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Independent- Jan. 22, 2003

Andrea Zelinski

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ANTI-WAR PROTESTS DRAW
HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS
TO WASHINGTON D.C.
AND SAN FRANCISCO

PAGE 4

NEWS, OPINIONS, FEATURES
AND MORE
ALL INSIDE!

VOC IS A
CLASSLESS ACT!

PAGE 7

CENSORED



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

Independent

Vol. 19 Issue 11

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, January 22nd, 2003

JAN 23 2003

Who's the *Who's Who* at NEIU?

by Benny Boyas
Staff Writer

Who or what is the Who's Who, you ask? Only the nation's most respected and recognized publication devoted to highlighting the very best in a vast array of areas, including education and academia. Dating back to the 1930's, Who's Who has been compiling a list of names, along with brief biographies of students whom excel in both the academic and extra-curricular sectors; students who go far beyond the standards. Realizing that highlighting the number of students who hold high grade point averages amounts to nothing more than statistics, the organization is devoted to accenting those who not only have exceptional academic standing, but also significantly participate in student affairs on campus, as well as serving their community off campus.

The Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges originated from academic administrators and innovators who believed the most exceptional individuals from universities around the country should be properly acknowledged and rewarded. Although look-alikes have sprouted world-wide, Who's Who is the original publication of its type, and has maintained its prestige and authenticity to this day. "This is



Dr. Lawrence helps announce the Who's Who 2003 college students.

something you should definitely put on your resumes" said Dean of Students Michael Kelly to the crowd of 25 students and their accompanying guests, who gathered at the Golden Eagles room on Thursday, January 16, 2002 during activity hour for a ceremony celebrating their induction.

Family and friends were invited to attend the ceremony. "I am just very very proud of her. She works her best and I am so happy"; said Dolores Andrade, mother of Inductee Julie C. Carrera.

Additionally, John Vizuete expressed pride in his cousin Julie, and also shared his view of the mission of Who's Who. "[They] are really rewarding good citizens; people that show strong character and strong determination." Additionally, present at the ceremony was the Vice-President of Student Affairs, Dr. Melvin Terrell, and the Vice-President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Frank Lawrence; both of them who spoke on the significance and honor of being featured in such a high-status

collection. The presence of the Vice-Presidents of both student and academic affairs departments further illustrated the magnitude of excelling in both academics and other areas outside of the classroom.

According to Dean Kelly, who elaborated on the lengthy process and strict scrutiny that every nomination is subjected to, being included is no easy task. Nominations are brought forth by deans, professors, and directors, and are then forwarded to Dean Kelly. Only the best of these nominations are approved and advanced to the Who's Who. NEIU students first began appearing in Who's Who in the year 2000, and have since included 125 students. Such recognition on the university's behalf has different effects on students. "It made me feel weird. I never expected to get this award", said Gabriela Herrera. In contrast, the recognition on by the university is "The icing on the cake" according to Tina Marie Kontelas, a newly inducted student. "We're proud of ourselves anyway. We don't do it to get thanks. We do it because it needs to be done."

A copy of the Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges will be available at the Ronald Williams Library on campus in the near future. The following students were inducted into the almanac-style publication this year.

NEIU students selected to the *Who's Who* list

Maura Aparicio
Caleb Avraham
Kristina Bachman
Linda Berlow
Brian Blaszkowski
Anjaneen Campbell
Julie C. Carrera
Maria Esther Castillo
Sheree Cole
Shipra Dass
Emanuela Dragomir
Rachel Gielarowski
John Happenstall
Gabriela Herrera
Robert Donald Hull
Liliana Inostroza
Ruth L. Johnson
Tina Marie Kontelas
Robyn Kurtz
Deborah Larys
Georgia Logothetis
Samir M. Mohammad
Luis Pulido
Michael Rodriguez
Sandra Rufino

New assistant to V.P. brings diversity to NEIU

Pierre back in Midwest after long absence; experience, talent to benefit students

by Dave DeSmedt
Staff Writer

The university has selected Ms. Kristine Pierre as the Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs effective January 6, 2003. Ms. Pierre brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our campus which will enable the university to continue providing quality services to our students.

Ms. Pierre is originally from the Detroit area and is happy to be back in the Midwest after spending fifteen years at a regional and diverse state university in California. Ms. Pierre chose Northeastern because of its diversity and urban appeal. She holds a Bachelors Degree in Political Science and Geography with an emphasis in urban planning from Western Michigan

University and a Masters Degree in Student Personnel Work in Higher Education from Ohio State University.

The Student Affairs office performs a wide variety of tasks for the student body. "The mission of a Student Affairs office, most importantly, is to advocate for student issues between the administration and the students, primarily looking at issues that have a definite impact on students", Pierre stated enthusiastically. She also continued to state, "The enhancement of the quality of the learning environment via different avenues, helping to provide services such as financial aid and career placement, and strengthening the community within Northeastern are keys to a strong Student Affairs system. If there is a comfortable

connection with resources and needs, the success of the students is better."

Ms. Pierre feels that diversity is a key component for a good education and that is why she chose her career path to reflect those ideals. "Diversity provides a better education overall. The ability to interact with a wide range of people definitely improves one's success rate in life, especially careers in business and education where one

comes in contact with a large volume of people," said Pierre.

Pierre has also been keeping abreast of situations involving the student body. One particular situation involves our Student Government and has been a large concern for many here on campus. Ms. Pierre stated that although she was unaware of the entire controversy, she did say that the student government recognizes problems with the election codes. One concern

that students have is if the Elections Committee will be replaced by an eight member board appointed and presided over by Student Affairs Vice President, Dr. Terrell. "I would be highly surprised if this happened", Pierre said. Although certain situations may warrant the administration to mediate, Pierre was confident that the Student Government Association would be able to remedy the situation themselves.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!

bite-sized but essential news

gripes, moans, and common sense

features to entertain and enlighten

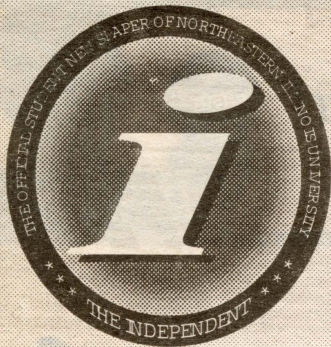
the bulletin board you can bring with you

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Golden Opportunities page 12



Fall/Spring Office Hours

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.

The Independent,
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5500 N. St. Louis Av.
Chicago, Illinois 60625

AROUND CAMPUS

Student Organization Fair

The annual Northeastern Organization Fair will be held this Wednesday and Thursday in Village Square from 10am-4pm. Many student organizations will be represented.

FMLA Film Festival

The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance is hosting a Film Festival January 29th and 30th in the Golden Eagles room in the Student Union, featured films will include *Daughter From Danang*, *Notorious C.H.O.*, and *Live Nude Girls Unite!* Many other exciting films will also be shown. There will be a pizza party on Thursday the 30th during activity hour, as well as a reception at 6pm each day before the feature films are shown. Feature films will begin at 7pm each night. Feel free to contact Anne Mothkovich or Becca Raven Gilmore at 442-4550 with any questions.

The Promise Land

The Black Heritage Club presents a tribute to Martin Luther King Jr. to be held Tuesday January 28th, in Student Union room 215 during activity hour 1:40pm-2:50 pm. There will be an overview and discussion of Dr. King and his dreams and aspirations.

Sorority Informational

Sigma Lambda Gamma presents their Second Semester Formal Informational to be held in SU 218 from on Thursday, January 23rd. Informational will take place from 1:40 p.m. until 2:40 p.m. All ladies are welcome. For more information, contact Sylvia at (773) 626-8313.

Computer Skills Workshop

Sponsored by Returning Adult Program

Scheduled Saturdays - 10:00a.m. - 12:00p.m. - B-105

January 25

- Basic Word Processing

Instructor: Romina Bodakh, Academic Computing

To make reservations or for more information, contact the Returning Adult Program at (773) 442-4873.

NEIU Blood Drive

Every season, a new reason to donate blood.

Monday, January 27th

8a.m. - 4p.m. in Cafeteria room SU 003

For more information or to make an appointment (appointments recommended), please contact Professor Mungre at Mungre@neiu.edu Please bring identification showing your name, date of birth and one of the following numbers: social security, driver's license/state ID, or passport.

Juvenile Justice Lectures

4:15p.m in Renny Golden's Class, Science Building room 211. All are welcome!

1/22- Renny Golden, Disposable Children, film: 'Orphan Trains.

2/5 Chuck Golbert, Cook County Public Guardian's Office, Law and Child Welfare.

2/12 Renny Golden, *Young Women, Hidden Abuse and Drugs.*

2/19 Jonathan Peck, Southwest Youth Collaborative, *Youth Advocating for Themselves.*

Seventh Annual African, African-American, Native-American, Caribbean, and the Americas Heritage Program.

"The Global Connections of Our Collective Destiny"

Wednesday, January 22, 2003

10:00 - 10:50a.m., SU 215

"Implications of Race and Culture Notions in Brazil"

Presenters: Manual Cuba, Proyecto Pa'Lante, NEIU, Theophilus Okosun, Project Success, NEIU

10:00 - 10:50am., SU 214

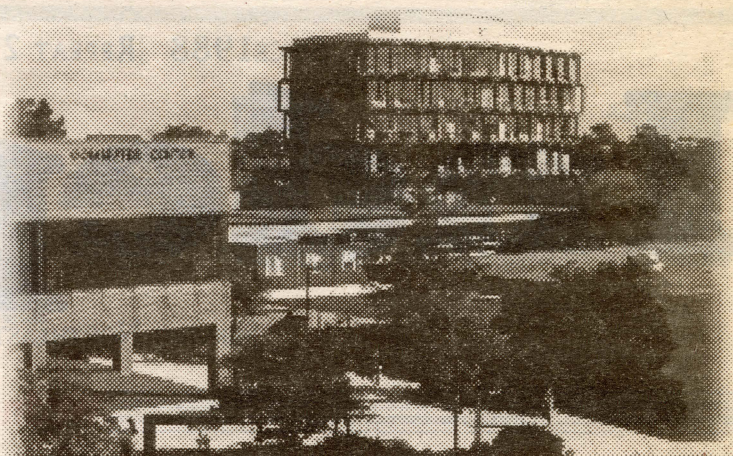
"Global Involvement in Central Africa: Great Lakes Conflict"

Presenters: Jeanine Ntahirageza, Instructor, Department of Linguistics, NEIU. David Bamlango, Exodus World Service and Jeremy Liebowitz, Instructor, Department of Political Science, NEIU

1:00 - 1:50p.m., SU 214

"U.S. Media Coverage of Africa: Impact on U.S.-Africa Relations"

Presenters: Cyril Ibe, Host, Afriscope Radio and Founder, Afriscoperadio.com, Vukoni Lupa-Lazaga, Journalist from Uganda, and



Member, Rotary International

7:05 - 9:45p.m., SU 214

"The Effects of Immigration on a Global Society: A Question of Justice and Equity." Moderator: Stanley Ramos, Social Worker, Casa Central and Instructor, Social Work, NEIU

Thursday, January 23, 2003

9:25 - 10:40a.m., Golden Eagles

"A Presentation by Jali Morikeba Kouyate"

Introduction: Michael Tuck, Assistant Professor, History Department, NEIU. Presenters: Jali Morikeba Kouyate, Oral Historian/Musician from Senegal, 7th Generation Mandingo Griot, Website: http://moriikeba_griot.tripod.com

1:30 - 3:00p.m., Lower Level Classroom

"Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man"

Presenters: Christopher Schroeder, Chairperson of the Panel, Assistant Professor, English Department, NEIU, Ken Addison, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership and Development, NEIU, Martinique Johns, Learning Technology Specialist, Center for Teaching and Learning, NEIU, Tim Libretti, Associate Professor, English Department, NEIU, June Sochen, Professor, History and Women's Studies, NEIU. Sponsored by the Ronald Williams Library's "One Book, One University Program."

4:05 - 6:45p.m., Golden Eagles room

"Latinos and African Americans in Social Work"

Co-Moderators: Victor Ortiz, Coordinator, Mexican and Caribbean Studies, Criminal Justice, NEIU, Mikal Rasheed, Program Director, Social Work, NEIU. Presenters: Miguel Palacios, Association House, Chicago Maricela Garcia, Lecturer, Social Work, NEIU, and Francisco Cisneros, Pilsen/Little Village Mental Health Center.

For additional information, call the Office of Academic Development at (773) 442-5449. All events are free and open to the public.

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 2003 semester:

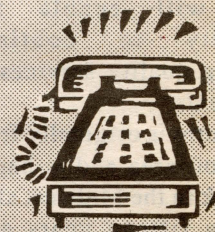
The Editor in Chief reserves the right to alter all content for space, style and editorial considerations. Submissions are not guaranteed to be printed.

February
4th

February
18th

March
4th

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

NEIU welcomes nurse practitioner

by Shana Stone
Opinions Editor

Catherine Schacht APN/CNM has arrived recently at Northeastern for the health services office to provide women students with gynecological exams. She is an advanced practice nurse and is also certified as a midwife.

Before coming to Northeastern Schacht worked at a private physician's office for eleven years. She had been looking for a new job and came across an ad for a nurse practitioner position at NEIU. She has always enjoyed working with young women and felt that NEIU would be the perfect job opportunity for her.

Schacht has already started taking appointments for female students to come in for pap smears as well as STD screenings. She will be able to do a full gynecological exam as well as write prescriptions for birth control pills. Health services currently offers two types of Ortho birth control pills

for five dollars. If for any reason a student's pap smear or STD test should come back with abnormal results, the student would be referred to the nearest Planned Parenthood center, or their own physician.

So far, Schacht is very pleased with NEIU. She has seen a few students so far for exams and questions, but she would like for more students to come by. She stated, "Just make an appointment and come see me. Students can come in to ask questions as well. There is a lot of misinformation out there about sex and birth control." She also added that, "Anyone who is sexually active should come in for an exam." She also wants students to know that all services are confidential.

Schacht is available on campus in the health services office every Monday, Tuesday, and alternating Wednesdays and Thursdays from nine to three. Health services is located in E-051, which is down the hall from the cafeteria. The phone number off campus is 773-442-5800 and on campus dial extension 5800.



by Azzi Lifsiacs
Staff Writer

The first Student Government Association (SGA) meeting of the semester occurred without the fire and bickering many students have come to expect. Here is a breakdown of some points of interest in the meeting.

SGA will no longer read the minutes from the previous meetings at the beginning of their current meeting. Instead, each Senator will be responsible for reading the minutes on their own.

There was debate about allocating some \$2400 to the Illinois Teachers Association for an upcoming conference to be held at Northeastern. A representative was at the meeting to explain what the conference was about, and to what, where, and whom the money will go.

Senator Cruz was reinstated to his old position of Finance

The SGA Watchdog

Committee Chair for which he had to be re-elected by the Senate. SGA rules say that if a senator has a position and does not win his/her seat in the next election but is appointed the seat, he/she must be re-elected to the former position. This caused some confusion on the part of Student Trustee Kendra Young. She believed that steps were being taken to force SGA Senators to re-elect Cruz to his position. It was soon clarified that each Senator was able to vote however they desired. A similar election took place that put Senator Evelyn Nazario into the position of IBHE-SEC Representative.

Senator Mullwalla informed the SGA that the book exchange website is up and running and can be visited at www.SGAbookexchange.com. The book exchange was delayed several times due to a variety of

reasons. Chief among those reasons was a financial discrepancy, which has reportedly been worked out.

Another point that was touched on but not expanded on was the new Constitution that the Senate will vote to adapt or discard. The new Constitution, among other things, limits powers that are presently held. For example, Student Trustees that now attend senate meetings and vote are no longer going to have the power to vote in the regular Senate meetings. The new constitution also calls for an Appointments Committee. Up until now, the President of the Senate had the power to appoint the people he deemed correct for certain positions. If the new constitution is adapted, then the Appointments Committee will do that job.

The meeting ended soon after these points were discussed.

Extension 4100

5 November – Traffic Accident – Personal-Injury

Two vehicles collided on the Access Road resulting in one person being taken to Swedish Covenant Hospital by Chicago Fire Department paramedics and one vehicle being towed. One traffic ticket was issued.

6 November – Domestic Battery

An NEIU student requested an escort to his vehicle after spotting his estranged girlfriend by his vehicle. The student had been the victim of domestic battery at home. The offender was gone when NEIU police arrived but the student agreed to file domestic battery charges against the offender. On 8 November, the victim decided that he no longer wanted to pursue charges.

11 November - Medical Assist

An NEIU student suffered a seizure in the Classroom Building. Victim was treated by NEIU Health Services.

11 November – Theft – Under \$300

An NEIU student had her wallet stolen while making copies in the D-Building. The wallet was later turned in at the NEIU Center Desk but one credit card and all currency were missing.

12 November – Theft – Under \$300

An NEIU instructor reported the theft of her purse from the Classroom Building.

13 November – Motor Vehicle Offense

– Hit and Run
An NEIU student reported that his vehicle had been damaged while parked in the H-Lot.

13 November – Theft – Under \$300

An NEIU student reported the theft of a poncho from the Library.

The victim had left his poncho unattended while looking for books.

14 November - Medical Assist

An NEIU student turned his ankle in the PE Building. Victim was treated by NEIU Health Services and Chicago Fire Department paramedics. Victim was transported to Swedish Covenant Hospital by the paramedics.

15 November – Public Complaint - Fire

NEIU police responded to a report of flames emitting from the vents atop the Fine Arts Building. The Chicago Fire Department responded and was able to extinguish the flames. It was subsequently determined that the fire was the result of an excessive build-up of residue inside the sawdust collector.

16 November – Motor Vehicle Offense – No Registration

An NEIU police supervisor stopped a vehicle for expired Illinois license plates and confiscated a Fraternal Order of Police sticker after it was determined that the offender was not a member of the FOP. One ticket was issued.

18 November – Public Complaint - Fire

NEIU police responded to a report of the smell of smoke in the Classroom Building and discovered flames coming from an ashtray on the southeast patio of the building. NEIU police extinguished the fire without incident.

19 November – Station Information

An NEIU employee arrived at work and found bits of food and other debris that had been left around her computer during the night.

19 November – Criminal Trespass to Vehicle

During a routine traffic stop NEIU police discovered that the vehicle was listed as stolen. Three offenders were placed under arrest for Criminal

By Officer Gene Eric Salecker

Trespass to a Motor Vehicle. The rightful owner of the vehicle was contacted and removed the vehicle from campus.

20 November – Station Information

An NEIU student informed NEIU police that she was being harassed by a non-student offender. NEIU police informed the offender of the complaint and instructed him to leave the student alone. On 22 November, the offender was spotted on campus again and was escorted from the premises by NEIU police.

21 November – Criminal Damage to State Supported Property

An employee at NEIU reported damage to the steel railing of the handicap ramp in the lower level of the Student Union by a handicapped student traveling at a high rate of speed.

21 November - Medical Assist

NEIU police responded to the report of a student crying uncontrollably from a "panic attack" in the Fine Arts Building. Victim was treated by NEIU Health Services and continued with her class

22 November – Theft – Under \$300

Victim reported that he had been "gassed" while in the Library and that an unknown offender had stolen his glasses. The victim stated that the same thing had happened on two previous occasions. The victim pointed out a possible suspect but NEIU police did not see anyone in the area where the victim was pointing. NEIU police did not detect any smell of an unknown gas in the area.

22 November – Criminal Trespass to a Vehicle

An NEIU student reported that some unknown person(s) had removed and destroyed student government posters from the trunk of his vehicle.

25 November – Theft – Under \$300

Two employees of the Cafeteria detained a student for stealing food. The student was subsequently banned from the Food Service area of the Cafeteria.

3 December - Medical Assist

An NEIU student suffered a seizure in the Science Building. Victim was transported to NEIU Health Services by NEIU police. Victim was later taken to Swedish Covenant Hospital by Chicago Fire Department paramedics.

4 December – Theft – Under \$300

An NEIU student reported the loss of her purse from the J-Parking Lot. In her hurry to get to class, the victim had left her purse atop her vehicle roof.

4 December – Station Information

An NEIU instructor informed NEIU police that she had received written threats from a student. The instructor attempted to pursue the matter through student due process. The offender was arrested on Assault charges on 11 December 2002 after continuing to make written threats.

4 December – Station Information

An NEIU student informed NEIU police of an order-of-protection against another student.

5 December – Other Public Complaint

An NEIU student complained that he was being harassed by person representing a bible study group. NEIU police advised the group representative to desist.

10 December – Station Information

An NEIU student felt that she was being stalked by a fellow student. NEIU police determined that the suspect had done nothing out of the ordinary. The victim was instructed to notify the NEIU police if anything extraordinary occurred.

12 December – Criminal Damage to

State Supported Property
Unknown person(s) removed the screws from a handicap chair in the men's restroom in the PE Building.

13 December – Station Information

A Student Union employee discovered a disc in his office computer. The employee had not used the disc for a few years.

16 December – Theft – Under \$300

An NEIU employee reported the theft of her purse from her office in the D-Building by an unknown offender. NEIU police found the purse in the lower level men's restroom of the Classroom Building. Two bank cards were missing. On 18 December 2002, the NEIU employee noticed the unknown offender near the D-Building. The offender was placed under arrest by NEIU police.

18 December – Theft – Under \$300

An NEIU employee reported the theft of a palm pilot and a bag of Girl Scout cookies from her office in the C-Building. The victim had left the property unattended.

24 December – Station Information

An NEIU instructor discovered the door to an animal experiment room left wide open and informed NEIU police that the door was never to be left open. It was subsequently discovered that Facilities Management had arranged for the door to be left open for contract painters.

NEIU Police and Health Services want to remind you to be careful during the icy winter months. Please be cautious while driving and slow down. It's better to get there in one piece than in pieces. And please be cautious when traveling on slippery surfaces. If you do fall, please remember, call either Health Services at Ext. 5800 or the NEIU Police at Ext. 4100.



Left and below:
Protestors held
demonstrations in
hundreds of cities,
including San Francisco



This protestor and fifteen others were arrested in Washington D.C. as they allegedly attempted to scale a barricade near the White House on Sunday



The war before the war?

by Patrick O'Brien
Production Editor

This past weekend saw hundreds of anti-war protests across the globe as demonstrators and various activists marched and rallied to voice their anger with the Bush administration and its growing push towards war with Iraq.

Those protesting in the two biggest U.S. rallies in Washington and San Francisco included actor Martin Sheen, singers Joan Baez and Bonnie Raitt, Reverend Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, actress Amy Brenneman, State Senate Leader John Burton of California, and Dolores Huerta of the United Farmworkers. Also present was Ron Kovic, the Marine turned war activist made famous in the film *Born On The Fourth Of July*. "This is not a popular war" added Lou Paulsen, Chicago ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) organizer for the Washington rally.

The protests ranged from peaceful, relatively mild marches and demonstrations in the U.S., where there were minimal arrests and injuries, to more aggressive, more heated anti-American rallies in Turkey, Egypt, Syria and many other locales in the Middle East and Asia.

Protests were also held in London, where activists staged a mock filming of the Northwoods military installation, which can not be photographed legally under British law. Ireland also saw its

share of unrest as demonstrators packed Shannon Airport to protest the transport of U.S. troops through there. Protestors occupied the airport for several hours Sunday.

Protestors here and abroad were young and old, some veterans of past movements, others simply voicing their concerns for the first time as the United States inches ever closer to full scale war against the Saddam Hussein regime. Observers commented on a surprising number of middle class, 'mainstream' protestors, which would go against common perceptions about the anti-war movement.

In Washington D.C., initial estimates of crowd size ranged from 30,000 at the low end to a possible 200,000 marchers as the overall turnout. Overall turnout was much higher than organizing groups such as ANSWER expected, with groups being bused in from California, Maine, and quite a few from Chicago.

Lou Paulsen gave a conservative crowd estimate in Washington of 300,000 and he also noted that "a number as high as 500,000 was credible." ANSWER volunteers in San Francisco stated they rented a helicopter to confirm the size of crowds, with "a line of people over one mile long" stretching to that city's Civic Center. San Francisco police were in agreement with ANSWER's numbers for turnout at the rally.

These numbers stand in stark contrast to media reports that anti-

war support in America was weak and splintered. The events of this past weekend have inspired organizers, and Lou Paulsen commented on the timeliness of the activities, which coincided with the Martin Luther King holiday weekend. Paulsen noted that speakers at the Washington rally "spoke in the legacy of Dr. King" who was vehemently anti-war and anti-violence. Paulsen went on to compare speakers at the rally to a ceremony attended by the President on Monday. During this ceremony Mr. Bush, "Failed to speak of Dr. King's anti-war views" and instead focused on Dr. King's struggle for equality.

The Bush administration has in recent weeks increased its rhetoric and war talk as insiders have declared the philosophical war on his staff has been won by the war hawks. Bush's own statements have given credibility to this view; "Time is running out on Saddam Hussein. He must disarm." These comments have only fueled anti-war groups and spurred average Americans to join the cause.

In all the demonstrations were peaceful in the states, with no violence and arrests numbering less than 20 at the two largest rallies. What remains to be seen is whether this movement will grow from here. ANSWER is already planning more rallies for February, with Chicago as a main staging area. More from the *Independent* on this story as it develops.



Bottom three photos by www.yahoo.com

Above and right: Demonstrations held in the nation's capital were organized by the group Act Now to Stop War and End Racism to coincide with other protests held worldwide against the war in Iraq.



PERSPECTUS

OPINION

Democrats, please help me spend my money

by Scott Plencner
Senior Staff Writer

George W. Bush is at it again. He's out there dangerously fulfilling campaign promises and keeping his word about developing an economic stimulus package. He's pompously making attempts to reform the unfair U.S. tax system in a year that has proven tough on everyone's wallet. His risky scheme of lowering taxes may improve the financial lives of each one of us and help improve the way businesses do business. What does he think he's doing? And worst of all, it benefits the rich, who are all evil and undeserving of any benefit for their investment whatsoever?

Where are the all-knowing Democrats when we need them? I, being ignorant and untrustworthy, do not know how to spend my own money and need them to help me decide what to do with it. If Bush's initiative to lower the tax rate for all passes Congress, I may have more money each week in my paycheck, albeit a small amount. What will I do with it all? Like Bill Clinton warned in the last year of his presidency, if taxes are lowered I "may go out and spend it."

A married person making \$40k a year would save \$450 under Bush's proposal. I might just selfishly apply that money toward a dish-washer from Sears. The effects of such a purchase would be absolutely devastating. First of all Sears, suffering along with other retailers in the sector, would make money. The logistics companies, which are all having trouble keeping their bottom

line out of red ink, that shipped the product to Sears from Smallville, Illinois, where it was manufactured, would benefit. The Smallville assembly plant, which had to lay off hundreds of line workers, might actually see some the money too. My misguided purchase might also help steel companies, which are struggling to show investors profits and have asked union steel workers to take pay cuts.

It might go so far as to aid even in evil corporations that make the detergent I will use like S.C. Johnson, whose stock has not been alone in its tumble last year. My purchase might even help me control the pile of dirty dishes that grows and grows in my sink. I've kind of grown fond of seeing the mess in there and taking in its rancid smells. I am used to things the way they are and am not too fond of change.

And, did I mention, a single person making the same amount as my example above, would only save about \$126. For me, that's a little over ten hours of working for the man, making him even richer. I would rather that measly ten hours go to the government. If I can't save thousands or have some of the rich peoples' money redistributed to me by an even more disproportionate graduated tax rate, then I don't want one thin dime. \$126 is chump change and I refuse it, especially if it might help the economy.

It costs a lot to make bombs and guns that we shouldn't ever use, even when its justified. Maybe the government should take my money, or better yet, the money of those rich

people who control the universe, and give it to the helpless poor people who depend on it through welfare programs. I have no idea how to donate money to the poor, since I have exchanged my parents' outdated God-fearing for the humanism and atheism that tell it like it is.

Rich people and corporations might also benefit from Bush's attempts to make dividends tax-free. Dividends derive from actual profits. Their levels are not determined by the apparent assets of a company (something which Arthur Andersen showed us can be fudged to look bigger than they really are to investors) and they're not dependent on the whims of the market (a balloon that always goes bust when the bottom line is discovered).

If dividends were tax-free, investors would be calling for companies to raise their dividend payouts to investors. That would force corporate accountants to take time away from their creative book-keeping and cause them to find ways to increase profits. This might raise the GNP to dangerous levels and strengthen the overall economy to a point where we would all be in higher tax brackets and would have even more money than we knew what to do with.



Bush and Cheney see its time for a tax cut.

The unemployment benefits attached to the program with their cash incentives for finding a job, might cause people to look for jobs. What is wrong with President Bush, proposing an idea that the ever-compassionate Democrats, and Democrats only, are supposed to propose.

Worst of all, George W. Bush, who can't even finish a sentence without mixing up a word here or there, would get all the credit for improving the economic health of the nation. That is, if the gradual effects of the plan show their faces, during his term. (The economic recovery plan will take so long to show results, why

should we try to fix it at all?) Bush might not even see the fruits of his labor. Why would he make such a proposal if it didn't benefit him politically?

The Democrats should take steps to stop Bush's evil plan to lower taxes for everyone. They should remind us that Bush's election caused this whole economic crisis which started in the last year of Clinton's term in the first place. They should complain endlessly about the fact that his plan benefits everyone, especially the rich who pay overwhelming amounts of taxes. They should especially oppose Bush's plan because they didn't think of it first.

OPINION

Justice denied the family dog by ruthless police

by Shana Stone
Staff Writer

About a week ago I was watching television when the announcer stated that coming up next they would be showing some footage from a traffic stop in Tennessee where a family was ordered out of their car at gunpoint and their dog was shot by one of the patrolmen. The footage was from the police car's point of view, and showed about four officers holding rifles and handguns and handcuffing a family of three.

All of a sudden a dog jumped from the passenger seat of the car and ran

through the grass, then ran towards one of the officers. The next scene was the officer pointing his rifle at the dog, tail wagging happily and firing, immediately killing the dog. The family was shown screaming after this horrific act occurred and then the footage ended. But that wasn't the end of this scandal. As more information came out about the traffic stop, enraged citizens let their feelings be known to the Cookeville, Tennessee police. There was even an apology to the family from the Tennessee governor. But no amount of apologies would bring this family's dog back.

Slowly, information about the traffic stop leaked to the press and was all over the news on television and the internet. The Smoak family from Saluda, North Carolina was returning home on New Year's Day, traveling on the interstate from Tennessee. A phone call was placed to the Cookeville police department from a concerned motorist saying that a car had passed her on the highway and money was flying from the car.

Concerned the car had been carjacked or possibly driving away from a robbery, the police department sent out a state

trooper and some local police officers. The family has told many news sources that they were pulled over and ordered out of the car at gunpoint. The family in the car consisted of a seventeen-year-old boy and his parents and their two dogs.

The family was immediately handcuffed, so they didn't have a chance to close the door so that the dogs would not escape. The family claims they repeatedly warned the officers that there were dogs in the car and begged and pleaded for them to shut the car door, but they never did.

One of the dogs, a bulldog-boxer mix named Patton, jumped from the car and ran towards Cookeville police officer Eric Hall. Hall then pulled his rifle and fired at Patton just before the dog reached him. The family stated that once Patton jumped out of their car they begged the officers to let them get the dog, a request the officers ignored. After the dog was shot, the officers were radioed by the police department letting them know that the family never committed any crime, and that they had found a wallet on the highway belonging to the Smoak family.

The Smoak family, before leaving Tennessee to head back home had stopped at a gas station and Mr. Smoak had accidentally left his wallet on top of the car, which caused a motorist to think there was something suspicious occurring. The Smoak family had not

committed a crime though, yet the zealous officers still stopped them. The family was let go, they picked up their dead dog and they spent the night at a nearby hotel and cried for hours over their loss. The Smoak family has since filed a lawsuit against all the officers involved in the erroneous stop.

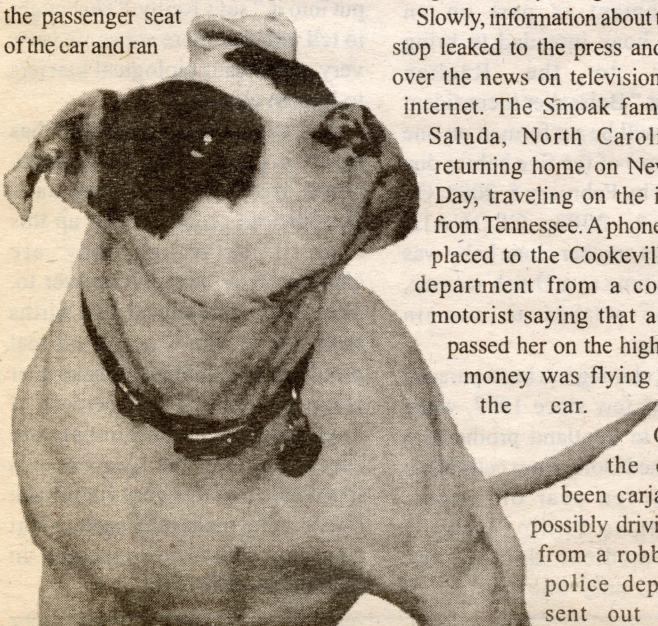
Officer Hall has stated that the dog was charging him and looked like a pit-bull. He said that he yelled at the dog to get back and it didn't so he shot it. Anyone who knows anything about dogs knows that you cannot expect a dog to obey a command it may not know. Dogs learn specific commands and "get back" may not have been one of Patton's commands. The officer made a very poor error in judgment and has since been given a desk job while an internal investigation continues.

The Smoak family were innocent motorists and were pulled over due to suspicion, not actual facts. Since there was not proof at the time that any felony had actually occurred they should have been treated with more dignity. When they pleaded with officers to shut the car door because they had dogs inside why did the officers refuse to shut the door? Did they not understand that if they did not do so then the dogs might escape causing further distress and that the dogs might actually approach the officers causing the officers to shoot

the dog(s)? Why did the officers not let one of the Smoak's grab the dog once it exited the vehicle? There were many errors in judgment by all of the officers involved and Hall deserves to be taken off active duty. He should actually be taken off the force altogether. All of these officers handled the stop poorly and now Patton is dead.

Anyone who is a dog owner knows how attached one can get to his or her pets. My family has several pets including dogs and cats, and I love them all. I cannot imagine anyone harming them. The Smoak family has every right to be devastated and police officers should receive special training on breeds of dogs, and how to handle situations in which dogs are involved, so that a harmless family pet is not killed again in any sort of situation in which police are present.

Just reading a description of the traffic stop involving the Smoak's is not enough, but when you actually see the footage of the stop, and see this cute dog jumping out of the car with its tail wagging, you will see just how ruthless this officer was. Hall shot the dog about 4 seconds after it exited the vehicle and poor Patton never had a chance. The Smoak family has every right to feel outraged and disgusted with the Cookeville police department. They made a terrible mistake, and unfortunately for them, there are serious repercussions for their actions.



When the smoke clears in City Hall

OPINION

Aren't smokers people too?

by Ator Lawandow
Staff Writer

Alderman Edward Burke of the 14th ward and Alderman Ed Smith of the 28th ward have got their boxers in a bunch these days. Apparently, the city of New York has just officially banned smoking in restaurants and all public areas with strong backing from their mayor Michael Bloomberg. So in an unoriginal, and grossly pathetic attempt to create some buzz for themselves right before the aldermanic elections in February, the two Aldermen are trying very hard—maybe even a little too hard—to ban smoking in Chicago restaurants as well. While this sudden push for a ban by the two Aldermen may come as a noble gesture to some, others can't help but sense some insincerity on the part of the two politicians due to the timing of this proposal.

Burke had apparently proposed a measure to ban smoking within five feet of entrances to public buildings two years, but the proposal failed to pass due to a lack in public support. But now that Bloomberg has introduced a parallel proposal in his city, Burke, for some reason, feels that Chicago must immediately follow suit. This is where the *insincerity* factor comes in. This is when one must take a step back and ask: is this man truly concerned about my health and the health of those who smoke and just wants to help? Or is he in it for the publicity that this controversy can—and is creating, in which he comes out looking like a noble defender of all non-smoking Chicagoans?

Many people don't smoke and cigarette smoke may bother them, and in rare instances may even harm their health. On the other hand, many people *do* smoke, most of them adults but more importantly all of them knowing the outcomes that this habit can entail. They are working people, and according to the American constitution, as taxpayers their point of view on this issue must and will also be heard. When people are taxed exceedingly for a product such as cigarettes, it would be unjust and morally flawed to simply dismiss them as consumers unworthy of the respect and dignity that every human deserves. Especially at a time when the state has just not too long ago pumped up the taxes on cigarettes, bringing cigarette prices to astronomical levels. This new proposal will cause outrage on the part of the smoking consumers.

The city seems to be comfortable using smokers as a back-up plan used for bringing in tax revenue when ever necessary, but will quickly ban the smoking those same taxpayers enjoy and have rightfully earned, just so some unimportant Aldermen such as Burke and Smith can make a name for themselves before they die. Let's face it; tax revenue from cigarettes and alcohol is vital for the city of Chicago. It is very much needed at a time of high state deficit and an economic recession such as we are presently experiencing. For the city to place a ban on smoking in public at this time will not only anger taxpayers due to the duplicity of the city's policy, but it will bring about its own economic problems and issues.

Restaurants will lose loyal customers who are smokers; they will also lose money that they have invested over the years in putting in air-filtration systems, which are required by law for every restaurant to have. Our already fragile economy cannot possibly take another blow by an unfair and seemingly unnecessary law such as this. If the politicians want to gain fame and support from the people, they should be allowed to do so. They, however, should not be allowed to impose useless laws that will harm business, create problems for our economy, and carelessly disregard the taxpayers.

Furthermore, if the Aldermen truly want to lead a crusade for or against a certain issue in order to make a remarkable difference in the lives of the people in Chicago, they unquestionably could. In fact, theoretically, that is their job as politicians. Banning smoking in Chicago restaurants, however, is not—at the moment—that noble of a crusade. At the moment, a month before the Aldermanic elections, banning smoking is to the Aldermen just an easy way to get some free publicity. What Chicago is in dire need of right now is not a ban on public smoking; instead it needs a group of intelligent and creative individuals to tackle some of its very serious problems—and there are quite a few of them. These problems are big and difficult to solve and they can easily intimidate certain groups of people. Therefore, some people may choose to look the other way and tackle less complex problems such smoking in public. Nevertheless, the Roman Empire did not fall due to second hand smoke.

OPINION

Give my lungs a break

by Tim Malina
Staff Writer

It's that magical time of year. Time for the holidays? No. Time to be with your family? Not quite. Time to give and receive random acts of kindness? Hell no, it's time to eat out everyday and go bar hopping during the night. This time of year calls attention to a new bill that will be voted on soon. This bill states that there will be absolutely no smoking in the bars and restaurants in the Chicago land area. Before you smokers out there cough up a lung, let's see how this will actually work.

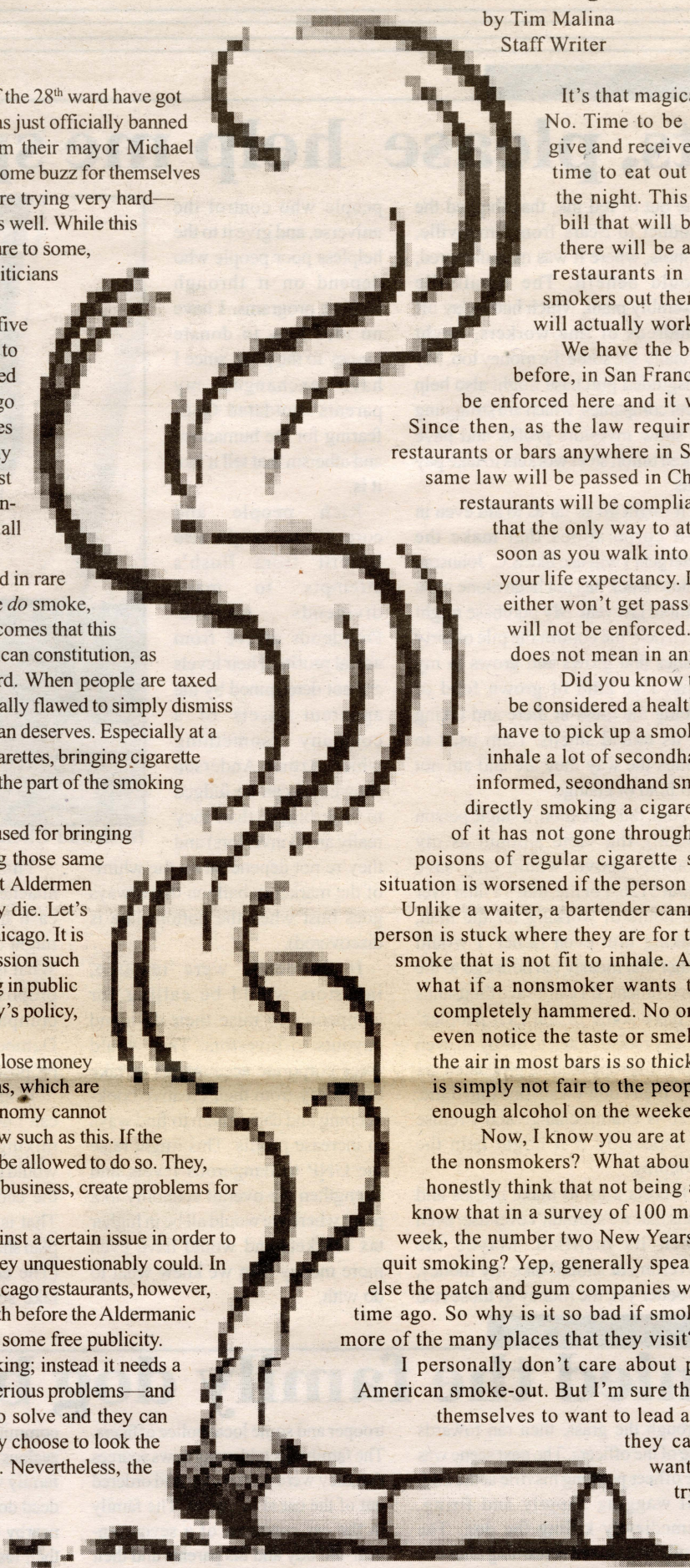
We have the benefit of having seen this type of law before, in San Francisco. It is the exact same law that will be enforced here and it was put into action a few years ago. Since then, as the law requires, there is no smoking allowed in restaurants or bars anywhere in San Fran. I thoroughly believe that the same law will be passed in Chicago. Most of the watering holes and restaurants will be compliant, but a few rogue ones will still insist that the only way to attract costumers is to guarantee that as soon as you walk into the bar, you will lose fifteen years off your life expectancy. Despite the fact that the law most likely either won't get passed, or if it does manage to get passed, will not be enforced. But just because it is destined to fail does not mean in any way that it is an invalid law.

Did you know that being a waiter or a bartender could be considered a health hazard? It's true. Since some waiters have to pick up a smoking section or two during a shift, they inhale a lot of secondhand smoke (for those who are not well informed, secondhand smoke is the stuff that doesn't come from directly smoking a cigarette.) Secondhand smoke, since some of it has not gone through a filter, has all the carcinogens and poisons of regular cigarette smoke plus a few dozen more. This situation is worsened if the person is a bartender.

Unlike a waiter, a bartender cannot get out of a smoking section. That person is stuck where they are for three hours or more, sucking in all the smoke that is not fit to inhale. Also, while I'm on the subject of bars, what if a nonsmoker wants to join his or her friends in getting completely hammered. No one can tell me that a nonsmoker won't even notice the taste or smell of cigarette smoke, especially since the air in most bars is so thick, you can cut it with a chain saw. That is simply not fair to the people who don't smoke, but do consume enough alcohol on the weekends to kill a large horse.

Now, I know you are at least thinking, "Well, who cares about the nonsmokers? What about those of us who do smoke?" Do you honestly think that not being able to smoke is a bad thing? Did you know that in a survey of 100 mall goers that I interviewed during the week, the number two New Years resolution behind losing weight is to quit smoking? Yep, generally speaking, people want to quit smoking, or else the patch and gum companies would have gone out of business a long time ago. So why is it so bad if smokers are not allowed to smoke in two more of the many places that they visit?

I personally don't care about people I don't know to lead a great American smoke-out. But I'm sure those random people care enough about themselves to want to lead a great smoke-out of their own. And if they can't go anywhere to smoke and they want to quit, eventually they will at least try to quit, and be healthier and happier for it.



OPINION

Clone wars or phantom menace?

by Natalie Olenczok
Staff Writer

The idea of cloning a human being has been just that: an idea. Until a short time ago, that is. On December 27, 2002, the first human cloning company CLONAIID made the claim that they had successfully delivered the first cloned baby. Managing director and top scientist Brigitte Boisselier said that baby Eve, seven pounds, was born on December 26, 2002, to an infertile couple in an undisclosed location and is thus far doing well. However, no real evidence has yet been provided that the cloned baby exists.

The leader of the Raelian Movement founded CLONAIID in February 1997. The Raelian Movement, an international religious organization, believes a

human extraterrestrial race called the Elohim scientifically created all life on earth using DNA and genetic engineering. They also claim Jesus was resurrected by the Elohim using an advanced cloning method. Rael, their leader, just three years ago handed over the clone project to Boisselier, who has founded a new company that will be carrying out many secret projects. The name and location of the company are being kept out of circulation for security reasons.

CLONAIID stated they would provide proof to the world that a cloned baby had indeed been born, but after three weeks we still haven't been shown any hard evidence. The apparent cloned baby's parents retracted their decision to allow an independent expert a chance to perform the test needed to clarify the situation. The

tests will be allowed only when they are absolutely positive the baby will not be removed from their care. One way to ensure that is having Eve become a non-U.S. citizen. Boisselier stated, "The happiness of Eve and her parents is more important than my reputation. She is alive and healthy and tests can be performed at any time in her life. There will always be a time to re-establish my reputation. Meanwhile, other babies are coming and among them, some will be made public."

Michael Guillen, former science editor for ABC-TV, suspended his efforts to oversee the DNA testing on the cloned baby because of lack of cooperation, and fear that it may be "an elaborate hoax."

"The team of scientists has had no access to the alleged family and, therefore, cannot verify firsthand

the claim that a human baby has been cloned," Guillen said. "In other words, its still entirely possible

CLONAIID's announcement is part on an elaborate hoax intended to bring publicity to the Raelian movement." Boisselier is confident that tests will be performed on one (if not more) of the five babies due to be born by February 5, 2003. On January 4, 2003, CLONAIID claimed yet another clone baby was born, this time to a Dutch woman, who also wishes to remain anonymous.

Human cloning has been pursued by a select few since 1997, when scientists in Scotland produced a sheep named Dolly from cells taken from a seven year old sheep. According to Philip Reilly, a lawyer, medical doctor, and geneticist, only one percent of

attempted clones in animals result in a successful pregnancy.

"That's four years after Dolly, with a lot of time and research money put into it," says Reilly. "That ought to tell you that there are some very, very significant biological barriers to human cloning."

The claims that CLONAIID has made to produce the first human clone are vague and they have provided no proof to back up this huge breakthrough they are claiming they have the answer to. They have announced two births with five on the way, yet no real proof has been offered to make their claim credible. If one percent of attempted clones in animals are successful, after four years how is it possible that this very significant step is being made after such a short time and very little research in cloning people?

Hot! Hot! Hot!

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Grand Theft Auto

~ page 3

Now that's art

~ page R4

REV

extremely local entertainment ~ pull-out section

The Roots stick to theirs



by Patrick O'Brien
Production Editor

There are quite a few people who are under the impression that rap and hip-hop are the same music, so I'll let you in on what I have found to be true: the difference between hip hop and rap is not a thin line. Rap music is mostly filled with tasteless references to outdated lifestyles that people like to call "keepin it real", and uses samples of past hit songs to prop up unoriginal lyrics and transparent talent while the tickets and cd's are sold. (This is where Nelly and Ja Rule come to mind)

Ideally, hip-hop is all the things rap is not; musically sound, entertaining, imaginative and above all, hip hop actually has something to say, and that something isn't give me a bitch and a forty.

The Roots are a big reason that hip-hop is the fastest growing type of music in many corners of America. Blending jazz, rock, funk and a little bit of everything else, The Roots new disc *Phrenology* is all that music should be: original, soulful, willing to take the listener somewhere they haven't been.

The Roots consist of Black Thought, ?uestlove, Hub, Kamal, Scratch and Ben Kenney, and the Philadelphia natives have grown beyond their initial cult following to become a worldwide musical presence and a heavyweight on the hip-hop scene with unforgettable lyrics and an eclectic choice of instruments.

Few records have the depth and variety *Phrenology* boasts of. From the utterly amazing *Seed 2.0* featuring Cody Chesnutt, which has the best hook in years, to the radio-ready *Break You*

Off featuring Musiq, every track on this one drives the listener. Don't be fooled by the fact that a few other songs benefit from guest artists, The Roots are merely adding to their already considerable talent by letting Jill Scott and Nelly Furtado step in on songs like *Complexity* and *Sacrifice*.

Music is rare that entertains and delivers on the hype surrounding it, yet *Phrenology* has been embraced by many critics and fans who knew little of the group up until now, with *People Magazine* and *USA Today* among the many publications praising the group's fifth studio album for its power and depth. *Phrenology* should soon become The Roots most commercially successful release yet, surpassing their previous effort *Things Fall Apart*. This writer has himself discovered the group's knack for engaging their fans with music both rhythmic and varied in its style.

The cd also comes with a limited edition DVD that contains four videos, including two classic Roots tracks, *Distortion To Static* and *Proceed* and other goodies for the original and the new fan alike.

I will be the first to admit that *Phrenology* is only the second actual hip hop album I have owned, with the group's live album *The Roots Come Alive* being the other, but even a newcomer like myself can recognize the genius behind tracks like *Rollcall* and *Water*, which simultaneously slam the hypocrisy of commercialistic pursuits and drug culture while paying homage to hip hop pioneers like Tribe Called Quest.

Do yourself a favor and pick this one up, it's definitely the best new release of this year. *Phrenology* is the kind of music that can make true believers, and The Roots have made me their newest covert.

A peak underground

by Dan Demchuk
Staff Writer

I don't think I even want to tell anyone about the show I went to on Friday the 17th, since I normally like to keep really great underground bands just that: underground. But since it was the 7000 Dying Rats' last show ever, I guess it really doesn't matter all that much if I talk about how fucking great they are (or should I say, *were*). Yeah, I should.

Anyways, Ganon, from Detroit, opened the show and set a relentless pace for the other bands to follow. Their brand of noisy, minimalist, grungie metal uses feedback as an almost essential instrument, taking definitive precedence over the few bars of screamed/growled vocals that are interspersed throughout every one of their epic scaled songs, each clocking in at about 10 minutes each. The Fireside Bowl over on Fullerton is really good about staying on schedule, so after Ganon got their 30 minutes on stage, everyone hustled to get them off and the next band, Lozenge, on.

Lozenge hails from right here in Chicago and are seriously one of the most inventive and exciting bands I've ever seen. The singer, who really didn't sing all that much, busied himself between a Moog synthesizer and an electric accordion hooked up to I don't know how many effects pedals.

Also in Lozenge was this guy who normally plays free-form jazz sessions on his bass, and I guess this was still jazz in a sense, just a bit crunchier. But he used an octave pedal to allow his bass to sound like a guitar, filling out the noise where needed.

They had some Austrian guy join them on saxophone and the drummer playing the traditional set-up was accompanied by another drummer playing oil-drum cans and pieces of sheet metal nailed to 2x4's. Genius.

HeWhoCorrupts took the stage next and played some fucking furious hardcore thrash while all dressed in three-piece business suits and dark aviator sunglasses. The lead singer/corporate fat-cat had his "intern" on stage to serve drinks and take verbal abuse for his incompetence...it was so funny.

After his intern got the suit jacket and shirt off, the lead screamer leapt off stage and into the circle pit to continue the set, allowing fans to lend a scream here and there while dancing. HeWhoCorrupts was great, but they were like Tusk-lite, so I was just a little unimpressed, but only a little.

No Doctors advanced to the stage next and they were pretty good. Interesting too, which is always a plus. The two guitarists sang and this one guy played alto saxophone all discordantly. They had two drummers as well, only their second percussionist played slabs of sheet metal laying on the stage floor with these comically large drumsticks.

Personally, I was anticipating the end of their set because Pelican was up next. Not enough can be said about how good Pelican is. Don't go to their shows, though. Too many people are there already!

I've only seen footage of bands from the 60's and 70's that evoke the stage presence Pelican brings simply by utilizing and manipulating the mood and ambience of each venue. They've got the trippy colored gel dissolves on the ceiling, they've got the strobe-backlight, and they've got the grinding instru-metal to carry you through the darkness of their set. It's just incredible how evocative they are, and I don't want to see any of you at their next show, or else.

The 7000 Dying Rats went out gracefully; half-naked and covered in margaritas. These guys played Black/Death metal with a huge tongue in their cheek. They would talk shit about everyone of their songs after the conclusion of each, saying how easy the music was technically and how ridiculous the whole "seriousness" of death metal is. They were in it for the fun, and they wanted everyone to join them, so they soaked the audience with their margarita ball and then proceeded to dive into the crowd to join in the slippery circle pit, drunk off Cuervo and high on fun.

It was an amazing show that ended in Journey and Slayer covers and laughs, and free 7" records of their 1996 singles. You might be able to check them out in one of their new incarnations, but it takes initiative, diligence, and a little research, because I've already said too much.



Damn, now that's hot!

by Brian Blaszkowski
Associate Editor

Sometimes, you're just in the mood for some pain. You wake up one morning and think to yourself, "Hey, it's been too long since I ate some food that just burned a fucking hole in the roof of my mouth. I want some spicy food!"

Luckily, in today's "On the go" society, the Kings of Consumerism have supplied us with many options, ranging from candy to chips to take out. If you like having your eyes twitch uncontrollably as you bite back shrieks of agony, then please read on.

Hot Tamales

An excellent cinnamon candy from the creators of Mike and Ike, the candy of a dozen unidentifiable flavors. These look like big pills, and have a pleasing, bright red color to warn away small children and the elderly. A candy coating with a chewy, sticky, gummy center, these provide an interesting effect on the palate.

But how hot are they? They range from "Wow, I'm sweating over here!" to "Eh, doesn't rock my world." The kick in these little bastards is swift in appearing and even swifter in receding. A hot flash, a little bang, and then *pfft*, nothing. Kinda like foreplay, unless you know what you're doing.

Are these worth the cash? Well, they don't cost all that much and they're pretty widely available, so yeah, if you like a little kick, then pick these up. But if you're a true masochist, then you might want to find something a little more painful.

Pain Rating: "Eh, it hurts for a second, but not too bad otherwise."

Flaming Hot Cheetos

Sweet merciful crap. These don't fuck around. A little tingle at first, and then a nuclear detonation in your sinuses. Keep these away from people with heart problems. Unless you want to cash in on your inheritance a little early.

Downsides to these, aside from the third degree burns to your tongue, is that they stain your fingers a deep red. Soap and water takes care of that, but in your pain-blinded seizure, you might just start wiping your hands on whatever is around, such as your pants, your sofa, your local family dog, etc. Bottom line, they're messy.

But they are certainly spicy enough for most masochists. What's the burn like? Think of when you stub your toe. That's probably the most painful fucking injury on earth. You slam your toe into a dresser or some shit, and then you limp and hop around, your head pounding and swearing up a storm. Anyway, it's like that. A whole lotta pain at first, but then a dull throbbing. Like foreplay, if you don't know what you're doing. For the impatient "I've got shit to do" masochist, give these a shot.

Pain rating: "What evil son of a bitch *made* these things?! *Damn* it!"

Jalapeno style Krunchers

Call me an ambulance, my teeth are melting. These are almost on par with Flaming Hot Cheetos as far as maximum pain given, but they're a little worse. The downside is that these are kind of expensive. \$3.19 is the base price for the biggest bag, and they're aren't too many even *in* the damn bag to begin with. But the pain more than makes up for it.

Like foreplay, the key to Krunchers is endurance. They start with a dull rumble, then move to a slow burn, and then a fifth layer of hell fire in your mouth, and it *stays* that way for like 6 minutes. Flaming Hot Cheetos may burn hotter, but Krunchers lasts longer.

What does this mean in layman's terms? Well, both of them fucking hurt, but if you like your pain in sharp, quick, high doses, then you should skip these. But, if you like to stew in your own swirling mire of pain and misery, then buy some Jalapeno Krunchers.

Pain rating: "Picture that you're being roasted by cannibals. Slowly roasted by cannibals. Cannibals that like to play Celine Dion albums while they cook. This is worse"

Tobasco sauce

You remember that commercial where the guy who looked like an extra from *Deliverance* was eating pizza on his porch, and liberally dousing eat bite with Tobasco sauce? Then a mosquito bit him, sucked his blood, then flew off only to explode? That commercial is not all that far off.

Tobasco tastes like it could be used to strip varnish off of a foot locker. For some reason, though, it enhances all sorts of foods, especially scrambled eggs. It can be used in soups, egg dishes, meats, and all sorts of shit like that. It's a very popular condiment.

The pain is there, my friends. Oh, yes, the pain is there. Unlike the previous foods, in which they all basically hurt no matter *how* much you ate, Tobasco is all about the amount. If you have a little sprinkling, then you'll experience a mild stinging, like a slightly upset wasp. If you use half a bottle, then you'll feel pure and un-sullied agony, like a pissed off wasp from hell, goring your tongue with his stinger even though he ran out of poison long ago but he doesn't care because he's a hate-filled son of a bitch. It's kinda like that.

Masochists can make interesting use of Tobasco. The pain starts a little slow, kind of a tingle, but then it erupts like a geyser, kind of like *after* foreplay. Tobasco has been known to cause burns in people *around* whoever ate it, too.

True story. A friend and I were eating eggs in an IHOP. He just almost a whole fucking bottle of Tobasco on his eggs, so I backed up. He took *one* bite, and started coughing and flipping his arms and legs all over the place. His arms were flailing around so much that he knocked a waitress in the arm, causing her to spill two cups of coffee onto the lap of an old man who was eating breakfast with his grandchildren. With a tear in his eye, the old man leapt up and said, "Mother fucker God damned shit ass *bitch!* What the hell is wrong with you?"

So just be careful when you use it. For the sake of the grandchildren.

Pain rating: "The thought of sticking flaming needles into my eyes while a heavy-set Swedish woman does a clog dance on my genitals fills me with thoughts of blessed, blessed relief."

Wasabi

In any movie made over 40 years ago, if there are Chinese people in it, odds are someone will make mention that "The Chinese have forgotten more torture than we'll ever know" or something like that. If that's really true, than I bet Wasabi is chief amongst those torture techniques pioneered by the Ancient Chinese.

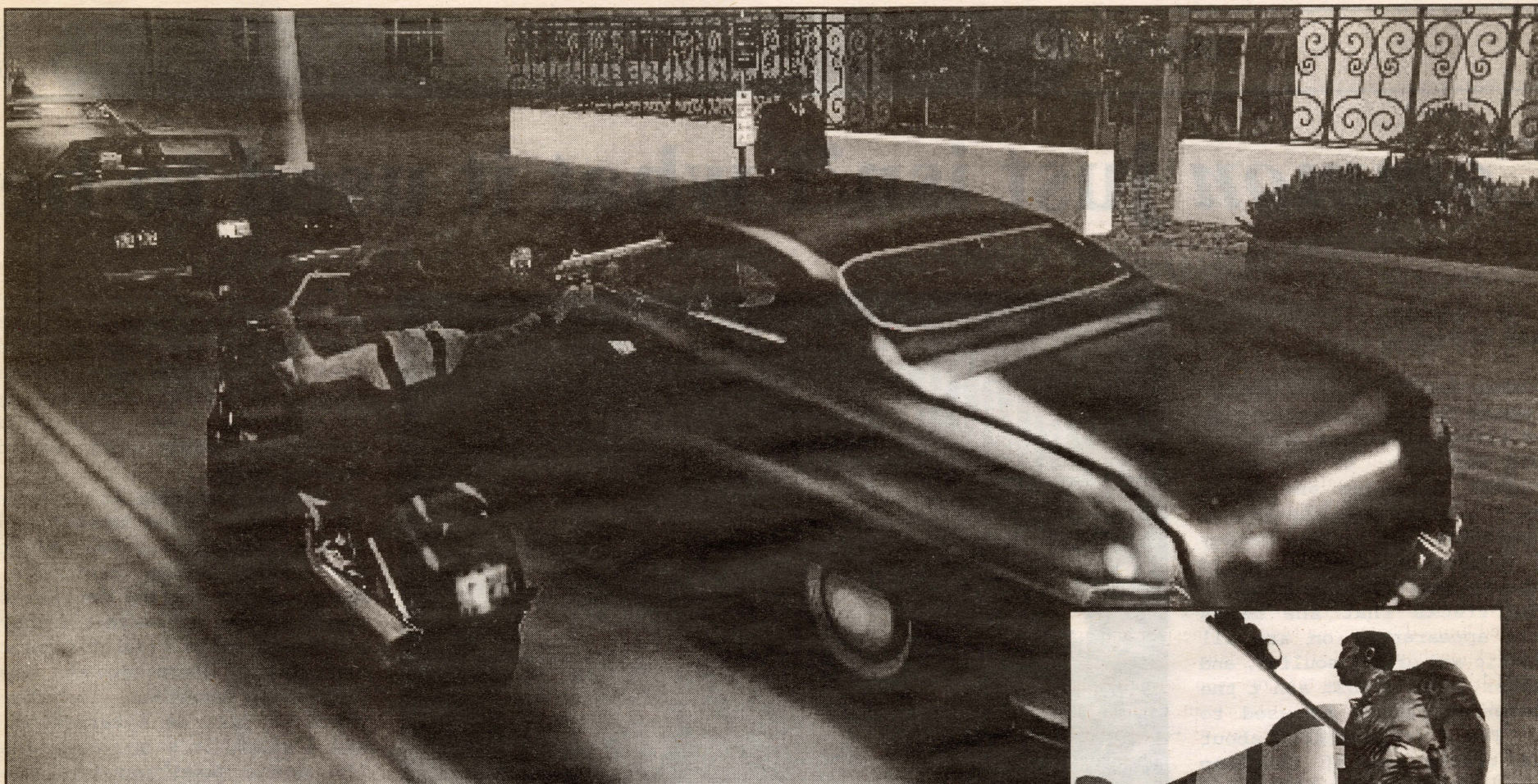
It was meant to be a side dish to be used only in the smallest doses, like napalm. Misuse of Wasabi can cause brain damage, strokes, divorce, and it can even make baby Jesus cry.

God, it hurts so much. It doesn't look painful, though. In the words of Rita Rudner, "It's pale green and looks calm and tranquil and friendly." Anyone who has ever mistaken the green blob for avocado, however, can testify just how fucking painful this stuff is. I ate a big bite of this stuff once on a dare. I can't remember exactly how the experience went, but my friends said that my head looked like a tomato with glasses, it was so red.

I can only compare this to foreplay gone horribly, horribly wrong. This is the most painful spicy food/condiment on earth.

Pain rating: "We are gathered here today to mourn the passing of..."

There you have it. A masochist's guide to foreplay. I meant, an average person's guide to how to inflict pain upon yourself. All of the foods above are fun to eat, but they're even *more* fun to feed to *other* people. Enjoy.



Road rage all over again

An anaylis of the newest version of Grand Theft Auto

by J. Louis Bracich
Business Manager

Miami Vice the video game..

Remember back in the day...actually the 1980s, when Miami Vice was on tv? Now I can't speak for the rest our dear readers, but I loved that show. Maybe I'm getting old, having spent my childhood in the 80s (when many of our staff was just born!), but I used to watch Miami Vice religiously. I always wanted or wished there was a way to be in the action, hopefully Atari or Nintendo (hey you weren't cool at school if you weren't playing Mario Bros or Pitfall!) would have something for the ol' 2600 or NES. Well, 12 miserable years later, my wishes have come true courtesy of Rockstar Games.

Grand Theft Auto and it's progeny have been a controversial sensation to say the least. For the uninitiated, GTA basically consists of you playing some hoodlum going around doing missions of a non legal nature (well you won't be nominated as a member of the Rotary Club to say the least). The most contentious actions perpetrated by you is car-jacking. If it has wheels, you can yank out the driver (mind you some will put up a scuffle) and run off with it. In GTA: Vice City, the action takes place in the year 1985 in a faux Miami Beach. I guess the mayor of Miami Beach wouldn't allow them to use their name, so

the game uses Vice City.

A Town Antonio 'Tony' Montana would love!

Vice City is your quintessential eastern Florida coastal city from every drug-related movie in film history. Home to drug kingpins, a deposed Latin American military strongman (more on him later), retired seniors from New York, gun-running southern rednecks, Hatian and Cuban communities with their respective gangs duking it out, typical right-wing politicians, evangelists, strippers...you name it, this place has it. Chances are, you'll be interacting and making deals with many of these denizens.

You play Tommy Vercetti (voiced by Ray Liotta, who played in *Good Fellas*, *Field of Dreams*, *Cop Land*, *Blow*), a crewmember of the Forelli famiy. You've just done a 15-year stint for in joint for the family. The game starts you off on the eastern part of the city, where you arrive from VC International Airport, where you're picked up by a sleazy lawyer named Ken Rosenberg (voiced by Will Frichter, *Armageddon*, *Pearl Harbor*). You, Rosenberg and two other guys go to drug deal to pick up some fresh coke from some Colombians when out of no where the deal is ambushed by a group of armed goons (Hint: It's not the rival Hatian gangs). Only you and Rosenberg escape, upon hearing this your old buddy/boss/local capo, Sonny

Forelli (voice over by Tom Sizemore of *Black Hawk Down* and *Strange Days* fame) gets pissed and wants his money. This is where the fun begins, because Ken Rosenberg and Tommy know what would happen if they can't get that money. Ken soon sends you out and about through the city on errands and meetings to try and get the money.

Rosenberg doesn't become Tommy's boss you could say, throughout the game you'll find other task masters. One of these is Col. Recardo Diaz (voiced by Luiz Guzman, played "El Cid" on HBO's *OZ*, also in *Carlito's Way*, *Trafic* and *Boogie Nights*) a deposed South American generalissimo who now heads the Diaz Cartel. Diaz initially has you do mundane stuff like take his daughter, Mercedes Diaz to the local hot dance club. Eventually though, you become a pawn in the drug war between Diaz and the Hatians. On top of that, you end up also becoming a hired hand to a real estate developer (played by none other than Burt Reynolds!) who has you causing labor strikes to eventually killing off a rival land developer in the posh yuppie golf country club of Vice City (here's a hint, the old developer can't swim. Steal a golf cart and get him before he gets back to the clubhouse!). If I go on with the missions, it will spoil the game for you. You'll meet a host of characters ranging

from Alex "Shrub" to Debra Harry as a taxi dispatcher. Just be sure when you've made enough money to by the strip bar.

Radio killed the Video Star...well sorta.

One of the cool things about the GTA series believe it or not was the radio feature. Now if you've played other games that involved driving, you either were stuck with the games internal soundtrack or if you had a choice the choices sucked. In GTA: Vice City, you have a whole constellation of radio stations to pick from NPR (called VCPR in the game...funny as hell). Radio Espantoso with music from Benny More to Tito Puente and his entire orchestra, if you love latin and/or caribbean beat you'll love this. Wild Style with early rap and hip hop from RDMC to 2LiveCrew. V-Rock, what would the 80's be without big-haired rock bands, you'll hear music from Anthrax to Twisted Sister. Emotion, Wave 103FM, Flash FM and Fever Radio play all those big hits from Hall & Oats to Micheal Jackson to Wang Chung. If it was big in the mid 80s, chances are it's in the game. Nothing like holding up a couple of tourists, then speeding off in a stolen Lambourgini (or a Vespa scooter) playing "'99 Luftballons."

by Casey C. McCowan
Staff Writer

We all know many artistic students all over campus, but did you know that there are many artistic professors and faculty around campus, too? After visiting the Northeastern Studio Art Faculty Show located in the Fine Arts Center Gallery, I discovered that eighteen of our own professors and faculty members not only produce but were also willing to display their artwork. On display are works representing the mediums of painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, metals, and digital imaging.

Once I walked into the gallery, a wall sculpture in ten pieces consisting of hands caught my eye. This piece, sculpted by Jane Weintraub M.F.A., a professor in the Art Department, was a series consisting of many mediums, ranging from ceramics to cheese cloths. She created this sculpture set to represent the issue of *Kabbalah*, or Jewish Mysticism. Each piece of the sculpture tells a different story of *Kabbalah*.

Another piece displayed there was a self-portrait of Russel Roller. In his acrylic painting, Roller displays two large portraits of himself next to each other and a different pose on each.

Donald Bulucos, Art Department Instructor and unofficial campus "Photography Guru," showed off some of his photographs as well. His piece entitled *Does The Color of the Print Make a Difference*, explored color and its effects on the meaning of a piece. There were three black and white photographs of a woman sprawled over the side of a bed and each photograph was dyed in a different shaded dye.

After walking around the gallery for quite a while, I noticed that many students were also there browsing. Katie Stancati, a senior in the Elementary Education program, said, "I think that it is a really fantastic opportunity to see artwork that our faculty produces and it's also an inspiration from myself."

Prior to the Studio Art Faculty Show exhibit students had to "opportunity display" their own work at the Student Art Show, which was also in the gallery. Not only did the students display their artwork at this exhibit, but each student's piece could be bought for a reasonable price. The gallery is coordinated by John Brunetti and is open from January 9 through January 31. The gallery hours are Monday and Friday 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., Tuesday and Thursday 9 A.M. till 2 P.M. and Friday 10 A.M. to 3P.M.

Film Fest

FMLA is hosting a film fest of importance to all students. Films shown will include *Daughter From Danang*, *Salt of The Earth*, and *Live Nude Girls Unite!* Films begin at 10am on Wednesday Jan. 29th and Thursday, Jan. 30th in the Golden Eagles room in the Student Union.

A reception will be held each night at 6pm, and a pizza party during activity hour on Thursday.

Call 442-4550 For Details

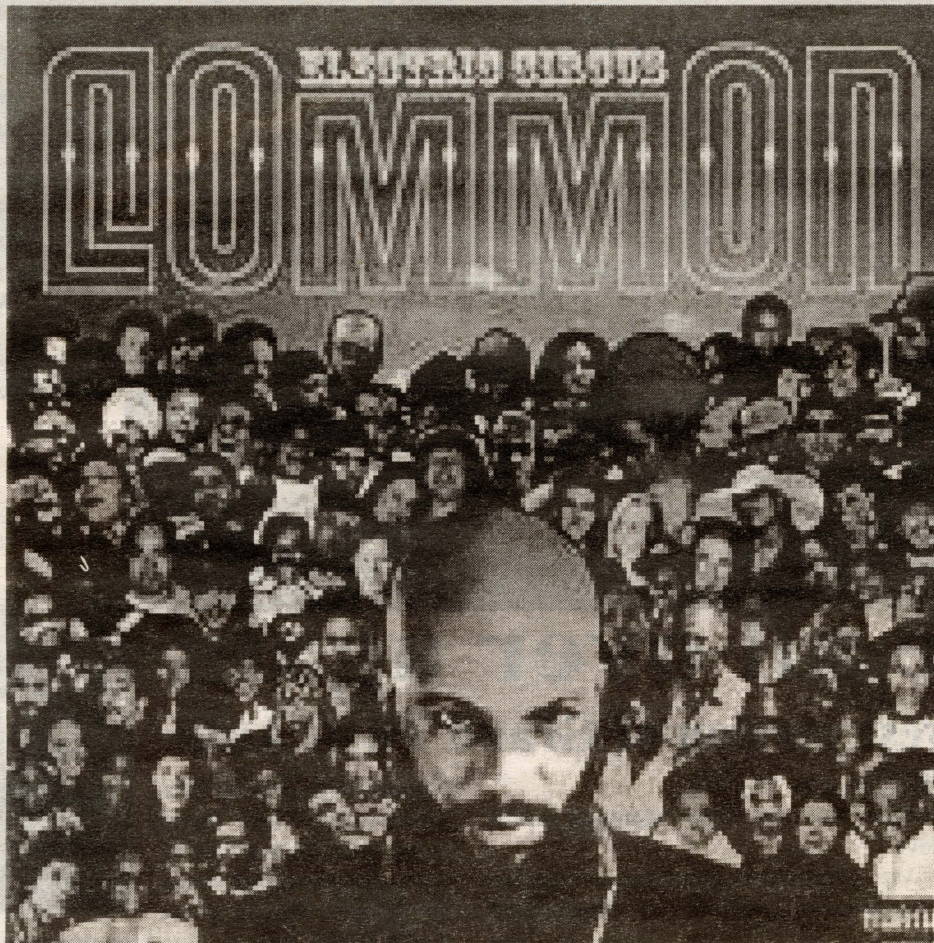
Common just isn't what it used to be

by Dan Demchuk
Staff Writer

Common and Erica Badu should do one of those charming couples duet albums a la Sonny and Cher, Ernie and Bert, or the White Stripes, only Com and Erica aren't brother and sister, or puppets for that matter, cause, all joking aside, it would probably sound really good.

The tracks that she makes guest appearances on are all eclectic and pretty soulful, and besides, Common just ain't the underground emcee he used to be. There are probably about five tracks out of thirteen worth listening to on his newest CD "Electric Circus" in stores December 10th property of MCA for promotional use only. Wait. Sorry. The copy I got to screen had a sample of a computer voice cutting into every track on the disc at least 3 times each, which made it super fucking annoying to listen to the album and subliminally engrained the release date in my unconscious. But, I have to say, its interruption spared my ears a few times from hearing the really shitty guest rappers Common has on wack tracks like "Electric Fire," and "The Hustle," disappointingly not a cover of the 70's classic. Actually, I wasn't disappointed, but a cover would've probably been better than the lackluster tracks he put together.

There are actually some really good songs though, but there are just things about each one that take away from the feeling. I don't know. "Aquarius" is a



pretty common sounding Common song, but it has this one part where he slows the track down to a halt, acapellas *fo' a sec*, then he just hits you with the beat again. Regardless, it still failed to innovate, and his Chicago style flows sound more and more like an East Coast/New York style with every album. It's for the best though. I'd rather he stay in New York and front on Chicago instead of living here in the city and getting eaten by local heads like the cats in Family

Tree and embarrass himself. Maybe I'm just bitter.

Like I said, there are a few unpolished gems on his latest since 2000's wack ass "Like Water For Chocolate." "I Got A Right Ta" professes Common's prerogative to puff down, featuring some really inventive production, although I have no clue who produced it cause MCA failed to include liner notes and album credits. Nevertheless the song features some funky synthed out bass guitar, poppin high-hats, and a sick harmonica

sample, my only complaint this time being that they got Kid Rock or someone who sounds equally as ignorant and annoying to sing the hook, ruining a perfectly good song about smoking weed.

The last 3 tracks are pretty good, too. "I Am Music" has this ridiculous ragtime 1940's feel, with pianos, clarinets, and a flapper singing the chorus which made me envision a grainy black and white film of Common and Betty Boop doing the Charleston together. But the track is just so interesting, and I think it's the only one I'm gonna download off the internet for free. "Jimi Was a Rockstar" is an obvious homage to Hendrix, and Common does a great job bringing together a number of different musical styles which made me kind of think of Mr. Bungle when first hearing the vocal effects over an almost sound collage of instruments, sampled effects, and loops, ending with a rock opera feel and standing ovation sample. And if all you B-girls out there listen real close on "Star 69 (P.S. With Love) you get to hear Common have an orgasm! Sexy!

In all honesty, the best parts of Common's latest, "Electric Circus," are the transitional instrumental tracks that blend each full song together into one continuously flowing groove. I wonder if I could make a disc of just the interludes? Common flows on "Electric Fire," "I used to write shit to please niggas," and I really wish he'd start doing it again.

NEIU SGA

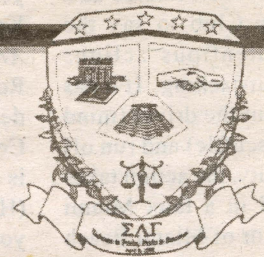


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Jailhouse Betty

Maltese trades daughter, craps tables for prison blues

by Dove P O'Connor
Staff Writer

Betty Loren-Maltese, connected to one of the most publicized investigations of all time, is believed to be behind the corruption in the town of Cicero. However, is she the person *she* believes she is, or the person the *media* portrays her as, or is she even the person *you* think she is?

Betty Loren-Maltese, former Cicero town President, is rapidly becoming a household name, convicted of racketeering, swindling twelve million dollars out of Cicero taxpayers pockets and purchasing many lavish extravagates with the money such as golf courses and vacation homes.

Loren-Maltese was convicted last summer and sentenced earlier this month to 8 years in prison. Loren-Maltese, who was up for at least 14 years, was trying to convince the judge for a lesser sentence on grounds of single motherhood, since she is the only person who is taking care of her five-year-old daughter.

Prosecutors rushed to show how many hours Loren-Maltese spent gambling, which amounted to approximately 31 hours a week within the last 3 years, and how she bet approximately \$18 million. Prosecutors were also trying to

persuade the judge that Loren-Maltese, if she were really the wonderful mother she was praised to be, would not have spent that much time in casinos and could have spent it with her young daughter instead.

Ashleigh Rose, at the age of 5,

"Millions of dollars were practically stolen from the pockets of these hard-working people."

will have to deal with the fact that her mother will be going to jail on April 1st. No more outings to Chuck E. Cheese, which is one of the places Loren-Maltese is famous for bringing her daughter; a place that might be more comfortable for Loren-Maltese than her daughter, a place that is considered a kid sized version of gambling and also a place where mothering techniques fall short. As well as a place where defense attorneys say Loren-Maltese was a "good mother" for taking her daughter there. By the time Ashleigh Rose turns 13, Loren-Maltese will be set free to take her daughter to Chuck E. Cheese one again, where good mothering tools are always used.

For now, Loren-Maltese can be considered a lot of things—one being a well-liked town President. On the eve of her conviction day, hundreds of Cicero supporters lined up in front of Loren-Maltese's home. Some might find this odd; however, her supporters find her innocent and

guilt free. Millions of dollars were stolen practically from the pockets out of these hard-working

people, but somehow they still see no wrongdoing in her actions.

Going off to federal prison, Loren-Maltese will be saying goodbye to her daughter, 81 year old mother, and her bad hair and make-up. She will also have to learn to live with out her Cadillac and beautiful mansion in her favorite city, Las Vegas; she will also learn how to adjust to prison life. If Loren-Maltese has accomplished anything in Cicero, she has certainly left the next mayor big shoes to fill. Corruption, fraud, widower, gambler, mother, swindler, and thief are all elements to Betty Loren-Maltese. All elements that many hope the next "town president" of Cicero leaves behind.

Heroes. Well, how can that be? Interesting, isn't it? Sounds like the former governor was either a poor administrator or a liar. Maybe both. To ponder if Mr. Ryan really had a change of heart considering his former advocacy of the death penalty sounds ridiculous, but I am curious. Maybe people get a bit more generous when the heat is on them. The question is, will Ryan face the fire like his friends?

Now onto the equal opportunity for cronies program...I guess anyone in power would want to hook up his or her friends and share the wealth. I might try to do the same, provided that my friends were actually qualified for those positions. Is it in the best interest of any business or organization to hire friends? It is also hard to have to criticize a close friend, so it may be best to stick with strangers when it comes to new hires. Anyway, Ryan's roster of homies consists of some interesting selections. Former State Senator William Shaw (D-Dolton) has been selected for a \$99,000 per annum position to help small businesses with utilities. This man is currently being investigated for conducting political work on taxpayer time. He is also involved in a dispute with U.S. Representative Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-Illinois) regarding dirty campaign tricks. He allegedly solicited a man, also named Jesse Jackson, to run against the U.S. Representative to cause confusion between the two identically named men. Mr. Shaw is also the mayor of Dolton. According to state law, he can't hold both positions, so sounds like he's going to have to pick. That's if the appointment is actually confirmed.

Some other highlights regarding Shaw is that he brought millions of

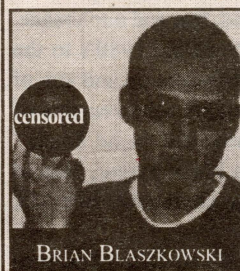
dollars to his district, primarily to Dolton. Also, a convicted drug dealer has charged in federal court that Shaw sold him a Dolton police badge. Joan Mitnick Fawell has been appointed to a four-year term at the Illinois Financial Institutions Department making approximately \$84,000 per annum. Her husband, a close friend of Ryan, has been indicted over the infamous license scandal. These are just two examples of his all-star line up. From what I heard, Governor Blagojevich has already dismissed some of Ryan's selections. I also heard that the governor is launching an investigation concerning the necessity of many state positions. I guess we'll have to wait and see.

Also in the news, the great state of Illinois is experiencing a budget crisis. That didn't stop Ryan from sending funds to his hometown of Kankakee. There's \$6.5 million for an aquatic center, \$6.6 million for a new ice arena, and \$9 million for a new Workforce Development Center at Kankakee Community College. Then the \$90 million of Illinois FIRST money that went to Kankakee county really got my attention, but I read on to find out that Kankakee county is among one of the state's most economically challenged areas.

I hope the money actually goes to help the people and not into crooked pockets. But Ryan's track record hasn't been so great. Speaking of track records, Illinois has a pretty intense reputation for dirty politics anyway, so none of this should be a big surprise. How about eliminating politics and just dealing with the issues? I hope Ryan enjoys his retirement. Good luck to our new governor and may he steer clear from political turmoil and demise!

Please God, deliver me from the stupidity!

IT WAS BROUGHT TO MY ATTENTION BY AHMAD MILLWALA,



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

THE CHAIR OF THE BOOK EXCHANGE COMMITTEE, THAT THE BOOK EXCHANGE WAS ACTUALLY UP AND RUNNING THE SUNDAY NIGHT BEFORE MY COLUMN CAME OUT. I CONGRATULATED HIM AND SAID THAT I WOULD APOLOGIZE. WELL, I SAY LOTS OF THINGS.

Anyway, why the hell was it kept a secret? Where are the flyers? The posters? The vestal virgins sprinkling rose petals around campus? Can I have their phone numbers?

Whatever. Thanks for the book exchange, and sorry for telling people that you were dragging your ass and not doing your job, even though anyone examining the situation would see with precise and chill clarity that you *were* kinda dragging your ass. Anyway, sorry. Well, not really.

OK, let's move on. Let's talk about our peers, our classmates. Let's also talk about why they suck. Over my years here, I've run into many annoying classmates. See if any of these archetypical classmate types look familiar

And yes, I know I've touched on this subject before, but originality is over-rated. So is good writing. Here they are:

Teacher Groupies

God damn, I hate these people. These are the people who like a teacher *so much* that they simply *have* to take every single class taught by that professor. The worst part is that sometimes, they aren't even majoring in the area taught by the professor. We have Business majors taking dozens of English classes, taking up valuable slots that should be occupied by English *majors*.

And don't try telling me that "They just want to enjoy their college experience." Horseshit. They can't enjoy their college experience for two reasons. First, they chose Northeastern as a college. This isn't a party college; there are no dorms, no Roman drunken orgies, at least none that I could find. We come here to get a degree and go on to better things That's it.

Secondly, they can't enjoy their college experience if it ruins someone *else's* college experience. Let me tell you something: finding myself unable to register in a required English course because twelve brainless sycophants simply *had* to take that class so they can laugh like donkeys on acid every time the teacher so much as clears his throat kinda pisses me off. Stick to your major, and I'll stick to mine.

Pseudo-intellectual

Holy shit, if murder ever became legal, these people would be among the first killed. Pretend you're in class. The teacher says something pretty simple and easy to comprehend, such as, "The sun is hot." Everyone in the class nods and writes it down, except for one person. He raises his hand. "So...um, what you're saying is, the temperature of the sun is high?"

You've *got* to be kidding me. These people take what the teacher said, throw in some synonyms, and then act like they just invented a God damned better mousetrap. They're wasting our time, and they're acting like they're smarter than they truly are. I wish the professors would stop acting like "Everyone's opinion is valid," because sometimes it's *not*.

Another mutation of the pseudo-intellect could be classified as "the debater." No matter what the teacher was talking about, let's say dung beetles, they would try to incorporate whatever trivial factoid they happen to spew from their empty head. They'd try to say the fact that the dung beetle collects dung can be attributed to the struggles of the working class, and it's a microcosm of Marxist society at its finest.

They take trivia and try to pass it off as intelligence, and all they're really doing is wasting valuable class time and making asses out of themselves. Shut *up*!

Attention Monger

This person needs a lesson in basic courtesy and respect from a wooden bat named "Mr. Sluggo" as an instructor. When the teacher asks a question, they just blurt out a response. They don't raise their hand, they don't stop to think about the answer. They just open their mouths and talk in a wonderful example of how a purely oblivious person acts. Bastards.

They need to realize that they aren't the only people in the damn class, and other people would like to answer the teacher. Remember grade school? Remember how we had to raise our hands to answer questions? Wasn't that awesome? Everyone took a turn and no one monopolized answering the questions. Maybe these people should take some remedial kindergarten classes or something.

Mis-analyzer

You'll run into these people in English classes all the time. No matter what the story or poem is about, this person will *always* say that it's about whatever they feel most strongly about and view anyone who dares bring up a differing opinion as an affront to all they hold dear. I'll use feminism as an example, because that's the belief I notice most of the time in these sorts of situations (please don't hurt me, Becca).

The teacher says something like, "Analyze the following poem," and then gives you a literary masterpiece like, "Fluffy kitten, trim your claws. Kittens must obey no laws. Fluffy kitten, you taught me well. Now I will not go to hell." Something really cool like that. The mis-analyzer will raise her hand and say, "I think it's about a young girl blossoming like a flower...she is coming into her own, realizing the power and beauty that describes all women on earth, and she is trying to blossom but her evil, misogynistic, hate-filled, stupid, smelly, *male* father is suppressing her like men suppress *all* women and oh, *God how I hate men!!!*"

That's not how it always works, obviously. Sometimes the poem is about a dog, for example. Anyway, this isn't a critique on feminism, it's a critique on close minded people who believe that their dearly held beliefs are so wide-spread and accepted that every form of art and expression was created *specifically* with that belief in mind. If you can feel better after looking at a painting of a flower because you think it's about a woman, than I'm happy for you. Just because I don't see that doesn't make me a woman-hating bastard, though. Find a middle ground.

There are more, obviously, but I'm almost out of room here. Do you recognize any of these people? I'll bet you do. Are *you* one of these people? If so, I hate you.

George Ryan is full of convictions

by: Dave Desmedt
Staff Writer

Controversy and scandal continue to surround former governor George Ryan. His recent decision of granting clemency to 167 death row inmates has ignited the already boiling argument regarding capital punishment. This alone will continue to stir emotions worldwide for many years to come. Mr. Ryan also filled a number of state positions with his associates, many of questionable character. What are the motives behind these specific decisions? Probably the similar types of motives used by politicians everywhere. These motives that I am referring to are things such as favors for friends, covering the posterior area, and making money. Isn't that what politics is mostly about, anyway?

Without opening the death penalty debate, why would the former governor grant all these pardons without thoroughly investigating the cases on an individual basis? Granted, mistakes happen within the judicial system; no system is perfect. But you cannot tell me that all these convicts are worthy of a downgraded sentence. Why not just ban the death sentence completely in the state of Illinois? Ryan claims to have been studying this issue for three years.

Why did he wait until now to take the prisoners off of death row? Could it be that he wanted to leave office on a positive note instead of a scandalous one? One of his best friends finished a prison sentence and another is on trial for various unethical situations while working for the Ryan administration. Ryan claims to have known nothing, kind of like Sergeant Schultz on *Hogan's*

Plencner off target on Lott

In his criticism of Trent Lott, Scott Plencner offers a sanitized version of the Republican Party (*Independent*, Jan. 7, 2003). He speaks of the "centrist" Bush administration which is like saying the tower in Pisa stands perpendicular to the ground. He sees Trent Lott as an incredibly ignorant racist when in fact he represents much of the power behind the Republican party which for a generation has been the party of hatred, fear and intolerance.

We have to go back before the Reagan revolution of the 1980's to the civil rights acts of the Johnson years to understand the make-up and aim of the present Republican party. For it was the civil rights achievements of that Democratic administration that lost the Dixiecrats, the "solid South," to current Republicanism, just as the election of a black mayor, Harold Washington, caused a number of long-time Chicago Democrats like Ald. Bernie Stone to move to the Republican party.

Nixon capitalized on the racism of the South with his so-called Southern strategy and ran against McGovern, who still had a vision of extending the rights and privileges of the white middle class to all Americans, and he took 49 of the 50 states. The South went Republican in the 1980's in response to the "GOP's big government stance," for sure, but we have to recall that it was the "big government" in Washington that had been enforcing civil rights legislation on the segregationist South since the 1950's, and when Reagan announced his candidacy for president, he went to the South to do it, announcing himself as a candidate for states rights. Everyone knew what "states rights" really meant. Exactly what Trent Lott understands by it: the right of states to impose segregation or outlaw abortion without interference from the federal government.

Lott was an embarrassment to the party because he blew its cover. He spoke in terms of segregation and not states rights. He did not use code words like "welfare reform" or "family values" that have been employed for decades to cover disgust for the poor (particularly African and Hispanic Americans) or opposition to women's and gays' rights.

After decades of hard worn progress in attempting to undermine racism, prejudice, and intolerance in this country, those who would re-institute those values have run to and have been welcomed by the current Republican party. We now have a President who has said Jesus Christ is his chief advisor, is funding religious organizations to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars a year, and speaks of an axis of evil. Religious fundamentalism is not confined to Islamic nations. It has found its party in the U.S. and from there threatens the rights and lives of millions of people at home and abroad.

Harry White
English Dept.

Socialists have solutions

Given the narrow range of ideas promulgated in the media, it is not surprising that Brian Miller failed to recognize the solutions posed during the Socialist Club meeting regarding the racist injustice system. I will reiterate them here as I feel they were the point of the meeting. When considering options for action against injustice, it is important to look at the history of successful movements. Most recently, we look to the 1930s and 1960s for movements which brought us great improvements in social justice. What we learn from these periods is that who is in the white house and/or other seats of government, is much less important than who is on the streets. It was the activists taking to the streets and demanding change who brought civil rights to the majority who did not enjoy such rights prior to those movements. When fighting against this same structure that continues to nurture a justice system that is rife with racism, classism, and sexism, we must continue in the same struggle on the streets. The suggestions made at the meeting included getting involved with current organizations/movements concerned with injustices and/or organizing new efforts. A visitor to our group did suggest that racism in the justice system is part of a conspiratorial effort. I contend that for a structure that enriches the few at the expense of the many, conspiracy is redundant.

As was also discussed in the meeting, it is the lessons learned through organization and activism which will lead to permanent change. In the last year we have seen the elimination of many civil rights gained by previous generations. This is why movements alone will not end injustice. Until the structure of our society is transformed, we will continually fight to regain ground lost during periods of crisis. Justice is impossible in the face of inequality. Democracy can not exist in an unequal society. Capitalism requires inequality and precludes both justice and democracy. This is why I am a socialist. Only when equality is achieved can we be assured of justice and democracy. A better world is possible. Through an understanding of our history, broadening our expectations, and organizing movements for justice we can make it so.

Loretta Capeheart, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice
Advisor, NEIU Socialist Club

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.

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The Independent
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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

North Korea takes aim

by J. Louis Bracich
Business Manager

I'm watching the overnight trading on the S&P e-mini contracts on the Merc's Globex when streaming across my screen on my Dow Jones Newswire screen I see that North Korea has pulled out of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT for short). Curious, I watched how the world would react; the best way I ever found out was to watch the markets, especially currencies. Seconds past Kim Jong Il's latest act in the theatre of international drama, the South Korean Won drops in value versus the U.S. Dollar. Korean and Japanese stock markets soon follow. While a certain Texan in the White House is aiming his sights on Baghdad, a certain nerdy-looking North Korean with a penchant for Daffy Duck cartoons has his sights on Seoul. North Korea is playing a dangerous game here.

The King of the Red Hermit Kingdom

Kim Jong Il, known also as "Dear Leader," is the only known hereditary leader of a Communist nation. Kim Il Sung (also known as "Great Leader"), who founded the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea appointed him as his successor, years prior to his death; he's also the Dear Leader's father. Everyone from journalists to defectors have told tales about Dear Leader, before the Yalu River and beyond the 38th Parallel, Kim is something of a messiah or demi-god. According to his own propaganda, Kim Jong Il has accomplishments ranging from being a crack fighter jet pilot to being a great poet and master; he's been accredited by his ministers to have even written the Karma Sutra. The leader of the 4th largest army on Earth tends to be aloof with the public only to allow his small film crew to follow him taping him as if he were in a movie. Kim thinks he's in a big drama, a reality show of sorts where he's the big star.

The Real Clear and Present Danger

North Korea has been on the brink of collapse for the longest time. The past several years, the northern half of the peninsula has been witness to one of the worst case of famine. It's economy virtually collapsed, the only thing propagating its existence has been the generous aid from China and other nations, and the sale of weapons. It's the sale of missiles like the Scuds and Nodongs, plus knock offs of Soviet weaponry like the AK-47, that has the West worried. Pyongyang's development of the Taepo Dong series missile and nuclear warheads has escalated this fear.

Currently, the Taepo Dong 1 has been tested; its maximum range of 1200 miles allows the DPRK to attack any city in South Korea and



Photo Credit

The two instigators of a nuclear arms race are all smiles.

Japan. The Taepo Dong 2, a two-stage rocket currently in development, will be able to reach Hawaii and Alaska. The three-stage version said to be available by 2015, will be able to strike any city in the US and Canada. Armed with a nuclear warhead, and we could have a new version of the Cuban Missile Crises many times over.

CIA, the Israeli Mossad, and even the Russian FSB have detailed in the past Pyongyang's sale of guns and artillery to Al Qaeda and others of their class. The Russians in particular have been haranguing their old Cold War ally for selling arms to Chechen rebels. Now, critics may say that the US has been guilty of proliferating weapons as well, with sale of Stinger missiles and F-16s to nations like Saudi Arabia and Taiwan, but the US has yet to go wholesale on nuclear weapons as the DPRK would most likely do. Kim Jong Il has stated publicly in the past, that he would sell any weapon of any kind to maintain his so-called "Workers' Paradise."

The Nuclear Butterfly Effect

The UN's nuclear regulatory body, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recently had one of its teams kicked out of the DPRK's Yongbyong nuclear facility. Various nuclear watchdogs have speculated that the Communist nation may have between one to up to five nuclear bombs. Should the Yongbyong facility become 100% operational, it is estimated that the North's nuclear arsenal could expand to as many as 50 nuclear bombs by the end of the first year's operation. The fallout from such a successful venture on the North's part would have what Chaos theorists dub a "Butterfly effect."

Imagine, following the revelation that the North Koreans had say fifteen nuclear warheads at their disposal, it is probable that the South Koreans would want to match that for their defense purposes. In Japan, upper-level members of their parliament, the Diet, have openly said they would pursue such a venture. Indeed, Shiguru Ishiba, the Minister of Defense has stated openly that his nation may scrap its current constitution banning it from having an offensive military. Currently, Japan can only have a military with a defensive posture, meaning all it can ever do is defend the home islands. Minister Ishiba's comments are exactly what have the mandarins who run China worried; Japan would be viewed by the Peoples Republic of China as a "Pacific Britain," a proxy for US military power of sorts. A nuclear arms race in the region would begin as each nation in the Asia/Pacific region vied to protect themselves.

Japan and South Korea, or just one of them obtaining a nuclear arsenal

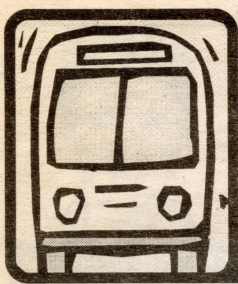
would force the hawks in Beijing to increase their stockpile. India, watching an old foe increase it's nuclear weapons, would soon follow suit. Pakistan soon gets wind of what India is doing, and begins to acquire or build more of its "Islamic Bombs." This race does not have to transpire in this order; someone somewhere in the region though would set things off. Eventually the cycle would repeat itself or end with some sort of nuclear stalemate that would not last.

Dr. Strangelove and How We Learned to Love A Nuclear Korea

Looking at how this world is turning out, it's quite obvious that the North Koreans will pursue the path towards nuclear weapons; it's the only card Kim has to maintaining power. Down the road, maybe not today, but most certainly tomorrow, we will wake up to a Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea with nuclear-tipped ICBMs or something. The above scenario of a regional arms race will come about, albeit probably at a slower pace. The United States has a chance today to do something about this.

Outright war is not plausible, we do not have the allies at this moment to put together a coalition force; it is doubtful that the Chinese would stand by either. Seoul and other major South Korean cities would be laid to waste as the North rained down missiles and artillery. In addition to this, our allies, the South Koreans want our troops out of there.

The United States should pursue a strategy of limited defense/limited offense. President Bush should not sign a non-aggression pact with the DPRK; this would only encourage other rogue states to attempt nuclear blackmail. Instead, the US should pull out the 37,000 soldiers we have stationed on the Korean peninsula, the South can muster enough troops if need be. Should a war ever breakout, our troops would be nothing more but cannon fodder. Instead of a non-aggression pact, the US should just issue a promise to the North: Any military actions against the South (nuclear or conventional) or nearby allied nation, any sale of nuclear/biological/chemical weapons, any testing of long-range weapons would constitute a nuclear attack against the United States. The United States should proceed to develop a new defense pact with Japan and anyone else in the region; and should regulate/aid any ally in the development of nuclear weapons. As it stands, a nuclear China and a nuclear North Korea would imbalance the region, and since both would never eliminate their stockpiles, the US and the rest of the world should face reality and embrace a new nuclear defense strategy.



The Commuter

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

Make sure your 4 year degree only takes 4 years

by Joe Allgaier
Staff Writer

Let's face it. Northeastern is what they call a "commuter college," meaning that the majority of students go here because of its convenient location. Most go here mainly because it is close to home and affordable. NEIU is small when compared to most of the other state universities, which can be good and bad. It's good because the class sizes are small enough for the teachers and professors to have time for their students. The classes are more personal. However, it's bad because choosing and registering for classes can be frustrating. Class availability is an issue, and sizes and time-slots are limited.

Life as a student can be a rewarding experience. It can even occasionally be quite fun. But sometimes it can seem impossible to keep up with the workload, especially those who work and/or raise a family, in addition to attending classes. Students who find themselves falling behind can get easily frustrated. And for those who get caught up in the red tape of administration and financial aid, it is too easy to just give up and quit.

Students are getting up too early after not enough sleep, to make it to class just in time. By the end of their last class, they are hungry and irritable, and could really use a nap. But then there's work or kids to be taken care of. Late at night, when they finally get to study, they are not exactly at peak mental acuity and can get frustrated easily.

If this sounds like you, then you may get something useful out of this article. A large number of college graduates who attended universities similar to ours were surveyed, to seek their advice and opinions. They were asked, "Based on your experiences, what are the keys to making steady progress and graduating?" Here were the most frequent and useful responses.

Communication: Network with instructors and fellow students. Many college grads felt this was the most important key to their success in college. Keep in touch with your teachers. Know the exam dates, and keep the class syllabus handy. Don't be afraid to ask as many questions as you need in order to understand and learn the material. Also, it's helpful to keep in touch with other students in your classes, through e-mail or telephone. We can all help each other stay up-to-date on assignments and homework.

Go to all your classes and do all of your work: Do not think of class as optional. The teachers have a limited time to teach a great deal of information. Have faith in your instructor's plan for you, and do the work and required reading. Classes here are not nearly as competitive when compared to other schools, and we have experienced teachers who know how to give a manageable workload.

Know Thyself: Many of us need time to decide what we are going to do and be in life. Of course, most students hope for a degree that will land them gainful employment in a certain field. It is important to pick a degree early on, and work toward it constantly. Those who change majors, or declare late, may find that some credit hours earned do not count towards the major chosen. Budgeting your time and knowing your limits is crucial to success. Reserve time to study, and time to rest. If employed, make sure you can handle the hours, and schedule only as much as you know you can handle. If it gets to be too much, review your financial aid options, or find a job with a more flexible schedule. There are many jobs you can get through the school's employment office. You might even land a job on campus! The more time you can commit to school, the better you will do.

Get involved in extracurricular activities: Many have improved their college experience by getting involved in extracurricular activities. Northeastern has a club for just about everything, and you can even start your own club. Don't be so eager to flee campus after that last class! There are study groups, tutoring, clubs, and a plethora of fun activities planned for students each semester. Getting more intimately immersed in the college community is a good focus-minded mentality to have while spending your time here. Do not treat it like a job, it is an education. You should be enjoying as well as learning.

Above all, have fun. Take classes toward a degree in a field you would enjoy. Find ways to relieve stress. Hang in there. And when graduation does approach, do not get lost in the details. Find out what paperwork is required and when it is due, and do it. Good luck to us all.

Give the kid alternatives to TV

Negative side effects to a common hobby have gone unnoticed

by Natalie Olenczuk
Staff Writer

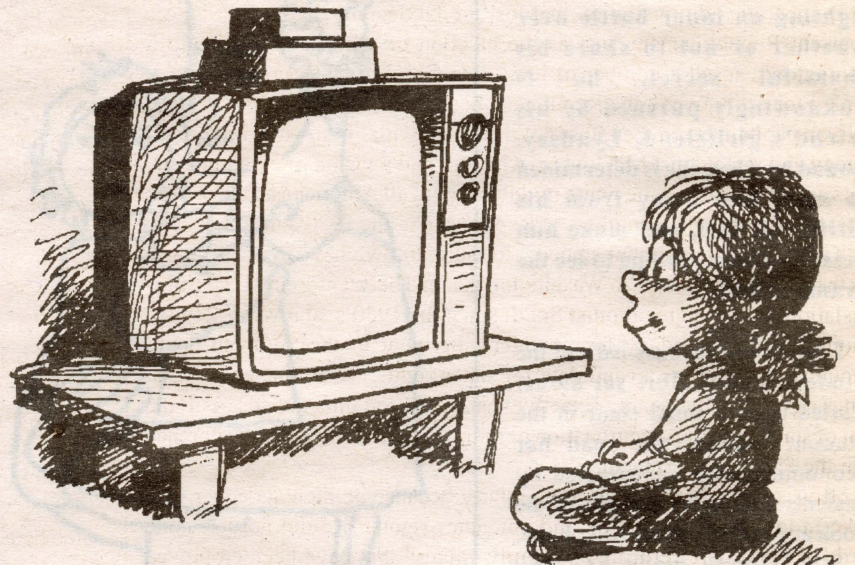
The effects that television viewing has on children's bodies and minds have been long debated, and the research now shows that there are several negative effects to be concerned about. For example, watching too much television promotes laziness, and inactivity, which can lead to obesity. As children grow into adults, habits tend to stay the same and eventually, obesity can cause diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, and even premature death.

Watching television before bedtime can create reduced, poor, and delayed sleep. Insufficient sleep leads to poor performance at school, less social interaction, and possibly depression. Violence in programs is continually being linked back to real life aggression in children. Unfortunately, most programs that children watch—especially cartoons—contain startling amounts of violence.

On average, the American child watches three hours of television programs per day, and that doesn't include the videos, DVD's, and video games they also watch and play. Some studies said that children spend approximately the same amount of time in front of the television as they do in school.

This could stem from parents fearing the boredom of their children. It's ok for children to be bored sometimes; it's part of the natural learning process to be resourceful and self-directed. Children have the ability to play and stimulate their minds without the use of television or other entertainment, and will do so automatically if the television is off.

friendship and cooperation are On the other hand, not all television should be off limits to children. Programs that are educational, show current events in the world, and promote



good for children to watch in moderation. It is important to talk to children about what they are watching on television. Ask questions and try to get involved to show an interest in their interests. For instance, if your child is watching a program that involves dancing or singing, ask the child to sing or dance with you to make them an active participant instead of just a viewer on the outside. But the more time spent away from the television the better.

Here are some simple activities that can be done rather than watching television:

1. Have your child read a book. If you keep plenty of interesting material around it will be easy to entice your child. Having them read aloud to you also keeps you up to speed as to how your child is progressing academically, and makes them feel special and capable.
2. Give your child a chance to be creative. If you give your child some colored paper, glue, crayons, scraps of material, and any other items you may have around the house, they can create you a masterpiece. Be encouraging and sit down with them while they do it. Even adults can have fun with glitter and glue.
3. Encourage your child to play outside. Help your child find children or playgroups in your neighborhood to play with. Having children interact together creates a good sense of social identity, and offers lots of exercise.

4. Have your child play board games. Games like this create skills such as teamwork, waiting your turn, and accepting that you don't always win. Educational games that include math and brain teasers are the best.

5. Take your kids some place new. Visit educational places like museums, historical sites, or the library. In the summer time, parks and green houses are wonderful places to take children and have them ask questions or just to look around. Try to involve them with the environment by going on days where there are special activities planned by the attraction.

6. Give your child options. Introduce your child to activities like sports, karate, yoga, and dance classes. Also, ask your child what kinds of things he/she may be interested in doing. There are many inexpensive activities after school and on the weekends in every community your child may like to do.

The possibilities are endless. The things that you already enjoy doing can be expanded on to create fun activities in place watching television.

The next time you and your child are watching television, take into consideration how it is affecting them and what they will get out of the programming. If the benefits of the program are not very good, then consider one of these or other alternatives instead.

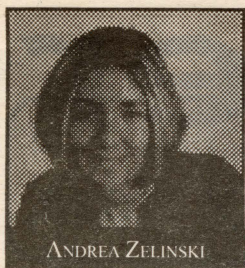


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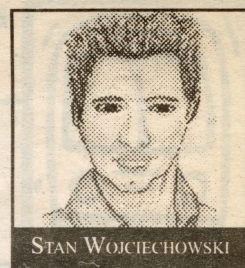
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ANDREA ZELINSKI

STAN'S LIFE



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI

Throughout the past few issues, Stan has alluded to having a shameful past none of his friends at Northeastern know of. While fighting an inner battle over whether or not to share his shameful secret, he is unknowingly pursued by his friend's girlfriend, Lyndsey. Bound by a bet, she is determined to steal him away from his girlfriend, Tori, and make him hers. Continue reading to see the drama unfold.

Deep below the busy halls of the Student Union, Tori sat alone. Curled upon a small chair in the student lounge, she read her economics book undistracted by students walking by. She closed the book and pulled out her cell phone.

Stan slowly made his way through the cafeteria and towards the lounge. Today, I'll tell her, he thought as he climbed a small group of stairs. No more secrets. I've held this in long enough. He past a number of student offices as he turned left into the lounge. As he searched for his girlfriend as Lyndsey grabbed his arm.

"Hey there. Haven't seen you for a while," she said while she held his arm.

"Oh hey. How are you doing?" "Okay," she answered as she flashed a flirty smile.

"Good. How are your classes going this semester? Anything too difficult?"

"Nothing I can't handle," she paused. "Hey, I'm having a party this weekend. Do you want to go?" she asked with a flirtatious smile.

"Sure. Is Elliott going?" Stan replied as he continued to look for Tori.

"Elliott? Oh Elliott. I don't think he'll make it."

Stan paused. "Well, I'll see what I can do."

"I really want you to be there," she whined as she pulled closer.

"Okay. E-mail me where and when it is. You can get my address from Elliott."

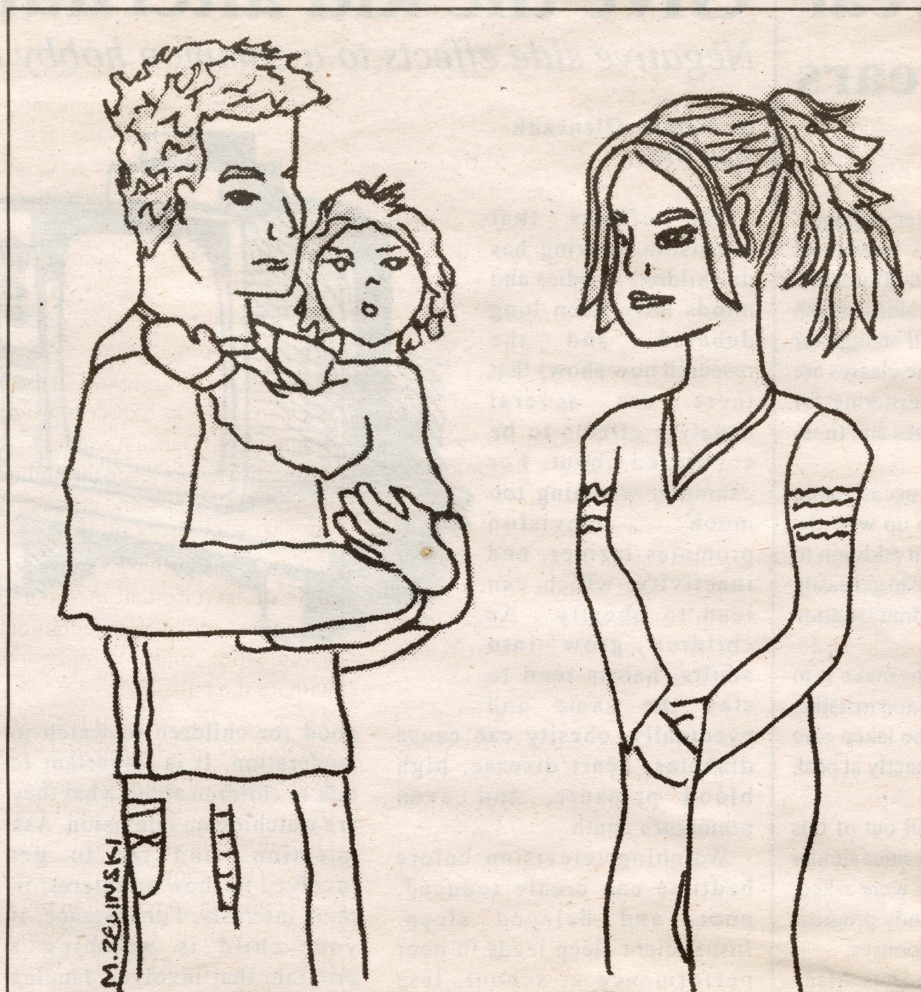
"I'll see you then," she whispered as she began to walk away.

As Stan turned around again to look for Tori, he found her giving him a hard glare. He walked to her as she hung up her phone. "Hey honey. What's up?"

"You tell me."

"What do you mean?"

Tori paused as she put her cell phone away. "Nothing. So what did



Lyndsey want? I saw her over there holding your arm."

"It was nothing," he dismissed as he sat in the chair next to her. He leaned over to give her a kiss. She softly kissed him back.

"It better be nothing." She moved towards him. "So what are we doing today? You wanted to show me something, right?"

"Yeah. It's a surprise," he slowly answered.

"What kind of surprise? You know how much I hate surprises!"

"Well," he paused, "It's a part of me you haven't seen before."

"Like what? During the day you're Stan, but by night you are 'Super Stan' or something," she quipped.

"Not exactly," he smiled as he took her hand and pulled her off the chair. "Let's get going."

Tori parked her tiny red Geo Prism against the curb as Stan directed. The sun started setting behind the thick mess of clouds, leaving poor visibility on the pavement. Streetlights were heavily blocked by overgrown trees as their stark branches swayed with the hard wind.

"So where are we?" Tori asked Stan and she locked her car door.

"Franklin Park. My old

neighborhood. I went to high school around here."

"So this is a trip down memory lane I take it."

"Not exactly," Stan replied as he took her hand and lead her towards a small red house down the block. "There's a lot I haven't told you about me. About my past and what I've been through. There's a lot I'm not too proud of."

"That's okay. Your past doesn't matter to me."

"Remember you said that." Stan continued to walk in silence until he reached the front door. "I don't know how to say or explain this. But there are a couple people I should introduce you to."

He pulled his keys from his pocket and slid a dull brass key into the doorknob. Turning it, he opened the door to a small living room cluttered with dirty clothes and blankets. Toys and dolls lay scattered on the floor.

Stan and Tori heard yelling as they ventured further through the room. "God damnit Roy! You know how much I need this job," yelled a woman's voice. "But.... I really need the insurance. You know you won't find another teller like me... I promise I won't show up late anymore just..." The woman walked from the kitchen to the living room

and took notice of Stan and Tori. She gave a nod to Stan and peered at Tori, sizing her up. The woman looked to be about 20 years old with her brown hair falling just past her ears. Her body was thin, almost ghastly thin, and not very healthy. Her skin was pasty white and covered in freckles. Though her body was unattractive, her face held a faint glow as she hung up the phone and smiled at Stan.

"What was that about?" Stan asked as the woman approached them.

"Some bitch at work is trying to get me fired," she replied as she

looked at Tori. "Hi. I'm Crystal," she said as she extended her hand.

"Tori," she replied as they shook hands.

"So where's...." Stan trailed off.

"In the TV room. I'll call her." Crystal left the room and hollered down the hallway. She returned to the group.

"So how are you two related?" Tori asked as she and Stan took off their jackets.

"Uh..." Stan mumbled as a two-year-old girl sprinted through the hallway and spotted Stan. She ran straight for him as he knelt down and scooped her into his arms. The girl wrapped her arms tightly around his neck as he stood up. "Do I get a kiss?" The girl loosened her grip and slowly approached his face and planted a tiny kiss on him lips. The little girl smiled and laughed. "Hey, there is someone I want to introduce to you." He turned towards Tori and took a deep breath. "This is Tori, my new friend," he paused. "And this is Alexis," he looked at the little girl, "my daughter."

"Hi!" the little girl said while she buried her head in Stan's chest.

"She's a little shy," Crystal said as she pulled a cigarette from her purse and walked into the kitchen.

The once rich color in Tori's face faded like the sun out the window. Her eyes fixated themselves on the little girl as she proceeded to tug on Stan's hair and softly giggle. Stan put her down. "Go see if mommy needs any help," he instructed as she played with his hair. The girl ran off to the kitchen.

Stan directed Tori to the nearby couch and sat next to her. He avoided eye contact with her at all costs.

"So you've been lying to me this whole time." Tori stated as she watched the little girl in the kitchen. "How long did you think you could keep this going? Why did you lie to me?"

"Fear of rejection I guess. It's not something I exactly want to advertise. I thought you wouldn't want to date me if you knew I had a kid."

"So how did this happen?"

"It was in high school. Happened at a party actually. Her and I never really dated each other, just hung out. Then one day... wham.... guess what... she's pregnant," Stan looked at Tori for support, but only felt an awkward vibe. "I obviously didn't mean for it to happen, but it did. And I wasn't going to just leave Crystal by herself with the baby."

The little girl ran into the living room and hopped on the couch in between Tori and Stan. She nestled her head into Stan arm. Tori watched the girl in silence. Observing Alexis' eyes, she noticed the distinct similarity between her and her father. Tori's eyes filled with a glassy look. The girl slowly leaned over and reached for Tori's hand.

"Play with me?" she pleaded as Tori let the girl wrap her little hand around her finger.

She pressed her lips together as she attempted to hold in her tears. "Okay," she whispered as Stan put his arm around her shoulders. The little girl hopped off the couch and picked up two dolls and gave one to Tori.

"She's adorable," she said as Stan held her closer. "I don't know how well I'll be able to deal with all of this."

"It won't be easy. And if you leave me, I completely understand," Stan replied as he looked Tori in the face. "But I don't want to ever be without you." He leaned closer and kissed her forehead.

A long paused passed before either said a word. Finally, Tori asked "What about Crystal?"

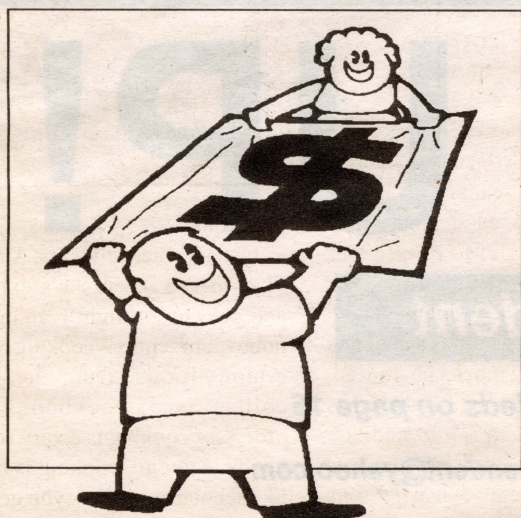
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What's In Your Cup? Coffee's True Face Revealed

by Joe Allgaier
Staff Writer

For many of us attending college here, coffee is a necessity, a basic need, and our life-blood. We need that first (or second, or third) cup in the morning to function properly. But is it healthy?

There are many studies currently being conducted around the world focusing on the positive and negative effects of coffee and caffeine, more than ever before in history. Not a month goes by when another news story pops up, claiming "scientists say coffee lowers risk of" cancer, heart disease, gall stones, what-have-you.

Well, seeing as the college years are often fueled by the bean, this subject warranted some research to bring NEIU the truth about coffee.

First, bear in mind that coffee contains caffeine, which is a drug. And like many drugs, caffeine is addictive. It can cause harmful side effects, such as hypertension in those suffering from anxiety. If a person who drinks several cups of coffee a day suddenly stops, they may suffer mild withdrawal symptoms, such as headaches, stomach cramps, loss of appetite, and a lack of energy. It is unwise to drink coffee instead of eating breakfast. If, in that hurried morning daze, you have to choose one or the other, think how much more sustainable energy a balanced meal can give you.

Perhaps the most important reason to drink coffee in moderation is because it dehydrates the body, sapping it of vital minerals and fluids. Dehydration is something most of us suffer from most of the time—at least a little—without even knowing it. It can have a negative effect on the liver, kidneys, bladder, and stomach. It is wise to drink water or juice with coffee, especially in the morning as you first

get up, when dehydration is at its worst. Of course, anything taken in excess is bad for you, by definition.

Now for the good news. Many so-called truths about the bad effects of coffee are turning out to be untrue. Coffee does not cause ulcers. In fact, the most in-depth studies have shown that coffee does no harm to the stomach at all, even for those who have ulcers. There is some proof that the combination of coffee and cream may increase the production of bile in the stomach, causing heartburn or mild indigestion, but more research is needed to verify this. Again, if you don't forget to eat something, this shouldn't be a problem.

Coffee beans contain disease-preventing antioxidants, called flavinoids. The unique process of roasting the beans produces more of these flavinoids. Drinking moderate amounts of coffee (2-3 cups a day) is proven to reduce the risk of colon cancer, kidney and gall stones, and even counterbalance the negative effects of stomach acids brought on by excessive eating. They may also be beneficial in preventing heart disease and other types of cancer. Fresh ground, fresh brewed coffee contains more flavinoids than instant coffee, and

may be the most beneficial in this aspect.

Those suffering from asthma can reap the benefits of coffee, too. It reduces the prevalence of symptoms, stifles histamines, and improves breathing.

As we know already, caffeine increases alertness. But there is new evidence that it can help us sustain concentration, and temporarily increase our cognitive ability (that is, our ability to process information rapidly) by more than 10%! It also can act as a mood-enhancer, and help in fighting depression.

For those interested in losing weight, coffee can also act as a diuretic, increasing the amount of fat burned. Of course, nothing is more effective than anaerobic exercise and a balanced diet. Dietary benefits are, of course, lost, if you drink it with too much sugar and/or milk, such as in a latte or a frappuccino.

Keeping everything in mind, it is wise to regulate our coffee intake, and sustain a balanced diet, in order to stay healthy. Personally, I would advise staying away from those volcanic machine-made instant coffee and cappuccinos unless absolutely necessary. And don't forget to tip those hard-working folks at the kiosk on campus, working hard to provide us with the gourmet stuff.

You can find more detailed information on coffee research at www.cosic.org, the Coffee Science Information Centre, www.mc.vanderbilt.edu/coffee,

the Institute for Coffee Studies, and www.coffee-science.org, the Coffee Science Source. All studies, past and present, are well documented, and these sites cover them in great detail.



Fitness Matters

Provided by the Office of Campus Recreation

by Martha Montes & Tracy DeBerge
Special Contributors

WELCOME BACK AND HAPPY 2003!

"This is the year I'll get in shape", sound familiar? Every new year we make resolutions to start an exercise program, eat healthier, feel better about ourselves. For many of us, we don't know where or how to begin. Your Campus Recreation staff is ready to assist you with meeting your goals and answering your questions! We have the programs and know-how to jumpstart your motivation and keep you going!

If you don't have a clue on how to use strength training equipment or just need that push, we have an awesome personal training program. Our trainers are certified by the American College of Sports Medicine – it doesn't get any better than that – and are fellow students! You'll see them in the gym or in your classroom and they know their stuff. Do you know what the best part is? Their services are **FREE** to NEIU students! Don't hesitate to take advantage of their expertise and learn how to achieve your goals in the Fitness Center.

For those of you who like to sweat with your friends, we have an extensive Group Exercise program. We offer over 25 classes a week ranging from Dance Aerobics to Aikido to Indoor Cycling to Yoga. Many of our instructors teach throughout the Chicagoland area for health clubs and fitness centers and come to us with much experience. Again, these are **FREE** to NEIU students!

New to the Group Exercise program this semester is Pilates. This is a style of exercise that incorporates exercise science and rehabilitation techniques to develop abdominal and back strength, improves balance, coordination, and flexibility, and gives your body long, lean muscles without the bulk.

Are you the competitive type? We've got just the thing for you - Intramurals or Club Sports! There are a variety of athletic events for every interest and you can compete with your fellow students in Intramurals or join a Club Sports team and compete on a higher level. Our current Club Sports teams currently include Baseball, Volleyball, and Soccer teams!

We offer open recreation times in the Physical Education Complex if you just want to come over and shoot some hoops or swim some laps (we also offer **FREE** adult swim lessons for NEIU students if you need to learn)

Ever wanted to try out the Climbing Wall? We now offer supervised climbing two times a week! We have all the equipment and instruction to get you started.

As an adjunct to the climbing wall, we also have camping equipment for weekend use. Again, this is **FREE** to NEIU students (although there is a deposit required, but you get it back when you return the equipment – undamaged, of course.) We have tents, sleeping bags, back packs – everything you need for a weekend getaway!

If the stress of mid-terms or that big paper is hunching you over, we offer inexpensive massage therapy right here on campus almost every day of the week - all you need is an appointment and relaxation is coming your way!

For those of you who are not students, many of these programs are available to you, too! We offer economical recreation memberships for faculty and staff, which allows you to take advantage of all we have to offer.

To find out about any of our great programs, stop by the PE Complex or the Campus Recreation bulletin board in the D-wing for schedules and phone numbers or check out our website at www.neiu.edu/~campsrec/

If you'd like to direct a question for us, we'll be happy to answer it and publish it in the next edition of The Independent. Send your questions to personaltraining@neiu.edu.

Check us out and let us help you keep those 2003 resolutions!

Inside your professor's HEAD

By S. Fatima Quadri
Staff Writer

Most students reach a turning point in their academic careers that help them choose a profession, for History Professor Dr. Susan Rosa, this turning point dates back to her days in a French Convent as a little girl. The rebellious and curious Dr. Rosa decided to test her limits by picking

Featuring Dr. Susan Rosa

up a copy of one of Voltaire's books. When one of the school nuns caught her she immediately confiscated the book and called her parents, telling her mother that her daughter had become possessed by the vicious devil. The punishment far from diminished her interest in Voltaire, it only nurtured her curiosity.

Since then Dr. Rosa has exhibited a strong inclination towards European intellectual history and religions, which later became the topic of her doctorate as well. She received her doctorate education from UC Berkley in 1986, Dr. Rosa explained why she chose that institution, "I wanted to attend a school that wouldn't fringe upon my independence." What better place for that than a University as large and

liberal as UC Berkley.

Aside from being a rebellious and innovative personality, Dr. Rosa was always a determined learner and a "voracious reader", and her strong background in religious sciences paved the way for her area of expertise. In addition, Dr. Rosa had established friendships with many academics in her field, one of the most influential one being her advising professor, "I would just sit and talk about books with him for hours, and set off on a new research direction. He always knew what I was stumped by," she described.

Dr. Rosa has developed her own influential teaching styles as well. As an experienced student of hers I can vouch for her creative and progressive methodology; she never uses the same syllabus twice and continues to add new research to her lesson plans. However, many students have criticized her high expectations and strictness.

Dr. Rosa responded to this allegation, "Education is the most

important thing that can happen to anybody, everyone has a right to it. Students at Northeastern are entitled to the same type of education as student a student a Yale, don't you think you deserve it?" She tries her best to challenge her students and especially enjoys the upper division learners.

Currently, Dr. Rosa is continuing her research and working on a publication, which argues the importance of religious history in influencing the enlightenment. She is divorced with two sons, one of whom is a chef and the other is a jazz musician. Indeed, Dr. Rosa's strength in liberal arts has influenced her family. In addition to two sons Dr. Rosa has two cats that joined the family when her sons rescued them during their teen years, the cats Puddy and Phineas are 17

years old.

Just like her students, Dr. Rosa likes to veg when she's exhausted and pick up on light reading. As a hobby, she enjoys cooking various ethnic foods from her huge collection of cookbooks. As a professor cooking is a very relaxing hobby. After all, cooking is nothing like scholarly works—you get quick results that in most cases taste umm mm good.



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Organizations

Hip Hop is Art. It's everything around us consisting of vision, vocals, music, rhythm, B-Boys, DJ's, emcees..... Your opinions! Your Input! Join the Hip Hop Organization every Thursday 1:40-2:40 p.m. in room FA-247.

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 other 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 femajority-l@neiu.edu with your name and e-mail address.

NEIU's new Yoga Club. Do you want to learn how to enhance concentration and reduce stress while having fun?! Join the BMC Yoga Club! Membership is free and open to NEIU students, faculty and staff. For more information email Pamela Barnes, BMC President, at P-barnes@neiu.com

Care about your environment? Let's start a NEIU environmental organization! Contact or leave message for Sarah (773) 561-5131 or revo1@chickmail.com

Service Opportunities await YOU! Check out Student Volunteer Corps! Call 773-442-4618 or stop in A-125 to find out more.

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Join UPRS! We promote Puerto Rican history, culture, and a better understanding of our present reality. Call ext. 4583

Say no to Bush's war. Be a positive part of American History. Join the Anti-War Committee. Thursdays 1:40 p.m. in room 3094.

Fraternities, sororities, clubs, student groups. Earn \$1,000-\$2,000 this semester with a proven CampusFundraiser 3 hour fundraising event. Our programs make fundraising easy with no risks. Fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get this the program. It works. Contact Campus Fundraiser at (888) 923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraiser.com

Personals

Lady 4a, I miss you. You have my heart in the palm of your hand. I'm yours FOREVER.

I hate computers. Absolutely hate them. If we don't get them fixed soon, I'll fix you John. Patty might break your legs. That would be a shame.

MQ: I'm sorry. I just hope you can find a way to open up your heart and listen to me.

DO: Man... what happened to us? Why did we do it? Who knows. But Jesus... never again.

Roses are red, violets are blue, if the computer crashes one more time I'm gonna puke.

BB: You're worth more than you let yourself believe.

Jr: We tend to forget who is supposed to be the older one. I guess we'll have to do something about that now won't we.

There is just something about that production editor. Maybe if he would put away the food, we'd get more work done.

Staff: nice job for those of you who actually turned in your stories. The rest of you have some explaining to do, cuz I'm not putting up with this shit.

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