

2-18-2003

Independent- Feb. 18, 2003

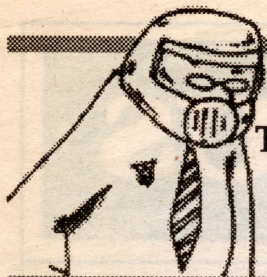
Andrea Zelinski

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**DUCT TAPE,
TIRE TRACKS
AND MORE
PAGE 5**

**THE USUAL SUSPECTS:
VOICE OF THE CAMPUS
AND STAN'S LIFE
INSIDE!**

**BINGE DRINKING
DOES HAVE ITS
ADVANTAGES
PAGE 9**



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Independent

Vol. 19 Issue 12

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

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FEB 18 2003

Tuesday, February 18th, 2003

ARCHIVES

Black History Month begins with academics

by Atoor Lawandow
Staff Writer

The Office of Dean of Students organized a seminar with which to kick off Black History Month. This seminar took place in Student Union room 214 on Tuesday February 4, during activity hour. A notable speaker, Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu, spoke at this event, organized by the Black History Committee at Northeastern.



Kendra Young started the program by introducing Kunjufu, who has won the admiration of many through a number of notable accomplishments. He was very pleased to speak at Northeastern about Black History and issues concerning the black community. Kunjufu is the president of African American Images, which is a publishing company here in Chicago. He is also the author of several books, has served as a consultant to the Chicago Department of Human Services and the U.S. Office of Education, and he is a former instructor at the United Theological Seminary's Doctoral Division.

Kunjufu stressed at the beginning of his speech that African-Americans should study their history, and learn about their culture not only during Black History Month, but also during the "rest of the other eleven months of the year." Kunjufu's speech centered on "academic achievement" and the lack thereof among African-American youth. He went on to explain the consequences of this lack of academic achievement in youth, and he went on to address the causes behind the lack of academic achievement in African-American youth.

According to statistics that Kunjufu presented to the audience, compared to Asian and White college students, African-American college students have the highest drop-out rates. According to the data that Kunjufu made mention of, Asian college students have the highest rate of college graduation, that being 64%, followed by White students with 56%. A low 41% is the graduation rate of African-American females, and an

alarming 32% is the rate of graduation for African-American males.

Kunjufu blames the shortage of academic achievement, partly on the African-American students, partly on their parents, and partly on the political and educational systems that exist in this country. He explains that although African-American students find the time to spend on recreational activities such as watching television and playing basketball, they do not take as much time to study. This in turn hurts their academic performance, and ultimately causes many of them to drop out of college. "What you do best, is what you do most," explained Kunjufu.

He then explained the role that the African-American parents play in this issue of "shortage of academic achievement" in their children. The African-American parent all too often waits for the school system to teach his/her child about African-American history, explained Kunjufu. This practice has deprived the African-American youth from learning a complete version of their history; instead, they only get the Euro-centric version taught in K-12 schools throughout the country. Instead of relying on the school to provide proper history education for an African-American child, Kunjufu suggests that the parents take a more assertive role in educating their child at home, and starting from a very early age.

Thirdly, Kunjufu examined the role that the education and the

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Blix reports an obstacle for U.S. Security Council remains divided; U.S. and Britain continue to push for resolution as U.N. stalls war talk

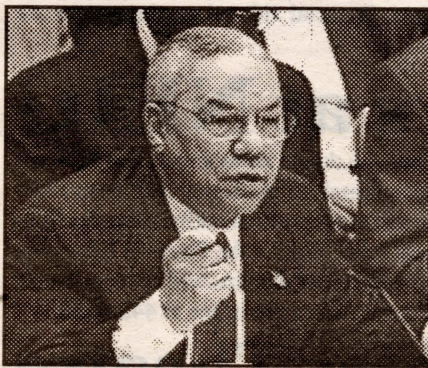
by J. Louis Bracich
Business Manager

February 14th, U.N. chief weapons inspector Hans Blix delivered his second report on the current weapons investigation in Iraq to the U.N. Security Council. The Security Council continued undecided on any military actions against Saddam Hussein's regime. Blix's report on Friday reported no disclosure of any completed weapons of mass destruction. What was included, and further documented by U.N. nuclear chief, Mohamed El Baradei, was Iraq's continued program of acquiring or manufacture of banned weapons. Chief among these banned weapons were the still unaccounted for biochemical weapons stockpiles like VX and Anthrax.

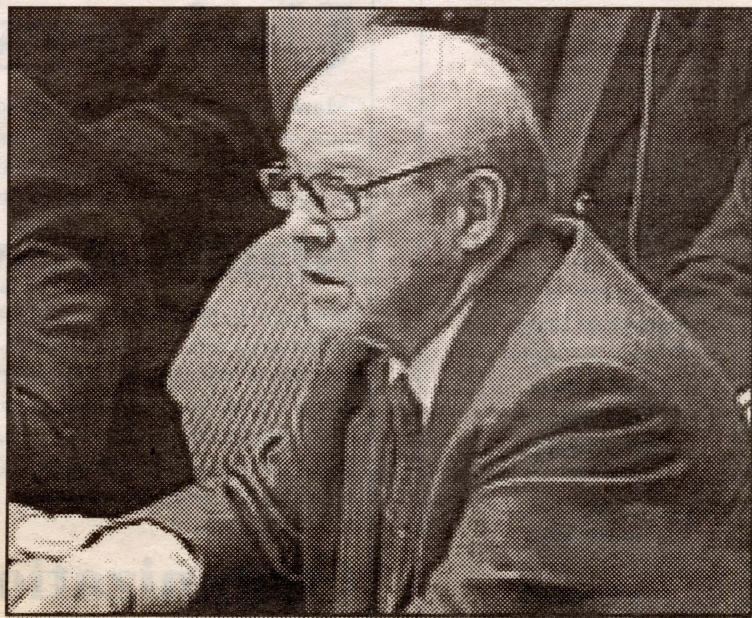
The U.N. weapons inspector also took U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, to task over photographs introduced in the previous Security Council meeting. Blix stated that interpretations of the photos as evidence of Iraq's deception as only a possibility and not a fact. "The reported movement of munitions at the site could just as easily have been a routine activity," Blix told council members. He proceeded to inform of the increased productivity in the investigation, providing statistics on what has transpired so far.

Weapons sites and rockets

The report revealed that there are now 250 U.N. personnel that have conducted over 400 inspections at 300 sites. Hans Blix stated that over



Powell stresses the necessity for action.



Blix's report indicated no disclosure of weapons of mass destruction.

200 chemical weapons samples had been collected. The United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, the U.N. bureau in charge of destroying munitions, UNMOVIC, has begun to destroy 50 liters of mustard gas. Several hundred boxes of documents pertaining to chemical weapons and advanced artillery systems.

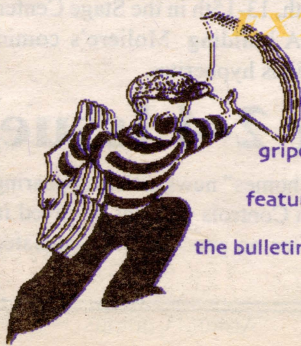
From their discoveries, attention moved towards the issue of the interviews with scientists. Scientists had been declining interviews unless they were taped and monitored by an official from the regime. Out of the suspected hundreds of scientists working for Saddam's weapons program, only three were interviewed by UNMOVIC. Despite possible coaching by their handlers, the interviews revealed several startling projects being implemented by the government.

The most provocative of these revelations was the construction of rockets or missiles that exceed the limits imposed after the Persian Gulf War. Inspectors had uncovered versions of the al-Samoud Two and al-Fatah rockets. The rockets' design with

illegally purchased SA-1 engines, exceed the 150 kilometer (93 miles) limit that Iraq is allowed for its ballistic weapons. UNMOVIC reports indicated that the design of the missile "shells" (they were in a state of pre-production at the time of discovery) indicated that the missiles have a larger diameter than what was allowed. Secondly, the engines are, according to the report, a derivative of a surface-to-air missile system, another piece of military hardware that is officially banned according to Security Council Resolution 687 in 1991. Blix further stated that Iraq was in the process of refurbishing its old missile manufacturing capabilities for the al-Samoud Two designs. "If proscribed weapons exist they must be presented for destruction. If they do not exist, credible evidence to that effect should be presented," Hans Blix concluded on this.

Blix final part of his report was an announcement that UNMOVIC would begin using U2 spy planes and other reconnaissance aircraft including drones from Germany. Blix concluded that Iraq's cooperation has improved, yet the regime could be more forthcoming.

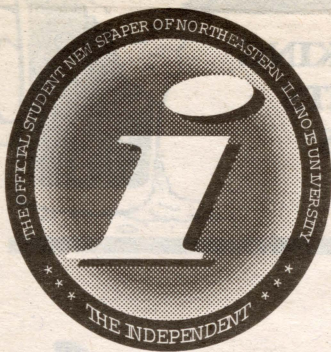
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EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!

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

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

Telephones
Editorial (773) 442-4577
Advertising (773) 442-4585
Fax (773) 442-4579

E-mail
neiu_independent@yahoo.com

Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor
Brian Blaszkowski
Associate Editor

Brian Blaszkowski
News Editor
Shana Stone
Opinions Editor
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AROUND CAMPUS

Black History Month

Tuesday February 18th- The Great Debate- A discussion on the past present and future of Black America discussing Malcolm X, W.E.B Dubois and other black leaders of past and present.

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

Any questions about Black History Month call Ken McKay, 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.

Student Symposium

Sponsored by the College of Education, this year's symposium will be held Friday, April 11th. All students from the College of Arts & Sciences, Business & Management, Education, and the University Honors Program are invited to submit creative proposals and abstracts. The symposium is a day-long celebration of NEIU's students and their accomplishments. All proposals must be submitted by March 3rd. For more info, call Kathleen Kardaras, Ext. 6045, Roger Gilman, Ext. 5714, or contact the Independent for more details.

Organization Luncheon

The SGA is sponsoring a student luncheon for representatives of all student organizations Tuesday February 18th 1:40pm-2:40pm in the Golden Eagles Room

Survivor Challenge Workshops

The Survivor Series 2003 is still ongoing in February. For more info contact Student Activities in SU 207, Ext. 4660

Jewel Box Series

The next two concerts in the series feature pianist Nazzareno Carusi on Friday March 21st at 8pm and The Johannes String Quartet Friday April 11th 2003 8pm. Both in the Recital Hall For tickets call 442-INFO.

International Programs

Thursday February 20th CLS Room 2071 International Student SEVIS Info Meeting during Activity Hour

Tuesday February 25th Student Union 219 Study Abroad in Mexico during Activity Hour

Tuesday February 25th Tuesday Talk in Library 022 during Activity Hour

Spring Open House

Northeastern will be hosting the Spring Open House on Thursday, March 27, 2003 in the Student Union. Prospective students and their parents are invited. Information on admissions, financial aid and a campus tour are planned.

Job Fairs at NEIU

There are several upcoming job fairs you should know about: The Business and Liberal Arts Job Fair, Thursday, March 13 in Alumni Hall from 1 to 4 pm. Bring a copy of your resume and dress professionally. Also, the Mid-America Teacher Job Fair Tuesday April 15th, in the Physical Education Complex from 10am to 2pm. Over 100 school districts will be represented. If you have any questions, contact the Placement office at 442-4680.

Stage Center Theatre

COMEDY NOW AND THEN- Tartuffe -- by Moliere Thursday, Friday and Saturday February 27, 28 March 1, 6-8th, 13-15th in the Stage Center Theatre. Curtain time is 7:30pm in the A building. Moliere's comic masterpiece delights in poking fun at religious hypocrites.

Correction for 2-4 Issue

In "Classroom building fire sends students homes" news article appearing on page one, the contractor from Johnston Controls was not involved in the development of the fire. The contractor on site was not associated with Johnston Controls.



Death Penalty On Trial

A student organized group of workshops debating the death penalty. Sponsored by the Criminal Justice Department. Friday February 21st 10am-4pm Alumni Hall. Speakers will include Lawrence C. Marshall, Professor of Law, Northwestern University and Rita Fry, a member of the Illinois Commission on the death penalty.

Future Teachers of Chicago

February events include a bake sale on Feb. 20th in Village Square, and a Portfolio Q & A on Feb. 27th in FA 203 during activity hour.

FMLA Meetings

The Feminist Majority will be holding meetings the first Wednesday of every month at 6:30 pm for those who cannot attend their regular Thursday meetings during activity hour. The next night meeting is March 5th.

Muslim Student Association

Presents The Hajj: The Pinnacle of Islamic Practice. A luncheon and presentation on the crowning event of the Muslim religion and its significance. Thursday February 27th 4pm-6pm Student Union 003.

English Competency Workshops

Students taking the English Competency Exam (ECE) are invited to attend a workshop to help prepare for the exam and ease your anxiety. Space is limited, so call 442-5480 or stop by room CLS 2046 for more info.

Fine Arts Gallery Center

Presents: Bernard Williams: Installations February 10th-March 14th 2003 Portraying the Complexities of History Through Symbols and Signs For more info, call John Brunetti, Gallery Coordinator at 442-4944.

Internship Workshops

The Placement Office is sponsoring workshops to promote internships that can help you in the job market. Workshops are for all students. The Spring schedule still has one date left, March 6th during activity hour. If you have any questions or would like to reserve a spot, call 442-4680.

Underwater Hockey

The Chicago Underwater Hockey team invites the NEIU community to spectate or play this exciting sport in the Physical Education Building Saturdays from 1 to 2:30pm. For more in fo call 442-5734.

WATCH OUT!

Deadlines for the Independent are one week prior to the date of publication. The following is a list of publication dates for the Spring 2003 semester:

March
4th

March
25th

April
8th

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

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

Black History month continued

political systems play in the shortage of academic achievement in the African-American youth. According to Kunjufu, the rate of property taxes in a certain area of the city determines the amount of funding the schools within that area receive from the city. For example, an area with a high property tax such as Park Ridge might get \$18,000 per child per year in funds, whereas an area of low property tax such as Chicago's South Side might get only \$4,000 per child per year in funds.

The distribution of funds in



public schools in keeping with property tax is unfair, Kunjufu believes. It puts a large gap in the academic achievement between African-American students, who mainly come from disadvantaged backgrounds, and other more advantaged students, he explained.

On the issue of Affirmative Action, which is a program implemented by colleges and universities across the country in which ethnicity and color are used as a basis for admission into the institution, Kunjufu vows that he will continue to be an advocate for the Affirmative Action program as long as the rate of property tax continues to determine the amount of funding that each public school receives. Once the distribution of funds to public schools ceases to mirror property tax value, minority students who come from disadvantaged backgrounds will no longer need Affirmative Action to help them in admission into certain institutions, Kunjufu asserted.

Overall, the program was very insightful for the audience; throughout the speech, audience members were nodding their heads in agreement with Kunjufu's statements, and many clapped and cried things like "yes" and "amen" whenever Kunjufu stated something they believed to be true. As for the Black History Committee, they promise that programs such as this will continue to be held throughout the month of February.

U.N. meeting continued

"The period of disarmament through inspection could still be short, if immediate, active and unconditional co-operation with Unmovic and the IAEA were to be forthcoming," Blix then added that had Iraq cooperated to this degree, they may have not have faced a decade of sanctions.

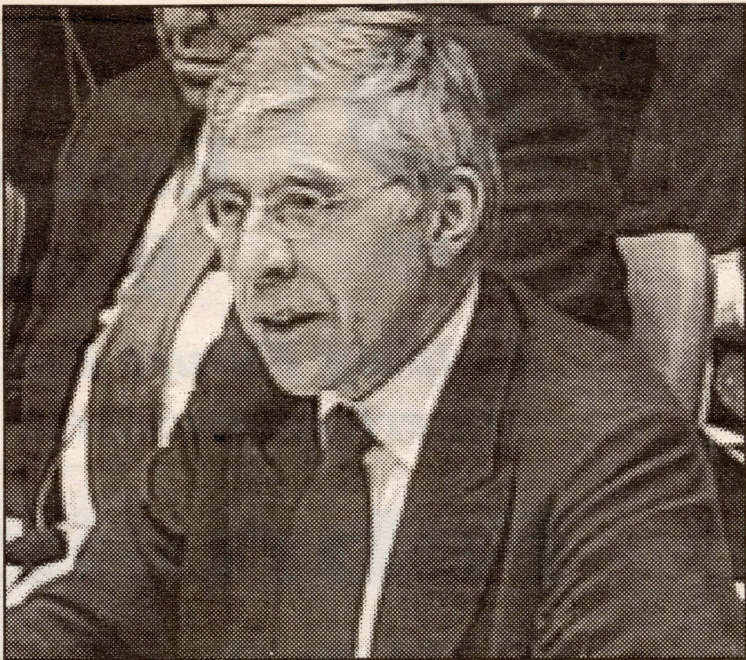
El Baradei's Report

Following Messrs Blix was the Secretary-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr. Mohamed El Baradei. Dr. El Baradei began with the urgency of more equipment to check radiation levels like gamma rays. El Baradei then moved on to the issue of the discovered aluminum tubes and that the IAEA was still deciding whether the tubes could be used as gas centrifugres. These centrifuges, he continued, could be used to enrich uranium or as a booster for rockerts. "We have to date found no evidence of ongoing prohibited nuclear or nuclear related activities in Iraq. However, as I have just indicated, a number of issues are still under investigation and we are not yet in a position to reach a conclusion," Dr. El Baradei said to the council.

Two issues seemed to stand out to the Secretary-General, one being the use of high explosives. The second issue being the discovery of using a laser system on uranium. On the first issue, Dr. El Baradei stated that there was no evidence that high explosives suitable in the use of developing nuclear weapons had not been use, as Iraq had stated, for mining usage. On the second issue, documents recovered by UNMOVIC agents detailed Iraq's use of lasers to enrich uranium at several sites, sites that the IAEA says they already know about. Dr. Mohamed El Baradei concluded stating that he, like Hans Blix, hopes that Iraq increases its cooperation.

Reaction at the U.N.

Following their reports, various foreign ambassadors and state



U.K. Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, leans towards war.

ministers gave their reaction to today' information from Blix and El Baradei.

Syrian Foreign Minister, Farouq al-Shara : "Inspections are bringing about important results, dialogue, co-operation, and mutual confidence between the inspectors and Iraq. The council must therefore continue to support the inspectors and allow them sufficient time to undertake their task."

French Foreign Minister, Dominique de Villepin: "The use of force against Iraq is not justified today; there is an alternative to war, and that is to disarm Iraq through inspections."

Following de Villepin's speech, an unusual round of applause broke out across from many members of the council, taking many by surprise. Looking a little upset but not unshaken, U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell stated the U.S.' position: "What we need is not more inspections... what we need is immediate, active, full co-operation on the part of Iraq. What we need is for Iraq to disarm."

"[Recent signs of co-operation] are not responsible actions on the part of Iraq, these are continued efforts to deceive, to deny, to divert, to throw us off the trail, to throw us off the path."

"We cannot allow this process to be endlessly strung out as Iraq is trying to right now... My friends, they cannot be allowed to get away with it again."

Spain and the United Kingdom soon added to Powell's argument

UK Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw: "They've lied, they've concealed, they've played games. The issue before us could not be graver. Most significant part of Blix's report on his comment on Iraq's forthcoming."

"The issue before us is the authority of the U.N. and the defiance of this council. This period of 12 years, since passing 687 in 1991, has been 12 years of humiliation."

"This is not just about Iraq, but also of proliferators in general and how we secure the world."

"I hope and believe that a peaceful resolution to this crisis may still be possible, but this will require a dramatic and immediate change by Saddam. This will only be achieved if we in the Security Council hold our nerve in the face of this tyrant."

Spanish Foreign Minister, Ana Palacio: "What we don't need is more inspectors. We risk losing credibility of this council. Iraq's cooperation has not been forthcoming."

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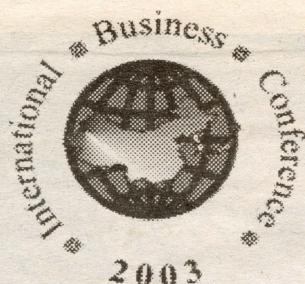
Thursday

February 20

At 1:40 pm

In the Golden Eagles room

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SU 214 (Student Union Bldg.) * Recital Hall (Fine Arts Bldg.)

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For more Information contact:
Event Coordinator: Pui Tang
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Wednesday

10:00-10:50 am "Global Business in East Asia: A European Perspective"

*Krzyszna Kolodziejczyk, Graduate Student
Institute of International Relations, University of Warsaw*
SU214

12:15-1:30 pm "U.S. Business Opportunities in a Growing Chinese Economy: A 25 Year Perspective"

*Dr. Raffaele DeVito, Professor of Management Emporia State University
Chair, Kansas International Trade Coordinating Council*
SU214

1:00-1:50 pm "Gateway to the world"

*Mr. Yoshihito Terrahara, Director
City of Osaka, Chicago Office*
SU214

1:40-2:40 pm "China's Entry into the World Trade Organization"

*Dr. Harry Lepinske, Purdue University-Calumet
Director for International Research and Education International Business Development Programs*
SU214

2:00-3:15 pm "Entering the Asia Market: Strategies for Facility Location"

*Dr. Peter Stonebreaker, Professor of Management,
Northeastern Illinois University*
SU214

2:50-4:05 pm "Opportunities in Chinese Media Industry after the World Trade Organization Entry"

Zhihua Yan, Graduate Student, Northwestern University

5:40-6:50 pm "Reform and Prospect of the Korean Economy"

*Dr. Heungsik Choe, Vice President
Korea Institute of Finance*
SU214

"Global Business in East Asia: A European Perspective"

*Krzyszna Kolodziejczyk, Graduate Student
Institute of International Relations Warsaw, Poland*
SU214

7:05-8:20 pm Welcoming and Opening Remarks

Keynote Speaker: Guillermo Pardinas, Commercial Director
*Pacific Asia & Africa, International Division
Abbott Laboratories
Recital Hall*

5:40-6:50 pm "Cross Cultural Management"

*Dr. Jianwen Liao, Assistant Professor of Management
Northeastern Illinois University*
SU214

8:30-9:45 pm "International Business in East Asia: A European Perspective"

*Dr. Aleksandra Jarczyewski, Official Representative
Institute of International Relations, University of Warsaw*
Recital Hall

7:05-8:20 pm "The Asian Financial Crisis: An East European Perspective"

*Dr. Andrzej Slawinski, Professor of Finance
Warsaw School of Economics
Advisor to the Governor of the National Bank of Poland*
Recital Hall

8:30-9:45 pm "Doing Business in Japan"

*Terue Tokoro, Executive Director of JETRO Chicago
Japan External Trade Organization*
Recital Hall

Thursday

9:25 am-10:40 am "Ethical Issues in International Business"

*Dr. Keith Krasemann, Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies
College of DuPage, Co-Director, Regional Center for Asian Studies*
SU214

10:50-12:04 pm "The Public Policy of Trade from a Grassroots Perspective"

*Sean Heather, Executive Director
U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Great Lakes Region*
SU214



E.A.I.B.C.

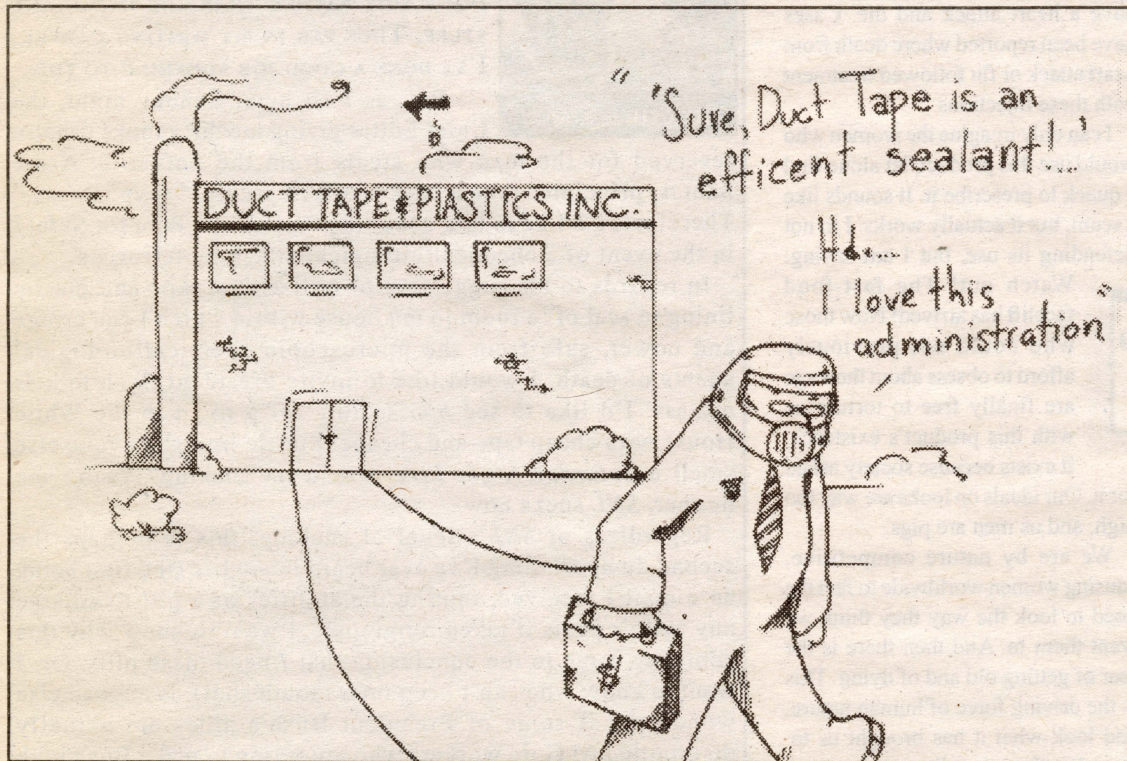
East Asian International
Business Conference



PERSPECTUS

DRAWING BOARD

BY CECILIA CARBONI, STAFF WRITER



OPINION

Cheated wife leaves truth in her tracks

by Emily Haddad
Features Editor

Clara Harris, successful dentist and mother of twins, ran over her cheating husband David Harris in the parking lot of a hotel after confronting him with his lover. We've seen cases like this before. A woman kills her husband of so many years because he was seducing his sultry secretary, or helping himself to the household help.

And the prosecution is all over just how sadistic the woman was to do this, allowing the media to paint the absolute most vicious picture of her possible.

No pity is given to the woman for what kind of person she had to live with, or the kind of mental or emotional anguish she was enduring. The only thing poignant is the cold, hard fact that the woman committed a crime.

At this point, even Clara Harris isn't denying that she did it. And despite her teary wails of "everything seemed like a dream" and "I was aiming at his lover's luxury sport-utility vehicle and did not mean to kill him," to the media, it's pretty clear that she did it intentionally. And even if she didn't intend to veer straight at him and run him down, with such a weak defense and the heat of marital discontent behind her, would anyone really believe her?

But what about looking at whether or not she had just cause? In the court system today, there is supposedly no just cause for killing someone, save accidentally during self-defense. This has always disagreed with me, especially concerning certain crimes that involve the obliteration of someone's honor and mental stability. Did Clara Harris hit and kill her husband David?

Yes. Was she justified?

Looking at the facts that are available, the behavior of David Harris didn't exactly paint a pretty picture of the man he was. From evidence displayed by the defense, he comes off as an immature, cold-hearted, manipulating adulterer.

First of all, rather than seeking professional counseling for their marital problems, David seeks solace in the arms of one of his employees. Then, after confessing to his wife about his transgressions, he told her that she needed to change herself to keep his love. That was a completely immature, fascist power play on his part, playing on her weak emotional state to further devalue her as a person.

During the night when the Harris's tried to reconcile their differences, David said that his wife was domineering, and weighed too much. He also told her that he would love her if she got her breasts enhanced and was just a housewife. Frankly, if my husband of ten years had told me this after confessing that he was having an affair, I would have run him over as well, but I would have used a bladed threshing machine.

But let's take a walk down a possible path for a moment. What if Clara isn't this jilted lunatic that the media is playing her out to be?

What if, being a secure person, Clara didn't let these comments faze her as much as one would think? Clara could have taken them as constructive criticism, and in the interest of selflessly trying to protect her marriage and the sense of family for her twin sons, she had to try to act upon the more reasonable of them and Clara Harris had actually

scheduled a liposuction and breast enhancement appointment the next day, and started working out at the gym. She was actively trying to comply with what her mate said he needed to make it work. And in supposedly doing his part to save their marriage, David Harris agreed to fire the receptionist he had been having the affair with, Gail Bridges, and to tell her it was over at a dinner arranged for that specific reason.

But the day before this dinner was to happen, Clara Harris and her 17-year-old stepdaughter caught him at the Hilton with Bridges. This was most definitely not a show of good faith from someone who supposedly intended to save his marriage.

Needless to say, there was a very physical moment between the women, ending with David kicking his wife and leaving with Bridges from the hotel, to add insult to injury.

And while David had been forcing her to change and become more like Gail Bridges as a condition of keeping their marriage together, it probably hadn't dawned on Clara that he'd been doing that until the moment when he basically chose Gail over her.

While Clara told prosecutors "I think I closed my eyes" before impact, I think that her eyes had really opened for the first time to her husband and who he really was.

Everyone has bad days and anyone can do things out of blind rage. Everyone also has a breaking point where things become unbearable. Clara Harris just happened to reach hers at an emotionally charged moment, and she made the worst choice possible on how to resolve it.

OPINION

I need to be sealed off from the rest of America

by Patrick O'Brien
Production Editor

I wish I knew what the hell was going on. I walked into my apartment the other day and threw my belongings in every direction, and as I walk into the bathroom, what's happened? The duct tape parade has taken over my bathroom. My sister apparently thinks that masking tape (we ran out of duct tape) and some drop cloths are going to save her from al Qaeda, or Saddam, or whoever else it is we should be sealed off from, no pun intended.

So there is my room for solitude, comfort, and the occasional shower, turned into a quasi bunker because Fox News has run out of topics in their newsroom. And trust in this friends, there is no way duct tape, plastic, or stupidity will save you from terrorist attack. Let's face it, if that were the case, most of America would be safe, even the ones who couldn't find any duct tape and plastic.

We are a nation at war with ourselves as much as we are with any foreign power or dictator who holds weapons of mass destruction. We have grown to become a nation more interested in Joe Millionaire and other such garbage than the world around us; and the actions of our government., which threaten our very existence as humans.

So now my home has been turned into some sort of survival bunker, against which all conventional useless. Except we used masking the most defense in the dollar roll of tape leaks, repair course has no real value when you're talking about people who have flown jumbo jets into skyscrapers. Has George W. Bush lost his freakin' mind?

As a country, as a symbol, and as a people, we are on the verge of almost total self-destruction from the top of our society on down. We are led by a President who cannot seem to make a policy decision or a speech without using the words terror or God. He can't see the terror for the trees, and he's dragging 290 million people with him into the abyss.

We are on the edge of the world right now.

I could have sworn he went on television and told the world that our secret weapon can be found at any hardware store or Target in the adhesives section. This is just another example of how badly we have fooled ourselves as a people. Does anyone honestly believe that anything can save us from what we have become? Maybe The Bachelorette has some ideas.

The sheer depth of denial in this America, this thing we are now, is unbelievable. We are now what we are supposed to be fighting against. The United States of America is not only the largest producer and distributor of weapons of deadly consequence; we are also the only country to use a nuclear weapon in battle. Hiroshima anyone? This America is the bully, the giant that others stand up against and slay, eventually. The average person doesn't know that Saddam Hussein, Osama Bin Laden, the Taliban, Pol Pot, and many other murderers have all been on the payroll of the federal government at one time or another.

America has almost always been the aggressor, the CIA and American military more than happy to help those who favor our capitalistic ways, even if it means wholesale murder and corruption. Terrorism has been an American franchise for over 200 years. We trademarked terror with the Indians and slaves, and now we've transferred it to others with skin darker than ours. The only thing we've traded is muskets for missiles. We are the worst terrorists amongst many who roam the earth today.

I hate to tell you, but this is what we've always been.

And it won't change until someone in power actually becomes human again, and barring that, we are welcoming bloodshed that will make September 11th look like child's play.

Don't you think victims of bombs and guns read the Made in America trademark and feel terrorized? The richest, mightiest nation in the world has also become its biggest arms dealer, and the world at large has noticed.

So why Iraq? Saddam Hussein has been in power for better than 20 years, and he is no more of a threat than he ever was. He is an invention of President Bush as an international menace. He is brutal to his own people, and for that reason he should be removed from power. That sentence however, could be applied to many a world leader, including those of North Korea, Indonesia, and others.

The difference is now we have found a point in American history where circumstance has met epiphany and we feel vulnerable as a nation, and since we do have a decisive leader with his own strong and very troubled convictions and we don't have any of our own, George has decided we should go to war to save our troubled American experiment, and everyone seems content to go down with the ship, instead of asking questions and finding out just why we will soon be at war.

War will commence in the coming weeks and it's time we started doing our real duty as Americans, as people, and question the authority George Bush and Colin Powell proclaim for war in ou names. I haven't given them permission to fight in my name, and if you give yours, at least you should know why.

Botox is a sad example of insecurity

by Joe Allgaier
Staff Writer

Many celebrities and rich folk have partaken in the plethora of cosmetic surgeries out there. You can tuck, fold, and sew your face tighter. You can augment or reduce your breasts. Or you can have all the fat sucked out and made into soap. You can even have permanent makeup tattooed on, just in case the Paparazzi catch you at a bad time. But now, with the widespread availability of Botulinum Toxin injections, even poorer folk can have cosmetic surgery.

Marketed as Botox[®] Cosmetic, this is a muscle relaxant that a doctor shoots into your face. It acts as a temporary facelift, and can, according to the parent company Allergan, give you a facelift and erase wrinkle lines in ten minutes. As it is injected in small amounts into "target" muscles all over your forehead and around your eyes, it works by inhibiting the muscles' production of acetylcholine, necessary for the muscle to flex. Basically it is a muscle relaxant, but one that works for up to 3 months. After that you will need more injections, or be forced to re-evaluate your issues with vanity.

So what's in this stuff? A vial of Botox[®] Cosmetic contains 100 units (U) of Clostridium botulinum type A neurotoxin complex, 0.5 milligrams of albumin (human), and 0.9 milligrams of sodium chloride in a sterile, vacuum-dried form without a preservative. Yes, that albumin comes from donated human blood. Sick!

To be fair, Botox has been used for over ten years, quite successfully I might add, to treat severe cases of

medical conditions. It is used for the treatment of chronic crossed eyes, muscle spasms in the eyelids, and uncontrollable spasms in the head and neck. It has been approved by the FDA to treat "frown lines" since two years ago. This is pure hedonism.

On the news recently I have seen the re-hashed stories of Botox parties, where housewives have gotten together to get these "fast-food facelifts" as a group. The truth is, the drug can only be prescribed and administered by a doctor. In Chicago alone there are literally thousands of plastic surgeons eager to ease timid, insecure women into being

your expressions than before, as you are less able to move the muscles in your face. Extended use may cause those muscles to never flex. So your wrinkles are gone, you look younger, but your expression barely ever changes. How would that be, looking in the mirror? Oh yeah, and you may have a heart attack and die. Cases have been reported where death from heart attack or flu followed treatment with these injections.

I can only imagine the women who would use this product, let alone find a quack to prescribe it. It sounds like a scam, but it actually works. I'm not defending its use, but I am saying:

Watch out! The fast-food facelift has arrived! Now those who could not previously afford to obsess about their age are finally free to torture us with this product's existence.

It exists because society asked for it. Our ideals on looks are way too high, and us men are pigs.

We are by nature competitive, causing women worldwide to feel the need to look the way they think we want them to. And then there is the fear of getting old and of dying. This is the driving force of human nature, and look what it has brought us to. People shooting drugs to look younger, nose jobs, facelifts, even permanent makeup tattoos!

I am glad I love myself enough to not be that disgusted when I look at myself in the mirror. I bet many of the same housewives using this Botox stuff grounded their teenagers for getting a piercing or a tattoo. People need to think about the risks of Botox or any cosmetic surgery because sometimes, the risks outweigh the benefits.

"WATCH OUT! THE FAST FOOD FACELIFT HAS ARRIVED!"

comfortable with getting a facelift. a

Once you don't mind shooting drugs into your face, what's to stop you from saving up for the much more expensive yet effective cosmetic surgery? Think of it as a bait-and-switch product.

In fact, after repeated use, it loses effectiveness, and may require a stronger dosage. It is less effective in smoothing wrinkles the older you are. And the side effects, which may be worth the treatment of a disfigurement or dysfunction, are hardly worth risking for the sake of cosmetics.

Muscles may experience jittering, as the drug spreads from the site of injection. You may get a cold or the flu. Non-target muscles may be affected, re-configuring the natural movement in your face. This could lead to many more people mis-reading

Peterson mystery is affair gone bad

by Shana Stone
Opinions Editor

Since December 24th 2002, Laci Peterson, a woman from Modesto, California, has been missing. Laci is 27 and was 8 months pregnant at the time of her disappearance. Her due date has already passed. The day she disappeared her husband went fishing some 85 miles away. Why is her disappearance more unusual than any other missing person? Well, perhaps we should wonder why her disappearance is more intriguing. It is so because she appears to have vanished without a trace. Plus, her husband has been behaving suspiciously since day one.

Here are the facts in the case. Laci's husband Scott said he last saw his wife at 9:30 a.m. on Christmas Eve. He left that morning to go fishing in the San Francisco Bay. Laci was going to go walk their dog and do some shopping before the two of them were supposed to head out to her parent's house that evening for dinner. During the day neighbors saw the Peterson's dog wandering in front of their house and put the dog in the Peterson's backyard. When Scott returned home from his fishing trip after 5:00 p.m. he could not find Laci and phoned the police.

Neighbors told police that every single morning Laci would open up the shades to the window that faced the street. On the morning of December 24th she did not. Police were given a photo of Scott and at the time an unidentified woman, and when they confronted Scott with the photo and asked him if he was having an affair, he said no.

Scott allegedly took out a \$250,000 insurance policy on Laci after she became pregnant, and denied having

done so to the police. Scott traded in Laci's Range Rover for a shiny truck for himself. Granted, the police had impounded Scott's own truck, but the question remains, why couldn't he have just driven Laci's SUV?

Also allegedly, Scott has tried to put the house up for sale. Police had found some blood in Scott's truck and in the house. When police questioned him if that was his blood, he stated that it could be his or maybe Laci's, he just wasn't quite sure. Does the average person have blood smears or drops in their car or house? I don't think so. What especially bothers me is that Scott had the nerve to go fishing and leave Laci home alone while she was eight months pregnant. It was Christmas Eve and he had the day off, and rather than spending the day with his pregnant wife, he went fishing. What a caring guy. Not!

Soon after Laci disappeared, her family appeared on every television news station discussing facts of the case and begging for her safe return. The family said they believed Scott had nothing to do with Laci's disappearance, until they learned of his affair with at least one woman, Amber Frey, and of Scott's lack of cooperation with authorities about his whereabouts when Laci disappeared. The police brought in dogs to the Peterson's residence to sniff out where her scent ends around her house and it appears that the scent stops about mid-driveway, which make police believe Laci got into a car of some sort. Her keys and purse were found in the house, though.

Scott waited until just a few weeks ago to be interviewed by members of the press. In the Court of Public Opinion, Scott has already been condemned and is believed to have

killed his wife, and it appears that Scott just may have committed the perfect crime. He lied about having cheated on his wife, he has been less than forthright in providing complete facts to the police, and Laci's family feels he is heartless.

The worst part for them was when they found out about the selling of Laci's SUV. If Scott isn't a killer, then he is just a liar and a cold jerk of a husband. Scott told the media that he had divulged the affair to Laci a few days before she disappeared and that she was fine with the cheating.

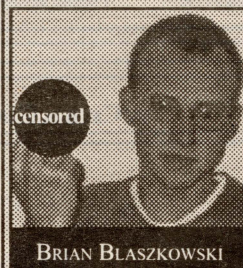
Hmm, Laci was eight months pregnant, had been married for five years, and is told a few days before the holidays that her husband is a cheating louse. Scott must be out of his mind to try to make the public believe that his wife was actually OK with this. His lies just don't stop. He also has refused to take a lie detector test. If he has nothing to hide, why doesn't he take the test? It couldn't be because he does actually have something to hide, could it?

I feel so horrible for Laci's family. They must be going through agony right now. Laci's due date to give birth has come and gone and she is still missing. Vanished without a trace. I can't help but feel that Laci's been murdered, and that her murder must have come at the hands of her husband. Someone who claimed to love her always and never harm her.

All anyone can do right now is pray for Laci's safe return home if she is still alive, and if she is not, I hope the police do everything in their power to find the person who killed her. If the killer winds up being her ever-devoted husband Scott, all I can say is may God have mercy on his soul. For he will surely need it.

Bush can seal this

I HAVE A PERSONAL POLICY ABOUT THIS COLUMN. I TRY TO NOT DEAL WITH ANYTHING TOO SERIOUS, SUCH AS WARS, TERRORISM, OR NATIONAL NEWS. I FOLLOW THIS "GOLDEN RULE" MOSTLY BECAUSE I PREFER DEALING WITH INANE SHIT RATHER THAN THE IMPORTANT STUFF. THUS FAR IN MY WRITING CAREER, I'VE DONE A GOOD JOB ADHERING TO THIS.



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

But, as I sit here, Sunday night, the Chief Editor giving me dirty looks usually

reserved for the man who steals from the Salvation Army Santas, principles take a back seat as I seek to "save my ass." Therefore, I'd like to talk about the President's Plan for Safety in the event of a chemical/biological attack by terrorists.

In regards to his suggestion to utilize duct tape and plastic lining to seal off a room in my house within which I can cringe and cower, safe from the microscopic chemical/biological agents of death, I would like to invite President Bush to kiss my ass. I'd like to see *him* sealing off a room in the White House with cheap tape and cheaper plastic lining. Anyone else smell a *Saturday Night Live* skit in the making? Yeah, me neither, *SNL* sucks now.

Regardless of *SNL*'s level of sucking, this is perhaps the second dumbest thing I've ever heard in my life (the first being an e-mail I received, touting the abilities of a pill to enlarge any male's penis if taken religiously. I want to know why this company came to the conclusion that *I* need these pills. Or, I want to know who can't keep their mouth shut). Is anyone else wondering if some of President Bush's aides are actually disgruntled Al Gore workers who are trying to make Bush look dumb? I have my suspicions.

Let's examine this idea carefully, lest we miss something. First, Bush recommends that we line a room with plastic, covering the windows, vents, and any large, gaping holes that might serve as ventilation.

Then, if he gives us the "OK-go," we barricade ourselves and our families in these "Trailer Park Bomb Shelters." OK, have I missed anything? Oh, yeah, I missed one thing. President Bush somehow graduated Yale.

The one problem that my brain is screaming into my ear is that sealing a room in plastic will lead to suffocation. That's problem number one. If there's one thing that being a human has taught me, it's that air is good, no air is bad. It seems to me that the plastic sheeting and duct tape combo onto all the ventilation in a room will eventually lead to "no air," which has already been proven to be "bad."

Another problem is the fact that an entire family will be wedged into a room with no ventilation for God knows how long. How long does it take the chemical/biological agents to go away, anyway? Will they go away *before* the family has to gasp for each breath? And what about the smell? Can you imagine the stench four people stuck in a room with no ventilation for a few days will produce? I'll take my chances with the dirty bombs, thank you.

Did anyone hear that scientist on that one news program (you know, the one with the guy who says all that stuff)? He said that this plan is total bullshit. I think he used nicer words, but he said that sealing off the windows and doors wouldn't be enough, because houses tend to be drafty. Air simply finds a way inside, and unless you wrap a plastic sheet around your head and around the heads of your loved ones, sealing off a few windows and doors isn't going to do jack shit.

So let's recap: we can either seal off an *entire* room—floor, walls, ceiling, and everything else—with plastic and duct tape, or we can realize that there is simply only one way to deal with this threat: we can get the hell out of the way if we see the bombs coming. That's it. We can only run.

Let's be honest with ourselves, people. What will happen if President Bush came on TV and said, "Umm, we think that there's gonna be an attack on the city of Chicago within the next three days." What will happen? One of two things. Either there will be massive panic, riots, looting, and stupid people suffocating in duct tape-lined rooms, or there will be just a bunch of people who hug their kids extra tight before they take the train downtown to put in a 10-hour shift.

Either way, a warning has done nothing except create a sense of terror and insecurity, which is one of the main goals of terrorists. Bush will have done nothing but scared the shit out of our kids, given us a vague warning that we can't do a thing with, and endangered the lives of people everywhere as a panicked crowd surges forward to cause several million dollars worth of property damage as Americans do what we do best: shop.

A warning isn't going to help us. Duct tape isn't going to help us. One more thing has become crystal clear at this point: the government isn't going to help us. Here's what you do if there's a warning of terrorist attacks. You hug you kids, kiss your spouse, make sure your family knows you love them, and then you go to work, because if you don't, you'll get fired.

And the government sure as hell won't pay your bills for you.

More parking not solution

Dear Editor,

Recently, the INDEPENDENT reported that the parking garage is two years away. Perhaps this plan should be reconsidered.

Added parking will only attract more cars - do we really want that, along with the side benefit of street traffic congestion? Do we want to encourage added pollution in and around the school? Do we want to encourage dependence on foreign oil? Shouldn't we consider alternative forms of transportation?

Wouldn't it be better (and cheaper) to install more bike racks to encourage physical activity and discourage our dependence on the internal combustion engine?

What kind of example do we set for the community when we build this kind of project to bring more cars in? Ours is an educational institution; wouldn't the money be better spent on educational facilities?

Robert Kastigar

Grossman deserves better

Dear Editor,

This correspondence is in regards to the employment of Dr. Richard Grossman. As students of Northeastern Illinois University, we feel that the appointment of Dr. Grossman to the position within Latin American History should be the official title of the tenured position, e.g. Associate Professor will allow NEIU to hold to its commitment of excellence and access to a broad spectrum of students. Dr. Grossman has proven his worth in the past by cultivating collegiate student leadership in a pro-student setting.

We have been informed that the History Department refuses to consider Dr. Grossman for this position on the basis that he has no history of publishing in academia. Although this is certainly a reality, as students, we feel that his merits of developing consistent academic achievement within the context of diverse scholastic needs far exceeds the typical requirements for tenure within the University environment.

Understandably, we are aware that it in NEIU History Department's best interest for both students and university to hire from a dynamic and resourceful pool of applicants. One of the major indicators of success in academia is a strong record in academic publishing. We are asking that the NEIU History Department Please not use this as the sole basis from which to disregard Dr. Grossman's application for the position. As students, we are also asking for more involvement within the hiring process of this and positions to follow.

We feel that our opinion merits the interest and intellectual assertion on the part of the History department and its present hiring procedures.

Students for Dr. Richard Grossman

What's with these students?

Dear Editor,

Would you print this? I am sick of dealing with this stuff. I'm talking about people who don't think normal university procedure should apply to them. Here are two examples:

Student comes into the office and hotly demands I get a hold of a part-time faculty member immediately. States she has exactly two hours before her transcript becomes permanent (according to CARS she has already graduated) and wants a grade changed. Noted she's been emailing the faculty member "forever" and he's never responded. I find on her transcript the grade is more than two semesters old and ask if she's met with him to discuss the grade (normal procedure). "No, she says. "It's not convenient! He should be responding to his emails!" For more than two semesters this student has actually been waiting for an email response.

In a few minutes, I've got another student. This ones got a "D" in a class last semester and wants it changed to a Pass. (Wouldn't we all). Luckily, this one is sweet not screaming like the last student. But he doesn't get it when I tell him it doesn't work like that. "You have until the 10th day of class to make that choice in your registration." (Please read Schedule of Classes). He unfortunately continues to think it's a matter of courtesy and proceeds to say, "please" several times. I try a couple more times to explain it's a system and nothing personal. He doesn't get it and goes away convinced I just don't want to help him.

This is only within the last half hour.

Why, can't people figure out they need to read the schedule and refer to the catalog once in a while. Why can't they figure out, if they don't get a response from an email, they should conveniently show up during office hours? And why do I have to chronically deal with people who think the system should simply bend to their personal immediate wants? I am a dept secretary with an enormous amount of work to do. Yet here I am, wasting my precious time, fielding this stuff. I'm so incredibly tired of it. I do honestly want to help these people. But how can you help someone when they refuse to or can't see what they are responsible for? Besides ignoring the problem, does anyone have any real suggestions?

Paula Gabbert, CS Dept

Plencner is right (wing)

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to the article "Democrats, please help me spend my money". I guess you were humorously commenting on the Republicans tax cuts. That is good to have less taxes. Lots of people would probably then vote for them. But, why do they also have to destroy our earth?! For almost every act that comes up that is for cleaning up our environment and protecting our wildlife, most of the votes against them are Republicans and most of the votes for them are Democrats. If the Republicans would cut taxes in a harmless way and protect our earth, then they would rule!

Some people may be thinking, "Who cares about those silly owls and trees and things? People come first." It just doesn't work that way. For one, they have just as much right to a good life as we do. Besides, using prairies and forests for cleaning and replenishing our water naturally would be much cheaper and more effective in the long run, than the current artificial ways of doing it. It would be much better for the economy in many ways. If we worked with nature instead of trying to develop over it, we would not have to deal with such things as floods and dirty drinking water and millions of dollars would be saved. So, cutting taxes and having the government spend less would be much easier to do, if we let nature help us by letting it do what it does naturally.

Julie Serocki

American, others struggle to survive

by Daniel Peikes

Staff Writer

It seems that lately many airlines are not flying as high as they used to, at least metaphorically speaking. Not all that long ago, the nations second largest airline, United Airlines, went into a tail spin, forcing it to land in a chapter eleven bankruptcy. Now it seems like the nations largest airline is about crash and burn as well. American Airlines is threatening that they may have to declare bankruptcy as well, if their union doesn't approve the necessary cuts.

Why are these major airlines doing so poorly? Is it because people are not flying as much? It seems that most flights I have taken lately have been pretty full, and while trying to book a flight, that availability was limited. Maybe because people have started to fly discount airlines such as Spirit Airlines, ATA, Southwest, and Jet Blue.

Then again, is it because people have started to use services such as Hot Wire and Price Line to get the absolute best deal? It might just be the general state that the economy is in, that affects both business and pleasure travel.

Well, for whatever multitude of reasons, the major airlines are struggling to stay afloat. When you are sinking, the first thing most people do is get rid of the excess weight they are caring. If you have flown recently you have probably realized the serious lack of food on most shorter flights. In fact, unless you are flying to California, you

should consider yourself lucky to get a bag of pretzels and a can of soda. Airlines are cutting back left and right, and these cut-backs affect the people that do business with them. Culinary Foods Incorporated, a division of Tyson Foods, based out of the south side of Chicago, which supplies airlines with passenger meals, has just announced that they are laying off four hundred people due to the airline cut-backs.

The airlines are also increasing their restrictions. Reservations are not as easily changed now once they have ticketed. Nine times out of ten, in order to change the date on a ticket, you will have to pay a

"THEY [AIRLINE PERSONNEL] ARE JUST AS RUDE AS THEY ALWAYS WERE"

one hundred dollar change fee. Of course, on that tenth occasion, you will have to pay for a completely new ticket. As far as the actual service goes, according to one frequent flyer, "They [airline personnel] are just as rude as they always were."

Still, it is possible to make your travel experience a relatively good one. In order to get the best deal, shop around and keep an eye out for specials. Try to book at least two weeks in advance. If you are not bound by a tight schedule, try booking through www.priceline.com or www.hotwire.com. I only suggest these options if you have about

twelve hours of leeway in your schedule for both your arrival and your departure.

As far as making your actual flying experiences more enjoyable, try to get to the airport at least an hour before your flight. When you arrive, if you have luggage, ask a skycap to curbside check your luggage for you. It will cost you a few dollars in tip (the going rate is about two dollars a bag), but I think it is better than lugging your bags inside and waiting in line.

Many airlines now have self-check-in, and some have even started a service where you can check in at home via the Internet. Many of these services even allow you to pick your own seat.

Now I know that on an airplane space is a premium; in order to get the most space possible, try requesting an exit row if you are not flying with any small children.

Also, if you are flying United Airlines, request a seat in Economy Plus. Economy Plus is the first 10 rows of coach on United where they give you a few extra inches.

If at first you are assigned a seat that you do not like, don't be afraid to ask for a better one. A little secret: twenty minutes before boarding, all the seats that have not been checked in become available, so keep asking! Once you're on the flight, don't be afraid to ask flight attendants for things; it's their job to serve you.

On a final note, if you do not have a good experience on a flight, do not be afraid to call, e-mail, or write to the airline and ask for compensation.

Prof. White: Don't Hide Behind 'Pro-Life'

Dear Editor,

It would take several tanks of liquid nitrogen to cool the vehement slanders inflaming Daniel Gonzalez's article opposing abortion (*Independent*, 2-4-03). In their absence, I will try to stick to some factual errors.

Mr. Gonzalez writes: "The actual physical and emotional stress placed on women when they have an abortion is beyond anything we can comprehend." Actually, it's quite comprehensible. When he was Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, a strong abortion opponent, commissioned a study hoping to document that women who have abortions suffer from terrible trauma and guilt. When the study showed that no such emotional stress was evident, he attempted to suppress the findings. What is beyond comprehension is the emotional stress anti-abortionists cause women and doctors. Perhaps we might study that.

"Abortion...denies potential stars their chance to shine in our society." The chances that aborting an unwanted pregnancy may prevent the birth of a maniacal killer or mentally and physically defective infants are just as great as the probability that it will prevent the birth of a star. Which brings us to another of Gonzalez's non-points, that we "should stop being so selfish" by practicing abortion. In a world that is dangerously overpopulated, in a country that contains about 6% of the world's population and consumes about 30% of its diminishing resources, having children is more selfish an act than limiting the birth rate.

"There are many families eagerly awaiting a child to love." That should read "eagerly awaiting a *white* child." Many American families travel half-way round the globe so as not to have to adopt the many non-white orphans in the United States who are available for adoption. This means that there are many non-white children in this great racist country of ours who are eagerly waiting to shine and who will probably never be given the chance to have a family to love.

"We are all pro-life in this country." No we're not. I for one can think of a long list of people I would like to see killed. As for the rest of society, we have a murder rate which is second to none, we are one of the few countries in the industrial world that accepts capital punishment, and our military, whose reach covers the globe, has caused more deaths throughout the world than has ever occurred in the history of inhumanity.

Mr. Gonzalez finds it "humorous" that pro-choicers fight "to end capital punishment" or "rally against war." What's so funny about that, Mr. Gonzalez? There is nothing "ironically hypocritical" in people who want to protect a woman's right to abortion being opposed to war or capital punishment, since their stance on abortion does not claim to derive from a general pro-life position. Every society I know of, every religion we are familiar with, accepts the taking of human life under certain conditions. No one I know of is unconditionally pro-life, particularly not those like Mr. Gonzalez, or George W(armonger) Bush, or John (cover that statue's breast and show 'em the gas chamber) Ashcroft. So-called pro-lifers tend to be people who support war, favor capital punishment and the right to bear arms to a greater extent than the rest of the population. In fact, they are not pro-life, but anti-sex. They are the latest representatives in the long history of the churches in the West which have continuously opposed anything that would free up human sexual activity from Church-state control. They regularly branch out from their supposed pro-life stance not to march against war (I've never seen a pro-life banner at any anti-war rally I've ever attended), but to oppose birth control methods of various sorts (abortion being only the latest method to be vilified by these people,) gay rights, women's rights—indeed the rights of anyone to pursue happiness in ways that offend their doctrinaire beliefs.

For sure the Declaration of Independence does state that—"government must ensure life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness," but the Declaration is a document that has no legal standing in this or any other country. The Constitution of the United States has numerous provisions for ensuring liberty, but makes no mention of a right to life or happiness. You can be damn sure that reactionary religious zealots who are stalking this land are dedicated to undermining the legal protections women and men have gained and to limiting the life, liberty, and happiness the Declaration of Independence celebrates and which we have only recently come to enjoy.

Harry White, English Department.

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A not so rosy glow....page 3

The Emperor needs heart...page 4

REV

extremely local entertainment ~ pull-out section

FMLA, The Vagina Monologues opens legs, minds

by Jaclyn Fearheller
Staff Writer

I don't know about you, but any utterance that begins Vagina, Vagina, Vagina is enough to peak my interest. On Thursday February 13th at the Center Stage a production of the highly acclaimed Vagina Monologues was performed by six talented women. Unsure of what to expect I was pleased with the hour I spent listening to the accounts of women from all walks of life talk openly and honestly about their vaginas.

The Vagina Monologues was created by a woman named Eve Ensler and encompasses various true stories about women and some of their experiences specifically related to their vaginas, indicative to their sense of womanhood. I have to admit I never knew there were so many terms to describe the vagina. Powder box, koochie snorter, peach and mina- just to name a few.

Some questions asked were if your vagina could talk what would it say? If you could dress your vagina, what would it wear? Maybe some frilly lace or black leather. Or maybe a baseball cap and some high heels. Some woman reported that their vaginas might say things like- slow down, speed up, stay away or come on in. No pun intended. In any case, each answer given by the woman interviewed was a direct correlation to their individuality.

Each monologue shared with the audience described an experience or instance where a woman had been made aware, either positively or negatively, of their vagina. "My vagina is angry" said one woman as she described her feelings of tampons and visits to the gynecologist. What is the deal with those cold metal

stirrups and scratchy paper gowns she asked. Good question. I too wonder why we can't maintain and perpetuate our physical well being in an environment conducive to some level of comfort. It's truly enough to make any vagina angry.

All six of the performers did a great job in relaying these stories. Their animation and articulation mixed with an obvious level of sensitivity made for a thought provoking hour. I laughed out loud when the woman known as the "groaner" described the many different types of sounds made by all kinds of women during sexual intercourse. She concluded her symphony of screams just before she slumped down in her chair and asked, "Does anyone have a cigarette?"

While there was undoubtedly an element of humor present, there was also a more serious side presented. A

monologue was given about a woman who had been raped by military forces in Kosovo. Described in her story was the stripping of her identity as a woman, going on to say that she no longer knew who or where she was. Aside from the physical pain inflicted on her was a complete annihilation of her sense of self and her spirit. I had to bite my lip to keep from shedding a tear as I listened to the story of one woman's rape, because her situation is far from isolated or unique. I began to think about all the repercussions of sexual violations as they seem to inevitably begin with the vagina.

As I watched the six women who sat before me dressed all in black I began to wonder where I fit into the stories I was hearing. I have a hunch that almost any woman who sees this production could, in one way or another, identify and relate.

Some of us may be aware of the power of our vaginas, while others of us may not. Factors such as personal experience, religion, home and family life, sexual preference and standards set by the societies in which we live have and will play a part in our assessments of our vaginas.

The Vagina Monologues are very simply accounts of truth. What is true and right for one woman may not be for another, and that is what sets us apart as woman -but more importantly as empowered individuals. Say it-Vagina, Vagina, Vagina. This production emphasizes the importance of comfort and the acceptance of womanhood. I enjoyed the Vagina Monologues and would encourage both men and woman to experience it; we just might learn something.

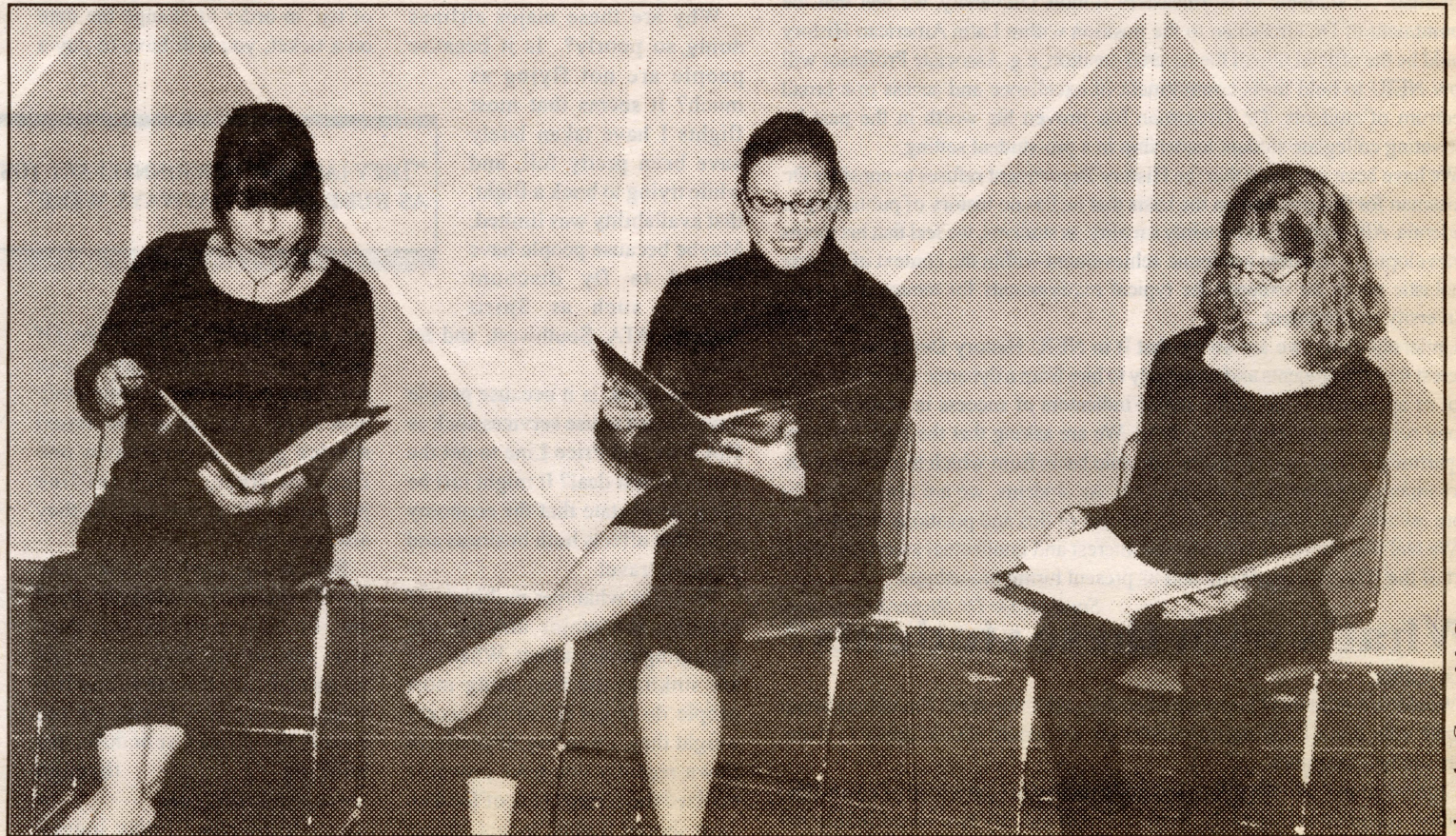


photo by Casey McCowan

Hosted by the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, the production acted as an empowerment of women as they all yelled Vagina, Vagina, Vagina.

"Too much light...." Makes you laugh your ass off

by Joe Allgaier
Staff Writer

Would you like to go see a kickass play? Do you have a sense of humor? Do you have views and opinions? Who cares? Neo-Futurists, that's who! What the heck are Neo-Futurists, you may well ask? Well, they are an experimental performance company, which means that every performance is an experiment. The Neo-Futurists produce the ongoing show *Too Much Light Makes The Baby Go Blind* (30 Plays in 60 Minutes) 51 weekends a year. The show runs Fridays and Saturdays at 11:30 PM (doors open at 11) and Sundays at 7:00 (doors open at 6:30).

I first saw T.M.L.M.T.B.G.B. 12 years ago, when they were at the Live Bait Theater. My sister dragged me there with her friends, and I remember that the play blew my mind then, and left me with a sense of wonder. Now they are in fancier digs, with the entire top floor above the Nelson Funeral Home on Ashland and Foster. It is called the Neo-Futurarium, and the experience of going to the play does make you feel like you are part of an

experiment.

When I got there, I approached the jovial looking fellow at the door and explained The Independent sent me. He checked my ID, gave my friend and me each a poker chip, and said suspiciously, "Mm, OK, but I'm going to keep my eye on you." (All part of the act, I hope!) We proceeded up a long stair, through a hall with some very interesting paintings of 42 presidents, done by all different artists. We then wandered through a brightly painted kitchen, into what we found out later was a waiting room.

The actors, who were kind enough to inform us that the price of the ticket was random, based on the roll of a die, welcomed the audience. As you are let in the show, an actor asks your name, and then writes you a nametag with something entirely different. I was Scary Clown, and the friend I

brought was Whoopee Cushion. (12 years ago when I went I was given the nametag Joker; I wonder if I must look like an evil clown?)

The actors attempt to perform 30 plays in 60 minutes with tremendous energy and agility, involving the audience every step of the way. At the end of each play you are encouraged to shout out the number of the next play you want to see, and the first shouter gets it. Each play is based on real personal issues from each

of the actor's lives, so is performed with passionate honesty. The night I went they did not finish the last play and a half, but it did not phase anyone, such is the uplifted wonder you feel walking out of there. No matter who you are, you owe it to yourself to go see this play!

Why should you go see it? Since you asked,

this play has been evolving and improving continuously since 1988, making it the longest currently running show in Chicago. The Neo-Futurists have toured the world with their antics, being awarded countless honors. All the material is current, as they change a random number of the plays each week based on a roll of dice. Some of the plays dealt with racism in society. One of them, called "COL. Emuthep Huka", locked a random audience member out in the cold! Topics range from national tragedies to persona victories, and I could n't help but feel a profound sense of connection with everyone in the room by the end of the night. My sides were splitting the whole time as well.

Whether you aren't even into going to plays, or wary of seeing something new, there is no excuse for not going to see this play. I promise you will be telling others about it immediately afterwards. Indeed, the Neo-Futurists wished that some of their other plays got as much attention as T.M.L.M.T.B.G.B.

For those who go out earlier, they also perform a

See Too much light, page 3



by Staci Sosenthal
Staff Writer

Superficial romance or true love, well you're about to find out. New at the box office a film by Donald Petrie, director of other popular films such as *Miss Congeniality* and *Grumpy Old Men*. Donald puts together this terrific romantic-comedy, which has audiences laughing their asses off.

The lead actor in this film Matthew McConaughey plays Benjamin Barry along side with his co-star Kate Hudson, who plays Andie Anderson. Andie works for a women's fashion magazine called *Composure*. While her co-star Ben is the advertising executive for and add agency, selling pitches to land big accounts.

Both Ben and Andie are trying to secure their positions at their jobs while going to great lengths to do so. Andie needs to write an article on how to lose a guy in ten days by doing everything a woman can possibly do wrong in a relationship. She got this idea from one of her co-workers that has failed relationships. This way by writing this article, Andie can earn the right to write about most anything she wants. Thinking this, Andie accepts the assignment, and sets out to write



Losing a guy has never been more fun

Hudson, McConaughey deliver in new romantic comedy

Little does Andie know that when her boss lets her freely write, she wants her to write about shoes, clothes or makeup.

On the other end Ben is trying to secure a

diamond account (like Tiffany's) by making a bet with his boss that he can get a girl to fall in love with him in ten days. By doing this he would get the opportunity to sell the diamond account and not his female co-worker.

The movie goes on to show what each person must endure to win his or her respective deals. While deep down subconsciously they fall for each other without realizing it. Throughout the movie Andie thinks and does everything she possibly can to drive Ben away. While in return Ben is doing everything he can to keep Andie and make her fall in love with him despite her tricks. As the movie moves along and the ending is approaching, Ben invites Andie to a dinner where he is going to sell his big account to the diamond dealer.

His hidden agenda at this time is to prove that he made Andie fall in love with him so he can sell the account and not his female co-worker. The night goes on to show some twists and turns, which are so funny that you would have to see the film to believe what happens. I really liked this movie, because it brought to the public eye what can happen in relationships. It also gives us women tips on what not to do in a relationship so we would not drive that certain someone away. In my opinion on a 1-10 scale I would rate this movie a 8, because it was a true to life movie while also being fun and enjoyable on the same scale. I would definitely recommend this movie to anyone.

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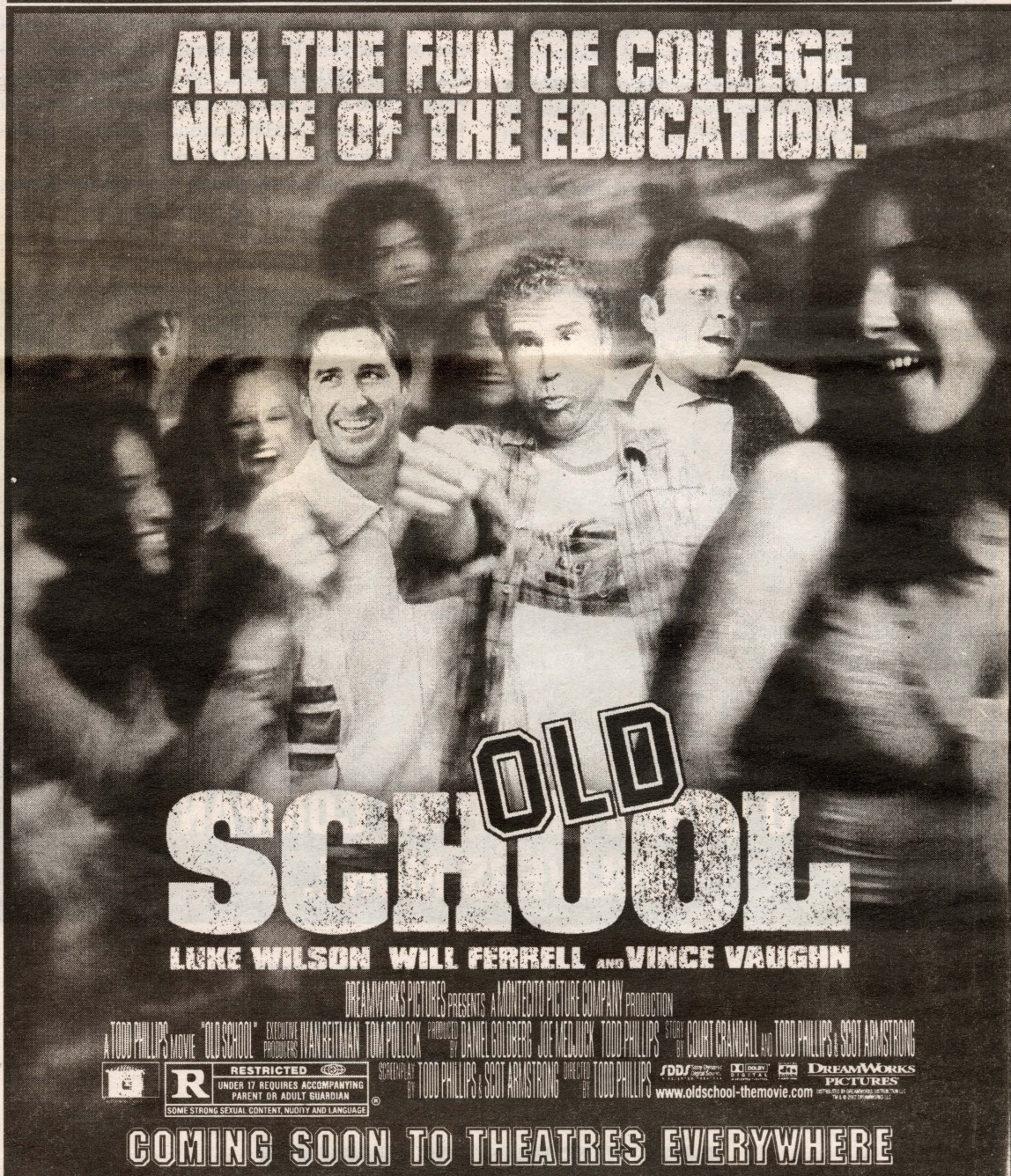
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Caesar conquers Navy Pier

by Chad Nelson
REV/Photo Editor

The Chicago Shakespeare Theatre at Navy Pier, is quite well renowned for its inventive, stirring, and beautiful productions of the Bard's work, and with *Julius Caesar*, their current production, they did not drop the ball. Roman tales of power, ambition, and tragedy translate well into modern settings of political strife and internal backbiting. With updated settings and scenery, from *Citizen Kane* style larger than life posters of Caesar to modern paramilitary battle gear, the production brought archaic values and ideals into the modern era nearly as effectively as Shakespeare brought those same values to life in Elizabethan England.

The acting, with a few minor exceptions, was superb. Caesar was brutal, ambitious and self-aggrandized, yet still somehow contained qualities that evoked pity and care. Brutus, the torn and tragic pseudo-protagonist, was played beautifully. It became quite obvious that Brutus truly did love Caesar like a brother, yet also realized the problems sure to arise if Caesar were to be crowned Emperor.

Some productions I have seen left the audience believing that all of the conspirators, including Brutus, were simply protecting their own political interests, vying to survive the strife of populist political upheaval. This production, however, brought out the plurality of reasons and motives for Caesar's assassination. Brutus acted for love of Rome, Cassius on his jealousy of Caesar's power and popularity, and others on a willingness to follow whomever holds, or rather who is going to, hold power.

What was most striking about the production was the

use of the space to create feelings of immensity at some points, to feelings of claustrophobic entrapment at other times. The stunning luminary effects with visual projections and sparse lighting and ambient, discordant sound running through the second half drove home the madness and chaos of the characters and the action of the play. At times, audience members would jump in their seats, or would shrink back to protect themselves from the violence and intense emotional displays on stage.

One of the most difficult scenes in the show, but also the image that stands out as most fully dramatically realized, was Caesar's murder. The light ringing the conspirators as they surrounded Caesar removed the scene from feeling public domain; turned it into a voyeuristic leap into private affairs of the powerful, and thus also highlighted the intentions of the act as individually politically motivated. Then, their faces as they stabbed Caesar, and Cassius standing behind it all laughing maniacally, drove home how brutal and terrible power ability to corrupt and defile is.

Then, just before a Mark Anthony, as the conspirators dipped their hands into Caesar's blood, the audience is posed an almost direct question; How many times will these bloody deeds be played out again in the future in many different places?

It was a question that resonated out beyond the walls of the theatre, how bloody are the deeds of politicians today who claim to be acting in the general interest? Shakespeare's words are as true now as they were in the 17th century, and the Chicago Shakespeare's production prove it.

Show, an interactive game show extravaganza where the audience members get to play the parts of themselves, contestants, or even host the show! All shows are written, directed, devised, curated and/or performed by Neo-Futurist ensemble members. They also have 2 books published, **100 Plays from TMLMTBGB**, and **Neo-Solo: 131 Neo-Futurist Solo Plays**, available at the theater and by mail at The Neo-Futurists, 5153 N. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60640-2831 Attn: Bureau of Earthly Delights.

This play is continuously teeming with sublime brilliance, and I hope they keep it up for a long time to come. Incidentally, the girl I brought wants to go every week now, not a bad idea! As productions go, it is the best in town.

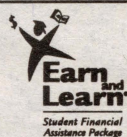
"Too much light" continued

series of prime-time plays at 8pm on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, typically. These require 24-hour advance reservations, and are \$12, but students get a big fat discount of \$4, and every opening night of each 6-week production is "pay-what-you-can"! The currently running full-length play is called *A Duchampian Romp, even*, a play that "tackles the fascinating, mischievous, mystifying world of Marcel Duchamp." It runs through February 22nd.

Next, From March 20 to April 26, is the play *The Emmett Project*, based on the story of Emmett Till, a 14-year-old Mississippi boy murdered in Chicago in the summer of 1954. And from May 22 - June 28, they are doing *Game/Place/*



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albums

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Rosey isn't coming up roses with her debut album.

Gypsy rock my ass

by Cecilia Carboni
Staff Writer

I looked at the cover as I popped the CD in. The girl on the cover, Rosey, looks like she's trying really hard to look innocent yet flirty. I promised myself to be optimistic. The first song shot that down. The intro seemed quirky but it quickly fell flat. Her dragging voice gives little life to the overly synthesized music and I looked to her lyrics for some hope, but to no avail.

The title of each song appears an obnoxious amount of times in each. The first song, "Love", has that very word 21 times in the lyric book alone. I tried counting in the song but I'm not much of a masochist. I won't mention the number of times that word comes up in the entire album. (49, by the way). The melodies start off but never seem to materialize into something. Each track is like another chore. I tried to go through them but no song stuck out, they all sound a lot alike in their approach. It fails to convey any true emotion to the listener.

There is nothing innovative about her despite what some critics have been paid to say. They praise her "melting pot" of music styles, one critic even cited gypsy rock. Gypsy rock is the Gypsy Kings, now that's something to listen to, but I digress. One critic talked about the innovative hip hop beats and the rock influence; I probably got the wrong CD with the case. Some songs have a cute intro but I would hardly call her music an accomplishment.

She has been equaled to several female singers, Fiona Apple one of them; it shows in her (unsuccessful) attempt at that sexy growling voice. Shirley Manson? This girl has no edge. Sarah McLachlan: none of the emotion. As a former talent scout she had no success in promoting any new acts. I wonder why, the judgement that told her she could sing was obviously in use then too. In general, Rosey is a pretty face that stands as a generic to real artists. It's not a disaster but it's not worth sitting through. It has no energy. It is forgettable. It's like drinking flat soda.

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The Emperor needs some new emotions

by Chad Nelson
REV/Photo Editor

Julie Otsuka’s premiere novel *When the Emperor was Divine*, delivers the experiences of a Japanese-American family during World War II. With the father imprisoned on charges of espionage and the family sent to a concentration camp, the characters express a range of emotions and reactions. The children, ages eight and twelve at the onset of the war, experience challenges of adolescence, such as burgeoning sexuality and existential issues authenticity and self.

On top of these common struggles, the children also encounter issues of existing in a culture of paranoia that creates racism and hatred, forced isolation and a disruption of their social lives.

The mother’s stoic external treatment of her families situation juxtaposed with the obvious internal turmoil and breakdown speaks volumes on the effects of internal colonialism on the colonized, specifically on the Japanese-American experience. Then, the fathers appearance in the last section screams the reality of the effect of isolation, propaganda, and separation on the psyche.

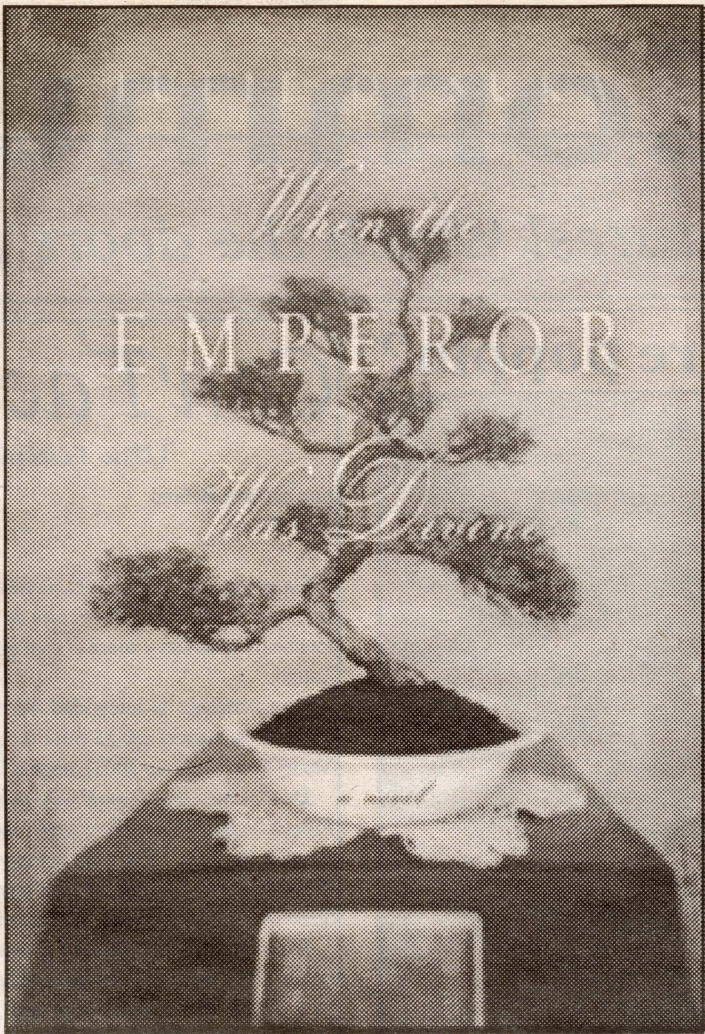
The issues raised by the novel are not just pertinent to its specific context, as it casts portentous shadows onto America’s Cold War mentality for anyone who did not fit the profile of patriotism. The concept resounds even in today’s society where people who fit the description of looking like terrorists are forced to deal with public and private scrutiny and prejudice.


The novel’s strength relies heavily on its subject matter. Personalizing the plight of millions of Americans with characters who express emotion and desire is an important step in dealing with the past. No longer are the “concentrated” people just numbers and facts in a history book or a Defense document. Human struggles emerge; created and complicated by the removal, but still the same struggles that men, women, children of all ethnic backgrounds, in all walks of life deal with.

Otsuka’s spare economy of language, however, leaves the novel simple and unfulfilling at times, however. Some of the “universal” problems the children deal with border on being hackneyed and trite. Some explosions of fierce emotional and metaphoric significance arise, but they are far and few between.

The loss of the family pet is rendered brutally, but somehow serenely, an intense early entry into the families’ realities, but the family never quite comes alive. Their problems never quite become the reader’s problem, as they are too detached and removed, to lacking in the full range of human emotion that one would expect from someone in that situation.

Ultimately, the novel takes its readers to a world full of fear and isolation, but never quite delivers them into any kind realization about it. Otsuka renders the numbers and facts of history with delicate humanity, but sometimes with a sparseness bordering on uncertainty.






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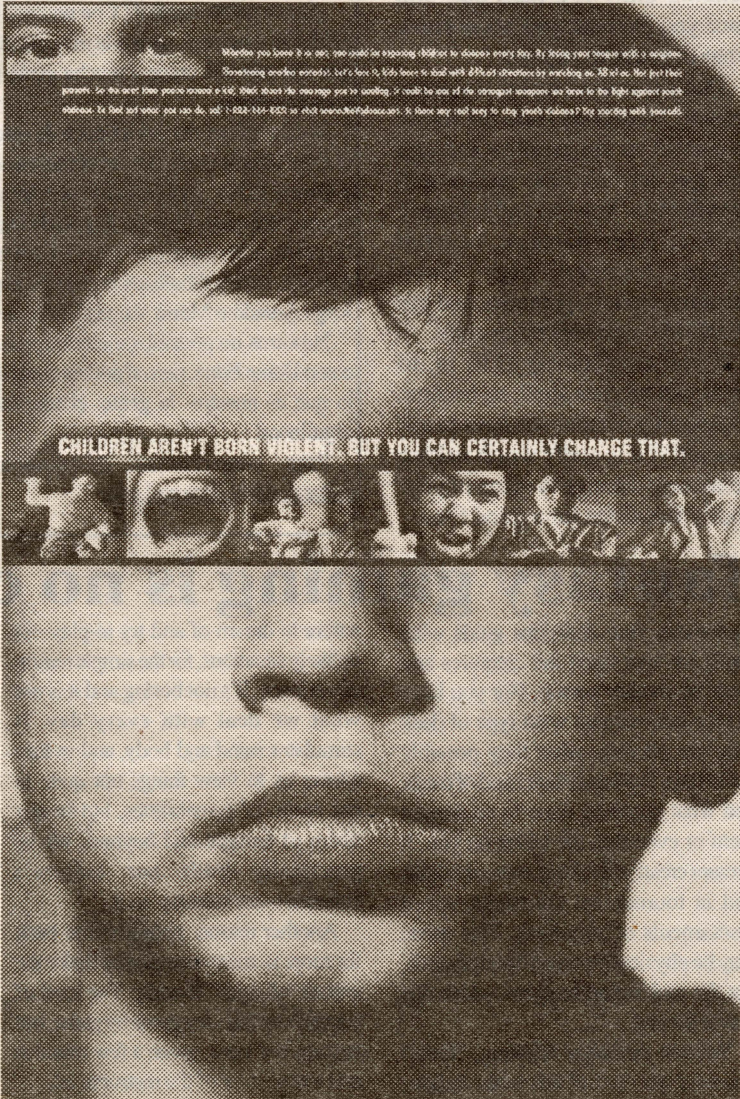
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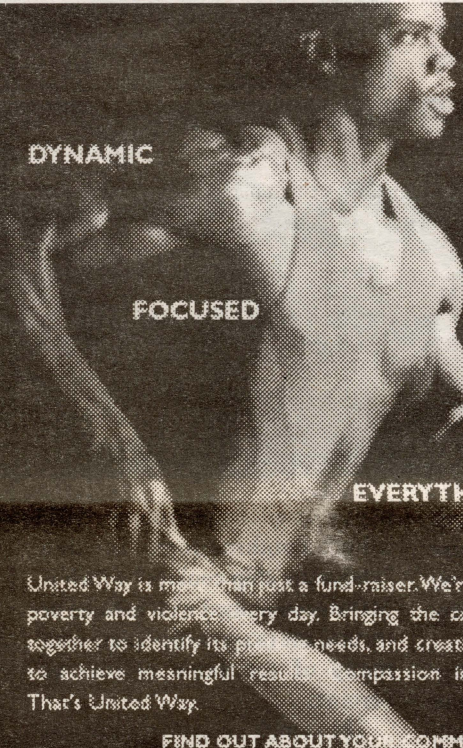
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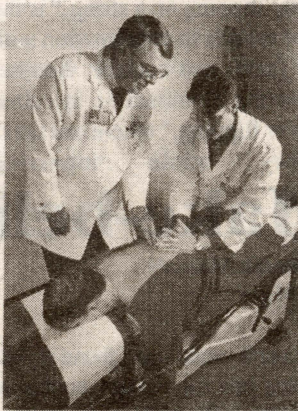
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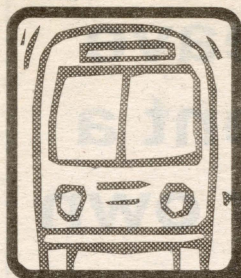
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The Commuter

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

Is it really Ecstasy that you're poppin'?

by Daniel Peikes
Staff Writer

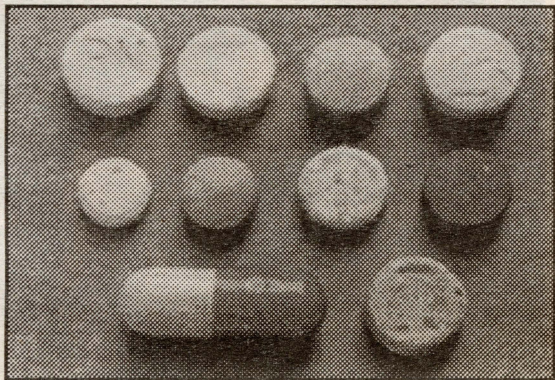
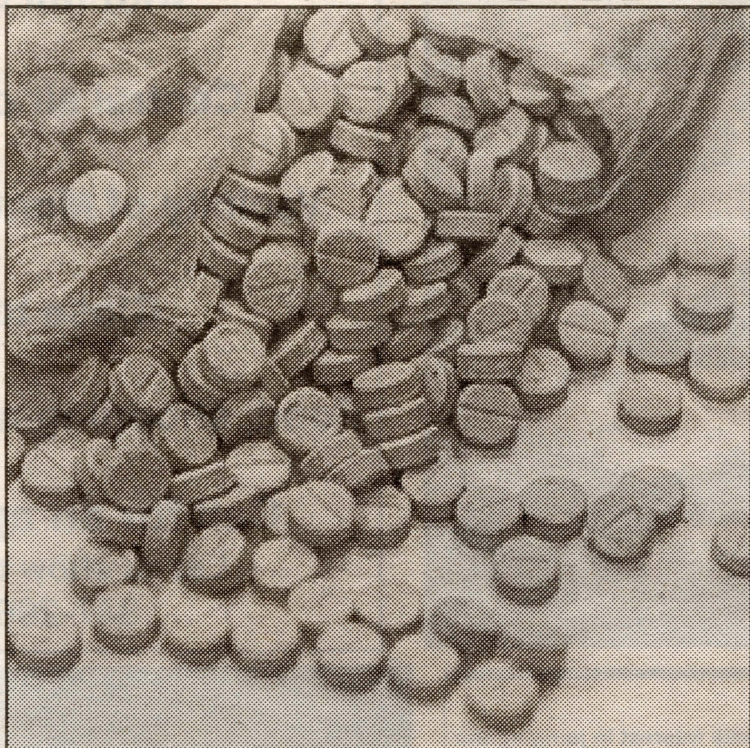
Methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA) is better known as Ecstasy. Some of its other street name include Adam, E, X, XTC, Rolls, Hug Drug, Disco Biscuits, White Doves, New Yorkers, Love Drug, Clarity, Lover's Speed, and Widgits. Why do people take MDMA? MDMA is supposed to have stimulant and hallucinogenic properties. Ecstasy users report increased sensitivity and high energy levels, and that MDMA gives people a euphoric feeling.

It is a popular drug at clubs and raves because it tends to break down people's inhibitions so they feel free to dance with more intensity for longer periods of time, while at the same time have the energy and neurological control of their body to do this. The heightened sensitivity is also said to increase the pleasures of sex. In fact, many people take it in combination with Viagra and refer to it as "hammer heading" or "sextasy." To quote one person, "It's f—ing awesome."

Depending on if you get the ones cut with coke or heroine, because they are all cut with something, you either are majorly wired or totally content."

So, now that you know the reasons to take ecstasy, the question is, why not? First of all, you have to make sure what you are getting is really MDMA. Since MDMA tends to come in pill form, it is nearly impossible to tell what it may be laced with. There's been rumors of it being laced with everything from cocaine and angel dust (PCP) to strychnine, a deadly rat poison.

The taking of ecstasy in combination with other drugs is becoming as increasing popular as titling the combos with seemingly innocuous names. One popular combination, which is refer to as "candy flipping on a string," is the use of ecstasy in combination with LSD (acid) and cocaine. Another interesting combination is called "flower flipping," where one takes ecstasy while ingesting



psychotropic mushrooms. Still other combinations include "chocolate chip cookies" which is MDMA combined with heroine or methadone (a synthetic opiate with many of the same effects as heroine).

The combination of ecstasy and PCP is referred to as "elephant flipping," because it hits you like an elephant. Another common practice is "speedballing," or taking a depressant (downer) and a stimulant (upper) simultaneously. This term originally was used when taking cocaine in conjunction with heroine, but in the MDMA crowd, it has been adapted to the concurrent use ecstasy and ketamine (special K), which is used as an animal tranquilizer.

Ecstasy has become the drug of choice amongst many suburban teens. Among other reasons, this is due to its relative low cost in comparison to marijuana and the belief that is milder than many of the other hallucinogens such as LSD or PCP. It tends to make its

way into many house parties and basement raves. In fact, a nickname has developed for the young MDMA users: candy ravers. Many times they come dressed in candy jewelry and sucking on pacifiers. The pacifiers serve a second purpose; ecstasy use can cause one to clench their teeth uncontrollably. The pacifier prevents permanent tooth damage. With all the variations and availability, Ecstasy is billed as a designer drug. MDMA was designed with similar chemical structure as amphetamines (speed), a stimulant, and mescaline (peyote), a hallucinogenic.

So, assuming somehow you can guarantee that you are getting unadulterated MDMA, why else shouldn't you take it? Let's start with the fact that you may end up dancing until you pass out, and once you pass out you never know what is going to happen!

That's if you are lucky. If you are unlucky, your body loses the ability to control its temperature and you can get serious heat stroke and dehydration. You can suffer kidney failure, liver damage, blurred vision, tremors, high blood pressure, anxiety, paranoia, and use of MDMA destroys brain cells.

If you are looking to fit in, to break out of your shell, to become an outgoing person, you have to ask yourself if it is really worth risking permanent damage to many of your bodily functions for a good time.

ConTacto Latino

Una realidad indignante

por Andrea Belard
Staff Writer

Hace unos días, mientras hacia fila en el supermercado, me encontraba leyendo la revista Vanity Fair del mes de febrero. Allí encontré un artículo que llamó mucho mi atención y sobre el cual quiero comentar en esta edición de ConTacto Latino.

Para mantener la integridad del artículo a continuación, decidí copiarlo en inglés de la manera exacta como lo encontré en la revista: Vanity Fair, (Febrero 2003), página 116. "Ask Dame Edna":

Dear Dame Edna, I would very much like to learn a foreign language, preferably French or Italian, but every time I mention this, people tell me to learn Spanish instead. They say, "Everyone is going to be speaking Spanish in 10 years. George W. Bush speaks Spanish." Could this be true? Are we all going to have to speak Spanish? Torn Romantic, Palm Beach

Dear Torn: Forget Spanish. There's nothing in that language worth reading except Don Quixote, and a quick listen to the CD of Man of La Mancha will take care of that. There was a poet named Garcia Lorca, but I'd leave him on the intellectual back burner if I were you. As for everyone's speaking it, what twaddle! Who speaks it that you are really desperate to talk to? The help? Your leaf blower? Study French or German, where there are at least a few books worth reading, or, if you're American, try English. Dame Edna

Estoy segura que después de haber leído ese fragmento muchos de ustedes quedaron igual o más indignados que yo. Uno empieza a cuestionarse hasta que punto puede ser aceptado el derecho de libre expresión que uno tiene en este país. ¿Dónde estaba el editor de esta revista en el momento de imprimirla? ¿Cómo es posible que una revista con la reputación de Vanity Fair se brinde a hacer públicos comentarios como esos? Para ellos fue fácil poner a Salma Hayek en la portada, sin precaver lo que decía el contenido de la revista. Es obvio que eso no hubiera sucedido si se hubiera escrito algo semejante contra judíos o afro-americanos.

Entre todas las respuestas que esta señora podía haber dado, tuvo que escoger una respuesta denigrante, en la que no solo se pone en contra del español como idioma, pero también en contra de la gente que lo habla.

Ese artículo no solo demuestra la poca información y educación de Dame Edna, sino que nos abre los ojos para darnos cuenta que puede haber mucha gente mal informada por ahí que piensa como ella. Si, cada persona tiene el derecho de tener una opinión y defenderla, pero ninguna persona tiene el derecho de irse contra un idioma y una cultura de la cual no tiene información suficiente.

Los latinos no somos solamente la gente humilde que debe contentarse con trabajos bajos como a los que se refiere Dame Edna, somos también estudiantes con aspiraciones, arquitectos, científicos, atletas, profesionales, médicos, abogados, políticos. Tenemos la misma capacidad y potencial que cualquier persona en el mundo tiene. Muchas de las personas que trabajan limpiando calles o en una cocina de restaurante, son gente profesional en su país, que al venir acá no les quedó otra que contentarse con cualquier trabajo a cambio de ganar un poco de dinero para mantener a sus familias. Eso no los hace menos, ni hace a nuestro idioma un idioma que no valga la pena aprender.

¿Quién habla español? Con una población de 37 millones, o sea un 13% de la población nacional, somos la minoría mas grande de Estados Unidos, una minoría que año tras año crece y mucha gente se da cuenta de la necesidad de aprender nuestro idioma.

Si esta señora tuviera un poco de información sobre nuestra cultura sabría que nuestro idioma es tan rico en literatura como cualquier otro. Más allá de Cervantes o García Lorca, ¿quien puede olvidar a los ganadores del premio Nobel Gabriel García Márquez, Octavio Paz, Gabriela Mistral o Pablo Neruda? ¿Que sería de "La casa de los espíritus" si los latinos no contáramos con la extraordinaria Isabel Allende, o con fabulosos escritores como Jorge Luis Borges, Mario Benedetti, Jorge Amado o Mario Vargas Llosa, solo por nombrar unos cuantos?

Nosotros no podemos meter información en la cabeza de personas ignorantes como Dame Edna, pero si podemos paramos juntos con la frente en alto a defender lo que es nuestro: la gente, el idioma y la cultura de los cuales estamos tan orgullosos.

Para sugerencias o comentarios comunícale conmigo a: andreabelard@hotmail.com

Make-believe world of fantasy gaming is no child's play

by Duncan Macnab
Staff Writer

A couple weeks ago I found myself waltzing into the Fantasy bookstore "Something Wicked" in downtown Evanston. I found myself drawn to the back of the store where all the fantasy games are. This included games like *Magic: The Gathering*, *Dungeons & Dragons*, *Sims*, and others of the role-playing type. A question arose to me at that point: "Why do people play fantasy games?"

There's a logical answer to this question, but like many things, it's complex. First off, these games lead people to an escape from the real world.

Running your minds through the tributaries of complex stories and interacting with different mythical creatures while exploring strange new worlds is just a start. Next to dreaming, it's one of the best ways that one can truly take themselves back to when they were kids, playing with their friends in far away places built purely from their imagination. It also allows peoples' minds to become more creative through learning how to tell a story and having to think six steps ahead of everyone else.

Fantasy games can also help people become better problem solvers through the mental trials that the games put them through. For example, in *Magic: The*

Gathering, your decisions guide what spells are cast upon the creatures and lands of another person. But you have to take into account what type of deck they are playing, what they possibly could have lurking in their hand of cards, and what could be done to counteract them or even turn the tables on you. It stresses creative thinking, memory skills, and in tournament situations, speed assessments of situations. This game may be physically played through cards, but the real action happens within the player's mind.

You are probably thinking, "Don't you ever get tired of this make believe crap?" Well, no. We as humans have a thirst for mystery and fantasy. It is human

nature to dream of and try to play out unlikely situations, for the simple reason of variance. It's not boring and it is not what we deal with every day. It stimulates mind and body, and in turn allows us to view things not quite in our realm of possibilities, but in our realm of thought and beyond. We've practically built our culture's entertainment industry on it.

Another reason people come back for more is many companies make the games "all-ages" friendly. The level of complexity can vary game by game, but anyone can learn given a few minutes and a read-over of the instructions.

The fantasy gaming world is also in constant motion. More editions are

created to keep the game from becoming outdated and boring. Every few months, new expansions of *Magic: The Gathering* cards are released. Wizards Of The Coast, the company that makes *Magic: The Gathering*, publish books to give the story behind the cards.

Why are playing these fun games? Somewhere, deep inside of us, we want to be kids again. We want imagine that we are someone else, doing something exciting. We want to pretend that we are still with our best friend from the third grade, in that fort we used to make, pretending that we were spacemen going the moon to get some cheese.

Fantasy games are simply one way to realize that desire.

Fitness Matters

Provided by the Office of Campus Recreation
by Michelle Thall
Special Contributor

Recently there has been a lot of controversy over High Fat versus High Carbohydrate diets. It's critical to recognize this is not just an issue for people trying to lose weight. Whether you are trying to lose, gain, or maintain weight, what you eat affects your health.

In July 2002, the NY Times Magazine cover story by Gary Taubes reported that scientists were finally agreeing with the Atkins high-fat, no-carbohydrate diet approach, first published in 1972. This touched off a heated media debate on the "fat vs. carb" issue. One key response, published in November in the CSPI Nutrition Action Health Letter, criticized Taubes reporting and noted many of the experts from the Times article felt they had been misquoted or misinterpreted.

To decipher the truth you have to go to the detail. Some fats are actually good for you and essential for health, while some should be eaten sparingly, and others not at all. Likewise, while carbohydrates comprise the largest portion of a diet recommended by most nutritionists, all carbs are not created equal. Finally, it's important to understand not only which foods should be avoided, but also those that should be eaten to improve health.

Fats are classified as saturated and unsaturated. Saturated fats are found in meat products and consumption is still recommended only sparingly by most sources. "Trans" fats present in hydrogenated and partially-hydrogenated vegetable oils, most margarines, and many packaged baked goods, are the worst health risk and should be avoided. Some unsaturated fats, common in vegetable oils, are now being recommended to improve health.

The chart from the internet WebMD identifies healthy fats:

FOOD SOURCE	FAT TYPE - BENEFITS	USES
Olive Oil	Omega-6 Fatty Acids & 30-40 antioxidants.	Helps protect the heart & reduce cancer risk. Use in place of butter or margarine, drizzle on bread; excellent for cooking.
Canola Oil	Omega-3 fatty acids. Helps reduce blood pressure & LDL cholesterol.	Use in place of other vegetable oils for cooking and in salad dressings.
Fish - Salmon, Tuna, Striped Bass, Mackerel, Herring, Sardines	Omega-Fatty Acids. See above. Try slow-baked at 200 degrees for 20-30 minutes to retain moisture.	
Nuts - Almonds, Walnuts, Pecans, Peanuts	Monounsaturated. Helps lower LDL cholesterol & reduce the risk of heart disease risk when eaten in place of other fatty foods. Use only nut butters without hydrogenated vegetable oils or eat raw as a snack.	

It's also helpful to think of carbohydrates in groups: refined, vegetables and fruits, and whole grains. Refined include sweets, white bread, and sugared sodas and should be eaten sparingly as they have little nutritive value. Vegetables and fruits are high in vitamins and minerals and most have a low glycemic index, which means you stay full longer after eating them. In addition, many vegetables contain "phytochemicals" a new class of nutrient getting a lot of attention these days. They are thought to act as antioxidants and may reduce the risk of cancer and heart disease. Whole grains also have a low glycemic index and are high in fiber, which has been shown to reduce the risk of colon cancer. Carbohydrates in the form of vegetables, fruits, and whole grains should make up the largest portion of your diet. Contrary to popular opinion, carbs such as rice, pasta and potatoes fall somewhere in between, have a moderate glycemic index, and should be eaten in moderation.

So what's a glycemic index (GI)? Carbohydrates are ranked by the food's ability to contribute to glucose (sugar in its simplest form in the body) in the blood stream. The faster the carbs are converted to blood sugar, the higher the glycemic index number. The GI numbers rank from 1 to 100 with an example being grapefruit at a GI of 25 to a baked potato at a GI of 85. This means that a grapefruit will enter the blood stream slowly thus give sustained energy, while a baked potato will enter the blood stream more rapidly to give immediate energy.

Final answer: A diet including NO fats or NO carbs is NO good. The key to a healthy diet is moderation and remembering, it's not always what you *exclude* from your diet, but what you intentionally *include* in your diet that can increase your odds of living a long, healthy life.

You can access the CSPI (Center for Science in the Public Interest) website at www.cspinet.org for more great nutritional information.

Send your Questions to: personal-training@ncii.edu

Alcohol has its good side

Benefits outweigh risks when you drink moderately

by Joe Hertel
Staff Writer

As I sat at the computer while having another beer, I began to wonder why my editor gave me another assignment dealing with alcohol consumption, and the benefits thereof. I could tell you the benefits that alcohol has had for my life, but that is more on a social level, whereas the editor is concerned about the health aspects, so that is where I shall begin.

My grandmother always said, "All things in moderation," and I believe that. Any food, any drink, or any activity can become harmful and even life threatening when abused. And when the benefits of alcohol consumption are discussed, one must carefully weigh the physical and psychological risks involved and not just begin drinking because you found out that it was good for you. Just as the tobacco companies deny harmful effects while touting minor benefits, so too the liquor producers had their say. But in their case, these benefits are supported by actual independent medical reports and studies.

In December of 1999, a report published in the British Medical Journal by researchers at the Harvard School of Public Health stated that "two drinks a day will reduce the risk of heart attack in individuals by at

least twenty-five percent. The authors found equal benefit for beer, wine, and spirits."

The report continued to say, "By examining over 75 previous clinical studies in which alcohol was provided in experimental doses, the researchers have pinpointed two mechanisms by which alcohol reduces risk of coronary heart disease (CHD). Ethanol alcohol increased HDL-cholesterol ("good cholesterol") and reduces clotting ability in the blood." The study I refer to is "Moderate Alcohol Intake and Lower Risk of Coronary Heart Disease: Meta-Analysis of Effects on Lipids and Hemostatic Factors," and can be found online at www.bmj.com; it summarizes 25 years of experimental alcohol research.

It is not difficult to see that when we talk about the average individual having one or two glasses of wine or beer at dinnertime, that it is not going to turn one into a roaring drunk, and everyone knows that wine aids in the digestion of food. Even Paul the Apostle encouraged one of his men to "have a little wine for thy stomach's sake."

Psychologically, alcohol acts as a relaxant, lowers the libido, and makes us feel more at ease. We consider it to be an acceptable "ice breaker" at social gatherings. One can sound more knowledgeable and appear more impressive holding a martini or scotch on the rocks in his hand. And if it's kept at that level no more than two or three drinks a day, we will feel the benefits with little risk. But if there is abuse, we wind up more like the gang at Moe's bar on *The Simpsons*, and any

benefit alcohol might have is lost to the increased risks and impairment it produces when a b u s e d .

Reuters reported that a Danish study, published by the American Heart Association in the journal *Stroke*, found that persons who drink moderate amounts of wine (one to six glasses a week) had a thirty-four percent lower risk of stroke compared to those who never or hardly drank wine. A sixteen-year study of more than 13,000 people, conducted by Dr. Thomas Truelsen at the Institute of Preventive Medicine, concluded: "Wine, especially red wine, contains plant compounds that may be healthy and beneficial, including tannins, flavonoids, and polyphenols. Some studies indicate that these substances can act as antioxidants, which can help stop fat from sticking to artery walls."

We are all aware of the risks of excessive alcohol consumption, and there is no need to expound on the physical problems such as cirrhosis of the liver, cancer, and high blood pressure. Not to mention the immediate after-effects of binge drinking, such as finding yourself suddenly in the after-life, or with a steering wheel wrapped around your head in an emergency room, or waking up with a strange person in bed with you. And, as humorously put by a statement in Harvard Medical Journal: "A drink a day may keep the cardiologist away, but several drinks a day and the oncologist may be your constant companion!"

I must stress that this is not a recommendation that you start drinking. Rather, it is a caution that if you do drink, please drink in moderation; it may prove a health benefit for you. Now, if you will excuse me, I have to run out and buy some more beer.



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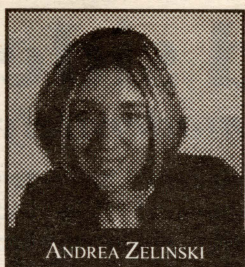
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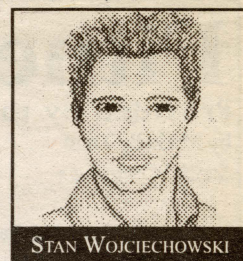
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ANDREA ZELINSKI

STAN'S LIFE



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI

Throughout the past few issues, Stan has been caught in a number of uncomfortable situations with Tori, his girlfriend. After introducing her to his 2 year-old daughter, Tori was left confused and overwhelmed by the new addition to their relationship. To make matters worse, while on their Valentine's dinner date, Stan was falsely accused of dating a redhead who confronted him at his table. Little did Stan and Tori know, this woman is directly associated with Lyndsey and her devious plan to break up the happy couple. Read on to see how the drama unfolds.

The brisk wind sent a shiver up Tori's spine as she rushed towards her car. The blast of air gained momentum as she reached the driver's side door. Her stiff, numb fingers frantically searched for the right key as the rest of her body trembled uncontrollably. As she carefully slid the metal key into the keyhole, another gust of wind pushed her off balance, causing her to drop her backpack.

"Damnit," she muttered as she opened the car door and loaded her belongings inside. She started the car as she glanced at the time. "Quarter after 2," she said to herself while buckling the seat belt. *Should I really be doing this?* She turned the temperature dial to warm and pressed the rear defrost button. *Do I really want to get involved?*

Her mind bubbled with unanswered questions and unfair assumptions. She sat still, staring straight ahead to the crowded parking lot, yet saw nothing at all. Her mind was racing, yet she couldn't put her finger on what she wanted to do, say, or think.

She pulled out of the parking lot and drove towards Foster. *What do I want to do?* Sitting in the left lane to head home towards the city, she contemplated whether to act on her intuition, or merely let it go. As the light turned green, she cut across the right lane and headed west on Foster, towards the suburbs.

After a half-hour's drive, she was at the intersection of Cumberland and Grand avenue. "It was somewhere around here," Tori said to herself as she attempted to navigate her way to Franklin Park. Taking a left onto Grand Avenue, she eventually reached River Road. She pulled over to a small take-out joint and parked her car.

Walking into the crowded hotdog stand, Tori examined the menu. Her stomach rumbled for lack of food. She hadn't eaten since the day before. As she reached the counter, she clumsily ordered a hot dog with ketchup and mustard.

"We don't carry ketchup," snapped the

teenage boy behind the counter. If you want it, you have to pay for it at the McDonald's next door. Do you want anything else?"

She declined as the embarrassment washed over her. *Why would I have to pay for ketchup? What kind of restaurant is this?* She paid for her hot dog and beverage and raced back to her car. As she turned her car back on, she unwrapped the package and began to eat from the pile of French fries suffocating the hotdog. Turning back onto the main road, she glanced at the restaurant sign, Gene and Judes. "Just past Gene and Judes," Tori said to herself, trying to remember the directions Stan had given her nearly a month ago. She quickly turned right on Grand and began searching for a familiar street.

Her stomach tensed as she anxiously searched for anything familiar. A heavy weight settled in her chest, weighing her down and causing her breath to quicken. Her stomach rumbled again as she reached for another French fry. *I can't even eat.* She put the fry back down and found the street she needed to turn on. After nearly a block, she pulled in front of Crystal's house.

Trying to collect her thoughts for a moment, Tori remained in her car for a couple minutes. *Of all people, Crystal might be the only one I can get answers from...and I need answers.* She paused and forced a bite of the hotdog down her throat. *I don't think I even know who Stan is. How can I know who he is? He has all these secrets and surprises. Anytime I get close to knowing who he is, something else happens to throw a monkey wrench in it all.* She took another bite. *I need answers, and I need them now.* Tori wrapped the

remains of her hotdog and fries back up, got out of the car, and marched to Crystal's front door.

She stood in front of the door, and nervously pressed the doorbell. She could hear the bell echo along with a TV blaring in the background. Tori glanced at her reflection in the screen door. Bags had developed under her eyes and some of her make-up had worn off. Her once bright green eyes were clouded over by an uneasy dullness.

She took a deep breath as the door slowly crept open. Crystal held the door in her right hand and a cigarette in her left. She studied Tori with a confused glare. "You're Stan's girlfriend, right?" she asked through the screen door.

Tori nodded her head in response and asked to be let inside. She offered a warm smile as Crystal unlocked the flimsy screen door and allowed her inside.

"I'm sorry to just stop by without calling, but I wanted to know if we could talk for a little while," Tori explained as Stan's daughter ran from the narrow hallway into the living room aside her mother. "Hi Alexis!" Tori exclaimed as the little girl stepped towards her, raising her arms. Tori picked her up as she awaited a response from Crystal.

"Sure," she said leading Tori to the couch. "What is it you wanted to talk about?"

"Well," she paused, "I'm a little worried about..."

"Play dolls with me!" the little girl insisted as she shoved a half dressed Barbie in Tori's hand. "Now!"

"Do you want anything to drink? A coke or something?" asked Crystal as she left for the kitchen.

"Uh... no. Thank you," Tori replied distracted. The little girl tugged on her arm, persisting. She took a deep breath and tried to remember what exactly drove her to talk to Crystal. *I need answers. What was it I wanted to say? God, this is hard.*

Crystal returned shortly with a can of diet coke in her hand. She sat across from Tori and cracked open the can. She slowly took a sip of the soda, put it down, and picked up a cigarette. "So why are you here?"

Tori started the conversation by explaining that Stan had been acting weird and she's afraid something was going on at home that she didn't know about. Though she knew this wasn't the actual case, she knew it would act as an icebreaker. Once she dug deeper, Tori asked about his past and found out more than she bargained for.

"Have you even known him to be untrustworthy or deceitful?" Tori asked.

Crystal rolled her eyes. "Are you afraid he's gonna cheat on you or something?" Tori shook no in response. "Let me tell you something, honey. You don't get Stan. Its not that you don't have him, because you obviously do. Not very well if you came out here just to dig up his past because you don't trust him."

"But..."

"Don't interrupt me," Crystal scolded. "I don't mean to be rude, but you have to understand this. You don't get him. You don't know who he is and what he's about. You don't know how he is and why he is that way. Honey, if at this point, you don't get him, you never will," Crystal took a puff of her cigarette. "Now tell something, does he get you?"

"What?" Tori said, quite taken aback.

"Does he get you?"

After a few moments of collecting her thoughts, Tori finally answered. "He cares about me a lot. He's always concerned about what I'm doing and he seems very supportive." *But I don't think he really knows who I am. This whole time, I was only concerned on whether I know him. I don't think we've ever reached the threshold of a closer connection. I guess our relationship is held together by passion and commitment. We aren't too intimate on any other level. Maybe he doesn't really know me.*

"Honey, listen to a voice of experience," she said as she picked up her daughter and placed her on her lap. "Be happy with what you have. Stan will never knowingly hurt you. But realize that he will hurt you. And its only because he can't help it."

Tori left Crystal's house minutes later, knowing exactly what she had to do.



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Relationship truths: Men vs. Women

A guide to keeping post breakup friendships

by Dove O'Conner
Staff Writer

As I began this project and passed out the survey to my classmates, I was pretty confident that most men would say *yes* and most women would say *no*. However, the further I got in to it, the more I realized how each individual has a very different experience, and the results of the survey were not in accordance with my initial beliefs.

The stats for the men are as follows: fifteen said yes, eleven said no, and two said it depends on the circumstances. Women, on the other hand, had the following results: twenty-six said yes, nine said no, and ten could not make up their mind. Looking at these numbers, it is difficult to come to any conclusions as far as the men's feelings go.

The answers are fairly close to being even. The men seem to all have different experiences and get their answers from these experiences, making it hard to predict any sort of pattern of behavior.

With the women, it was astonishing how wrong I was. Twenty-six women actually believe friendship after

breaking up is possible; most are even still friends with ex's. Then again, there are ten women who were confused by the yes and no questionnaire I passed out. Looking at the women's answers you could assume most women believe in friendship after having a relationship. Only nine said no, and most of these were due to personal experiences of being burned. On the other hand, there were ten that did find it hard to say yes or no; each experience is different, and therefore each reaction is going to be different. Surveys can be looked at many angles, and whichever angle you choose to look at will more often than not lead to the conclusion you want to find.

You could make a whole lot of assumptions and even a hypothesis and prove it with your assumptions. However, for this survey, I learned there is no cut clean answer. Relationships are complex from the start; you do the whole dating thing, then you figure out when you kiss them, and then decide if you want to take it farther or not. It is a lot of pressure, mainly from other people butting in all the time.

So most people like to have a foundation before dating, and friendships—especially

nowadays—can be among the most solid of foundations. Some people only date their friends; it is safer to them.

Some like this 26-year-old female, who said, "The dating part of the relationship is just the physical stuff." She only goes out with friends, finds close bonds with them, and also maintains friendships afterwards. Others such as this man, age 19, feel that "College students should just stick to casual sex until all their financial aid runs dry; then you can try a relationship." He feels that friends should not date, and a friendship afterwards is not realistic. Some people believe that after breaking up, you should take time off from each other; then friendship is possible. This 20-year-old man suggests "three months minimum breathing space." One woman disagreed, saying that there is no clear-cut answer. "Every situation is different as each individual is different."

While the findings of the survey are certainly interesting, perhaps the only conclusion we can make from this experience is that there is no easy answer to the question. Each experience truly is different, and that is one thing that both men and women can agree on.

Are vegans getting enough?

by Daniel Peikes
Staff Writer

Lately there has been a bit of an uproar about vegan (people that eat no animal products) mothers that breastfeed not passing enough Vitamin B-12 on to their children. There is good reason for this concern. Vegans, unlike lacto-ovo-vegetarians (people that eat milk and eggs), tend to be deficient in protein and B-12. Now if balanced correctly, a vegan diet can be very healthy.

If a breastfeeding vegan mother does not get enough B-12 herself, odds are her child will be deficient in it as well. The problem with B-12 deficiency is that it is hard to detect at a young age. Since the body's B-12 requirement is small and the body both stores and recycles it, a deficiency may not be noticed for many years. A baby can suffer permanent stunts in their developmental process from a lack of B-12, specifically in fine motor and communicative skills.

Many vegans eat vegetables such as spirulina, sea vegetables, tempeh, and miso for their B-12 intake. The problem is the B-12 in these vegetables tends to be inactive. The American Dietetic Association suggests supplementation or fortified foods to make up for this.

A second of the problems with a vegan diet is iron intake. Most plants only contain only nonheme iron. This type of iron is more sensitive to both inhibitors and enhancers of iron absorption. The body absorbs it very poorly due to this.

However, while there is anemia found commonly in both vegans and omnivores, some propose that

vegan's higher vitamin C intake may help them with iron absorption. Regardless, it's still recommended to be safer for vegans to take supplements to make sure their bodies receive the proper amount of iron that it requires to survive and function in healthy working order.

Another concern is that many vegans are not vegans for the purpose of health, religion, or moral issues. Some take on a strictly vegan diet to mask anorexia, a very serious eating disorder. Anorexia can kill you. One cannot live on a stalk of celery a day. Furthermore, if you are breastfeeding as an anorexic, you are denying your child essential nutrients he or she needs to grow. Breastfeeding also compounds problems for the mother, as she tends to lose about 500 calories a day through breast milk.

Despite these possible complications, there are many benefits to being a vegan. It lowers your chance for many circulatory diseases. In addition, a diet high in vegetables contains many antioxidants such as vitamin C and E that are believed to help prevent cancer. Incidence of hypertension seems to be decreased in vegans when compared to omnivores.

There is a right way and a wrong way to subscribe to veganism. There are many nutrients available in plants that people believe are only in animal products. A diet rich in legumes and grains is very important to maintain a proper intake of proteins and amino acids. Other nutrients that vegans need to take special care to receive enough are zinc, vitamin D, and of course, B-12. When thinking of a diet change, please take into account how it could affect your children.

UNIVERSITY DAY 2003

"Retention: Goals, Practices, and Outcomes"

Thursday, March 6, 2003

PRESENTATIONS FOR STUDENTS, FACULTY, AND STAFF

Opening Event/Keynote Address by Mark Kelly, Vice President of Student Affairs at Columbia College

(9:25 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. – Alumni Hall)

"Where's the Money? How to Pay for College"

(10:50 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. – SU003)

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"

(10:50 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. – SU214)

Reviews what we have learned about effective teaching from working with dozens of faculty members throughout the last two years of Northeastern's Title V faculty development project.

"Giving Students a Voice: Cultural Experiences in the Classroom"

(12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – SU214)

A diverse panel of Northeastern students discusses how integrating their cultural backgrounds into their course work help them to better identify with what they are learning.

"Community Building on Campus"

(12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – Golden Eagles)

Presents various forms of learning communities as means for promoting student success at Northeastern. The format of this session will include audience participation.

"Dealing with Difficult People"

(same workshop offered at 10:50 a.m. – 12:05 p.m. – Golden Eagles, and 12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – SU003)

Workshop for support staff focusing on strategies for coping with difficult people. (Space must be reserved by contacting Jacqueline Olivera, ext. 4205, e-mail address: j-olivera@niu.edu)

"NEIU Alumni Discuss Their College Experience"

(1:40 p.m. – 2:50 p.m. – Alumni Hall)

Northeastern alumni will discuss why they came to Northeastern, why they stayed at Northeastern, as well as some of the obstacles they had to overcome as students. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided.

For further information contact Joy Tricola-Koules at ext. 3212

E-mail address: j.tricola.koules@niu.edu

Visit our web site at: www.niu.edu/~day/



Golden Opportunities

2000-2001 ICPA Winner for Best Classified Ad Section in the state

For Sale

NEIU student offering books, flyers, brochures, the Qur'an, and other information about Islam and Muslims. Good material and reasonable prices! Call Robert at (773) 480-1057 Mon-Fri after 3 pm and all day Sat and Sun. Or e-mail: rd_hull_97@hotmail.com Same student also offering books for the MCSE exam. NT Server 4, NT Workstation 4. Best prices for this material. Call or email to above.

Kenwood stereo with remote. 3-CD changer, dual tape deck AM/FM with digital tuning. \$145 or best offer. (773) 761 - 4408

Royal Blue Sofa and arm chair. Beautiful tweed fabric, maple wood trim. Durable, like-new set seats across. Valued at \$1700, now \$200. (773) 297-3839

NEIU Student offering books, flyers, audio tapes, Quran and other information about Islam and Muslims. Good material at reasonable prices. Robert 773-480-1057 Mon-Fri after 12 rd_hull_97@hotmail.com

1989 Toyota Camry- \$1000/ O.B.O. 123 K miles, V6 Automatic, runs great. (847) 759-9489

For Sale. Yellow lab puppy. 3 months old. Shots up-to-date, includes cage, shampoo, brush, dog food, collar, leash. Make best offer - call (773) 973-4364

Brand NEW Student math tutorial CD/software for Math 091. Only \$10! If interested contact Brigid (773) 620-9436

3 Bedroom apartment for rent. Near Western and Peterson. \$1100/mo, heat included. Call (847) 338-5121. Available immediately.

2 Bushnell Binocular Set 10X50 w/neck strap+ease; 8X21 w/ ease. Brand new, never been opened. Retail for \$75, now only \$45. (708) 984-9835

Frank's Fret Shop. Guitar repair, design and sales. 3909 N. Cicero (773) 545-6047

1992 Pontiac Grand Am Sedan 4dr. Power windows & locks 75,000 miles \$2,000 or best offer (773) 271-7897

Wanted

WANTED! Students to write for NEIU's Latino publication, "Que Ondee Sola." Interested? Call ext. 4583 or visit E-041

JOIN A GROWING COMPANY! EMPIRE HOME SERVICES (Empire Carpet) is continuing rapid growth & is in need of **Customer Service Reps.** for our Lincolnwood facility. Full & Part-Time, day & evening shifts available. Solid Microsoft Office, data entry, & telephone customer service skills are required. We offer competitive benefits & salary. Enjoy a fun, busy, & casual environment. Forward resume & salary requirements to: hrgo@empirecarpet.com Fax 847-583-3095. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. Equal Opportunity Employer NO PHONE CALLS!

Enthusiastic College Students WANTED. Chicago based mortgage Compan is looking for enthusiastic students interested in making a salary plus commissions. Daytime and Nighttime hours available. Call now Gil or Todd at 312-981-5255

Bartender Trainees Needed. \$250 a day potential. Local Positions. 1-800-293-3985 ext. 787

Wanted: Latino Parents & boys for a focus group. Parents w/a son between 9-11 yrs. receive \$40. Boys between 9-14 yrs. receive \$25. Call (773) 320-1408 to register.

1999 Pontiac Sunfire Low Mileage- A great car for school and work. \$6995 Or best offer Call for more information (708) 705-0308

Spring Break

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Jamaica, Bahamas, Acapulco, Florida & Mardigras. TRAVEL FREE, Reps Needed, EARN\$\$\$ **Group Discounts for 6+.** 1 888 THINK SUN (1-888-844-6578) /

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Wanted! Spring Breakers! Sun Coast Vacations wants to send you on Spring Break 2003 to Cancun, Acapulco, Mazatlan, Jamaica or the Bahamas for **FREE!** Call us now at 1-800-795-4786 or email us at sales@suncoastvacations.com!

Organizations

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

There is a newspaper on campus! The *Independent* is looking for writers, cartoonists, photographers and we welcome any and all students. Come down to E-049 and find out.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Care about your environment? Let's start a NEIU environmental organization! Contact or leave message for Sarah (773) 561-5131 or rev01@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!

The Death Penalty on Trial: Communities in Pursuit of Justice February 21st 10am-4pm in the Student Union. For more information on this subject: deathpenaltyontrial@yahoo.com

Personals

MQ: YOu mean so much to me. Why can't you understand that without arguing withme?

The next time you cut me off in the parking lot, I'll shank your tires. You are a menace on the road!

Joe: Thanks for the soup. It was fantastic! It made me seee through time!!

Violet: I miss you and my cell phone is broken! Call me... please -E

The dueling banjo hamsters are after after me.

PB&J: Yeah, I can't believe it either. Now get back to work.

For a strange yet fun time, go to http://www.neopets.com/refer.phtml?username=the_grouchy_fairy. hahahah!

The way you make my sandwich lights me on fire. Keep 'em comin'.

**NOTICE
SOMETHING
MISSING?
YOU!
JOIN
THE
INDEPENDENT**

**NEXT
MEETING:
MARCH
4TH
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: