

2-4-2003

## Independent- Feb. 4, 2003

Andrea Zelinski

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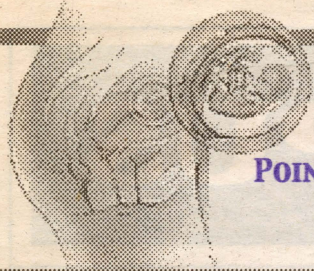
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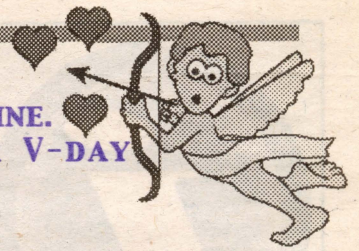




ROE V. WADE  
JACLYN V DANIEL  
POINT COUNTERPOINT  
PAGE 8

# NEWS, OPINIONS, FEATURES AND MORE ALL INSIDE!

ROSES ARE RED,  
AND SO IS GOOD WINE.  
CHECK OUT OUR V-DAY  
SPECIAL!  
PAGE 9



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

# Independent

Vol. 19 Issue 12

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

FEB 05 2003

Tuesday, February 4th, 2003

ARCHIVES

## Classroom building fire sends students home

by Andrea Zelinski  
Chief Editor

Classes were cancelled in the Classroom building Thursday, January 23, after a dangerous accidental fire was found in the Telephone Battery room on the lower level.

Shortly before 9 a.m., the smell of smoke filled the basement level of the Classroom building, including Information Commons computer lab. Students were ushered out of the building before the fire could spread further.

"I could smell the smoke long before we were warned to get out," said Leticia Naranjo, a student who had been working in the computer lab at the time of the incident.

A contractor from Johnston Controls was feeding a wire from the Telephone Battery room to the third floor of the classroom building. While running the wire wrapped in fish tape through a conduit, a plastic tube used to protect wires, he was completely oblivious that the wire had managed to loop itself back downwards towards the Telephone

Battery room and out a crack where the conduit joined with the wall. The wire lay upon a set of batteries near the crack.

"As soon as the wire laid upon the battery, it heated up instantly and became white hot," explained Acting Director of Public Safety, Jack Baker.

Unaware of the incident, the contractor climbed to the third floor to find the expected wire he had fed. Meanwhile, the steel fish tape covering the wire had caught fire. "Anything the fish tape came in contact with caught on fire; the plastic, the plastic conduit, the battery case. Everything it touched caught," said Baker.

Only moments after the fire caught, Brian Koerner, from Telecommunications, saw the smoke and began to warn students, staff, and faculty in the area, including students in the Information Commons computer lab. He immediately grabbed the phone and dialed the extension to Public Safety. Students, including Krystle McRoberts and Nicole Figueroa, computer lab attendants,

were surprised when Koerner ran with a fire extinguisher into the lab yelling orders to exit the building due to fire. They then told everyone to evacuate the building.

Engineer Gavin Carroll, upon hearing Koerner yelling, pulled the fire alarm, grabbed a fire extinguisher, and started to extinguish the fire.

Once the contractor had returned and realized what had happened, he pulled the burning fish tap in an effort to help restrict the spreading fire. Suffering severe burns on four of his fingers, he was later transported to Sweetish Covenant Hospital.

The first officer on the scene was Lt. Kevin Connolly. He brought with him an ABC fire extinguisher appropriate for any type of fire. He finished extinguishing the flames.

"Those three men, [Koerner, Carroll, and Connolly] saved the

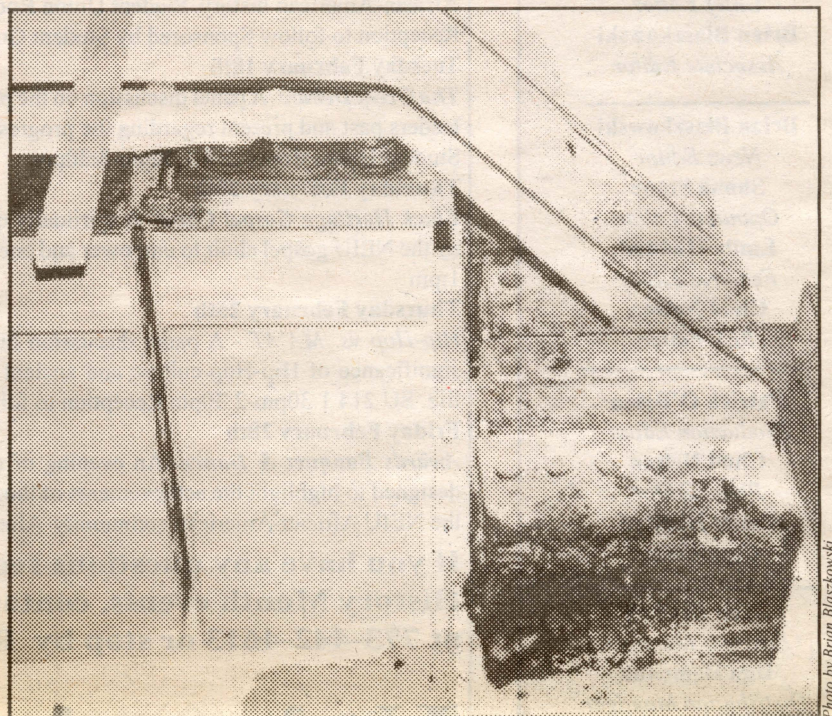


Photo by Brian Blazkowski

While the fire lasted less than five minutes, the damage was already done.

university a lot of money," commented Baker.

The fire department arrived less than five minutes after the alarm was pulled. By the time the firemen had evaluated the scene the fire had been extinguished.

"What's frightening was how quickly it went. It was virtually discovered as it happened, and spread quickly," explained Baker.

Meanwhile, Baker rushed to the

Continued page 5

## Shuttle tragedy leaves seven dead, space program shaken



Space shuttle Columbia as it descends over Texas

By J. Louis Bracich  
Business Manager

On a beautiful Saturday morning, on what was to be the culmination of a 16-day mission of the STS-107 crew and the veteran of space travel, the Space Shuttle Columbia, tragedy struck. Within moments, what was to be a beautiful day for science turn into a series of dreadful moments that would mark America's history in space exploration. Approximately 9am CST, Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, lost all communication with the Columbia. The last messages between NASA and the crew of STS-107 was about the sudden appearance of abnormally low pressure on the left wing.

**Mission Control: "Columbia, Houston, we see your tire pressure**



Kalpana Chawla, Engineer aboard Columbia

messages and we did not copy your last."

**Columbia's commander, Rick Husband, calmly responds: "Roger, uh, huh..."**

Traveling over two-hundred thousand feet in the air, at top speed of Mach 18, 16 minutes before landing the Space Shuttle Columbia began to disintegrate. On the ground, the moment all links of communication had ceased, officials in NASA went into crises mode. Families of the crew were sent to a special conference room to be briefed on the situation. Other observers and non-important personnel were ordered to clear the area. Just after Mission Control ceased talking with STS-107, seven to eight sonic booms could be heard across the South-Central United States, from as far as Adeline, Texas to eastern Louisiana.

Immediately, President Bush and Tom Ridge, the new director of Homeland Security were notified of what had transpired. The new cabinet department quickly convened the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) into coordinating search and rescue of any surviving debris and crew members. Upon receiving word that the Shuttle Columbia had exploded into pieces, FEMA changed plans and began working with local police across Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas in protecting and obtaining any debris that had fallen.

Throughout the day, officials from

NASA began to alert the public of the tragic events, unfolding what they believe transpired. Any thoughts of this being an act of terrorism were quickly doused by Ridge's office and that of NASA, saying that the STS-107 being 39 miles into the air would be out of range of any Surface-to-Air Missiles (SAMs). NASA Chief, Sean O'Keefe, gave the first of two press briefs at 11am CST. O'Keefe went on to describe how they believe the cause of the explosion might be centered on the left wing, where possibly one of the heat shields had fallen off. O'Keefe continued with Mission Control's communiqué with Captain Husband about the sudden appearance of off scale low readings on the bomb line sensors. The sensors, according to the Ron Dittmore, the STS-107's program manager, are used to gauge the pressure of the heat shields.

At 11AM CST, the President went on television to address the nation of the catastrophe that had occurred, "The Columbia is lost; there are no survivors." The President continued with a detail of the crew and of America's venture into space. He concluded, choking up at one point, with a piece of scripture from the Prophet Isaiah.

2PM CST, NASA Chief, Sean O'Keefe began the second news conference, "We trust the prayers of the nation will be with them and with

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**Monday-Thursday**  
**9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**  
**Friday**  
**9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

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# AROUND CAMPUS

## Black History Month

February is National Black History Month and here are events happening right here on campus celebrating Black heritage:

### Tuesday February 4th

*Opening Ceremonies* Student Union Room 214 1:30 pm-2:30pm Reception will follow in Room SU 215

Sponsored by Student Affairs Office

### Friday February 7th

*Mostly Music at NEIU*- Mwata Bowden Performance featuring jazz and other creative musical art. 7pm in Recital Hall

### Tuesday February 11th

*Muntu Dance Theatre*- A Chicago based dance company highly regarded for innovative and traditional African dance. Alumni Hall 1:30pm -3:00pm Reception to follow Sponsored by NEIU Programming Board

### Thursday February 13th

*Know Your Heritage*- An engaging event challenging our knowledge of African-American history. Student Union Room 003 1:30pm-2:40pm Reception to follow Sponsored by Student Government

### Tuesday February 18th

*The Great Debate*- A panel discussion on the philosophical views of black leaders past and present regarding the progress of African-Americans. Student Union Room 214 1:30pm-3:30pm

### Thursday February 20th

*Black Heritage Gospel Choir*- A spiritually uplifting occasion provided by the NEIU gospel choir to empower and encourage. Recital Hall 11am-1:pm

### Thursday February 25th

*Hip-Hop vs. MA'AT* - A panel discussion highlighting the impact and significance of Hip-Hop culture and ancient African culture to present life. SU 214 1:30pm-2:30pm Reception to follow Sponsored by SGA

### Friday February 28th

*Awards Banquet & Dance*- An evening of celebration and fun that is designed to highlight the achievements of those making a contribution to the NEIU African-American community. Alumni Hall 7pm-1am

**If you have any questions regarding Black History Month events, contact Ken McKay at 773-442-4613 or stop by Room B-119**

## University Day

**"Mark your calendars!** On Thursday, March 6th, Northeastern Illinois University proudly presents University Day 2003! The theme this year is Retention: Goals, Practices, and Outcomes," and will feature a presentation by Mark Kelly, Vice President of Student Affairs at Columbia College.

A variety of sessions will be offered throughout the day, including:

**"Giving Students a Voice;** Cultural Experiences in the Classroom." A diverse panel of NEIU students discusses how integrating their cultural backgrounds into their course work helps them to better identify with what they are learning.

**"Community Building on Campus."** Various forms of learning communities are reviewed as a means for helping students succeed at NEIU.

**"Where's the Money? How to Buy for College."** All the information you need to find out about your options for receiving financial aid, scholarships, on- and off-campus jobs, and much more.

**"Teaching for Student Success."** Reviews what we have learned about effective teaching from working with dozens of faculty members throughout the last two years of NEIU Title V faculty development project.

There will also be workshops for support staff, as well as an all-alumni panel. Don't forget, NEIU's University Day, 2003, on Thursday, March 6th.

## Hillel Event

Hillel Presents Ishmael Khaldi To Be in the Minority in a Jewish State: My Life as an Israeli Bedouin. Tuesday February 4th, 2003 1:30pm-3:30pm Room B 158

## Correction for 1/22 Issue

The photo and story featuring Dr. Frank Lawrence was actually Dr. Lawrence Frank. We apologize for the juxtaposition Dr. Frank.



## Ethics Speaker

Martha Nussbaum, Professor in the Philosophy Department University of Chicago will be giving a keynote address on "International Issues of Social Justice In Women's Education. Thursday February 13th in Alumni Hall at 6pm.

## Caribbean Club

Spring Break is just around the corner! Stressed out? Midterms? Need a vacation, but don't have a plane ticket? Then relax and join the CARIBBEAN CLUB for stress-relieving techniques. This fiesta club is for Caribbean music such as Compas, Meringue, Reggae, Salsa, Soca, Soukous, Zouk, ect. The first meeting is to be held in FA 108 on Tuesday, February 4th, 2003 from 1:40 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.

## Health Services

Just a friendly reminder that the nurse practitioner is now offering various services to the female students at Northeastern, including:

Pap Smears  
Treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections  
Prescriptions for Birth Control  
Menstrual Disorders

All treatment is of no cost and is strictly confidential. If you need to speak to someone in Health Services regarding these new services, for students, call 773-442-5800 or stop by their office in E-051.

## 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  
18th

March  
4th

March  
18th

Hot tip?



Do you know something we don't? Tip us off about news affecting the NEIU community by calling (773) 442-4577 or e-mail us at [neiu\\_independent@yahoo.com](mailto:neiu_independent@yahoo.com)



# Biology Department blood drive goes off without a clot

Daniel Piekas  
Staff Writer

The Biology Department sponsored a blood drive that saw a great turnout on January 27. The blood drive was in conjunction with Glenview-based LifeSource Blood Services, a non-profit organization that supplies whole blood and other useful blood derivatives to over 100 local health care organizations. According to one employee of LifeSource, they only send collected blood to healthcare facilities; none of their blood is sent to labs to test drugs or have other experimental processes done to it. It was held on the second floor of the Student Union building in room 214.

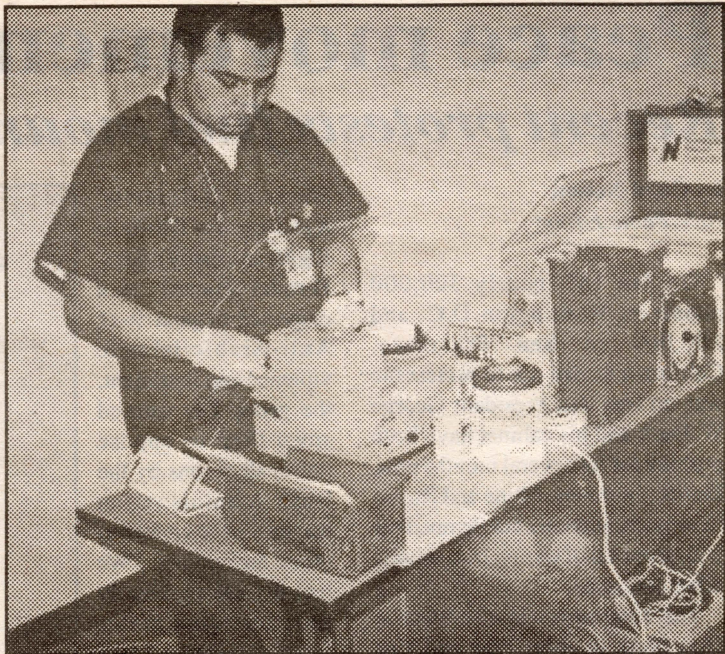
Things seem to be running smoothly. Donors did not have to wait more than five minutes in any stage of process. There was no line at all for registration and only a short wait between registration and the donor screening process. The screening takes about five minutes and determines if you are healthy enough to give blood by giving you some basic health tests and



Anonymous Northeastern student eagerly gives up a pint of blood.

asking questions dealing with your past, including questions establishing past sexual encounters

and any encounters with drugs. After this, the technicians are all set to draw the blood. The whole



LifeSource employee processes donations from NEIU students.

process from start to finish takes about half an hour. Of course, juice and cookies were provided afterwards to replenish nutrients lost with the blood.

About 30 people had made appointments to give blood and with three hours left they had already taken 40 people. When asked if he considered this blood drive successful, one LifeSource employee enthusiastically said, "Yea, this was very successful."

When asked about the training procedures, a technician said that she had gone to school for a year to train as a blood technician, but

most people that work for life source receive on the job training.

As an incentive to give blood, LifeSource is running a raffle for a new PT Cruiser for anyone who registers to give blood from January 1<sup>st</sup> through February 28<sup>th</sup> 2003. They have several permanent donor sites. In Illinois, they have locations as far north as Gurnee and as far south as Lansing. They operate on facility out of state in Madison, Wisconsin. On a final note, LifeSource also has a bone marrow database in conjunction with the National Marrow Donors Program.

## Once again, construction zones dot the campus *Many offices are on the move as the Beehive renovation begins*

by Joe Allagier  
Staff Writer

Many find it difficult to ignore all of the construction around campus, and they can't help but wonder what is next. Joe Kish, Asst. VP of Facilities Management, outlined the school's plan to move the center of campus activity to the center of campus, instead of where it is now, by the bookstore. This adheres to plans of best utilizing the campus space.

New parking meters on St. Louis Ave. are going up any day now, so watch the time when parking in front of them.

Construction on the auditorium was delayed last year pending an investigation into the structural integrity of the originally proposed designs. Changes were made, and construction is once again underway. A floor has already been put down, and setup for the walls is next. It should be completed by 2004. The same contractor is going to eventually expand the loading dock area, which is currently being used by them as they work on the Auditorium.

Work on B-Building is just about done, and it is open for business. For those of you who don't have a map of campus in front of you, the B-Building is parallel the Science building, spanning the courtyard to St. Louis Ave. There are 3 new classrooms and several offices. A new computer lab for students should be finished soon, but is now still just a big empty carpeted room. The new computer lab in the B-Building will have 2 new classrooms as well, one for PC users and one for Mac. The Academic Computing department has their new office and lab here. The graduate college offices have

also been moved here, including the Dean's and President's offices.

In fact, many offices are being shuffled around, some temporarily, during the 2-year renovation of the C-Building or "the beehive." It was the site of most of the administrative offices for the college. Over the next 2 years it will be gutted and renovated to make way for more spacious, open offices that utilize the nice views of campus. When finished, it will re-house administrative offices, with the ones the students most interact with on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Because of this and other renovations, many offices have been moved. A list of these relocations is as follows:

The Bernard Office Building, a block from campus, is a renovated Synagogue on Bryn Mawr and Bernard.

The Library's 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors refurnished with new carpet and acoustic ceiling tiles this past winter. Work is being done on its heating and ventilation as well.

The University gets its funding for construction from general tax receipts and state appropriations, and has money left over for some future endeavors. These include the possible renovation to the small theater in the Fine Arts Building and a mini-student lounge outside the Deans Office in the B-Building as they try to increase the formal and informal gathering areas for students. The entrance and elevator in the Science building are targets of future plans, as well as a remodeling of the ventilation system. Rumors of a new TV studio seem to have been premature, as that decision is still dependent on further financial analysis.

Overall, expect great things for our little campus. The administration is working to see that the plans do not pose as obstacles to us during the semester, and are diligent in accommodating a growing student body.

Department	From	To
Academic Affairs	C-112	D-130
Academic Computing	CLS 3108	B-107
Academic Computing Labs	CLS 2104	B-103
Academic Development	A-127	A-119
Affirmative Action/Ethics Officer	C-219	B-159
Administrative Info. Systems	D-039	D-018
Alumni Affairs	C-620	Peterson Suite 201
Auxiliary Services/ Motor Pool	C-611	D-007
Board of Trustees	C-216	B-159
Controllers Office	D-018	E Mezzanine
Counseling Office	C-601	D-024
Dean of Students	A-125	B-119
Development Office	C-614	Peterson Suite 201
Enlace	C-315	A-125
Finance & Administration	C-115	D-104
Faculty Senate	C-309	D-139
H.E.L.P. Program Assoc.	C-313	A-118
Honors Program	C-532	B-141
Human Resources	C-416	Bernard Office Building
Institutional Studies & Planning	C-320	D-016
Internal Audit	SCI-225	Peterson Suite 201
International Programs	C-509	B-153
Job Placement Office	C-325	B-119
Marketing & Communications	C-319	A-121
Media Relations	C-430	A-121
Mostly Music	C-619	B-153
Non-Traditional Degree Programs	C-525	B-147
Payroll Office	D-139	E Mezzanine
President's Office	C-211	B-159
Property Control	D-014	FA-006
Publications/Graphics	C-410	A-104
P.U.L.S.E.	A-122	A-110
Purchasing	D-104	Bernard Office Building
Sponsored Programs	C-414	CLS 2108
Student Employment	D-024	D-012
T.V. Editing	D-105	Science 223
University Budgets	D-130	A-127
Women's Services & RAP	C-514	D-011
Women's Studies Programs	C-521	CLS 2906



# Peace movement continues to gain ground

## Recent protests fuel mounting sentiment against Bush, possible war

by Chad Nelson  
REV/Photo Editor

On Jan 18<sup>th</sup>, nearly 300,000 people in Washington D.C. and 200,000 in San Francisco, California turned out to protest the war on Iraq that President George W. Bush and his cabinet have been pushing for for several months now. France, Germany, China and Russia have internationally condemned the U.S. proposal of war on Iraq, among other countries.

*The International A.N.S.W.E.R.* (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), the multinational coalition that called for the rally and arranged for the speakers, has received the most attention, and has been the most prominent "New Peace Movement" group in the United States. The International A.N.S.W.E.R. and other groups have called another rally for Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> in New York City. It is intended to show solidarity with European anchored rallies taking place in London, Rome, Copenhagen, Cairo and many other European and Middle East cities. Chicago citizens opposed to the war that are unable to attend the New York rally can meet at Federal Plaza at 12 P.M. on Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> for a smaller protest.

Bill Massey, Local Spokesman for the Chicago chapter of *The International A.N.S.W.E.R.*, says turnout indicates a willingness to "fight for the rights of people to stand up to this war on the world, to break Bush's hold." International Answer is a coalition made up of many groups including *The International Action Coalition*, *Muslim Students Association*,

*Mexican Solidarity*, *Kensington Workers Rights* and many others. Formed primarily as a response to post 9-11 Anti-Arabic/Islamic violence and sentiment, the group has worked since then to oppose policy decisions by the Bush Administration that they have viewed as racist and unjust. "We feel this war is primarily about increasing profits for oil companies," says Massey.

*Voices in the Wilderness*, an organization that has been working to end the U.N. imposed sanctions against Iraq since the Gulf War in the early 90's, has also voiced its opposition to this war. Members of *VITW* have gone to Iraq, occupied Palestine and Afghanistan and videotaped the effects, as well as interviewing many civilians who were present during military actions in those areas. *VITW* recently made headlines when the U.S. Treasury department levied \$50,000 in fines for providing medical supplies and foodstuffs to Iraqi civilians despite the U.N. imposed sanctions.

Locally, anti-war sentiment has been multilateral and constant. On Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, the Chicago city council passed a resolution, 46-1, stating that Chicago "opposes a pre-emptive U.S. Military attack on

Iraq." Several aldermen initiated the resolution after a flood of letters, phone calls and e-mails to their office wherein citizens expressed their opposition to war. Chicago is among fifty metropolitan cities whose city councils have such resolutions. *VITW* refused to pay the fine, and has declared its intentions to continue raising money and sending it to Iraq.



A fiery speaker pushes the anti-war platform at January 18th D.C. rally.

Photo by Chad Nelson

that went to Washington D.C. for the Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> protest.

On Jan. 17<sup>th</sup>, the *National Coalition of Students Against War* was formed in Washington D.C., comprised of hundreds of university, college, and high school anti-war groups, including Northeastern Illinois University's *Anti-War Coalition*.

The *Chicago Coalition Against War and Racism*, one of the largest local organizations voicing its opposition to the war, has called for and staged several anti-war protests in Chicago, many of which coincided with national protests. Chicago protests have been as large as 4,000 people meeting in Federal Plaza on weekend mornings and marching on downtown streets. *CCAWR* has implemented an "emergency response plan," which states that if the U.S. declares war citizens are asked to meet at Federal Plaza at 5 P.M. the day of the declaration and the day after for protest and civil disobedience if necessary.

In the 49<sup>th</sup> ward, a group working towards "The People's Referendum" has collected signatures for the last several months so that a referendum question will be on the Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> ballots asking "Do you oppose a pre-emptive strike on Iraq by the United States." "It will give the voters a chance to voice their opinions directly, rather than just through representatives" says Donna Conroy, coordinator of the "People's Referendum. The group hopes to expand its work to other wards for November elections, so that referendum questions will be on ballots citywide.

## Space Shuttle continued from page 1

their families. A more courageous group of people you could not have hoped to know." He then proceeded to reiterate what he had mentioned in the previous news conference. O'Keefe then added that NASA has begun working with 20 contractors known as the United Space Alliance, who had a connection with NASA's shuttle fleet in collecting debris. By the second news conference, new speculations on the cause of the disaster came up. Ron Dittmore prescribed the possibility of a piece of insulating foam from an external fuel tank hitting the left wing shortly after takeoff, might have been the cause.

In NASA's 42 year history, there had never been accident with the decent of a spacecraft. Any NASA shuttle descending from space travels several times the speed of sound, is programmed to act as a glider, its 20,000 thermal tiles protecting it and her crew from 3000 degree heat. STS-107 had completed a 16-day mission completing 80 scientific experiments and delivering cargo to the International Space Station. Several NASA officials had openly begin to speculate on what to do with the remaining three astronauts still onboard the station. Several world leaders immediately contacted the President to give their condolences and offer of help. French President Chirac and Russian President Vladimir Putin both offered to use

their space facilities in returning home the three stranded astronauts. The three in the space station currently has enough food and supplies to last the a month or so, according to NASA officials. One Russian official announced that they will be scrambling their remaining Soyuz rockets for possible emergency launch.

### Heroes of Science

The crew of STS-107 had a true international flavor. Two of its members had flown into space before, while the rest were of a new class of astronauts who would've proceeded into further missions.

**Rick D. Husband:** Commander of STS-107. A colonel in the US Air Force, Husband was a test pilot and had flown on a previous space flight. Col. Husband earned a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering from Texas Tech University and a master of science in mechanical engineering at California State University-Fresno. Husband was in charge of the overall conduct of the mission, maneuvering the shuttle to handle the payload bay. He was a senior member of the Red Team working on experiments ranging from the European Research In Space & Terrestrial Osteoporosis to the shuttle ozone experiment. He leaves behind a wife and two children.

**William C. McCool:** Pilot of the STS-107. A commander in the US Navy, McCool was a former test pilot. McCool received a bachelor of science in applied science from the US Naval Academy, a master of computer science in from the University of Maryland, and a master in science in aeronautical engineering from the US Naval Postgraduate

School. Member of the Blue Team, McCool worked on the European Space Agency Advanced Respiratory Monitoring System to the Protein Turnover and Renal Stone Risk experiment. Commander McCool was, as pilot of STS-107, responsible for maneuvering the shuttle for cargo operations. Leaves behind a wife.

**Michael P. Anderson:** Payload Commander of the STS-107. A lieutenant colonel in the US Air Force was an instructor pilot and tactical officer. Anderson had flown on a previous space flight. As Payload Commander, management of the science mission and its success fell under his responsibility. Anderson received a bachelor of science in physics/astronomy from the University of Washington, and a master of science in physics from Creighton University. Member of the blue team, he was a participant on everything from the European Space Agency Advanced Respiratory Monitoring System to the Protein Turnover and Renal Stone Risk experiment. He leaves behind a wife.

**Kalpna Chawla:** Flight Engineer and Mission Specialist for STS-107. Aerospace engineer and FAA Certified Flight Instructor, Chawla received a bachelor of science in aeronautical engineering from Punjab Engineering College before immigrating to the US in 1983, received a master of science in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas-Arlington, and a doctorate in aerospace engineering from the University of Colorado-Boulder. As a member of the Red Team, she worked on experiments ranging from the European Research In Space & Terrestrial Osteoporosis

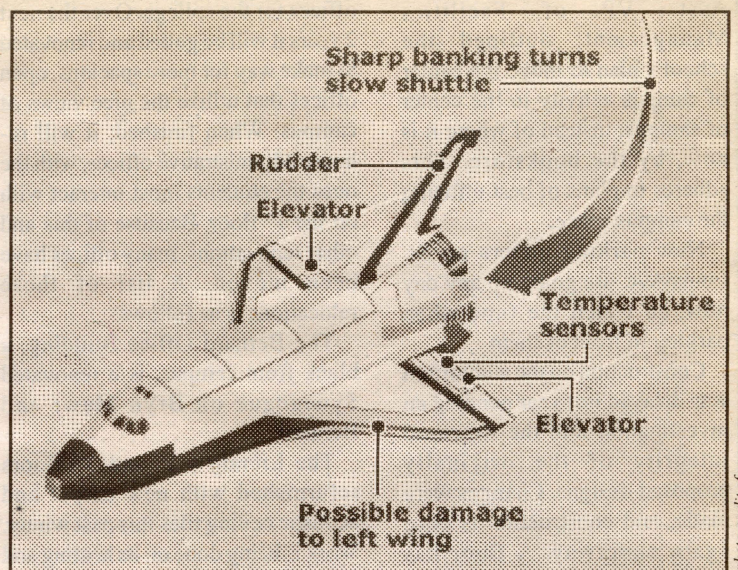


photo credit of www.nasa.com

A diagram detailing the damage to the fateful shuttle Columbia.

to the shuttle ozone experiment. She leaves behind a husband.

**David M. Brown:** Mission Specialist of the STS-107. A captain in the US Navy. Brown was a naval aviator and a flight surgeon. He received a bachelor of science in biology from the College of William and Mary, and a doctorate in medicine from Eastern Virginia Medical School. Member of the Blue team he was a participant on everything from the European Space Agency Advanced Respiratory Monitoring System to the Protein Turnover and Renal Stone Risk experiment.

**Laurel Clark:** Mission Specialist of the STS-107. Commander (captain-select) in the US Navy, and a naval flight surgeon, she received a bachelor of science in zoology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and later a doctorate of medicine from there. As a member of the Red Team, she worked on experiments ranging

from the European Research In Space & Terrestrial Osteoporosis to the shuttle ozone experiment. She leaves behind a husband and an eight-year-old son.

**Ilan Ramon:** Payload Specialist for the STS-107. Colonel in the Israeli Air Force. Ramon received a bachelor in science in electronics and computer engineering at the University of Tel Aviv. He was a member of the Red Team working on experiments ranging from the European Research In Space & Terrestrial Osteoporosis to the shuttle ozone experiment. Colonel Ramon, was also in the early to mid 1980s a part of a squadron from the Israeli Air Force that destroyed Saddam Hussein's only nuclear reactor (under construction at the time) that was critical in Iraq's nuclear weapons program, which is particularly poignant given recent world events. He leaves behind a wife and four children.



## Tribute to Dr. King sings his praises

by Atoor Lawandow  
Staff Writer

The Black Heritage Club in Northeastern held a forum dedicated to pay tribute to the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The forum was held on January 28th SU-215 during activity hour. Presenter Kendra Young kicked off the forum by introducing Dr. William Speller from the counseling department here at Northeastern. The purpose of this forum according to Speller was to celebrate the life of the civil rights leader, and to remember what it was that he was striving for.

Throughout his speech, Speller emphasized that a good leader is a hard working person. "He who can't work, can't lead, a leader is a worker," Speller explained. He further went on to expound that King was a dedicated and a hard working man; he worked vigorously for the African American community, and that, according to Speller, was what made King a good leader of the civil rights movement. "He was a leader committed to 'working for his people,'" Speller affirmed.

Speller also gave a small lesson in the history of the African-American

organizations here on campus. The first African-American organization that emerged on the Northeastern campus was the Civil Rights Club, which was established in the 1960's by African-American students. It was this grass-roots organization according to Speller, and from the Civil Rights Club, other programs dedicated to working for black students began to emerge. One such program is Project Success, which was primarily designed to "recruit" black students into higher education, and to "provide guidance" for them throughout the process, explained Speller who is a counsellor for Project Success. Still another organization, according to Speller, that has its roots in the Civil Rights club is the Black Heritage Club.

The first goal of the Civil Rights Club in Northeastern was to get black professors to teach black history in the history department. Dr. Speller explains that it was not an easy task; members of the Civil Rights Club worked very hard to bring in the first black professor into the university's history department. However, Speller continued, the university was and is still not very cooperative; in fact the university has made it very hard for black history professors to stay in the department.

According to Speller, the fact that since the 1960's and until the present time there has never been more than one black professor in the history department at Northeastern proves the university's uncooperative attitude towards this issue.

Finally, Dr. Speller reminded the African-American students at the forum to work, study, and read about Dr. King's life and his goals for the African-American community, as opposed to watching the story of his life on television. Speller also went on to challenge those students who were present at the forum to go out and study the ideology and the goals of King and write a paper about it. That paper, he went on to say, will be due to him by King's birthday next year.

The overall reaction to the forum from the audience was a very positive one. The audience was in rapt attention throughout Speller's speech, which lasted from 1:40 to 3:30 pm. Then at the end of his speech Speller answered some questions from audience members, who were disappointed that the lecture had to end when it did. Speller and Young, however, promised the audience that there will be more forums such as this one in the future.

## Fire continued from page 1

fourth floor of the Classroom building to evacuate students and staff. Facing little resistance, Baker, members of Public Safety, and Facilities Management ushered people from the building. A number of students and professors believed the fire alarm to be false and remained in their offices and classrooms until found. "You get complacent when you hear a lot of false alarms. We've had a lot of false alarms. We always do," commented Baker.

Members of Public Safety and Facilities Management secured the entrances of the classroom building. Until 12 p.m., neither students nor professors were allowed in the building as cleanup continued.

Students and professors waited patiently in Village Center for information about resuming classes. A number of students remained anxious for permission to retrieve their belongings from the abandoned computer lab. "I was really upset when they wouldn't let me get my bag. By the time they opened up the building, it still took almost a half hour before I could get in the lab. It was a huge inconvenience," said Naranjo.

At approximately 9:30 a.m., word had spread that classes would be cancelled for the entire day and would resume on Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Classes remained cancelled throughout the day due to the potential dangers of smoke inhalation. Smoke had reached as high as the fourth floor of the classroom building, thus creating a hazardous environment for students. The fire department began to monitor the air purity with a fan system. The system ran overnight in order to clean the smoke and purify the air to prevent any further problems. "It's a shame that classes were disrupted, but we don't want anyone's health to be disrupted," commented Baker.

The immediate technical impact of the fire was the disabled telephone system. Due to the location of the fire, the telephone system was down until 3:30 p.m. "If the fire dept had come in spraying water, our phone system would still be down," commented Baker.

"It's bad to have a fire, but when you have one, it's nice to see everything work how it's supposed to work," said Baker.



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# PERSPECTUS

## The race card's a joker Airport Insecurity

### OPINION

by Chad Nelson  
Rev/Photo Editor

On the anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, President George W. Bush announced his plan to challenge an Affirmative Action policy at the University of Michigan. Whether or not you support Affirmative Action policies, the timing of this challenge constitutes a bold slap in the face of the continued movements that Dr. King spearheaded more than 40 years ago. Bush has declared the policy unconstitutional

because it unfairly rewards students for being part of a minority racial group, thus discriminating against people not of a minority racial group, i.e., whites. Bush, however, failed to even discuss the practices of legacies, whereby applicants with family that attended the school are given preferential treatment, or the quite obviously discriminatory practices and procedures in funding for public grade schools and public high schools.

Local property tax is the biggest factor in the funding of schools, and the policy remains that those tax dollars stay local, thus communities that pay the highest taxes have the best schools. Attempts to change this policy towards an equal disbursement for all schools have been shot down by the state, specifically by representatives of the wealthier communities, claiming it is big government not allowing them to control their own community. Not much of a fight has been put up about this recently, so the policy remains, with rich kids going to schools with 17 gymnasiums, four or five outdoor fields, computers for every child, and small classroom sizes while children attend schools in the city with maybe one computer per classroom, and sometimes with overcrowded classes of up to 40 kids per teacher.

What really blows my mind, however, is that another large source of funding for schools, the state's lottery program, are not given the same treatment. When a plan was proposed to disburse the lottery profits according to where the most tickets were bought rather than equal disbursement to all schools, it was also shot down and called unconstitutional. The majority of state lottery tickets were bought in Chicago, specifically in the some of the poorer areas of the West and South sides. My question then becomes, how is a doctrine of funding declared constitutional in one instance, but unconstitutional in another?

Moreover, an equality of funding in grade schools and high schools would eliminate the need for a system like Affirmative Action, which by its very nature gives preferential

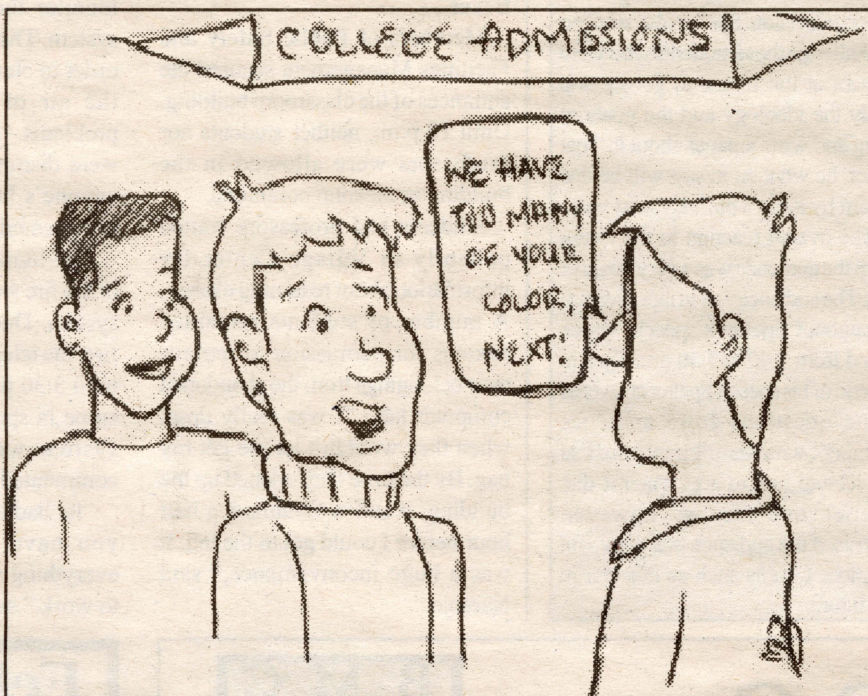
treatment to applicants based on race, and thus does not actually promote universal equality. Affirmative Action does not affect the systematic inequality that has pervaded this country since its very origins, but instead gives a nominal figurehead for pundits to decry as the "proof that equality has arrived." Students from schools in lower income school districts, the ones who feel the weight of inequality heaviest upon their shoulders, don't benefit from Affirmative Action to nearly the extent that racial minority students from wealthier areas do. Extra points on a college admission application don't help much when many students don't feel a need or desire to continue their education in such a manner because under-funded schools do a piss poor job of instilling the importance of education on anyone. Affirmative Action, as a policy created to create universal equal opportunities, has failed and will continue to fail because it inherently promotes inequality.

When you deconstruct the discourse of Affirmative Action, it essentially says: We accept the fact that children from certain racial minority groups, to say nothing of non-minority students who attend the same schools and deal with similar economic problems, do not get the same quality of education in the essential formative years of grades K-12. Not only do we acknowledge its presence, but also we do not believe it can be changed. The defeat and inferiority of racial minorities is already accepted and implied by this program, a mere continuation of the "white man's burden," wherein whites will sacrifice a little bit to for those "helpless victims" who can't do any better for themselves. Affirmative Action is racist against poor ethnic minorities because it declares that they have already lost their chance for true equality, and furthermore validates the institutionalization of the process of inequality as "the way things operate" here in the United States of America.

Affirmative Action has failed, and will continue to, because it does not address the root causes of inequality in the United States. While some

people may accept the ideology of "get whatever scraps you can," I refuse to. If, as a nation, we truly do seek universal equality, we have to start much lower on the educational hierarchy than the university level. If Affirmative Action really worked, then studies like the one by University of Chicago researchers would not find that having a white sounding name would help you get a job.

This, however, is not a rally of support around Bush's eschewing Affirmative Action. Bush has shown that he cares for the plight of racial minorities about as much as Trent Lott. Bush seeks to discredit the policy without offering a viable alternative, without trying to correct systemic problems. By only discrediting Affirmative Action on the basis of its unequal treatment of white students, he made quite clear that he wants to further disenfranchise those who already have a difficult lot. Personally, I see Affirmative Action as an initial step, but a step that needs to be passed soon. This country's history, from its very origins, has been a litany of oppression, inequality, and plans for freedom that never even came close to including everyone. Changes have been made however, and still more can be made. Labor unions worked to get the forty-hour week and decent working conditions, suffragettes won women the right to vote, and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his group of civil rights activists pushed the government to end its latently racist segregationist policies. It is time to push ahead for true equality, now that the iron is hot and Bush is openly declaring war on equality in the United States, to say nothing of his declaration of war on equality around the world. To accept Affirmative Action as the be-all-end-all of equality in America is to accept defeat; it is to allow unfair practices to continue unchecked. We must take the struggle to the next level, to its logical continuation, and then, hopefully, we can be a little closer to the equality that everyone deserves.



### OPINION

by Emily Haddad  
Features Editor

Thousands of people fly every day of the year, and the vast majority of them are law-abiding folks who have no intention of harming anyone. They're all hoping it's safe to fly. There is always the possibility that a terrorist or a criminal is hidden among the masses, but most remain optimistic. But what about the people who, even though they should be well aware of the guidelines, try to take suspicious items aboard the plane to cause a stir? Local terrorism? Or is this just a case of nervous employees being overzealous in the hopes that they stumble across something to justify it?

With new security measures, it takes roughly 800 people to do the job of 500 in a fully functioning airport. This is affecting how airports are run and also how people are reacting within them as well. The paranoia and stress levels are high, both for travelers and security ground personnel. But where do we draw the line with increased security measures?

Everyone knows it is a bad idea to try and board a plane carrying a box cutter, a flight manual written in Arabic, or a sack of mysterious white powder. But is an 8-year-old boy with a yellow squirt gun in his carry on, or a 20 year old carrying a book having a picture of a man holding dynamite on the front the cause for a full-scale airport shut down? How about the randomly screened 85-year-old woman returning from a trip to Wisconsin who was found to be carrying a block of "a strange organic substance," later identified as cheese? Or the mother of four, forced to wait an hour in an isolation room while her bags were screened because of the plastic baby utensils inside, whom was then made to disrobe her 6 month old and remove his diaper because the staff was suspicious of a bad smell coming from it? These are just a few examples of many ridiculously unfounded "security breaches" that have occurred in the past few weeks since the Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> deadline of federally guided security.

But it's not just the security people who are rifling through your carry on; pulling out items; and asking very personal, non-security-related questions (in the case of 16 year old Anne Thompson, when a CD marked "dance music" was found in her carry on, got questioned about being a dancer, and then was asked to "demonstrate her flexibility" for the grinning security personnel). No, we can't blame all ineptitude and delays on them, can we?

There are people who, disgruntled or not, are intentionally making problems. Several couples have held up flights for hours because of suspicious items in their baggage, placed there for that exact reason. One couple used a cereal box with wires and batteries taped to it, and the other used a boot with a power strip and batteries duct taped to it. Both contained a message deriding the airport security for returning the U.S. to a fascist and military controlled state by their action in opening these items. There was a point being proven, but what it was besides the huge one on those couples' heads, eludes me. One woman was stopped for carrying a vibrator rigged with extra wires, batteries and several magnetically attached flashing lights, claimed she was standing up for all Americans against airport injustice as she got arrested for suspicion of possession of a fake bomb and taken away from Cincinnati International Airport. She certainly doesn't stand for me. I'm not that stupid.

The point of it all is to make our planes safer to fly on, right? We're all enduring pat downs and having our underwear tossed out onto public tables to ensure that Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> doesn't happen again, right? Well, I was recently stopped at the security checkpoint, and had my eyebrow tweezers and nail clipper confiscated from my purse, but the security personnel passed over the set of pliers that's a combo of 6 or 7 tools and contains a knife blade in it. The staff seemed too preoccupied with some party that they were all attending after work to care. Needless to say, the security people working at O'Hare Airport, to say the least, make me insecure about flying.



The new face of American airport security: armed guards roaming terminals.



*Why paint cats? Catch the bitching*

Point/Counterpoint~ page R2

*Fiction Plane too whiny*

~ page 3

*Our staff reads books?!*

~ page R4

# REV

extremely local entertainment ~ pull-out section

## Watch these furry, cuddly bastards get maimed & killed

by Brian Blaszkowski  
Associate Editor

*Happy Tree Friends* is, without a doubt, one of the most disgusting, disturbing, and hilarious things I've ever seen in my life. For Christ's sake, just listen to the description on the website: "The *Happy Tree Friends* are cute, cuddly animals whose daily adventures always end up going horribly wrong." Are you honestly going to tell me that you don't want any part of that?

The series has been an online hit since December of 2000, with over 5 million viewings to date and growing by over 100,000 per month. That's a shitload of viewings, and with good reason. The *Happy Tree Friends* website ([www.happytreefriends.com](http://www.happytreefriends.com)) has the option of sending e-cards to your friends, no doubt filled with my violence and chaos. This season alone, the e-cards are seeing over 30,000 sends per day. The projected amount of sendings is near 50,000 per day. That's a shitload of sendings.

These doomed little animals are featured in the Spike and Mike Sick and Twisted Animation Festival, a festival that obviously specializes in the more "adult" cartoon shows. Shows such as *Rugrats*, *King of the Hill*, and *Beavis and Butt-head* all received their birthing at that festival.

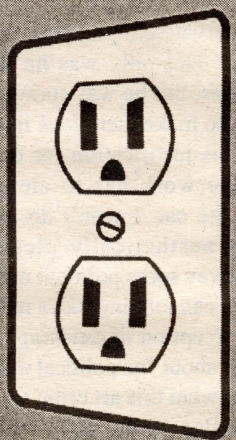
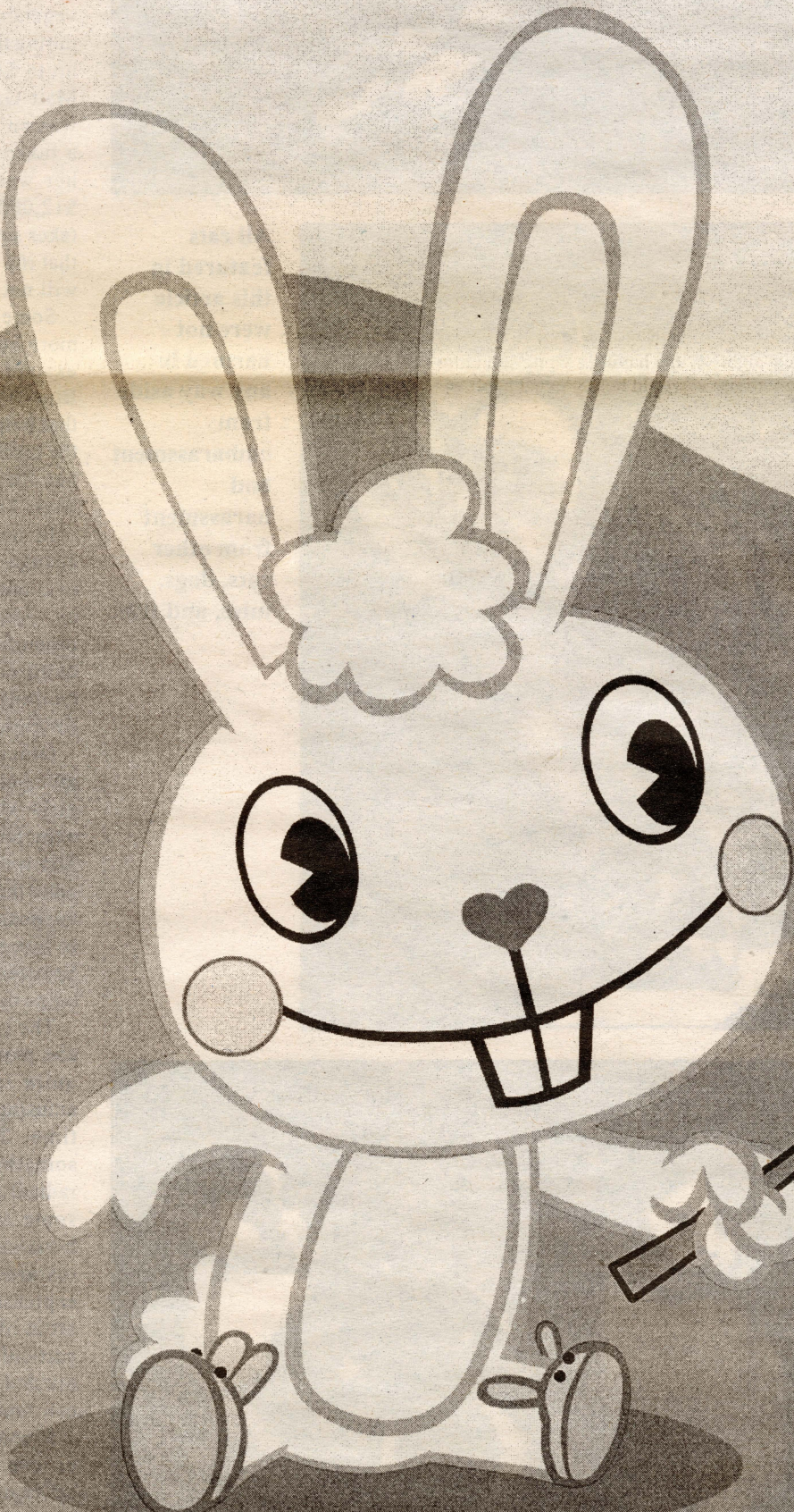
Created by Rhode Montijo and Aubrey Ankrum, *Happy Tree Friends* was never aired, but due to the urging of other sick and twisted individuals, they brought it to the Internet, a haven for fetishists, sickos, nerds, losers, and all things in between. *Happy Tree Friends* had found a home.

The first episode I watched was called "Spin Fun Knowin' Ya." It featured Cuddles the rabbit, Giggles the pink teddy bear, Toothy the beaver, and Lumpy the moose. The moose was spinning the other animals on one of those carousel things that old-school playgrounds have. Well, the other animals wanted to go faster, so Lumpy went faster. Soon, the animals were

### HAPPY TREE FRIENDS™

Volume #1  
First Blood

Over 2 Hours of  
Bone-Crunching  
Material



# CV

CARTOON VIOLENCE  
Not recommended  
for small children  
or big babies

## Cute, Cuddly and Horribly Wrong



# Who in their right mind would paint a cat?

Have they lost their damn minds? Oh my god, isn't this so cute?

by Brian Blaszkowski  
Associate Editor

Let me start out by making something abundantly clear: I fucking *hate* cats. They're arrogant little shits with tiny needles for teeth and claws, and they use them with seemingly reckless abandon. Some cats that I have met have been OK, but those cats have exhibited the traits I associate with dogs: loving, loyal, happy to see you when you come home. I can't justify feeding something that doesn't give a shit whether I live or die, and thusly I can't stand cats.

Even so, I was shocked and mildly appalled when I read *Why Paint Cats: The ethics of feline aesthetics*. In this book, some truly sick people use a series of dyes onto the cats of other people, creating "living, breathing works of art." I don't know about you, but I prefer art that stays still. Makes it easier to appreciate. These cats need to be either sedated or hypnotized in some cases before they can be dyed. Here's a tip: if you need to keep whatever you're painting either unconscious or sedated so you can work with it, maybe you aren't really making "art." Maybe it's thinly-justified "torture."

These cats can *not* enjoy this. For Christ's sake, *look* at them! Are those the faces of happy, well-adjusted animals? Not a chance in hell. Take a good look, kids; these are the faces of an animal that is almost over the edge. I can just picture the *Fox* executives in a meeting as we speak: "*When Painted Animals Snap and Attack?* I love it! Here, have a bag of money!"

And as for the dye they use, *no* dye is completely harmless. Maybe it's harmless to big, sturdy humans, with medicines and the ability to get help when something is wrong. When's the last time your cat looked at you and said, "Hey! I think I ate something that's making me sick! Call the vet!"

Aside from the cruelty this "animal painting" fetish exhibits, look at some of the artists who actually *do* this! One guy who painted a cat so it looked like an American Flag (what a fucking tool) has also painted cats to look like naked nuns. I swear to *God* I'm not making this up, and I urge you to check it out for yourself if you don't believe me. John Tilly is the guy's name, and he once painted "five young black and white cats with stylized human erogenous areas airbrushed in pink."

Call me conservative if you must, but what is his problem? Not only was he thinking about naked nuns, but he was spraying cats' genital regions to make them *look* like naked nuns. Here is his justification for doing his paintings: "The work has to elevate our perception of the cat. I won't do anything that's merely aesthetically pleasing or designed to convey some political message."

How the fuck can looking like a naked nun improve our perception of *anything*? And as far as his babbling about "no political messages" goes, check out what this art critic said of his painting of the flag on the cat: "The striped prison-like clothing being worn by this very thin cat in conjunction with a blue skull cap adorned with a white star clearly symbolizes the heroic yet confused Post-Zionist struggle against the Americanization of Israel (Betsy Cross, art critic and someone I never want to speak to)." She's obviously insane, but her quote brings up interesting questions about Tilly, such as, "Is he mentally fit to stand trial for animal cruelty?" and "Did he eat paint chips as a child?"

Anyway, this book is ridiculous in subject matter and disturbing in content. Animals were not put on earth to be exploited for our own amusement. Anyone who paints cats should be brought up on animal cruelty charges, and anyone who thinks this book is "cute" or "precious" needs help. This is one of the stupidest things I have ever seen in my life. And I once saw Kevin Costner's *Dragonfly*.

by Dove P. O'Connor  
Staff Writer

The author of *Why Paint Cats* poses the question and opens up a new world of artistic value and pure creativity to the understanding of painting felines.

The art world of cats might be a new phenomenon in the U.S., but, it is an old art form known to European Asian countries, which have been known to paint their cats. In Japanese theaters, cats usually play the part of the demon and are thus painted (they cannot, after all, wear masks), and in India they are painted with sacred marks.

This book is an unprecedented photographic record of cat creativity that will intrigue cat-lovers, art-lovers, and anyone willing to sample this "new" art form. Profiling the creative output of house pets with remarkable clarity and thorough documentation on each and every page, this book will capture your imagination. Presented as the document of a developing art movement, the cat becomes the canvas and 3-D imagery is taken to the next level.

The cats are painted with "non-toxic vegetable colors," and no cats are harmed during this process. Some artists do charge up to \$15,000 for one cat to be painted. Matt Gauri, on a funny note, painted a women's cat to look like a pig dressed in a tuxedo to represent her ex-husband at her wedding. The charge for this was \$12,000. The process of painting a cat takes several hours, and some artist admit that if a cat does not want to be painted or will not hold still they will not do it.

Some artists are painting cats to show a more human side and to help others. For example, Sally Smith, who works with Blue Heat Inc., which is an organization that helps men learn how to love through the teachings of cats, said, "Unless my art has the potential to transform people's lives, I won't do it."

In her case a whole lot of positive changes do come for the men who come in contact with the cats. Other artists such as Margie Gray who started the organization Santa's Cat, which helps ill children get a little closer to Santa by painting cats in red hoods and red cloaks for children to enjoy.

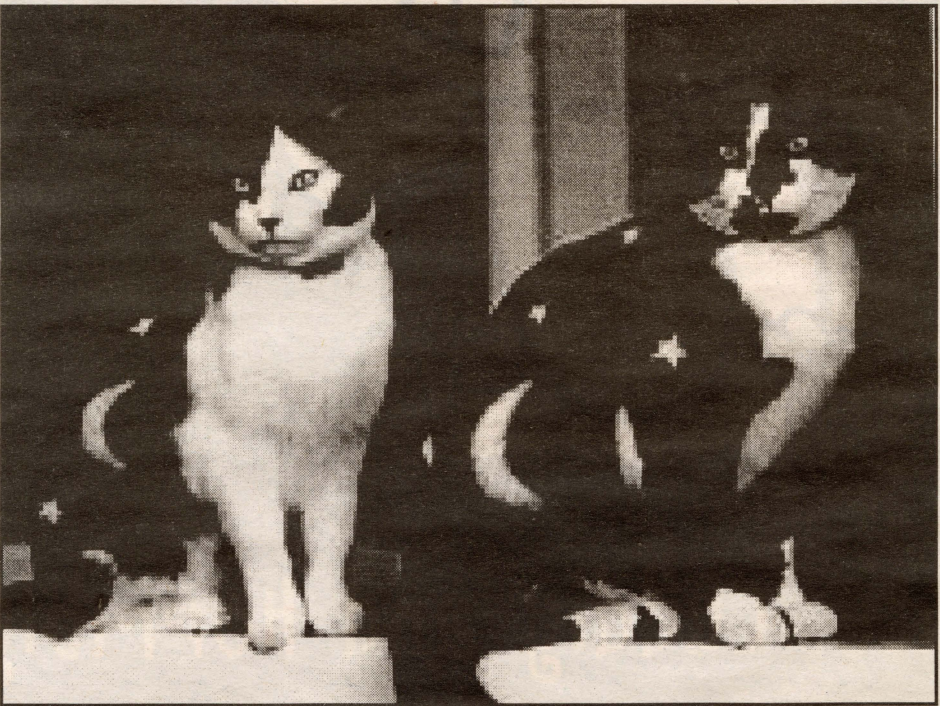
Others such as Lilly Spencer started going to a therapy center for troubled teen girls who have been through traumatic experiences during her years at U.C.L.A. She went to help teach the girls how to paint the cats and learn that no matter what happens around you, there is always more to life; painting cats has humor and love. Spencer now works at the facilitation and helps out more girls to get involved.

The level of detail in the photos, work, and painting of the cats is amazing. It is quite remarkable; the work is funny, amusing, and captivating all at the same time. The cats are transformed into something quite unexpected some are radical symbols, some are humorous, and some are serious. It can also expand horizons and broaden intellectual appeal towards the world of modern artistic expression. The cat is the canvas: moving art in life's light. The appreciation of this particular art form is not for the closed minded. However, it is for the ones who can find the beauty in it all.

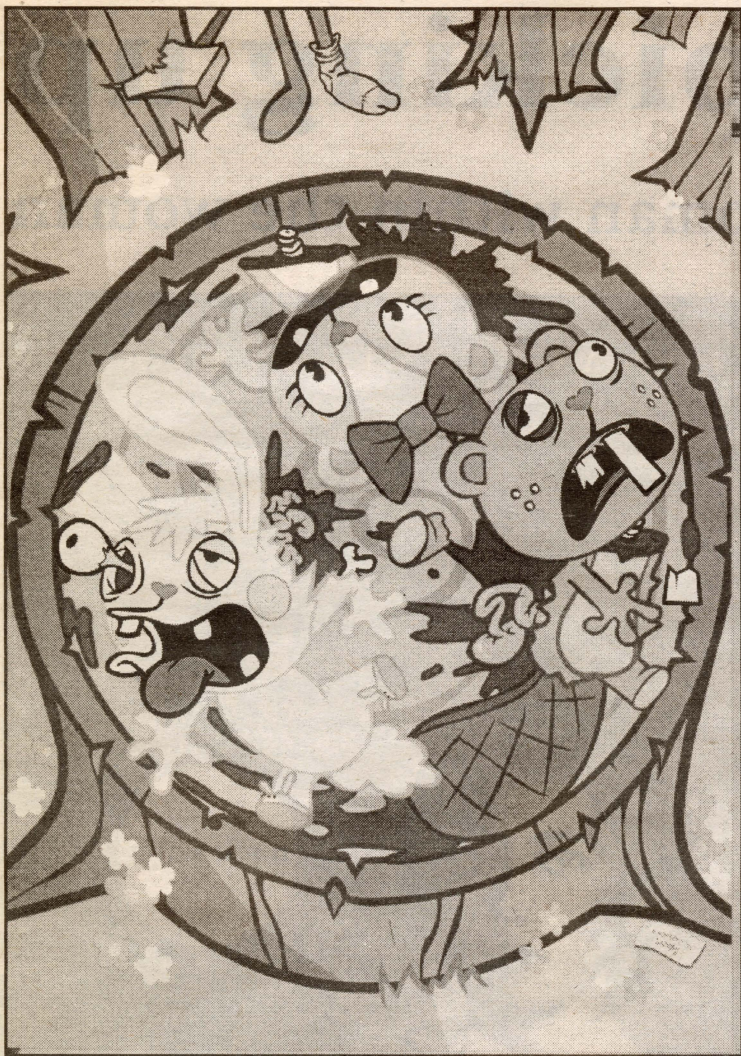
If you are looking for true artistic value or love cats, this book is a must and will be enjoyed for many years. This art has been used for centuries in other countries, has just recently been seen here, and shows no promise of leaving. The book will intrigue and enlighten all who pick it up. It is a sure hit and guaranteed to amaze and warm even the grouchiest of people.



All cats featured in this article were not harmed in any way aside from embarrassment and harassment from other cats, dogs, mice, and fish.







albums

fresh sounds

## Fiction Plane — Everything Will Never Be OK

by Joe Allgaier  
Staff Writer

At first this album put me off. The screaming cynical lyrics seemed to me too whiny, and the repetition of words and phrases in some tracks, I thought, went overboard. But, to be fair, I was in a very good mood, and this album did not fit. A few days later, on second listen, when I was in a shitty mood from the weather and classes and work and the flu and impending war! and everything exhausting me, I realized I love this album.

The band plays tight and loud, the melodies sometimes taking on tribal tones, in tracks like "Silence" and the hidden 13<sup>th</sup> track after "Wise". The cynical moods of the lyrics, I realized, are just the cry of the realist trying to open people's eyes. Joe Sumner, the lead singer and guitarist, takes full advantage of the melodies. And he has a voice that haunts you with complex cries of injustice. And I related to this album.

The first track, "Listen To My Babe," takes off, mixing angst with humor in mourning a dead girlfriend, and is reminiscent of *Soundgarden*. The title track, "Everything Will Never Be OK", deftly defines cynicism that is all too common nowadays. "Cigarette" is deceptively upbeat, exploring the bullshit teenage game of acceptance and popularity, with lyrics like "...you seduce me with a plastic smile" and "touch me" "cause my daddy's rich". "Hate" is a passionately played spin on teenage angst and depression. In fact, much of the album deals with death, loss, loneliness and hopelessness, but does so intelligently, hiding hope beneath rhythms. There is much sad wisdom to be found in this album. "It's an easy thing to get dramatic about," says lead singer and songwriter Joe Sumner. "Everyone tries to convince themselves they're special somehow, but it's just not entirely true. There are six billion of us out there." "Soldier Machismo" protests the machine of modern militarism, warning against the propaganda of wartime. *Fiction Plane*'s Dan Brown, himself a skilled songwriter, contributed two tracks to the album: "Everybody Lies", and "Wise".

*Fiction Plane* is a London-born rock band that has been around for 3 years, playing clubs in the U.S., UK and Europe. *Everything Will Never Be OK* is Fiction Plane's MCA Records debut. David Kahne, who also produced one of the all-time greatest bands of the 90's, Sublime, produced it.

*Fiction Plane* has obviously been maturing musically together for years, and this is a timely album in troubled days. They have a unique sound that is anti-pop, echoing grunge and metal, released with jazzy time signatures, and more than a bit of punk rock. They put it together to create a new sound, a sound that is powerful, electrifying and that cannot be ignored.

## Tree Friends Continued

screaming and holding on to the bars for dear life. One by one, they succumbed to the massive momentum created by the deceptively strong Lumpy, and they were flung into random objects, like trees and airplane engines. I laughed my ass off.

The characters *are* adorable, if somewhat difficult to distinguish. Nearly all of the characters look like teddy bears in some way, shape, or form. Petunia the Skunk, who wears an air freshener around her neck to ward off her own smell, has a bow on her head and the distinctive coloring of a skunk. Anyway, it's not really important to know what the animals are. It's far more important to watch them die.

Speaking of Petunia the Skunk, she met *her* maker in a game of hide-n-seek gone awry (among other ways. The animals are much like "Kenny" from *South park*). An animal decked out in full camouflage is counting for the game. While he counts, he hears a woodpecker, which brings about a flashback of some war he was in. With a

snarl, he whips a knife into the woodpecker's head and goes off in search of his friends. He breaks a beaver's neck, strangles a hedgehog with a piece of wire, and then snares Petunia in a pit lined with spikes. This is some seriously funny shit, people.

This is absolutely *not for children*, by the way. Anyone who shows this to their kids can expect to spend several thousand dollars on top-batch kid psychiatrists from then on. There's blood, violence, gore, brain matter, and lots of happy, inane music to make it even funnier. Honestly, I was *happy* when the animals died. They're too damn cutesy to live amongst other, more life-hardened animals. In short, this is a hysterical and deranged show, definitely worth a look. Don't blame me if you can't handle the violence, however. There's plenty of it to go around.

As far as I know, there is but one DVD to be had, but it's well worth the price. The episodes are all less than 4 minutes in length, which includes the happy, inane theme music (think of the Chipmunks on speed, singing the same four words over and over again, and singing in a foreign language. It's like that.). Buy this thing now and laugh when you get it. Keep it away from children, the elderly, the meek, religious zealots, and anyone without a sense of humor.

### TWELFTH ANNUAL COMPUTER SCIENCE ALUMNI CAREER PANEL

On Friday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, the Computer Science Department will host the Twelfth Annual Alumni Career Panel with some of our successful alumni participating on the panel. Our panelists will discuss their educational background and professional experience in the computer field and answer questions from the audience. The career forum should be of interest to all students who are preparing for a professional career in the computer field. Refreshments will be served.

When: Friday, March 14th  
Time: 1:00pm  
Where: SU 214

Session Coordinator: Professor Christina Georgakis, Computer Science Dept.  
Sponsored by: Computer Science Department, Alumni Affairs Office  
and Career Placement Office

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# Someone worth picking up

## A novel by Isabel Allende about the woman within the woman

by Emily Haddad  
Features Editor

Ever since I was about 13 years old, I have been an Isabel Allende fan. I was always fascinated with the lifestyles and cultural differences of places I had not lived, and South America was no exception for me. Most of the stories are set in Chile or places nearby that country, and they deal with situations that I believe Allende has insinuated in certain interviews as being very real, with the names changed. The first book I read of hers was *House of Spirits*, and then *Eva Luna*.

When *The Stories of Eva Luna* came out, I enjoyed it but wished for another book that told a whole story about a person, rather than the little snippets of stories that book contained. In Allende's book *Daughter of Fortune*, I got my wish. The story is about Eliza Sommers, a girl who comes off as a very quiet-souled person. Eliza was found as a baby in the garden of a British family living in Valparaiso, Chile in the middle of the 1800s. She was found in a Marseilles soap crate and clothed only in an Irish Cable-knit man's sweater. The sweater was the only clue to the child's parentage that Eliza's adopted parents had.

Though the focus throughout *Daughter of Fortune* is mainly on Eliza and her adventures, there are other fascinating characters that are accompanied with their background information as well. Eliza's Aunt Rose could be considered an old maid, who has decided to age gracefully and beautifully. And though Aunt Rose insists on propriety in every faction of life, she is a woman of contradictions and contrasts. A love affair in her youth seemed to have scarred her from the thought of taking a husband and wrapped her up entirely in her own feminine reality. It is Aunt Rose that insists that she and her brother Jonathan adopt Eliza after they find her in the garden.

Under the tutelage of Miss Rose, Eliza

spent the unpleasant years of her puberty balancing a book on her head and studying piano, at the same time growing native herbs in Mama Fresia's (her native Chilean Indian nurse) garden. She also learning age-old recipes for curing known maladies and others yet to be learned, including mustard for an indifference to everyday life, hydrangea leaves for ripening tumors and restoring laughter, violets for enduring loneliness, and verbena, which she put in Miss Rose's soup because this noble plant cures bad humor.

Tao Chi'en is another interesting main character, a *zhong yi* healer who we are first introduced to in his native China. He's Shanghai'ed onto a boat by Eliza's Uncle. Eliza and Tao Chi'en meet when, as a teenager, Eliza wants to follow her native Chilean lover, Joaquin, to the California gold fields. Tao Chi'en smuggles her onto the boat and during the many weeks of the voyage the two form a friendship that will last both of their lifetimes. In San Francisco circa the Gold Rush, it is swollen with gold fever, foreigners, and mishaps. Eliza and Tao Chi'en carve out their own futures and places in life through hard work, ingenuity and an odd bond they share.

The story goes on about not only how Hispanics coming from South America and Mexico were treated when they tried to participate in the gold rush, but how many other cultures were treated. The mentalities of each character were fleshed out by the fact that their backgrounds were described before inserting them into the present time. There was also an interesting comparison of how British people lived in Valparaiso, as opposed to how Chilean people lived there. The differences were very eye opening, but the similarities in cultural response was as well. All in all, it was another great Isabel Allende book, told in her up front and poetically bold style. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys a good drama story, is open to cultural twists, and has a liking of South America.



*Daughter of Fortune* has already garnered generous praise from critics and fans.

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# Permanent record really is just that After almost forty years, student fights to return to NEIU

by Joe Hertel  
Staff Writer

Greetings to my fellow students here at Chicago Teachers College-North, uh, make that Illinois Tecahers College-Chicago North, oh, wait a minute, they are currently calling this place Northeastern Illinois University. Seems like everything is always being replaced except for your permanent record.

After almost four decades, I return to this institution of higher learning, only to discover that my old grade school teacher was correct when she stated that my activities would forever be in that elusive file known as the permanent record. And, yes, my fellow students, let me warn you that is does exist and somehow will follow you through life and up to the gates of the afterlife where some celestial being will open it and, lo and behold, will reveal things that you have long forgotten, much to your personal embarrassment. I shall explain.

In 1965, in the turmoil of the era, with the military draft sucking up young people left and right; the emergence of civil rights, human rights, womens' rights, blacks and whites, and Bob Dylan; unable to focus, I dropped from campus and, oh, foolish me, forgot to withdraw from classes. My GPA then dropped lower than the newspaper's office location. And so, when I applied for re-admission last year in order to complete my bachelor's degree, after 37 years, which is longer than most of you have been alive, I found I had been unceremoniously placed on academic probation.

Not only as it a humbling experience but also humiliating. I'm almost 58 years old, older than most of my instructors, with life experience that would get me a Master's from most website universities, and I feel like a bad

little boy who has to be disciplined for a past error in judgement (almost the way I felt when I returned home from the Vietnam War)! I think its all a crock of academia nuts!

It is highly presumptuous and arrogant of this institution to have a blanket, no-forgiveness policy when even Christianity's God Almighty has seen fit to offer a way of salvation not based on works. But alas, my motivation in class now has to be raising my GPA, and redeem myself for my careless past. And this is where I ask for you support. Seriously.

Yet still, this school is amazingly still under construction after all these years. They were building it when I first arrived in 1963, and they haven't finished it yet. The A Wing is recognizable to me, although the recently renovated B Wing has lost all familiarity. The Beehive looks the same, and they really should change those draperies! The admissions office used to be the library; Beck's used to be down the street on Bryn Mawr where the Chinese restaurant is now, and has taken over the old cafeteria. Now we don't have to walk so far to pay whopping prices for books. I remember back in 64' we talked about a book exchange, so I'm glad to see its finally here.

I used to work in the old *Interim* office, which was what the campus newspaper was back then, and I was pleasantly surprised when I visited the *Independent* offices and found a collection of back issues which I have recently began perusing, enjoying wonderful flashbacks of my past life. A life, by the way, which at that time had no internet, personal computers, cell phones, pagers, where you had to do all your research at the public libraries.

It was a time when you could smoke cigarettes in the hallways, and there were smoking lounges in

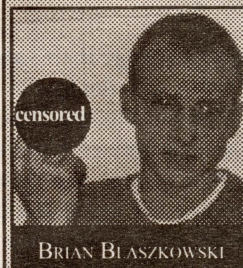
the A and B wings; where parking was always a problem, (hmm, some things didn't change); where young men wore shirts and ties or collegiate sweaters; young ladies wore skirts or slacks and the only time you saw an exposed midsection was in the gym during volleyball when they reached for the return shot. Where eating and drinking in the classes was verboten, but a few teachers let you smoke in class if it was a double period (Yes, I know I'm harping on the cigarette issue, but with all due respect to you non-smokers, this old man would like to see at least one indoor location for my between the acts nicotine fix rather than freezing my tukas off outside in the bitter cold).

It was a time when we were uncertain about *our* future and *the* future. And in this one regard I believe I have a kindred spirit with my fellow students. We *still* have that uncertainty about tomorrow. We still live with a fear, but I implore you not to let that stop you from having dreams, goals, ambitions and enjoying life. Do not let the world squeeze you into it's mold (I paraphrased that from the New Testament). And, as Robin Williams said in *Dead Poets Society*, "Carpe Diem: Seize the Day!" And oh yes, be midful of your own permanent record!

Its my hope that I can bring you a few chuckles, helpful insights and a perspective of college life from an old man's point of view that may be helpful in your survival and success in the future. I'm glad to be back, and I'm far more impressed by the acceptance I have received from (especially) my fellow students and instructors in class. Far more impressed than I am with the pompous, insensitive way I was treated by the bureaucratic administration of the College of Arts and Sciences.

# Beck's is from Mars, and the cafeteria is from Venus

THERE IS A DEFINITE LACK OF COMMUNICATION HERE



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

AT NEIU. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN STUDENTS AND OTHER STUDENTS, BY THE WAY. I'LL NEVER COMPLAIN ABOUT THAT.

I mean communication between departments. I often get the feeling that one hand in NEIU doesn't know where the other hand has been, and not in a good way.

Example A: I signed up to take some health survey. The main reason I did this was because I would receive a \$5 coupon for the cafeteria (I'm nothing if not self-interested). Anyway, I spent about 20 minutes on the survey, making certain I chose the proper responses that would best demonstrate my recent explorations into the depths of liquor bottles. Then I sent it in and waited.

Just a couple days ago, I got an email, thanking me for the survey and saying that because I was one of the first 150 people who responded, I could go to hell (I mean Beck's) and pick up my coupon. I was confused, because I thought that everyone got a coupon, not just the first 150 people. Whatever, I got one, so I went with a friend to Beck's and we got our coupons. Then, we went to go eat.

We got our food and got in line. She presented her coupon, and the cashier looked at it with confusion. The next conversation took place in greek, and since I only know a few swear words, I had to guess based upon facial cues just what they were saying.

**Friend:** We filled out a survey and they gave us this coupon for 5 dollars.

**Cashier:** Never mind that, how can the Voice of the Campus still be single?

**Friend:** What?

**Cashier:** He's obviously a great looking man, and he's funny on top of it! There must be something wrong with the women here at NEIU.

**Friend:** But...um, what about the coupon?

**Cashier:** Shut up and forget about the coupon! I'm going to tell all the women I see that the Voice of the Campus is the cutest person alive and he should be fawned over by all of NEIU's women! Viva la Voice of the Campus!

I think it was something like that. Like I said, I don't really understand the greek language (or their women...or any women, for that matter). So, the cashier called over some higher-up in the caf and asked them about the coupons. They had never heard of them.

The worst part of this whole thing was I didn't know who to be pissed off at. My first instinct it to be mad at Beck's because I hate them and I think they suck, but for once they didn't do anything wrong. The cafeteria said they never heard of the coupon, so I can't rightly blame them. The email that was sent to me explaining how I should go get my coupon was sent by the Wellness Advisory Council at NEIU, so I figured I'd be pissed at them. Problem is, I don't know who they are. Diabolical.

Now, 5 bucks isn't that big of a deal. I may be broke, but I'm not that broke. It's the principle of the thing. I spent 20 minutes detailing my dirty, dirty past to for some survey, and they promised me a coupon for cafeteria food. The cafeteria hadn't heard of it and wouldn't honor the coupon. It's not a really big deal, but it's an excellent example of something that everyone has to deal with.

There is almost no inter-office communication. You can go into one office, get told to go do one thing, and then go to do it and get a contradictory command. Bastards. The offices act like they're at war with each other and are trying to sabotage everyone. Christ, let's send them on a retreat or something and get them all on the same page! NEIU students are the ones who are suffering. We get screwed out of tuition payments, scholarships, grade appeals, and all sorts of fun and wonderful stuff because not only do we not know where to go, but NEIU employees don't know, either.

Before I get some self-righteous ass writing up and reminding me that "this is college" and "we need to think and act on our own, we shouldn't have other people do everything *for* us," save the ink and the paper. I'm not talking about people doing things for us. I'm talking about getting our questions answered correctly. So what if we're adults? That doesn't mean that people can *lie* to us when we ask them questions. That doesn't let the staff off the hook for not knowing what else is going on in other parts of the campus. Jesus, are they transported into the building in sealed bags? Is that why they are completely devoid of any knowledge outside of their department?

I'm also not asking nor expecting every department to know every other department's numbers, procedures, rules, etc. All I want is for the Cashier's office to know who I have to talk to if my bill is wrong. If my schedule gets screwed up, I want to be able to ask two questions and then get pointed *straight* towards the person who can help me. I don't want to go on some mystical adventure through long forgotten corridors while I try and get back into a class I somehow got dropped from because Admissions and Records screwed up somehow.

This is ridiculous. I complain about NEIU a lot, and I've basically come to accept the fact that college is nothing but a big joke, but can't they at least pretend to be somewhat competent? Must they broadcast the fact that NEIU is filled with incompetence? Well, technically I'm broadcasting it...but still! NEIU needs to stop acting like a third rate, poor excuse for a college. Or, failing that, NEIU should stop acting surprised when people treat it like a third rate college.

Or, failing *that*, they should make good on my God-damned \$5 coupon.

# Bush talks oil, war with axis of Amoco



White House photo by Paul Morse

President George W. Bush sits with King Faisal of Saudi Arabia.

by Patrick O'Brien  
Production Editor

For the 72nd consecutive week, President Bush neglected to address the fact that 19 of the 20 September 11th bombers came from Saudi Arabia, whose King Faisal sits at the President's right. None of said bombers were Iraqi, which begs the question, just who are we fighting, and why?

The President also refused to clarify exactly why we are threatening war with one dictator who has oil, (see Saddam) and no nuclear capability; while another country that does have nuclear facilities, proven ones, (see North Korea) sits unchecked on the other side of the world.

Bush also refused to address just how starting a war in Iraq would jump start a bad economy, although to be fair, he did announce he sold his common sense and some old golf clubs on Ebay to raise money for the poor.



# Abortion supporters, opponents face off again

OPINION

## Life of children at all costs

by Daniel Gonzalez  
Staff Writer

I am always amazed when I see how easily people change their values in life when something becomes legal in this country. Thirty years ago, the Roe v. Wade case set a legal standard across the country that legalized abortion. The legalization of abortions allowed physicians to conduct surgical murder on the future of America.

We find many reasons to justify abortion. In cases of rape and incest, the potential for deformities, and the burden of pregnancy is just too much too bare. Others are either too young or too ashamed to bring yet another life into this cruel world. Then at the end of that list, there are those who choose to use abortion as a barbaric form of birth control.

People proclaim that, "There must be a choice!" "We must protect the safety of our women!" On their own, they may vary well end up killing themselves along with the targeted infant. A two-for-one deal in this case is just horrible. People shouldn't feel compelled to kill without the assistance of trained professional. Yet they don't realize that even having a legal abortion isn't exactly safe.

It's disturbing to see how abortion has become a regularly accepted option for women in our society. Every year, 1,300,000 lives are executed before they were given the chance to see light through this procedure, and they dare to call it a choice. How could ending the life of your future child ever be a healthy decision? The actual physical and emotional stress that is placed on women when they have an abortion is beyond anything that we can comprehend. It is paying for the murder of your very own child right before your eyes just as it is getting ripped from your body, and in this country it's your legal right.

An overzealous attorney won the Roe v. Wade case with the assistance of the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) in 1973. Armed with inflated statistics, they convinced the Supreme Court that since people die or are harmed while killing unborn human beings, the state should make it safe for them to do so.

Co-founder of NARAL, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, states in his book *Aborting America*, "I confess that I knew the figures were totally false, and I suppose the others

did too if they stopped to think of it." This type of evidence is appalling, and yet it wasn't the only thing that was falsified in this case.

Norma McCorvey, aka Jane Roe, said in a radio interview, "I told the attorneys that I had been raped in hopes that it would speed things up in the court system. However, the wheels of justice turn remotely very slow and a woman can just stay pregnant for so long." Roe never had an abortion because the decision came too late. She carried the baby to term and gave it up for adoption. McCorvey later admitted that she had not been raped.

A woman with an unplanned pregnancy confronts more inconveniences than she can handle on her own. We need to concentrate on better efforts to help women who face this difficulty. Our society should be compelled to help pregnant women, and not abandon them to the butcher table when they need us the most. Stronger funds need to be placed in Crisis Pregnancy Programs. Pregnant women should not feel compelled by the pressures of society to kill off their children. We need to start helping the future of our youth on every front, and stop being so selfish.

There are many families eagerly awaiting a child to love. Adoption is an option that can bring forth a bright future for an unborn boy or girl. It is a decision that can mean everything to a person. While abortion is a reckless form of abandonment that denies potential stars their chance to shine in our society.

The pro-life movement is now more powerful than ever. With republicans controlling the House, Senate, and the Executive committees, Bush is just itching to sign anti-abortion legislation into law. While I do not agree with criminalizing the people who really need our help, I can stand strong for measures that will empower women to stand up for life, and hold doctors of death guilty for being the assassins they are.

We are all pro-life in this country. Just many of us don't realize it yet. Even though we can't stand being denied the freedom of choice, we all thoroughly believe in keeping human life safe. I always find it humorous and ironically hypocritical when I see an active pro-choicer fighting to end capital punishment or rallying against a war. They can stand for saving the lives of those who are guilty, but at the same time they refuse to grant clemency to the purely innocent little children. Our Declaration of Independence states that government must ensure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This morality must be upheld for the future of this country not only in law, but in our personal affairs as well. Let us extend our love to the future lives that have yet to be born. The war against the weak needs to stop, and beauty of human life needs to be restored.

This is a very emotional decision for people, and we must help the women who are faced with this ever-important choice. Stand up for life, and don't allow our future to die before it has even had a chance to live.

OPINION

## Rights of all Americans at risk

by Jaclyn Fearheller  
Staff Writer

Did you know there's a group of people trying to deny women the right to vote? Did you know there is a group of people trying to segregate our schools again? And did you know that there is a powerful group of people trying to overturn the law legalizing abortions? If you answered yes to even one of these questions today, couldn't it be yes to all of them someday?

How do you "give" someone the right to choose to have an abortion and then take it away? Well, that's exactly what President George Bush and Attorney General John Ashcroft are trying to do. January 22<sup>nd</sup> will mark the thirtieth anniversary of the Roe v. Wade case, which legalized abortions. Thirty years ago a woman in Texas became pregnant and was told she could not have an abortion. At that time only cases where the mother's life was in danger were abortions permitted. Contraceptives weren't readily available; in fact they were given only in cases where a marriage license was presented with a six-week waiting period.

The woman represented by the assumed alias of Roe later disclosed her true name as Norma McCorvey. McCorvey teamed up with rookie lawyer Sarah Weddington to create and argue a case against Henry Wade, the Texas District Attorney responsible for upholding the anti-abortion statute. The case made it all the way to the Supreme Court. Approximately three hundred viewers watched, including media and supporters as the seven to two verdict was returned in favor of Roe (McCorvey).

Now, years later, a woman's right to choose, her right to privacy, and her right to be in control of her own body are undoubtedly at stake. As a young woman I find it to be almost surreal. I have feelings of anger, frustration and astonishment. I can't even begin to fathom how it's

possible that my rights—and the rights of every woman—are at the threshold of demise. In a society of seemingly hopeful progression in many areas, I see the alienation and destruction of rights to be a distinct and dangerous regression.

What does the pending overturn of this law mean for the woman of today? For so long women have known a country in which abortions have been legal. Victims of rape and incest depend on the right to abort an unwanted fetus. Mothers who learn early on that their fetus is immensely disfigured or extremely handicapped have had the right to choose not to carry their pregnancy to term. What about those women who deal with drug and/or alcohol addictions? Is it really fair to the fetus to develop inside a crack-ridden body only to be born with an addiction of their own? The answer is no.

Now picture this: a young woman who uses protection during sexual intercourse becomes pregnant. Nothing is one hundred percent sure, and she is proof. Unaware of her pregnancy she drinks heavily and casually uses recreational drugs, irrevocably affecting the fetus. The reversal of Roe vs. Wade will forcefully tell this woman and others like her that they must carry out the pregnancy despite the possible harm done, or if they prefer, take a trip to a dark back alley. If the decision is overturned, back alley abortions will be again, a means for a woman to obtain an abortion. This type of act leads to disease and in some cases death for the mother.

And we call ourselves free.

The reversal of Roe vs. Wade will affect more than just women. The very rights that women as well as men have fought so hard to have are becoming susceptible to questioning. If something as monumental as a woman's right to choose is being questioned, it is conceivable that other rights afforded to us may at some point be placed under the scope provided by our government. What is to stop them there?

I knew George Bush's agenda regarding abortion, or in his case anti-abortion. I remember discussing each presidential candidate's views with friends prior to the election. All of the females present vehemently refuted Bush's policy on abortion, several saying they could never help elect a president who condemned a woman's right to choose. One of the males present made the comment that even though Bush was not pro-choice a huge decision like Roe vs. Wade could never be in danger of being overturned. There was an absolute part of me that agreed. Two years later I still believe that George Bush's attempts to take away a woman's right to choose what happens to her body and her life will remain unsuccessful as the strength of the 1973 decision legalizing abortion will endure undaunted.

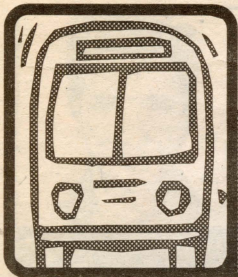
I am not alone in my hopes and beliefs regarding this controversial topic. In fact there are several organized groups around the country who are fighting hard and speaking loudly to maintain this given right to woman. During the anniversary week celebrating Roe vs. Wade various groups held rallies, led pro-choice campaigns and funded awareness activities. Demonstrations were held in Washington and San Francisco, among other places, where people came together to support pro-choice actions. One of the most popular groups, the National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), is said to have spent somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2.5 million on print and television ads favoring pro-choice. A NARAL dinner, where every contender for the 2004 Democratic nomination will attend, is set to take place in Washington.

I have always believed that the rights afforded to us by the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and a series of changing governmental policies are indispensable. Our given rights belong to us and with great depth and acceptance are inevitably a part of us. We live in a country where the foundation is supposedly built upon the granted freedoms and the ability to choose and live a life conducive to our needs. President Bush may prove me wrong if he continues to try and reverse this right. For so long, woman had few rights and choices. The strength, bravery, persistence, and vigor with which women have fought for rights gives us a sense of power, the power to control our bodies and our lives. If those rights are taken away what message does that send? That our rights are subject to extinction? That they are frivolous and without merit?

As a society, men and women, we cannot sit idly by and watch our rights be revoked. Allow us to maintain command of our own bodies the best we can. Convince us that our given rights are unfaltering and unshakeable. And so I say, do not overturn a woman's right to choose by outlawing legal abortions.







# The Commuter

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

## When money is an object

by **Benny Boyas**  
Staff Writer

The more expensive the gift, the more romantic it is; words that subconsciously or otherwise resonate through the mind of one shopping under the influence (of love, that is). This tragic misconception that affects most if not all amateur romantics should be exposed to save another soul from making the same mistakes on this upcoming Valentine's Day as those committed in the years past by many fools in love.

Getting your sweetheart an assortment of lavish gifts with little or no meaning or thought behind them is just foolish. Have we not learned our lesson from the recently departed holiday season, when you wanted to show off your romantic side, and exceeded the spending limit on your credit cards at the same time? That was so sweet of you. As sweet as the bills you'll be receiving at the end of the month, that is.

Unless you happen to be one of those students that are rumored to actually have an abundant amount of money in your pockets, these bills can add up to quite a debt. But nothing says "I love you" like a diamond bracelet, right? Fortunately for your savings, the time has arrived for all you hopeless romantics in training to realize that you need not fork out the big bucks to get the big results.

Skeptical? It's natural to be. But the idea of an inexpensive gift making that very special person warm and fuzzy all over should not

sound so far-fetched. Here are just a couple of ideas and suggestions presented here for you and your lover's delight.

Though it's ideal time to be received would have been the New Year's arrival, a calendar with memorable pictures of the two of you is not a bad gift to give at any time of the year. This calendar should include pictures of moments mutually treasured, such as, in the case of those still dating high school sweethearts, your prom picture, as well as some additional light-hearted and spontaneous photos, such as those you took of each other while intoxicated. Important dates, such as birthdays, the day you first met, first kissed, and your anniversary should be highlighted.

Additionally, a book documenting the story of your epic romance, illustrated by more pictures, movie theater and concert ticket stubs, the original piece of paper that you exchanged phone numbers on, accompanied by that wonderful poem you wrote to your other half, sprayed with a hint of your honey's favorite scent will also provide a sentimental journey that will be treasured as long as you remain together, if not longer.

A wicker basket, available at many dollar stores and craft shops, can be filled with lotions, massage oils, candles, bubble bath, and even some of your lover's favorite treats. This could make any evening enjoyable for both parties. Coupons redeemable for kisses, hugs, and back and shoulder rubs (among other favors) should be enclosed as well. You might be surprised as to

how far a foot massage can carry the remainder of an evening's activities.

Of course the whole lovey-dovey, "sugar and spice makes everything nice" type of relationship is not typical of all existing partnerships, so for these less-traditional and more radical vibrant souls, alternatives are offered in place of these ideas.

Although these might be a bit more expensive, they still provide some relief when compared to the trip to Las Vegas you had planned. Skydiving off an airplane, getting a tattoo or piercing together, and even martial arts lessons for the both of you could do the trick. These examples are a bit more unconventional and refreshing, but it should be noted that for practicality and safety, learning how to kill or mangle another human being should be avoided if heated arguments tend to arise within the relationship.

These are some tangible and frugal ways to express affection to the one who is most deserving of your attention. Any of this can be done, for any occasion, or for no reason whatsoever other than love. And remember, it's the personal touch that counts. Besides, flowers, chocolates, and a fancy dinner are not as memorable as writing a song, a love sonnet, or actually preparing his or her favorite dish yourself. By taking the time out to create your own gifts, at least in part, you will ensure that your lover will acknowledge just how much you care for them. After all, is this not the point behind a gift in the first place?

## Valentines Roses

The secret to the meanings of colored roses

by **Emily Haddad**  
Features Editor

### Red

Passionate Love  
Romantic Intentions  
A Job Well Done

### White

Youthfulness  
Keep a Secret  
Innocence  
I am Worthy of You  
Purity

### Yellow

Joy  
Friendship  
Remember Me  
I Care, But Not Like That  
Jealousy

### Pink

Gentleness  
Perfect Happiness  
Please Believe Me

### Peach

Closing of the Deal  
Let's Get Together

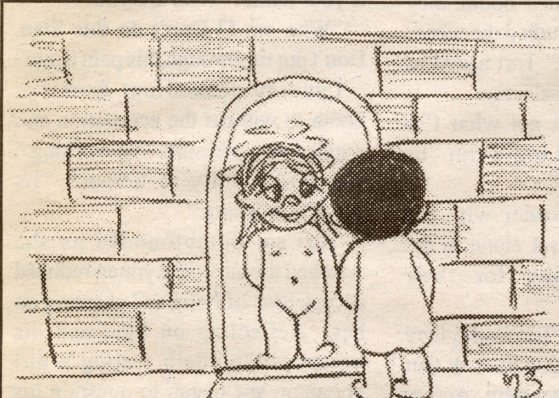
### Moss Rose

Confession of love  
A Shy Infatuation

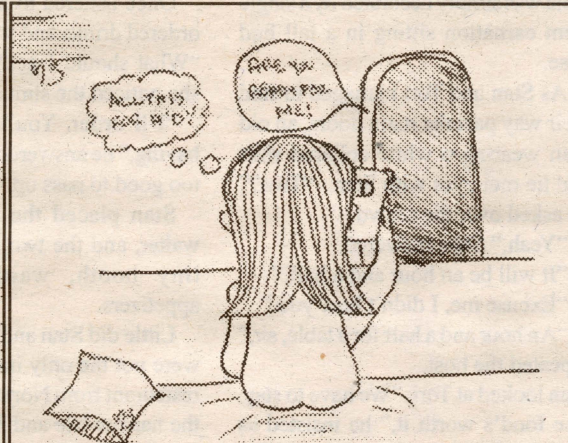
### Black Rose

You're Toast  
I Dislike You  
Beware of Dark Alleyways

## Rejection is...



When smelly girl  
tells you she's  
washing her hair



Still getting a  
'D' in the class



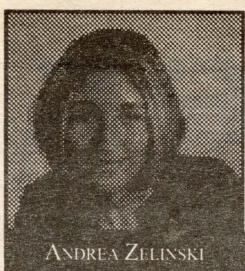
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ANDREA ZELINSKI

In the last issue of Stan's Life, Stan reluctantly disclosed a long kept secret. For years, he's been hiding from his friends and girlfriend the fact that he has a two-year-old daughter named Alexis. After months of dating Tori, he finally introduced her to his daughter and her mother, Crystal. Stan made it clear to Tori that his relationship with Crystal revolves around their daughter. After some time, Tori accepts Stan's baggage. In the meantime, Lyndsey, Stan's friend's girlfriend, is jumping hoops to be noticed by none other than Stan. Fueled by a bet, she is determined to steal Stan away from Tori. Read on to see how the drama unfolds.

"Where are we going?" Tori asked as Stan grabbed her hand and led her out the front door. "You know how much I don't like surprises."

Stan rolled his eyes. "Trust me. You'll love this place. My folks found it years ago. Ever since it's been our favorite place." He strolled up to the car door and opened it for her. Tori climbed in the passenger side and buckled up as Stan walked around to the driver's side. He climbed in and slid the key in the ignition.

Tori leaned over and put her hand on his knee. Stan turned his head towards hers. She merely smiled back. "Have I ever told you how much I love you?" she asked as she leaned in closer.

"Not within the last few hours,"

"In that case, I love you."

Stan smirked in response. "That's what she said."

"You funny funny man," she replied. Just as she turned her head back towards the windshield, Stan turned and brought her head back to his. He leaned closer and pressed her warm lips against his. Holding her face in his hand, his fingers traveled towards her ear and nestled themselves in her long, soft hair.

With a gentle release, they both pulled away. Stan put the car in drive and drove away. As they turned the corner, he reached for her hand and held it in his.

\*\*\*

"There's a spot!"

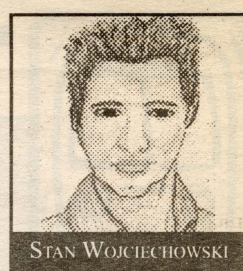
"My car won't fit," Stan mumbled as he searched for another parking spot.

"Yeah it will. Just try it!" Tori insisted as Stan stopped the car.

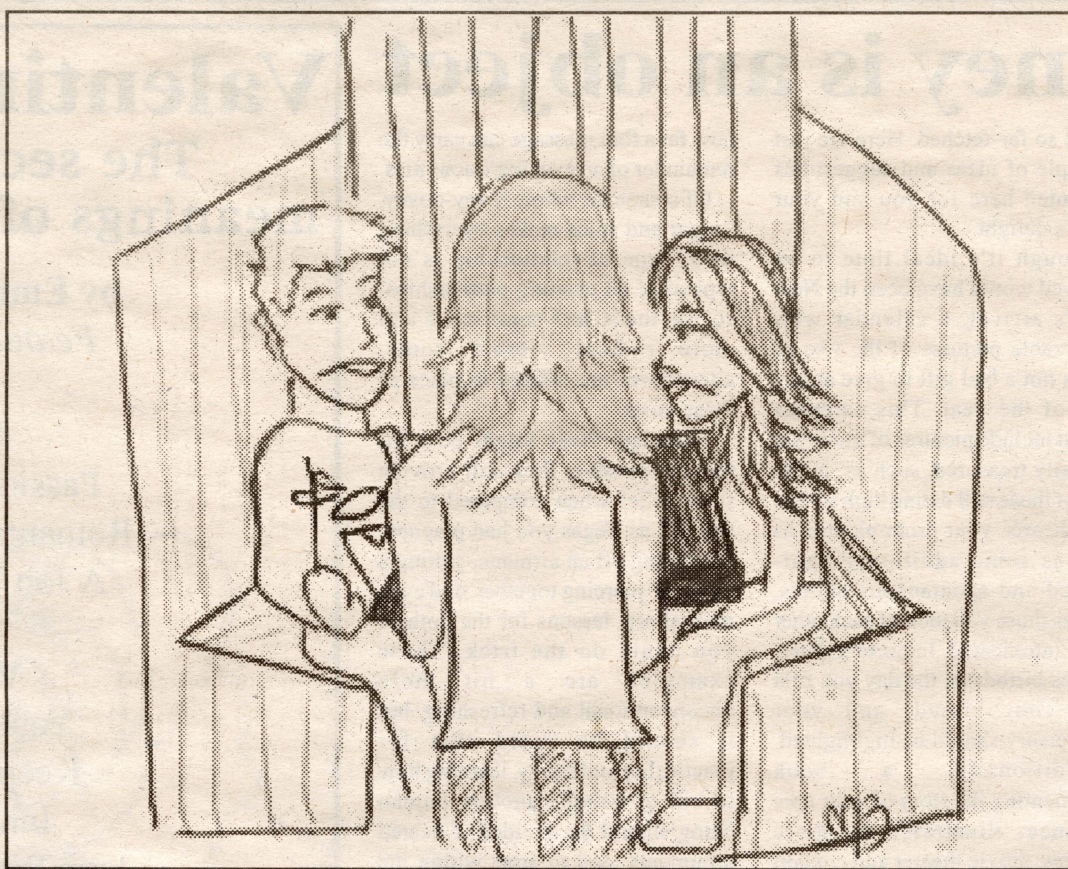
"You're so lucky there isn't any traffic behind me," he pointed out. "Otherwise there would be no way for me to prove to you that this monster of a car won't fit in that crack you like to call a parking spot," Stan pulled to a halt and reversed his car about forty feet backwards. "Yeah Tor, there's no way I'm going to fit in there. Its too tight."

Tori rolled down the passenger side window as she opened the car door and stepped out onto the curve. She

# STAN'S LIFE



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI



shut the door and motioned for him to move backward more. *This isn't a good idea. Last time I tried to squeeze into a parking spot this tight, I wound up with a busted bumper. To think it wasn't even from me, but the ass hole who was parked behind me.*

"Trust me!" she yelled as she waved her hands to inch the car backwards. "FurtherÖ furtherÖ. A little bit- Oh God STOP!"

"What happened? Did I hit it? OH shit!"

A gleaming smile spread across her face. "I'm just kidding. Now move up."

"God damnit Tor!" he yelled as he threw the gear into drive. She flashed him a sweet smile. "God, I hate it when she does that! He paused. But at least she has a way of getting me to lighten up."

After twelve minutes of maneuvering the vehicle back and fourth within inches of the neighboring cars, Stan pulled the key out of the ignition. "Screw this. This car is not getting any closer to that curve. Lets go," he said as he locked the car doors and pulled Tori's purse from the back seat.

"Thanks," she said as she attempted to walk across the busy intersection. Stan placed his hand in hers and guided her across the street. They walked southbound on Clark past Fullerton.

The air was warmer than usual on that particular February evening. The sky fell from a cloudy gray to a deep majestic blue. Stars sparkled sparingly through the heavy trees hanging high over the sidewalk. The couple walked slowly down the sidewalk, enjoying every minute of the spring preview.

Just head, a wooden sign with the

words *Chicago Pizza and Oven Grinder* deeply engraved. To the left stood a tall apartment building with a downstairs entrance to the left of the main door. Through glass doors of the downstairs entrance was a glass patio with a bar-like smell. Couples and groups were cuddled together while individuals attempted to squirm their way from one side of the room to another. Past this room was an additional door made of a heavy, grainy wood. The handle was made of an old fashioned black metal. As the door opens, a crowded restaurant in revealed. Thick wooden booths were compressed, leaving some couples little room for privacy. A stair step up and tall wooden walls separated booths located on the outer perimeters. The matching wooden table was simply decorated by a single stem carnation sitting in a tall bud vase.

As Stan and Tori managed to find their way past the main doors, an old man wearing a white collared shirt and tie met eyes with Stan. "Two?" he asked over the crowd.

"Yeah," Stan answered.

"It will be an hour and a half."

"Excuse me, I didn't hear you."

"An hour and a half for a table, sir," repeated the host.

Stan looked at Tori. "We have to stay. The food's worth it," he insisted as she rolled her eyes in agreement.

"Okay," Stan replied to the host.

"Don't you need our name?" asked Tori asked the host as Stan began to walk away from the room.

"No," answered the host.

"But-" Tori insisted as Stan pulled her from the restaurant and outside. "Why didn't he take our names? How is he going to know when our table is ready or who is ahead of who?"

"They don't take names here."

"What?"

Stan smiled as he witnessed her confusion. "They don't take names. The host remembers us by face."

"But what if-"

"Don't worry. Now lets walk around a little. We have some time before we can sit down."

\*\*\*

After an hour of walking around the neighborhood of Lincoln Park, the couple returned to the restaurant. The time was now close to 9 p.m., and the crowd had filtered out. As they entered the main room of the restaurant again, they found an empty wooden bench and sat down. Only moments later, the host returned to the couple and informed them that their table was ready.

Once ushered to their booth, they ordered drinks and studied the menu. "What should I get?" Tori asked as she noticed the slim selection.

"I'll order. You'll get what I'm having," he answered with a grin. "Its too good to pass up."

Stan placed the order with the waiter, and the two sat alone in the tiny booth, waiting for their appetizers.

Little did Stan and Tori know, they were not the only individuals in that restaurant from Northeastern. Across the narrow isle and 3 seats down sat Lyndsey and her redheaded friend. Fully aware of Stan and Tori's entrance, they began to plot.

"You didn't think I forgot about our little wager, did you?" asked the red head as Lyndsey sat anxiously across the table.

"Of course I didn't. If anything, I thought you forgot."

"You wish I'd forget. Look at them. Stan and his girlfriend make such a

good couple. They're happy, affectionate, and more than anything, they seem to trust each other. Which is more than I can say about you and your past relationships. What makes you think he would end a perfectly good relationship with her for you?" the girl asked as she pulled a chunk of bread off the plate between them.

"Unfortunately, its not a matter of why he should choose me over her. Its much more than that," Lyndsey replied as she finished chewing. "It's a matter of who will he go to when she leaves him."

"I'm not sure I like the way you think, Lyndsey," the girl responded with wide eyes. "But tell me more."

"All is fair in love and war, right?"

"Sure."

Lyndsey shrugged her shoulders and smiled. "I have an idea"

Meanwhile, Stan and Tori received their appetizers and main course. Towards the end of their meal, the red headed girl approached their table.

"Stanly! Is that you!" she asked with anger and emotion.

He looked puzzled. "Uh, yeah. Do I know you?"

"Do you know me? Do you know me?"

You have some nerve!" the redhead continued. "After all that time we spent together, you didn't have the decency to call me!"

Assuming the red head was just an upset friend of Stan's, Tori introduced herself. "Hi," she said reluctantly. I don't think we've met. Tori, Stan's girlfriend. Are you a friend of is?"

Using Tori's introduction as a jumping board, the redhead raised her voice. "Girlfriend?" she turned to Stan. "You have a girlfriend. After all this time we were together, you were sleeping around with another woman?"

"What?! Wait, back up. I don't know you," Stan said, talking to the redhead as if she were a child. "What is your name? Who are you?"

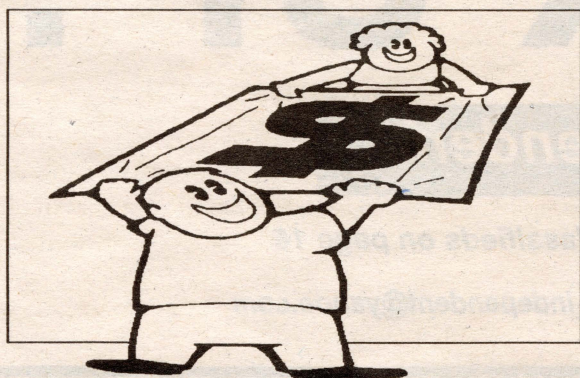
"Who am I? Don't do this Stan. Don't put me through this pain again"

Lyndsey peaked out from her booth to witness the accusation and giggled with pleasure. "Its working," she said quietly to herself. "Its actually working."

Tori sat dumbfounded as she watched the attractive young redhead accuse Stan of lying and cheating on her. Reflecting on Stan and his irresponsible youth getting a girl pregnant, she began to question his values in the back of her mind.

"No, I really don't know who you are," Stan said as he slowly became louder and more pissed off. "But I think you should leave," he looked at Tori, then asked the waiter for the check while the red head continued accusing Stan of cheating on her.

After the couple paid the bill and finally left the restaurant, the red head returned to Lyndsey's table. "I am never doing that again."



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# How well does sex sell?

by Dove O'Connor  
Staff Writer

Imagine an old-fashioned white tub sitting alone in the middle of a room, and it is filled to the top with milk. Inside, this tub, a lengthy blonde supermodel. "Got Milk?" are the only words she says.

The "Milk" ad was not only an imaginative fancy, but was made into commercials and printed in some magazines. It was to promote drinking milk for your health and although it was seemly underdressed, it worked and worked well. Then there are skin lotion commercials that have everything from a glistening beauty stepping out of the shower, to a scantily clad woman languidly petting an alligator as it waddled by. But what about ads that display a well-proportioned body, and barely mention the product at all? When a Calvin Klein ad plays, half the time you can't even tell that they're selling anything but a shivering, half-naked model on a beach.

Advertisements such as the "Got Milk" and "Calvin Klein's Naked Beach Women Perfume" are easy to come by these days. More and more, companies don't find anything to be

to "racy" or "controversial," and produce ads or commercials that leave nothing to the imagination but the question of what they were really trying to push. No type of product is left out of the loop either. From shoes and clothing strutting across your screen, barely in place upon that lithe body, to beverages and food being consumed while hot little mamacitas wiggle it in bikinis. Even sports are finding it hard to get away from the selling power of "sexy" ads.

The return is too great for the selling market to just stop. Candies ad's - were once called too "controversial" to run, with certain T.V. commercials and ads even banned from stations and some magazines. The once "racy" ad laid a path for many more revealing advertisements to come. Jenny McCarthy from the Candies ad now looks like child stuff in comparison to J-Lo's new ad for J-Lo perfume, which shows her in the nude and enchanted by the scent of her fragrance. The ad seems to be working really well; since her J-Lo cologne hit the market, it's become a fast hit and great seller.

Now, we all expect movie stars to be gorgeous. It comes with the

territory of being one, and that's why everyone wants to be one. However, the limelight is seeing new and different kind of stars around - sport stars. Which includes tennis players, golfers, and even race car drivers. Some players reveal all and some just have to smile to get people to pay attention to the sports we once thought boring. Tiger Woods can be seen endorsing Nike as well as car commercials. The players are a hot commodity and don't mind that most people are there to see the player rather than the sport; as long as it fills the seats the players wallets grow. The sports agents have no complaints either, as long as the endorsements keep coming in.

Pop stars, sport stars, and even movie stars like to gain from the attention showing how controversial they can be. Including endorsements, magazine covers, and even commercial ads they all want a piece of the action. The more "racy" and "sexy" an ad is, the more attention it brings. And the market does not seem to be changing for a more censored ad world anytime soon. So the question remains - What are they really trying to sell?

# Instead of a night on the town

*A beer drinker's guide to wine, dinner and a romantic evening*

by Joe Hertel  
Staff Writer

I'm sorry, folks, there ain't much I can do to help you prepare the perfect setting for your special dinner with that special someone. Sure, I'm over a half century old, but most of the women I knew drank gin, and me, well, I'm a confirmed beer drinker. But my assignment was to help you plan the perfect evening of dining and selecting a wine; so I will impart to you a few secrets I have learned over the years. Keep in mind, although my suggestions may work, they are only temporary, as you will find; I am currently without a dinner companion of either gender. And, since most of my friends believe you can always tell good wine by smelling the bottle cap, I felt I had to do a little research on my own.

I also realize that most of us attending this university do not have the funds to splurge on an evening of extravagant behavior, and that is not necessary, since I have learned one can find modestly priced restaurants with romantic flair and excellent cuisine.

But if you ask me (and the editor did) what I feel would be a romantic dinner, I must respond: it is the dinner you prepare yourself. If you have been dating that special someone for a while, it is time you invited them to your place for a romantic dinner for two.

If you live with your parents, send them out to a movie or a play, and prepare to command the kitchen and dining areas. You do not have to be a culinary genius to attempt this feat of preparing dinner. Matter of fact, you can even employ your microwave in some cases for the appetizers. You can purchase stuffed crab, oysters and mussels with a variety of fillings at the local food store. Exactly three minutes and they are done.

You do, however, have to learn at least three main courses that you

can prepare, so get on the internet and start searching. You should be able to cook a filet mignon, medium rare is best (secret: cover bottom of pan lightly with vegetable or corn oil and get hot over high flame, then sear steak to seal in juices. Reduce heat and cook 5 to 10 minutes each side depending on thickness), steam fresh crab legs (get a large pot, put in china plate, cover bottom with water until it reaches edges of plate,

and I may give you a few recommendations on where to go for modest (I'm on a pension) prices; yet filled with ambience and good food.

Okay, now, to impress your date, here are a few hints about wine. With beef such as steak and filet (we are not talking fast food here), select a merlot or cabernet. I prefer merlot because it is a softer tasting red. This also goes well with pasta and pork chops. If you are going to have sushi, then get a pinot noir-red or champagne, preferably a brut. Korbelt is not a bad choice for around \$12.

For fish and chicken, select a white or a blush wine. Now, the secret, according to Jim and Roger at Foremost Liquors, 1040 W Argyle, is to

select a medium priced wine in your category. California wines are especially good from 1997 and 1999 vintage. You can find a good wine for around \$9.00 to \$13.00. Anything less might be too early or lack flavor, and there is no need to spend a lot on select wines when there are so many good medium priced ones available. Stop in and talk to Roger or Jim, and they will help you in your selection. Remember, if you are cooking at home, release the cork and let the wine breathe for an hour at room temperature before serving.

Perhaps the liquor store I recommended is out of your area, but that's okay because you can usually find a good stock of wine at a store in your neighborhood, and they should be able to help you out in your selection.

The internet can also bring you in contact with the experts on wine, local eating establishments, and just about any other suggestions you may need to be successful in a special dining experience. Again, my advise for the most impressive statement you can make: learn to cook a few good dishes and invite your date over for a romantic evening at home. What you do after dinner, well, that's up to you.

**"What you do after dinner, well, that's up to you."**

cover and let steam for 15-20 minutes), or prepare a pasta dish (directions on side of box) with very little effort. You can pick up a good bottled sauce and then add some chopped onions and cooked ground beef.

Believe me, nothing impresses my lady friends more than a dinner at home prepared by me. It is less expensive than dining out but more work, and, if you are lucky, they will beg to help with the dishes. Now, if they do that, tell them no and leave the damn things in the sink unless you wash and dry them together, which can lead to better things in the course of the evening, if you do it sensually enough.

If you have not reached the intimacy level of inviting your date home, and you want to impress her, then dining out is your only option. There are nice places to go, and my suggestion is, unless you like inflated prices, large crowds, noise and buffoonery, don't plan your special evening at a well known place. There are many neighborhood restaurants just waiting to be discovered by you. And some of them are quite intimate and filled with ambience. Check them out before you take your date. Catch me in the hallway

# Fitness Matters

Provided by the Office of Campus Recreation

Tracy DeBerge  
Special Contributor

Cardiovascular disease is the nation's number one cause of death and disability. The economic impact of heart disease is estimated at almost \$260 billion, including health care expenses, medications, and lost work time. Reducing your risk of cardiovascular disease is very possible by making positive lifestyle choices, and it's never too late to begin.

The three most significant and common forms of heart disease are coronary artery disease (CAD), high blood pressure (hypertension), and stroke. Each form of this disease develops in a unique way and requires special treatment for the specific cause. Each form of the disease also has very specific physical risks associated with it. CAD can lead to a heart attack; persistent hypertension can lead to kidney failure, retinal eye damage, and increased development of blood clots; a stroke is a result of blood vessel damage in the brain; the other two forms of heart disease can contribute to the events leading to a stroke.

There are inherent risk factors that we have no control over when it comes to heart disease, the top three being aging, gender, and heredity. Heart disease tends to develop gradually and strike in older age. Young men are at greater risk than young women are; it is thought that female hormones protect women until menopause. Your family tree plays a role in determining your tendency towards heart disease, if your parents or grandparents had heart disease issues at a young age, your risk is greater. Finally, race can have an effect on heart disease. African-Americans have higher blood pressure rates, and hypertension significantly increases the risk for heart disease or stroke.

While there are risk factors we cannot control, there are many risk factors that are lifestyle choices that we *can* control. Smoking, physical inactivity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, and obesity are issues in our lives that we can make conscious and deliberate decisions about.

Smoking cigarettes is the number one lifestyle risk factor associated with a sudden heart attack. Smokers are at twice the risk for a heart attack than non-smokers and have a 2 to 4 times greater chance of dying from a sudden heart attack than non-smokers. The old-school thought was that once the damage from smoking was done, there was no way the damage could be reversed. New research is showing that that is not true and by quitting smoking the risk of heart disease declines rapidly.

Lack of exercise contributes to a number of the aforementioned risk factors such as diabetes (especially Type II), high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and obesity; these risk factors can be reduced with physical activity. On a physiological basis, regular aerobic exercise strengthens the heart muscle, improves the circulatory system and insulin sensitivity, and increases the oxygen exchange between the blood and the muscles to assist with burning fat during exercise. On a mental or emotional basis, exercise reduces stress, enables better and more restful sleep, and promotes a more positive outlook on life. Many of the risk factors for heart disease are intertwined with each other, but the good news is that physical activity can play a large role in reducing the affect of many of them.

A final note about ways to reduce your risk of heart disease is to mention diet and nutrition. Obesity is on the rise, and Type II diabetes is at almost epidemic numbers; besides physical activity to control these, a low-fat diet with limited simple sugars will greatly affect risk factors. Fad diets may help you lose weight, but they don't help with fat loss. Fad diets cause water and muscle loss because of caloric restriction or an imbalance with carbohydrate and fat ratios. The healthiest diets are the ones that follow the American Dietetic Association's or American Heart Association's guidelines for healthy eating. Once these eating habits are established, the "diet" becomes part of a healthy lifestyle and assists with the reduction of risk factors for heart disease.

If you're wondering where you stand relative to cardiovascular disease risk factors, you can visit the American Heart Association's website at [www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org) and click on "What's Your Risk of Heart Disease?" Then, stop by the PE Complex and pick up schedules of our group exercise classes or read our bulletin boards for various information and brochures about health, nutrition, and exercise. You can e-mail us any questions at [personaltraining@neu.edu](mailto:personaltraining@neu.edu).

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"To be a minority in a Jewish State" A Muslim-Israeli Bedouin's Experience. Tuesday February 4, 1:40pm-2:40pm For more information, e-mail Hillel@neiu.edu

**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

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**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.

**Get the classes** you need every time. GPA 3.25 a must. Find out how. 442-6045

**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

**We need writers!** The Independent is looking for staff to join us. We are meeting every other Tuesday during activity hour in the basement right near the cafeteria. Stop by and check us out!

## Personals

A little girl, so stupid to believe what she's told about comfort, friendship, and being important enough to be thought of and treated right.

Biviana, Don't be fooled by just how much of a jerk I've been lately. I adore you, and I wouldn't give up the times we've had together for anything in the world. Please believe I do respect and cherish what we have, sometimes you are the only thing keeping me going, my love.

Miguel, I can't tell you how bad I feel that I can't spend nearly as much time with you as I wish I could. I just ask that you keep your chin up and know that I'm still thinking about you all of the time. Lets try a repeat of the other day. I'll always love you.

NOTICE  
SOMETHING  
MISSING?

YOU!!

JOIN THE  
INDEPENDENT

NEXT  
MEETING:  
FEBRUARY  
18TH  
E-049  
1:40 PM

## Oh goody gumdrops!

The Independent classifieds are FREE!\*

Limit one ad per person/organization per issue. Ads must be 20 words or less. There is a 25-cents charge for each word over 20 words. All classified ads must be ordered in person at the Independent office. For more information, please call the Business Manager at 773.442.4585

\* This rate applies to members of the NEIU community only. An NEIU identification card must be presented at the time of purchase.

AD AS IT IS TO READ: