horse by the reins and speak out for what you want, because by not voting you're only allowing the minions of Capital Hill to make the decisions that are in "your" best interest. So on the first Tuesday in November, stand up for yourself and cast your own vote for what you believe. Being mad doesn't change anything. The only way to really make a difference is to quit whining and try for change. Because if enough people decide that they are sick of the way things are being run, and enough people head for the polls, we just might make a change (hopefully for the better).

Just as the sparkle in my eye began to appear as I pondered this thought, like a bug on the highway, it was suddenly crushed. "Young people don't know how to register to vote," shrieked through my ears and I knew I was in for a real treat. How could one even justify such a statement? I'm sure that most of you in your travels through the hallways of this great school have seen voter registration booths stationed in obvious places such as the Commuter Center and Classroom Building. And even if you haven't, the rampant commercials advertising how to register should serve well.

I wondered when the real reason people weren't voting would come to light, but I was disappointed. A logical conclusion takes the form of young adults believing that our economic situations will remain unchanged, which is not the case. Maybe we need to live through a depression like our grandparents had in order to appreciate this great country we live in. Perhaps we should have all things we take for granted stripped away from us in order to make us realize how good we have it. How absurd it is to spend close to \$4.00 on a gourmet cup of coffee, or even have that as an option.

Maybe the real reason young people aren't voting is simple laziness. I hear excuse after excuse after excuse about everything under the sun that is supposed to serve as justifiable and rational but am somehow left empty by this reasoning. If you don't vote you're being lazy, you don't care, or both. This business about making a political statement through not voting only keeps those same powers in office and when push comes to shove, that may be exactly what they want. I urge you to vote if not for yourself, for those future generations for which we pave the way.

REU

Volume 5, issue 4. October 13, 2000.

Feel the Fury

page 3

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

Cherubic Antics

by Lior Alon
REVEditor

This past Tuesday Fox Television launched its latest attempt at promoting slightly more provocative, innovative and cutting edge television via releasing James Cameron's much touted *Dark Angel*. This continues a by-now-longstanding tradition on the part of the network, one which started six years ago with the *X-Files*. Sadly, though, most of Fox's initiatives fall flat on their face (remember *Space Above and Beyond* and last year's *Harsh Realm*?). That despite their being genuinely superior to whatever else happens to be aired that particular season, both in terms of effects and production values, as well as (and more importantly) the up-yours these vanguard productions send to the political-correctness crazed mass media establishment.

Well, Fox must have enough disasters to warrant a *When Good TV Goes Horribly Bad* special. And they just might deserve it for unleashing *Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire* on scores of innocent viewers. This time around, though, they have rolled out the big cannons, betting their money on a show produced and written by uber-director Cameron.

Dark Angel focuses on the hijinx of one Max Guevara (Jessica Alba- *Idle Hands*, *Never Been Kissed*), who we learn was raised in a covert government installation as part of a genetic experiment bent on

concocting a race of super GI's.

Max and her bio-enhanced peers managed to escape from the conspiracy-laden Wyoming landscape, yet were scattered all over , hence our heroin's later search for them. Meanwhile, terrorists have blown a neutron bomb over the U.S, destroying our technological backbone and setting the country decades back, transforming the once great nation into a run-down calamity where people actually enjoy eating out at the Outback Steakhouse.

Cut to Seattle, 2019. We see a grown Max (and how nicely she developed...) living a double life: by day, a bike messenger, by night a cat burglar taking full advantage of the superhuman traits given her thanks to our hard earned tax dollars. Trying to make the plot believable, we are shown a *Mad Maxian* visage of the city in some of the scenes, but these sets amount to nothing more than the crew littering a Vancouver alley with BK carry-out bags and letting some guy's rusty old Tempo drive in front of the camera for effect. And if the economy collapsed how come everybody looks so good and wears the coolest fashions? How come they go out drinking, use the latest gadgets and live in arty lofts?

The post-apocalyptic element fails miserably, at least thus far (we only saw the pilot). Cameron did apocalypse scenes for the *Terminator* movies, so he knows better. Alas, this blaring fault reveals *Dark Angel's* true nature: yet another version of *90210*, now masquerading as a sci-fi epic.

As the story unfolds, we see Max join forces with rich, cyber-savvy Logan Cale (Michael Weatherly), who fights to liberate the city from



"Girls kick ass. says so on the t-shirt"-Max

the clutches of evil, opportunistic crimelords and a supposedly totalitarian police state rule. Additional suspense comes from resurgent G-man baddie Lydecker (John Savage) who emerges from Max's past to haunt her.

The show wants to be different yet to do that it must realize the premise on which the whole thing was built: true science fiction, rather than mere lip service barely hiding a soapy interior. Furthermore, in terms of effects Fox has done much better before with some of its previous ill-fated releases. They can surpass what we saw in the pilot using today's post-*Matrix* budgets and FX gizmos.

And although her performance of Max hints at getting old quick (we've seen that mean yet puppy-eyed look dozens times before), Alba

has her moments. She seems more suited to comic roles judging by those hilarious faces she pulls every once in a while.

By no means revolutionary, *Dark Angel* remains unique among contemporary small screen fare. It deserves huge credit for having a Hispanic female as a main character and for having the balls to faithfully depict future U.S demographics: for a change, not everybody's exclusively white (remember *Melrose Place*?).

With some extra eye candy and a more lively stress on action *Dark Angel* could really be viable. Our ratings shall remain pending until more episodes come rolling out, for fairness sake.

So please, PLEASE, do stay tuned....

Book Review

P.J. O'Rourke digs in and chows down

by Tim Hill
Editor in Chief

P.J. O'Rourke has one general question about world economics; "Why do some places prosper and thrive while others just suck?"

This question sent O'Rourke around the globe to such economically diverse nations as Russia, China, Albania, and Tanzania in search of a potential answer. O'Rourke's finds are voiced with his characteristic sense of sardonic humor in his new book *Eat The Rich*, named from the Aerosmith classic and what has become a pop phrase for the basic, shared opinion of those of us who are not "the rich."

O'Rourke, who is best known for his work with the magazine *Rolling Stone*, attacks teachers of college economics, compares the prosperity of past cultures to modern ones, and takes shots at significant historical and artistic figures such as Karl Marx, John Grisham, and even Courtney Love.

It is in these tirades that O'Rourke is at his best in *Eat The Rich*. At one point, O'Rourke says point-blank, "Marx nearly caused World

War III," in a chapter entitled *Love, Death, and Money*, which has mostly to do with the latter and its crooked distribution among classes, time periods, civilizations, and nations.

In *From Beatnik to Business Major*, O'Rourke begins to chronicle his college years subjected to the nonsensical gibberish of 1940's era economics, which he chides as being stuffy, boring, and not all too authentic to the way world economics was at the time or ever before.

Next, O'Rourke debates the principles of economics as compared to its turnouts in pop culture using John Grisham's novels and Courtney Love's songs as examples. Here, O'Rourke's sharp tongue flaps like mad; "If John Grisham spends 50 percent of his time scribbling predictable plots and 50 percent of his time blowing into a kazoo, the result will be 50 thrillers and 25 songs... If Courtney Love spends 50 percent of her time annoying a word processor and 50 percent of her time making noise in a recording studio, the result will be 1 half-completed thriller and 2.5 songs

for a total of 3 BS (Benefit to Society).

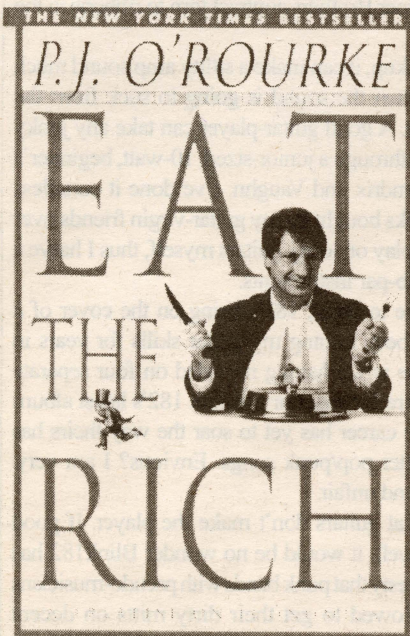
For readers who are not as enthralled by business and economics as O'Rourke is, *Eat The Rich* can drag at times, as O'Rourke intermixes his wit with facts and observations of very business-like content. On the other hand, the book tends to be written informatively while keeping a humorous tone, with examples kept in relatable layman's terms.

Interest: B *Eat The Rich* is not for everyone, due to its subject of economics and business. However, O'Rourke holds the book together well with his wit and humor.

Style: A The book is easy to read and informative. O'Rourke's examples, such as the Courtney Love input/output, keep the book moving fast enough for young readers, but discuss content mature enough for older readers.

Repeat Value: C Like a news column, once you read it, you've pretty much got it all.

Overall: B *Eat The Rich* is a fun, informative read for anyone who has the time to read it.



P J O'Rourke's new book, *Eat the Rich*, does much to the human psyche in making people think about economics.



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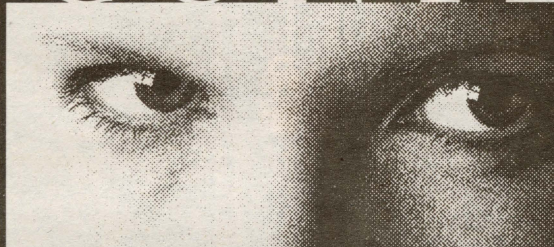
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IN THEATRES OCTOBER 13

The Rant

by Guest Commentator Tim Hill

Blink 182 needs an enema

How many guitar-players does it take to screw in a lightbulb?

Six.

*One to screw in the lightbulb,
And five to say, "I can do that!"*

Years ago when I was about fifteen, I started going to Guitar Center on Clark Street to furnish my various musical needs. I've bought everything at Guitar Center from strings and picks to stack amplifiers and home recording equipment. I've bought five or six guitars there, averaging one per year since I began patronizing the guitar emporium I used to lovingly refer to as "Olympus." My tastes and talents have developed over the years and for the most part, Guitar Center was always with me to help.

That's why when, right on schedule, my new catalog of Guitar Center sales arrived at my door, and I eagerly snatched it up to see what guitar god was the flavor of the month on the cover, my jaw dropped in horror. Right there on the cover of my trusty Guitar Center magazine was a picture of the three sneering, sniveling, talentless morons of Blink 182, the latest in American punk balderdash.

Blink 182 has no talent. Their songs consist of three or four chord-patterns using what are known as "bar-chords" which take the least amount of imagination to use (only one position for the left hand), the fewest strings (usually three out of a possible six on a standard guitar), and the least amount of talent (Every annoying pop song that you hear twice and then is stuck in your head for the next five months is chock full of bar chords).

This catalog-cover debacle horrified me so because there isn't a decent guitar-player alive who listens to Blink 182's paltry attempts at music and doesn't say to him/herself, "Are they serious? Anybody could do that. These guys suck!" and so forth further into disgust.

What was even more insulting to my guitar-playing intelligence was the interview with Blink 182 inside the magazine. The band's guitar player Tom De Long made sorry attempts at sounding like he knew what he was talking about, name-dropping guitar parts, pieces, and makers like "Mesa Boogie Triple Rectifier" and "rosewood fingerboard." Throughout the interview, De Long kept his foot appropriately placed in his mouth by admitting to the Guitar Center (GC) interviewer that he has expensive gear now that American pop, in its own confession of poor taste in music, has made stars out of Blink 182. Subtly however, a careful reader, such as I, as well as a cynical scrutinizer of Blink 182, also such as I, observed admittance on De Long's part that he doesn't deserve the attention of GC patrons and experienced guitar-players like myself.

When asked about his guitars, De Long began, "My Fenders are made specifically for me. Which means they're probably worth nothing!" At first, this seems like a boast, since it is not all of us who can afford the luxury of custom-made axes which usually run about three times the list price of an average Fender Telecaster, Gibson Les Paul (what I use), or other electric guitars. However, in his second burnout punk utterance, De Long admits to his subnormal and inferior playing ability. A guitar is as good as the person playing it. Tom De Long's guitars are "worth nothing!"

Another indication of De Long's technical naivete came after GC asked whether he thought it was more important to buy an expensive guitar or expensive amplifier. This is a particularly good question since good guitar equipment is expensive and struggling musicians like myself and many others often have to cut corners with our gear to get a decent sound while letting our talent be what is heard most outstandingly. De Long's response was almost too stupid for reprint, but here went, "[Y]ou could have a great sounding guitar and a s#!tty amp and it would still sound pretty good." Nothing could be further from the truth in De Long's case, since if he DID have a s#!tty amp, his lack of guitar-playing prowess would surely be met with a barrage of boos during live performances and his precious Warner Brothers contract torn to ribbons in the paper shredder. But he went on:

"If you have a good fat beefy pickup, it can make a s#!tty amp sound much better. But if it's a s#!tty pickup then the sound is going to suck from the beginning!" Again, that's nonsense. A good guitar-player can take any junky guitar with lousy pickups and run it through a junior-sized, 10-watt, beginner's practice amp and still resurrect Hendrix and Vaughn. I've done it countless times with electric guitar starter packs bought by my guitar-virgin friends over the years. In fact, I learned how to play on lousy guitars myself, thus I have a comfort and understanding with sub-par instruments.

The saddest part of my response to Blink 182's being on the cover of a Guitar Center catalog is that I've been honing my guitar skills for years in constant pursuit of better technique while having recorded on four separate independent records, all of which are far superior to Blink 182's latest album *Enema of the State*, and my music career has yet to soar the way theirs has because of their cheap, cookie-cutter pop/punk songs. Envious? I am very, because the whole thing is wrong and unfair.

I'd like to tell Tom De Long that guitars don't make the player. If good equipment made a band good as well, it would be no wonder Blink 182 has gained so much popularity. It's a travesty that punk bands with pseudo-musicians like De Long should even be allowed to get their dirty mitts on decent instruments, since what comes out of them in their hands sounds like a garbage truck dropped off the Sears Tower anyway.

Finally, I'd like Guitar Center to know that they can't fool some guitar-players all of the time. Next month, put a MUSICIAN on the cover of the catalog, not some lucky, talentless fool.

Victorius *Victory*

by Chris Schneider
Staff Writer

Victory is the title of the third and latest release from Do Or Die. You may recall the songs *Po Pimpin* or *Still Po Pimpin* (which featured Twista and Johnny P) from a few years back, which achieved Do Or Die (DOD) gold status from their debut album *Picture This*. DOD exclusively claim Chicago as their turf, representing the West Side and putting Chi-town in the corporate rap scene with L.A and NYC.

Victory's title song starts off the disc with catchy lyrics and funky grooving flow, proving they still deserve their claim to gold. A couple of tracks later *Keep It Real*, featuring Johnny P., contains some old school DOD, but all the same lacks some originality. For example, there's a lot of "bling, bling" and "what, what" which we know to be trademarks of Juvenile and Jay-Z. Both have already been quite overplayed. Several songs on *Victory* feature special guests like the Outlawz, which were exclusively on the last 2PAC release. It seems, however, like DOD want to feature less artists on *Victory*, by doing so creating their own unique style.

V.I.P is the best track on the entire disc. It begins out slow with "blessed is the man who walks the streets of Chicago and survives", then kicks into a raw tune, perfect for a Friday night out clubbin'. It holds the most potential for being the radio song out of *Victory*.

In conclusion, the album presents a split situation. Overall, DOD's first release, *Picture This*, remains their best to date. The current release has its ups and downs, but doesn't pack as much heat.

Do Or Die
Victory
Rap-A-Lot Records

MUSIC: B Very catchy and fresh at times, but then seems the same old beats we heard on the last Do Or Die album.

LYRICS: B As far as rapping is concerned, DOD have come a long way and I think they can flow better than ever before. Their choice of lyrics prevents them from really shining.

PRODUCTION: C Not bad, not good, just sort of in the middle.

OVERALL: B Don't get me wrong, this is a good album, however, it does not compare to DOD's past works.

Extreme *Wide shot*

by Lior Alon
REV Editor

Welsh group Hybrid, fittingly named as they aspire to conquer a huge range of dance/techno influences in their music, have put out their debut LP *Wide Angle* on the market recently. Much like other Euro electronic performers, such as Daft Punk and Air, they too hold a smidgen of contempt for popularized club sounds, deeming the latter more than a little superficial and uncreative. If asked, Hybrid would most likely quip of current trance music's reliance on repetitive hooks, choruses and samples, as opposed to their constant travels in pushing the envelope. The trio definitely has its own feel and clearly mastered quite a few genres (probably accounting for the name Hybrid), yet largely fails to overtly ignite listeners' sense of excitability. For some reason, their dance won't really move you and their jabs at trance do not come across as sufficiently aggressive.

Opening Credits, kicking off the record, was performed by an 80 piece Russian orchestra, and sets a very contemplative, chillingly sad scene, in stark contrast to the rest of the album. Although less than a minute long, it turns out to be among the best songs on here. It precedes dance hit wannabe *If I Survive* and its clever, sardonic lyrics. Generally a good track, it comes on strong and fast, letting you expect some wild techno number, but then settles into a more familiar progressive house groove not doing the first few, energetic seconds justice. Instead of being ideally suited to the dance floor, it feels more like a cut from an action movie a la The Saint.

Hybrid also plays host to two well-known female artists. The Pretenders' Chrissie Hynde wrote last track *Kid 2000*, and Julee Cruise (of *Twin Peaks* soundtrack fame) provided voice for *If I Survive*.

Despite all that impressive vocal

prowess, Hybrid's strength lies in instrumental numbers. Hence, best song on *Wide Angle* transpires to be number four, *Beachcoma*. Anyone familiar with Vangelis' amazing *Blade Runner* music will immediately cherish its blues-meets-synthesizer harmonies, complemented by a picking up tempo and bass line.

To further illustrate why *Wide Angle* was chosen as title, number eight, *Sinequanon*, features vocals by French rapper Soon MC. Although unique, it doesn't register with us as a truly great song.

Two other works deserve special attention. *Theme From Wide Angle*, sitting at the no. 7 spot, almost becomes a real trance classic save for its lukewarm beats and forgettable sounds. The ironically titled *Finished Symphony*, a ten minute track like in the good old days, incorporates a vast assortment of styles, and indeed will have you coming back for more in no time.

All this concludes in a very potent first album that just refuses to go the whole nine yards towards conclusive, indisputable electronica greatness.

Sadly, we have to conclude Hybrid should concentrate on doing one thing extremely well before they try their hand at every dance influence out there. This does not detract from *Wide Angle's* highly interesting, varied and rich makeup, but still keeps them from receiving higher marks.

Hybrid
Wide Angle
Reprise Records

MUSIC: B Good combo of dance, trance, prog house, ambient and even a touch of classical that all the same needs slightly more pull.

LYRICS: B Almost entirely instrumental record with three vocalized songs.

PRODUCTION: A Polished throughout

OVERALL: B Getting there...

Above and beyond

by Lior Alon
REV Editor

Usually when a game gets billed as a flight simulator, it means the product will inevitably be a serious attempt to emulate real life avionics and aircraft mechanics, resulting in about as much fun as your average IRS audit.

Zipper Interactive and Microsoft have successfully put an end to a dry spell lasting a decade when they released *Crimson Skies* for the PC. Not since *Wings* on the Amiga in 1990 has a piece of software combined so effortlessly an authentic feeling of flying with seamless playability, breathtaking graphics and a fun plot line.

Crimson Skies' universe occurs in an alternate version of 1937 North America. It assumes the United States broke up after 1929's market crash and the ensuing Depression. As a result, trains and highways crumbled without a Federal caretaker. In their place emerged a lively aviation industry to provide for commerce and transportation. Expectedly, this bustling trade attracted the criminal element, and so, pirates soon began to roam the skies.

Against them, the 23 independent (and often warring) nations making up the former USA (with cool names like Pacifica and Nation of Hollywood) deploy various airborne militias, mostly with little effectiveness.

The player jumps into the boots of one Nathan Zachary. An Indiana Jones-like swashbuckler, Zachary leads a band of kindhearted pirates (what a concept!) across 24 missions. Although these guys and gals generally do their damndest to acquire as much booty as possible, they frequently find themselves fighting on the side of good against a resurgent,

imperialistic Britain, the Russians (once more cast as the baddies) and numerous rival pirate squads.

Mission design remains consistently excellent. Not only did the team come up with believable objectives, but they also kept up admirable levels of variety and suspense. The game never encumbers you with zillions of buttons, keys and complex flight models. A very vague notion of Newton's laws will see you through just fine. *Crimson Skies* triumphs as an action simulator, the emphasis being on action. Dogfights haven't been as much fun in ages.

Your planes all share an ease of operation yet have distinct characteristics that totally change their behavior in combat. However, none suffer from major flaws rendering them annoying, and all have their benefits in particular missions and situations.

Graphics-wise, *CS* excels. It has to be the first game to sustain fast, stable play using 1024x768 resolution with all the features cranked up high. Of course, this requires a reasonably fast PC and a strong 3D accelerator, but given this hardware, the game will perform, unlike so many others that fail to utilize today's computing muscle. Zipper has done a bang-up job creating the environments missions take place in, from beautifully blue and sandy Hawaii islands to Gothic Manhattan. You can even pull stunts flying into caves, between skyscrapers and so on, leading to "snapshots" of your caper which can be exported to the desktop. And for a change, one can use a regular joystick without problems or need to constantly recalibrate, rather than splashing for one of those ludicrous \$100+ "flight sticks".

Crimson Skies falters a bit when it comes to its audio. Both music and voiceovers want to generate a roaring 30's

kind of mood, but the soundtrack soon gets repetitive and even slightly grating, and the characters all come across as horribly stigmatized representations of their particular typecast role.

Another minor problem with *CS* is its menu screens, which take long to load and seem to be heavy on the hard drive.

But these lesser glitches cannot take away from what amounts to an instant classic worthy of applause.

Microsoft's Gaming Zone features *Crimson Skies'* online multiplayer component. Several types of challenge such as deathmatch, capture the flag and zeppelin vs. zeppelin offer much potential, yet as of press time too few players were using the game over the internet for it to be attractive beyond its single player campaign.

A real milestone for its impressive combination of two generally incompatible ingredients (accurate simulation and no-holds-barred, gung-ho action) *Crimson Skies* deserves to take off big time.

Crimson Skies
Zipper Interactive/Microsoft
Windows PC
Rec. Price \$39.99 (Electronics Boutique)

AUDIO: C+ 1930's music that will soon enough get on your nerves and somewhat artificial sounding characters.

VIDEO: A Nearly flawless execution in all departments, especially resolution, color depth and plane rendering.

PLAY: A Easy to pick up but VERY hard to put down, as they say.

OVERALL: A Superb release from The Monopoly and its cohorts. Ideal for anyone interested in aircraft and flying but deterred by overbearing, pompously sluggish traditional sims.

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Thisimus Gamemus Sucksumus

by **Brian Blaszkowski**
Business Manager

Football games are among the most popular video sports games out there. From *NFL Quarterback Club* to the revolutionary *NFL Blitz*, these games are usually chock full of fun. With gaming systems improving, however, football games are also capable of amazing detail. A game like *NFL2K* for Sega Dreamcast sets the standard for visually stunning games. I was eagerly awaiting the arrival of another game, *Madden 2001*.

As any football gaming buff knows, the Madden series of football games is a staple in any worthy collection. Usually well made, they combine decent graphics with fantastic controls. However, after shelling out \$55 for *Madden 2001*, I was distraught to the point of tears.

This is without a doubt the worst football game ever made. I bought it for Playstation, which is usually known for beautiful graphics and great game play. However, after playing this game for 4 minutes, I removed it from my system and

replaced it in its protective CD case. Then I threw it across the room.

Choppy play controls, horrifying graphics, and terrible playability makes this the worst football game I've ever seen, and definitely in the Top 5 Worst Games of All Time. With Madden football games being the measuring stick in a market full of flops, you'd think that EA sports, the makers of this abomination, would have tried harder, especially on a medium such as the Playstation, with great graphic capabilities. This game looks like something a blind monkey would create, after 5 minutes of toil and labor. This game took EA sports months to produce.

There are 3 categories any football game must excel in to be a success, and they are: Graphics, control, and playability. Graphics are important, because the better a game looks, especially a football game, the more people will like it. *NFL2K* has innumerable stances,

tackles, and dives, all woven together into a tapestry of magnificence. *Madden 2001* has blocky, horrible graphics, and in my 4 solid minutes of game play, I saw 2 different tackles.

Control is also important, perhaps even more so than graphics. A game can be a work of visual art, but if it plays like crap, then you have a stinker on your hands. *NFL Blitz* play easily and fluidly, while *Madden 2001* plays like a 30 lb. block of concrete.

Finally, playability. I can play *NFL2K* or *NFL Blitz* all day, and

each game would be different. During my 4 minutes with *Madden 2001*, I played both offense and defense twice, and each time it was the same. I threw a pass, I scored. The computer got sacked 4 times, I threw a pass, I scored. Where is the game play value in that?

In closing, I will rate 3 football games, *NFL2K* for Sega Dreamcast, *NFL Blitz* for Nintendo 64, and *Madden 2001* for Playstation.

NFL2K = Graphics = A+
Control = A-
Playability = A

Overall = A

NFL Blitz = Graphics = A-
Control = A+
Playability = A+
Overall = A

Madden 2001 = Graphics = D-
Control = F+
Playability =

F
Overall = F

My advice to you; skip this one. If, however, you want to see for yourself, just put a blind monkey in front of a designing computer. It will be cheaper, and far more entertaining.

Studio Series starts with gusto

by **Kim Crawford**
Staff Writer

Have you seen Northeastern Illinois University's main stage theatre productions? If so, then you know how good college theatre can be.

Many students already know about NEIU's professionally directed two-hour plays in the Main Stage Theatre. Now the Speech and Performing Arts Department has a new Studio F-109 stage for the Studio Series, a serial of one-hour plays (usually two one-act pieces). These shorter plays range from explosive dramas and fierce comedies to sweet comedic gems.

Starting out the Studio Series was *The Happy Journey* by Thornton Wilder. The production was well cast and imaginatively blocked and directed by Maria Castro. Castro created memorable stage pictures: Young Arthur (Peter Pfister) playing marbles on the ground and his little sister Caroline (Cristina Bordabeheres) bubbling with excitement of going to see Beulah, Elmer (Bruce Powers) driving the family car, and the Service Station Attendant (Carole Brown in a great impersonation as a guy). Then, Beulah (Michelle Lange) languished on her divan, while Ma (Helen Johnson) paced delivering dizzy but profound sounding quips. It was a warm, funny piece of theatre.

The Marriage Proposal by Anton Chekhov also directed by Castro, is the funniest show I've seen (since "Scapino" last semester) thanks to Jeremy Mangan as temperamental Chubukov, Tim Libretti as the hypochondriac Lomov, and Gabrielle Naue (unrecognizable in a dark wig) as the fiery Natasha. Their arguments were

hysterical. Bravo!

Inaugurating the new Studio F-109 space were two one-acts by Milcha Sanchez-Scott directed by Phil Lavine: *Dog Lady*, and *The Cuban Swimmer*.

Both plays feature some dialogue in Spanish. *The Dog Lady* cast was utterly charming. Standouts were Michelle Lange, as Maria Pilar Luna, the mother, and Ana Zimowska as Jesse Luna, the younger sister. They had clear voices, sharp accents, and focused intentions. The blocking seemed to run on tracks, signifying the characters' daily routines. The theme of the play to me projected airs of romance, dreams, and magic. *The Cuban Swimmer* cast made the swimmer (never physically seen) seem utterly real. She always swam on the port side of the boat, except once when she lost her orientation and swam starboard after swimming into an oil spill.

You won't want to miss the next Studio F-109 plays: *The Lover* by Harold Pinter and *Here We Are* by Dorothy Parker directed by Tina Haglund. These are plays of wit. So come at 1:40 pm and 7:30 pm, Tuesday and Thursday, November 14 and 16. Admission is free with your NEIU I.D. Be on time, please. Latecomers weaken the magic of theatre. Theatre really is a magical and life-changing experience.

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A friendly wager

I am betting a thousand dollars that every star is a past world. Are you going to sit back and let history repeat itself? You have the power to save this civilization. It is far better to be wrong than to be sorry. If you think I am wrong, then how do you explain the fact that I was able to tell scientists in 1964 (29 years before I heard it announced on TV) that everything really does have an energy field. The announcer must have known that I had been predicting this. If not, why did he use the word "really?"

The reason my prediction is so important is because I was not a scientist. I did not know anything about the physical properties of anything. The only thing I knew for certain was that everything had to come from nothing but whatever it is that space is. I knew that there had to be a connection between space and everything that existed. This means that everything can be traced back to space, including our minds. The question I cannot answer is, "What came first, the body or the (or a) mind?"

There are some things that anyone can know just has to be true.

For example: Space has to be endless. No one can (truthfully) imagine space coming to an end. A physicist said that she could imagine a condition where nothing existed, not even space, but by her own admission there would have to be nothing there to stop a rocket or anything else from continuing on, "Space has to be endless." This means that nothing, not even a God, can travel from here to the ends of space for the simple reason that there are no ends of space to travel to. Just think of God as being a life form that exists everywhere.

How we experience time is related to our own personal being, but time itself has always existed. The future can never be as long as the past has already been. Just to show how confident I am that my theory is correct, I am offering a thousand dollar reward to the first person that can prove any one or more of eight statements I will now make are false. (Think of "Creation" not as magic, but as creating a masterpiece.)

One of the reasons science has not been able to figure things out is because (we are blind to the real

world) we see only be relativity. We do not see things as they really are. I believe that everything is so much larger than we picture things to be that what we see as very tiny is, in reality, very large.

For example: What if the size of everything needed to be multiplied by the speed of light squared to get its real size? This would make a lot of things much easier for me to understand, and explain why there is so much that is beyond our ability to see.

There are so many things that can destroy a civilization; so it is of the utmost importance that we start now if we are to save this civilization. I am betting a thousand dollars that every star is a past world. Once you realize that the past has been forever, then it is easy to see that every solar system has had forever to do its thing; so not only is it logical, but it is more than likely that this world has been a star more than once.

For much more information, go to <http://www.pioneer-net.com/~jessep>.

Sincerely, Jesse Babcock

Inadequate space for disabled students

This year has been a very busy time for our campus with all the growing we have been doing. First we saw the opening of the Fine Arts Center and the re-opening of the cafeteria after an 18 month hiatus. Just recently we have been able to enjoy the grounds outside the center of the university. Now it is time to work on the B-wing in order to update its usefulness. As many students have noticed, it is certainly emptying out quite rapidly. By Thanksgiving it will be completely vacant.

The various departments involved in this new closure have been meeting for several months, attempting to make alternative space arrangements. Many of the re-allocations of space seem to be working well enough. There is one department that is the exception: The HELP office—the office that is responsible for making sure that all

accommodations are made for disables students here at Northeastern. The space that has been given to this much needed office is much smaller than most of the department reception offices. This presently holds three staff workers including the coordinator. There is absolutely no way for students who are in wheelchairs to come into this office and be serviced at all, or have a confidential conversation with the coordinator, Dr. Victoria Amey-Flippin. There is a testing area given to accommodate the needs of this special community of students, but it too is insufficient to meet the needs of our many different disabled students that this office is tasked to service.

There are so many ironies to this situation. A case in point is that this year marks the 10 year anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act

into law, and this week, Dr. Schroeder, Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services will be speaking at one of the Equity in Action sessions on services in the new millennium. Most importantly to each of our special-needs students is the fact that mid-terms are underway and we have a strong uncertainty of how we will be able to accommodate the various numbers of students here, with limited electrical available to use (even if we had the space) for the needed machines that are imperative for some of our students.

So we sit in our humble, small office, and wait to hear the next well thought out response from the higher powers that be. In the meantime, stop by and pay us a visit. But please don't all come at the same time. Some of us are claustrophobic.

Jan M. Lewis

LETTER

Letters to the Editor must be signed and contain an address and daytime telephone number for verification and approximately 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 T-Independent@neu.edu

Aren't we all adults here?

My complaint may seem like a petty thought to some, but petty it is not to me. At least once per semester I partake in an incident in which I lose approximately \$30 in clothes. Over the last couple of years that really adds up.

How does this happen, one may ask. I will tell you. It happens by adults acting like little children and leaving their gum anywhere they choose on a seat in a classroom. I don't always notice this, nor should

I have to. Aren't we all adults here? Do we not know what a garbage can is? Can we not find at least a piece of paper? This is utterly ridiculous (and this is not even getting into the time I got some gum remains lodged in my hair, and needed an Exacto knife to take it out).

All I am asking these "adults" who attend this university to do is to act like adults.

Carole M. Brown

Vice-President

continued from page 5

Cheney's surplus is exactly \$1.8 trillion after the 25% tax cuts, so I take it back, we will get screwed in taxes equally by both candidates.

If any people think that a potential surplus could be a result of frugal government spending rather than tax hikes, they are wrong. The very phrase "frugal government spending" is an oxymoron of the highest caliber.

CNN's Bernard Shaw moderated this debate, and what a poor job he did, too. I wanted to tell him to speed up the questions, to make them more fluid and coherent, to speak like the normal Americans from which these candidates hope to draw votes, but I stopped trying when I remembered that he was not really in my TV and could not hear me.

Shaw brought up the wage gap between men and women in comparable jobs, women making only 75% of the wage men make. He asked, "what do you males propose to do?"

Lieberman responded, talking about the Equal Pay Act. Under this act, women would be able to file legal actions against employers who discriminate based on gender when paying employees.

In a rare moment, Cheney disappointed me in his response to Shaw's question. Rather than answer it outright, he avoids it by talking about Lieberman's tax plan and how it discriminates among the various women, whether they be single parents, married without kids, etc. How does this address the pay gap, which puts women at a disadvantage to men? It doesn't, and this was the one moment when Cheney fell short in this debate.

Shaw then asked the candidates if they would support legislation restricting the use of RU-486, the new abortion pill. Recognizing how sensitive the whole abortion subject is, both candidates skirted around the question, discussing abortion in general. Both expressed a desire to reduce the number of abortion procedures executed in this country as a matter of evolving culture.

Cheney did, however, echo the statements Bush made two nights before, stating correctly that the FDA approved the drug's safety rather than its moral status as a form of birth control, so any efforts to reverse the FDA's decision from a moral standpoint would prove to be in error.

When the boring Bernard Shaw mentioned the Bush Campaign's charges of the Clinton administration deteriorating and overextending the nation's armed forces, Cheney, former Secretary of State, took the issue and nailed Gore's campaign with it, affirming the charges that Clinton has done considerable damage to the military via budget cuts and more demanding workloads.

For example, according to Cheney, readiness of the armed forces has dropped from 85% to 65%, retention rates are low, 40% of the army helicopters are not combat-ready, there are 40% fewer aircraft, and on he went listing the various conditions the U.S. armed forces are forced to deal with as a result of the Clinton Administration.

I must point out that I remember a few years ago various individuals indicating the many problems that afflict our fighting force, so I must lend more credibility to Cheney's claims than I would otherwise, rather than speculate whether Cheney simply criticizes Clinton's handling of the military as an issue to debate.

Even buried in Lieberman's response is the notion that perhaps our military isn't what it used to be. He defended the military, declaring that it is ready to face any threat, that the Clinton Administration has reversed the drop in spending, and that the "Dubya" Administration, were it to be elected, would not spend money for new weapons, but he also stated that we have fewer people in the military, but that it is still the most powerful.

I would prefer to have a military that is the most powerful and has an almost endless reserve of patriots willing to fight for our nation, but maybe I dream too well. It's hard to find a patriot these days who isn't past his/her prime.

Energy, a hot topic with rising and falling gas prices, forecasted heating oil shortages in the Northeast, and rising natural gas prices, was an issue I would have to give Lieberman some credit on. He mentioned the key phrase "alternative energy sources." As soon as he did, I gave him the points he deserved.

But I quickly took them back and then some when he talked about tapping the strategic oil reserve as a solid short-term measure to drive down oil prices and to show OPEC that they can't roll over our economy.

What? That's exactly what they can do. Because we are such gluttonous energy mongers, OPEC has considerable effect on our economy when they restrict the output of crude.

Our paltry oil reserves would run out many times over before the oil fields overseas would dry up. OPEC, however, knows that it is in their best interest not to screw with our economy too much, because as their biggest customer, if our economy suffers, so will theirs.

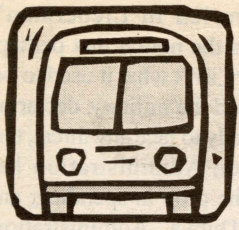
Both candidates are opposed to racial profiling, but Lieberman was the one who actually had a plan for combating this societal ill. This doesn't earn him any points, however. There is no reason why the Clinton Administration can't take steps to correct this fault in the criminal justice system now, or why they haven't done it already.

The best moment in the debate occurred when Lieberman used, without permission, a Reagan quote. He rhetorically asked if we are better off than we were eight years ago, employing the fallacious argument whereby two coincidental conditions exist, therefore one causes the other.

Cheney, responded, "And I can tell you, Joe, that the government had absolutely nothing to do with it." I laughed out loud as Lieberman was shot down in the midst of the audience's roaring reaction. Perhaps this is a bit of exaggeration, but the statement served its purpose, to fend off those who would take too much credit for a robust economy that took years to take effect.

If I could change the debate, I would put myself in as moderator. My follow up questions would probe beyond the general policy statements that seem to characterize such debates, though I was reasonably pleased with the depth to which both candidates explained their stance on various issues.

What would be ultimately cool, but will never happen, is Gore and Bush accepting the Smackdown Challenge, a debate that would be moderated by Jesse Ventura, occurring on UPN's Smackdown. I could just imagine Ventura getting more and more ticked off, until he explodes and lays the smackdown on both their candyasses, but more so on Gore for being a pansy. Again, I dream too well.



The Commuter

Your *Independent* Guide to Features

Celebrating Polish ancestry

by Tim Hill
Editor in Chief

Northeastern celebrated Polish-American Heritage Month with a respectable cast of musicians, dancers, guest speakers, and friends in Alumni Hall on Friday, October 6.

Presented by the Office of Alumni Affairs and the Council of Educators in Polonia, the event was joined by political figures of Polish descent from around Illinois, such as State Representative Bob Bugielski, NEIU Trustee Edward Dykla, and Alderman Michael Wojcik from the 30th Ward in Chicago.

Dykla is the only person of 100% Polish descent on any board of trustees in Illinois.



Bugielski is the only Polish person out of 177 state representatives for Illinois.

Dykla pointed out that three Polish language classes have been offered at Northeastern and that all three classes are full.

Opening remarks at the Polish-American Heritage Celebration were made by NEIU Director of Alumni Affairs Lisa Cooper. Cooper read a statement from Governor George Ryan declaring October 2000 as the Official Polish Heritage Month in Illinois.

Northeastern President Salme Steinberg rose next to greet everyone assembled for the event. "This is the third year that Northeastern has co-sponsored this celebration of the rich heritage of Poland," Steinberg further addressed NEIU's general regard for the value of ethnic heritage, noting that Northeastern was found to be the most ethnically diverse university in the midwestern U.S. for the fourth year in a row.

Alderman Wojcik spoke to the crowd of the importance of a Polish heritage celebration, and of the importance of getting directly involved in politics if one wants to make changes in education.

The celebration was joined also by author Dr. Joan Peterson who signed copies of her book *Eat Smart in Poland*.

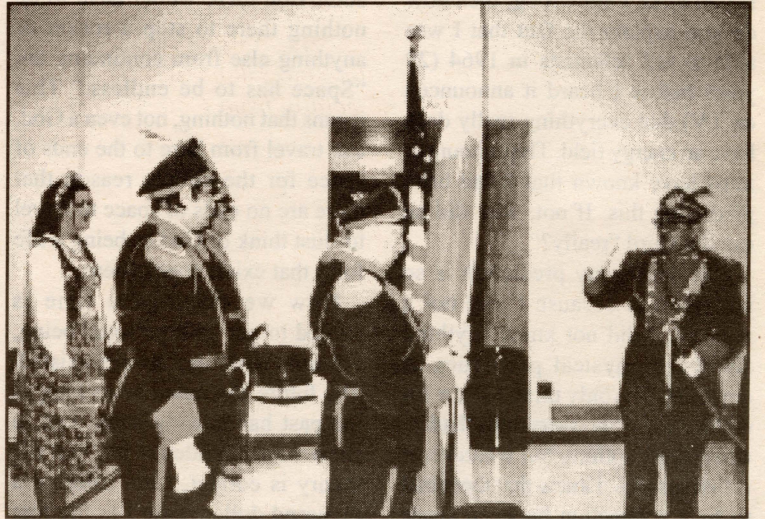
Another speaker was Anna

Szpindor-Watson. An M.D. allergist and secretary of the Polish-American Medical Society, Szpindor-Watson has been featured on CBS and ABC Chicago newscasts for her medical expertise. Szpindor-Watson spoke about the importance of heritage. "It is not enough to [be a part] of a certain heritage. You need to enjoy it and be proud of it."

Szpindor-Watson also talked about being an inspiration to others. She asked the audience to close their eyes and remember the most inspirational person in their lives, and to then think about what the audience members themselves could do for others. "My wish for you is to prosper in and enjoy your mentoring experience." Szpindor-Watson then repeated her statement in Polish, and was met with splendid applause.

Jaroslav Golembiowski performed *The Music of the Polonaise* in the Fine Arts Recital Hall. Later, Little Polonia of St. Hyacinth Dancers from the Northwest Center for Traditional Dancing of Chicago performed *The Polonaise*.

The Polish-American Heritage Celebration was assembled through much work by Marlene Gill of the Council of Educators in Polonia. Gill noted the high membership of Northeastern's Polish Club, a successful new social gathering for Polish students on campus.



Avant guard! The Polish -American Heritage Celebration was ushered by men in traditional Polish military dress (above). (below) The guards raised their swords to honor the American and Polish flags. They were joined by President Steinberg, Alderman Wojcik, Trustee Dykla, and State Representative Bugielski. (left) The young greeters of the Polish Celebration.



photos by Laurie Park

Willows remembered

by Tim Hill
Editor in Chief

Autumn has begun to bat its brown lashes at Chicago. The air of crushing leaves and puddles of dawn rain crash upon the senses like a tebbrous, orange wave in the mornings of paling October. A melancholy reminiscence calls to the minds of us tiny Northeastern dwellers the former symbols of time that once stood brightly, sadly, coldly, or gaily in the B-Wing Courtyard, our Weeping Willow trees.

It was much to the dismay of many Northeastern inhabitants when for subterranean structure purposes, the willows had to be removed, never to shade and comfort a Golden Eagle again.

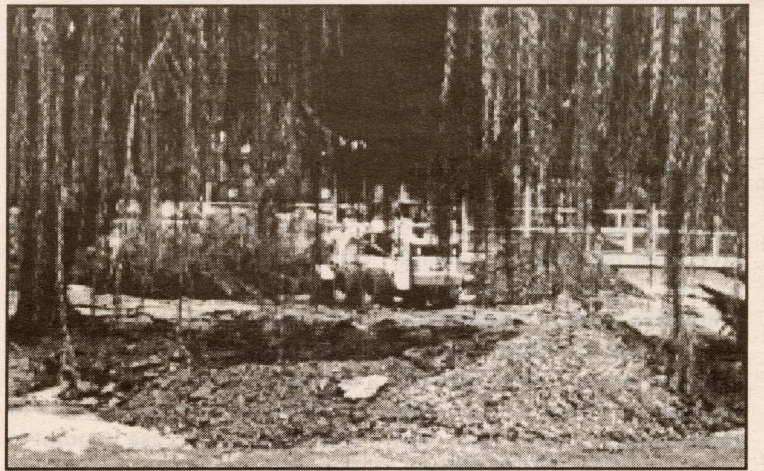
Last year, Dr. Harold Hild of the Speech and Performing Arts Department tasked the students of his Oral Interpretation class to stroll about the NEIU campus and write a poem about Fall after reading John Keats' ode *To Autumn*.

One student, Catherine Drougas, took this opportunity in, and produced a

masterpiece. Her poem, *The Fall*, is reprinted here with permission.

Dr. Hild said, "This student decided to sit under the willows on that beautiful Fall day and write [the poem]. How ironic and poignant that those willows are now gone."

Even though those once proud symbols of time, seasons, Autumn melancholy, and change are indeed now gone, the *Independent* shares Dr. Hild's feeling that our readers would enjoy a poetic look back at the Weeping Willows through the words of Ms. Catherine Drougas.



The Fall

Two weeping willows hang their spool thread hairs
as each teardrop vibrates its heart-strings.

Both of them wait the coming when every drop falls and is barren,
when yellow memories of summer whisper
down onto the rocky ground and,
blow away like butterflies
escaping from a jar.

But for now, they enjoy the moment,
playing their windsongs,

Fingering their way above the rocks trying to
reach each other,

a Tristan and Isolde anticipating the arrival of
winter's ship of black sails.

Their circles among circles among circles surround me so I can't escape!
I want to thrust my hands into the tearful vines and become
lost in your jungleness...

Your jungleness?

Are you the one tickling my skin as I push through the strings?

Are you the one with the low sweet sex murmurs,

in my ear,

through me and in me?

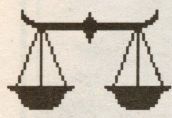
I wish you would share the willows' songs with me,
watching your eyes seep into the
Sorrowing Sways.

Star Signs

by Iris the Oracle

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK: *The stars are ready to deliver nothing but great things in celebration of your birthday! Expect a career change to drastically improve and push towards a bright financial future.*

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS NEXT WEEK: *Your brilliant ideas will be the key to attaining real wealth. What's more, love's sweet song will be music to your ears, especially from October 24 to February 14.*



LIBRA
(September 23 to October 22)

Prioritizing is easier than ever. Thanks to some of the planets in your zone, your busy life is flowing freely like the hands of a clock. Plans for the weekend? The stars cry romance. As an added bonus: a mess you're in will be resolved soon.



SCORPIO
(October 23 to November 21)

Get ready to savor some romantic vibes that are headed your way. Meanwhile, changes in environment will bring you unexpected joy, as well as a complete surprise. A hunch that you've had for a while will put you in the winner's circle.



SAGITTARIUS
(November 22 to December 21)

A trio of meteors converge in your sign this week, so the answers you've been seeking about family, work, money and love will soon be yours. Romance takes center stage as the moon casts its glow on your love life.



CAPRICORN
(December 22 to January 19)

Your month-long celebration continues, thanks to the planets working in your zone. You currently have a harmonious home life, courtesy of the stars gaze. Thanks to a wise investment, your bank account will get a boost.



AQUARIUS
(January 20 to February 18)

Extra cash will be jumping in and out of your pockets. Thanks to some new money-making ideas, you may be left hungry for more cash. Romance pops, putting you and that someone special you have an eye for in the mood for love!



PISCES
(February 19 to March 20)

You're the hot topic with the authorities who are so impressed with the job you've been doing lately. What's more, you can expect a big confidence boost in all areas of your life, including romance thanks to Venus' positive influence.



ARIES (March 21 to April 19)

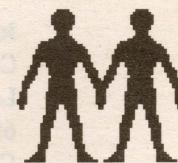
You are feeling creative. The 31st is the perfect time to try something new. A choir group or crafts perhaps. Thanks to an inspiring star conjunction, your troubles with a friend will

be over. Bonus: An old family quarrel will finally be settled.



TAURUS
(April 20 to May 20)

Your instincts may have felt off lately, but the stars are making everything crystal clear, just for you. So cut to the chase and eliminate any drains from your life. You'll also notice your enemies will go away on a new, star-blessed regime.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)

Career smarts are at their peak this week due to a good friend's influence. You can see through others' strategies and position yourself for a big win at war. Now that you know what works, and what doesn't, use it to your advantage.



CANCER
(June 22 to July 22)

Love blooms under the moon's

romantic glow this week. You'll double your chances either at the casino, stock market or even the gym if you team up with a mate. Helpful hint: ask a favor now and be pleasantly surprised by the answer.



LEO (July 23 to August 22)

Love is in the air this week as single Lions meet romantic strangers and attached Lions earn renewed interest from their mates. Shooting stars in your zone will bring you a nice financial transaction, so set your sights high!



VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)

Nothing can get by you. The stars fine tuned your natural ESP, helping you uncover others' hidden agendas, among other unspeakable things. Keep what you know to yourself. This information will be useful in the long run.

Archimede's Advice Column Crabby's + Archimedes

A= Ok, we promised you a special issue, so here it is. We have collected our hundreds of fan letters, sorted through them, removed all the letters that simply were females giving me their phone numbers—

C= That didn't take very long...

A= Shut up. Anyway, we are taking our valuable time today to answer your many questions. So, let's begin.

How do you two find the time to answer a question? How do you get motivated?

A= Well, time isn't really a factor for me, since my life sucks and I have nothing important happening—

C= And I just try to set aside time each month for some question-answering. As to how we get motivated—

A= Crabby usually polishes off a quart of *Hagen Daas* while watching some crappy soap opera, whereas I'm usually chained to a desk and beaten with reeds until I write my part.

C= Oh, that is such bull—

A= Question 2...

I sent in a question last month, and never got a reply. What gives?

C= It's hard to answer every

question we receive—

A= Also, your question was probably so ridiculously stupid, we decided not to answer it.

C= That's not what happened!

A= Says you.

C= Seriously, we have classes and jobs aside from this, so we pick questions based on the likelihood of other people having the same problem.

A= Yeah, loads of women have friends groping their boyfriends...Next question!

Do you two really hate each other, or is it all an act?

A= Yes.

C= Yes.

A= That was a stupid question.

C= Totally. Let's move on.

What is your favorite party game to play?

A= What the hell is wrong with this person?

C= I don't know. Let's see...

A= Anything involving massive quantities of alcohol.

C= Oh, please.

Do you guys make up your questions, or do people really send them in?

A= Kiss my ass.

C= Hey! We have to be polite to our fans.

A= Ok, you're right. Kiss my

ass, sir.

C= Jerk. Anyway, we receive our questions, and never make one up.

A= The fact that we printed this dope's letter should illustrate that point.

C= Let's just keep going.

Are you guys married?

A= How dare you?!

C= God, no.

A= I couldn't—

C= Sangre, de mi

sangre, Lord have mercy on your soul for even asking that horribly ridiculous, totally disgusting question. Why would I want to be even related to this ego-testicle, manipulative, scum, who dares call himself a human being.

A= And how could I ever marry some sexist wench? God, I hate this person. Let's move on very quickly.

Why is Crabby so crabby, and how does Archimedes put up with her?

A= You, sir, are one intelligent person. Hey, check the name, is it a woman?

Archimedes



Crabby

C= Of course it's not, no woman would ever agree with you.

A= Anyway, to answer this question, we usually write up two questions every month. Perhaps the timeliness of our monthly meetings conflicts with another monthly visitor...

C= Oh, shut up. I'm crabby because you make me crabby.

A= Sure, sure. Ok, last question.

Are Archimedes and the Voice of the Campus, Brian Blaszkowski, the same person?

A= Yeah, right. Like I'm really that loser. All he does is

complain, whereas I help the public. I can tell you one thing, if I were Brian Blaszkowski, I'd probably shoot myself.

C= Why not stab yourself with some scissors instead?

A= Oh, I'll just get the News Editor to do it.

C= There you go again, can't do anything yourself.

A= Well, I'm not the Voice of Campus, so I'm not going to kill myself anyway.

C= Crap!

A= Shut up. Well, keep the questions coming. Next issue, I'm back, in all my splendor and glory!

C= Yeah, right.

The Great Midwest Job & Internship Fair



Friday, October 27, 2000, 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Loyola University's Joseph J. Gentile Center
6525 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60626

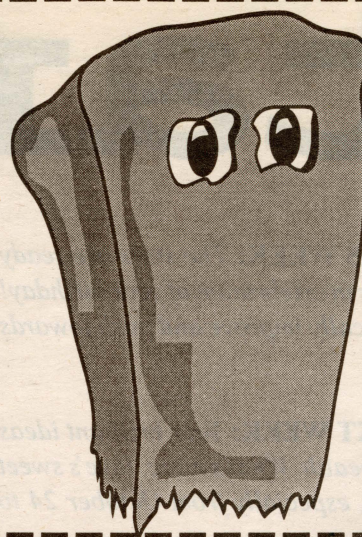
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And MANY MANY more!!!

- Pre-registration deadline: October 20, 2000.
- Include Pre-registration fee of \$10.00. **Resume & Pre-Registration Fee may be mailed to:**

John Bradarich
Career Center/Job Fair
Loyola University Chicago
6525 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60626
E-mail: Jbradar@luc.edu
- You can also walk-in the day of the Job Fair with 70 or more copies of your resume. **Admission fee: \$20**
- Your resume keeps working for you until January 2001 thru our active referral program.
- Literally hundreds of job opportunities in accounting, communications, computer science, and social services are available.
- Professional attire is required

For more information, check our website at www.luc.edu/resources/career or call the Loyola Career Center at (773) 508-2874.



Got a NEWS Tip?

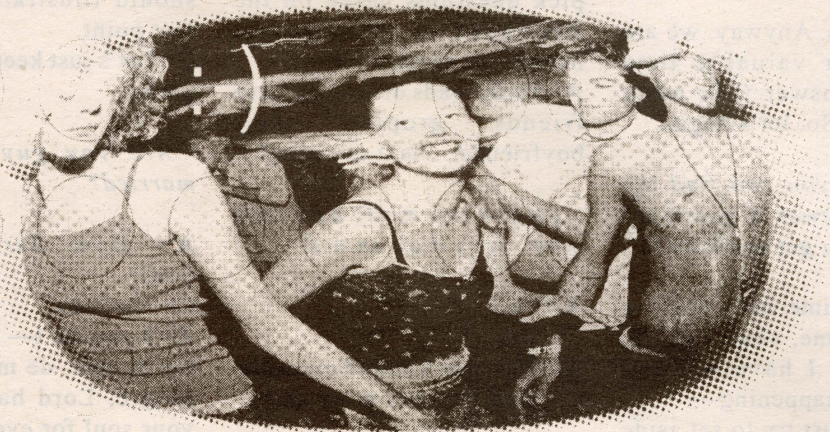
Something going on on campus that we need to know about?
Call the Independent with your news tips.
Contact us at 773.794.2812 or stop by E-049 (under Beck's Bookstore).



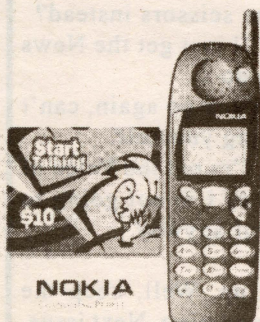
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candidate who will work to get key
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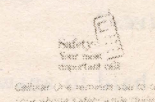
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Spring Break 2001! Cancun & Bahamas, eat, drink, travel for free, wanted Campus Reps! Call USA Spring Break, toll free

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For Sale

1988 Lincoln Towncar: Black leather interior, AM/FM cassette, AC. Good getting-to-school car. 773.545.1995. Leave message.

Organizations

Wanted: Feminists to join a student-run campus group and participate in political actions. Meetings 2nd Tuesday, 4th Thursday, C-505, 1:40 pm.

The Black Heritage Gospel Choir is extending its membership to all Northeastern students. Come join us in singing songs of praise. Tues. and Thurs., 1:40-2:50, FA 152. -President Kendra Young

WZRD 88.3 FM's "Thursday Nite Live" seeks bands/musicians. All styles considered. No promises. Must have demo. Send descriptions to
secretagentbill@hotmail.com

Personals

The Independent would like to dedicate this issue to **Anderson Lam**, whose kind and selfless help to us made this issue possible. **Anderson**, thank you very much.
Tim Hill, Carole Brown, and staff

Lady Shakespeare! Donde estas? Are you still willing to meet your romeo?? Claudia, this time you name the place, time, and location...
Joshua

To the *Independent* Staff: Now that I'm here, who knows what surprises may be headed your way. - Iris the Oracle

Come rain, sleet, snow or screwed up computers, the journalists shall still prevail. Here's to survivors with ink-stain on their hands.

Hey N.E. Whovians! Are YOU going to Chicago T.A.R.D.I.S. 2000? I am! <http://home.earthlink.net/~chicagotardis/>

"Divide" If you like loud, heavy, soft, fast, slow, poop-in-your-pants METAL, then visit dividemusic.com. E-mail the band for a free CD.

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TIME: 2:00pm

LOCATION: Student Union 003

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Help Wanted

Part-time

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

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

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

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

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Work Days:	Monday through Friday
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