

8-21-2002

## Independent- Aug. 21, 2002

Brian Blaszkowski

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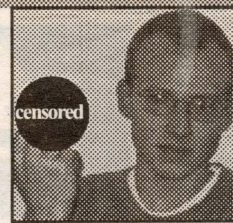
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Two new columns!  
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Life and Roamin'  
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features all inside!



NEIU lies  
revealed!  
Check  
out pg 5!

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# Independent

Vol. 19 Issue 1

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

AUG 21 2002

Wednesday, August 21st, 2002

ARCHIVES

## Dan Pearl's death raises questions about the dangers in journalism

by L. Santizo  
Staff Writer

More than half a year after the murder of journalist Daniel Pearl, many wonder whether this tragedy was inevitable as more journalists flock to the center of places of conflict. The very nature of their occupation demands them to be close to the source that might provide them with answers, and ultimately, inform their readers. For many journalists who report in areas of war and civil unrest, the quest for sources often proves dangerous or in some cases fatal.

Mr. Pearl was the *Wall Street Journal's* South Asia Bureau Chief. Based in Bombay, India, he was in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi on January 23, 2002 hoping to interview a prominent figure in the Pakistani Islamic movement. Instead, he was kidnapped by the hitherto unknown National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty. He was stabbed and killed around January 31, 2002. One of the terrorists, Faheed Naseem said, "Pearl was anti-Islam and a Jew."

Ironically, and to the detriment of the terrorists who kidnapped him, they silenced a person who would have listened to their concerns and shared them with his

readers. He was known to be an objective and sensitive journalist who sought to shed light on the Islamic world of the east to his readers in the west. His wife, Mariane, a French freelance journalist, was seven months pregnant at the time of his murder. His son, Adam D. Pearl, was born on March 28, 2002.

Throughout history, journalists were viewed as neutral chroniclers of events; though injury and danger was expected, kidnapping and murder was rare. In the twentieth century, however, and now with the commencement of the twenty-first, the world is becoming an extremely hostile one for journalists.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 37 journalists were killed in 2001, nine of them while covering the war in Afghanistan. Some of the countries where they died: Columbia, Ukraine, Bangladesh, and Yugoslavia.

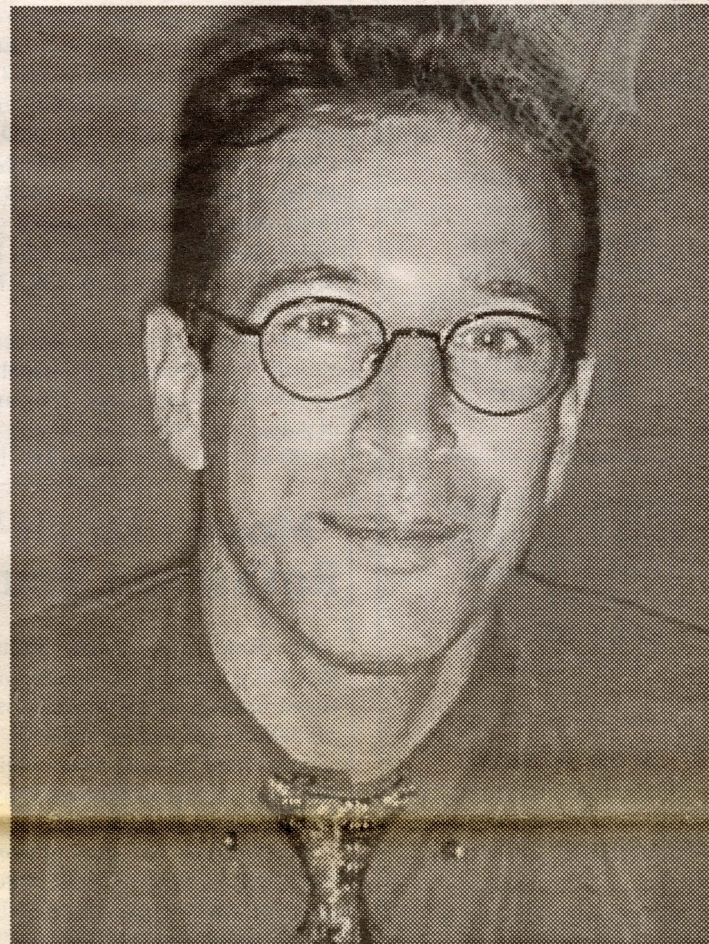
So is there a treacherous line journalists must not cross in the proverbial sand? Or is the risk involved part of the job and justified if there is a chance that a greater good will be achieved? According to the longest held American hostage Terry Anderson, it all comes with the territory.

In March 1985, Terry Anderson,

a reporter for the *Associated Press*, was kidnapped by a group of radical Shiite gunmen. Anderson spent nearly seven years of his life as a prisoner during Lebanon's civil war. Released in 1991, Mr. Anderson is co-chair of the Committee to Protect Journalists and travels around the world to protest the abuses and imprisonment of his fellow journalists. Says Anderson, "Most journalists I know try to do the best job they can. And they believe in what they're doing—particularly the foreign correspondents, because you're not going to risk your life for a thrill. You take risks because it's important."

For some journalists, a day in which they don't sustain any work-related injuries is a blessing. While world hot-spots such as Afghanistan and Columbia are considered more dangerous than others, there is never a sure indication for safety anywhere in the world. Sometimes the violence verges on the ridiculous as reporters are treated as scapegoats for the western world or whatever imagined evil they are seen to represent. According to NBC's Jim Maceda, he was once beaten two times in the course of a day. In

Pearl continued  
on pg 3



Daniel Pearl, captured in Pakistan in late January, was executed by terrorists after being labelled as "anti-Islam" and a Jew.

## Senate bill would allow undocumented immigrants to become citizens

by Noah Grand  
Daily Bruin (U. California-Los Angeles)

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — Many of the policies impeding undocumented immigrants ability to receive a college education could be repealed in the near future.

Similar to a California bill passed last October, a U.S. Senate bill sponsored by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, would allow certain undocumented aliens to become citizens after graduating from a U.S. high school.

The bill, currently waiting for a vote in the Senate, would also allow states to decide whether undocumented students could be considered state residents for tuition purposes, lowering the cost of college.

"I sincerely hope that we can all agree that the status quo is unacceptable," Hatch said before the Senate judiciary committee, according to office records. "We

cannot sit idly by while more minds and potential go to waste."

Hatch's bill, known as the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors of 2002 Act, would allow undocumented students who live in the United States for five years prior to graduation from high school to apply for U.S. citizenship under a special rule.

If passed, only students who are between the ages of 12 and 21 years old at the time would be able to apply. Students enrolled at a U.S. college or university would be able to apply if they met these criteria any time in the four years before the bill's passage.

Hatch said the bill is intended mainly to help the children of illegal immigrants who have already been raised in the United States and not people crossing the border today.

While the bill has received support from both Democrats and Republicans, some nonprofit groups argue this bill will

undermine current immigration policy.

"The bill sends a message that we aren't serious about immigration control in the United States," said David Ray, a spokesman for the Federation for American Immigration Reform.

Ray said FAIR is mainly involved with educating the public about immigration issues, though they are actively lobbying senators to vote against this bill.

The organization estimates that 25,000 students would be granted green cards every year if the bill

Senate bill continues  
on pg 3

## Music instructor passes away earlier this month

by Scott Plencner  
New Editor

Lilliana Novakovich, a part-time instructor in the Department of Music, passed away Wednesday, August 7, 2002 at the age of 52.

Born in Yugoslavia on July 29, 1950, Novakovich graduated from the Conservatory of Music in Belgrade and immigrated to the U.S. in 1985 to continue her studies. Three years later, she received a Master's degree in music from the University of Illinois (Champaign) and was working toward her Doctorate at Northwestern University.

Novakovich taught at DePaul University and Northwestern before making her way to NEIU to teach. She also made use of her musical talents

recently as

a symphony orchestra conductor at Northwestern University and the University of Illinois

and was working on a book about changing musical teaching methods.

Novakovich was survived by her fiancée Daniel Riordan, sister Miroslava and many friends and relatives in the U.S. and Serbia.

Funeral services were held August 9 at Sveta Gora Greek Orthodox (Holy Mount) Funeral Home in Chicago. She was buried in her native Belgrade, Serbia.



Prof. Lilliana Novakovich

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!

bite-sized but essential news  
gripes, moans, and common sense  
features to entertain and enlighten  
the bulletin board you can bring with you

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Perspectus *page 4*  
The Commuter *page 6*  
Golden Opportunities *page 8*





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#### Telephones

Editorial (773) 442-4577

Advertising (773) 442-4585

Fax (773) 442-4579

#### E-mail

neiu\_independent@yahoo.com

**Brian Blaszkowski**  
Chief Editor

**Scott Plencner**  
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Northeastern Illinois  
University, Room E-049,  
5500 N. St. Louis Av.  
Chicago, Illinois 60625

# AROUND CAMPUS

## NEIU alumni receive coveted education awards

Much of NEIU's reputation in the community rests on its accomplished College of Education graduates, most of whom remain hard at work in area schools. This year, several of those graduates, received honors for work that often goes un-appreciated.

Thousands of teachers are nominated each year for the Golden Apple Award. From that pool, only ten of the best teachers in the Chicago metropolitan area are chosen to receive the honor. Since 1986, 17 NEIU alumni have received the honor. This year NEIU graduate **Margie D. Smagacz** (B.A. 1991, M.A. 2001) of Gray Elementary School in Chicago was added to that list.

The Chicago Foundation for Education recently honored 14 NEIU graduates for their work in the Chicago Public Schools. Recipients of this honor include **Julie Collier** (M.A. 2000), **Beth Yaccino** (M.A. 1996), **Eltha Wong** (M.A.E. 1979, M.A. 1988), **William Kasser** (B.A. 1994), **Tonya Sims** (B.A. 1992, M.A. 1996), **Clare Billingham** (B.A. 1971), **Kipley Peal** (B.A. 1968, M.A.S. 1972), **Maryann Ashlaw** (M.A. 1990), **Karen Rennord** (M.A.S. 1978), **Mary Tracy** (B.A. 1971), **Ann O'Connell** (M.A.S. 1975), **Angela Tagaris** (B.A. 1972), **Margie D. Smagacz** (B.A. 1991, M.A. 2001), **Shari Frost** (B.A. 1973, M.A. 1990).

The Illinois Principals Association Lake Region presented two awards for Elementary Principal of the Year for 2001. Both awards went to NEIU graduates. They are **Janet M. Brownlie** (M.A. 1974) of Adler Park School in Libertyville and **William T. Lomas** (M.A. 1988) of Stanton School in Fox Lake.

## "Mostly Music" receives \$25K Rothsfield Foundation Grant

The Hulda and Maurice Rothschild Foundation has awarded a \$25,000 grant to NEIU's thirty year-old Mostly Music program. The stated mission of the program is to "advance the appreciation and availability of chamber music in public venues and private homes in Chicago [sic]." Mostly Music will organize eighty jazz, classical, folk, and story-telling performances by local entertainers in Chicago-area nursing homes in 2002-2003 with these funds.

Mostly Music will present two new series this year. This winter's "Spotlight on Pianists" will feature three prominent artists and six concerts will be organized in collaboration with the Chicago Botanic Garden's "In Search of Paradise" exhibit starting in January.

For information on upcoming performances call Christi Vohs at (773) 442-4978.

## Former St. Xavier dean fills Provost post vacated by Lopez

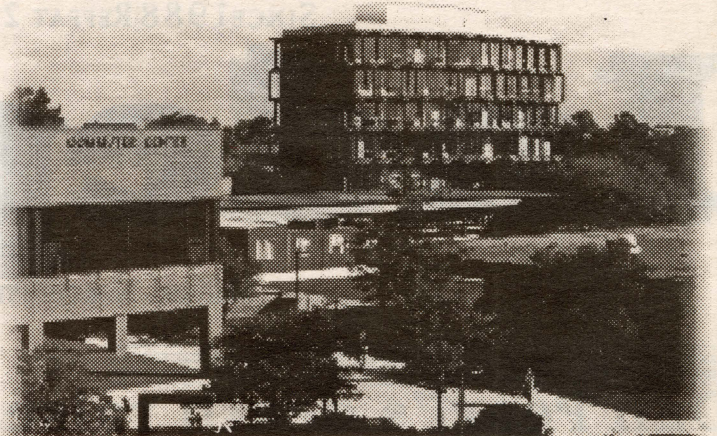
St. Xavier dean to fill provost vacancy, ec. (Headline already laid in)

After a long search to find someone to fill the Provost post left by Estella Lopez last spring, the university announced the appointment of Dr. Lawrence P. Frank to the position of Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

Dr. Frank, who received his B.A. at Northwestern University, earned an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University. A notable scholar on African politics, Dr. Frank taught school in Lesotho while serving with the Peace Corps and has involved himself with research at the University of Botswana. He has done similar work at Columbia University's Institute of African Studies, and at Sarah Lawrence College as an NEH scholar. Dr. Frank has published on African politics and over the course of his career, was recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship and two NEH fellowships.

Dr. Frank spent 8 years rising through the ranks at Roosevelt University. Since 1995, he has been working as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at St. Xavier University. Under his leadership and direction, St. Xavier undergraduate enrollment increased 24% and graduate enrollment increased 23%. He also fostered the creation of degree programs in computer science and oversaw the creation of a research-emphasizing Honors Program. "Dr. Frank brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the position," said President Steinberg in a memo announcing the appointment.

Two other major appointments were made over the summer. Dr. Kate Longdon Forhan, formerly of New York's Siena College and a political science Ph.D. from The Johns Hopkins University, has been appointed NEIU's dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Varkey K. Titus, former Emporia State professor and Lake Superior State dean, has been appointed dean of the College of Business and Management. Dr. Titus received his Ph.D. in economics from Washington State University.



## Calendar

check here for upcoming events and due dates

#### 8/20-22 TTRS Late Registration

Students who haven't registered may register, students who have registered may make changes.

complete withdrawal.

#### 8/22 Graduate College

Last day to submit Graduate College admissions application.

#### 8/24 First day of Sat. classes

#### 8/26 First day of classes

#### 9/2 Labor Day Holiday

#### 9/3-5 Change of Registration

Students may change their registration info (add and remove classes.)

#### 9/6 Confirm Late Regist.

Students who registered late must confirm and make initial tuition payment.

#### 9/9 Due Dates

Last day to apply for pass/fail option and last day for 100% refund for complete withdrawal.

#### 9/20 Orion Ensemble

Opening concert for the five-piece group. Will perform works of Mozart and Schumann, in addition to premiering a new work by local composer **Robert Kritz**.

#### 9/24 Withdraw or Pay

Last day for 50% refund for

#### 9/26 Pres. Lecture Series

7:30 p.m. Alumni Hall. (Master class is at 1:40 p.m.) **Peter Carey**, Australian novelist, speaks. Open to public.

#### 9/27 Hispanic Heritage Month

7 p.m. to Midnight in the Student Union - Alumni Hall.

#### 9/27 Mostly Music Benefit

6:30 p.m. at the University Club of Chicago. Will honor musician **William Warfield** and present highlights of next year's Chamber Music Series at NEIU. \$100 per person. Call (773) 442-4978 for more info.

#### 10/4 Polish Heritage Month

6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Student Union - Alumni Hall.

#### 10/18 Haydn by the Lake

Jewel Box series concert at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Evanston. Will play works of Hummel, Haydn, Beethoven, and Mozart.

#### 10/24 Pres. Lecture Series

8:00 p.m. Alumni Hall. (Master class is at 5:00 p.m.) **Jonathan Kozol**, social activist, teacher, and author, will speak. Open to public.

## Deadline coming WATCH OUT!

Deadlines for the Independent are one week prior to the date of publication. The following is a list of publication dates for the Spring 2002 semester:

September  
3rd

September  
17th

October  
1st

October  
15th

October  
29th

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) 442-4577 or e-mail us at [neiu\\_independent@yahoo.com](mailto:neiu_independent@yahoo.com)



## Senate bill continued from page 1

is passed.

The office of the U.S. Attorney General would review all applications and determine whether an immigrant is qualified under this law to become a citizen.

To qualify, a student must also be "a person of good moral character," according to the bill. While the clause would be up to interpretation, Hatch said students convicted of possessing a controlled substance or other yet-to-be-defined crimes would violate this requirement.

The bill was approved by the Senate judiciary committee in June, but Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., blocked a motion in July to bring the bill to a vote in the Senate because he wanted more time to review the bill.

He did not say whether he would prevent future attempts to consider the bill, according to a spokeswoman in his office.

The Senate is adjourned until Sept. 3, but Hatch hopes the bill can be passed before November's elections with bipartisan support, according to spokeswoman Margarita Tapia.

During committee deliberations, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., supported moving the bill for a final vote.

"She thought the bill was consistent with what the people of California were trying to do at state level," said Howard Gantman, a spokesman for Feinstein.

If current legislation passed by the state legislature and approved by the University of California Board of Regents is an accurate gauge of what Californians want, then Feinstein's assessment is correct.

The California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 540 in October 2001, which allows out-of-state and immigrant students who spent three years at a California high school and graduated to pay only in-state student fees.

This will save qualifying UC students \$12,009 in additional

fees this year.

The law gets around a 1996 federal law prohibiting states from allowing undocumented students to pay in-state tuition fees unless any U.S. citizen could qualify for the same benefits. Because residents of any state can meet the requirements, California law does not violate the federal prohibition.

At the UC, most of the students qualifying for lower fees under AB 540 were U.S. citizens who are residents of other states, according to UC spokesman Hanan Eisenman.

The DREAM Act would repeal the 1996 law, making it easier for states to allow undocumented students to pay in-state tuition.

This, in turn, would make it easier for undocumented students to be able to afford a college education.

FAIR questions why undocumented students should be given tax breaks while the economy is slumping.

"At a time when state budgets are tight, it just doesn't make good fiscal sense to give financial breaks to students whose outright existence in this country violates immigration laws," Ray said.

Two other states — Utah and Texas — have already passed laws allowing long-term undocumented students to pay in-state tuition. The Utah law, however, will only go into effect if federal law is changed.

In the House of Representatives, another Utah lawmaker, Chris Cannon, R-Utah, is trying to make the necessary changes to federal law.

Cannon said it is "ridiculous policy" to provide public education to undocumented aliens through high school and then require them to pay out-of-state fees against the state's desires.

Though he introduced the bill over a year ago, Cannon's bill H.R. 1918 has yet to move forward in the House.

He is currently considering packaging the bill with other legislation to help it get approved.

## Pearl continued from page 1

Belfast, he was beaten by a Catholic mob who thought he worked for British TV, and a second time later that day by a Protestant mob that believed he was an American supporter for the IRA.

Two reporters who prove that unmasking terror is a powerful step in stopping it are Roy Gutman and Lindsey Hilsum. *Newsweek's* Roy Gutman, won a Pulitzer Prize

in 1993 for revealing the existence of Serb-run concentration camps in Bosnia. Ironically, The Serbian people had been victims themselves of ethnic cleansing in Croatia. His reports saved countless lives well as illustrate the power of the pen.

In 1996, Lindsey Hilsum, a reporter for *ITN* in Britain, won the Amnesty Journalist of the Year award in 1996 for her coverage of the mass killings of Tutsis in Rwanda. She decided to testify before the

International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

Journalists justify risking their lives because they give a voice to people who are often not heard. Through their dedicated work we are made aware of abuses of humanity that are inconceivable to those reared in relatively safe environments. Some heroes are rewarded publicly and others are rewarded knowing that they helped to make a difference. Like Daniel Pearl, they too are humanitarians as well as journalists.

## Extension 4100 by Officer Gene Salecker

### BB gun attacks, kayak thefts, & civil disobedience in the parking office

#### 1 April – Disturbance/Fight

Three NEIU students became involved in a physical altercation in the Atrium area of the Classroom Bldg. None of the three wished to pursue criminal charges.

#### 2 April – Station Information

An NEIU student was overheard making racial slurs to a friend. The student was warned against making further comments.

#### 6 April – Criminal Damage to State Supported Property

An NEIU employee reported damage to a house phone in the racquetball area of the PE Bldg.

#### 8 April – Disorderly Conduct

NEIU police responded to the call of an altercation in the PE Bldg. While being placed under arrest, the offender became unruly and an attempt was made to subdue the offender with pepper spray. A brief foot chase ensued before the offender was apprehended. The offender was treated at Swedish Covenant Hospital for injuries suffered during altercation and foot chase. The offender received a one-year probationary sentence.

#### 10 April – Criminal Damage to State Supported Property

Children from a visiting school broke a glass windowpane in the F-Wing.

#### 16 April – Theft

An NEIU student left a cell phone in the women's restroom in the Student Union. Upon returning to the scene, the student found the item missing.

#### 17 April – Medical Assist

An NEIU janitor was injured when he slipped on cleaning fluid. The employee was transported to Swedish Covenant Hospital by his supervisor.

#### 17 April – Station Information

An NEIU student reported that an unknown offender had attempted to steal her vehicle while it was parked in the H-Lot. The steering column and passenger door lock were both damaged.

#### 18 April – Hit and Run

A vehicle parked in the F-Lot was struck and damaged by an unknown vehicle.

#### 22 April – Medical Assist

Victim suffered an injury

during a judo class at the PE Bldg. Victim was assisted by NEIU Police and treated by Chicago Fire Department paramedics. Victim was transported to Weiss Hospital by the paramedics.

#### 23 April – Criminal Damage to State Supported Property

An unknown offender poured water into two trays containing unused traffic tickets housed in the PE Bldg. The tickets were not permanently damaged.

#### 24 April – Station Information

An NEIU instructor in the Science Bldg discovered a spill of mercury from a broken barometer. The spill was properly contained and disposed of.

#### 30 April – Criminal Damage to State Supported Property

An unknown offender damaged the bottom of a portion of the chain link fence surrounding the Athletic Field.

#### 1 May – Theft

An NEIU student reported the theft of a book from an unattended book bag in the Student Union.

#### 1 May – Theft

An NEIU student reported the theft of a cell phone from an unattended book bag in a women's restroom in the Science Bldg.

#### 1 May – Traffic Accident/Non-Injury

Two vehicles backing out of parking spaces in the H-Lot collided with each other. No tickets were issued.

#### 6 May – Theft – Under \$300

An NEIU employee reported the theft of a personal CD player from an unlocked office in the Fine Arts Bldg.

#### 6 May – Criminal Damage to State Supported Property

An NEIU employee discovered numerous holes from a BB gun in a windowpane in the A-Wing. Further investigation by NEIU Police disclosed that another two windows were also damaged by a BB gun.

#### 18 May – Traffic Violations

An individual was ticketed for disobeying a stop sign on the Access Road, driving an uninsured vehicle, and driving on a suspended license.

#### 21 May – Suspicious Person

An NEIU employee reported that several university keys were missing after an unknown person

entered her unlocked, unattended office. The unknown person was located by NEIU Police and questioned. No university keys were found and the individual was subsequently released.

#### 23 May – Station Information

An NEIU student had a verbal altercation about the ownership of a parking space. The student returned later and found a six-inch scratch on the trunk of her car.

#### 24 May – Theft – Under \$300

NEIU Police received a woman's wallet as found property and immediately contacted the owner. Upon retrieval, the owner noticed that over \$100 was missing. The victim had left her wallet in an unattended book bag in the Library and did not know the wallet was missing until NEIU Police contacted her.

#### 28 May – Criminal Damage to State Supported Property

An NEIU employee reported more BB-gun holes in windowpanes in the A-Wing. (See 6 May report) NEIU Police investigated and determined that the shots were coming from an apartment building on Bryn Mawr. NEIU Police managed to locate the offender who will make restitution in lieu of criminal prosecution.

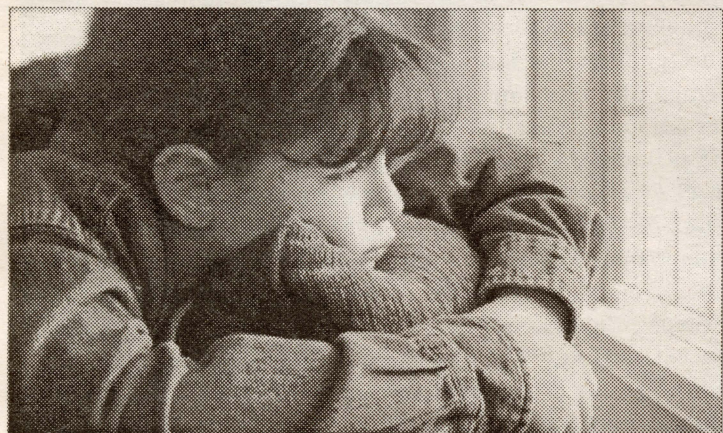
#### 30 May – Disturbance/Fight

NEIU Police responded to a disturbance in the Student Government meeting in the Science Bldg. Three individuals were removed without incident.

#### 31 May – Theft from A Motor Vehicle

An NEIU employee noticed three offenders trying to steal a kayak from the rear bed of a pickup truck owned by an NEIU instructor. The NEIU employee called out to the offenders, who quickly dropped the kayak and fled the scene.

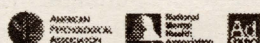
Notice: 90% of all Campus thefts occur when the victim leaves his or her property unattended or an office door unlocked. Please remember to keep your property with you or within your sight at all times, and remember to secure your office door when you leave – even if only for a moment. It only takes a second for a theft to occur!



They may not know what to say right now.  
But that doesn't mean they don't have something to say.

#### Talk with your kids.

On September 11, 2001, the world changed for everyone, including our kids. Now more than ever, we need to be there for them. Some signs of distress in children can be obvious like nightmares, restless sleep and changes in appetite. But some signs can be subtle like overreacting to everyday things. You can help by taking the time to create safe and calming opportunities for them to express what they're feeling. To learn more about how you can help children of all ages cope with their emotions, please visit [www.helpingkids.org](http://www.helpingkids.org). It's not too soon to start. You could talk with them right now.



**For jump starts, auto lockouts, and all emergencies,  
please contact Public Safety at extension 4100.**



# PERSPECTUS

## Roamin' Column

by John Brolley

The reason that the Cubs are floundering this year is because of their horrendous bullpen. The insertion of a Cub relief pitcher into a game has the same effect as a woman shaving her legs with her nylons on. Lots of runs.

Just when was it that crop circles got so interesting? With blockbuster movies, magazine articles, and books all either marveling at their mystery or explaining them away as the work of a couple of bored Englishmen, can a Crop Circle Channel be all that far off?

What kind of an idiot would cheat on Halle Barry? Apparently the same kind of guy that would marry her. According to Barry, her second husband, baseball player David Justice, sought the company of prostitutes while they were married. Recently, her current husband, Eric Benet, has submitted himself for treatment for sexual addiction. I just don't get it. Paul Newman once said when asked about the secret for his long marriage with some woman not half as cute as Halle Berry, "Why go out for hamburger when you've got steak at home?" If Newman's wife is steak than Halle Barry is Surf and Turf smothered in Caviar.

Hell, I've been faithful to my collection of Halle Barry photo's...

I'll take my two dogs over all but about twenty people I've met in my life. Pathetic, I know. Lick my feet after I jog five miles and you'll be on the right track...

Movie Rentals: *Amelie* is the greatest "feel good" movie since *It's a Wonderful Life*. If you come away from this movie without loving Audrey *Amelie* Tautou than you're a moron. Moving on, *Shallow Hal* was abysmal. *Shallow Hal* joins a growing list of Farrelly brothers disappointments (*Me, Myself and Irene*, *Osmosis Jones*, and *Outside Providence*). These guys haven't made me laugh since *Something about Mary*. *Shallow Hal*'s Jack Black, in a real stretch as a wacky, drugged out guy, is funny in *Orange County*, starring Tom Hanks son, Colin.

Two books worth a read are David Rakoff's "Fraud" and Joe Queenan's "Red Lobster, White Trash and The Blue Lagoon." "Red Lobster" is wickedly clever and "Fraud" puts Rakoff in the same league as the hilarious David Sedaris ("Me Talk Pretty Someday").

Need evidence that the world is changing before our eyes? If you were channel surfing like I was on the afternoon of Sunday the 11th of August 2002 you'd have noticed that all three major networks were featuring professional auto racing. It's a safe bet that NBC, CBS, and ABC invoked the name of Al Unser Jr. more than Jesus Christ, Ghandi, Michael Angelo, and Martin Luther King combined. If you're okay with that ratio, you may just love *Shallow Hal*.

Actual description of a recent COPS episode: *Driver with suspended license stopped*. I know that the life of a policeman or woman is incredibly stressful, but what's the next COPS show going to be about? *Cop fills out paperwork—Long hand*.

Because of "The Simpson's," children today are funny, if a bit disrespectful, a tradeoff that I can live with.

So far I haven't noticed all that great a difference between the presidency of George W. Bush and Bill Clinton. I don't really ask much out of a president really, just keep us out of war, and be good fodder for Saturday Night Live.

The Bears, with the addition of QB Chris Chandler and the return of deep threat Marcus Robinson, will be better this year, but with a worse record. The 13-3 record that the Bears managed last year was partly due to a weak schedule, a little luck, and the benefit of catching a few teams not taking them seriously. The Bears linebacking corps of Urlacher, Colvin and Holdman is among the best in the league and will keep the Bears in nearly every game. In fact, I'm certain that there will be a game or two where the Bears defensive unit outscores the Bears offense.

It's kind of expensive, but undoubtedly the simplest, fastest and most pain-free way of getting a parking spot in Chicago is to first find a car. That's right, buy a car that's already in a parking space. Just don't move it, or all that you'll have is a car and no place to park it again. Lincoln Park, where?

## MAILBAG

## LETTERS FROM OUR READERS

My dear NEIU fellow students,

I wish to inform you of certain obstacles you may come to experience during your math enrollment here so that you are aware, and can make proper decisions.

This directly involves math students and their syllabi. Carefully check the exam dates on your syllabus. If the exams (not quizzes) are scheduled to cover the materials introduced on a prior class session --meaning, being tested on fresh material after its introduction two days ago -- you have the right to ask the instructor to provide more study time. You should reasonably be provided sufficient time to finish your last assignment, to test/review for the listed chapters, and have time to seek tutoring assistance on problems. If your grades and GPA are important to you, then so should be the manner in which you are tested.

If asked, most professors are reasonable in respect to accommodating the class. They may provide an alternative, such as postponement of the test to the following session, or simply not including fresh sections in that test. However, beware of the stubborn and unfair professors who may not cooperate. My experience in particular was with professor Rustagi during math 102. Aside from other inadequacies, he insisted on testing us on fresh material that was not comprehended by most of the class. There simply was not time to do so. Just how fair is that? How would it feel to know that you're being tested on stuff you don't yet understand?

When I asked professor Rustagi for his reasoning in testing us so soon, his response was that students partied and would forget the material, and that he decided many years back that this tradition helps students' grades. Now, you're a student. So, think! Would you rather have only a day and a half to study for that exam, or just a little more time? Which would you say may help your grade?

In conclusion, don't expect your math professor to be an automatic genius. Although, there's a *U* and the end of *NEIU*, at times you're dealing with a small-college mentality. So, respectfully address your professor with your concerns early on, and if he/she seems unreasonable, think of your options. Because, most likely, things will get more complex. Re-address your complaints to the dean's office if unsatisfied. And, don't be altogether dismayed. This college needs your personal response and success to make itself into a university. Please, take the time to write comments during teacher evaluations. Also, share ideas and get involved. Help make a difference.

I personally wish you a speedy progress and overall success.

Amir

P.S. For further details about my experiences with the math department, and results, or to share info, please E-mail me at: a-jamali@neiu.edu

## ConTacto Latino

### Latinoamérica: Un paraíso descubierto.

por Andrea Belard

Hola mi gente! Llegó el verano y con este llegaron sabores y sentimientos; conciertos y ferias entre las innumerables actividades para realizar en nuestra ciudad. Y es que cuando miro atrás y recuerdo el invierno y su monotonía, doy gracias a Dios por estar en verano y ver esta explosión de latinidad.

Es en esta época más que en cualquiera, que me pongo a pensar lo orgullosa que me siento de ser latina, viendo que donde sea que vaya encontraré nuestramúsica y sabor.

Qué mejor manera de valorar nuestra cultura que sintiéndonos orgullosos de ella.

Es muy interesante la vida que tenemos los latinos en Estados Unidos, durante la mayor parte del tiempo no hacemos otra cosa mas que intentar ir al mismo ritmo de vida rutinaria que tiene cualquier persona en este país, pero es todo un espectáculo ver como sacamos lo "nuestro" en la primera oportunidad que senos presenta.

Hace unas semanas estuve en el concierto de Elvis Crespo en el Navy Pier, y era realmente interesante ver como una pequeña parte de este lugar se había convertido en una embajada del orgullo que tenemos por venir de donde venimos. Ya que al ritmo del merengue y llevados por la emoción nadie tuvo algún inconveniente de levantar las manos bien alto cuando Elvis Crespo preguntó dónde estaban los latinos de Chicago.

No queda duda, somos latinos y estamos muy orgullosos de serlo. Y es que realmente tenemos de qué estarlo, ya que los países de donde venimos son una cuna abundante en cultura, con un pasado fascinante que no tiene nada que envidiar al pasado de culturas europeas.

Latinoamérica es un paraíso de punta a punta, selvas, ríos y elevados picos en las montañas, vienen acompañados de carnavales y un sin fin de festividades. Las grandes ciudades en países como Argentina, Chile y Panamá; las mágicas playas de Brasil, Puerto Rico, Uruguay o Republica Dominicana, los vestigios de ricas culturas en Perú, Bolivia, Guatemala y México, etc. Todo esto solo por mencionar algunos de los muchos países que aportan enormemente a lo que es hoy nuestra cultura.

Algo que es digno de mencionar es nuestra riqueza musical. Una enorme variedad desde la música caribeña hasta la música de Sud América. No es necesario ir atrás en la historia, para comprender el valor de nuestra musica.

Actualmente vemos como artistas latinos cruzan cada vez mas las fronteras de nuestros países y nuestro idioma, y son reconocidos y admirados por publico norteamericano y europeo. Estos son sin lugar a dudas un orgullo para el país que representan, una Shakira colombiana, un Gian Marco peruano, un grupo chileno como La Ley, tantos grupos y solistas que tienen países como Mexico y Puerto Rico que realmente ponen el nombre de Latinoamerica en alto.

¿Qué es lo que te enorgullece a ti? Si quieres compartirlo con nosotros escríbeme a andreabelard@hotmail.com, todos tus comentarios y sugerencias son bienvenidos. ¡Hasta la próxima!



**REV: It just won't go  
away  
XXX and why it sucks  
pg 3  
Poetry for the soul  
pgs 3 and 4**

# REV

extremely local entertainment ~ pull-out section

# Eminem got a bad rap

by Mike Cahill  
Special Contributor

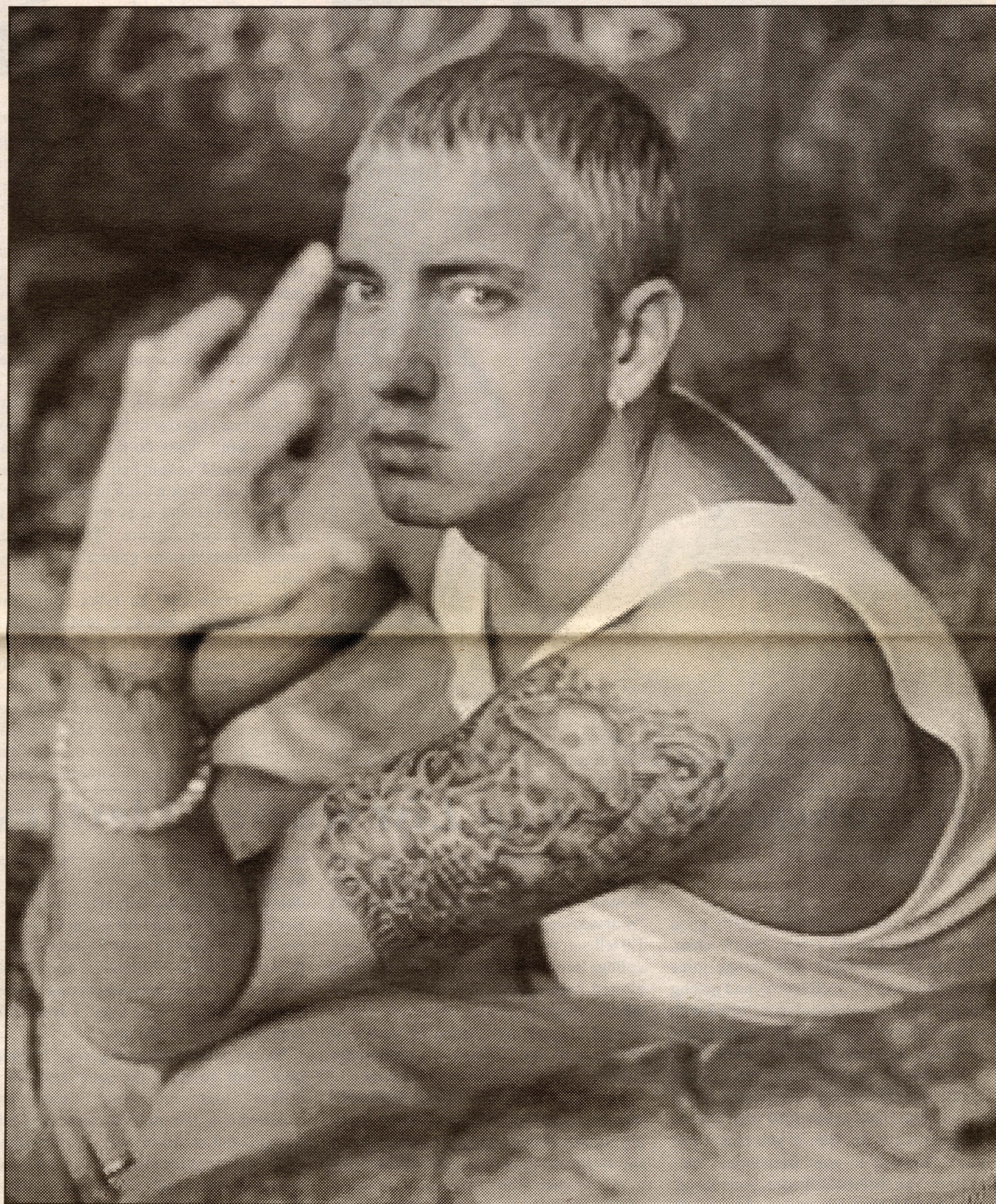
Musicians become popular for a multitude of reasons. Sometimes it's timing, sometimes it's your look, sometimes it's simply because of the quality of the music you make. But what catapults an artist from reasonable fame to a household name? More often than not, the answer is controversy, and Eminem knows a thing or two about that. His most recent album, *The Eminem Show*, is mature and honest, but once again it is surrounded by controversy, only this time he seems to answer his critics more productively than ever before. First I'd like to take a look at what he went through to get to this record.

The world first met Eminem, a.k.a Marshall Mathers, a.k.a Slim Shady, in 1998, when his first major label release, *The Slim Shady LP*, hit record stores. The album was fueled almost completely by the first single "My Name Is." There the world saw a rapper of a different science, not to mention a different color. His delivery was impeccable, and his lyrics were somewhat strange for the mainstream rap audience. "Hi kids, do you like violence?/ Wanna see me stick nine inch nails through each one of my eyelids?" Pop and rock radio began to play the song with an almost religious fervor. Then came "Guilty Conscience." This song, done as a duet with rap icon and mentor Dr. Dre, pits Eminem as a devil and Dre as an angel trying to sway the minds of people in different situations. The album went to triple platinum, and even helped to resurrect the career of Dr. Dre. Now Eminem was famous and on his way to long term financial security, but he was also entering a very dark period in his life.

On *The Eminem Show*, Eminem really addresses the true pitfalls of his fame. In "Saying Goodbye to Hollywood" he raps, "I just wanted to give Hallie the life I never had/ but instead I forced us to live alienated." He realizes the duality of fame. On one hand, the world is at your fingertips. On the other hand, the whole world is watching you, and a right move is far less interesting than a wrong one.

In the wake of *The Slim Shady LP*, Eminem had his face on every magazine cover and was on every radio station, not to mention that he had become a fixture on MTV. Things got even harder when his mother, Debbie Mathers-Briggs, filed a lawsuit against her son for slander and defamation of character. To make matters worse, the song "Guilty Conscience" had begun to cause quite a stir in the community. In the song Eminem encourages a man to rob a convenience store, another to have sex with a minor, and yet another to shoot his wife and her lover. What made it worse for Marshall was that in the last verse, Eminem finally convinces Dre to back him on shooting the wife and her lover. "Aw fuck it, what am I saying?/ shoot em' both Grady, where's ya gun at?"

So what does Eminem do in the midst of such personal triumph and chaos? He sucks it up, tours till he drops, focuses on his daughter Hallie, and makes another album.



This album would propel him from bottom level famous to national celebrity. And national enemy.

In March of 2000, Eminem released his second major studio release in *The Marshall Mathers LP*. The album was heavily buzzed, partly by the radio smash hit "The Real Slim Shady." The video was a constant on MTV, and it helped to catapult Eminem's album to sell a record breaking 1.7 million copies its first week. The album was a critics favorite, but also came under heavy fire by many activists, most namely The Gay and Lesbian Alliance. The complaints were that his album was too homophobic, too violent, too vulgar. Still, each time someone publicly spoke out against the album, it would sell another million records, and in my estimation it deserved to sell records. The album was a

classic.

What Eminem gave us with *The Marshall Mathers LP* was a painfully personal look into his life. He talks about the pressures of fame. "What do I think of success/ it sucks/ too much press, stress," are his exact sentiments. He also talks about his family life and how his success has changed that, "For every million I make, another relative sues/ family fighting and fussing over who wants to invite me for supper/ all of a sudden I've got ninety some cousins/ a half brother and sister who've never seen me/ or even bothered to call me until they saw me on TV." This is an artist, bleeding from his heart.

What makes great art is the ability to be brutally honest about yourself and everything and everybody else around you. Eminem does that without fail, and he does

it well. In "The Real Slim Shady" he says "I'm like a head trip to listen to/ cause I'm only giving you/ things you joke about with your friends inside your living room/ the only difference is I've got the balls to say it/ in front of y'all/ and I don't gotta be false/ or sugar coat it at all." He's honest to a fault, and yet he's labeled evil. The problem is that we're all guilty of his crimes.

He makes a Christopher Reeve joke, or disrespectfully talks about the Columbine tragedy. There isn't one person reading this article who hasn't been guilty of making a joke or two about a person or a subject matter that was in poor taste. But we say it and it's simply a joke in very poor taste.

Eminem continued  
on page R2



## Eminem continued

Eminem says it on record and all of a sudden he's corrupting America. He also talks poorly about women. On a daily basis we degrade women. They are constantly objectified and have been for years.

Now as far as the homophobia, well, that's a much more difficult topic to defend. To be quite honest, it seems as if Eminem has a problem with homosexuals. The last track, "Criminal," says it quite clearly, "I'll stab you in the head/whether you're a fag or lez." His feelings may not be those feelings of the majority, but he has a right to express them. The Gay and Lesbian

Alliance seems to feel that the gay population in America should be allowed to express who they are. They say they have a right to be open about their sexuality, regardless of how others feel about it. They want to think, feel, and be the people they are without having to feel ashamed, or worse yet, frightened to do so. I believe they, like anyone else, should be given that right. But I feel that Eminem deserves that right as well, even if they don't like it. He has just as much right to be heard, even if what he's saying offends people.

The fact of the matter is that the kids who are most influenced by Eminem's words are the troubled kids. Eminem didn't make those kids troubled, and he doesn't encourage it. In "Stan" he opposes abusing

women and abusing one's self. He recommends that Stan seek counseling.

The record was not evil, is not evil, and never will be evil. It was a brilliant record. And it was done by a brilliant artist.

In the time between the last album and this one, Eminem got a divorce, settled the lawsuit filed by his mother (which Eminem won), and was brought up on criminal charges in two incidents one for an alleged assault on the staff members of rival rappers Insane Clown Posse, and the other for allegedly assaulting a man he claims to have seen his wife, Kim, kissing. This on top of a side project with D-12, and a large tour, not to mention a very controversial appearance at the Grammy's when he did "Stan" with the openly homosexual Elton John.

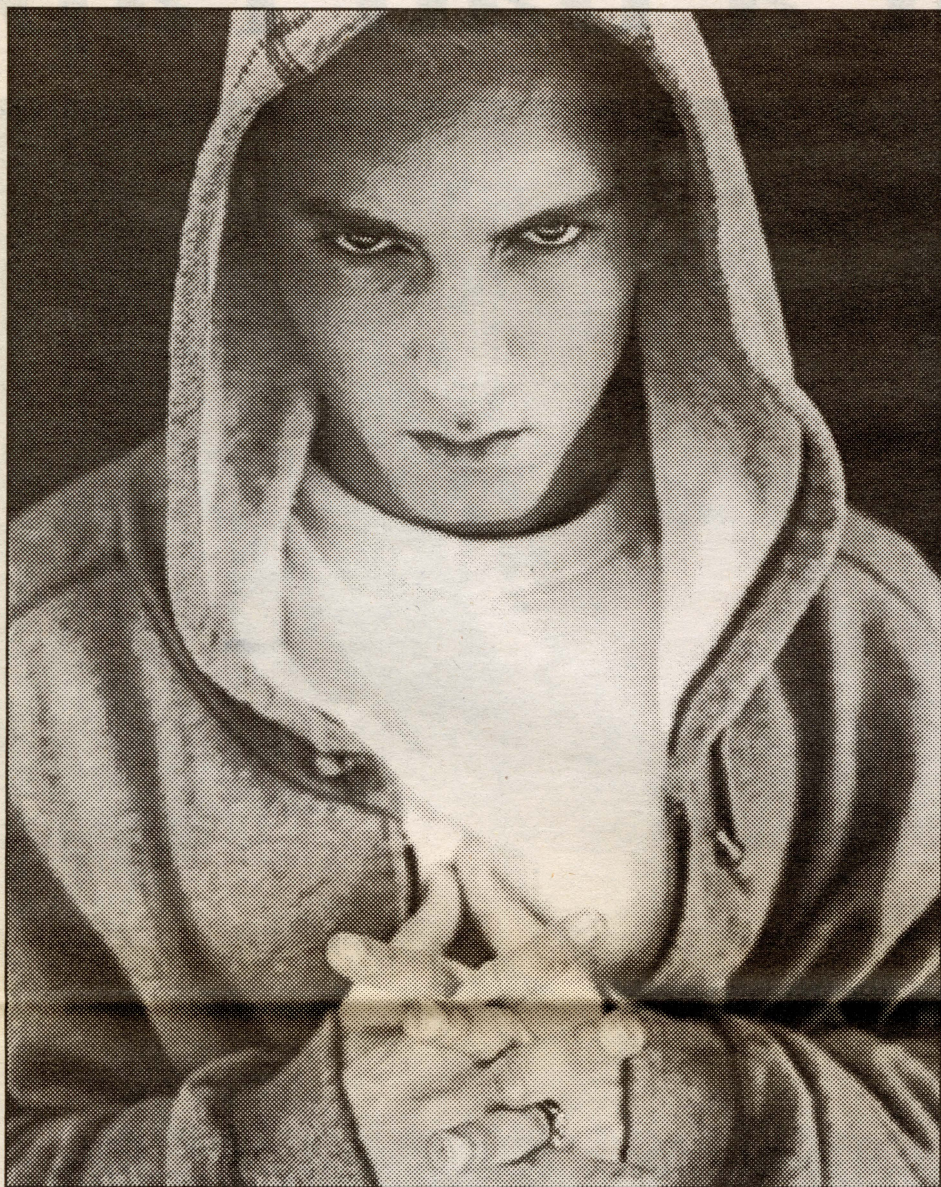
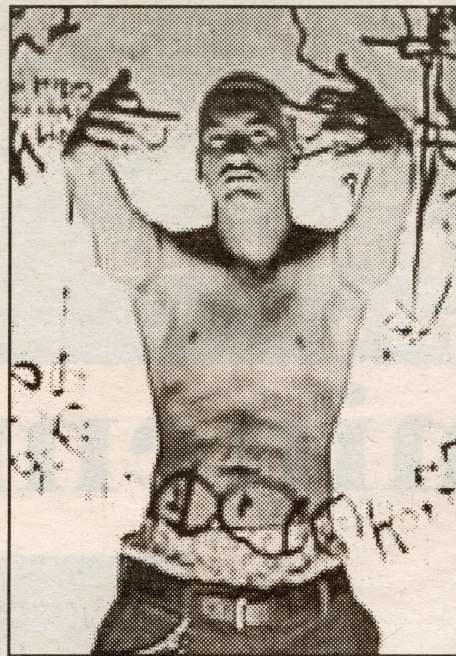
Now comes "The Eminem Show," and what a brilliant record it is. The record is more Marshall than his last two major releases. He produces almost all the tracks and has very few guest spots. It is Eminem being brutally honest and doing it as clever as he's ever done it.

In the opening track "White America" he addresses his rise to fame and the color of his skin. "Let's do the math/if I was black/I would've sold half." He makes no bones about his skin color helping him sell records, but he stands by that his talent is what got him signed. "When I was underground/no one gave a fuck I was white."

In "Dream On" he talks about the responsibility he has as an idol, and what he should and shouldn't be responsible for. Eminem realizes that his fans listen closely to every word that he says, but he knows that it wouldn't be right for him to not say what he feels. When he talks about the kids knowing about the guns and the idea that some artist carry them to boost their image

and boost sales, "Of course the shit's affecting our sales, you ignoramus/ but

music is reflection of self/ we just explain it and then we get our checks in the mail." Slim knows that he shouldn't censor anything. Censorship is an individual right of the CD buyer to listen to a record and take from it the positive things that they need. It might be a message in a song like "Stan," or a funny line on another song, or it could simply be a good vibe you get from hearing Eminem's impeccable



All pictures courtesy of [www.eminemworld.com](http://www.eminemworld.com) and [www.eminem.com](http://www.eminem.com)

## Alphabetical Hookup List waste of letters

by Brian Blaszkowski  
Chief Editor

There's nothing quite like a really good book. Curling up in a nice, comfy chair, sipping tea (or vodka and orange juice depending on your preference), and getting caught up in a wonderful story filled with rich characters. On the other side of the spectrum, however, is the "bad book."

A bad book can ruin your week. Books aren't like TV shows. You watch a bad movie, you bitch about it to your friends and you move on. But, if you read a bad book, bitching to your friends just isn't enough. You feel cheated, used, and robbed. You wasted precious hours of your life reading a poorly told story with flat, uninteresting characters. Thus, I come to the point of all of this: *The Alphabetical Hookup List* by Phoebe McPhee. The best part of the book was the fact that the sentences, for the most part, contained proper grammar and punctuation. That's about it, though.

The bad parts begin with the fact that this book is apparently a joint effort between McPhee and MTV to suck as badly as possible. MTV apparently felt that destroying their music channels by infecting them with deadly doses of reality shows and "pop-culture fan club hour" with Carson Daly (or however you spell his name. Who cares?) wasn't enough, and thus entered into a quest to poison literature as well.

Once again, MTV has made me seriously

consider a lawsuit to try and get compensation for my wasted time. In order to save you the inevitable headaches and "post-reading-this-shitty-book-depression," I'll tell you about it. It's supposed to be in a college setting, but it seems to be in an altered high school. The alterations are subtle, such as giving everyone drugs instead of guns and putting an unnatural emphasis on sex. Anyway, it's supposedly a college, so we'll play along for now.

The story centers on three freshmen women, named Jodi, Celeste, and Ali. They all become roommates after a mistake in the dorm assignments, and think very poorly of each other. Eventually, as you'd expect, they become friends. The reason they become friends is that they all simultaneously experience "boyfriend trauma," by which Jodi's boyfriend makes out with some other girl, Ali's boyfriend claims to have found a soul mate, and Celeste's date turns out to be gay. So, they're getting drunk and complaining about guys, and then Jodi busts out a *Scrabble* game, and thus the "Alphabetical Hookup List" (AHUL) is born.

The premise is simple and skanky: each girl will attempt to passionately kiss a guy who's name starts with subsequent letters of the alphabet (ie: starting with Adam, then moving on to Bob, then off to Christopher, and all the way to Zachary.) The story then basically follows around each girl through her kissing trials and tribulations. It's going to be a three-part series, so we only were

treated to glimpses of Jodi trying to cheat by giving guys nicknames, Celeste getting drunk and losing her virginity to Jodi's ex-boyfriend Buster, and Ali going through a personality crisis of sorts by becoming a lesbian for about 37 minutes, making out with a chimpanzee, and considering kissing a cadaver named "Fred Doe." I swear I'm not making any of that up.

So, we witness Ali going to a Christian rave, Jodi going to the same rave on a different night and taking Ecstasy, and Celeste being miserable because she's not as big a slut as Ali or Jodi. The language and behavior of the characters in this book resemble more a high school, not a college. Of course, Northeastern doesn't have dorms, *Scrabble*, or chimpanzees, so maybe college really is a non-stop roller coaster of easy drugs, easy sex, and lots of booze. If this book is any indication, we aren't missing much.

So if you're looking for a reason to never read another book as long as you live, by all means pick up a copy of *The Alphabetical Hookup List* and give it a read. As for me, I will require the use of powerful stimulants to get over the horror of this literary failure. So, for the protection of future generations, I urge you to burn this book should you ever accidentally come to possess it. As for the McPhee and MTV alliance of shitty entertainment, everything is right on track.

The second installment of *AHUL* comes out soon.



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## Musing Idleness

Allow me a waves,  
 moment of drinking Whispering to me  
 deeply the waters songs of the  
 flowing about me, innocence I've lost  
 A moment to wash and experience I've  
 the cream of ashes forgotten,  
 from my tongue, Moving past with  
 Swollen and bruised sightless eyes and  
 from biting back mouths that move  
 the verses in my in unison,  
 head, To spout out words  
 A moment to rub that do nothing but  
 the drowsiness of add to the  
 recollection from confusion of it all,  
 my eyes, And I sit as unreal  
 Swollen and bruised to them as they  
 from an unblinking stand unreal to me,  
 stare at that which Furtive eyes that  
 lies beneath, watch the sun swell  
 As another parade from a shadowed  
 of preposterous corner of time,  
 pretenders strolls Blossoming like a  
 by in buzzing fiery rose of the

great truth that lies  
 so far from reach,  
 H i d i n g  
 misunderstood  
 beneath the  
 mushroom caps and  
 falling leaves,  
 Fervently scurrying  
 as a flash of  
 u n b r i d l e d  
 imagination and  
 reckless revelation,  
 To dance with the  
 fairies in the dreams  
 of the forgotten,  
 And sing with the  
 sprites at the  
 twilight tables of  
 musing idleness,  
 Felt in the blustering  
 gusts of wind and  
 seen in the rustling  
 treetop nests,

Where the pearl-  
 blue dragon eggs of  
 tomorrow's world  
 rest,  
 Heard in the flutter  
 of raven wings and  
 tasted in the tide of  
 evening...  
 The cleansing  
 waters that flow  
 about me in a  
 torrent of  
 unspoken,  
 Waiting with the  
 flood of tears from  
 all the angels and  
 saints,  
 Waiting to wash  
 the world over,  
 And reveal all the  
 silent beauty,  
 Resting just  
 beneath.

## Blockbuster "xXx" is all action and little acting

Andrea Zelinski  
 Production Editor

Current number one blockbuster of the big screen, 'xXx' begins to rip up the charts with the action packed heroism of a new idol. Bringing in \$23 million in its second week on the number one spot assures this film to be the hit of the summer.

The action begins when Xander Cage, played by Vin Diesel, displays his unique talent for destruction. After a venture of stealing a senator's car, he eventually drives himself and the car off a bridge for the purpose of catching this life-threatening stunt on video, as seen in nearly every theatrical trailer. The story line proceeds after he is eventually caught. The CIA soon realizes that they need his inside expertise to carry out a mission, so to speak. Thus, our fearless rebel turns into a secret agent. After several tests, he is sent to befriend a group of destruction hungry scum who plan on destroying the entire world so that they can rise from the ashes and create their own society without organized government..

Evaluated purely in terms of energy level, this film blew me away. The special effects and awesome action scenes definitely gave 'xXx' the dynamism portrayed in the trailers. Diesel helped pump up the reputation on this film from his past role in *The Fast and the Furious*. The attitude of Diesel created the edge 'xXx' needed to become more than just the average action flick. Besides the bridge scene beginning the film, a note worthy action scene takes action during his role as the secret agent. This fantastic scene takes place on snow-covered mountains



with Diesel racing an avalanche on a snowboard. This ten-minute scene is not to be missed.

As good as the effects and action was, the acting was not up to par. I expected more conviction from all of the actors. In particular, Samuel L. Jackson, a mature and accomplished actor, who played the role of Agent Augustus Gibbons did not live up to my expectation. I just was not convinced. Further, Diesel performed a

more realistic personality portrayal in his past film *The Fast and the Furious* than his current. His acting was less satisfying due to his complete hard-ass persona.

As for the illusion of romance from the trailers, let me tell you, it was just an illusion. The romance was of low priority to the plot. It fit, but it also did not play the role depicted from previews. Being more oriented with sex than relationship, the various scenes provided more of a short and steamy tease than any

development.

What it all boils down to is whether or not it is worth the \$8.50 to see it in the theater. For those action seekers and Vin Diesel fans, this film was meant to be seen in the theater. The awesome combination of audio and picture you can only get at the big screen is definitely worth the high admission price. Yet, for those who are more entertained by a clever plot and impressive acting, wait for it to come out on video.



# Slice of Blue Sky

The King of shadowy glen and treetop nestings gave a mournful cry out to  
distant hills zenith

And hovered with an aged flap in a forlorn ring o'er my head

As his scaled army marched wave after armored wave through a shimmering  
pool of quicksilver

And the Lady of the Lake gave a sensual stretch atop a white crest reaching up  
for a slice of blue sky

With the leaves flapping in the cold wind like lettered parchment crumbling  
away verses of

"Dear Sweet Lenore,

Did I ever really love you, or was I just being poetic?

Signed Edgar"

And I stole the words from the mouth of babes only to throw it back in their  
faces and question why

I fell to my knees as I came to the darkened mirror lake

After already passing the tin mug and bronze key along the dusty path of  
meditation

Looking once for my reflection as a million rippled pieces of myself

And deciding finally just to wash my face with cupped hands of mercury

Like so much milky lime to blind my eyes from the sun and hope for  
redemption

Standing up to walk on the water with mushrooms blooming in my lungs and  
each exhalation a different color

Tread to the center and come to rest with tiny purple fishes nipping at my toes

Pulling me down into cool contemplation with my ankles already submerged

As I stammer to speak and scramble to pass out mustard seeds to fishermen

Who in turn nod their heartfelt thanks and fail to notice me slowly sinking

With warm sand creeping up my leg like seducing sets of softened fingertips

Exalt once in the pearly clouds of heavenly skies that keep the stars tucked  
away until dark

Blow a last kiss to the sun as it slips away to bright the day of someone more  
deserving of en-lightened hours

And lay your head down on a muddied slimy rock between whistling reeds  
which whip you into sleep

Drawing a breath of deeply royal blue and resting away in the arms of youthful  
Mermaids

Till days of smoky catacombs and aimless ambitions call again with the sharp  
ring of Siren's call.



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2002 - 2003



NEIU Faculty Artist - Brian Torosian

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## 2002

September 20

### Orion Ensemble

Piano quartet with clarinet inspires new works for their unique combination of instruments.

October 18

### Haydn By The Lake

Trio specializing in works of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

November 15

### Fry Street Quartet

Exuberant and energetic string quartet is "a triumph of ensemble playing."

December 20

### Vermeer Quartet

Internationally renowned as one of the world's finest ensembles.

## 2003

January 17

### Robert Sims

Award-winning baritone in a recital of spirituals, Gershwin, and Copland.

February 14

### Barbara Shirvis and Stephen Powell

Baritone husband and soprano wife perform "Hearts Afire," love songs through the ages.

March 21

### Nazzareno Carusi

Acclaimed pianist returns to NEIU for an all-Russian recital.

April 11

### Johannes String Quartet

Chicago area debut of the fast-rising quartet.

May 9

### Brian Torosian

Explore the darker side of the guitar and lute repertoire in a unique program "Diabolus in Musica."

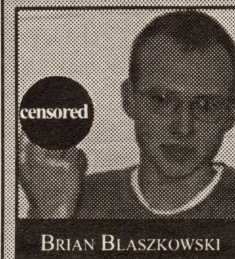


\* NEIU offers a variety of fine arts programming, including many **free** events. Visit [www.neiu.edu](http://www.neiu.edu) for details.

## VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

# NEIU myths shown to be nothing but lies

ANOTHER YEAR COME AND GONE, AND STILL I LANGUISH IN "GET ME THE HELL OUT OF HERE!" LIMBO. I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE. EVERYWHERE I WALK PEOPLE COMPLAIN ABOUT CLASS REQUIREMENTS, AVAILABILITY, AND GENERAL INCOMPETENCE AT OUR FAIR SCHOOL. THUSLY, FOR THOSE OF US STILL SUFFERING, AND FOR THE NEWLY ARRIVED "SUFFERERS-TO-BE,"



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

HERE ARE A SERIES OF TRUTHS ABOUT OUR SCHOOL AND THE HAPPENINGS THEREIN.

No one has ever gotten the class schedule they planned to get. Not once, never since this school was built by bums in a bizarre begging ritual in the late seventies. Three-fifths of the classes you will seek come registration time will be filled, and the remaining two will be taught by a professor who got their degree by mailing in box-tops from Captain Crunch cereal boxes. If, by some strange fluke, you successfully register for five classes without meeting resistance, then one or more of your classes will be either cancelled or moved to a different day/time. Or the TTRS lady is playing a joke on you.

The job of a guidance counselor is not to help you schedule your classes, as you may have thought. Rather, it is to ensure that you remain in NEIU for as long as possible. This means that upon visiting a counselor, rest assured that they will be vague, cheerful, and unable to help you. That won't stop them from trying, however, so look forward to taking several classes that you can't apply to anything. Why the guidance counselors keep getting paid is a mystery for another day, boys and girls.

Before being served, the food in the cafeteria is put through a vigorous obstacle course, which includes a bed of hot coals, shark infested waters, botulism, and being placed upon the floor in the middle of a country Square Dance competition. Only the food that is still 30% recognizable can be served to us. The remaining food is compressed into wads and used to renovate the A and B buildings, set for completion in 2073.

SGA is not interesting. For those of you just entering NEIU, you missed the excitement. Last semester was when SGA was fun and exciting. Now, it's going to be boring again. It's still important to know what's going on in there, however. SGA does things that directly affect the students. The only problem is that an SGA meeting is the equivalent to 19 hours of root canal work in terms of excitement. Last semester sure was fun, though.

Classes are offered based on a complex system that hinges upon an extinct species of head lice, which probably explains why it's so screwed up. Here's a hypothetical: Let's say you need class "X" to graduate. It's being offered in the fall. *No problem*, you say to yourself. *I'll just take it in the fall*. Then, you find that class "X" has a pre-requisite, meaning you need to pass a different class (let's call it "Y") before you can take "X." *No problem*, you say once again. *I'll just take "Y" in the fall, and "X" in the spring*. Then, the TTRS lady will laugh at you, because "Y" is only offered in the spring semesters, and "X" is only offered in the fall semesters. Thus, you must wander around, taking random Gen Ed courses, until you can finally graduate a year late. Until you're told that "Y" has a pre-requisite as well. That's when you transfer to a better school.

The parking lot is fairly straightforward, until you put cars in it. Then, it becomes a mind-boggling maze to NEIU students. No one can seem to understand how a "3-way stop" operates, nor have they ever heard of the phrase "right of way." Not only this, but the parking spots seem burdensome, so people just park wherever the hell they want. Normally, I'd advise you to come early to get parking, but if everyone did *that*, then there'd be no parking left for me. So come late.

Another problem with the parking lot are the sell-out fascist NEIU students who bumble around and give out tickets to fellow students. These bastards must be stopped at all costs. I've always felt the one great thing about NEIU is the sense of camaraderie, the feeling that all the students are as miserable and unhappy as you, and we all support each other at one time or another. This is why I'm asking for support in my campaign against the bastard narcs that rat out their fellow students for God only knows what secret benefits. With enough support, we can eliminate these foul, hell-spawned traitors from our midst.

At one point or another, you will no doubt run into a cluster of slow moving people in the hallway. You will usually run into this problem when you have about 17 seconds to make it to your class. The two most efficient ways to deal with these people are to either elbow past them and ignore their hissed complaints about "rude people," or to start dry heaving and muttering, "Oh, God...oh no..." and shoulder past them as if you are about to vomit. They'll usually give you a wide berth in that instance.

You will also be tempted into using an elevator instead of the stairs. I'd advise against this, as an NEIU elevator is at all times occupied by no fewer than 26 people, most of whom are only going up one floor. The elevators aren't the best quality either, having been assembled during the Cold War by blind monkeys to be used as escape pods in case of a nuclear war. Take the stairs.

That's about it. There are far more quirks, mysteries, and insipid occurrences here at NEIU, but were I to list them all, I would have to think of other things to write about in the future. So, I'll end with this final bit of advice:

Stay sharp, stay focused, be prepared to get screwed over at least 7 times, and welcome to NEIU, home of the 23-year senior.

## LETTER POLICY

Letters to the Editor must be signed and contain an address and telephone number for verification and must be 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 may be received through mail addressed to:

**The Independent**  
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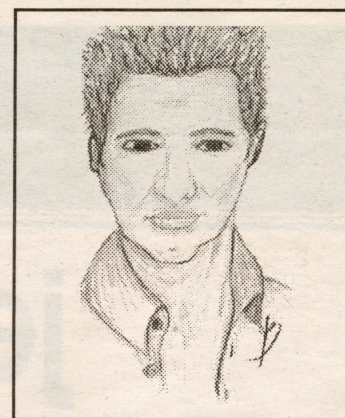




Introducing...

# STAN'S LIFE

By Andrea Zelinski  
Production Manager



Welcome to the incredibly complicated life of Stan. This is a story about a guy named Stanley Wojciechowski. Throughout the semesters, you will be able to follow his moves, actions, and most interestingly, his intimate thoughts while attending college at our very own Northeastern Illinois University. Whether they be about school, family, girls, friends or anything else that may make an effect on one's life, you will read it all right here.

He is the average guy. He doesn't have any super powers or anything of the sort. Stan is just one of those people in your class that you never really noticed before. He's quiet. And he doesn't stand out. The problems are deep down in his heart; he wants to be successful. He wants to be noticed. He wants to belong. But how?

Episode after episode will reveal more about more about our friend. We will see some of the most private and secret parts of his life that no one else was meant to see. We will hear some of the conversations he'd be embarrassed of if anyone knew. And we will witness the moments that changed his life forever.

This is the story of Stanley Wojciechowski.

"As you can see in the syllabus, there will be a quiz every Monday. These quizzes are thirty percent of your grade and...." Lectured Professor Crawford.

Oh that sucks! Every Monday? I could deal with every Friday cuz I'll study during the week, but there is no way I'm going to be able to study over the weekend. There goes my grade in this class. Stan grumbled to himself.

The professor continued to lecture the class of 37 students in the small classroom. The room was getting muggy with the immense number of people trying to get into the class. Stan knew that by the third week of there would only be 15 people present on a good day.

The minute hand crawled closer and closer to 10:50. Oh come on. I wanna get outta here. Okay, six more minutes. I hate waiting for the end of class. I know what I need; I need a class that I want to be in. Something interesting. I'm really

tired of all these damn general ed classes. Most don't interest me at all. I need something I can get into.

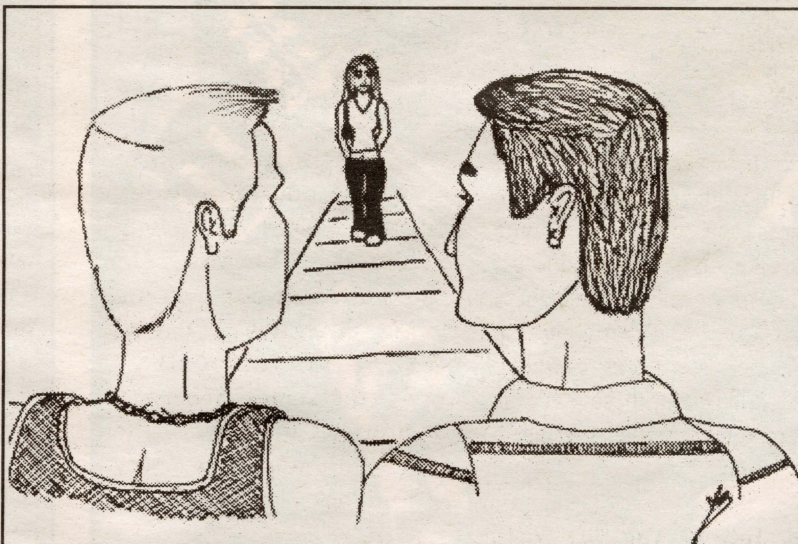
"Since there isn't much else to do today, you all may leave early. But don't get used to it." She snapped. The students began to quickly scuffle out the door like bats out of hell. "And have Chapters one and two read by Wednesday!!" she shouted after them.

Stan walked down the hall of the Science Building towards the main entrance. As he walked through the automatic doors, he inhaled a huge dose of secondary smoke. The outdoor foyer was swarming with nearly 20 smokers, both student and teacher. Damn. I guess it has been a while since I was last at school. I didn't remember this many smokers. Oh well, I guess it gets bigger every year, he thought as he tried to maneuver his way through the cloud of smoke.

He made his way down the steps and towards the Student Union, passing an unfinished building on his right. What the hell. When are they going to finish that building? I swear I hear people say that its been under construction for as long as they have been here. And those people graduated already! I'll probably never see it finished. Stan continued walking. Well, I do have at least three more years to go. HOPEFULLY only three years. I've heard some people say that they have been in school for six or seven years. That's like something out of the movie Tommy Boy. Except he had an excuse.

Stan pulled open the door to the Student Union and noticed someone rustling in the Reading Lounge. His dark hair hung just above his eyes as he engulfed himself in a large textbook. The student was tall, and looked to be Asian. He wore a pair of long jean shorts with a white polo. The student lifted his head to move his hair out of his face. ELLIOTT! Stan pulled the door open and walked in next to the boy.

"Where the hell have you been all summer?!" Stan whispered with a smile to student.



He lifted his head and recognized Stan. "Oh hey Stan! How are ya?" he laughed with delight to see a familiar face.

"Good. You have time to run out for a hot dog?"

"Oh yeah. Sure," he exclaimed as he gathered his pile of books and stumbled out of the lounge. "We'll take my car," Elliott offered as they walked side by side, exchanging questions and answers about the summer

"It's been so long since I heard from you! What did you do this summer?" Stan asked as his stomach started to growl.

"Oh, not much. I took a bunch of summer school classes. But nothing exciting. Not like last year," Elliott smiled. "Now those were the days!"

"Yeah," Stan agreed as they reached Elliott's '86 Buick Century. "You wanna go to Super Dawg?"

"Sure. It's on Milwaukee and Devon, right?"

Stan nodded as he opened the passenger door and tossed his backpack in the back seat. "Hey, do you remember that girl from Math 106? The girl with the weird hi-lights."

"Oh yeah! The one who sat in front of you? Oh what was her name?" Stan shrugged in response. Elliott began to pull his car out of the parking spot, "Wasn't it Trish? Or was it Tori or --" Elliott suddenly stopped when he realized he had bumped the car parked behind them. "Oh shit!" Elliott snapped. "What the hell."

"I don't think you hit it too bad."

"Yeah... that's what a bumper is for." Elliott jumped out of the car and examined his rear bumper. "Not a scratch. Of course you couldn't tell on this piece of junk." He scanned the other car. A short but deep scratch sat on the 99' Sunfire. He rubbed it with his finger, but nothing changed. He jumped back in the car next to Stan.

"Any damage on the other car?"

"Not really. A little scratch. It's nothing," Elliott replied as he drove out of the parking lot unaware that the owner of the Pontiac Sunfire watched the entire event unfold before his eyes.

"So what were you saying about that girl, Tori?" Elliott asked as he chewed on his hotdog.

"Oh... nothing really."

"Don't play stupid with me. You have the hots for her still, don't you?"

Stan tried to hide a smile, but he couldn't. He had been holding it in all summer without anyone to tell. "Yeah. I guess you can call it that." It's more like an infatuation. She was just so... so... I don't even have to words to describe it.

"Yeah, well keep your pants on," Elliott laughed as he placed his garbage on the tray hanging from his window. "You and I both know how much guts it took you to ask her what time the final exam was last spring."

"Shut up!" Stan chuckled as he finished his soda. "Things are going to be different this year. I'm a new

man."

"Oh yeah?" Elliott pressed the button to summon the waitress. He left two dollars on the tray. "How so."

"You'll see my friend. You'll see. Now lets get back to school. I think I have another class in about 20 minutes."

As the two friends drove back to Northeastern, they continued to reminisce about their days last semester thinking about Tori. "She was smart too," Elliott commented as he pulled back into the parking lot at the university. "Damn. That is what I hate about leaving this school in the middle of the day. No parking spots left!" The two drove around campus for nearly ten minutes before they decided to park in the back of the lot near the library.

"Hey, did you think that scratch I left on that car was noticeable Stan?"

"I don't know, I didn't get a good look at it," Stan replied as they headed to the Student Union

"Yeah. I feel a little guilty."

"You know what. Don't worry about it. It was nothing anyway. And for all you know," Stan said while he opened the door, "that had happened to you a number of times and you never happened to notice it either."

Just a head of them, a student dressed in a knee length jean skirt headed straight for them. Her brown hair was highlighted in chunks perfectly framing her face and her bright green eyes.

"Is that... Tori?" Stan drifted off.

"Yeah," Elliott answered. "It is."

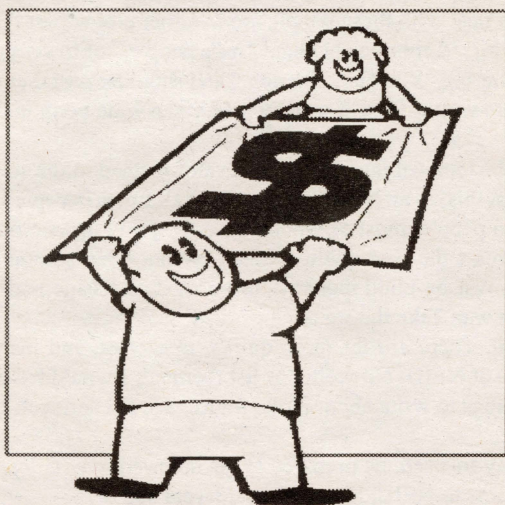
She continued to walk towards Stan and Elliott. Stan's hands got moist and his heart beat raced a little. I'm okay. I'm okay. I'll just say hello. Try to relax. You don't want to act like a fool.

"Hey!" the girl exclaimed. "You're Stan, right?" she asked as she combed her fingers through her hair.

"Um hum," Stan mumbled.

"Can I talk to you?"

**Read on next week to find out what the girl of Stan's dreams has to tell him.**



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# Star Signs

by Aileen, the ALMOST Perfect Horoscope Lass

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK: Happy Birthday!  
IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS NEXT WEEK: Happy "Next Week" Birthday!

## Aries (March 21-April 19):



The summer is almost over and you want to get back into the

grind of things. Do that and you will regret not taking fresh air in. You can sit out on the porch and watch the sunset. Soon the air will be too cold and windy to enjoy the seeing setting sun.

## Taurus (April 20-May 20):



Well you love the sun and since we had a few days of at least 80-

degree weather in mid late April, you love the sun. The problem with that was you had to study or stay indoors. You need to get out and enjoy the sun before it goes away and definitely before we 'fall back'.

## Gemini (May 21-June 21):



You relaxed all summer while you either were working or taking

summer school. The summer is just about over. Not quite, take the last week in stride and enjoy the last few days of summer rays before you begin to go to classes and study. The weather loves you and you will have cabin fever if you do not take advantage of the last week before school starts.

## Cancer (June 22-July 22):



summer child, you worked all summer, and you have taken a vacation.

Now what is left to do? Well, you can enjoy the last week before classes start and take in some sun. Like a Leo, you need to get to some place that has water, how about a beach? What about the pool, the water parks. You love water and one of these places is meant for you since you are a water sign.

## Leo (July 23-Aug. 22):



Well, your birthday is just about to be over or it has passed you by. The summer is

just about over, and it leaves you wondering where did it go? Now it is time to use the last week to your advantage. You can explore without leaving home. When school starts you will be studying 24/7. Get and take a walk and enjoy the sun and the fresh air, you will feel better. If not use the weekend to your advantage and go to a pool, the beach or water park.

## Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):



Well, your birthday is coming up and you want to relax, you can do that the week before school

starts or you can find a few hours over the weekend. Be sure to get the fall cleaning before classes pick up. As the saying goes business before pleasure and that is true for you.

## Libra (Sept. 23-Oct 22):



Ok, the summer is almost over and you have no idea what is

going to happen. Since there is at least one more week until school starts take a long weekend. Leave On Thursday and come home Sunday afternoon. You need to recharge your battery before the semester begins. Or drop off the face of the planet and somehow show up for class

## Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):



"Trick or treats"...wait that is Halloween and the summer is

almost over the key word is almost. Instead of being tricked, give yourself a treat.. Enjoy the rest of the summer, when school starts you will have little time to enjoy the nice weather.

## Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):



Now that the school year is just around the corner, you can't wait to go back. Just relax. Before you know it, you will have your head buried in text books and exams. Just enjoy the time off that you have now. Remember, being as energetic as you are, you are sure to keep yourself occupied one way or another in the fall.

## Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):



Seasons Greetings from the summer! Want to relive those great

summer moment? Well you can just daydream. Not 'practical'? Well look at those old summer pictures. The ones when you were a child and forced to go on the family vacation. Now that you are older, you miss those old trips. Look at the past and look forward to school you will enjoy the last week.

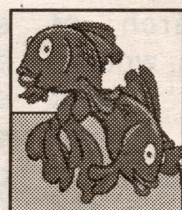
## Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):



Summer has gone bye and you are happy about something, what is it? Is it a

paycheck? (that will make anyone happy) A love? (I want one of those too). To keep yourself happy do something about it, if it is a paycheck go to Mister Bank and give him your check. I assure you that you will get money back, but you have to keep putting it in your account with Mr. Bank. If it is love go with your gut and trust your intuition.

## Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):



You are bummed Valentines Day doe not come in the summer. You wanted

a summer romance, it is not too late for that. With summer almost over, you can still get that fling, go to the beach, the pool and a water park. You are a water sign and you should

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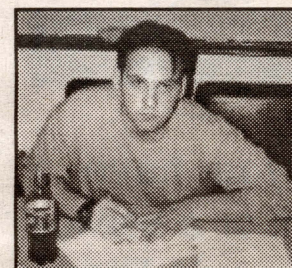
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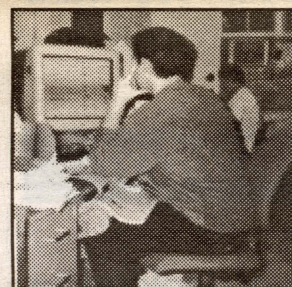
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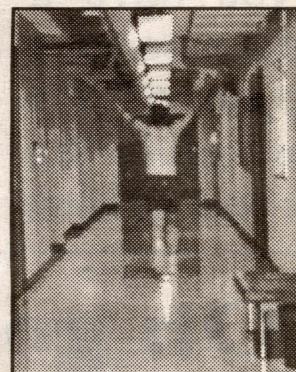
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## Personals

Though I am bruised and  
battered, I've got all time for  
your love.

When will I hold you again? I  
want feel your heart beat next  
to mine.

Why do we play such twisted  
games?

FZ: The tears we cry while the  
laughter keeps on coming back  
for more. Remember me that  
way. :)

The rain that falls splash in your  
heart like sadness in the  
window.

The staff: short of JK, BB, and  
SP, I recieved NO assistance on  
this issue. I hope you all get  
your acts together before I start  
clunking heads.  
AZ

SF, VL, FZ: I'll be your bridge  
under troubled waters. When  
you're down, I will carry you.  
Like a bridge over troubled  
waters, I will lay me down.

Where the HELL was  
everyone? This sort of thing will  
drive me away. Good luck  
holding this sinking ship up  
without me.

Must.....have.....book  
exchange.....elected.....SAL...for...book  
exchange.....

Heavy metal, Salem Lights, the  
way Eminem sings;  
These are a few of my favorite  
things!

I made a deal with the devil....  
I'd get to be famous, and he  
would get to sleep with my sister.  
--George Carlin

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some self worth today!

My extensive collection of 8-bit  
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G: Happy Belated Birthday from  
the *Independent* staff (mostly B  
and A)

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something  
missing?

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