

1-9-2001

## Independent- Jan. 9, 2001

Carole M. Brown

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Campus makes  
New Year's  
Resolutions**  
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School Issue**

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about weight loss**  
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SINCE 1988

3 TIME 1999-2000 ICPA AWARD WINNER

CHICAGO, ILL.

# Independent

Vol. 17 Issue 9

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

JAN 17 2001

Tuesday, January 9, 2001

ARCHIVES

## Northeastern takes center-stage at SAC meeting

by Zeenat Desai  
News Editor

NEIU hosted The Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee (IBHE SAC) meeting on December 9 and 10, 2000.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) is a body that annually recommends the budget for higher education to the Governor and the General Assembly. Therefore, the IBHE is crucial in any university's monetary status. The IBHE serves as the parent body to IBHE-SAC (Illinois Board of Higher Education-Student Advisory Committee), which primarily consists of student representatives from various universities and colleges through Illinois.

The various sub-committees of the IBHE-SAC presented items pertaining to both

academics and non-academics. The committees aim to bring forth all aspects of student life, including academic affairs, alumni affairs, budget, public relations, access and diversity, and non-academic affairs.

One of the key points the IBHE-SAC discussed was the fiscal year 2002 budget recommendations. The IBHE-SAC voiced an emphasis on financial aid, noting that "the playing field" between high and low income students must be leveled.

The IBHE-SAC deemed that the recommendation for a \$1 million increase in the Monetary Award Program for part-time and summer students will be beneficial to many, stating that the main goal of student financial aid should be "to improve accessibility." The IBHE-SAC also expounded on maintaining quality academic



photo by Zeenat Desai

SGA President Tom Foley, who spent many hours preparing NEIU to host the event, rests his eyes just for a moment at the exciting SAC meeting.

instruction within colleges and universities.

According to the fiscal year 2002 higher education budget recommendations, the capital budget recommendations for NEIU total \$16.6 million and include renovations/expansion of the A-Wing, B-Wing, F-Wing, Building E and the C-Building (the Beehive); the remodeling of the Science Building laboratories; and the construction of the Education

Building.

For public universities as a whole, the fiscal year 2002 budget recommendations reflect a \$79.7 million increase in state general funds over the fiscal year 2001 budget.

The IBHE has established the SAC as "an official channel for interaction with students in order to obtain first-hand knowledge of the impact of the IBHE policies on the student population, and to obtain

continuing student opinion, ideas, and constructive criticism regarding higher education in Illinois."

The IBHE-SAC is commissioned to advise the IBHE on behalf of the students of Illinois and "embrace and encourage student development through new and innovative means of providing access and availability to higher education for all current and potential students."

## Northwestern journalist caught fabricating facts

(U-WIRE) EVANSTON, ILL. — Three newspapers cannot verify elements of more than 17 stories written by a Medill student intern following allegations that he fabricated two articles for the journalism school.

Eric Drudis, a fourth-year student who would have received his master's degree alongside his bachelor's degree in June, was removed from Medill's graduate program but remains eligible to receive his bachelor's degree.

Drudis worked for the Medill News Service, the journalism school's student newswire, which retracted two of his stories in November after professors could not verify the information in them.

One article described a 9-year-old boy arrested 70 times in the past two years. The other told the story of 15-year-old girl who allegedly

punched her prom date for refusing to kiss her. One or both of the stories ran in The Times of Northwest Indiana, The Daily Herald and The Daily Southtown on November 15.

On November 17, the Medill News Service issued a statement saying they were unable to determine whether the articles were true.

"Questions were raised about the veracity of those incidents," the statement read. "After conducting further investigation, we have been unable to verify the information contained in those stories and believe they should not have been published."

Drudis did not return several phone calls and e-mails for comment. In December, he told the San Jose Mercury News that he did not fabricate sources for the Medill stories.

"I had a source that I trusted for

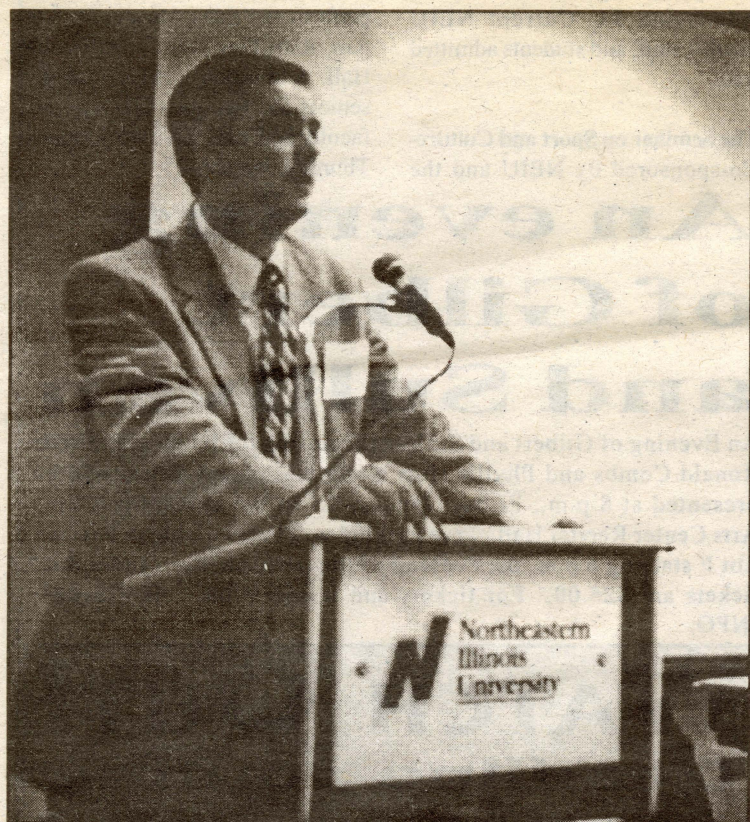
both stories," he said. "I did not make up my sources."

In the aftermath of the incident, newspapers where Drudis has interned began their own investigations into his articles.

After an extensive search, editors of the Mercury News, The (Philadelphia) Daily News and the San Francisco Examiner say they cannot find evidence that more than 30 sources in 17 of Drudis' stories exist. Drudis interned for the Mercury News this summer and worked at The Daily News and the Examiner in 1999.

Editors at the Mercury News cannot verify sources in five of Drudis' stories, said Susan Goldberg, the paper's managing editor. In a memo to her staff, Goldberg said the paper never questioned Drudis' stories — even though the sources in them often were "incredible."

see Northwestern  
page 3



Chairman of SAC, Scott Andrews, addresses the room.

## NEIU student gains prestigious scholarship

Georgia Logothetis, a graduate of Good Counsel High School in Chicago, has been awarded the first Presidential Scholarship to Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU). She is currently in her first year at NEIU pursuing a bachelor's degree in English.

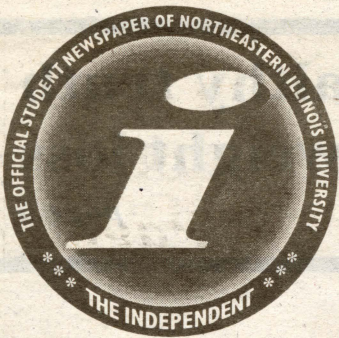
The Presidential Scholarship is NEIU's most prestigious award, available to entering full-time freshmen, and will cover the costs of tuition, fees, and books for a

maximum of four years provided the recipient achieves a grade point average of at least 3.25 each year. Four Presidential Scholarships are available each year.

Logothetis maintained an impressive academic record throughout her high school years. During her senior year she took three advanced placement classes: Literature/Composition, Calculus,

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page 3





#### Office Hours

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

Friday

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

#### Telephones

Editorial (773) 442-4577

Advertising (773) 442-4585

Fax (773) 442-4579

#### E-mail

T-Independent@neiu.edu

neiu\_independent@yahoo.com

#### Carole M. Brown

Editor in Chief

Joseph Kelly

Associate Editor

Zeenat Desai

News Editor

Victor A. Dula

Opinions Editor

Position Available

Features Editor

Tim Hill/Lior Alon

REV Editor

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#### Staff Writer

Jessica Bezold, Tom Croon,  
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Chris Schneider, Shana Stone,  
Position Available

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5500 N. St. Louis Ave.,  
Chicago, Illinois 60625

# AROUND CAMPUS

## LaDuke to speak

African, African American, Caribbean, and the Americas Cultural Heritage Program presents "Survival of the Human: TheConnections of Our Collective Destiny" January 22-25, 2001. A keynote address will be delivered by Winona LaDuke, a prominent Native American novelist, author

of "Last Standing Woman" and "All Our Relations," environmental activist, and running mate of Ralph Nader in the 2000 election. The event will take place on January 23rd, 2001 at 6:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall. For more information, contact Academic Development at 773-794-6258.

## Dual admission agreement announced

NEIU and MacCormac College have announced a dual admissions agreement available to students who are planning to complete the Associate of Arts or Associate of

Science degree at MacCormac College and the baccalaureate degree at NEIU. The agreement is effective as of December 1, 2000.

## The Dream Works

NEIU and Daniel McDermott, Assistant Principal of Peterson School, present "The Dream Works" from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday, January 15th, in the Physical Education Complex at NEIU. Members from various NEIU student organizations will host a gathering of 150 students from Peterson Elementary School to provide a safe space and a structured educational program on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The day is free of charge and attended by Peterson School students only. The day will consist of educational sessions, games and skits with the elementary school students, and a charity drive. For more information contact Diana Abraham, Assistant Dean of Students, at 773-794-6115.

## Declare a major or else says NEIU

Effective Spring 2001, the university will require all undergraduate students to declare a major by the time they have earned a total of forty-five credit hours. Students who have not completed the prerequisites necessary to declare a major must declare a pre-major. For example, to declare a major in the College of Business Management and Education, several prerequisites must be met. If a student has not met these requirements, the student must then declare a pre-major. To declare a major, students must contact their intended major department to obtain the appropriate form. After

obtaining the necessary signatures, the form is then submitted to the Admissions and Records Information Center (D-101). To declare a pre-major, students must obtain the appropriate form from the Admissions and Records Office. They must indicate on the form the pre-major they are interested in and return the form to the Admissions and Records Office. No other signatures are required. When they are ready to declare a major, they should follow the directions stated above. Students may obtain assistance at the Academic Advising Office by calling 773-794-2864 or visiting them at A-109.

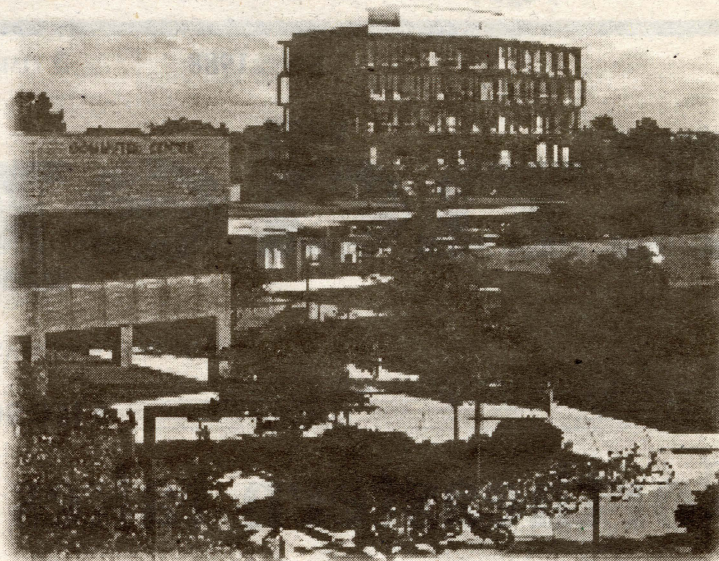
## Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Pikler offers seminars

Charles Pikler, Principal violinist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, will offer seminars on playing orchestral parts for auditions to high school seniors and college students at NEIU beginning the Spring semester on January 8th and running through April. The seminar will meet once a week from 4 to 6 p.m. on Mondays. Tuition and fees are \$250. Students from any high school or university are welcome to enroll. Students have the option of taking the course for college credit, including high school seniors, by filling out the Student-at-Large application. To sign up for the seminar or request an application contact Peter Chang, Assistant Professor of Music at NEIU, at 773-442-5914.

## President Steinberg receives award

NEIU President Dr. Salme Steinberg recently received the Outstanding Commitment to Professional Development Award from the Committee on Opportunity and Equity (COE), of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education International's Board of

Trustees. Dr. Steinberg was selected as the COE Outstanding Commitment to Professional Development Award winner for 2000 recognition of her enhancing professional development and career opportunities for multicultural professionals in the advancement field.



## Upcoming Events

**Gail Tolf presents art exhibit-** NEIU graduate student in the Gifted Education program Gail Tolf presents an exhibit of her work, including ink, pen, and watercolor, in the Ronald Williams Library on January 8-20.

#### Music Student Convocation-

A Music Student Convocation will be held on Tuesday, January 23, at 1:40 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall.

#### Stage Center Theatre-

The Stage Center Theatre's Studio Series presents three plays: "Andre's Mother" by Terrence McNally, "Prelude and Liebestob" by Terrence McNally, and "What I Meant Was" by Craig Lucas; Director, Bill Mayer. Tuesday, Thursday, January 23, 25, 1:40 and 7:30 p.m., Stage Center Theatre. Admission \$4. Current NEIU faculty, staff, and students admitted free.

**The Seminar on Sport and Culture-** Co-sponsored by NEIU and the

Newberry Library, the Chicago Seminar on Sport and Culture presents "Muscular Christianity: A Modernist Ideology Faces a Post-Modern World," by Tony Ladd, Athletic Director and Chair, Department of Kinesiology, Wheaton College, and James Mathisen, Department of Sociology, Wheaton College. Ladd and Mathisen are authors of the book, Muscular Christianity: Evangelical Protestants and the Development of American Sport. The event will take place on Friday, January 26 at 3:30 p.m., in the Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton.

#### Howard Levy and Friends-

Howard Levy and Friends is a jazz quartet featuring piano, bass, drums and harmonica. The program is a celebration of legendary artists of jazz and world music and will perform on Friday, January 26, 8:00 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. Admission is \$10; students/seniors \$8; free to NEIU students, faculty and staff. Free workshop on Thursday, January 25.

## An evening of Gilbert and Sullivan

An Evening of Gilbert and Sullivan featuring NEIU faculty artists Ronald Combs and Phyllis Hurt along with guest artists will be presented at 8 p.m., Friday, January 19 in the university's Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. Free parking will be available in Parking Lot F starting 6 p.m. the evening of the performance. Individual tickets are \$25.00. For tickets and information, call 773-442-INFO.

## 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 Spring 2001 semesters

January 23, 2001  
February 6, 2001  
February 20, 2001  
March 6, 2001  
March 27, 2001

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) 442-4577 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) 422-4577 or e-mail us at: T-Independent@neiu.edu



# REV

Volume 5, issue 9. January 8, 2001.

**Ravin' like a writing desk:  
Q101 is out of gas**  
*Page 2*

**Enya attempts to cram  
another CD down our throats**  
*Page 3*

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

## The non-prestigious, semi-annual REV Awards

by Lior Alon  
REV Editor

Aside from averting a global, computer-generated apocalypse, 2000 contained several other highlights in the entertainment fields of music, motion picture, broadcast and electronic games, REV now presents an eclectic and somewhat representative selection of accolades for your perusal. Have a most leisurely 2001!

### Entertainment Event of the Year:

**PS2 Launch:** had literally hundreds of thousands of apparently sentient adults standing in line for hours in bitter late October chill. Although since the phenomenon has quieted down due to Sony's debacle of a delivery process, PS2 urchins across the world have made the little black and blue box a heavy weight champion. Do we personally know anyone who dared the lines? No, not at all...

### Movie of the Year:

**Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon:** last minute arrival winning thanks to being so genuine and instantly likable to all who merely discuss it, let alone view its splendor. A martial arts/fairy tale opus that'll probably win awards next year as a video game rendition, it has added volumes to the Matrix-dominated neo-action segment.

Runners Up:



Oh, Brother: Spot the missing link!

**X-Men:** best action flick of the summer. Sequel to be named "X-Persons".  
**Gladiator:** period slasher meets the Crocodile Hunter in Ridley Scott's acceptable historical thriller.

Notable Film Fiascos:

**Battlefield Earth:** made science fiction, Scientology and literary fiction look bad and gave John Travolta a bad reputation. Poorest screen adaptation of a perfectly reasonable novel in a long while. A true disgrace.

**O Brother, Where Art Thou?:** following classics such as Barton Fink and Fargo, one could expect a Cohen Brothers movie to be at least OK. How wrong. This "gem" of a Depression era escapade would have been immensely better if done by Cheech and Chong. As it stands, the only one question remains: O brother, WHY?!

### Album of the Year:

**Insane Clown Posse, Bizar/Bizaar:** as odd as it may seem, that double-shot of aggressive deviance has won countless new fans and has also made an indelible impact on the rap/hip-hop/hard rock scene. Kudos to them for finally making it.

### Sonic Stupidity Item of the Year:

**I-5, I-5:** unbelievably shallow and tasteless morsel of lab synthesized pop shaming all music consumers and producers wherever they may be.

### Game of the Year:

**Delta Force 2 (PC):** officially released in 1999, it took off in 2000 to become the most singularly



X-Men: "\$49.95 for this! Shame on you Crate and Barrel."



Dune: "I look weird naked? Look at that hat!"



Giants: He doesn't have dental and he just broke the last Port-a-John Run!

addictive on-line multiplayer experience ever, of the "stay up till 6AM" type. Add to that a lively community of hardcore players and you get a true landmark.

Runners Up:

**Tekken Tag Tournament (PS2):** venerable fighting with all the trimmings and a superb sense of humor made this into one of the foremost launch-day PS2 titles.

**Giants: Citizen Kabuto (PC):** may sound overly bizarre, but Interplay's amazingly

beautiful action magnet took everybody by surprise with jaw-dropping graphics and fluid gameplay.

**The Legend of Zelda: Majora's Mask (N64):** made the list thanks to its astonishingly solid sales figures and popular approval by millions of gamers worldwide.

Noteworthy Disaster:

**Force Commander (PC):** often referred to see Awards page 2



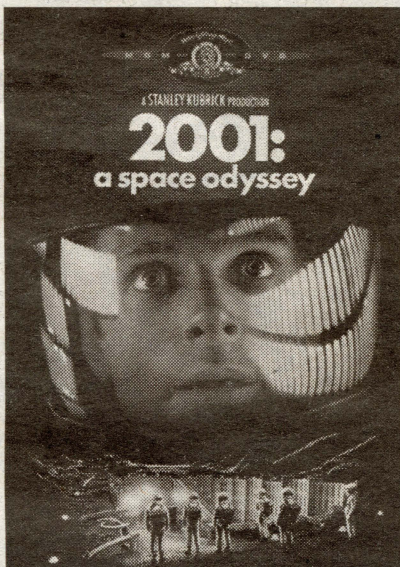
# The Rant

by Lior Alon

## Try Again in 3001

It may be old already, but 2001's main gimmick (apart from being this supposed "real millennium") will undoubtedly prove to be making fun of 2001: *A Space Odyssey*. Yeah, yeah, we don't have robots to clean out the garage and the farthest McDonald's from your house is probably in Novosibirsk, Siberia and not Mars, but these are merely symptoms of a much broader disease called complacency.

In 1968, when the late Stanley Kubrick's pioneering work was released on very suspicious movie audiences, we as a race of humans were in the midst of a space heyday. Everybody and their star-faring dog Laika were racing out there, crazed and feverish with dreams of rapid colonialization and outward expansion. Cold war budgets allowed for more than overgrown national pride. They enabled bona fide research into fields of technology previously consigned to realms of fancy and ridicule. Where do you think microwave ovens and half the food in your fridge came from? No one sat down to develop them because of our pretty little eyes. No sir, the space race bestowed lots of



good on us and we never even knew it. For the first time ever it became cool to be a tech geek, and regular people began to get over this innate fear of advanced machinery which drove 18<sup>th</sup> century factory workers to torch assembly lines across Europe.

As could have been expected well in advance, this didn't last. Soon, everyone tired of being so damn innovative and efficient all the time. Heck, we really wanted to go back to our old doldrums and sink into the routine of resting on our laurels. We have Earth, the eternal blue pearl in a universal mire of void and despair. Who wants to leave anyway? "What's out there for us?"

Space became an anachronism real fast. Already in the late 1980's we saw budgets shrink and dedication wane. Why venture? Why explore? "Haven't you seen *Aliens*?" Those suckers are waiting for us out there, gnashing their teeth. Instead of wide-eyed enthusiasm, a skeptical narrow mindedness descended on everything space program related. Mainstream Hollywood took over, replacing our sense of mission and agency with *ET*. Gradually, everyone forgot how imperative it was to get off our exclusive Terran nest before it came crashing all around us. Exploring space has all the logic in the world. In a few generations' time there will be no crude oil, coal or much of an atmosphere for that matter. If potential climatic trends become reality, going downtown New Year's will pretty soon require lugging SCUBA diving gear. Look, nothing lasts forever, nor will our precious Earth. Besides, I truly believe it to be our destiny to get out there and see what's what for a huge variety of reasons, some practical, some more cerebral.

In space we will find better definition of who we are and why we came to be. To avoid space travel would be similar to living in Morton Grove and never knowing what the Sears Tower, Navy Pier or lakefront really look like, forever guessing as to their meaning (no offense to those living in Morton Grove: we are 100% behind you).

Currently, space programs everywhere languish in a cruel limbo based on empty plans and promises, leading nowhere. Just examine our own space shuttle runs. What for? Go DO SOMETHING for a change, instead of playing the same old up-and-down routine time and time again. While maintenance will always be a significant part of reaching out to the stars, it cannot be the sole ingredient. Think about it: since 1969 we really haven't broadened our celestial borders at all. No manned mission known publicly has been to anywhere beyond our own moon.

NASA's ceaseless, ineffectual use of its shuttles has turned them into errand runners, so much so the only thing missing from those vessels must surely be an 800 number for deliveries.

So please, make it your resolution to support space programs, exploration and expansion. That doesn't have to mean writing anything, petitioning anyone or standing in a picket line. All it entails is opening your own mind and helping to liberate those of others. Support it with your heart. Accept it. Spread the word. Go to see sci-fi movies at the movieplex when they come out. Read up on the subject, become a member of some internet space society monitoring ameba activity on Neptune, I don't know, whatever helps. Just understand: realize where it is we need to go, and comprehend we cannot wait until 3001 for the odyssey to begin.

My other resolutions?

- Learn to enjoy life
- Spend MORE money on gaming gear and my car
- Keep smoking 'cuz it's fun
- Reduce mooching to a minimum
- Be more time-efficient to allow for extra gaming hours
- Think up better captions for pictures
- Finish EVERY game and book I buy
- Ask somebody every week whatever happened to HDTV, another great "coming soon" promise.

Happy New Year!

## Casino Nights offers musicianship

by Tim Hill  
REV Editor

*Casino Nights '99* is a live jazz compilation recorded live at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland from July 13 of that year. This double-disk collection features fourteen songs at over two hours of music offering something for every kind of jazz fan, from smooth, upbeat modern jazz to classic, broody persuasion.

Mark Turner's *Old Folks* begins with Turner's somber, wondering alto sax, flitting in a gloomy dance then joined by Bob James' soft piano modes that interject sax leads in solemn conversational tones until exploring higher notes of musical consciousness. Cue this song up when driving alone downtown at night, or when pouring the first

Manhattan of the evening after busy days.

*Old Folks* leads into the Kenny Garrett Quartet's *Wayne's Thang*, an upbeat groove introducing itself with piano and sax call and response before the bass and drums start to flail their percussive arms. Here is a jazz song one can really get up and move to. *Wayne's Thang* is one electric guitar away from being a Phish jam.

George Duke's *Brazilian Love Affair* starts in the sweet and low-down mood, before vocal jamming between Duke and Gabriela Anders begins the Latin salsa. The romp that ensues, thick with bass and Lenny Castro's seductive percussion is another dancy ode, but a bit too heavy on the wimpy, modern jazz side. A bass and percussion jam late in the track

delivers salvation.

**Various Artists**  
*Casino Lights '99*  
Warner Bros.

**Music: B+** Features new and old instrument combinations for jazz, from standard piano, bass and drums to Latin percussion and keyboards.

**Lyrics:** Mostly an instrumental album. Not enough lyrics available to judge.

Production: A If not for audience applause, one cannot even tell that this is a live album instead of studio.

**Overall: B+** Jazz is not something that can be arguably judged, but some of us prefer more classic jazz sounds. Nevertheless, the musicianship displayed on *Casino Nights* is superb.

## Awards

continued from page 1

as *Farce Commander*, this one was meant to become an instant smash hit thanks to being the first real time strategy game based in the Star Wars universe. An exceedingly long wait by hordes of gamers was greeted by a game so ill-conceived word could not describe the disappointment.

## TV Show of the Year:

**Frank Herbert's Dune (Sci-Fi Channel):** expensive, expansive and highly detailed adaptation of the classic book, John Harrison's version has considerably more depth than the 1984 cinematic version, plus a style most impressive for a television production.

Runners Up:

**Dark Angel (Fox):** another nice attempt to do something different for prime-time broadcast, and a venue for cyberpunk fiction previously not typical of networks at all. Probably won't survive to see another season, though.

**Roswell (WB):** *Dawson's Creek* meets the *X Files*, New Mexico style. Again, interesting take on the tried and tested evening-soap formula.

In Need of Help:

**Will and Grace (NBC):** continually unfunny show that simply won't quit.

**Malcolm In The Middle (Fox):** part of a new breed of Fox comedies. The one that doesn't work.

## Radio Show of the Year:

**The Basement (early Saturday mornings, WONC FM89.1):** ultra-cool slot devoted to electronic music of all kinds and allegiances. Keeps multitudes of party goers, club-heads, insomniacs and graveyard shifters alive through the desolate wee hours. In danger of being dropped, supposedly. Top notch radio station-best in the area!

Runner Up:  
**The Deep End (10PM-**

**midnight, WXXY FM103.1):** the real McCoy when it comes to alternative 80's music. Always whips out some forgotten track when you think they've played them all.

## Ravin' like a writing desk: Radio-free Chicago

Sometimes I like to punish myself. This is easily accomplished by listening to Chicagoland radio stations, featuring mistakes like the Loop FM, Q101, and two, count 'em, TWO stations that specialize in music from the 80's.

I'll always be a fan of the Police, R.E.M., and 80's songs like *Mexican Radio* or *The Safety Dance*, but there's a reason why bands like Jane's Addiction and Nirvana were such a relief to the music-listening world. John Lennon's death in 1980 and John Bonham's about a year prior were not just tragic accidents, but violent symbols of the changing musical world.

In the world of Chicago radio, a brilliant station which a month ago featured a grand selection of classic rock, CD94.7, has been ironically transformed into 94.7 The Zone, playing "songs you grew up with" from the 80's. Strange, but the change in attitude and style of music was realistically just as drastic as the format transition on 94.7 FM.

Also, I may have grown up with music from the 80's, but I was raised on psychedelic from the 60's, and went to high school with grunge and punk from the now gone 90's.

The Loop, which masquerades as a quasi-classic rock station, is easiest to listen to if you still have a moffet haircut, are recovering from a concert last night with back neck pain today, and if you still debate with friends over "who was right," Van Halen or David Lee Roth. Call it what you want: butt rock, cock rock, or even hair metal is what's mainly featured on the Loop; songs that didn't as much promote excessive substance consumption or ignorant polygamy as they flat out condoned being an idiot.

Then once in a while, the Loop plays *Purple Haze* to "legitimize" its calling itself a classic rock station, and pardon this tasteful censure, but bands like Motley Crue and Twisted Sister are not now, nor will they ever be, classics. Or even classy.

Next there's Q101, a cross among Top 40, trendy alternative, rap-metal, and novelty pop with electric guitars. It's a scary, schizophrenic world for rock today: Former punkers Green Day have popular acoustic songs.

Bands like Train and Vertical Horizon are too new to have anyone good to rip off, so they rip off rock miscreants like Matchbox 20, who tried to rip off the Gin Blossoms and Counting Crows, but did a terrible, terrible job of it. Next thing you know, rock bands will start ripping off Papa Roach and Everlast. Then, music will surely be done for.

Why don't any of these new rip-offs like Linkin Park or Union Underground try copying GOOD bands like Failure or Sunny Day Real Estate? It's probably because Failure and Sunny Day are never on the radio for people to hear (thank you very much, idiot programming directors!).

Fred Durst of Limp Bizkit used to scream, and we liked him. Now he attempts to sing, does it badly, and somehow we worship him, while Limp guitar player Wes Borland admitted in an MTV interview that he doesn't even LIKE any of the songs on their new album. Is the audience getting what they want? If not, who is?

Finally, Q101 plays a lot of British hooligans Oasis, who are a really, really popular band... I won't get started. That's a Rant all to itself.

Is there an alternative to "the new rock alternative"? I don't think there's even an alternative to Alternative. Rock music needs a contingency plan, and fast!

This past new year's eve, rumor has it that Hum and the Flaming Lips played a 21 and over show at the Metro. If you didn't hear about it, call Q101 up and ask THEM why.

Q101, the Loop, and the Zone do have their place in Chicago radio afterall. They remind us of why REAL classic rock bands like Jethro Tull or Jefferson Airplane and new classic rockers like Soundgarden or Radiohead are so good. Their applications of musical expression that allow art and development of the craft to overrule the mere novelty of songwriting separate them from the Offsprings, Thomas Dolby's, and Poisons that still dirty the airwaves.

Of course, as a result of the selection of radio stations in Chicago, I don't listen to the radio much anymore, so maybe I'm not one to properly judge what the industry wants us to hear..., er, uh, I mean... popular music.



# No Emerald

by Lior Alon  
REV Editor

Muzak was conceived as a means to placate shoppers and elevator users worldwide. Therefore, we would accept its presence in certain locales and will even endorse it, as some muzak material can be rather enjoyable.

Also, one person's muzak can be another's sonic tour de force (to wit, techno and ambient music).

However, there exists a vile variety of muzak that neither placates nor sedates. This type has only one purpose: to infuriate anyone with either a minimally functional taste in music and/or a similarly operable half a brain.

Enya's latest "epic" belongs squarely to the latter category. Once a competent singer/songwriter and choreographer, apparently she has resorted to bombarding us with doe-eyed, pompous new age filler just to make ends meet.

After a short career with her family's band, Clannad, Enya (last name Brennan, dropped for commercial reasons) went solo in the mid-80's and graced us with at least two brilliantly accomplished albums (the seminal *Watermark* and the slightly more mass-produced yet still good *Shepherd Moons*). As well as becoming a symbol for Ireland's innovative but traditional music scene, Enya took on the persona of the Emerald Isle's artistic window dresser, remaining more faithful to



Celtic roots than, say, Sinead O'Connor. Yes, as unfathomable as it may seem to most people, Enya's English versions of her albums have nothing on their Gaelic fellows.

This rosy visage obviously exited reality at some point, for now Enya barely resembles her former self. Current album *A Day Without Rain* should be renamed *A CD Without Purpose*, and forever banned from being played on St. Pat's Day. It encompasses mostly bloated waxing of a rather disturbing sort. Almost none of her previous knack for catchy, moving songs resurfaced.

Whatever force possessed her to allow dismal cuts such as *Wild Child* and the poor *One By One* to be released remains unknown to yours truly. Worse still, her Latin/Celtic selections for *A Day Without Rain* constitute the lamest of the bunch. *Tempus Vernum* will bring chills to your spine faster than the sourest sweet sauce out there. Why Enya chose to trade in her distinctive craft for a few bucks eludes comprehension.

Ironically, song number 8, *Silver Inches*, the only one exactly echoing her past greatness, happens to be a short instrumental bit of little impact overall. It is somewhat aided by *Only Time*, third track and genuinely capable ethereal pop composition. Yet both work hard to no avail.

New age, world music and electronica fans all will definitely be vastly let down by Miss Brennan's unsatisfactory performance. Other than fleeting glimpses at her undisputed talent they will find no real value in nearly an album's worth of mindless drivel.

**Enya**  
*A Day Without Rain*  
Reprise/Warner

**MUSIC: C** Hardly reminiscent of Enya's successes in the past decade and a half. Forgettable "soundscape" stuff wanting to come across as lush but falling way short. **LYRICS: C-** At times you will be unable to stop wondering what the hell Enya was on when she signed for this. Non-English parts insult by being a token attempt to cash in on grounds of novelty value.

**PRODUCTION: B** Big money all too often equates big flops.

**OVERALL: C-** Doomed effort to rekindle interest in her career. Enya will be best advised to either get her act together or tend to pastimes more beneficial to everybody than churning out useless discs bluntly wasting precious Earthly resources.

# Azure Oddity

by Lior Alon  
REV Editor

Riding a tide of prominent Windy City alternative acts gradually breaking through onto the national scene, Wolcott Ave.-based group Blue Meanies wish to defy classification by trying their hands at a slightly weirded-out brand of independent rock. Sadly, like too many prior, they fall into the ever-menacing trap of incomprehensible averageness vastly unfitting of their clear penchant for spritely sounds.

Blue Meanies head person Billy Spunke (yes, we got the pun, Bill) cheerfully supervises vocal performance with obvious glee. However, since most of his act depends on a painfully inexplicable imitation of Sex Pistols/Public Image Limited singer Johnny Lydon (a.k.a. Johnny Rotten) glee and cheer unfortunately have little relevance here, a fact Bill overlook altogether. While most likely aspiring to be a sardonic punk band, Blue Meanies convey more of a prankster feel a-la Weezer or Pavement. Gladly, anyone familiar with the former two will instantly breath a sigh of relief as both influences, if properly upheld, will ensure delivery of a quality product.

Aptly titled album *The Post Wave* brings back memories of the early nineties in its wanton desire to relive past glories. Often, the enterprise amounts to disastrous tracks with Spunke's grating Lydon voice too much to bear. These numbers have absolutely no merit. *Do the Tightbelt*, especially, presents a particularly annoying blend of smart-ass lyrics and overly artificial rolling R's in with Spunke eagerly wanting to sound Cockney.

Having said all that, one quickly learns to see past the Meanies' initial missteps. Soon, they reveal a much more gentle, intricate and advanced side to their being. *Chemicals*, the subject matter (literally) of which we can all vividly imagine, begs for exposure as a classy pop song.

Further down the disc, three additional ditties finally demonstrate how even near-wannabe's can redeem themselves. *She Breathes Fire* touchingly tells the tale of an Ohio girl searching for fickle fame all over only to be disillusioned ("now she's right back where she started at home with



mom and dad watch it burn and blow away what happened to the dream she had?").

*TV Girl* takes first place as premier track, with excellently stylized form and fetching harmony. The beatnik element reappears for *Big Brother's Watching*, only this time accompanied by actually intelligent words and a memorable song structure. All three tracks should serve as pointers to band members, hopefully helping to steer them away from their unhealthy obsession with mid-70's era punk formulas.

Last highlight on *The Post Wave* is a unique song standing different than all its peers on the album. *Creepy* succeeds by sticking to a simple plan of attack, achieving its primary objective of, well, creeping folks out. *Camaro Man*, despite its reference to Chevys, ends up as a botched hard-rock endeavor gone horribly awry. Yet another genre Blue Meanies need to work the glitches out of.

All told, not a dismal catastrophe and even a pretty decent release. Given their eventual ability to surmount hurdles such as wanton mimicry of average past bands, Blue Meanies will move on to loftier heights. Right now they have yet to earn the meanness they so boldly claim.

**Blue Meanies**  
*The Post Wave*  
MCA/Universal

**Music: B** While perfectly timed (under 40 minutes), the CD suffers from excess content in the form of songs memorable only for their Dennis the Menace-like annoyance.

**Lyrics: B** Worth jotting down here and there, but not defiant enough to maintain a punk image.

**Production: B** Ample in bringing out Spunke's irritating Lydon gig, as well as the band's finer moments.

**Overall: B** Almost there.

# At least it beats the radio

by Tim Hill  
REV Editor

Where oh where did Art Alexakis and the rest of our favorite band named after grain alcohol get the gall to write the great American album? Who gave them the OKAY to step forward and represent us old-fashioned rock kids against the Dursts, Puff Daddies, 'N (Lip)SYNC's, former Menudo sensations and the like who dog po(o)p music today?

Who cares? The disc is actually pretty good.

The good thing about Everclear is that in a world where all the popular music sounds either the same, Everclear is distinct. When one of their tunes comes on the radio, you know it's them, even if the music is a bit overly formulaic and Alexakis' vocals do not display much range.

More exciting than the actual musicianship is Art's production of *Songs From An American Movie Vol. Two: Good Time For A Bad Attitude*. This title is exactly what the album sounds like. Otherwise pretty little tunes you write for your girlfriend, complete with unarguable sweetness, are destroyed with excessive, discordant overdrive, and are thus enlightened to the dear, perpetual dichotomy of hormone imbalance that is teenage angst, with rock the only existing elixir.

Everclear remains faithful to the angst

The guitar riffs are not as memorable as simply the feeling you get from the sheer force of the songs. The choruses assault the senses in insurmountable waves of distortion and chaotic, echoing flange that smother your brain in high volume. This is the kind of

sound that got *Heroin Girl* stuck in our heads for a year. Remember? Then that wussy, country-pop tune *Santa Monica* came out and tarnished Everclear's once clean rock image.

Opening track *When It All Goes Wrong Again* glides on the beautiful ugliness of the album's theme. The charging brigade of guitar punches is sheathed tightly in ironic lyrics like, "I feel good about the sin that I inflict on my own skin/ I pay money to cut and burn."

*Babytalk* intermeshes standard Everclear rock pop with a bit of funk and hardcore. Behind the verse guitars, groovy little seventh chords come in giving an undercurrent hippie jam feel to the song about a tough guy friend getting whipped by his new girlfriend. *Rock Star* is a whiny bubble gum rock song about wanting to be, unpredictably, a rock star. Catchy tune, but it's like, "Come on guys! You're on like your fourth popular album now. Nobody's gonna take your rockstardom away from you, just don't get cocky!" *Songs* even features an impressive instrumental entitled *Halloween Americana*. It's not scary or anything, but it does kinda remind one of that part in *Freddy's Dead* when his daughter is gearing up with all the throwing knives and shurikens to go do battle with Freddy Krueger. One can actually paint a picture around this brave instrumental. Its intensity feels genuine and inspired. The Everclear trio might be well-advised to think about more instrumentals in the future, as Alexakis' lyrics are often not even worth yawning to, and not to be mean, but his voice could use a little more masculinity to it, too.

There's one great way to judge a rock album, and it is with this method that I

determined that *Songs* is actually a pretty decent album. Just take this one-question test: "Would I rather listen to this c.d. or 45 minutes of Q101?" Before answering, I considered this: any given 45 minutes of consecutive (FUH)Q101 airplay is composed of 15 minutes of commercials, a song by Live from 1994, a song by Nirvana from 1991, a Mancow blurb to make you wince at the idea of how much money he makes just for being an idiot, that disgusting RATM *Renegades of Funk* song, and a song by a band copying Limp Bizkit, who were copying Korn, who were copying Helmet, who sadly broke up four years ago.

It might not sound like much, but it's something. *Songs From An American Movie* is a better 45 minutes of musical entertainment than "the new rock alternative."

**Everclear**  
*Songs From An American Movie Vol. Two: Good Time For A Bad Attitude*  
Capitol Records

**Music: B** Everclear does a couple different things here that produce winning songs like *Short Blonde Hair* and *When It All Goes Wrong Again*, but they're holding on too tightly to that moldy old pop formula.

**Lyrics: D** Alexakis' lyrics never intrigue or make one really care what he's singing about, yet he does it so righteously that one must wonder why. **Production: A** Lacking a little low end, but still easily the best-produced Everclear album to date.

**Overall: C+** If this were the band's first professional record, they'd get a big A for effort, but Everclear has been around long enough for their fans to expect a little more.





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## Northwestern

continued from page 1

In a story Drudis wrote about people contracting sexually transmitted diseases from partners they met on the Internet, the newspaper could not verify that seven of his sources existed.

"We did publish a story that quotes six people, by full name, who are only too happy to tell us how they got sexually transmitted diseases from homosexual flings arranged while trolling on the Internet," Goldberg said in the memo.

"We all know that most people are reluctant at best to discuss money, sex, sexual preference and disease. To find even one person who will be quoted by name on any of those subjects can be hard; to find six people openly willing to discuss three of those four topics — and to admit to having contracted herpes, chlamydia, body lice and syphilis, among other things — is pretty incredible."

The Mercury News also cannot verify sources in Drudis' two stories on all-night dance parties, airport visitors' reaction to high parking fees and "air rage" aboard commercial planes.

Debi Licklider, an editor at The Daily News, said about 10 sources in six of Drudis' stories cannot be verified. Drudis wrote 35 stories as a summer intern, she said.

"If someone really wants to make something up, they can," she said. "That's just the way it is."

The newspaper found no trace of Drudis' sources in voting records, car registrations, business filings, property holdings, Yahoo! People Search and phone books, Licklider said.

Although most people can be found through such methods, she said, that does not necessarily mean that the sources do not exist.

The Daily News published a brief note to its readers Dec. 15 explaining its fact-checking process. Licklider said she does not think the incident will damage the newspaper's credibility.

"[Drudis] worked very hard when he was here," she said. "It's really a very unfortunate situation. We're much more worried about him than about the reputation of The Daily News."

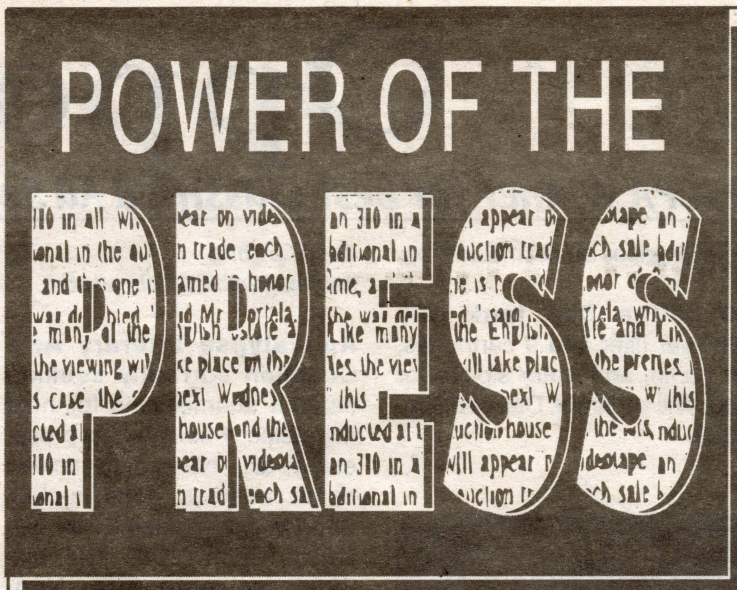
Dick Rogers, former metro editor at the Examiner, said he can't find evidence that nine people quoted in six of Drudis' 26 articles exist. He said, however, that he is not yet ready to accuse Drudis of fabricating the sources.

"If we can show we misled our readers, we owe it to our readers to tell them," said Rogers, who is now an assistant managing editor at the San Francisco Chronicle. "But there should be no rush to judgment. I'm not at the point yet where I feel like I can show it."

Before interning at the Examiner, Drudis worked at weeklies the Cupertino Courier and the Sunnyvale Sun.

The newspapers' office manager, Kathy Wrightson, said she has no plans to verify the sources in his stories.

Drudis also wrote at least four



...but does the power lead to abuse? When has a reporter gone too far?

stories for The Daily in 1998, including a Focus magazine story that contains several anonymous sources.

Medill administrators declined to comment on the allegations, saying it is illegal to discuss student disciplinary action under the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Dean Ken Bode said in an e-mail to students and faculty that he hoped the charges would encourage students to reaffirm their commitment to accurate journalism.

"Questions have been raised about the veracity of some stories that were written by a student and disseminated by the Medill News Service in Chicago," Bode wrote December 1. "We are aware of this situation and are embarrassed by it."

The Medill News Service gives journalism graduate students the opportunity to cover Chicago news stories and have them published in local papers. Drudis wrote the two articles in question while covering Cook County's juvenile court.

Medill Prof. Mindy Trossman, co-director of the news service, declined to comment on the allegations.

Whether or not the claims are true, Drudis' former editors agreed that he would have a difficult time building a journalism career.

"Newspapers have a credibility problem as it is," former Examiner editor Rogers said. "A lot of people don't trust us. When someone says a reporter made up a quote, it's a terrible, terrible thing. It's hard to hide from that reputation."

The editors said, however, that they did not think the incident would

## Scholarship

continued from page 1

and Biology. She was elected to participate in academic groups, such as the National Honor Society, the Hispanic Honor Society, and the Science Honor Society. In addition, she taught Greek dance, worked as a peer tutor, and played viola and violin in the school orchestra.

"I'm honored to have been selected out of so many applicants," she said. "The scholarship provides an incentive to continue at a four-year institution like Northeastern."

In her personal essay, required of all scholarship applicants, she mentions her desire to work in broadcast journalism or law. She also expressed an interest in running for political office.

hurt Medill's reputation.

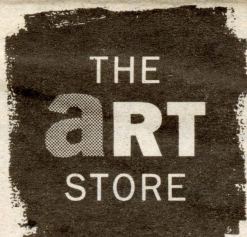
Licklider said The Daily News hired a Medill intern last year, this year and would probably hire one next year. She said, however, that she will use the incident as a "cautionary tale" for next year's interns.

Gamble, Illinois editor of The Times, said he will continue to subscribe to the Medill News Service to complement the paper's local coverage. He said he remains on good terms with Trossman and Medill Prof. Jim Ylisela and that they were "ripped apart" by the allegations.

"I know these guys are embarrassed by this," Gamble said. "The only thing you have to sell to newspapers is your integrity and your credibility. If you haven't got that, who knows?"

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descriptions to [secretagentbill@hotmail.com](mailto:secretagentbill@hotmail.com).

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**Join an award-winning team.** Become part of the student newspaper. Staff meetings are held every Tuesday during activity hour. The Independent office is located in E-049, below Beck's Bookstore.

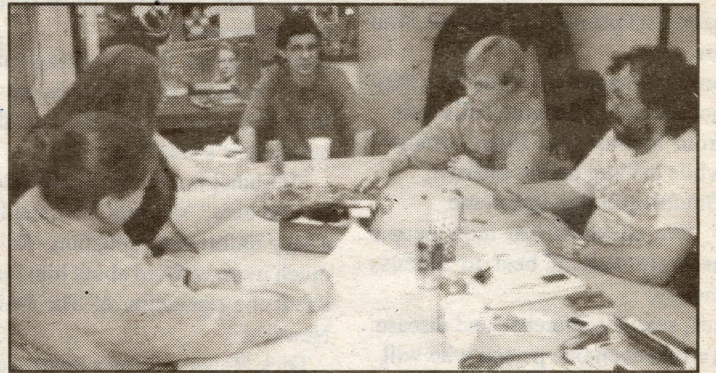
**NEIU Bible Fellowship Club** invites all NEIU students to join them for prayer meetings Tuesdays during activity hour in Room CLS 3081. "Our goal is to encourage students to come together and call on the name of the Lord."

**Earth Science Club** meets every Tuesday from 1:40 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. in Room S-129. The club will be planning this year's field trip to the Grand Canyon.

**Muslim Student Association** meets every Thursday in Room FA 107 during activity hour. Any questions, requests, comments, e-mail us [neu\\_msa@hotmail.com](mailto:neu_msa@hotmail.com).

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SPAM, SPAM, SPAM, SPAM!  
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To my turtle- warm fuzzy stuff. Even though your shell is gone I still have a pretty big crush on you. From- Charlie Brown.

Ha! Ha! to all you Naderites! Your man sunk the Gore ship and himself in the process.

Joe- Congratulations for surviving life behind bars..... a little ointment will clear all that up. -S

Joe- I miss you, baby! Love- Big Bubba, prisoner number 24-8900 B.

Congratulations to Miss Brown on her big, much deserved promotion.

Vic- Got any change?- Erik

Erin- Good luck, froshie.

Sammy Wammy- I misplaced your phone number aboard the Titanic. Call me, I miss you, Andy S.

T- It's only a ring, and it's not the ring that matters. - L

Thank you to a certain EDFN 305 professor for having mercy on a poor unfortunate soul in his time of desperation.

To the Hot Sicilian Man- Twice you dazzled us dancing across the stage. Hopefully it will be twice more before you go. - Your Fans.

V-ster- Lately you've seen sides of us you've never seen before. We look forward to exploring more sides of you too. 'Til DLWKND. - The Office Girls.

V- We're ready for you to unwrap your X-mas presents. We never forgot that the best gifts come in SMALL packages. -The Office Guys.

Jeany- Sometimes surprises can really be surprising like having an extra month added in a day to a special deadline. Remember we're here for you.

Just one thing and I'll be OK. I need a miracle every day./ assoc.

SPAM! SPAM! SPAM! SPAM!

SAManella- Best wishes to best fake ID artist we've ever met. - Your clients. Die Engine 9! Die!

SP- Here's to getting arrested in D.C. Now you are a journalist! Smile.

Beam me up Scotty and Calgon take me away! PLEASE....

# Oh goody gumdrops!

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