

10-15-2002

Independent- Oct. 15, 2002

Brian Blaszkowski

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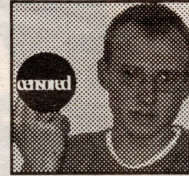
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**Stan's Life keeps
getting better and
better! Page 14!**



**Extended issue
to bring you full
SGA coverage!**



**Voice of the
Campus vents
about classes on
page 10!**

SINCE 1988 | REPEAT 2000-2001 ICPA AWARD WINNER | CHICAGO, IL.

Independent

Vol. 19 Issue 5

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Tuesday, October 15th, 2002

SGA Fall 2002 Election results and coverage

*Read about the controversy, the candidates, and the aftermath in
the Independent's in-depth coverage of the elections!*

by **Brian Blaszkowski**
Chief Editor

After a competitive week of campaigning, the Student Government Association (SGA) Fall 2002 elections are over. The elections saw former SGA President Gary Gaspard and former SGA Vice-President Kendra Young each win two spots, with Gaspard being elected to the Senate and to the Northeastern Programming Board (NPB), and Young being elected to NPB and also becoming the Student Trustee.

Ten Senate seats were filled when the students picked from 21 candidates. The two with the most votes were Gaspard, who garnered 142, and Sophia Logothetis, who is the sister of current SGA Vice-President Georgia Logothetis. Logothetis received 169 votes. She also was elected to the NPB.

Long time SGA member Jason Cruz tied for the 10th and final Senate seat with new-comer Kabir Avraham, who is the brother of SGA Speaker Caleb Avraham. Both Cruz and Avraham garnered 53 votes. The Senate will vote on which of the two will occupy the final Senate seat.

The election itself saw a flood of students voting from El Centro, CICS, and the Main Campus. A total of 1245 students turned out to vote, a high percentage compared to past elections at NEIU.

The election was not without controversy, however. There were complaints made at El Centro and at the Main Campus against several candidates and against one member of the election committee. Several Election Violations forms were filed against some candidates, with

several requiring a hearing to reach a decision on the consequences they may bring about.

Gaspard and Young could be seen on the main campus both days, from 9am to 7pm. They greeted students rushing to and from classes, passing out flyers and speaking with anyone who gave them an ear or asked a question. Likewise, Logothetis was seen campaigning for much of the time. Sir Williams, Young's opponent for the Trustee position, was also campaigning hard. Logothetis and Williams worked together, each simultaneously campaigning for the other. Gaspard and Young also campaigned together, each taking one side of Village Square to reach as many students as possible.

One of the most controversial incidents of the Fall Elections occurred at the El Centro campus. Sources said that Logothetis' other sister, Francesca Logothetis, an Alumnus of NEIU, as well as her mother, were present on campus. The Logothetis' claim they were not passing out any flyers, nor were they speaking for or against any candidates. They simply held onto some information about the controversial elections last spring. When Young found out, she went to the Director of Student Activities Walt Sommers, who demanded that the two women stop campaigning, as they were not students.

According to Francesca, she and her mother left the campus and walked about one block away to stand in front of a shoe store, and they then spoke to students who were on their way to school.

Continued on page 5

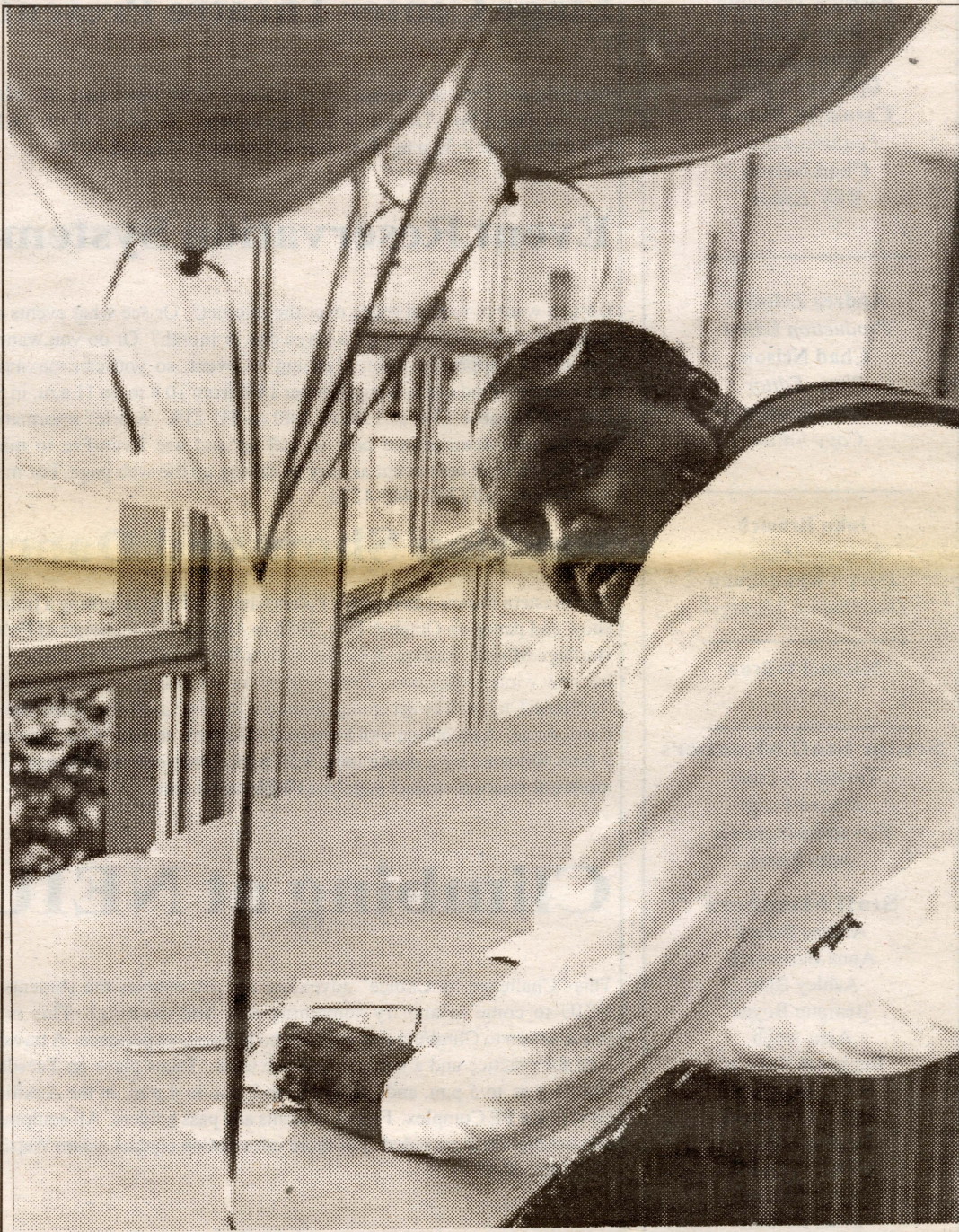


photo by Kate Stryker

From 10/5 to 10/10 students had the opportunity to vote for Senate, Student Trustee and Northeastern Programming Board

Professor Timothy Libretti speaks to students about identity theft

by **Shana Stone**
Opinions Editor

Timothy Libretti, an English Professor at Northeastern, spoke to students last Thursday for the 8th Annual Equity in Action Program, about his personal ordeal with identity theft. Libretti told an audience of about thirty in the Golden Eagles Room about his wrongful incarceration and his current lawsuit against the United States government for years of police misconduct and unlawful persecution.

On October 25, 2000, six police officers showed up at Libretti's Evanston apartment about an apparent disturbance in the apartment building. Undaunted, Libretti said he hadn't heard any noises in the

building, and then was asked if his name was Tim Libretti. Replying affirmatively, and before he could say another word, police informed him that they had a warrant for his arrest. The warrant was a five-year-old warrant for charges of selling and transporting drugs. Libretti was never shown the warrant, but was told that the warrant was in the name John O'Connor, a.k.a. Timothy Libretti. The police said that he matched the physical description of John O'Connor as stated on the warrant. The warrant states that O'Connor has blond hair and blue eyes, and Libretti has brown hair and brown eyes.

When Libretti reached the police station he was taken immediately to a holding cell. Libretti felt extremely powerless at that point, and even had

his eyeglasses taken from him. The police told Libretti "we don't lock people up for the wrong reason." The officer then told him that the warrant for his arrest was an out of state warrant from California and he was then told that he would be extradited. Libretti was able to leave jail after making bail. He was then told to appear in court on November 20. He

called several lawyers who proceeded to inform him that he would definitely be going away to prison.

The police said they knew they were looking for a John O'Connor who had used Tim Libretti as an alias. The court date was then dismissed. Libretti's lawyer at the time stated that the assistant district attorney had

stated that Libretti would be exonerated of the charges. By December 20th, Libretti still hadn't received the letter of exoneration. He decided to call Sergeant Elliot at the Evanston Police Department to find out what information they had to begin with to have given them cause

continued on page 3

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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Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Friday

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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

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Northeastern Illinois
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Chicago, Illinois 60625

AROUND CAMPUS

The Dean Is In

Meet Dean of Students Michael Kelly for one-on-one discussions. Thursday, October 17th in Village Square during Activity Hour. Sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Students

United States Department of State

Information concerning internship, career opportunities and hiring procedures with the U.S. Department of State will be reviewed. Includes Internships, Foreign Service Specialists, and Civil Service. All NEIU students are welcome to attend. Two recruitment and information presentations will be held in SU 003 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1:40 p.m. to 2:40 p.m. For more information visit www.careers.state.gov

Stage Center Theatre Presents

Stage Center Theatre Presents the production of *We Won't Pay! We Won't Pay!* by Dario Fo. Translated by Ron Jenkins. October 17-19, 24-26. Show begins at 7:30 p.m. For reservations call (773) 442-4274.

Event Reservation Systems

Do you want to request space over the internet? Or see what events are going on when and where for a given day or month? Or do you want to see what's happening when planning an event, so you can maximize attendance? Find out how on October 16th from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. in SU 219 and October 17th at 1:40 to 2:40 in SU 219. A brief informative session will demonstrate how to call up and use EventPro to make scheduling your next event as easy as calling up the web page. For more information call (773) 442-4270.

Fashion Show and Dance

Northeastern Illinois University's Polish Club (NEPSA) is hosting a fashion show and dance on October 18th, 2002 in Alumni Hall in honor of Polish Heritage Month. Fashion designer Sylwia Wilczynska will be displaying her new winter collection. There will be no admission for this event, but the Polish Club will be accepting donations to raise funds for an International Conference. A reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. and the show begins at 7 p.m. followed by a dance until 9:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact suguluva10@hotmail.com

Climbing at NEIU

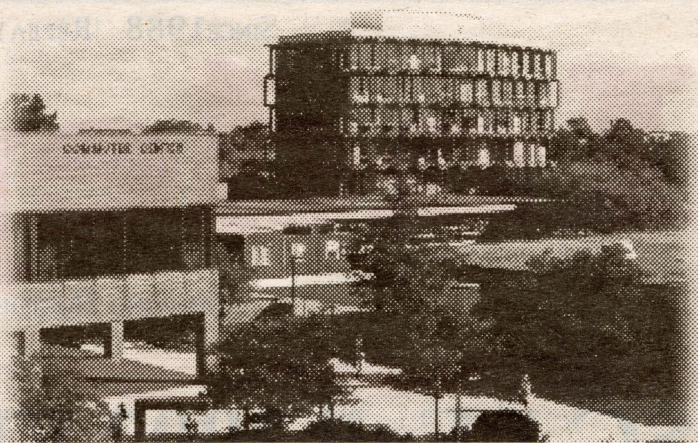
This "Challenge by Choice" adventure activity enables the students of NEIU to come in and try something new and exciting! This is an Introduction to Climbing that requires no previous experience. A traverse wall for practice and a vertical wall are used. Takes place on Tuesdays from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and Fridays from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Auxiliary Gym in the PE Complex. Free to students and pass holders. All equipment and instruction is provided. For more information contact Adam Walsh at (847) 401-3605.

Faculty Artist Series

The Department of Music will be presenting the Faculty Artist Series. Songs of Schubert, Mahler, Debussy, Faure and Barber will be performed. Featuring Phyllis Tilton Hurt, soprano, and Allen Anderson, piano. Guest artist, Irwin Heller, will be playing the clarinet. Held on October 25, 2002 at 8 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center's Recital Hall. For more information call (773) 442-4636 or visit the Department of Music website www.neiu.edu/~music.

Northeastern Chili Cook Off

Inviting all Faculty and Staff to The Great Northeastern Chili Cook off. To be held on November 15, 2002 from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall. \$5 to taste and judge. Prizes will be given to the top three cooks ranging from Trophy and coverage in the *Insights* newsletter, Northeastern gear, and honorable mention certificate. To enter your chili recipe, contact Mary Griesinger at M-Griesinger@neiu.edu. Space is limited, so confirm early! The deadline to enter is October 31, 2002. Proceeds will benefit NEIU Foundation Student Scholarships.



Calendar

check here for upcoming
events and due dates

- | | |
|--|--|
| 10/17 <i>Computer Workshop</i>
PowerPoint Introduction. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in CLS 4066 | 10/22 <i>Resume Workshop</i>
Resume Writing Workshop for Teachers. 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. in SU 215. |
| 10/17 <i>Computer Workshop</i>
Transitioning to XP. 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. | 10/23 <i>Interviewing Workshop</i>
Job Interviewing Workshop for Teachers. 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. in SU 215. |
| 10/17 <i>Network Workshop</i>
College Central Network Workshop. 1:40 - 2:40 p.m. in CLS 2096 | 10/24 <i>Pres. Lecture Series</i>
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. |
| 10/18 <i>Haydn by the Lake</i>
Jewel Box series concert at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Evanston. Will play works of Hummel, Haydn, Beethoven, and Mozart. | 10/24 <i>Computer Workshop</i>
PowerPoint Intermediate. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in CLS 4066 |
| 10/21 <i>Withdraw or Pay</i>
Last day for 25% refund for complete withdrawal. | 10/29 <i>Computer Workshop</i>
Publisher. 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. in CLS 4066. |
| 10/21 <i>Advance Registration (TTRS)</i>
Students register for Spring Semester according to scheduled time period | 10/29 <i>Internship Workshop</i>
Internship Workshop. 1:40 - 2:40 p.m. in C-330. |
| 10/21 <i>Resume Workshop</i>
Resume Writing Workshop. 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. in C-330. | 11/18 <i>Registration Adjustments</i>
Eligible students advance register and make adjustments to schedule at any time |
| 10/23 <i>Computer Workshop</i>
Access Intermediate. 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in CLS 4066. | 12/17 <i>Late Registration (TTRS)</i>
TTRS open from 9 a.m. until 8 p.m. Also open the 18th, 26th and 27th. |

WATCH OUT! Deadline coming

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:

October 29th

November 12th

November 26th

December 3rd

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

SGA sponsors an open forum on Women's Health

by Chad Nelson
Photo Editor

The SGA held an open forum on Tuesday October 1st to discuss issues surrounding Women's Health Services offered by the Health Office. Vice-President Georgia Logothetis primed the discussion with the issues that have been brought up to her by students, namely what services are offered and questions about Planned Parenthood. Planned Parenthood, a group which offers the full array of options for pregnant couples or individuals, those preferring to avoid pregnancy, and anyone else who considers themselves sexually active and want information, was about to set up on campus for several hours a week, but was prevented from doing so due to Administration objections.

The services currently offered by the Health Office include but are not limited to yearly pap exams, prescription birth control pills and the ability to provide information and referrals to and about a wide array of health issues for women.

"We are hoping to hire a Nurse Practitioner by January" said Jackie Harper of the Health Office. The N.P. would allow for a fuller range of services to be offered, including gynecological examinations and services. N.P. would be able to write prescriptions for some medications for students. Moreover, having a full time N.P. would help busy students who work, have families and other responsibilities and do not always have the time, or even the adequate health insurance to cover all of their needs.

Why is so much emphasis

being put on women's health issues? Women's health services are important for a university where 64 percent of the students are women. Moreover, pregnancy and child care information, contraception and information about sexually transmitted diseases affects more than just women. Students whose partner does not attend the school can still get information for their partner, as well as referrals to other free services.

"Learning and growth is related very much to health, physical wellness and mental



Jackie Harper speaks at the Women's Health Services forum.

wellness," says Jessica Leitow of the Women's Services department. Offering these services becomes an essential part of the learning experience for many students who "still seem in the dark" about many issues according to Harper.

President Steinberg speaks about the University Budget

by Andrea Zelinski
Production Editor

On Thursday, October 3rd, 2002, President Salme H. Steinberg reinforced the gradual decline of Illinois State funding to Northeastern Illinois University. Such decline in funds will cause the university to attempt to compensate by possibly raising tuition for the fall of 2003.

Due to the presently falling economy, the state of Illinois has shaved a fair share off the budget to be dispersed to state universities state wide. The financial situation in Illinois has only gone from bad to worse. "It's unavoidable to notice... the state is already deeply in dept," commented President Steinberg.

Tax increases are the only hope universities have from the state. Yet, tax increases are not the university's hands.

In order to continue the record low tuition of Illinois state universities, something must be compromised. "We have the lowest tuition and fee structure in the state; that is quite a powerful statement," commented Steinberg. "Along side this, we have certain changes we can make that don't make much pain."

Northeastern's greatest advantage is the strong enrollment. Due to the continuing growing enrollment, the university has not needed to cut back as much as other statewide institutions, thus supported the needs of the university.

President Steinberg assured the faculty and staff that layoffs will not be an option to solving the university's financial dilemmas.

One possible solution the president is considering is adjusting the tuition for the students who get breaks by taking classes in bulk. Students who register for a full time load or greater only pay for the initial twelve credit hours. Steinberg suggests making the students pay for all credit hours. "Some students take eighteen credit hours... and they are paying the same as a student only taking twelve, and that doesn't seem fair," commented Steinberg.

Steingberg is also considering the adjustment of tuition for graduate students. By asking graduate students to pay a higher increase in tuition, more money can thus be brought in to compensate for the lack of Illinois funding.

Graduate students will be asked to pay more primarily for the typically better financial situation compared to undergraduate students. Graduate students at least need financial support. "Graduate education costs more... so why should undergraduates be subsidizing for graduate education?" said Steinberg.

This past year, the tuition for undergraduate and graduate students was raised by three and a half percent. Other institutions have raised their tuition by as much as fourteen to fifteen percent.

No decisions have been made by the Board of Education as of yet. "At this point, we can say that nobody knows what's going to happen," commented Steinberg.

Libretti Continued

to arrest him. All Elliot would say was that the police department did everything right.

In early January 2001, Libretti wrote a letter to the district attorney about how happy he was to be getting a letter of exoneration and wanted her to know that he was a victim of identity theft. He asked her in the letter how a future arrest can be prevented. He never received a response to the letter and even made several phone calls, but no one would call him back.

Someone did finally get in touch with him, and that person was Michael Capeci, who is an investigator with the D.A. Narcotics Task Force in Imperial County, California. Capeci and Libretti had a discussion of identity theft and Libretti informed Capeci that he has a current drivers license in Illinois and he had previously had one in Michigan. Capeci told Libretti that he would have to go to the Evanston Police Department to

get photographed and fingerprinted. Libretti said he had already been fingerprinted at the time of his arrest. Capeci said that the Evanston P.D. did not have his prints and he would have to go and give his prints. Libretti, seeing that he was getting nowhere with Capeci, promptly hung up the phone.

Libretti told investigators that he had been teaching at Northeastern when the drug crimes were allegedly occurring in California, but no one checked into that information. His lawyers told him not to speak with investigators, because they will twist things for their benefit. The police had actually dropped the case a few weeks after Libretti was arrested, but the problem was his name was never cleared. All the Evanston P.D. would say about his teaching at NEIU at the time of the crime, and the missing fingerprints was that, "We do everything right. And so what if we lose evidence." The police continued to deny that Libretti was working at NEIU at the time.

Libretti has a brother who is in prison in California for a narcotics

charge, and feels that that could possibly be why the police pursued him so vehemently. He continued to be threatened by Capeci that he could be extradited to California at any time to be photographed and fingerprinted.

Libretti's parents looked into the crime that was alleged to have been committed by John O'Connor and found out that two tons of marijuana were to have been transported from a warehouse in California. His parents had seen a document stating that the police were watching the warehouse waiting for the crime to occur when they spotted five men in a truck near the warehouse, and went to question them. One of the men was John O'Connor, and gave the police picture identification with the name Tim Libretti. Police even had stated that they knew the identification was fake.

The reason for Libretti retelling his story to so many people is because of the injustice he had experienced at the hands of so many in charge. Not only the police, but also the district attorney's office as well. He stated that there was a "willfulness and

malfunction of the system. A real inability for the system to process innocence or care about it." He feels that there is a real lack of seriousness involved in taking someone's freedom. When Libretti was arrested the police didn't even have a search warrant yet some stayed behind in his apartment as he was being led to a patrol car.

Libretti has been cooperative with the police yet they have not been. He just wants answers to so many unanswered questions. When he had recently inquired if there is a warrant out for John O'Connor's arrest for identity theft, he found out that there is not. Libretti stated that the United States justice system knows that identity theft occurs yet they will not acknowledge it when someone claims to be a victim. Libretti lastly wanted to stress that, "This story gets consistently turned into a story of identity theft, but it is about much more than that. It is a story about the failure of our system and more precisely about the people working within it who are without a sense of fairness, humility, or justice."

Ronald Williams Library

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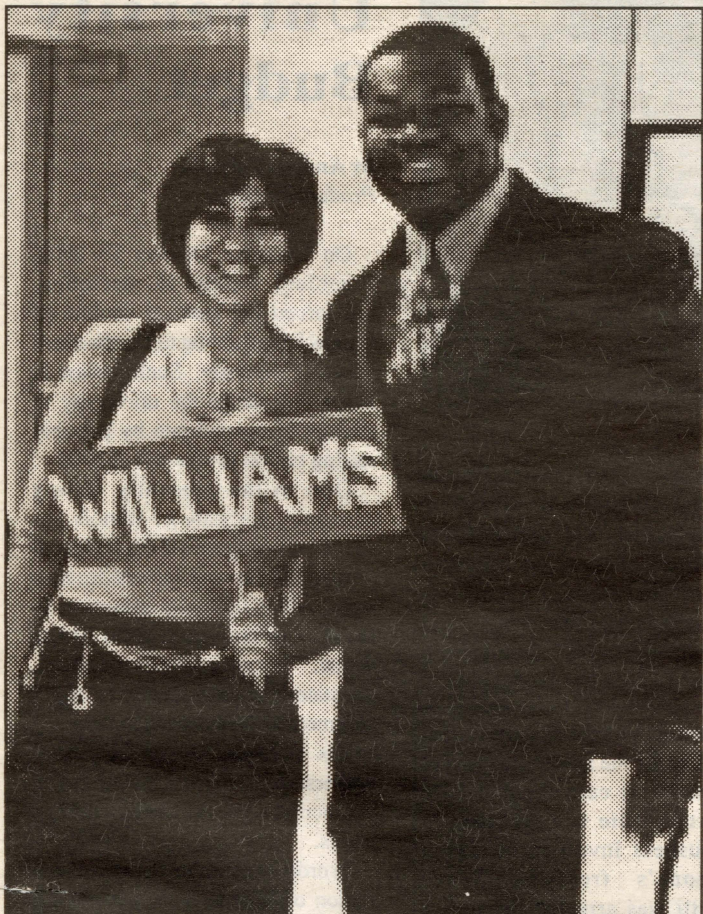
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Student Government Association



Fall Election results and coverage



Sophia Logothetis and Sir Williams campaigning in the Fall Elections.

Main election continued

Sommers came over to them once again and demanded that they stop. Francesca Logothetis was surprised and upset at the tone Sommers used when speaking to them, and they argued. Soon, they left the area entirely.

Vice-President Georgia Logothetis was irate when she heard the story. She quit the election committee and then began campaigning on behalf of Gaspard and Young's opponents.

Though Francesca Logothetis and her mother stopped speaking to students, they still maintain that they were not wrong in what they did. "I was appalled that he [Sommers] would act this way and then threaten to 'take action,'" Francesca Logothetis stated.

Another newly elected Senator who waged his own fierce battle to be elected was Daneil Center, who's main platform was the lofty goal of ending partisan politics at NEIU. He could also be seen both days, campaigning independently of the two warring factions. He

spoke about working on the parking situation as well as strengthening the ties between students and SGA as some of his main goals, said one voter.

Center will have his chance, as he received 63 votes, an impressive sum considering he was campaigning alone and without a recognizable name.

Other newly Elected Senators include Shoaib Shabbir and Angel E. Monterroso who received 78 votes and 80 votes, respectively. Sheree Cole was also elected, receiving 70 votes. Cole was the Chair of spring's Election Committee, the very committee that was at the heart of the controversial disqualification of the Student Action League last spring. Also from last spring's Election Committee is Omar Otero, who was elected to both NPB and the Senate.

Rounding out final seats in the Senate were Denise Franklin who received 79 votes, and Javier Vargas, who received 64.

Controversy...

One of the election complaints filed against Gaspard accused him of tape recording private conversations. The complaint was filed by Sophia Logothetis, newly elected member of the NPB, the Senate, and sister of Georgia Logothetis, Vice President of SGA.

"I saw Gary [Gaspard], and he had a tape recorder," Logothetis stated. She went on to say that she saw Gaspard go to his campaign workers and show them the recorder, saying that he was "going to record them because they [Logothetis and campaign workers] are going to start bashing us [Gaspard and Kendra Young]."

Logothetis alleged that Gaspard continually followed her around, even after she told him not to. "I told him multiple times not to record me, and that he couldn't record me without my permission," she said. "He said that he could tape me because of the First Amendment and freedom of speech."

Gaspard explained that he wanted the tape "unless the school [NEIU] wants to take charge." He wanted NEIU to step in and stop the slandering he said that Logothetis and others were doing against him. "We need things to be on the record," Gaspard said. He went on to say that he explained to Logothetis that "If you slander me, you'll be here [the tape]."

Gaspard went on to say that, "I'm not a public figure, you can't slander me." He elaborated by saying that you can't slander anyone, public figures included. "You can speak against George Bush's policies, but not George Bush personally."

Logothetis had told Gaspard to stop taping her and the students she was speaking to several times. "I told him I would call Public Safety if he didn't stop," she said. Gaspard continued taping, and so Public Safety was called.

Upon hearing the explanations from both Gaspard and Logothetis, the officers agreed with Logothetis.

"They said that if they were me [Logothetis], they would slander him, too, because then he would be arrested for illegally recording me," Logothetis said.

Gaspard disagreed. "I heard them slandering," he said. He also said there were complaints from voters at the El Centro campus from the Monday Elections.

"I never slandered them," Logothetis said.

She went on to say that she planned on filing an election complaint against Gaspard. "I let a lot of things slide, but this [tape recording] is something I will never let slide."

Gaspard then said that the recorder was never on. He indicated his pocket and said,

Unofficial SGA Election results

	SAT 10/5	EL CENTRO 10/7	CICS 10/8	MAIN 10/9	MAIN 10/10	TOTAL
Student Trustee						
Williams, Sir	65	11	22	240	164	502
Young, Kendra	42	25	63	308	200	638
Write in	0	0	0	0	0	0
Senator						
Shabbir, Shoaib	12	2	1	29	34	78
Cole, Sheree	0	0	6	39	25	70
Sylvestre, Emmanuel	1	0	1	18	17	37
Avraham, Kabir	0	1	8	31	13	53
Berlow, Linda R.	2	1	0	8	18	29
Monterroso, Angel E.	0	0	0	58	22	80
Kurtz, Robyn	2	0	1	13	14	30
Franklin, Denise	0	1	1	48	29	79
Logothetis, Sophia	82	0	0	65	22	169
Otero, Omar	10	15	1	12	23	61
Lopez, Mynor	2	0	1	2	6	11
Vargas, Javier	1	10	0	38	15	64
Center, Daneil	0	0	0	37	26	63
Gaspard, Gary	6	2	58	50	26	142
Reed, Tineeka	0	0	9	5	5	19
Warship, John F.	0	0	0	5	5	10
Chaudhry, Riz	4	0	0	13	4	21
Magee, Michael	0	0	1	2	9	12
Guthnie, Celestine	0	0	0	3	2	5
Cruz, Jason	4	2	0	33	14	53
Woods, Emil	0	0	1	18	9	28
Write in	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northeastern Programming Board (NPB)						
Reed, Tineeka	10	2	13	52	30	107
Otero, Omar	39	16	7	83	46	191
Masso, Yakin	3	1	0	20	16	40
Magee, Michael	12	0	0	41	43	96
Young, Kendra	15	4	39	171	133	362
Gaspard, Gary	15	8	23	61	54	161
Write in:						
Logothetis, Sophia	17	1	0	80	16	114
Escutia, John	1	0	0	0	0	1

Continued on
page 5

Student Government Association



Fall Election results and coverage

Controversy continues...

"Does this look hidden? It was there so they could see it."

Newly elected Senator Daneil Center witnessed the exchange, and even spoke to Gaspard about it. "I have nothing to hide, but I don't want to be tape recorded," Center told Gaspard.

Center also planned on filing a report. "I don't believe anything will come out of it [the complaint], but I hope it does."

A flyer makes some trouble

A flyer up only for a few hours on Wednesday, October 9 also caused a bit of controversy in the SGA Fall Elections.

Placed on a few bulletin boards throughout NEIU, the posters urged voters to "Watch Your Vote!!!" and to "Keep SGA Clean and Honest!" According to former SGA President and newly elected Senator and member of the Northeastern Programming Board (NPB), the posters were slanderous. "Slander is illegal according to the Election's packet," Gaspard stated.

The Election's Packet, which is the official rules a candidate must adhere to during campaigning, states the following about slander in Article VII, Section 4c: "Acts that may result in disqualification: ... Knowingly submitting a false statement in the Certificate of Eligibility, registration form, or any written or verbal communication to the Student Government Elections Committee, NEIU Student Supreme Court, Student Activities office, the Northeastern Programming Board (if a candidate for that office), the Public, or on any campaign literature, posters, signs, etc."

The decision as to whether or not something is slanderous is under the domain of the Elections Committee. Vice-chair of the Elections Committee Victor Dula spoke about slander and negative campaigning.

"If you choose to negative campaign," Dula said, "you can." He went on to say that slander could be challenged in the form of an Elections Packet Violation

form.

In order for a poster to be legally placed around campus, it must first be registered with the Student Activities office. Gaspard said he doubted that the flyers in question were registered. "I don't think the flyers can be registered, because they're slander," he said.

Laura Stojkovic disagreed. "I think it provokes," she said, "and personally, I think that was the intention [behind the flyer]." She went on to say that she wasn't saying that the statements made on flyer were false, but they were definitely provoking.

She then commented on the general state of the election. "I don't see how this election is in the best interest of the students; it seems like it's in the best interest of the candidates themselves."

Gaspard said that he asked Tony Courier, Programming Consultant of Student Activities, to remove the posters, but he wouldn't. Gaspard then went to Walt Sommers, Director of Student Activities, but Sommers also refused. Gaspard was upset, and said that during last semester's elections, Sommers removed offending posters and flyers right away.

Vice President of SGA Georgia Logothetis was the source of the offending flyers. "Walt [Sommers] asked me to remove them," she said. "I then asked him why." According to Logothetis, Sommers said that he personally "didn't like them." He said that they weren't illegal, but he asked that they be taken down. "I was only going to leave them up for a few hours, anyway," Logothetis said.

Courier and Sommers declined to comment on the flyers.

When asked if he planned on filing an official election complaint, Gaspard said he wouldn't. "We want it [the election] to be peaceful," he said. "We don't want to be crybabies." He went on to say that he didn't trust the Elections Committee to remain unbiased.

Dula was confused to hear that statement. "I don't know what the

The Election Committee meets

Immediately after the votes were counted, the Fall 2002 Election's Committee met. The members present at the meeting were Chair Johnny Haptonstall, Vice-Chair Victor Dula, Brian Miller, Becca-Raven Gilmore, Leticia Naranjo, and Angela Parks.

A surprising total of eighteen elections violations forms were scheduled to be discussed. For the sake of time constraints, Chair Haptonstall set a limit of three minutes for debate per violation, with each person receiving 30 seconds. Director of Student Activities Walt Sommers volunteered to time the 30 second limit.

Haptonstall suggested beginning with the complaints lodged against Brian Miller, as he was a member of the Election Committee. When no one objected, he read off the complaints. The first of three total complaints against Miller was submitted by Sophia Logothetis, newly elected Senator and NPB member. She alleged that at the CICS campus, Miller would direct students to speak to Gaspard and Young before casting their votes.

According to Logothetis, Gaspard and Young were on one side of the hall, and those campaigning for Logothetis were on the other side. Students who spoke to Logothetis' campaigners were urged to speak to Young and Gaspard, Logothetis said, while students speaking only to Gaspard and Young were allowed to vote immediately.

Miller was given time to

respond to the allegation. "It's not true," he said. He went on and said that he explained to confused students that there were more candidates located on both sides of the hall, but he never showed favoritism towards any candidates.

The next complaint against Miller came from Tony Courier, the Programming Consultant of Student Activities. He wrote that Miller, Young, and Gaspard had a meeting in the NPB office, and that they printed out some campaign flyers for Gaspard and Young. He said that this clearly showed that Miller was supporting candidates.

Miller responded and explained that he had left his bookbag in the NPB office, and since he lived near Young, he drove with her. Gaspard and Young went down to the NPB office with him, and they asked to use the computer. Miller said he agreed, since common practice in the NPB office was to allow students and friends of NPB members to use the computers. While Young and Gaspard were on the computer, Miller went to use the phone.

Elections Committee member Parks asked Miller if he specifically allowed them to use the computer or if they just started using it. He repeated that he allowed them to use it. Haptonstall then said that the questions that needed to be considered were whether it was ethical for Miller to allow Gaspard and Young to use the NPB computers for copies and whether that was an indication of his endorsement of a candidate.

The next complaint against Miller was from Sir Williams, who alleged that Miller was talking about himself as if he was a member of Gaspard and Young's political party. Williams wrote that IBHE-SAC representative Andrea Daniels, a member of the Student Vision Party along with Gaspard and Young, was walking around the voting area with an umbrella, which had several Gaspard and Young flyers hanging from it. Williams went on to say that he overheard Miller talking to a young lady, and that Miller told the young lady that, "Oh, she [Daniels] is campaigning for us."

Miller said that it never happened. He said that he saw Daniels, but she was far away and he didn't recognize her. He also mentioned that he saw the umbrella and he "laughed hysterically," but he never said anything else.

Vice-Chair Dula then yielded 30 seconds to Sir Williams, who was present in the audience during the meeting. "Andrea [Daniels] walked around the election zone," Williams stated, "and I overheard him [Miller] talking to a young lady, and he said it."

Haptonstall then entertained a motion to remove Miller from the Elections Committee. He gave everyone time to speak their feelings and thoughts, and he started with Miller. "I think I've explained myself clearly," Miller said. "I think I've done an excellent job in spite of being

Election Committee
continued on page 6



Gary Gaspard and Kendra Young after the votes were counted

Tuesday, October 15, 2002

NEIU SGA

Thursday
October 17th
1:40 pm

Come In! Speak out!

Student Government Association



Fall Election results and coverage

The Election Committee meeting continued

treated as if I was not a member."

Dula spoke next, saying that Miller exhibited "poor judgment" in allowing Gaspard and Young to use the NPB computer. Parks agreed with Dula, and then the committee voted. Everyone except for Haptonstall (who only votes in case of a tie) and Miller (who voted against it) voted to remove Miller from the committee. Miller gathered his papers and took a seat in the audience.

Next, Haptonstall began reading the rest of the complaints. He started with a complaint against Gaspard filed by Sophia Logothetis. She alleged that Gaspard repeatedly tape recorded her conversations with students, even though she told him not to several times. Haptonstall said that if there were no objections, he would recommend that nothing be done about that particular complaint. Dula objected, and then read from the Elections Packet. He cited a portion which said that all candidates must adhere to university and state laws while campaigning. He didn't know if they also had to respect federal laws, but that it warranted a hearing to find out. Naranjo then yielded time to Gaspard, who said that the accuser had the burden of proof, and that he didn't have to prove his innocence.

Haptonstall reminded Gaspard that no one was being accused, and that the committee was simply deciding which election violations warranted a hearing to determine guilt or innocence. Dula motioned for a hearing, Gilmore seconded the motion. Parks abstained from voting, but Naranjo agreed with Dula and Gilmore. That complaint was to be sent to a hearing.

The next violation was also against Gaspard. Courier submitted a complaint about Gaspard using NPB equipment for campaign materials. Gilmore asked if there was any proof that Gaspard and Young received their allotted 50 copies of campaign materials, which, according to the Elections Packet, was all that could be printed by NPB and Student Activities. While Walt Sommers and Maggie Dones went to the Student Activities to check the records, Dula asked if there were any witnesses.

Courier stated that several copies of campaign materials were found jammed in the printer. A motion is made to postpone discussion until Sommers and Dones returned. They moved on, but Sommers and Dones returned, and discussion continued. Apparently, Student Activities had no evidence that Gaspard and Young received their copies.

Dula then yielded time to Miller, who said that they weren't creating any campaign

materials. He said that the materials were on a computer disk, and that he thought they were looking at them. Haptonstall disagreed, saying he saw the computer, and noticed that Young's name was on the file name of several recently used programs in the computers records. Courier pointed out that "that doesn't necessarily mean they were designed." Haptonstall conceded the point.

Dula then asked if the complaint would also go before the NPB, as it was NPB equipment used. Courier nodded. Parks then made a motion to stop discussion and to do nothing. The motion failed. Naranjo motioned to send this complaint to a hearing. The motion passed 3-0-1, with Parks abstaining.

Logothetis had filed another complaint against Gaspard, accusing him of "negative campaigning." As negative campaigning is not stated as being illegal in the Elections Packet, the complaint was disregarded. Sophia Logothetis also alleged that Gaspard was campaigning in a sexist manner, but that complaint also warranted no action by the Elections Committee.

Logothetis then filed a complaint on behalf of her sister Georgia Logothetis, in regards to a situation involving Young, Georgia Logothetis, and an unknown professor at NEIU. The committee decided that that particular issue was not under their jurisdiction and decided not to act on it.

The next complaint read was also from Logothetis. This time, it was against Young, who pushed Logothetis repeatedly, moving her out of the way and engaging in the same behavior towards students. "She would grab their backpacks or arms and pull them towards the voting table," Logothetis wrote.

Parks asked if the Elections Packet had a clause about harassing students. Haptonstall responded by saying that maybe there should be physical limitations placed on candidates in the *next* Elections packet, but that this complaint was not in their [the Elections Committee's] scope.

Vice-Chair Dula disagreed, reminding the committee that they not only had to enforce the rules of the Elections Packet, but also university and state laws, and that he believed that the university did indeed prohibit that kind of behavior. Haptonstall said that Dula had a valid point. The committee voted on whether to move that complaint to a hearing, and it was unanimously decided that it did warrant a hearing.

Logothetis's next complaint was also against Young, saying that she was witnessed asking independent campaigners to campaign for her, even though

they would not officially be a part of her team. Haptonstall said that this was "a serious allegation," and it was moved on to the hearing.

Centers also filed a complaint against Gaspard for inappropriate contact. He said there were many incidents of such inappropriate contact, and the complaint was moved to the hearing. Logothetis also filed another complaint, saying that Gaspard had put his hand on a female's chest to push her out of the way. That was also moved to a hearing.

A complaint from Brian Miller against Vice President Georgia Logothetis was then read. He wrote that Logothetis had agreed not to campaign on her sister's behalf when she became part of

the Elections Committee, but she worked on the committee for about half the election, and then quit to campaign. He said that she [Georgia Logothetis] was specifically reminded that she was unable to campaign if she joined the committee, and she agreed. The committee decided to do nothing about this complaint.

The next two complaints also had nothing done about them. The complaints were about a poster inside a classroom and a complaint from Celestine Guthrie, a candidate for a Senate seat, against Gaspard. She alleged that Young and she had agreed to help each other campaign, but Young's flyers had Guthrie's name in very small

print at the bottom of the flyer, even though Guthrie campaigned on Young's behalf. She wrote that she felt used, but the complaint was not moved to a hearing.

The next complaint was from Christie Rae Burger, a student. She said that Gaspard, in the process of pushing her out of the way, touched her breast. She said that she was not a candidate nor a campaign worker, and that Gaspard had no right to touch her. This complaint was unanimously moved to a hearing.

No further action was taken against any of the remaining complaints. The hearing was then scheduled for Tuesday, October 15th, at 1:40pm, and the meeting was adjourned.

STOP Watch Your Vote!!!

**Do you want the people who disqualified the REAL
WINNERS of last year's election back in office?**

**Do you want the people who bashed NEIU on TV
to represent you?**

DO NOT VOTE VISIONARY!!!!!!

KEEP SGA CLEAN & HONEST!

Don't let your Vision be BLINDED!

KNOW THE TRUTH!

**Do you think the above poster is slanderous? Let us
know! Check one of the boxes below, clip it out and
bring it to E-049! Results to be posted in a future issue!**

☐

**Yes, I think the poster is
slanderous.**

☐

**No, I don't think the poster
is slandeorus**

Please clip this out and bring it to the Independent office, room E-049, under Beck's Bookstore!

The Construction Continues on Campus

An updated report of construction and other major changes at Northeastern



The results of construction

by Joey Kandelman
Senior Staff Writer

Facilities Management at NEIU has been undergoing a variety of construction projects lately. They are currently working on the Bernard Office Building (BOB), the auditorium, and the loading dock outside the E-building.

They have finished construction on the E-Mezzanine (above Beck's Bookstore) and the lower level of building D (below Office of Admissions and Financial Aid). The departments have already moved into their respective new locations.

After the current projects are finished, Facilities Management will begin working on constructing building C, then building A, and finally building F. According to Joseph Kish, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Management, these three can only be done one at a time, because there is a limit of how much storage space NEIU has. In addition, Facilities Management is currently looking into renting storage space.

Kish said that the overall long-term construction plan is twofold. One goal is to shift all parts of the university that deal with new students toward 5500 E. St. Louis, the official address of NEIU. The other goal is to refurbish old buildings that need major, costly repairs. These specific buildings have aged so much that repair costs are nearly as expensive as building them from scratch all over again.

The Bernard Office Building used to be a synagogue on Bryn Mawr and Bernard, about a block east of campus. NEIU bought that building and Kish expects that it will be ready by

Thanksgiving. Facilities Management intends to use it for temporary storage for the next several years. After that, they hope to move some university departments into it permanently.

Building B, which is between the Fine Arts Center and the Science Building, should be completed by the end of October, Kish said. According to the January 15, 2002 issue of the independent, they predicted that they were going to finish building B by summer 2002.

The auditorium and loading dock in Building E are connected projects. The construction workers are working on these adjacent projects and intend to complete them at the same time.

In the intersection where the Fine Arts building meets building E (where Beck's bookstore is located), there is a window in the wall, where students can peer into the auditorium. The auditorium was supposed to be done for last spring semester. When the bidder originally estimated the time it would take to demolish and rebuild the auditorium, he estimated spring semester of 2002. This bidder won the construction job and begun tearing it down. Then, upon a closer investigation of the building plans, the contractor claimed that the building was unsuitable because there were not strong enough support beams to go on building as planned. There was some debate between Facilities Management and the contractor as to whether the more cost-effective remedy would be to raise the roof or whether to dig a lower floor. When the contractor and Facilities Management finally agreed that the floor should be lower, they needed additional support beams or stronger foundations for those already

there. Finally, they concluded to reinforce the current support beams with concrete underground before progress can continue. The cost of this whole mistake was that they pushed off the estimated finish date for a year.

The loading dock, located outside building E, will be expanded in size and redesigned so that it will be easier for large trucks to unload their shipments to the university. Instead of the current narrow 90° turn that large trucks need to squeeze through, they will be able to just back straight into the dock. Small trucks have no problem either way, but it is being expanded to accommodate the larger vehicles. In addition, they will build a partial roof so as to protect the merchandise from the elements until they can be brought inside. Kish expects this project to end during spring semester of this year, at the same time as the auditorium.

After all of the above projects are done, the next project will be Building C (also known as "the Beehive"), then Building A, and finally Building F (where the current stage center is). Each of these projects requires a large amount of space and resources. That is where the Bernard Office Building comes in. It will be used as storage space. First, it will temporarily house supplies for the auditorium. Upon completion of that project, the Bernard Office Building will house supplies for Building C, and so on.

For further information about construction on campus, visit building H, the headquarters of NEIU Facilities Management. You can reach them by phone on campus from ext. 5230 or off campus by dialing (773)442-5230. You can find them on the web at www.neiu.edu/~finanadm/facilities.

A small taste of Israel

by Shana Stone
Opinions Editor

This past Tuesday, three Israeli's came to speak at NEIU about their day-to-day lives in Israel. They are from a non-profit organization called Israel at Heart. Israel at Heart has sent a group of 48 young Israeli's to the United States for a speaking tour. All of them have completed their military experience and wanted the opportunity to visit with students at colleges all over the United States to share with them what it is like to live in a land where homicide bombing is an every day occurrence. These young men and women are also relaying their experiences with people at high schools, synagogues, media outlets, political arenas, and other similar venues.

The three Israeli's that spoke at NEIU were 27-year-old Noam Shapira, 26-year-old Yael Weiss, and 22-year-old Limor Zukerman. A group of about fifteen students, mostly from NEIU's Jewish organization Hillel, listened to the three speak animatedly about their daily routine in their homeland. They spoke about how homicide bombings have become so frequent that they push it to the back of their minds, and continue living as normally as possible. They all agreed that they do feel safe in Israel considering that there are guards and soldiers everywhere. They also stated that the Israeli government prevents nine out of ten homicide bombings. Israeli's are more united since homicide bombings started

becoming more prevalent during the past few years.

The three feel that peace in Israel is definitely possible, but they all agree that the question of when cannot be answered. They will continue to go on with their lives and they refuse to surrender to terror. They also spoke of myths that many Americans believe about Israel, and wanted to dispel them. They said that Arafat is definitely a terrorist with his own terrorist organizations. Plus Palestinian children learn how to hate Israeli's because it is written in their textbooks. They also know that some Americans feel that America was attacked on September 11th because of our foreign aid policy with the Middle East, but they rejected that notion. Yael stated very clearly, "America was not attacked because of their support for Israel. Both countries are democracies, and America was attacked for what it represents, and both Israel and America represent freedom." Limor also stated that, "There is no justification for terrorist attacks and Arafat is responsible for his own people."

If people walk away from their speeches with anything, Limor, Yael, and Noam all said the same thing, "It is important for people to realize that Israeli's live very similar lives as Americans do, and to keep on living life as they normally do. Israelis do want peace and someday soon hopefully we will have that." For more information on the Israel at Heart program, visit www.israelatheart.com.

GLBA Ball comes to Northeastern



by Chad Nelson
Photo Editor

In celebration of National Coming Out Day, the GLBA (Gay Lesbian and Bi-Sexual Alliance) held its First Annual Coming Out Ball, and a ball it was. Posited as a prom for all of those who did not get a chance to have one in high school, for those who wanted to relive past glory, and those who just wanted a chance to get funky. The ball was also a chance for the GLBA to create visibility for itself and "Visibility equals Pride."

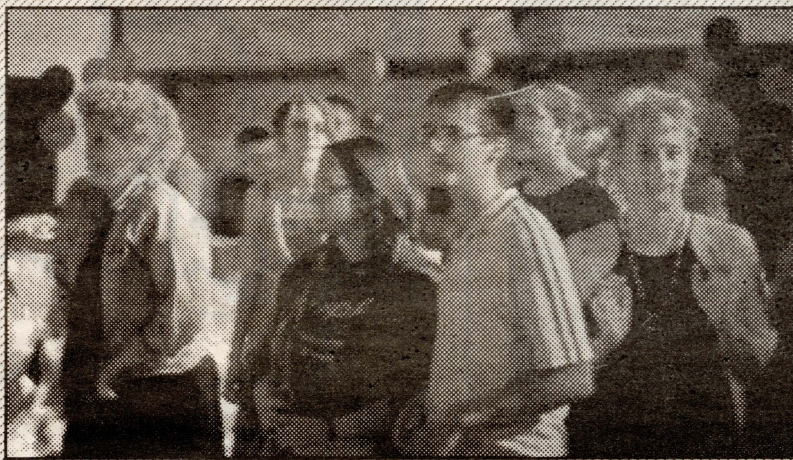
The ball had atmospheric red lighting and balloons galore. A DJ spun the night away, giving all of the attendees a chance to dance. The highlight of the night was an hour-long

performance by the Chicago Kings, the nation's premiere travelling Drag King revue. (For those who don't know, drag kings are male impersonators who dance and perform while lip singing songs.) Ranging from playing a bad 80's band to a little boy afraid of Godzilla under his bed, the Chicago Kings both entertained and provided a gender-bending twist on social norms.

The crowds consisted of all kinds of people. NEIU students, teachers, and staff, women, men, gay, straight and plenty that do not even attend NEIU. Why? The ball was a chance to create visibility for the GLBA community here on campus, but it also provided others a chance to show support for a group still facing prejudice, social tabooism, and legal rights battles nationwide. "The 'A' in GLBA stands for Allied," said Ellen Larrimore, co-chair of the GLBA, which means that straight people who want to show support are more than

welcome to attend meetings and functions. Moreover, it was a chance for anyone who does not they fit into the standards of a society with roots in a puritanical value system.

The ball is just one of the many activities and actions the GLBA is taking in order to create greater awareness and acceptance of the homosexual community on campus. While a Gay and Lesbian Literature class is offered by the English Department, almost no other classes dealing with the gay issues exist on campus. Several members of the GLBA are taking an Independent Study in the spring with a focus on Queer Theory. Queer Theory is a school of thought departing from postmodernism that posits the fragmentation of not just the individual in gender as well as intellectual terms. The GLBA is also asking Beck's Bookstore to begin carrying Gay and Feminist magazines, so students have easier access to current global issues.



PERSPECTUS

Food Bites Back, or so Science Says

by Emily Haddad
Staff Writer

So let's say you're headed to work and need to grab a bite to eat before hand. But you don't want to deal with a big greasy burger sitting heavy in your stomach for the rest of the day, so you order some French fries instead. A quick snack, and better for you right? Wrong. New studies have shown that many fried and even baked foods contain carcinogens these days, despite their healthy appearance. The particular toxic compound that should worry McDonald fans is acrylamide, a chemical commonly used in the production of plastics, the creation of food colors and dyes, and to purify drinking water. And just the mention of chemicals used in plastic production is enough to send more sensitive consumers of McDonalds scurrying for their laptops to type out a letter of outrage that Ronald McDonald is poisoning America's children. But acrylamide is actually produced when a naturally occurring amino acid called asparagine is heated with certain sugars such as glucose, also naturally occurring in foods. So Mickey D's isn't injecting carcinogens into its food after all, but this still leaves us with the problem that there are natural chemicals that get combined into something unhealthy for consumption, because of the process by which they are prepared.

But wait —
Over one hundred foods are declared bad for us per year on average. Many of that same

demonized number are also declared as sources of valuable antioxidants and nutritionally valuable. With countless experiments contradicting themselves, whom do we believe? The WHO, of course.

Confused yet? European scientists have recently released the findings of a continuing study of the carcinogens in foods. Because of these findings, the WHO (World Health Organization) has called an emergency three-day meeting to discuss the dangers of carcinogens in common starch-based foods. According to the studies, everything from French fries, banana chips, asparagus, sandwich bread and children's cereals can contain up to 500 times more acrylamide than WHO allows in drinking water. This has lead to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) getting involved as well. They have made studying acrylamide's risk and determining how to lower its levels in food one of its highest research priorities. That is according to a plan that agency officials were to discuss with consumer groups and food manufacturers. What they are not doing is telling the public to avoid the foods suspected of causing cancer, because that would lead to economic instability for the companies that produce them, a massive drop in stocks, and the public to panic about food in general. The WHO and the FDA are simply telling the American public that there needs to be more testing done, before anything can be determined. In fact, in the United States the FDA has been careful to caution that acrylamide so far is only a "suspected

carcinogen". The FDA has not yet advised consumers to alter their diets to avoid it because of this.

More testing? We HAVE tests that tell us that these foods have carcinogens that cause cancer, it should be an open and shut case, right? Well, this is sadly not the case, and public announcements of some food being horrible for you due to a study always have a few flaws that chip away at it's credibility. This should be remembered before anyone goes to throw out his or her bag of Jay's potato chips. The American Council on Science and Health (ACSH), which has been the voice of reason for the past ten years on situations such as this, has stressed that the majority of these studies that raise the FDA and WHO's hackles are done only once, and when asked to be verified, cannot reproduce the same results. Consider also, that these tests for acrylamide levels were done on lab rats, and they were fed nothing but a continuous diet of fried foods known to contain high levels of this chemical. And consider that it has been proven that if anyone, be they lab rat, or little Timmy down the street, is fed a continual diet over the span of their lifetime of something with a high carcinogenic content, they will most likely get cancer. But is has not been proven that the same things that are carcinogenic to animals are necessarily the same to humans.

Regardless of the outcome, the fact remains that nowhere near the same levels of acrylamide were found in boiled vegetables and other foods made at lower temperatures. Which still contradicts the thinking from the recent E-Coli meat scare, where the

hotter the temperature, the healthier or cleaner the food would be in the end right? And yet, that same intense heat is causing two naturally occurring basic elements of food, glucose and asparagine to create a chemical that is generally thought to be unhealthy. The Delaney amendment to the Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act originally banned from American foods any artificial substance, whether pesticide residue or food additive, that could be shown to cause cancer in lab animals—no matter how minuscule the amount found in the foods or how high the dose given to the animals. Yet this still left an open gray area when the carcinogen was a naturally occurring element in the food itself. Plus, there are variables even among species of foodstuffs being tested. Different varieties of potatoes contain different levels of both asparagine and glucose. This explains the varying acrylamide levels among different brands of food. Levels in French fries, for instance, vary widely among fast-food restaurants, depending on which potato is being used. Pick a different potato and the acrylamide level might drop.

Frankly, I think that studies like this should not be released to disturb the public until there is a definite agreement with verifiable proof that something is actually bad for us. And while the fear of possible cancer in the future is definitely a cause for concern, there should be more concern about the hydrogenation processes used in many foods for the present. Many snack foods, especially cookies and desserts contain hydrogenated or partially

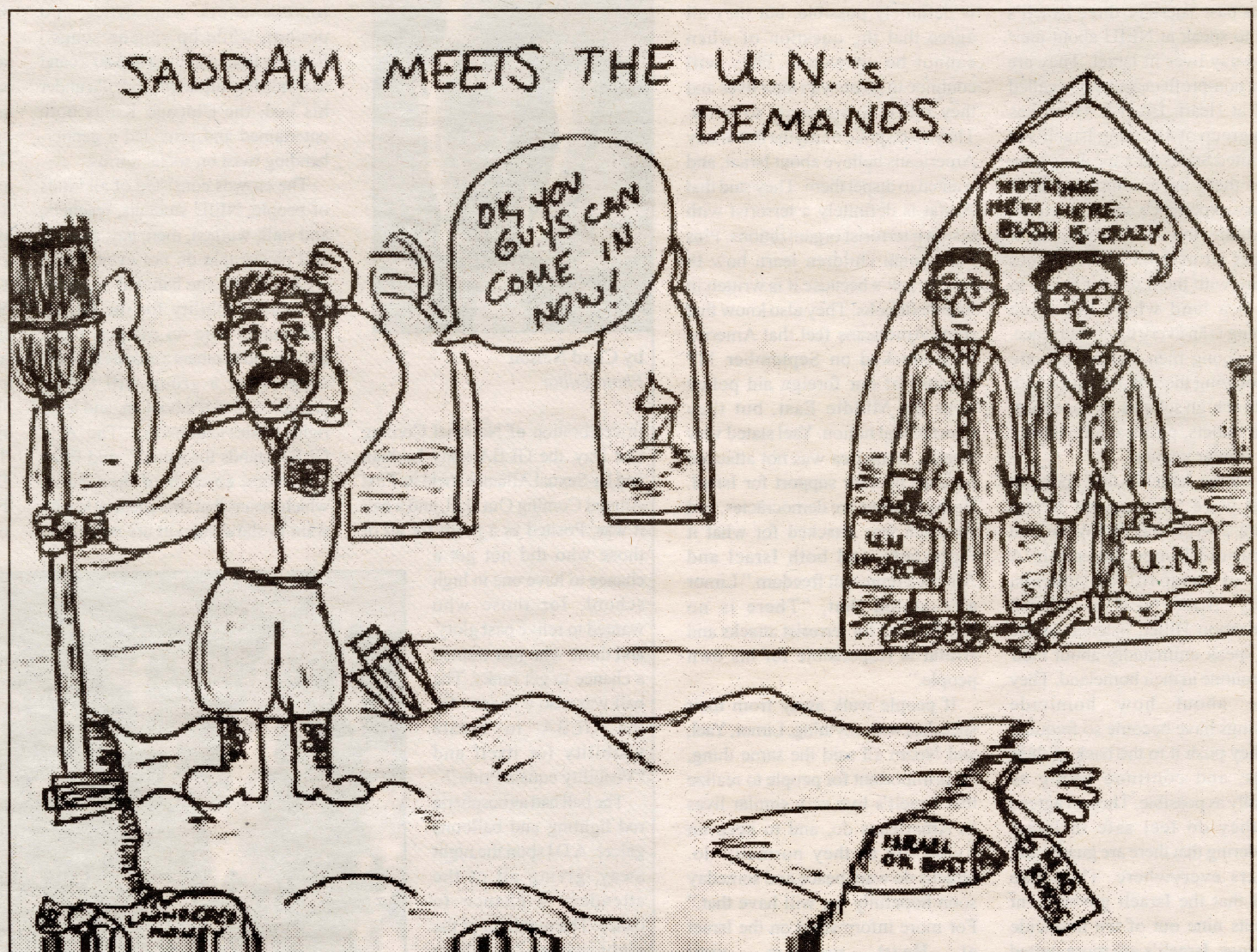
hydrogenated oils and fats. This means that they were prepared by adding an extra hydrogen molecule to a certain liquid fat to make it solid. And in doing this, created a fat compound that is unable to be used or burnt calorically by your body as fuel. Therefore, it must either be passed through your system or be stored permanently. Just think, that Twinkie you ate yesterday could be with you as a love handle for the rest of your life. Using hydrogenation is not a new thing either, but it seems to be the food processing industries dirty little secret and veritably unheard of.

The first culprit was margarine, in fact, and this process has been being utilized since World War 2. That's at least two generations growing up, cheerfully eating fatty treats that will never be able to be shed or burnt off, because the melting and fuel-temperature level these lipids need is significantly higher than our 98.6 degree bodies can ever hope to achieve. And the FDA has no problem with this process, because it doesn't feel that the amount ingested of these permanent lipids is enough to raise a concern. I don't know about what goes on in their homes, but the Ho-Hos and Little Debbie snacks were definitely around in my childhood in a significant manner.

There are so many studies showing just how unhealthy Americans are these days. I wonder what is more important to address - a small amount of a carcinogen that may or may not cause cancer in your future or a scientifically altered compound that, when ingested, deposits a permanent fat into your lipid storage that will be with you for the rest of your life?

Wanna
Share
YOUR
opinion?
Join the
paper!
New
members
are
welcomed!

Meetings are
every other
Tuesday at 1:40
in E-049



REV: Not just for women anymore

Nirvana vs. Courtney Love ~ Below

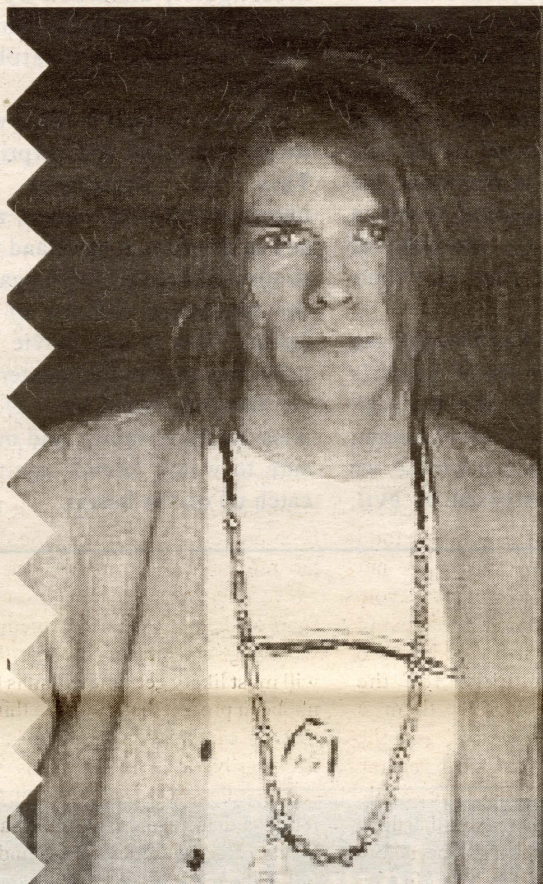
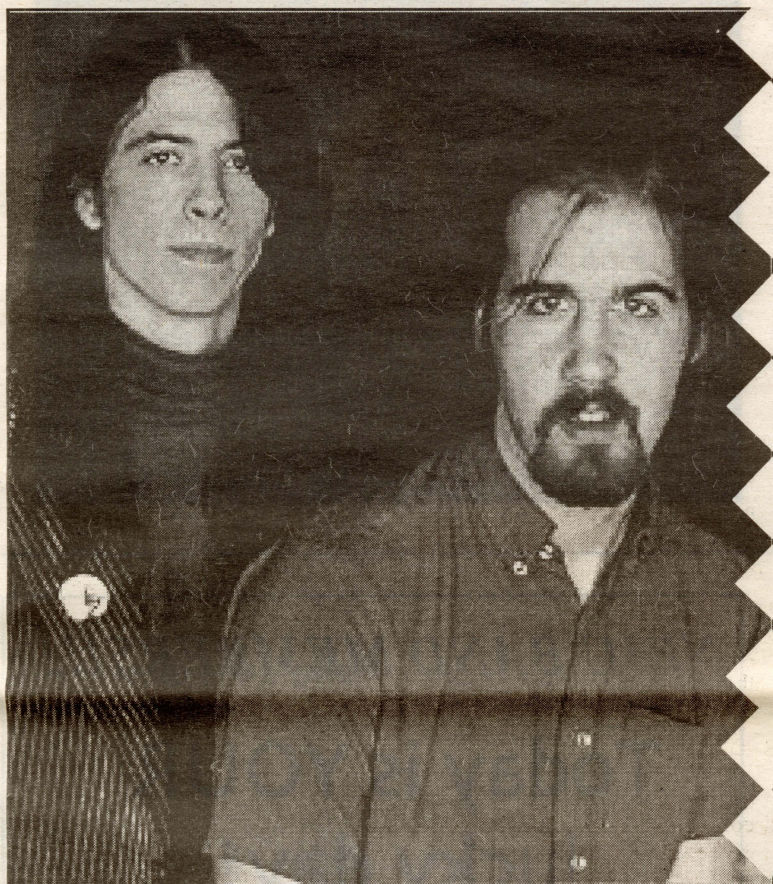
Best Horror Movies ~ page R4

extremely local entertainment ~ pull-out section

REV

Nirvana vs. Courtney Love

A battle over the legacy of Kurt Cobain



by Mike Cahill
Special Contributor

THERE IS NO WAY ANYONE WHO LISTENS TO STATIONS LIKE Q101 AND 94.7 COULD HAVE MISSED HEARING THE PREVIOUSLY UNRELEASED NIRVANA SONG, "YOU KNOW YOU'RE RIGHT." THE SONG WAS LEAKED INTO HEAVY ROTATION OF EVERY ROCK STATION IN THE COUNTRY IN THE PAST THREE WEEKS. THE SONG HAS CAUSED QUITE A STIR AS TO THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE UNRELEASED NIRVANA MATERIAL. FANS ARE CLAMORING NOW MORE THAN EVER TO HEAR IT, BUT NIRVANA FANS MAY HAVE TO WAIT A WHILE. THE BATTLE RAGES ON BETWEEN COURTNEY LOVE, COBAIN'S EX-WIFE, AND COBAIN'S FORMER NIRVANA BAND MATES, DAVE GROHL AND KRIST NOVOSELIC.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the publicly titled "Nirvana Wars," I will do my best to clue you in. Nirvana, a rock band out of the Seattle, WA area, were formed somewhere in the very late 80's to the very early 90's. Now they made music, and the underground scene at that time, famously known as "Grunge" explodes into the mainstream. This forces out the "hair metal" era (oh, thank god for grunge), and pushes pop music to the side. Bands such as Soundgarden, Pearl Jam, and Alice In Chains become huge players in the music scene. And of course Nirvana is there to spearhead the movement.

Nirvana opened the floodgates for mainstream "Grunge." Their album *Nevermind*, and much more specifically their first single "Smells Like Teen Spirit" snowballed their way into the hearts of radio goers. They quickly became the poster boys for a musical movement, a role that Nirvana shunned as much as humanly possible.

Nirvana's star would only rise as they became the more and more successful. But fame has its price, especially for a man like Cobain who never wanted such a looming spotlight or immense burden that fame brings. *In Utero*, the band's final studio album was released to rave fan and critical reviews. But even with success and the admiration of millions, Cobain couldn't ever exorcise his own demons. In early April of 1994, Cobain was found dead in his

apartment of an apparent suicide and with traces of heroin in his system. Now that we've got the background out of the way, we can focus in on the issue at hand.

Now during the first three Nirvana albums, before *In Utero* was released, Cobain was listed as the writer of all the songs. Grohl and Novoselic would probably tell anyone that Cobain wrote everything on those early Nirvana albums. Next came *In Utero*, the last album, where in the liner notes, all songs were said to have been written by Nirvana. This meant that Grohl and Novoselic had formed a partnership with Cobain. This also meant that they would receive a certain portion of the royalties received for radio play, some which Cobain was receiving by himself.

Now sometime after Cobain's death, the public learned about the ridiculous amount of unreleased Nirvana material. "I have a butt-load of material" Courtney Love told *Rolling Stone* magazine in May of 2002. "I have the holy grail of rock & roll. That's the story. On those tapes are everything from shitty collages to some pretty stunning, awe-inspiring acoustic songs to stupid, fucked up-shit." That's the kind of music Love is holding. Grohl and Novoselic are holding some pretty amazing stuff themselves. In the same *Rolling Stone* article, Novoselic a Nirvana box set they had been making which included "KAOS radio, 1987, BBC Peel

Sessions, studio outtakes, sessions that we did in North Seattle, Rio de Janeiro, *In Utero* outtakes, live stuff."

So why is it that the public has not seen the achieved material? The answer is a court battle. At present the two remaining members of the disbanded Nirvana are tied up in legal battles with Cobain's widow Love. Both bring up interesting points, but points which don't make their actions justifiable.

Novoselic and Grohl felt that Nirvana was a three-way partnership. And they would be true. After his death, a business plan was put into effect that stated that for big decisions, all three parties must agree. The band-mates had no problem with such a situation until last year when Love began to petition for the entire arrangement to be dismantled. They feel that her only motive for dismantling the partnership is out of greed. To up the ante, they have countersued, asking for the courts to appoint a more cooperative representative from Cobain's estate.

Love, however, has a much different viewpoint. Kurt Cobain was Nirvana. He was the brains and the beauty. Grohl and Novoselic were simply the pawns. And since he was the sole writer of the Nirvana material, when he dies, she feels she should get complete control of everything that was his. She feels that she wasn't in her right mind at the time the

Continued on
page 2

Red Dragon Stands Toe-To-Toe with Silence of the Lambs

Hopkins and Norton deliver in this pre-quel to the one that started it all...

By Brian Blaszkowski
Chief Editor

Red Dragon, the prequel to the 1991 hit *Silence of the Lambs*, sees Anthony Hopkins return as Dr. Hannibal Lecter. The movie shows the actual capture of Lecter by FBI agent Will Graham, played by Edward Norton (*Fight Club*). After the capture, Graham, who we learn has the simple-sounding ability to "think like his prey," has retired, nearly killed by Lecter during his capture.

But, now there's another killer on the hunt, and Graham is called back into action to apprehend the murderer, played by Ralph Fiennes (*Quiz Show*). He plays a haunted man, abused and tormented as a child by a vicious grandmother. He now holds delusions of transformation into something greater than human, and also sports a tattoo on his back, styled after a painting by William Blake. He has murdered two families so far, and the FBI wants Graham to stop him.

Graham and Lecter have a special relationship, in that they had worked together on cases in the past, with Lecter helping Graham profile whatever killer

they happened to be hunting. It all fell apart, of course, when the latest killer they were hunting turned out to be Lecter himself, but Graham goes to Lecter to seek help. Sifting through his riddles and mind games, Graham eventually finds the killer and faces him in a final showdown.

After the disappointment of *Hannibal*, which I found to be too ridiculous to be taken seriously, I had my doubts about another Hannibal Lecter movie. *Silence of the Lambs* will always have a place in my heart as a frightening and disturbing movie, but, if possible, *Red Dragon* surpasses both its predecessors.

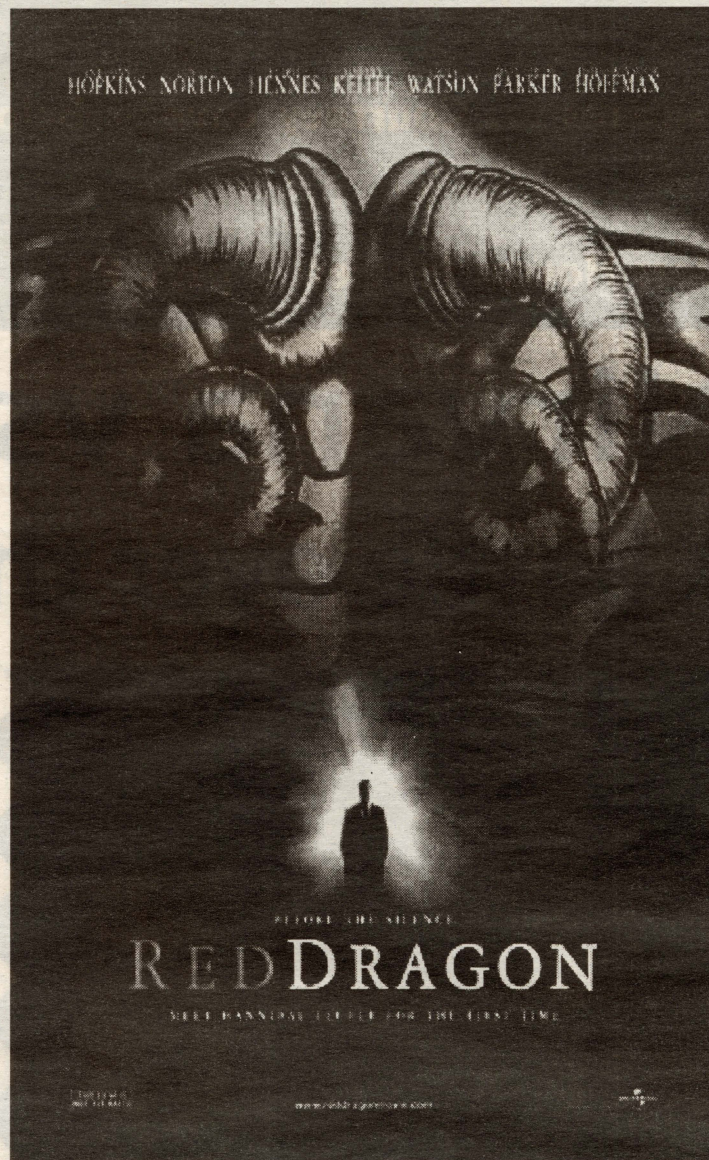
Hopkins plays a different Lecter than we saw in *Hannibal*, even different from *Silence of the Lambs*. In *Silence*, we were told that Hopkins was evil, and we witnessed some of his vile acts firsthand. In *Hannibal*, the gory scenes seemed to be in there simply for the sake of bloodlust, and thus lost their impact.

However, in *Red Dragon*, we saw the beginning of Lecter's incarceration. We saw the past, the history, of Hannibal Lecter. Even more so than in *Silence*, we saw a man possessed by evil,

helping the very FBI agent who captured him while simultaneously seeking his downfall. Hopkins played a murderous maniac in the first two movies. In *Red Dragon*, Hannibal Lecter leapt from the screen and shared your popcorn.

Even more impressive was the haunted performance of Norton as Graham. While Hopkins received top billing in the posters and listings, Norton may have stolen the show. Every movie I see him in (with the possible exception of *Keeping the Faith*), Norton just gets better and better. In *Red Dragon*, you almost want to cry for him. He perfectly portrays a criminal investigator, disturbed by his talents and reluctantly forced into returning to catch a murderer.

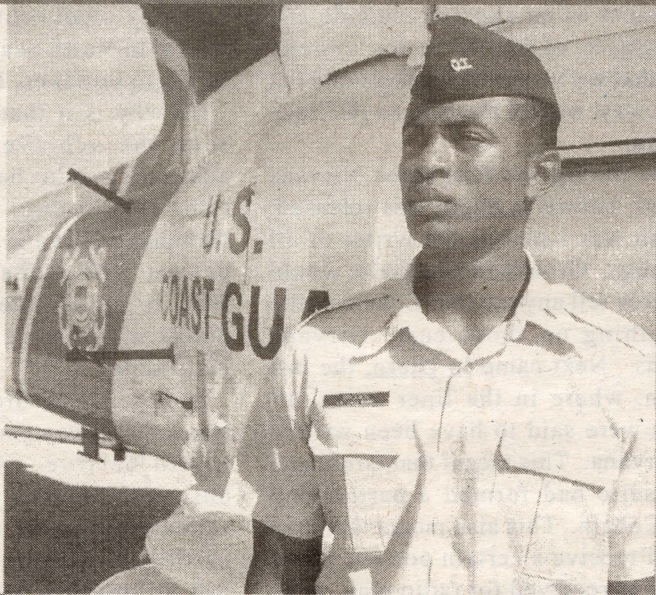
The movie itself is filled with twists and turns and surprises. This is definitely an improvement to *Hannibal*, and, as I said before, it can stand toe-to-toe and hold its own against the renowned *Silence of the Lambs*. This is one movie you truly must see in the theaters to get the full experience. Don't miss the opportunity, and make sure to watch *Silence* again to catch up on the basics.



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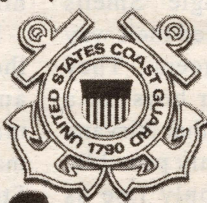
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Nirvana Continued

partnership was made, and that she feels it is in the best interest of her daughter's future to rectify the agreement.

And blah, blah, blah. Let's look at this rationally for a few moments, shall we. Grohl and Novoselic bring up good points. Yes Nirvana was formed into a partnership, therefore they should have a say in what happens to the lost tapes. They should also get a cut of the money, since it was their instruments that were working to create that music too. And yes, it wouldn't be hard to believe that Love wants exclusive rights simply for the money. I mean, let's

face it, Courtney Love is no saint.

And we can see Love's side as well. Yes, Cobain was the songwriter for Nirvana. Yes, Cobain was and always will be the brains of that group. Yes, the deal may have been made at a bad time, and she may have had bad legal advice. And we can assume that having to work with two men who have publicly stated a real dislike towards you can make it unfair to you. And yes, Francis Bean should have a good say in what happens to her fathers legacy as she gets older.

Although both sides make valid points; it doesn't make their arguments seem any less ridiculous. This argument couldn't be any less about the legacy of Nirvana and Cobain. The argument is all about

greed and petty rivalry. Love simply wants the money. The destruction of the partnership means a bigger share, and the bigger the share, the bigger the bank account. And she's not fooling a soul when she says that it's all for her daughter. I'm quite sure that her daughter is more than taken care of for the rest of her life, regardless of her future say in the estate. And if she is in fact concerned, she shouldn't be. If Novoselic and Grohl's hatred is aimed at her, they'd have to be awfully sinister to take it out on an innocent child.

But Grohl and Novoselic can't go blameless either. Their motive seems to be personal towards Love. They are no more trying to protect the legacy than she is. It seems that the band-mates

have teamed up to take control, sort of a final kick to the head to a woman they have both long despised. They might say that they're doing this for the Nirvana fans, but it would be wrong to believe them. While dollar signs seem to be constantly blinding her vision, no one would ever think she wouldn't rush to put more Nirvana material as soon as her share was substantial enough. It's not about getting the music out there for them. It's about beating Love, and her them, in a game that's ultimately been lost.

The real victims are the Nirvana fans. Those still addicted to *Nevermind*; who find *Bleach* to be their fantastic secret. The victims are those who cried or felt tremendous pain when Cobain passed away. And it's about

the people who discovered Nirvana shortly afterwards and were really able to realize what kind of a genius the world had lost. And the real victims are those that don't know Nirvana, and those tapes serve as a way for them to discover them.

Cobain loved and admired his fans. The music wasn't made for his fans, but he certainly wished to share it with us. "*You Know Your Right*," is a possible reminder of what could've been, and what wasn't, and it's a shame. The fans need that music. The world deserves to hear music of that quality. Why don't all parties involved step back, forget about the money, forget about the petty rivalry, and just let the fans handle his music? We seem to be the only ones who care.

Alice Did

by Chad Nelson
REV Editor

As Alice did,
so does God
Of reflections,
not of flames

Turning back, God looked
only too slow
to catch a face
in the mirror

what does another
side look like
when the other
is what is

mothers make fires
to cook up their milk
fathers breath deep
of the burning grey smoke

Children, whose naked minds
do not yet dress bodies
in designs and expression
of feelings not felt but for want

when gods reflection
falls onto naked eyes
upside down of sight
when eyes are closed

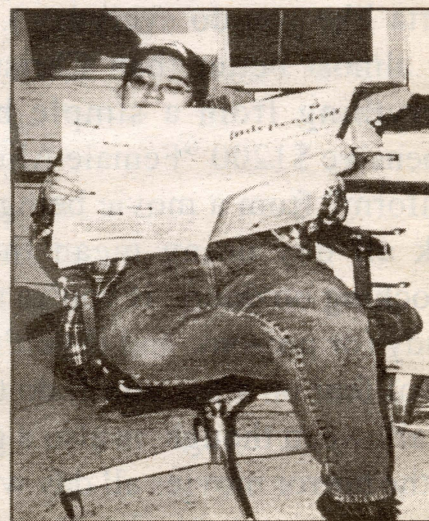
Dream differently now
of lucid existence
where thinking and being
become as one

in the soul of the dreamer
where all this becomes
blinding and blurry
and ineffective

All that remains is what remains
be it tomorrow, or yesterday, or never
so take what is real
the dreams and the visions
and clarity, and the moments thoughts cease
and walk, alone, towards
the mirror,
which giggles with the laughter of God
at swirling and drowning
the billions of stars in themselves.

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Top 6 Horror Movies Northeastern Students Would Bother Renting

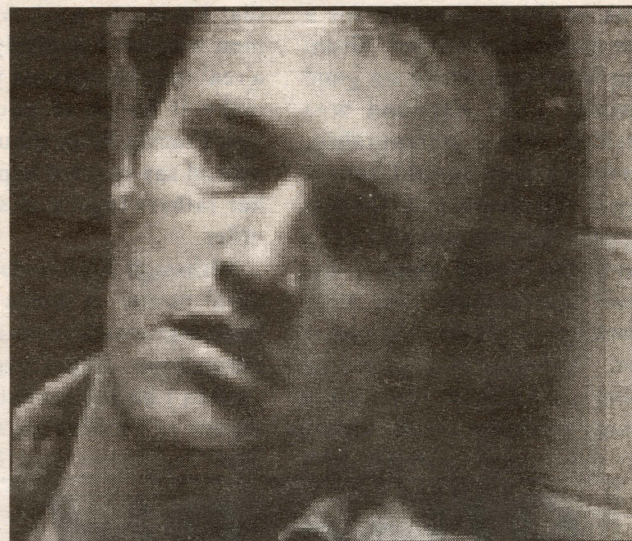
by John Bracich
Business Manager

Hey there boys and girls, it's October and you know what that means, time to stock up on pepper spray for when those little bastards come knocking on your door asking for candy. Halloween has been one of the few holidays that I actually give a damn about. Maybe it is because I'm some sort of social reject that even brings about revulsion in medical circles. It's that day of the year where you get to see all those freaks and weirdoes...wait a minute, that's everyday now. Wait, it's that day where you get to dress up in funny costumes and pretend that you're someone or something else (sorta like you do everyday.). Halloween has everything, it's almost better than Christmas! You can dress up in everything from a simple black cape to wearing that expensive \$1200 "Female Alien Galactic Huntress Leather Uniform" from a movie being sold on Ebay. You can be a jerk all day doing mean things and get candy for it! Knocking on doors, if you're a kid you might get oodles of candy (or poison), and if you're not a kid, you'll get candy out of fear on what you'll do to their car/home/pets.

Halloween though, is also a great excuse to want to watch all the horror movies all day without getting that weird look from that smart-ass pimply video clerk. Horror movies are great, especially if you have friends with you or a certain special girlfriend or boyfriend. Face it, we all take dates to horror movies so we can get them close to us. Whoever told you they don't take their girlfriend/boyfriend to see a horror movie so they could put their arm around their "better half" is either a fool or a god-damn liar! I was asked to write my all-time favourite horror movies, so below are movies that would fit perfectly for that All Hollow's Eve. These movies range from a documentary of sorts to your slasher flick to your plague of zombies. Given that one of the criteria for this list by the powers that be were movies that were easy to find, this is actually an incomplete list. Hopefully in the future, I will include the ever-ellusive foreign flicks. Anyhow, I hope you enjoy these films. Happy Hollween!

Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer

Henry is based on the true story of serial killer Henry Lee Lucas, who is most famous for killing Adam Walsh, son of John Walsh of America's Most Wanted fame. The movie is portrayed similarly to American Psycho, from the killer's perspective. This movie is scary because it is not based on some mythical boogie man like Jason or Freddie, but of a real person who committed these real crimes. The movie has it's intense moments where it really plays on the viewer's sensibilities. It was the family murder scene that had the film banned pretty much across Europe. Played by Michael Rooker (in movies such as Mallrats and the Replacement Killers) does an excellent job in convincing you he's one sick bastard, progressing from one kill to another. You psychology majors will love this flick because it goes into detail on how one of these monsters are made.



The Evil Dead




Sam Raimi classic about a bunch of college kids who go on a trip to a cabin for a weekend of fun. Upon their arrival to their cabin, they find a tape recorder with weird chants and the "Book of the Dead". College students being college students, they being to goof off and open the book and play the tape. This is when the fun begins, because they have unwittingly opened a gateway from some damn netherworld. One by one, the kids start becoming possessed by these demons. The only way to stopped "dead" is to chop them up. Hard decisions have to be made, like in John Carpenter's The Thing, no one knows who will be the next possessed. This movie introduced us to Bruce Campbell, who would go on as the lead protagonist in the two following sequels. This is one of those flicks where you'll either like it, or simply hate it.

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre



This is the story not so much about a bunch of kids getting hacked to pieces by a chainsaw-wielding freak, but really about survival. Like John Romero's Night of the Living Dead, this movie is what one will do to escape certain death. The story begins (like most horror movies do) with a bunch of kids, they go out on a stretch of Texas road to investigate (a la Scooby Doo, they even have their own "mystery machine") a series of grave robberies. Standed, they encounter a house where unknowingly will be a house of horrors as they are hunted down by a maniacal family. The lead antagonist is a nut case simply named "Leatherface" with

chainsaw. I like movies that touch certain nerves, certain taboos and don'ts in Hollywood. This movie is gritty, and I don't mean that because the film was of poor stock. Like our first movie on the list, one can see the extent of depravity a human being can sink to. As for how this ends? Well I'll simply leave you with the by line from the movie poster: "Who will survive and what will be left of them?"



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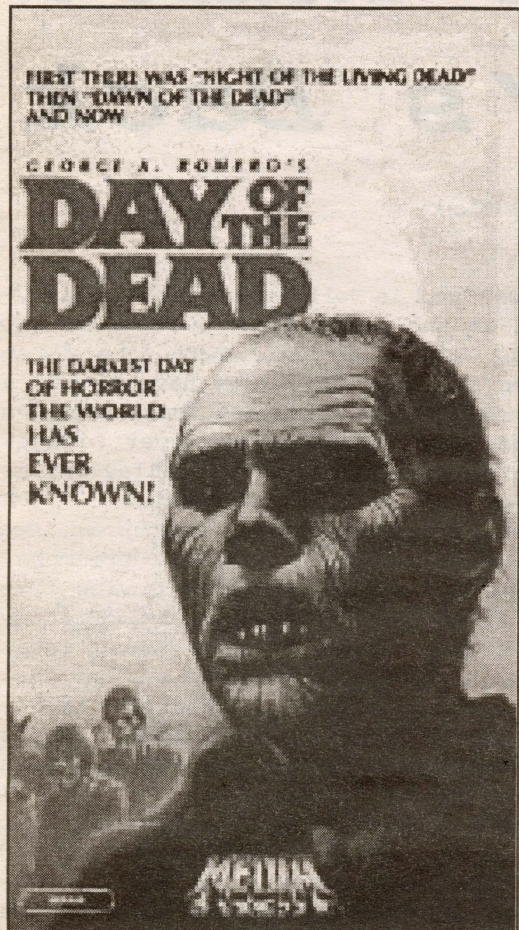
"Listen, kids, before I made it big modeling for clipart in the '50's, I was just a college newspaper reporter just like the good folks down at the *Independent*. I'm not so sure I would have made it to the big time, playing Carnegie with Sammy, Dean, and Frankie if I had not chosen that path so long ago. Let me tell you as your elder, kids, that joining this paper will make you one cool cat. Look at me! If a poor kid from Brooklyn such as myelf can do it, so can you!"

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Day of the Dead

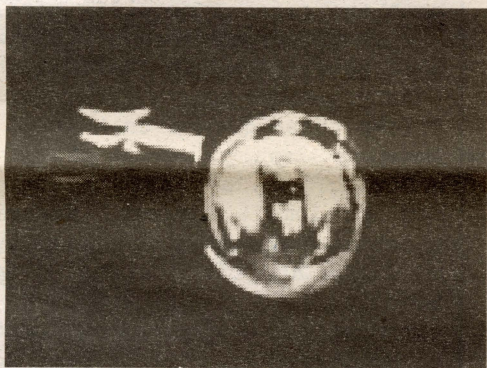


Sticking with the survival schtick, we come to the final installment of George Romero's Night of The Living Dead series. Like the other two 'Dead movies, this one plays on your instinct to survive. In the third sequel, the zombies have "won the war" and now dominate Earth. An unlikely group made up of hippies, a mad scientist, and some army guys try and survive in a missile silo in Florida. This motley clan face an uphill battle, as the legions of zombies find their existence and begin to close in on them. This movie is loaded with social commentary if you pay attention like

civil rights and the endargement of them minority. The movie has its gory points, especially when the zombies find a living human. It is a shame that Hollywood couldn't use Romero's original script (easily found on the internet), it is a much more superior product.

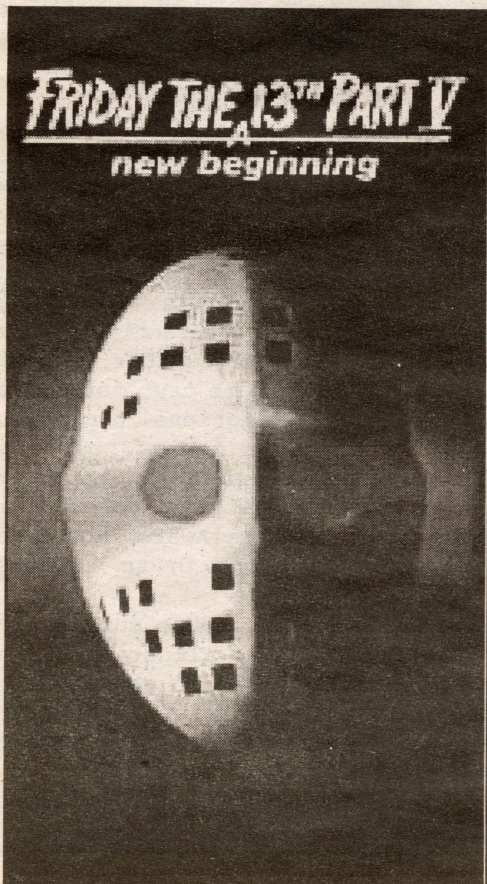
Phantasm

One of the few movies to successfully meld science-fiction with horror, Phantasm is about a funeral home. This is no ordinary funeral home mind you, the bodies of the recently buried are disappearing. A young boy and his friends (including an ice cream truck driver) begin searching only to find



out that their local funeral parlor is home to an transdimensional slave ring. Lead by a man known as the Tall Man, they take the recently deceased and revive them into slaves for their world. Protecting the Tall Man and his goons are the Sentinels, a group of metallic spheres that have everything from blades to a drill to kill people. It's really the floating balls that steal the picture. You really don't know what is gonna happen next. I'll guarantee you, after seeing this, you'll never look at a funeral home the same.

Friday the 13th, Part One



Halloween set the stage for the genre that is slasher films, but Friday the 13th established the "scare them so they jump on their lover's lap" fright factor. For those not in the know, this is a story about a summer camp where 20 years ago a boy drowned. Years go by and the camp fails to re-open, two decades later a hopeful entrepreneur opens up Camp Crystal on Crystal Lake. As the new camp councilors show up, the deaths begin. No one death is the same, keeping the viewer on his/her toes as to what will happen next. A vengeful spirit seeking some sort of sick justice?

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The Rant: It's Back

by Brian Blaszkowski
Chief Editor

What the bloody hell is Hollywood thinking lately? What happened to the *Godfather*? *Spaceballs*? *The Princess Bride*, *E.T.*, *Jurassic Park* (the first one, the other two were shit)? We haven't had a decent scary movie in God knows how long. It seems that Hollywood only turns out whatever nickel-and-dime script the latest hack screenplay writer can turn out in between lines of coke.

There are exceptions, obviously. *Gladiator*, *Red Dragon*, and *American Beauty* were all triumphs, but beyond that we have to deal with movies like *Dude*, *Where's My Car?* and whatever the hell Britney Spears's movie was called. Yeah, great idea, Hollywood. Spears shows some cleavage and her ass, and you give her a movie. It stayed at the box office for maybe 17 minutes, and the only people who saw it were pimple-faced 13 year old boys with raging hormones and my friend Alan.

I realize that people who enjoy intelligent movies are in the minority, but is it really too much to ask for more than *two fucking intelligent movies to be made per year*? We don't want to see more "teens finding love in a topsy-turvy world" movies. We know all about that shit, we *live* it, for Christ's sake.

Action movies are a dime a dozen these days. A big name is more important than a sensible plot and believable acting. I mean, I love professional wrestling, and the Rock is cool and everything, but give me a break. He is not an action star. He is a wrestler of fast-dwindling popularity, because instead of dropping People's Elbows and raising the People's Eyebrow, he's dropping movies that bomb and raising people's hackles by starring in movies called *Helldorado*. *Helldorado*? Gee, I wonder what genre of movie *that's* gonna be...

Don't get me started on romances, please. Chick flicks these days aren't about women and men and love triumphing over all odds, which, while annoying, are at least tolerable. They're about bad-ass female surfers, fighting to excel at a sport predominantly dominated by men. Someone give me a gun and two bullets, I want to do the job right.

Movies like *Jeepers-Creepers* sneak past the suits in Hollywood while brilliant movies like *Memento* don't even get a fucking *nomination* at the Academy Awards. Oh, wait, it got nominated for editing. While I'll be the first to admit that that movie must have had hardcore editing done to it, a movie of that caliber with that sort of a plot pulled off *that* well deserved at the very *least* a nomination for Best Picture or Actor.

It's not even really about what's best anymore, anyway. It's about what would be the best PR for Hollywood. Why do you think Hally Barry and Denzel Washington got awards? They're both damn good actors (especially Washington. *Training Day* is so good, it gives me goose bumps), but there were other, better actresses and actors out there. I think enough of a case could be made that Hollywood is trying to win back the black audience, after passing over Washington so many times in the past.

Sorry, that's not how it works. You think Washington is going to be happy with that award if he knows he only got it because "We need some more black viewers?" And I call bullshit on the people who say that he had so many good movies that he deserved it. Yes, he deserved it for the good movies, but Academy Awards are not a fucking cumulative effort! Why treat him differently because of his skin color? He's a *fantastic* actor, one of my favorites. *John Q* almost made me cry, for God's sake, and I'm one of the least emotional humans on Earth. He deserved it for past movies, but not this time, and it's a slap in the face to him and every black actor who got passed over before him to be handed a "make-good" Academy Award. At least he, unlike Barry, was smart enough to realize that.

In classic Rant format and in abrupt summation, fuck Hollywood. Their movies are almost always a let-down, and everything is based on good public relations rather than good movies. From now on, I'm not going to see a new movie just because a woman shows some skin and some shit blows up. Well, maybe every now and then, but not as much as Hollywood wants me to.

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KATIE HOLMES BENJAMIN BRATT
CHARLIE HUNNAM ZOEY DESCHANEL
GABRIELLE UNION and FRED WARD
Music by CLINT MANSELL
Produced by LYNDIA OBST EDWARD ZWICK
ROGER BIRNBAUM GARY BARBER
Suggested by the Book "Adam's Fall" by SEAN DESMOND
Written and Directed by STEPHEN GAGHAN
SCORE AVAILABLE ON CD AND DVD AUDIO FROM SILVERLINE RECORDS

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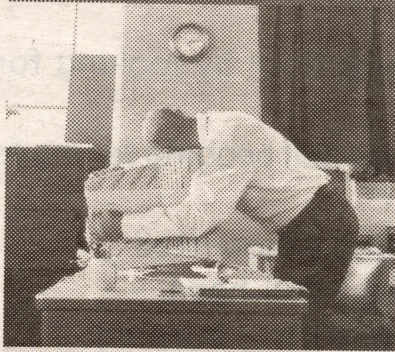
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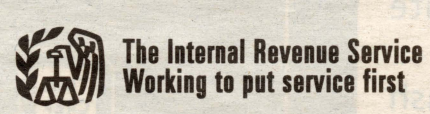
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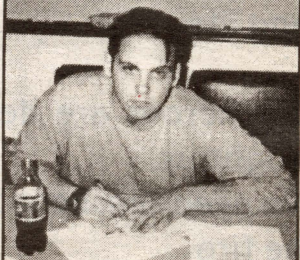
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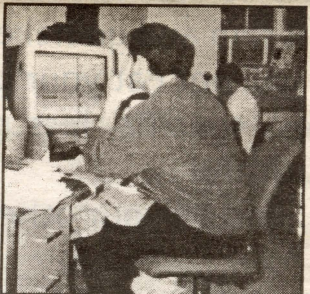
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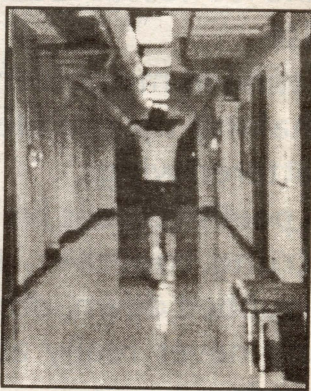
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Daylight Underground

I stare up at the brilliant sun-stroke until the sky turns white
and big billowing blue clouds float by looking for their fix.

I stare into the burning bronze ball begging for my fortune told
waiting to see the face of God silhouetted
like a bleach-blond-inhuman-doll-head.
Light blind and loving it while Iris is burning
but no one ever noticed her anyway
just another acid casualty of too-perfect-perception
turned off, tuned out, drop... drop... another glass angel.
My wide eyes ache, held open for ages long past
lips chewed and cracked in absence of kisses long promised
and I want to just kick off my shoes at the end of another long life.

Our heroes are dead and we've forgotten what they taught us.
We need Ginsberg back again and dancing naked around the fire
virgin sacrifices to appease all my pagan idols
and morphine shots all around.
God isn't dead, at least not of natural causes
just trivialized down to next-to-nothing-ness.
Spare me your mediocre painless-poster-boy—batteries not included!
Screw you and your numb comfort of not-quite-feeling-it.

"At no cost to you!" is no way to be.
I'll skip and go naked and urinate on your lawn
I will not eat your green eggs and ham, I will not be:
less specific, less real, less intense, less forward, less truthful
...and all your other cuss-words.

And the caged bird doesn't sing, just screams and wails
and cries!
And it's not his fault that it sounds like music to everyone else
sitting in my golden gilded cage
shaking up my electric-blue-barbed-wired-bars with tattered wings.
A poet's curse is his prison of words
strung together, tied down, tired out, washed up,
scrubbed down, dripped dry
and never really able to say what he means, what he needs.
Me, I'm just another "pretty" junkie bastard
passing infections of the ears eyes and throat
beautiful madness like a poison injection from the needle
of my tongue
listen to me and run the risk
trust in me and dance on razor's edge.
I'm going to seek truth despite your over-easy-egg-white lies.
I'm going to take the chance and play my cards and cash my chips.
I'm going out on a limb to see what I can see and be really-real.

I'm going to live or die trying.

Chicago Shakespeare Theatre performs Love's Labour Lost

by Chad Nelson
REV Editor

The first show of the season at the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre at Navy Pier is Love's Labor Lost. Though not one of the Bard's finest labors, its loveliness was nevertheless not lost on me. Though considered a problem play because of the drastic change of theme in the last act of the play, and because of the relative simplicity of plot compared with later plays, Love's Labor Lost still resounds with all of the Elizabethan merrymaking any would expect from a *dramedy* written in the late 1500's. The plot is four lords, leaving the love of leisure behind to pursue learning, followed by the introduction of four ladies, who love (reciprocally), the lords, and the laughable languishing of lovers' labors thwarted. My personal love for the play resides in the superior ribaldry and incredibly saucy verbiage, and the general incredible use of ambiguous words, case in point the thirty-two separate words used to mean "sex."

The acting was superb. Points in time passed where I stopped believing I was sitting in the third row of a theatre, and I thought I was watching a couple friends play out the terrible drama that is relationships. The costumes were fair, simple, but that was all that was really called for anyway. The stage setting blew me away. As I walked in late, just before the house lights went down, I found myself immersed in a veritable cornucopia of floral flourishing. If I had to guess, and I will, I would say at least 2000 flowers were picked and placed all up and down the rafters of the stage to create maintain a sense of calm despite the rampant action and confusion (mainly of words) in the drama.

Overall, the actors did the best they could with the play. Love's Labor Lost lacks in dramatic quality that which makes many of Shakespeare's plays so wonderful, but it is still head and shoulders above most of the other drama in production presently. The acting and the stage work, as is characteristic of the Chicago Shakespeare, more than make up for what the show lacks. If you like low brow humor done in a highbrow way, then this show is definitely for you.

Enjoyable as the show was, my mind inevitably looks forward to spring when A Winter's Tale starts its run. The Bard's tale played in the winter though will be Julius Caesar. With these two shows coming up, we Chicagoans have nothing but wonderful theatre to look forward to. So, look for these shows coming up, and hey, if you get the chance, go see this one, it is well worth the money.

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Students speak out on NIMN and more

Not In My Name? Not in my paper!

Dear Editor,

When I picked up the October 1st issue of the Independent, looking for my biweekly fix of NEIU news, I was a little surprised to see a front page article on the group Not In My Name. Although I personally disagree with their message, I have no problem with NIMN as a group (I would argue what Mr. Feuerstein says, that “Israeli leaders want it to seem like there is one voice”, because if a person were to read any online Israeli daily paper, they would see that isn’t the case). Rather, I wonder why there is a front-page article devoted to a small group that has no connection to NEIU, save an NEIU professor who is a member. Even a member of NIMN agreed with me that the this article seemed out of place in the Independent.

I would have the same problem if the paper decided to write a large, front-page article to any group that has no campus affiliation, even if it was a group that I identify with. Why? To reference the quote under the Independent’s title, the purpose of the paper is “Serving Northeastern”. How did this article serve Northeastern?

So, dear editor, please stick to news about stuff happening on campus. There has to be enough stuff happening on our diverse campus to fill the paper. And if there isn’t, how about profiling groups that are actually on campus?

Gadiel Schultz

NIMN article belonged in Opinions

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to “Not In My Name Protest Israel/Palestine War” (October 1, 2002). As a former journalist and newspaper editor, I was distressed as to your newspaper’s apparent lack of journalistic integrity and ethical standards.

First of all, “Not In My Name” is not an NEIU student organization, nor is it in any way affiliate with the University. NIMN’s protest activities have not occurred on University property, nor are they specifically opposed to any University policy or organization. The only relevance Mr. Nelson’s article has to NEIU is a quote from Prof. Harry White, whose activities with NIMN are clearly personal, not related to his professional position at NEIU.

Secondly, I was discouraged by the fact that only one side of this controversial and tragic issue was represented. An ethical journalist provides relevant facts and quotes from both sides of the case and uses them to create a balanced and newsworthy article. Perhaps in the future Mr. Nelson should attempt to seek out alternative opinions in addition to his own, as this article was published in the news section of *The Independent*, not the opinion page.

It is my sincere hope that the Editorial staff of *The Independent* will brush up on their journalistic training and share this knowledge with their staff writers. There is not excuse for this lack of respect for journalistic ethics and integrity.

Thanks, Ground and Maintenance dept.

Dear Editor,

I am a Junior at NEIU. I want to tell you a story that happened to me a few weeks ago. As I was getting off my car in the morning to attend class my wedding band fell on the parking lot next to Ground and Maintenance. It just so happend that it rolled and fell in the sewer, I could not believe what had just happened to me. I went over to the Ground and Maintenance dept. I asked one of the guys there if there was somebody who can help me get my ring back, they said that they could not do that but they knew the people who could. So he called the NEIU employees- that deal with the sewers here, they came over and after hours of searching for my ring in the sewer we found it. I was so relieved and very thankful for the help they provided me with.

I just want to say that the guys that helped me, Joseph and his crew, went above and beyond their duty, they are very dedicated to their job, especially Joseph. He assured me that he would stay there with me till we found the ring, and for that I want to thank him.

Anonymous

Spanking is not good discipline

Dear Editor,

On October 1st, 2002 in the Independent newspaper I read about the woman named Madelyne Gorman Toogood who believes that by spanking a child it will help them in their discipline. I do not believe spanking children is a way to discipline a child. I believe spanking a child is child abuse and should not be accepted in our society. The reason why I am against child abuse is because I believe that by abusing a kid whether the abuse is physical or emotional or any way the kid will be affected and suffer their whole life. Also, by mistreating a child it will not help them understand that they are doing something wrong. There are other ways to discipline a child. Hitting children just causes trauma and in their future life they tend to be abusive parents too. They also tend to be unhappy and want everyone around them to feel the same way.

Another reason why I feel child abuse should not be accepted is because it is illegal in the United States. If you abuse a kid you can either end up in jail or have your kids taken to a foster home. Once your children are taken away it is difficult to get them back, though you realize the mistake you have made. So instead of going to this entire problem you should learn better ways to discipline your children. An example could be not to let them watch TV for a week and I bet you this will hurt them more than if you hit them. In the United States there are laws that protect the children from abusing parents. I believe that these laws are really good because there is no reason why parents should hit their children. Parents should understand that by abusing a kid all it is doing to them is causing them to suffer and become abusive parents. However, the fact is that no one has the right to hit a kid. Find better ways to discipline your children; abusing a kid is not a way to discipline a kid.

Yesenia Valdovinos

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
E-049, NEIU
5500 N. St. Louis Av
Chicago, IL 60625

Letters are also accepted through electronic mail, provided they include a telephone number for verification. The address is neiu_independent@yahoo.com

NIMN is nothing but left-wing extremists

Dear Editor,

I am outraged that your front page story from last issue was about a Not In My Name rally! Not In My Name is a left-wing whacko group that supports terrorism! They say that war should be avoided at all costs, regardless of the circumstances. They put no thought or research into who our attackers are or what are their mindsets. All they see is “war is bad.” They are so busy focusing on a tree, they miss the forest.

If, God forbid, a person is dying of cancer, no patient in his right mind says, “Well, I don’t want to remove my tumor because it’s a living thing and has rights. If we try to remove that poor cancer, it might spread even further. For heaven’s sake, we don’t want to contaminate any of our sterile instruments.”

Terrorism is a cancer. Given the opportunity, terrorists will spread chaos to all of the free world in any form they can manage. They want to ravage our economy, shatter our liberties, and butcher everybody who is not like them. The very idea that Not In My Name can vomit such gravely misplaced mercy is an insult to the memory of every precious American mass-murdered on September 11, 2001.

Furthermore, I am insulted and appalled that such a tiny, insignificant amount of people (described as “25 strong”) who rally every week for such short-sighted goals managed to slither onto the front page of a newspaper! Although I think that the Independent is usually a fantastic newspaper, you really dropped the ball this past issue. Is NEIU so uneventful that you need to place this irrelevant nonsense on your front page? What exactly does this group have to do with either our university or world events or even local events?

Thank God, we live in a free country which supports everybody’s right to demonstrate anything they want, even if they are whacko left-wing liberals from Not In My Right Mind. If the terrorists had their way, they would slaughter the Not In My Name protesters, along with every other human in the United States.

Rachel Fogel

A heartfelt message to Governor George Ryan

Governor Ryan:

Although you have never met my family or me, your public statements about the death penalty indicate that you know an awful lot about the day my sister JoEllen and brother-in-law Dean Pueschel were murdered. I’m at a loss. Could you please tell me how it is that you came to know so much?

I did not see your name on the police report, so you could not have been in their Rogers Park apartment in the early morning hours on August 29, 1983 when Reginald and Jerry Mahaffey removed the screen from their bathroom window and crawled inside. You didn’t see them sneak into 11-yea-old Ricky Pueschel’s bedroom and take his little league baseball bats and walk quietly into his parent’s room where they were sleeping. You didn’t see them beat Dean and JoEllen with the bats or hear the horrendous sound that it made. You weren’t there to witness them rape JoEllen before they finally beat her to death with Ricky’s bats. You didn’t see them return to the bedroom and stab Dean dozens of times, leaving the walls splattered with his blood. You didn’t witness them beat Ricky with the same bats, suffocate him and stab him repeatedly, thinking they killed him as well. You didn’t see them steal Dean and JoEllen’s possessions including their wedding video. You were not there when my father found Ricky wandering around his neighborhood semi-conscious, drenched in his own blood. You didn’t accompany my dad when he went into the apartment and found his only daughter lying dead in a pool of blood.

You never visited Ricky in the hospital or told him about his parent’s funeral that he could not attend. You did not witness the arrests of the Mahaffeys or watch as the police recovered JoEllen and Dean’s jewelry and wedding video from them. You did not hear their detailed confessions that read like horror stories.

You didn’t call to offer your help when the Mahaffeys escaped from Cook county Jail.

Governor, I never saw you at any of the countless court hearings. You were not at the trials to watch the Mahaffeys glare and taunt Ricky and our family. You did not see the jurors cry during the testimony or witness Ricky courageously point at the Mahaffeys in open court and positively identify them as the animals who killed his parents and who tried to kill him. You didn’t see or hear the mountains of evidence presented by the state’s attorneys. You weren’t there when the juries found them guilty or when Judge Thomas Hett sentenced them both to death.

You haven’t read any of the thousands of pages of transcripts from the trials. You never felt the pain or fought the battle as we have for 19 years. You have never talked to us or even tried to reach out to comfort Ricky.

Therefore, Governor George Ryan, before you give the monsters who murdered Dean and JoEllen a break as you have threatened to do, please, please, please tell my family and me how it is that you know so damn much about our case. Moreover, IF the day comes when you choose to commute their sentence, protect killers, and embrace evil, please have the guts to tell us to our face. We’ll give you 15 minutes.

John Heinrich

The Sky is Falling

“The President seems hell-bent on starting a war he can’t possibly finish without a massive mobilization of resources.”

by Patrick O'Brien
Staff Writer

We have an economic crisis in America, or so we are led to believe by those who are in charge. The economy is in a downward spiral and we can't get out. This story has taken on a life of its own. This is what the people we've elected to lead us are telling us. And as the weeks pass, the situation grows dimmer. Six months ago, we were "on the way back up" and "pulling out of stagnation." Now the end is near and war is the only thing that will save us. Its funny how things have changed in such a short time. It seems maybe the President sees our crisis as a great reason to start a war to make us forget things haven't changed in America.

And talk of war brings allusions to our bad economy and the role that September 11th plays in our current financial troubles. One must only look at recent history to know that our economy was on the ropes before the bombings of America pushed us over the edge. The economy was already slowing down dramatically when the attacks were carried out. So to blame all of our current problems on September 11th is an emotional attempt to put a new spin on the real reasons behind our collapse. We cannot dishonor those who died by blaming them for our current state of affairs. America's economy, as it is right now, has been in the making for a long time, and the crimes carried out against us are but a tiny part of the equation.

America is an economic model based on the principle that there are some who will go without and some who will never have to go without. This basic idea has been admitted by most economic theorists whether they support capitalism or not. And from time to time more will have to go without their needs satisfied than others. Our current economic state is an example of this. It's probably

time we took a good look at a system that seems to be on the verge of collapse more and more often.

Since the early 1970's, the United States has been in recession on six occasions. Though the nineties were plentiful for some, the truth is for most of America things are the same now as they have always been. If you make less than thirty thousand a year there was no great upswing for you in the nineties, just as there is no great miracle waiting for those in the lower income brackets when the economy does recover, for lack of a better word.

So our current administration has begun a war across the globe without solving the problem right at home that we must face: are we at rock bottom yet? Or will Americans suffer more at the hands of Mr. Bush? The president's answer seems to be a war economy, always a sound but desperate solution for a troubled nation. Beginning a war effort is a double edged sword for the White House, as it both takes attention from the real problems and puts massive war machinery into motion, usually fueling economic recovery. War is big business, and it means more jobs, more production and more capital flowing through the market from both consumers and investors. Mr. Bush already knows that. His father used a similar tactic 12 years ago. Although his father was not successful, Junior might have a better chance. The President seems hell-bent on starting a war he can't possibly finish without a massive mobilization of resources. Thus the plan accomplishes two objectives for the administration, quieting dissent about the President's policies, and giving us all something to root for as we take on another "rogue" nation.

But if you're in the lower and middle classes, what does this mean to you? If you're part of the working class who mop floors,

drive a bus, serve food, or do any number of things under the sun that most Americans have to do to survive, there was no tech boom. Janitors and line cooks don't dabble in the stock market. There was no dot com stock miracle or internet craze. Chances are you can't even afford a computer or the internet. The economic boom of the late 90's was effective in making the country even more financially imbalanced than ever before. More wealth sits at the top, crushing those at the bottom. That is the great myth of American capitalism: that everyone can get rich if they work hard enough which is probably not a very realistic view. So now the people must finance a war effort that they do not support. If you're thinking of Vietnam right now, you're not the only one.

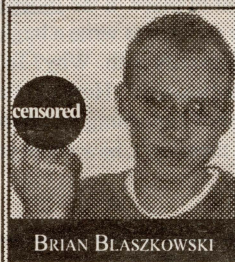
Is the stock market our savior? The pressing question seems to be, when will the sky stop falling on Wall Street? The Dow Jones average has begun to lose value at a more rapid pace, and investors are pulling out rather than take a huge financial hit. As more and more individual small and medium investors pull out of the market, the shakier it becomes. Just as the tech boom a few years back was fueled by many first time investors, 2002's stock market desperately needs an infusion of new capital. But as layoffs from major corporations continue and the labor market tightens, investment will slow to a halt. Very few Americans have the money to put in stocks, as witnessed by those Americans with MBA's waiting tables or going jobless altogether right now.

And even having read the headlines and seen the doomsday predictions for America, I cannot help but think that we have lost all perspective as a nation. Even if the sky keeps falling, even if we don't get better right away, we are still by far the richest country in the world, and by far the most blessed economically, and we always will be. So when you're reading of the crisis we're trapped in and how things look bleak, remember this, it could be worse: we could be living in Iraq.

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

Whats wrong with classes these days?

EVERYBODY HAS AT LEAST ONE. EVERY STUDENT AT NEIU HAS AT LEAST ONE CLASS THAT THEY JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND. I DON'T MEAN THE CLASS IS TOO HARD FOR THEM, I MEAN THEY JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND THE POINT OF THE CLASS. THEY DISLIKE THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS, THE ENVIRONMENT ISN'T CONDUCIVE TO LEARNING, THE TEACHER DOESN'T MAKE THINGS BETTER, AND THE POLICIES QUITE SIMPLY SUCK.



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

The funniest thing about these classes is that oftentimes, you don't *have* to pay attention to pass. In some situation, you can thrive regardless of what you think about during classtime. I've had classes that I showed up to maybe six times in a semester, and I've gotten "A's" in them. I've had a ton of classes that I *could* have skipped and still passed, but alas, the teacher had a policy about absences.

This boggles my mind. All I keep hearing from people when they don't like what I say in my column is, "This isn't high school, you are in charge of yourself. This isn't high school." Then what the hell is up with the absence policies? "Three or more absences during the semester, and you drop a letter grade." Bullshit, I want to sleep in! There's no reason to penalize students based on attendance. If we're all adults, if we pay our tuition and pay for our books (where exactly is our book exchange, SGA?), we should be treated like adults.

We're not kids playing hooky, going off to throw rocks at old buildings, in most cases at least. If we don't need to attend your class to get the grade we want, what good is forcing us? It only makes us hate our teacher who implements this stupid policy. Some people are naturals at English classes, others are good at Math and Science. In some of my classes, I was forced to re-learn shit that I taught *myself* in *grade* school, because of the attendance policy. I could have used that time to prepare for my other classes, the ones I had trouble with. But instead, I'm sitting on my ass, staring at the wall, and thinking about the banjo-playing hamsters in my office (swear to God, I have some. Come by and see them).

Something else that sucks in these sorts of classes are the other students. Picture this: The teacher asks a question. You raise your hand to try and answer so the class can move along, but a student just opens his mouth and starts talking. And talking. And he continues to talk and try to answer the question, but he's obviously wrong. "What's two plus two?" "Europe!" So, you raise your hand fully and kind of sit up a little straighter, hoping the teacher notices you, so you can stop the pain.

The teacher notices you, starts to call on you, but *another* student opens *her* mouth. She tries to respond to the first guy's answer. She argues, saying it's wrong, and corrects him with an even *more* wrong answer. It almost feels like a game of Telephone; you start out with a relatively straight-forward phrase, but then it spins out of control and mutates into some ungodly freak of an answer that staggers around the room and devours the brains of your classmates.

Teachers, I admire every one of you because your job sucks and you get no recognition. I sympathize truly I do, but you need to cut this shit out. Not everyone in a class should be allowed to speak whenever the hell they want. We need some semblance of order to keep the class from learning the wrong things. Teachers need to identify who the "thinkers" are, and who the "grunts" are in their classes. Let the grunts answer what they want for a little while (*after* they raise their hands), then call on the thinkers to end the conversation by correctly answering the question.

I'm not suggesting that grunts need to stop talking or trying to learn. Far from it, in fact. I believe we all start out as grunts when we're children. Based on our parents, our intellect, and our interest in books and school, we either move into the "thinker" category, or we solidify our position as grunts. There's *always* room to move into either category, and *anyone* can change their situation. It's just a matter of shutting the hell up and giving the right answer.

While we're on the subject of "right answers," let me give some advice to poetry teachers. I know I'm going to catch some heat for this one, but not every single interpretation of a poem is valid. It's just not. Sometimes, if the poem talks about a dog, talks about the dog's tail, and talks about the dog chasing cars and burying bones, it's about a God damn dog. It's not about a girl blossoming into a woman, it's not about the author and how his father used to whip him with wet string or something, and it's *certainly* not about God!

Some poetry is vague on purpose, and some is very specific. If you want to think the poem that describes and orange is actually about Hillary Clinton, then more power to you. But, as for myself, in the words of Dilbert, I respectfully decline the invitation to join you in your hallucination. I'd rather think the stanza when the poet describes peeling the orange is actually about peeling an orange, and not about some twisted sexual situation involving a sheep and two chickens. Weirdo.

The point I'm trying to get at is that there are just some classes that I don't need to attend to pass. There are some classes *you* don't need to attend to pass. There are some students that need to learn common courtesy and raise their hand instead of opening their damn mouths and letting random words fly out. There are some teachers that need to rule their class more efficiently, with a tyrannical fist, rather than a loving open hand of democracy where everyone is equally right.

Everyone is *not* equally right. Only the people who are wrong think they are. We paid to learn, not to discuss the incorrect reading of a poem. We paid to get a degree, not to attend a class that my three-year-old cousin could pass. It's our money, and if we want to give NEIU money semester after semester, never go to class, and fail miserably every time, it's our choice. Some of us can pass these classes without attending, and that should be our right.

Or maybe I'm just a grunt...



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Property Tax Increases Aren't So Alarming

by Syeda Zainab Razeen
Staff Reporter

The property tax bills have been sent out in Cook County and some people are seeing an increase. Though not everyone is going to see a much larger bill. This is due to the schedule for assessments and the tax caps that are in place. Schools and Park districts receive much of their revenue from property taxes. They are in need of more funds and can't seem to get them despite the rise in some people's property tax increase.

Many people have had their homes reassessed this year. County Assessor James Houlihan's staff reassesses every three years homes in the Chicagoland area. This year many suburbs had their properties assessed again. The property value in the assessment is lower than market value. The rise in property tax is not due entirely to the reassessment. There are tax caps

in place that do not allow most areas to tax more than the rate of inflation.

Suburbs are now putting up referendums asking voters for an increase in the property taxes to pay for increasing school and park district costs. Hazel Crest will ask for a 25-cent increase on a November 5th ballot in order to help their park district maintain programs. When there isn't any land left for new construction and property values don't rise, park districts don't receive many funds for their upkeep. Since the state has cut much of its budget recently the availability of grants has diminished. This leaves park districts forced to ask for increases from the property owners.

Schools are also asking more from their residents. Many schools have had deficits for three consecutive years, 163 districts in the state and 80 in the Chicagoland area. Schools have been cutting programs and increasing school

fees. Lake Forest High School has cut the Sailing Club, the Investment Club, the Computer Club, the Young Republicans Club, and the Young Democrats Club. Kenilworth Elementary District 38 has cut band, chorus, and certain art, foreign language, and gym classes. School fees have increased at Wheaton Warrenville District 200, where driver's education fees went from \$50 to \$100. Palatine-Schaumburg High School District 211 has increased driver's education fees from \$30 to \$230. Many suburbs are asking for increases for the first time in nearly twenty years. Parents, like Becky Klucka of Lake Bluff, think the increased fees are okay as long as programs in schools aren't cut. Not everyone feels this way.

P. Arendovich, a resident of Lemont, complained of the higher taxes. He is a homeowner who has increased property taxes and lives on Social Security benefits. Mr.

Arendovich believes that "for a homeowner without school-age children and living on Social Security, such taxation forces them to sell and move out." For senior citizens, single people, and couples without children increased property taxes for schools are not a priority. Mr. Arendovich suggested allowing school vouchers so private schools could take away some of need to expand because of the growing amount of school-aged children.

While the school vouchers could take care of some children, not all would be able to use the vouchers. Many suburban residents may not qualify for the vouchers because of their incomes. Private schools may hold religious doctrines that the parents don't want to expose their children to. Public schools need the money to operate and expand as the number of students enrolled increases.

Property owners without children should pay the same amount of

property taxes as the property owners with children. All Americans are required to pay for Social Security benefits while they work. The money does not go into their personal accounts. The money is used to pay for other people's Social Security benefits now with the hope that future revenue and workers will supply today's workforce with Social Security benefits later on. Not everyone attends school now but they have in the past or their children have or will. People with children already pay extra school fees that can go into the hundreds of dollars per child. Chicago's public school parents can pay \$20 for elementary school children's fees and \$300 for high school students' fees.

While everyone may not be happy about the higher property taxes, we can all agree that we must ensure an educated and prepared populace to manage the country when we reach our old age.

No time to Kill

The Admitted mistakes about the death penalty

by Patrick O'Brien
Staff Writer

Our government uses the death penalty to show that murder is wrong. Murder is wrong. Or did we not already know that? Now our fearless Governor has decided that putting an end to the death penalty in the state of Illinois is the only just thing we can do to ensure that no innocent men or women are put to death. There really is more to it than that. The fact that Illinois has come forward to admit mistakes and express concern about the death penalty is ironic given recent history; for example:

The cases of Rolando Cruz and Anthony Porter are just several of those reminding prosecutors across the state of their mistakes and lies. Rolando Cruz of course is one of several men convicted of the murder of Jeanine Nicarico in 1983 in DuPage County. After originally being sentenced to death, Cruz fought through three trials before being granted his freedom in 1995 as DNA evidence proving his innocence, along with misconduct and deception by sheriffs, exonerated him.

The case of Anthony Porter is an even more disturbing tale of just how far this system has deteriorated. Anthony Porter has an IQ tested at 51, which makes him borderline legally retarded. This fact was only discovered thirteen years after he was sentenced to die. Porter appealed all the way to the United States Supreme Court, only to be denied justice. It was only two days before his execution in September 1998 that there was any investigation into his case by an outside party. This action revealed the fact that Porter's attorney fell asleep at trial, did not call vital witnesses who could reveal the real killers identities, and failed to investigate the case at all on his clients behalf. And we as a society are ready to send people to die in

this system, which is so flawed that we cannot even protect the most basic rights of the accused?

For years now anyone in Chicago or Cook County could tell you that some of the most corrupt and brutal police in the country serve in our city and suburbs. There have been enough stories of prosecutor misconduct, judicial tampering and denial of rights to fill several books. So to find that a few enterprising law students at Northwestern have exonerated several death row inmates by discovering evidence that's been there all along should not shock us in Illinois. For years there have been tales of coerced confessions, savage beatings at the hands of officers desperate for arrests or blood, or both. Former police Lt. Jon Burge was known to have coerced and beaten confessions out of no less than fifty inmates over his career. He is just one of many tainted, genuinely destructive forces who have roamed the halls of criminal justice in Chicago and the rest of the state.

All of this adds up to one thing: can any one of us expect to be treated fairly by a justice system so filled with, and in fact governed by, individuals so blinded by personal ambition, power or violence that they cannot avoid sending innocent men to their deaths? The answer is a definite no. And from that perspective, Governor Ryan's moratorium makes sense. If we can't even make sure that the people handing out the punishments are fair or even competent in their jobs, how can we make people pay the ultimate price?

The system is failing us here and across the country. Maryland has also stopped executing prisoners and is studying the issue. In Illinois alone there are 13 cases of inmates whose death sentences have been overturned after new evidence was presented. What do we tell these men who have had many years of their life taken away? There is no justice for them. And what about the families of victims who are

taken for granted by a justice system that cannot find the actual criminals who have murdered their loved ones?

We have put our stock in a system that is producing disastrous results for both the accused and the victims. And as a result we all will suffer. Rightful monetary compensation to innocent men who have had their lives destroyed, more money for additional investigations to produce the real perpetrators of these crimes, and if there was any justice, compensation to the victims families for the pain and suffering they've absorbed. No one can win in our current system.

So we have a first step here in Illinois. We have a chance to take down what was and build something new that will actually work. But we must keep this in mind while doing so: justice is decided by human beings, and we are far from perfect creatures. So to think that there will never be wrongful convictions is foolish. And under that argument, the death penalty can never be just. Because we never can know for sure if we are right. Crimes that were solved years ago are now coming back to haunt all involved. There are very few cases of absolute guilt, and even those must be scrutinized. The human heart has some dark corridors. Ask the prosecutors and cops who lied, who withheld evidence to send these innocent men to their deaths and they will say that they were justly convicted. Justice is not in the moment when someone is sent to prison or electrocuted or given an injection, it's in the moment when the truth is revealed for all to see. There is no victory in killing another human being or in sending someone to die, because we can never really know if they're guilty or not. And the truth takes its own course, sometimes a long one. But while we wait for truth to reveal itself, what are we revealing about ourselves?

The Rise And Fall Of The Worst Rug

by John Brolley
Staff Writer

Three weeks ago Chicago Tribune columnist Bob Greene resigned amid allegations that (ten years ago) he'd slept with a teenage girl that he would later write about in his column. Recently, the same girl called Bob twice, and he told the FBI that the girl was harassing him. The girl, obviously upset, contacted the Tribune via email (anonymously) and unveiled the circumstances for Bob's eventual demise.

Interestingly, although we may never know what was on Bob Greene's mind when he began *this* affair, one thing we know for sure is what was on his head, a toupee. Not just any old toupee, though. This sucker's has enough hair glued into it to give Bob a mane that Frankie Avalon would surely envy. It is my contention that Bob's vanity follicles had a lot to do with his eventual termination (You say resignation, I'll say termination...) at the Chicago Tribune. The common thread between Greene's Trib departure and his chia-head can be found in one word: arrogance.

No man without a superiority complex would ever have the guts to either wear Greene's rug or bed down (at least one of) the young girls that he was writing about. Obviously Bob Greene liked 'em young, whether he was writing or dating. Those unaware of Bob's horn dog reputation among Chicago writers, must have been stunned to read that their hero had sex with a high school girl. The really horrible aspect of this story is that the girl that Bob had an affair with (that emailed the Trib) was introduced to Bob by her parents on a visit to the paper. Great guy, that Bob.

Bob's arrogance, with regard to his toupee and the affairs, could be guessed at as the confidence of a person who always thinks, "I can pull this off." Well, the affairs anyway. Speaking of Bob sans rug, I have this vision, a dream more like, of Bob, one hand covering his head, leaping for his Toupee, twirling out of reach, from a Marriott ceiling fan—thrown moments earlier by a disillusioned high school girl...

Greene invaded my personal space back in the 80's with his column about a high school kid who'd written him regarding his lack of funds—and his brilliant idea to have Bob's readers send him a penny or so each to help pay for his college education. Although thousands did send in pennies, many more people sent in dimes, quarters, dollars, etc. The last that I remember the kid had grossed in excess of \$121, 000! Bob: Difference maker or dupe?

So large is Bob's shadow these days, that he has, in Chicago anyway, replaced Kevin Bacon as a reference figure. In fact, if you live in Chicago, I'm sure that you know someone, who knows someone, who was hit on by Bob. In my case, my brother, in grad school in Chicago in the early 80's, told me of a story about a girl he was dating who'd said that Bob had thrown about the same number of passes at her that Brett Favre typically throws on a Fall Sunday. Bob's "Hail Mary" attempt being the (I swear), "Don't you know who I am?" line. When the girl laughed at him, Bob went off in search of less discerning quarry.

Why would Bob risk his remarkably successful writing career for his quest to bed down young girls? Quite simply, because some of the girls said, yes. Let's note here that Bob has been married for over twenty years with a young daughter that he wrote about in one his books, Miss Sunshine or something like that. Considering the number of times that I have read this book it's a wonder that I can't remember the title.

Here I will try to draw the fat line that resides in between temptation and the hot chick safari that Bob had going. Temptation, insofar as girls are concerned, is when you are involved in a monogamous relationship and are pursued by someone you may otherwise have found attractive. Greene, it seems, was continually on the hunt, using his smarmy-charm and column to lure young females, mostly writers (Doh!) up to his love shack at a downtown hotel. Check out the Whatever Whenever website for some firsthand accounts of Bob's not so subtle seduction techniques.

As for Bob, the writer, you may find him inspiring or heartwarming, but more likely you'll find his work a tad simple, if not familiar. In fact, when you read Bob you'll probably have one of those, "Why didn't I think of that" moments. The thing is, you probably *did* think of the things that Bob writes about. Problem is, so has everyone else. As an example: Bob's vehemently against child abuse. How about you? Bob's also pro-summertime. Most who brave Chicago's five month winters would agree that summer is a welcome seasonal change.

For such a popular writer, upon close inspection, Bob's column was actually less like a column and more like a police blotter or high school report on how he spent his summers—thirty years ago. My guess is that if he'd been more successful with the ladies back then he wouldn't be in the mess he's in now. I've always wanted to be paid like a Bob Greene to write a column. I sure as heck didn't expect him to resign to make my dream come true. Thanks, Bob.

Alumnus complains about member of Student Activities

Dear Editor:

I am an alumnus of Northeastern who is proud to have graduated from the university. Sadly, this attitude is changing in light of events occurring within the school. It is with disappointment that I am taking pen to paper to voice my concerns to you.

I am sure that everyone is well aware of the controversial Spring 2002 elections. As it is election time again, I feel that you should be informed of an incident that occurred at the El Centro Campus of Northeastern University. On October 7, 2002, Dr. Walt Sommers [Director of Student Activities] overstepped his boundaries, not only as a professional member of the university, but also as a citizen. He not only denied my right to freedom of speech, but my mother's as well.

During the current election I was informed that I could not "campaign for or endorse" any particular candidate, due to the fact that I am not a registered student. I respected the election rules and refrained from campaigning for my sister at the El Centro Campus. However, I was present at the spring elections and have watched a recent program called "Straight Talk" on television in which some candidates publicly humiliated the university. They painted a grim picture of the administration, comparing them to our forefathers who oppressed the minority. The university was portrayed as an environment that stifled the African

American community. My mother and I are concerned citizens who not only pay taxes to the university but have also been paying tuition for the past eight years. I felt that I had to speak out not against any one particular candidate but toward the party of students who through their actions detract from the value of education that I have received and that my sisters are currently receiving.

On October 7, I prepared a short flyer urging students to think before they vote, and to be aware of whom they would really be placing in office. This piece of paper made no mention of any names whatsoever. It was a piece of paper expressing my opinion in which I had a right to express on public state grounds. My mother and I did not distribute the flyer but merely held it in our hands. I would like to make it clear that during this whole incident we never asked students to vote one way or another for any particular candidate. We never campaigned and never spoke out against any of the 21 candidates that are running.

As we silently held the flyer in our hands, one curious student came closer to read the flyer, which prompted Kendra Young to go to Dr. Sommers. He stormed over to the lounge area where my mother and I were sitting and loudly demanded to know if the flyer was registered campaign material. My mother told him she was not campaigning and

that the flyer was not campaign material. It was an opinion we had a right to express. She also told him that she never mentioned the names of any of the candidates. Dr. Sommers demanded that we "not distribute the flyers and we were not to show them to anyone." His manner was crude and disrespectful, attracting the attention of all who were campaigning.

One of the students working behind the front desk saw this injustice and offered to post the flyer on the bulletin board. We refused, because not only were we still upset about this display from a staff member but we also decided to at least show enough respect for Sommers to not display the flyer in the building. Although this initial act alone violated our constitutional right to go into a public place and peacefully express our opinion, it was not the end of the dictator role that Dr. Sommers took upon himself at that campus.

My mother and I believed that we should be heard and felt, and that legally we were entitled to at least stand outside in the street and state the facts. We did not stand in front of the university but deliberately walked one block away to the Florisheim shoe factory down the street, which is clearly out of the jurisdiction of Northeastern University. We talked to one student that was passing by, as it was his choice whether he wanted to come

over and listen to us or not. We showed him the flyer and informed him that he had a right to vote for whomever he wanted but that we merely wished to give him background information on the situation. He asked us who the people were that went on television and we told him the names of those that appeared on the program. That was the only time we mentioned names and two of the names we mentioned are not candidates for this election.

We soon saw Dr. Sommers leave the campus and walk to the next block where we were standing. He spoke to my mother in a manner wrought with disrespect and aggression. After the incident, Dr. Sommers stormed off, leaving my mother and I feeling hurt and violated. We did not continue to stay there, my mother stayed in the car for the next three hours. She drove my sister to the campus and planned to wait to drive her home, however she was too upset to even approach the campus after the way that we were treated by Dr. Sommers.

When Dr. Sommers crossed the line from university grounds to public city streets, what he had to say was nothing more than *harassment*. I was appalled that he would act this way and then threaten to "take action". This very flyer that Dr. Sommers hindered us from displaying became registered campaign material the very next day and can be seen throughout

campus. Dr. Sommers what did you accomplish? Let me tell you, that you have strengthened my belief in the right to freedom of speech. You have not only lost my respect but that of my family as well. You have also reinforced the attitudes of those who believe that when times are challenging they can bring the race concept into the situation to win points rather than choosing to rely on their merit and integrity. Good job.

Some may argue that I am not student, and therefore should not care about what goes on in the Student government of Northeastern. Yes, you're almost right...the outcome doesn't affect me; I was there because my sisters asked me to be. But when a student goes on television and makes their opinion public in a way that deters from Northeastern reputation, I have a right to challenge that opinion. On a personal level, if I feel that what I see is wrong I have every right to stand on a public street and express my feelings. The Northeastern name will always be on my resume and its reputation will always have some effect on my life in the business world. That is why I look to the administration of the school to uphold its reputation. I want my diploma to count for something, and I sincerely hope that the environment I have been experiencing at Northeastern recently is no a reflection of the university as a whole.

Francesca Logothetis

MyCleanFlicks Cleans Up Dirty Movies

by Syeda Zainab Razeen
Staff Writer

Copyright laws protect works from being tampered with without the consent of the copyright holder. However once a person buys a video they retain the right to do whatever they want with it for their personal viewing pleasure. What happens if someone bought a video, edited it, and then rented it out to people in a club? The Directors Guild of America would threaten a legal fight.

The DGA contends that only the people that make the movies should be able to change the appearance of them. However the catch 22 is that once a company or private citizen buys a videocassette they can change it. You can't show a video you have altered to an entire Cineplex, but you can watch it at home however you want. The companies that rent these edited versions do so to clubs or co-ops. They buy videos and edit them for the members, which means they aren't doing anything illegal. The money the DGA can pour into their case outweighs the resources of these companies, but it isn't the editing by itself that's bothering the DGA.

Movies are already being edited and shown to the public when they are played on network television. The movies are 'edited for content.' Offensive language, extremely violent scenes, and many sexual situations are

removed from the movies before they are played. In these situations Hollywood is in on the profit. Directors and other filmmakers have the opportunity to prepare for network's presenting their movies. They can re-shoot scenes that are more network friendly and shoot extra scenes to accompany the network version. As for selling movies that are more extensively edited, Hollywood wasn't quick enough to get in on that action.

A few companies offer videos or DVDs they have edited for content to members of their club or co-ops for a fee. Other companies offer software that can be placed on your television set, VCR, or DVD player. This software takes out whatever type of material the company deems edit worthy. One company, MovieMask, allows for three levels of editing. You can choose how extensive the editing should be. These companies appeal to people who don't want to see violent or sexual material when they sit down with their families on movie night. They want to be sure they can safely sit through an entire movie without having to stop the movie and fast-forward the dirty parts. Or worse, spend the rest of the night explaining what their children have just seen, whether it is an especially gory scene or a sexual situation.

The website for one of these companies, MyCleanFlicks,

explains what they do and make sure to tell customers or future club members that their service is completely legal. The company explains the procedure like this, "As owners of the original, unedited movies, the Co-op has the right to edit out content that is objectionable to its members-similar to how you might press mute to avoid hearing objectionable language today." The company also says the material they edit out is categorized as "profanity and other offensive language...nudity, sexual situations, and extreme or gory violence." The way they edit the material is *similar* to the process used to edit movies

that appear on television. Professionals do the editing. Even though MyCleanFlicks claim to remove more than networks might, they still provide a disclaimer warning parents to use *discretion*.

The Directors Guild of America has one point they could argue well against these companies and this new, emerging market. When the networks air their edited movies, the directors and other people who helped make the movie have approved the movies. When the private companies edit the director and other filmmakers don't have a say in how the final product turns out. This is the only valid argument by the

DGA.

People should have a say in how they watch movies. Not everyone wants all of that extra material that's supposed to sell more tickets. Parents may want to share a good movie with their children without traumatizing them with gory pictures. These movies are bought legally and then altered. They provide a good service and are needed. Maybe Hollywood will take a hint with the success of these companies and limit the amount of unnecessary material. However it isn't unlikely that Hollywood will just find a way to sell these services for their own profit.

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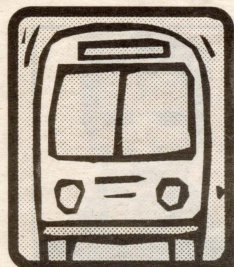
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The Commuter

Next stop: Features! Watch the doors as they close.

Thousands walk for AIDS awareness

by Andrea Zelinski
Production Editor

For over seventeen years, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, (AFC) has brought together people across the metropolitan area in an effort to take action by making a shared contribution to the awareness of the AIDS crisis. Year after year, the AFC has been successful in developing a strong reputation for the their annual AIDS Run/Walk in Chicago.

The most recent AIDS fundraiser consisted of a five-mile run/walk on September 29, 2002. This event was the second of their annual AIDS Run Walk in Chicago. Beginning at 10 a.m. on the corner of Columbus and Roosevelt, more than nine thousand participants took part in the program. Chicago blues singer Lynne Jordan took the

stage to start the pre-event. After the walk a post-event concert for the participants featured Paris Delane, vocalist for Sonia Dada.

The AIDS Run/Walk is an event designed to honor those who have struggled with AIDS and/or HIV as well as raise the awareness of the disease to the public. Beginning in 1985, the AFC has been known to accomplish a number of goals. As an organization, they fund community-based prevention and care programs. Further, they develop a comprehensive system of HIV/AIDS care, including case management, medical assistance, and housing services to those in need. Another function of the AFC is to protect the rights of and secure needed resources for people affected by HIV/AIDS. The AFC also aids in educating government officials, service providers and the

general public so that people may be well informed about HIV and AIDS.

Last year alone, the AFC raised more than fifteen thousands dollars with the help from individuals, teams, and corporate sponsors. "Every dollar raised for the 2001 event helped fund prevention education, advocacy, and direct services for thousands of Illinoisans in our community that are affected by HIV," noted www.chicagorunwalkforaids.org/html/afoc.html.

Since 1988 the AFC has awarded approximately twelve million dollars in grants in AIDS prevention and care programs.

For more information about the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, visit www.aidschicago.org. For further information about the AIDS Run/Walk visit www.chicagorunwalkforaids.org/html/afoc.html.

Fitness Matters

by Martha Montes
Office of Campus Recreation

Tip of the Day - Did you know that drinking at least eight 8-ounce glasses of water a day can help with fat loss? Here's why: The kidneys can't work properly without enough water and thus dump some of their workload onto the liver. One of the liver's primary jobs is to metabolize stored fat into energy; if the liver is doing the kidneys' job, it can't do its own as effectively.

Today's Question

Can I get a straight answer from you guys? I'm trying to lose weight and there are so many diets out there, which one is the best?

Ann D.

Dear Ann,

Thanks for your question, I'm sure many people are wondering the same thing. The first decision to make is to not "go on a diet" - this implies that you'll be going off it. What needs to be done is a nutritional and lifestyle makeover. By following the guidelines of the food pyramid, you'll be getting a healthy, well-balanced diet and by using a caloric intake ratio of 65% carbohydrates, 20% protein, and 15% fat you'll ensure yourself of ample energy to get through your day. The diets on the market promise "weight loss" and they deliver on that - the problem is that most of the weight loss is water and muscle loss, not fat loss.

The bottom line for healthy weight loss is to make sure it's fat loss. The way to do this is to manipulate the number of calories coming in with the number of calories going out. Serious restriction of calories will cause your body's metabolism to slow down, which means that you won't burn as many calories doing everyday activities. You need to eat a sensible diet and a reasonable number of calories and balance it with physical activity; your body will let you expend unlimited number of calories without effecting your metabolism.

So, you want some numbers? While there are no magic formulas out there for fast and easy weight loss, there are some general guidelines. The average caloric requirement for men and women is based on current body weight and lifestyle patterns. These are broken up into *sedentary* (limited physical activity) - men 13/calories per pound, women 12/calories per pound, *moderate* physical activity - men 15/cal.per pound, women 13.5/cal.per pound, and *hard labor* (strenuous physical effort) - men 17/cal.per pound, women 15/cal.per pound. These terms are relative to your job and daily life without exercise. Pick a category and multiply the number by your body weight, this will give you an idea of how many calories a day you need just for your everyday life. If you need to lose weight, you can cut your weekly caloric intake by 250 calories, but no more than that, because if you restrict your calories too much, your body will begin to conserve the energy you take in (e.g. food) and convert it to fat and store it. A healthy goal for fat loss is 1-2 pounds per week with a pound of fat equaling 3500 calories. So, the goal is to eat the correct number of calories a day and add physical activity to burn off the excess. Adding physical activity to your life has a multifaceted effect. Of course it helps to burn off calories during the exercise, but it also helps to rev up your metabolism and keep your body burning more calories throughout the day; it also helps you sleep better, manage stress, and gives you more energy. So, how long should you exercise? The American College of Sports Medicine offers the following: accumulation of 30 minutes a day of moderate intensity activity on all or most days of the week will provide *health benefits* such as reduction of blood pressure and cholesterol, help to control diabetes, and reduce heart disease risks. If you want to lose body fat you need to work at an intensity that keeps you "aerobic" - meaning your body is using oxygen to burn calories. This usually equates to working at an intensity that you could talk to your neighbor while exercising but could not necessarily hold a normal conversational dialogue. As you become more fit, this intensity level will increase.

I hope this information helps Ann and thanks for writing!

If you want more information or answers to your questions, sign up for your FREE personal training sessions with NEIU's personal trainers. Our e-mail address is personal-training@neiu.edu.

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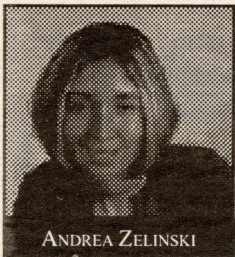
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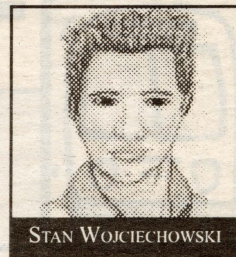
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ANDREA ZELINSKI

STAN'S LIFE



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI

Last episode of *Stan's Life* featured Stan actually making a connection with Tori. Just when he felt they were hitting it off, she told him about a creep who makes a hobby of making her feel uncomfortable. After seeing it for himself, he has to make an internal decision about whether or not he wants to deal with this baggage. Read on to find out what he's thinking.

Elliott sat in the cafeteria by the windows waiting impatiently for Sid. He stared at the rain crashing down on the silvery metal tables and chairs. Water trickled down the glass as though each stream had a unique mind of its own. He tapped his heel nervously on the floor. He turned his head left and right to check for Sid again. Still no sign. He pulled out an envelope from his backpack and slid it under his calculus book. The rumble of the thunder sent a chill down his back.

Just as Elliott turned his head once again, he caught a glimpse of Sid walking down the stairs, staring straight at him. Elliott shot his head back to his original gaze towards the window. Sid took his time as he strolled towards him. He dropped a book on the table surface and slid a chair out.

"Do you have it?" Sid asked, lowering his voice. Elliott nodded in response. He slid the bulging white envelope out from under his book towards Sid. Shiny white teeth gleamed from Sid's smiling mouth. "Is this all of it?"

Elliott cleared his throat. "Yeah," he replied. "Count it if you don't believe me."

"Nah. I believe you," he said as he slid the envelope in between the pages of his book. "Only because if you were lying to me, I'd have to hurt you," Sid smirked.

"Whatever," Elliott mumbled.

"You didn't tell Stan about this, did you?" Sid focused.

"No," Elliott said as he shook his head, "he doesn't know a thing."

"Good. Let's keep it that way."

"Why do you care? I was the one who hit your car. What does it matter if Stan knows or not?" Elliott snapped.

"Drop it," Sid snapped as he saw Stan make his way down the stairs. Stan, soaking wet, headed towards the table. As he drew nearer, the two could hear the squeaking of his shoes on the white tile floor. When he finally reached the table, he dropped his drenched backpack on a nearby chair and sat down. Water dripped from his hair down the sides of his face. He tried to wipe his face off with his sleeve just to realize it wasn't helping.

"I'm going to demand a refund for my parking permit. The permit is to insure that I actually have a place to park in this



damn lot," Stan complained as he wiped the water off his face with his hand. "But this permit doesn't do shit for me if there aren't any spots. Why am I paying over eighty dollars to search over a half hour for somewhere to put my car?" Stan paused. "Well, I ended up parking by the P. E. Building. Even over there I had to hunt for a spot."

"That sucks. It's raining pretty bad out there, isn't it?" Sid asked as he discretely slid the envelope further into his book.

"Yeah," Stan replied as he rolled his eyes. Thunder rumbled again from outside. Lightning crackled only moments later leaving an instant of bright light filling the window. Stan just stared out the window for a moment. "So what are you two doing here?"

"Just hanging out," Sid replied as he leaned back in his chair. "When is your next class?"

"Not for another hour. By the time I would have gotten to my class after the delay in the parking lot, I would have been ridiculously late. Not to mention dripping wet," Stan answered.

"That sucks," Elliott replied. His eyes lit up as he stared past Stan. Elliott leaned closer to Stan and whispered, "Tori's behind you. I think she's heading over here."

Stan peeked over his shoulder to see Tori dressed in dark blue jeans and a sexy pink v-neck top. Once their eyes met, Stan waved her over. *I look like shit. I'm all wet and dripping. Oh well.*

"Hey you. Looks like you just took a bath with your clothes on," Tori joked. She smiled as Stan slightly blushed. She glanced up at his companions. "Hi, I'm Tori," she waved. Sid and Elliott exchanged hellos and introductions while Stan pulled a chair to the table for her. "Oh, I can't stay. I have to meet a couple of friends for a study group," she commented.

"Oh," he replied. *I wanted to ask her something. What was it again? Oh yeah!* "Hey, have you heard about the Halloween party next week?"

"I think I saw signs for it. ((GET INFORMATION ABOUT DATE, TIME, LOCATION)). Isn't it next Thursday?"

"I think so. Are you going?" *God I hope she is.*

"I might. But I don't know what I should dress up as."

"Same here. You should go. It would be really fun."

Tori laughed. "Maybe I'll be there," she paused. I had better head out or I'll be late. It was nice meeting you two," she directed towards Elliott and Sid. "I'll see you around Stan." She walked away from the table as Stan discretely watched her leave until she was out of sight.

"Halloween party, eh? I'd like to see her in costume," Sid smirked. "She'd make a hot French maid."

"Shut up!" Stan snapped. *No one wants to see her as a French maid more than I do.*

Sid chuckled. "I'm just saying."

"Yeah. I bet you are," Stan said sarcastically. "I've gotta run. I do have a bit of studying to do. I'll see you both later," Stan explained as he picked up his damp backpack and headed towards the stairs.

"I didn't upset you, did I?" joked Sid. Stan turned back, "Nah. I've just got shit to do. Later," he yelled.

Stan reached the top of the stairs and turned left, heading for the reading lounge. He opened the door to find nearly a dozen people sleeping to the pitter-patter of the raindrops outside. He lowered his bag to the floor next to a chair in the corner and unzipped it, pulling out a political science book. Stan quietly rested his feet on a nearby table and opened the book to Chapter five. *I really don't want to read this whole chapter. I'm just so exhausted.* Stan rubbed his burning eyes. *But I can't fall asleep. I just have too much work to do.* He began reading the first paragraph. *Washington, D. C., must seem to be the capital of a remarkably tranquil-*

"Hey, can I borrow a pen?"

"Yeah," Stan mumbled as he rubbed his eyes again and pulled a blue pen out of his bag. *Like it wasn't hard enough to concentrate. Now I have people bugging me. Okay. Back to politics.* He rubbed his eyes again. *Washington, D. C., must seem to be the capital of a remarkably tranquil country to observers from most nations... While tranquil country to observers from most nations... While tranquil country to observers from most nations... While tranquil country...*

Stan stood outside the Student Union in the pouring rain. His clothes were soaked from head to toe. He began walking towards the Science Building as if he was heading to class.

Ahead were two figures. They looked to be a woman and a young child. As he walked closer, he recognized Tori, wearing dark blue jeans and a sexy pink v-neck. Her body was soaked from the pouring rain. The shirt stuck to her slender body. Her colorful hair hung heavily from her head. Stan could see the rain spill down her cheeks down her neck. Soft thunder rolled in the background. *I don't think she knows I'm here.*

A little girl in a pink raincoat stood besides her, tugging on her shirt. She urged "Mommy. Mommy!" The girl let go, and started to jump in the puddles, giggling harder and harder.

I'll go over there. She might need a ride home. Stan picked up his pace and headed straight for the two girls. Before Stan could reach them, a dark figure crept out from behind the building. He was a greasy looking man, looking to be in his mid twenties. Stan stopped and started to squint. *That looks like the creep Tori and I saw last week. What the hell is he doing?* Stan was about to run towards them, but he couldn't move. His feet felt like blocks of cement, grounding him.

Meanwhile, the guy walked closer to Tori and the little girl. Tori glanced behind her and caught a glimpse of the man. She dashed across the slick, purple grass to grab the little girl's hand. She started to pull the child down the sidewalk. But the creep kept getting closer and closer.

"Daddy! Daddy!" the little girl cried out. The thunder rolled again.

The guy reached for Tori's arm. She yelled in protest.

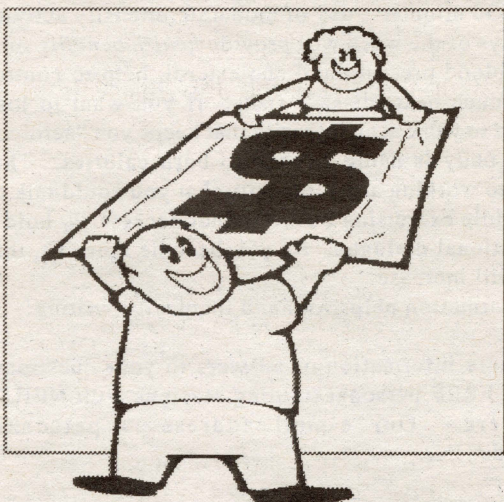
I have to help her. Stan continued to inch forward.

Tori escaped his grasp and began to yell at the man. Stan couldn't hear anything but pounding of the rain and the high pitched cry of the little girl. Tori held the little girl closer, and walked away. *Good. At least she got away.*

At that moment, the guy turned his head and glared at Stan from across the wet grass.

Stan felt a tap on his shoulder. "Thanks for the pen," the student said as he picked up his bags and headed out the door. Stan sat up a little and looked around. *Where am I?* He glanced around the lounge for a familiar face only to see the creepy guy staring at him from across the room.

What does this mean for Stan? Will he let Tori's baggage get to him? You'll have to wait until the Halloween issue of the Independent to find out!



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Star Signs

by Eliza the Enchantress

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your eye on the finish line and the semester will be over sooner than you think. Remember you do not have to please everyone you know. You just have to please yourself and everything will be fine.



TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Slow and steady wins the race. Remember to get any projects done early and turned in on time. If you are signing or expecting something, important please read the fine print. If you are expecting someone to do his or her part, make sure you get it in writing.



GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You are bouncy and have a lot of energy in you right now. Use this to your advantage it will come in handy getting through midterms. Hold off on spending money, you are going to need money for the holiday season.



CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need to change something in your life. Actually, you need to either remodel, paint, clean or rearrange the furniture in your room. You are also thinking about your future and considering a major commitment when it comes to you love.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You are marching to the beat of your own drum. You are also in a very compassionate mood. This mood allows you to make a short trip to help your brother, sister, mother, father, aunts, uncles and cousins.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Focus on what you have to do. You need to make a list of things you need to do, like fall cleaning. You will feel better if you make a list and keep to it. Pay attention to all of the details and you will be fine.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It is a matter of being at the right place at the right time. You need to keep on the path that you created for yourself. Everything is finally working out for you. Just remember to keep focused on your goals and on school.



SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You want to start a business. You want to be proud of something that you helped to create. First, you need to finish what you've already started.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You need to go out and just enjoy the weather, be it alone or with someone else. You need to go out and enjoy the outdoors before it gets too cold.



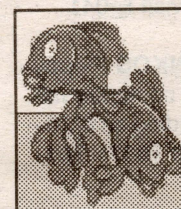
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will be Mister or Miss Popularity. Your calendar is full of social activities. Make sure you make time for yourself. But don't forget to enjoy it before it fades away.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You need to be practical. You find yourself dreaming about what you want to do, rather than what you need to do. The need is stronger than the want. Listen to your practical side.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Our experiences are what makes us who we are. You need to try different experiences and not be afraid to branch out.



If your Birthday is this Week:

Take care of the details, do your work and be open to new experiences.

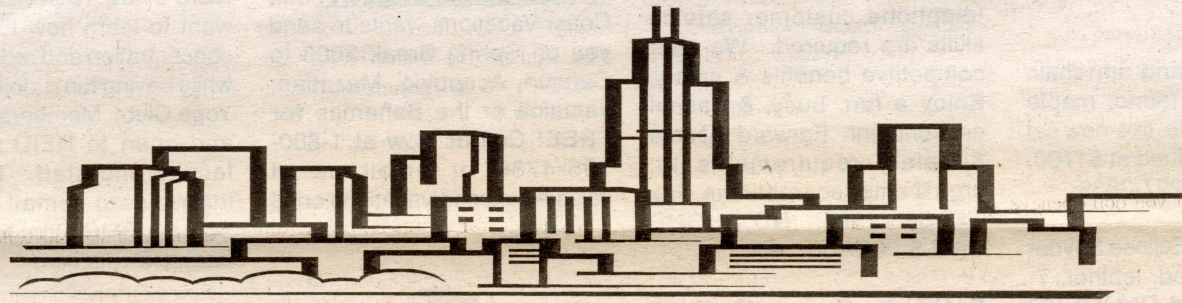
If your Birthday is next week:

You need to take things in stride, and allow things to happen naturally.



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

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

Join the Independent's award-winning staff. Be famous! Make money! Become a part of the student newspaper. We are in search of photographers, writers, cartoonists, and reporters. Staff meetings are held every Tuesday during the activity hour. The *Independent* office is located in E-049, below Beck's Bookstore. Call 442-4577.

The Muslim Student Association meets on Thursday FA 107 and Friday Prayer/ is held in CLS 2094 at 1:15 until 2:00.

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance: meets on Tuesdays in CLS-2094 at 1:40. To join listserve, send a message to femmajority-l@neiu.edu with your name and e-mail address.

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Mark your calendars for November 24! Eitan Haber, former Israeli cabinet member, will lecture about life in Israel. Sponsored by Hillel.

Personals

Gus: Drop Logic. Advise from a couple of outsiders.

BB: Happy Birthday you bastard

To the Backdoor Beauty: May youlet it pass when this little pal of yours makes alkl of the right passes at all the wrong times.

Notice

something missing?

YOU

join the

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Next

meeting:

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1:40p.m.

E-049

Oh goody gumdrops!

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