

4-8-2003

Independent- Apr. 8, 2003

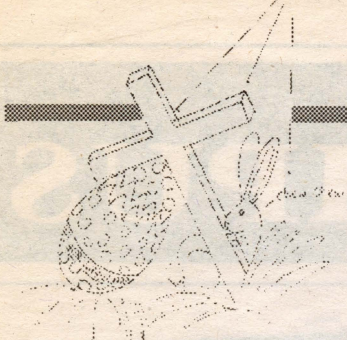
Andrea Zelinski

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THE INTIMATE
HISTORY OF THE
EASTER RABBIT
AND THE HOLIDAY
IT REPRESENTS.
PAGE 7

SGA ELECTIONS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9 &
THURSDAY, APRIL 10
COVERAGE NEXT ISSUE!

PLAY DR. WITH THE
NEIU PRODUCTION OF
THE GOOD DOCTOR



SINCE 1988

4 TIME 2001-2002 ICPA AWARD WINNER

CHICAGO, IL.

Independent

Vol. 19 Issue 16

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Tuesday, April 8th, 2003

NEIU student finds gateway to Financial Aid through basement

Numerous passageways to the most crucial offices in the university are easily accessible during off hours

by Atoor Lawandow
Staff Writer

In the basement right underneath Beck's Bookstore, immediately before the cafeteria entrance, there is an entryway under construction. This lies at the end of a hallway, and this door leads to yet another door, which then opens up into the basement of the Cahier's Office.

Over spring break, late in the evening on March 18th, *Independent* production editor Patrick O'Brien and a second student discovered the open door of the dark entryway. Curious, O'Brien investigated further, discovering that both doors leading to the Cashier's Office were unlocked.

Upon further investigation, it was

discovered that some cash-drawers were left compromised with money possibly still in them, as well as file cabinets that hold the student's financial aid records being open, and stacks of parking permits left out in the open.

According to O'Brien, he was more shocked to notice that, although the Cashier's Office is monitored by security cameras, no Public Safety guards came to the office until fifteen minutes after they were already inside.

Furthermore, the police who finally did come to check on the two decided to conduct a search on O'Brien--something that Northeastern security guards are not allowed to do, according to Lt. Jack Baker. After the search,

O'Brien was let go, without an incident report being filed. O'Brien is quoted as saying "the three officers who stopped me commented that," "now we should begin rounds in this hallway as well," implying that

the hallway was not subject to routine patrol.

On April 3rd, in an interview with Baker, he admitted he was surprised to hear of the incident. He walked to the same entryway that O'Brien and his companion had walked through leading them to Cashier's office, and was shown which doors were unlocked.

According to Baker, the first door which leads into the entryway is sometimes left open by engineers who from time to time come and check the electricity boxes that are inside the entryway.

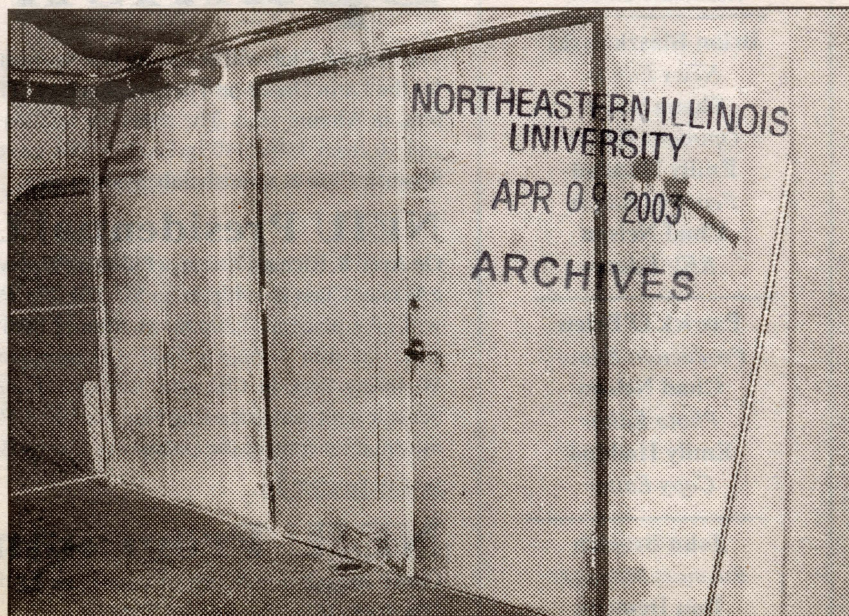
The second door, he said, could have been left open

by a staff member working in the Cashier's office. Baker said that the Cashier's office has employed some new staff members, who may have overlooked the importance of shutting the door at the end of the work shift.

Nevertheless, Baker claimed that the university does employ a stern policy for patrolling the different offices after hours of operation. According to him, there are security guards along with City of Chicago Police officers who patrol the NEIU grounds 24/7. He also stated that the key-pad doors in the Cashier's office

have alarms that become activated once an intruder walks through them. Whether these alarms malfunctioned, whether protocol was ignored due to a search and a lack of a report being filed, and exactly why the doors were left unlocked are questions that remain, at this time, unanswered.

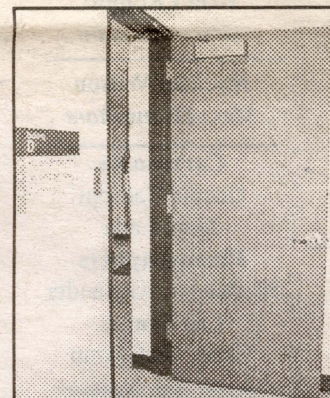
In addition, further investigation on Sunday April the 6th revealed yet another open door in the basement that led directly to the Financial Aid offices, with access to student records and information compromised. More on this story as it develops.



The path taken by the students in question on March 18 to gain access to Financial Aid.



The scene of a potential break-in on any given night.



Yet another hidden but accessible entrance to Financial Aid Office.

photos by Andrea Zelinski

State budget cuts are hitting the books at Northeastern too

by Joey Kandelman
Senior Staff Writer

This year's budget at Northeastern Illinois University is expected to drop an estimated 2% to 8% from its original allotted income and to remain below its current \$67 million for next year. At the beginning of this fiscal year, July 1, 2002, the state of Illinois allocated \$42,585,400 for NEIU to spend on operating costs, in addition to \$24,629,000 in tuition income. The budget total did not reach its predicted income from the beginning of the fiscal year, thus state funding fell short for all Illinois state schools.

A few months ago, Governor Rod Blagojevich asked all state schools to cut costs by 2% to 8% from their budgets. The Governor will make his annual budget spending proposal to the General Assembly on April 9, 2003. During that proposal, he will reveal specifically how much spending he intends cut. After that, the matter will be open for debate in the State Senate and the State House of Representatives.

At the beginning of the current fiscal year, NEIU administration anticipated the possibility of an overestimation of state budget allocations. One way they compensated was by deliberately leaving positions vacant when staff would leave NEIU.

According to Vice President of Finance and Administration Mark Wilcockson, NEIU reduced 2% to 3% of their budget as a result of not hiring new staff to fill these vacant positions. "We have not fired anybody," said Wilcockson. "We have no intention of firing or laying staff off. We plan to leave most positions vacant."

As another measure to cushion these budget cuts, Northeastern is raising tuition, effective this summer. Undergraduate tuition will increase by 5.25% per student, and graduate school will increase by 13.12% per student.

"We have the lowest tuition and fees of any public university in Illinois," Wilcockson said. "We will probably have the smallest increase as well."

In addition to this, administration

has significantly cut the travel expenses from this year's budget. This funding was allocated for NEIU faculty and staff to travel for professional business purposes.

Although the administration is hoping that the budget will be cut by as little as possible, they have searched for additional ways to reduce their fiscal budget for this year and next year. If they are forced to cut funding, they plan to cut Personal Services, Contractual Services, and the purchasing of equipment and

library books. Personal Services primarily consists of salaries of staff members. Contractual Services includes utilities and other vital NEIU functions. Primary cuts are in non-instructional areas, such as purchasing, human resources, university events, and university computing.

Some proposed ways to alleviate the budget problem further are cutting hours of operation of the university, equipment expenditures, and cancelling summer classes that

have low enrollment.

"We're hoping that '04 is when the state budget hole bottoms out," Wilcockson said. "It is difficult to predict how things will go until after the Governor makes his proposal on April ninth."

For more information, statistics, and details about the current and past budgets, consult the *NEIU Internal Budget Book*. A copy can be obtained from the NEIU library.

Illinois State Educational Funds for the 2003-2004 Academic Year

| State Educational and General Operations | State Funding | Student Tuition | Total |
|--|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| Personal Services | 42,205,400 | 8,348,600 | 50,554,000 |
| Social Security/ Medicare | 380,000 | 1,151,900 | 1,531,900 |
| Contractual Services | | 8,800,000 | 8,800,000 |
| Travel | | 275,000 | 275,000 |
| Commodities | | 1,100,000 | 1,100,000 |
| Equipment and Library Equipment | | 3,491,500 | 3,491,500 |
| Telecommunications | | 650,000 | 650,000 |
| Operations of Auto Equipment | | 40,000 | 40,000 |
| Permanent Improvements | | 525,000 | 525,000 |
| Awards and Grants | | 247,000 | 247,000 |
| Totals | 42,585,400 | 24,629,000 | 67,214,400 |



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

Friday

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

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

Independent,

Northeastern Illinois University, Room E-049, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60625

AROUND CAMPUS

Dinner Boat Cruise

There will be a dinner boat cruise on Friday, April 11, located at Mystic Blue Cruises in Navy Pier. Tickets are available at the box office. For more information call Sandra @ x4590 or Tony @ x4660.

A Child's Garden by Patrick McGuire

The play is based on the Robert Louis Stevenson classic and will be performed on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; Feb. 24-Apr. 25. For more information contact Anna Antaramian at 773-442-5975

Chinese Student Club

Come join the Chinese Club for some fun activities. They have meetings almost every Thursday from 1:40-2:30 in CLS 2044, or visit online at <http://www.neiu.edu/~csc>.

Spanish Club

The Spanish Club will be having free Spanish dancing lessons in preparation for the Latin Dance on Tuesday, April 11. The dance will be from 8 p.m.-1 p.m. in Alumni Hall. The dates for lessons are the following: April 3, 8, and 10 from 1:40-2:40 in FA 255. For more information email the NEIU Spanish Club at spanishclub@yahoo.com.

NEIU Presidential Lecture Series

On April 8, Richard Russo, a Pulitzer Prize winning author, will be teaching a Master Class at 1:40p.m. in SU 214. The Public Lecture: A Writer's Life, will take place at 7:30p.m. in Alumni Hall. On Wednesday, April 9 at 7 p.m., the film *Nobody's Fool* will be screened at Katerina's Café, 1920 W. Irving Park in Chicago. *Nobody's Fool* was Russo's third book and became a hit movie starring Paul Newman. RSVP 773-442-4210. For more information contact the University Events Box Office at 773-442-INFO or www.neiu.edu.

NEIU Programming Board

Come and get a wax cast of your hand for free on Tuesday, April 8, from 10a.m.-4p.m. in the Village Square.

Future Physicians Society

A meeting will be held Tuesday, April 8, from 1:40-2:40 p.m. in FA 153.

The Good Doctor

The play by Neil Simon and directed by Stuart Carden, will be playing at the Stage Center Theatre on the following dates: April 10-12, 17-19, starting at 7:30 p.m. For more information contact the Box Office at 442-4274.

The Computer Science Society

Experience the latest Microsoft development tools firsthand the Golden Eagles room in the Student Union Building on April 16, from 5p.m.-8 p.m.

To register for this event visit www.msdnaa.net/vsspringtour.

Muslim Students Association

There will be a Friday Prayer in CLS 2094 from 1:15p.m.-2p.m. For more information email them at neiu_msa@hotmail.com.

Ecumenical Service

The service for Good Friday will be celebrated at noon on Friday, April 18, in Student Union, room 003.

Assyrians support the war

For Immediate Release

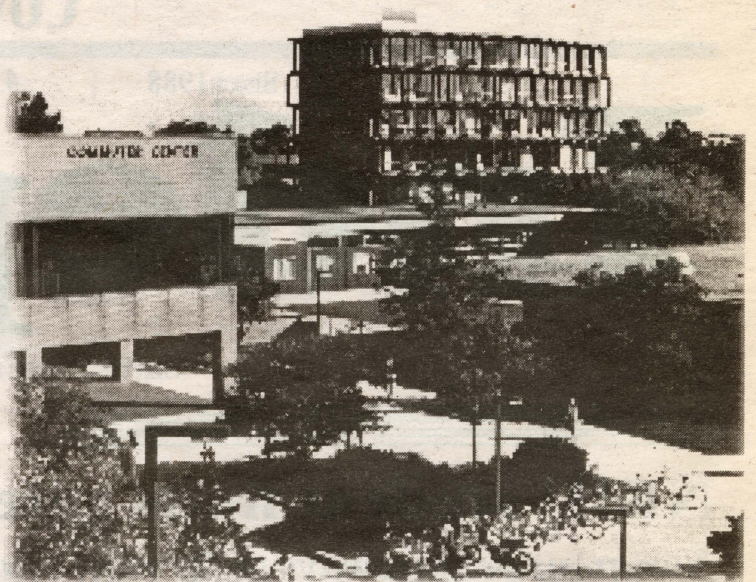
Due to the current situation in Iraq, a rally in support of the troops fighting overseas replaced the annual Assyrian parade, usually held on the first Sunday of April. The parade usually celebrates the Assyrian New Year, but the rally was thought to be more appropriate due to the situation in Iraq.

Assyrians, who have long made up a Christian minority in Iraq, have strongly supported military actions against Saddam in the hopes of establishing a more democratic regime. While Assyrians made up most of the attendees, members from the local Jewish community also attended to show their support for the cause. Over 3500 people attended, making this rally one of the largest pro-war rallies in the country.

Former state senator John Nimrod was also in attendance. He gave a speech in which he criticized anti-war demonstrators who claim that they are supportive of our troops. He believes that supporting the troops also means supporting the government in its decision to carry on the war. Another speaker was Pete Dagher, who spoke briefly about the Assyrians, their history, and the reasons as to why they would support the war.

Five students from Northeastern Illinois University also attended the rally, one of them being Sargon Youkhana, Vice President of the Northeastern Assyrian Club.

"I really, really liked the rally... we were showing support for our troops," said Youkhana when asked about his thoughts on the rally. "Our troops are removing a threat out of the Middle East and out of the world."



Business and Management Club

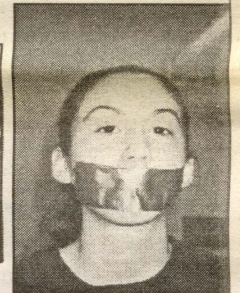
The 11th Annual Etiquette Seminar and Dinner will be held on Saturday, April 19, from 6p.m.-10p.m. at the Radisson Lincolnwood Hotel. Registration forms are available from Lynn Payer in CLS 0044-A.

Attn: May 2003 Graduates

Order your class ring, take graduation photos, register for prizes, obtain brochures, pick up Commencement Tickets. Monday, April 21, 2003 from noon to 7 p.m. in Village Square

Sigma Lambda Gamma

They will be sponsoring the following events: On Monday from 1p.m.-2p.m. in SU-219, they will host the "History of Sorority and Fraternity." On Tuesday from 1:40-2:40 in FA-256, the film "If These Walls Could Talk," will be shown. On Wednesday from 12p.m.-3p.m., they will host the sorority's 13th National Anniversary BBQ, in the field between the P.E. building at WTTW Channel 11. On Friday from 11a.m.-12p.m. in B-105, there will be an academic computing workshop.



Not just another set of pretty faces. The Independent is now seeking writers, photographers, and anyone else to replace the set of mugs you see here. Stop by room E-049 or call 442-4577 for details.



WATCH OUT! Deadline coming

Deadlines for the Independent are one week prior to the date of publication. The following is a list of remaining publication dates for the Spring 2001 semester:

If space needs to be reserved please call (773) 794-2812 for information about advertising rates. — — — — —

Hot tip?



April 22

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

Do you know something we don't? Tip us off about news affecting the NEIU community by calling (773) 794-2812 or e-mail us at neiu_independent@yahoo.com.

Eyes open during a very successful 'experiment'



photo by Andrea Zelinski

Jennifer and Greg had been participants in the reality show *Experiment: Gay-Straight* created by Fox News. They and four others joined the GBLA for an event at NEIU

by Jenni Lada
Staff Writer

On April 3, the NEIU Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual Alliance (GBLA) was proud to welcome Mark Saxenmeyer and six of the ten participants of Fox News' *Experiment: Gay-Straight* presentation.

Originally over the span of the beginning of 2002, Mark Saxenmeyer, after the success of the reality show *Experiment: Black and White*, decided that he still wanted to try and use the reality television format to try and do some good and educate people. After realizing and seeing the issues in society facing the concepts and issues of homosexuality, he decided to place ten individuals in one house together for one week to try and help discuss and confront fears and misunderstandings people may have about homosexuality. Of the ten people chosen, five gay and five straight individuals from different backgrounds and lifestyles to participate.

The presentation began with a fifteen minute video montage featuring parts of the series that appeared on television. It covered the time from when the idea for the experiment had just begun and Fox was searching for participants to parts of the actual show that were

publicized. After this, six of the participants who were kind enough to take time out of their schedule to come introduced themselves and told a little bit about why they chose to take part in this. For many of them, it was an opportunity for them to try and help make a difference.

Participant Andrea said that she did this for herself and others, so that she could also learn why people would have a mental block towards homosexuals. Deo also took place for this reason, but when she initially entered, it was on a whim. Greg, an AIDS activist, learned of this when a friend found the website. He decided that he wanted to try and use his own life experiences to try and help others. Jennifer initially thought that she wanted to come on and help to educate about gay men, but also to try and learn about lesbian women and their relationships. Darlene had just learned her own son was gay, and thought that by participating, she could learn more about him and what he is going through. Larry decided to join after seeing the commercial, because he thought that only stereotypical gay men would be chosen and also to try and help understand what turns people off when they see him.

Each panelist felt that a great difference was made because of the

experiment. For many it was a chance for hope. Many of the participants were reaffirmed by the fact that people who were open and willing to listen could actually change and grow beyond their previous, more closed views. Jennifer even said that before this, she didn't think a true lesbian was possible. Seeing the relationships Andrea and Deo had, though, and even seeing Deo's wedding video, helped her realize that homosexual relationships were identical to heterosexual relationships. Saxenmeyer hoped that through this, people could learn to meet people as people and not as just stereotypes.

One thing that was shown through the program was that people who were open and willing to experience such a thing could really only receive positive experiences in return. None of the participants had any regrets over what happened during the one week period, or what happened after. For all of them, it was a chance to teach people that sexual preference isn't what matters about the person, it is what is inside counts. At this time also the *Experiment: Gay-Straight* is being made into a full length documentary in order to try and help spread the message and experience of everything that happened to a larger audience.

Needs of special students are addressed at HELP conference

by Anne Johnson
Staff Writer

On March 25, a town hall meeting, hosted by Dr. Victoria Amey-Flippen, was held to address the issues and concerns regarding the Accessibility Center, which is a part of the Handicap Educational Liaison Program (HELP). In attendance at this event were Provost Dr. Lawrence Frank, Dean of Academic Development Murrel J.H. Duster, and many of the students whom utilize the Accessibility Center's services. Dr. Amey-Flippen, who has been in charge of the center since 1991, believes "a real dilemma" is being faced by the center some students were even considering protesting. She hoped the meeting would be a "positive forum" to address issues.

Many students spoke at the meeting and expressed their concerns. Several of these issues were related to the center's lack of adequate space. One student explained,

while he didn't wish to be "spoon fed," he believed that the center's testing area that consists of a half of a room to accommodate more than four hundred students is not sufficient. Another student articulated his anxiety about how crowded the area was during finals, as many final exams are scheduled at the same time. He asked: "What are we supposed to do? Get D's and F's because we cannot take the test at the proper time?" Another issue, mentioned by a student worker, was how Dr. Amey-Flippen does not have a place provided for private meetings with students. Due to space constraints, such meetings have to have been held in the hallway outside the center.

Concerns regarding equipment were also discussed. One student hoped that tape recorders and other resources could be available so that, in addition to the loads of books he needs for class, he would not have to bring his own tape recorder. Another student mentioned

that since "technology moves real fast," newer technology is needed to keep current.

A lack of inadequate understanding from professors was also addressed. One student wish that professors had a "more cohesive understanding" of the needs of their disabled students. Other issues raised by students included the center's limited hours of operation, which presented challenges for students taking night classes; a "lack of expertise" dealing with disabled students in the Academic Advising Office; and accommodations in the computer labs.

Some solutions were suggested at the meeting. The Provost, Dr. Frank, explained how he would like to "cross train" staff in order to assist the needs of disabled students. The Provost explained how many professors were "at a loss" at how to deal with the needs of disabled students, and hoped to implement seminars for incoming and existing staff

once a semester. Amey-Flippen suggested making appointments with professors to discuss any additional needs. Regarding the issue of insufficient equipment, it was announced that Dean Duster had ordered five new tape recorders and a new computer for the center.

Amey-Flippen felt that the Provost and Dean Duster "seemed amenable" to the student's requests. She further added that the addition of another room where there could be cubicles for testing (to detract for the "visual noise" encountered by hearing impaired students) and a place for the louder equipment, such as brailers and talking books, would help the program and its 400 plus students immensely.

As one student explained, "There is a misconception that people who are disabled are not goal-oriented." This meeting certainly demonstrated students and faculty using their *abilities* to help reach academic goals.



photo by Chad Nelson

by Chad Nelson
REV Editor

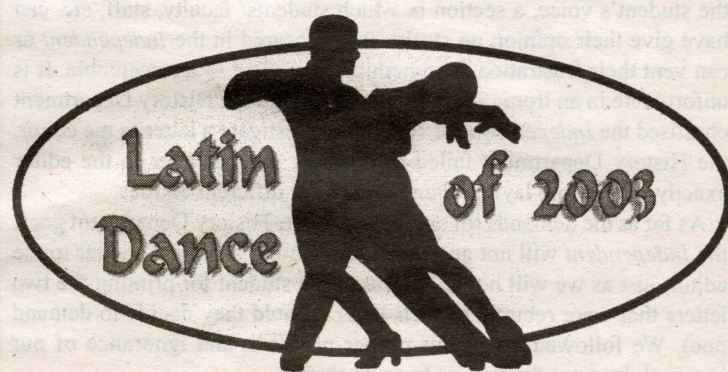
Tuesday, April 1st, a celebration of Persian New Year was held at Northeastern. The new year celebration coincides with the vernal equinox, and the day is called "NoRuz," literally meaning "New Day."

The "Haft Seen" tradition is part of the celebration. It involves setting a table with a plethora of symbolic items to help ensure good fortune for the coming year. The spread includes wheat or lentils to represent birth, sweet pudding for affluence, dried lotus tree fruit symbolizing love, garlic for medicine, an apple for beauty and health, sumac berries for the sunrise, vinegar for age and patience, a hyacinth flower to herald springs coming, and coins to represent prosperity.

Also placed on the table are sugar cookies, candles, a mirror, painted eggs, a bowl with a goldfish, an orange in a bowl of water, rosewater, and a copy of the Holy book and Divan-e Hafez.

Persian culture is now primarily modern Iranian culture. The tradition of NoRuz dates back several thousand years, and has much of its roots in pagan religious traditions.

Spanish Club and Co-Sponsored by NPB
Presents



Friday, April 11, 2003

8:00 PM - 1:00 AM

Alumni Hall

Music & Live Performances

Free for NEIU Students with I.D.

\$5.00 for Non-NEIU Students.

Any Questions E-Mail NEIU spanishclub@yahoo.com

COMMENTARY

From the Editorial Board

Two issues ago on March 4th, *The Independent* ran a Letter to the Editor from a student who wished to have their name withheld. The letter detailed how he felt singled out and uncomfortable in a class in which the professor used the racial slur "n*****."

Upon publishing this letter, *The Independent* received several heated letters, one from the rest of the students in the class in question, and one from the entire history department. Each letter chastised both the student and *The Independent*, the former for remaining anonymous and for "overreacting," and the latter for daring to print such a letter without any investigation into the matter at all. The following is an official reply from the *Independent's* Editorial Board.

As it pertains to the professor, the *Independent* does not believe the professor did anything wrong. The word was said very much in context, in a letter written by a southern governor, and it was read in an African American History course. Any professor would be hard-pressed to ignore the existence of the word "n*****" as it pertains to African American History, and it is the opinion of the *Independent* that the professor in question is not to be blamed and in fact was professional and was simply doing her job.

While we do not discount the student's feelings nor their right to feel a certain way, the *Independent* feels that better judgement could have been used, both in the crafting of the letter and the selection of a class that will undoubtedly use a word that might be offensive (African American History and the word "n*****.") It is unfortunate that a student felt singled out and uncomfortable, but it is highly unlikely that the appearance of the word "n*****" in the curriculum of an African American History course surprised anyone.

Regardless of any errors in judgement of the student that the *Independent* perceives, the answer is not to blame the student for their feelings. Despite what was written by the History department and to a lesser extent the students in the class, the anonymous student did not explicitly accuse the professor of racism. Perhaps implicitly, it can be inferred, but based upon his words, the student was uncomfortable with the situation of being in a class that was "95% white" and being "singled out and looked at everytime she used that word." The student cannot be blamed for feeling the way he felt, and it's disturbing to see an entire department attempt to discredit a student and discount their feelings as unimportant with a letter that commits several fallacies, including ad hominem attacks upon the student and outright half-truths or false statements being portrayed as truth.

As far as the student remaining anonymous, it is the policy of the *Independent* to publish letters to the editor with names withheld when requested, as is evident by the fact that we did not publish the full names of the students in the class last issue March 25th. Legally, we are required to have the name for our records, but if one wishes to have their name withheld, it is their right and we are fully in our right to respect their wishes.

The *Independent* also received much criticism for not investigating the letter. There is obviously confusion as to what exactly a letter to the editor is, so hopefully this will clear things up. A letter to the editor differs from an investigative story, in that it is 1) written by a non-staff member; 2) it is opinion-based; and 3) it is not subject to the same requirements we hold to our news stories. A letter that does not explicitly make an accusation or an assertion that an event took place does not obligate us to research, make interviews, call witnesses, etc. The Letters to the Editor section is the student's voice, a section in which students/ faculty, staff, etc. can have give their opinion on stories that appeared in the *Independent* or can vent their frustration at something they view as unacceptable. It is unfortunate in an ironic sense that even though the History Department chastised the *Independent* for failure to investigate a letter to the editor, the History Department failed to discover what a letter to the editor exactly was before laying blame on several different entities.

As far as the demands for apology from the History Department goes, the *Independent* will not apologize for printing a student's letter to the editor, just as we will not apologize to the student for printing the two letters that were rebuttal to their letter (should they decide to demand one). We followed all of our proper protocol, and ignorance of our protocol does not entitle you to an apology.

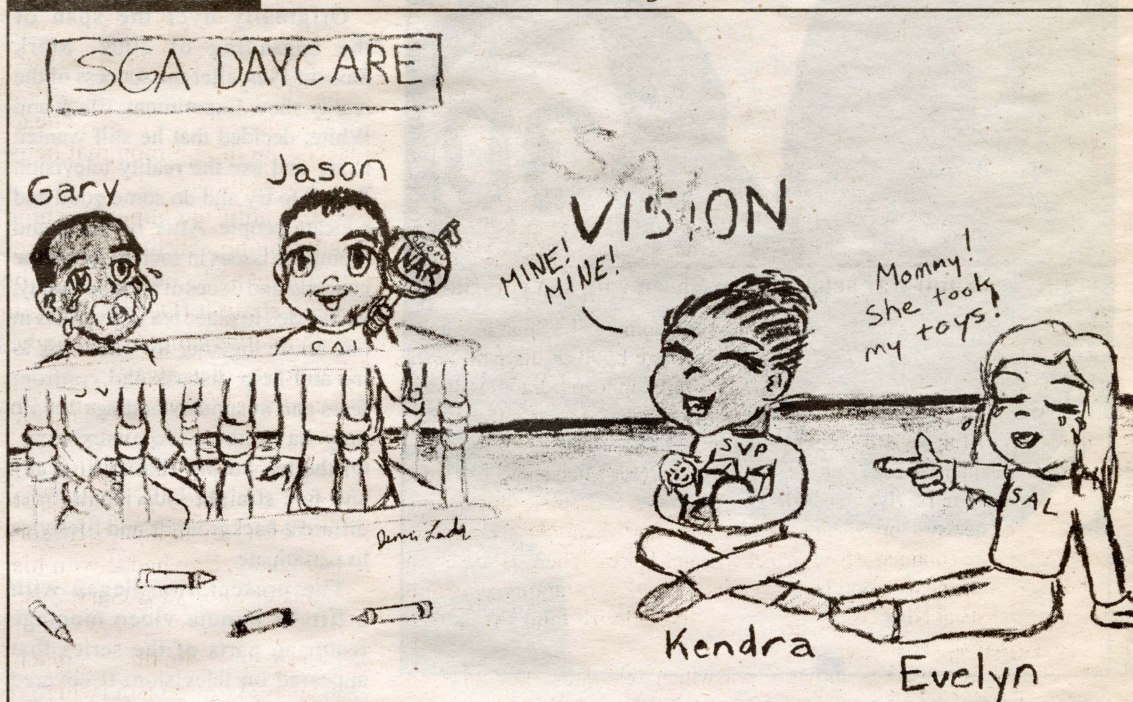
In short, the *Independent* denies any wrong-doing in publishing the original letter from the student, nor will we be bullied into apologizing by ad hominem attacks and accusations of journalistic shortcomings from any department. The fact that the History Department cried foul when the student went public with his complaint (by publishing it in the *Independent*) and then copied and sent a memo criticizing the *Independent* for following our protocol (of which they remained ignorant of their own volition) casts an unprofessional yet not undeserved light upon them, which was similarly reflected in the contents of their memo and their letter to the editor.

We at the *Independent* hope that the student and the History department can work through any differences either party may still hold amicably and without problem, and we wish Professor Johnson well in her teachings of African American History.

--The Editorial Board

DRAWING BOARD

BY JENNI LADA



Watching war TV is hazardous to the truth

Al Jazeera, others pushing the bounds of journalistic integrity

by Atoor Lawandor
Staff Writer

As the fighting rages on the battle field between Iraqi and coalition forces, another fight has been raging on for months as well: psychological combat, which is carried out by way of the media in all of its various forms. This psychological warfare has proven to be just as fierce as the military battle. While the Al Jazeera and the Al Arabia networks efficiently aired the first video of coalition POW's captured by the Iraqi forces, CNN took the viewer-sensitive approach and decided not to air this footage that was seen around the world. CNN, on the other hand, on many occasions, has aired footage of Iraqi POW's as they are captured by coalition soldiers.

So the question then becomes that of journalistic-ethics. Is it more ethical for CNN not to air footage that may be considered "disturbing" for many American citizens? Or are other networks that do choose to air such footage doing a grander job by reporting the whole stark truth about this war?

From the beginning of the war, President Bush warned the American public that this war would be as much a psychological war as a military one. This statement has been proven to be true for the past couple of weeks since the war began. On one side we have CNN, Fox News, MSNBC and other American based networks who, though they pride themselves on airing bias-free and up-to-date news as it happens, have not necessarily lived up to this reputation for the past few weeks. On the other side, we have the Al Jazeera network

and the Arabic language satellite network, which by the way you can access by buying a regular satellite dish.

Not very many networks based in Arabic countries can report news without the close watch of the governments. Al Jazeera, however, has proven to be able to air news stories with relatively less bias than its neighboring networks. The reason behind this sudden freedom of press on the part of the Arab network has been due to the fact that Al Jazeera is privately owned, and unlike all other Arabic networks that are government-owned, it is up to the owners of Al Jazeera what can and cannot be constituted as news.

The extent of government media regulation in the Arab world is very wide. The Saudi government, for example, kept the news of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait from the citizens of Saudi Arabia for forty-eight hours in 1991, to prevent public panic. So in a world where the government watches every move made by the media with a suspicion, Al Jazeera is doing a grand job, airing unbiased news to its Arabic and sometimes non-Arab viewers.

This being said, I would like to say that although Al Jazeera has been very successful in breaking away from the government's control and assimilating to its counterparts in the west, they have not been completely bias-free. While CNN and most American networks chose not to air the ever-so-controversial video of the captured POW's in Iraq, according to CNN due to its "disturbing nature," Al Jazeera along with numerous other networks around the world aired the video. Do these networks truly care that much about the way

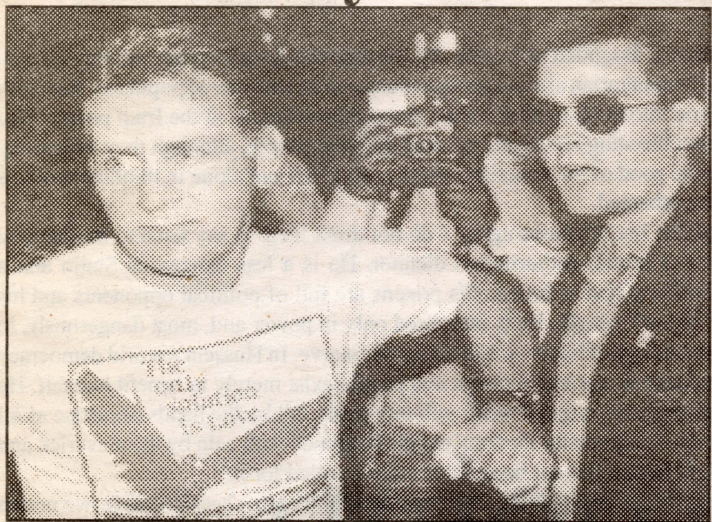
American's feel that they would risk a drop in ratings, just to preserve our feelings? The answer to that is a resounding no.

This goes back to that psychological warfare I referred to earlier. Al Jazeera wants to air footage that shows the Iraqi or the Arabic side winning, or at the very least somewhat efficiently fighting the war. Al Jazeera does not want to bring to its viewers footage of the everlastingly prevailing coalition forces. Arab viewers want to see their side kick some ass sometimes. On the flip side, viewers of CNN and BBC (i.e. us here in the United States and Europe) want to be reassured by the media that our soldiers are bravely fighting for their countries, and more importantly winning.

So, could these great networks that claim to bring us the news as it happens without bias be only driven by viewer ratings? That is highly likely. After all, what Arab wants to watch continuous coverage of other losing Arabs? Or what American wants to see his/her fellow citizens being tortured by Saddam's cronies in faraway Iraq, without being able to help them? It's simply not viewer-friendly.

I would like to pass an important piece of advice that a wise geography professor once gave me: "One must never rely on only one source of media to obtain information from, but many sources." In fact, the more sources of media, the better; this way the viewer not only gets one outlook on the story, but numerous ones. Only after all possible viewpoints are assessed by the viewer can he/she make the choice of what constitutes as the truth.

Anti-war entertainers need reality check now



Here is staunch anti-war actor Martin Sheen with son Charlie

by Shana Stone
Opinions Editor

Now that the United States has been at war with Iraq for several weeks, more and more Americans are uniting to show support for President Bush and our troops. There are some people, however, who have continuously been staunchly anti-war, and no, I don't just mean the socialists at NEIU.

The people that I refer to are some of the rich and famous. Yes, movie stars galore have been speaking out against the war and Bush, and consequently have been receiving backlash because of it, and rightly so. Who gives a damn what Martin Sheen and the likes of him think about the war?

Could Sheen think he knows more than the average American citizen because he plays the president of the United States on the T.V. show "The West Wing?" He speaks publicly about the war as if he has an inside track with Bush and Powell in some secret meetings. These movie stars certainly aren't speaking for me and they aren't speaking for many other Americans.

Everyone in America has the right to say what they please, because after all, our constitution allows us to speak freely, but movie stars are made famous by the people, and as one of those people, I would like to tell the anti war movie stars to shut the hell up.

They should know that no one gives a damn what they think. Some of these movie stars run around to protests and when they make appearances on T.V. they give the peace sign as if that will solve anything.

Until I am told that Susan Sarandon, Jessica Lange, and Matt Damon have all sat in on top-secret government meetings where they truly know what is going on with Saddam Hussein then I do not take any of them seriously. They are making themselves look foolish. Longtime observer of the conservative movement and leftist columnist, Bill Berkowitz, had this to say, "When celebrities speak out, the public listens." Oh sure Bill, they do listen, and then they run to the bathroom and puke.

See, many of these movie stars are opposed to our country launching the first strike against Saddam. As far as I see it, we didn't launch the first strike against Saddam, because no one can convince me that Saddam didn't have something to do with September 11th. And if he didn't, he still has weapons of mass destruction that he surely would have no problem using against us at a moments notice.

Stars such as Kim Basinger, Ethan Hawke, Anjelica Houston, Mia Farrow, etc. are all part of Artists United, which is a group of actors and actresses who oppose the war. Easy for them to oppose the war while sitting in their Beverly Hills mansions. American men and women in the military are over in Iraq and Afghanistan right now protecting

their freedoms. All of our freedoms. Yet they are blind to that and to the suffering of innocent Iraqi civilians.

At this year's Oscar's there were a number of protests against the war. Movie director Michael Moore stood up on stage and spoke out against the war, and received a chorus of boos and hisses. There is a website that was started against moronic stars like Moore, and that site is Grassfire.net. The site has pointed out which celebrities they think are being anti-American and backers of the site raised money to purchase a billboard opposite Hollywood's Kodak Theater to support the troops. The billboard reads as follows, "We believe that celebrities Martin Sheen, Mike Farrell, Tim Robbins, Rob Reiner, Barbara Streisand, and others with them are using their celebrity to interfere with the defense of our country," signed by Citizens Against Celebrity Pundits.

The Dixie Chicks lead singer Natalie Maines also spoke out negatively against our country by stating that she is ashamed that "Bush is from Texas." She later apologized for her lack of judgment when CD's by the group were run over by a tractor in an event organized in Louisiana.

Movie stars, singers, and anyone else that was made famous by the people, have every right to speak their minds about any subject they wish, but just because they are famous does not mean the general public has to listen or take them seriously.

The problem is that they think they should be taken more seriously because they are famous, and I say that they are using their fame to try to get on a platform, and their fans do not care for Anti-American rhetoric. No matter how much the stars hate the war, we are at war, and we need to support our troops.

Don't they think that by speaking out against the war it is hurting the morale of our soldiers and upsetting the families of all military personnel? Maybe they just don't think at all.

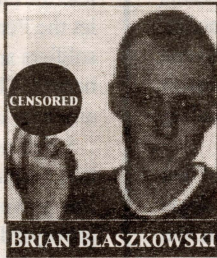
They do not carry any inside information from our government and last I heard, not one star has held a meeting with Bush to find out what information he has on Iraq, so I would like to know why these stars think that they have all this hidden knowledge that the rest of us common folk don't?

I am very disappointed with some of these stars and am thinking about boycotting their movies. I can't imagine why they take their freedoms for granted and what they don't understand about the brutality of Saddam Hussein and his regime.

They can walk around Hollywood in their safe little nests while our fellow Americans are risking their lives so that these selfish stars can enjoy their caviar and fine wines. The movie stars aren't risking their lives. Well, they are risking one thing. If they keep on with their anti-war crap they are certainly risking their careers.

In the name of integrity

LAST COLUMN, I WROTE A QUICK EXPLANATION OF WHY YOU PEOPLE SHOULDN'T VOTE FOR GARY GASPARD AND KENDRA YOUNG, AMONG OTHER PEOPLE. I HAD HOPED THAT WOULD BE THE END OF IT AND THAT I COULD SAFELY WRITE ABOUT OTHER TOPICS. DAMN IT ALL TO HELL, THINGS HAVE CROPPED UP THAT NEED TO BE SPOKEN ABOUT, SO HERE WE GO AGAIN.



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

Firstly, I've made it no secret that I have a strong dislike for Gary. I've never trusted him. He reminds me of that used car salesman who, with a big old grin on his face, sells you and your family a death trap so he can buy more cheap polyester suits. I've had enough contact and dealings with him to be secure in my opinion that he is not a person to be trusted. I'll be giving some good examples of this in a little bit.

Secondly, the impetus behind this rant against Gary stems from the April Fool's story I wrote about him staging a military-style coup in SGA. Anyway, the morning after it came out, he came storming up to me and said that I had better find all the notes about the story, because he was going to Dean Kelly about it (Dean Kelly is the Dean of Students, the guy you go to if you have a serious problem with another student). I laughed and told him it was an April Fool's story, that it wasn't a real story, but he stormed away.

Just a few days ago, after I had thought all of his idiocy over the story had ended, he informed my Chief Editor that he was going to submit some letter about my "defamation of character." This irritated me to no end, because after all the shit that I have said over the years about all sorts of folks, it came down to a fake April Fool's story for someone to try and register serious complaints about me. It's kind of funny in a pathetic sort of way.

Anyway, I've had it with his crap. I'm graduating in December (God willing), and I want my final semester to be *sans* Gary Gaspard as president of SGA. Therefore, here is a nice, long list of reasons why you shouldn't vote for him.

Let's start with the fact that he's hypocritical. Never mind the fact that every two months, it seems he accuses me of racism (which reminds me, I'm about due for another accusation). A couple semesters ago, he said that then-Senator Jason Cruz was "just a Hispanic name to get some votes." Hmm... sounds like Gary is reducing Senator Cruz to nothing more than a ploy to get "racial votes." That sounds strikingly similar to when Kendra Young, Gaspard's candidate for Vice President, labeled Caleb Avraham, current Speaker of the Senate and all-around shitty basketball player, a "token" on the Student Action League platform, and when Gaspard's party went around saying that the SAL wanted to "keep minorities out of SGA." Forgive me for my opinion, Gaspard, but that sort of campaigning sounds far more racist than having a Hispanic last name.

Speaking of racism, let's talk about Gaspard and companies' television debut when they went on some half-assed talk show called *Straight Talk*. Should have been called *Baby Talk*, because it was little more than a bunch of whining and random accusations. For one, Gaspard called The NEIU President a racist. The funniest thing was, he lied his ass off to try and prove it. I was watching, laughing, and writing down all of the lies. I filled up both sides of a piece of notebook paper with his lies and half-truths. Without a doubt, the funniest part of the show was when the host appeared in a commercial, dressed in his underwear, doing yoga. I almost passed out from the laughter.

Around election time last semester I believe, several students stormed into the newspaper office, furious because, as they told me, "Those two people—Gary Gaspard and Kendra Young-- they're in the computer lab printing up hundreds of flyers for the SGA elections! They're taking up both printers and I need to turn in a paper!" They made several students late for class because they cared only of themselves. And yet, they call themselves "student leaders."

Would a "student leader" volunteer to serve on the Election Improvement Committee, and then show up for only half of a meeting the entire semester? Nope, that sounds more like the actions of the same lazy person who refused to help SGA with last semester's Final's Giveaway. Sounds like the sort of behavior I've come to expect from the person who comes in late to SGA meetings and leaves early, or the sort of person who did a nice rail-road job on former Speaker of the Senate Lynn Madix, rushing her impeachment in a half-assed mockery of a trial.

So, what exactly has Gary done when he's been in the SGA, aside from impeach people, try to steal elections, and call me a racist? Well, he and his buddies screwed up Northeastern Programming Board so badly that Gabby Herrera, Chair for NPB for a good, long time, quit. They had to produce a new Election's Packet for NPB, since NPB and SGA's elections are now held separately. Surprise, surprise, they failed to come up with a packet, and now it's anyone's guess as to when NPB will have more elections. I guess Gaspard wasn't satisfied with only making SGA an uncomfortable organization to join, so he branched out into NPB. God help the *Independent* if he decides he wants to be a journalist.

Also, last spring, after Gary and company *finally* turned over the SGA offices to the rightfully elected SAL members, there was lots of collateral damage. Maggots were behind file cabinets, hard drives were sabotaged so they couldn't be used, cushions from chairs were taken. Also, they never gave the new administration the tapes from the SGA meetings that occurred during their term, even though those tapes are officially the property of SGA. Every single cassette tape was missing in action from Gaspard's term as a leader in SGA. I guess we can just add the missing tapes to everything else that was missing during his administration, like honesty, integrity, and respect for the students and the senators.

Now, why did I write all of this stuff down? Firstly, I wrote it because I'm tired of at least *pretending* to be diplomatic as far as Gaspard is concerned. He has absolutely no right to be in SGA after all of the shit he and his cronies have pulled (I also think it a miracle that he hasn't been kicked out of NEIU, but that's a story for another day). This column will no doubt create a raging storm of anger from Gary, and even though nothing I said is libel or slander (a statement must meet two requirements before it can be considered libelous or slanderous: it must be malicious and it must be false. Opinions can be neither true nor false, and events that took place can not be false), I fully expect to hear it big time over this.

Guess what? I don't care. After all the years of writing for this paper, after all the columns, hopefully entertaining all of you currently reading this, it's time I did something that I truly believed in. So, I am asking for each and every one of you who has ever read my column and laughed, who has ever glanced at my picture and chuckled, who has ever thought, "That Voice of the Campus guy is right," or whoever has seen me in the hall and stopped to thank me for making them laugh to go into Village Square on April 10th and 11th and vote for Jason Cruz for President, Evelyn Nazario as Vice President, Javier Vargas as Speaker, Angel Monterroso for Student Trustee, Sir M.V. Williams for IBHE-SAC, and David Zaboli, Michael Magee, or this nice girl named Morgan for senators. I don't know Morgan's last name, but I think she's number five on the ballot.

Anyway, if I have ever entertained you, please, vote for the people above. Don't elect people who have a proven history of lies, misinformation, and underhanded politics. Help make my last semester here a peaceful one, and help continue the integrity that the first SAL administration brought into the SGA.

It's the Occident, stupid

by Chad Nelson
REV Editor

The famous saying that is supposed to sum up the American system of justice is "It is better for one hundred guilty men to go free rather than have one innocent man be punished." However, it seems that in regards to Iraq, the Bush regime feels that it is better to make millions of innocent people suffer, possibly even the ultimate punishment of death, rather than allow one guilty person to get away. No one in their right mind actually supports Saddam Hussein, not a single member of the Anti-War movement would tell you that they think Hussein should remain in power. They will tell you, however, that killing civilians to get at him is not an acceptable policy.

In order to justify these deaths anyway, the Bush regime has unleashed a flurry of catch phrases that are supposed to prove why military attacks on Iraq have suddenly become necessary, but not a single one of them holds any water. If you look at other activities the U.S. government is involved in, the propaganda exposes itself as no more than fantasies and equivocations.

The U.S. has declared that Hussein is guilty of brutal killings, gassing foreign soldiers and his own people, and so on. They have also declared that America cannot sit back and allow these atrocities to take place, so Iraq needs a "regime change." It is true that Hussein is guilty of the accusations, but it is also true that while Hussein was committing these atrocities, the United States government was backing him. If the U.S. government truly had a problem with his brutal activities, they would have condemned him at the time, in the 1980's. Furthermore, the U.S. would have ceased selling weapons, both conventional weapons like missiles, and biological and chemical weapons like anthrax, instead of selling these weapons in greater supply. It seems that the U.S. government is applying morals and values when, and only when, it suits their purpose.

If we then look at Turkey, a nation with a human rights record as disgusting as Iraq's, they are not being held accountable. Turkey has committed genocide against its own people in the southern Kurdish areas, with upwards of half a million Kurds dead. Instead of condemning these actions at the time, Bill Clinton increased the exportation of helicopters and other military wares to Turkey.

Now, to show that regimes involved in murder will not be supported, the United States has offered \$36 million dollars to Turkey so we can fly planes out of and deploy troops through its territory.

A country with an interest in stopping genocide, mass murder, and other crimes against humanity should not support regimes that commit those same acts. The U.S. however, based on its unwillingness to apply lessons of the past to the present, does not seem to have these interests.

Hussein's dictatorial control of Iraq has been more gas thrown into the fire of cries for war. Liberating the people of Iraq from the iron-gripped control of media, public speech, political dissent, and many other freedoms taken for granted in the U.S. has been the rallying call used by many. Again, the U.S. feels it must install democratic institutions so that the people of Iraq get a chance to live free lives.

It is completely true that Hussein is a dictator, and the lives of Iraqi people would undoubtedly be better if they were not living under his rule. However, it is not so apparent the motive for U.S. action is as pure as they seem to claim.

If the U.S. were so intent in providing "democracy" for the people of the world, it seems to stand to reason that they would apply such doctrine universally.

Hence, any country run by a dictator, where the people are not free, would be considered hostile, or at least the U.S. would cease involvement with those countries. However, if we look at the U.S.'s present involvement with two countries, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan, we can see the yawning chasm of inconsistency in U.S. policy.

Saudi Arabia is one of the most brutally and tightly controlled dictatorships in the entire world. Dissent does not exist because it is punishable by death. The treatment of women in Saudi Arabia is horrendous, where some are stoned to death for being in public without a male relative and genital mutilations happen regularly.

Saudi Arabia is the number one oil producer in the world, with much of their business going to the U.S., and they are incredibly wealthy. However, the prosperity is not passed on to its people. The Royal family, generally despised by the populace, is kept in power because of its friendly relations with U.S. economic interests and the thousands of U.S. soldiers stationed throughout Saudi Arabia despite popular opposition.

How the U.S. explains that its activities are actually promoting "democracy" is still not clear. The same explanation would probably also apply to its involvement with Pakistan. President Musharaf of Pakistan, who took power several years ago in a military coup that toppled a democratically elected leader, supported U.S. operations in Afghanistan despite overwhelming numbers of Pakistanis' opposed to aiding the U.S. attack and invasion, and in fact used the military to quell protests throughout the country.

Democratization as the goal of the war on Iraq seems an absurd notion when juxtaposed with U.S. policy in other parts of the world. A country interested in promoting democracy for the people of the world would not engage in promoting and supporting brutal regimes and dictators. Besides, forcing a nation to accept a new system is not inherently democratic. The people of Iraq do not like Hussein's rule, but that does not necessarily mean the U.S. has the right to topple him and install its own leaders.

Why then would the U.S. wage a war that has already cost thousands of lives on both sides? One answer that appears concerns oil. Prior to the declaration of war by the U.S. and Britain, British Petroleum, a British and American corporation, made arrangements for the unilateral privatization of Iraqi oil. Initially, the privatization means that the people of Iraq are not going to be profiting off of their oil, BP is. Secondly, BP will gain control of Iraq's OPEC (Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries) seat. Also, BP will get the veto vote in OPEC, allowing it to effectively reject raises in oil prices for as long as it desires.

This may seem like good news, that gas prices won't go up, but it has its downside, too. First off, this just means that oil companies will always be paying the same price; it doesn't mean they will pass the savings to consumers. Secondly, and much more frighteningly, this means that as inflation raises the prices of goods and services in the world, countries where large percentages of domestic revenue comes from oil will become poorer and poorer. Iran, Libya, Venezuela, and other countries that dare to oppose American and British interests will watch as they become more and more destitute.

These are just a few of the reasons that this war on Iraq is not what it seems, but moreover, that it is not justified, nor just. These are not, however, the only reasons. The U.S. and British failure to adhere to international law is frightening. The doctrine of pre-emptive attack for security was last used by Hitler to attack Czechoslovakia, and its ramifications in the India/Pakistan dispute could be horrific.

Bush keeps claiming that this is a war of liberation, but the only thing the U.S. appears to be liberating the people of Iraq of is their oil, and for many, their lives.

Justice is heart of matter

by Scott Plencner
Senior Staff Writer

We are on the doorstep to Baghdad as I write. By the time this goes to print, we may be well into the city delivering humanitarian aid and another chance to an embittered populace. But don't let the Pentagon fool you into thinking that we are doing this on behalf of the Iraqi people. Our soldiers are sweating and bleeding not for the good of the Iraqi people, although they will surely benefit. They fight for the good of the American people. And I am not alone in thinking that it is anything of which to be ashamed.

I will not go through the list of abuses again. I do not think there is any need to remind you that Saddam Hussein is a brutal, authoritarian dictator. He is a less dangerous Stalin and a less powerful Hitler, but he is just as brutal. His prisons are full of political opponents and his graveyards are full of his own people. He is interested only in power and, most dangerously, in survival. Hussein sits in the laps of luxury while his people starve. In Hussein's world democracy is weakness, God is reduced to a political pawn, and people exist merely to benefit himself. He is a liar and his corrupt, immoral reign of terror will inevitably fall by the hands of justice as all such regimes do. That day has come for the Iraqi people burdened with pain by the maverick and callous decisions of their leader, but not because they have called for it.

We fight because it benefits us. Speaking the language of Hussein, sheer brutality, we march through his country to continue the war he started the day he invaded oil rich Kuwait over twelve years ago. Weeks after the U.N.-led Operation Desert Storm, Iraq found its obsolete air force totally destroyed and its army decimated and in retreat. Hussein urged for cease-fire and signed treaties agreeing to terms set forth by the U.N., namely to destroy the weapons of mass destruction that he fired at Israel and that he had in development. When he failed to comply with the conditions he agreed to, namely weapons inspections, he found embargo. This failed to reach him in his luxurious palaces, but it detrimented his people, already reeling from over a decade of constant war. When he continued to violate his terms, President Clinton saw to it that Baghdad was bombed. This did not dissuade Hussein. He continued to flaunt the authority of the cease-fire

agreement. The world accommodated him and the U.S. waited patiently as Hussein made the cease-fire meaningless and decided that what Iraq needed was more war.

Twelve years. And then came the jolt to the American psyche of the 9/11 terrorist attacks that saw thousands of good people meet their death as they arrived at work. American outrage and anger was allowed to cool before President Bush took up decisive action against the authoritarian Afghani Taliban that harbored al-Qaeda. To protect the physical safety of the American people and the stability that lends itself to the capitalism that makes America a land of opportunity, the U.S. military did away with the regime and made Afghanistan an unsafe place for al-Qaeda to operate. While the rest of the world lives with terrorism and deals with it, the U.S. upon first taste set out to destroy terrorism. An impossible goal? Like men on the moon?

That is when patience wore too thin for Hussein's dancing around the issue of weapons development. We called on him, through the U.N., to comply with the cease-fire. When he refused, he decided to continue the war he started in 1991. We urged our allies in NATO and the U.N. to set about on defending the rule of law. Most of the nations answered the call, but along came France. Germany was

only thinking about the authority of the fledgling E.U. and Russia is led by a fellow authoritarian with an underdog complex similar to that of Hussein, namely Vladimir Putin. And the murderous Chinese regime cannot be expected to take a stand against evil. Only later would we find out that all these nations had been trading with Iraq, despite the embargo.

What came as a shock to most Americans outside of diplomatic circles was the position of the French, our long-time ally. The French, though, for some time now have been pouting and complaining about the U.S.'s imperialist tendencies and the disdain America seems to show toward its allies. In 2001 French foreign minister Hubert Veering called the U.S. a "hyperpower." While France complained, it rode the coattails of its overgrown ally, benefiting from the protection and security afforded them by the U.S. military. So the U.S., with the British, were once again left alone to fight an immoral and dangerous regime, while the rest of the world accommodated it. This sort of thing only encourages a nation so in love with rugged individualism.

And so bombs fell on Baghdad and the U.S. and British forces fought nobly as ever to rid the world of yet another anti-democratic, anti-capitalist, anti-progressive dictator. They were forced to march in before the poison gas or nuclear attacks could even occur. If Bush didn't do enough to protect Americans from the events of 9/11 as Democrats charged, he was certainly not going to do it again.

Bush leads with heavy approval from the real people, the people who wear jeans to work and sweat for a living, the proletariat. Yet, the snobbish elites of academia with their unrealistic leftist idea of utopia and their masses of young sheep, say they speak on behalf of the ignorant people. Many in this vein take to the streets, protesting *not* the idea of war, but to protest the perceived imperialism of the U.S. and the perceived illegitimacy of the Bush administration. Their ignorance and arrogance has fallen on deaf ears because America always does what the masses dictate and arrogance never changes minds. So let them protest away. Let "Not in My Name," with its ties to anti-capitalist, socialist organizations, advertise its irrelevance. It is beautiful to live in a country so rare, one in which all have a right to speak out. What these odd and end protestors remind me most often is how vital this American experiment truly is.

The war is just when looking at it from our American point of view, but we must remember to steer clear of war for war's sake. And we must each try to keep ourselves from swelling with lust for blood and conquest as we comfortably watch the war unfold on our televisions. War is horrible and to shed another man's blood is among the foulest of sins. We should remember that this war is not a TV show. It is absolutely real and absolutely horrible. It should not and has not been entered into lightly.

We will continue, as a nation, to fight Hussein in the name of justice. We will not stand for a world of tyrants who threaten our way of life. As critics call us imperialists and hypocrites, we will continue to serve the noble notion of popular sovereignty. We will continue to enjoy the providence of God and nature and we will continue to defend the natural rights of life, liberty, and property that stem from our humanity. The U.S.'s pre-eminence in world affairs is no fluke.

Our violent anger is tempered and held in check by a love of justice. This is what we are bringing to Iraq (along with reality) as carefully as possible because it not only benefits the Iraqis and the U.S. Justice benefits the world.



Another orgy of excess at Oscars...page 2

Saddam takes a shot to the chest...page 3

Another campus crowd pleaser....page 3

REV

extremely local entertainment ~ pull-out section



by Chad Nelson
REV Editor

The Emmett Project projects history *Students re-enact another version of history in the Neo- Futurarium's daring venture into the Civil Rights era*

The Emmett Project engages America's history of lynching by dealing with the well known case of Emmett Till, a 14 year old African American youth brutally murdered in 1955 during a vacation to Mississippi for "whistling at a white woman."

Director and creator Chloe Johnston's project explores Till's death through historicizing it in the context of lesser known victims of lynching, just some of the estimated 5000 African Americans lynched between 1882 and 1939.

The play opens with four students, played by Steven McClain, Linara Washington, Lisa May Simpson, and John Byrnes, sitting down in their chairs, with one chair left empty and posing the haunting idea "You come back from summer vacation, and the chair next to yours is empty."

The students seem to let their imagination take them to places that history books do not allow, as they begin re-enacting multiple versions of history, multiple

layers of meaning, and an evolving, though slowly and certainly not homogeneously, consciousness that worked itself into the ideas and minds of America, eventually leading to the Civil Rights movement.

The effects of each lynching play themselves out in a variety of ways. W.E.B. DuBois and Ida B. Wells were early resisters to the plague of lynching, though they are presently remembered for other achievements, and the NAACP developed in part as a response to the terror inflicted on African Americans throughout the country.

Each lynching occurred embedded in a society, with

repercussions going beyond the immediate tragedy, pouring out onto the whole of the society, and changing the way everyone had to look at the world.

The performance is engaging, though not in any typical theatrical way. No "suspension of disbelief" ever occurs, because the actors are continuously engaging the audience, figuratively and literally, with questions, facts, stories and visions of terror, fear, hope, and trauma.

The sparse set, a few chairs, a blackboard, and some full bookshelves, allows the show to get right into what it wants to say, rather than trying to whisk the audience

away to some fantasy world. The schoolroom setting of the show, however, allows for questions of history and "fact" to be raised without the audience feeling preached to.

Questions are raised and ideas are presented, but edicts are never pushed. An openness to accept history as still unwritten, still continuously flowing, emerges, with possibilities for better things to come despite the horrors of the past. Humor is strewn in bits and pieces throughout, partly to ease the tension that cannot help but build up when such grave matters are discussed but also as a parody of race relations at the time between African Americans

and sympathetic whites in the play within a play, "The Tragic Mistake."

Honestly, the play would have been much harder to walk out of, and it still was hard, if lighter moments had not appeared to break up the horror that pervades the historical events of the play.

The most dramatic sequence is a re-enactment of Till's mother describing identifying her son at the morgue.

In darkness, with only the description and each audience member's imagination to fill in the sights, it wrenched the heart in ways that no sight ever could. It is the kind of moment where one can no longer feel that history is just an accumulation of "facts" and numbers, but that it is made up of real, powerful human experiences; things that did not just happen, but happened to people.

The Emmett Project runs Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 8pm until April 26th at The Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland at Foster Ave. Admission is \$12, or \$8 with a student ID.

Oscar night once again a show of indulgence, decadence

by Tim Malina
Staff Writer

Ah yes, the Oscars. The time when we get to see stars in questionable attire burst out into tears over a little statue and give 20 minute acceptance speeches, sometimes for an award they did not deserve. This year's Oscars night was no different than any other.

There were a lot of people who deserved an Oscar and got one. Best Actor winner Adrien Brody definitely deserved an Oscar for his portrayal of Wladyslaw Szpilman, a Jewish pianist who survived the Holocaust by going into hiding for the duration of the war. Another winner on the cast of *The Pianist* is director Roman Polanski, who did a magnificent job in bringing the book to the silver screen, with much credit given to Ronald Harwood, who won the award for best writing of an adapted screenplay for his work on *The Pianist*.

Best makeup went to John Jackson and Beatrice De Alba for *Frida* because *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* was not nominated and because it really was a great makeup job. *Frida* also nabbed the award for best score, with the award going to Elliot Goldenthal. Even though *Frida* had the best score, it did not have the best song. That honor went to Eminem for the song "Lose Yourself" from the film *8 Mile*. I was utterly shocked that he won the award, considering that he was up against possibly the best musical ever made (*Chicago*), but overall, it is not a bad song.

The best actress award went to Nicole "buy a nose" Kidman for her role as Virginia Woolf in the movie *The Hours*, based on a book

by Michael Cunningham. Her acting job was first rate and if anyone deserved this award, she did.

Since *Chicago* won so many awards, I will list them here for easy access. The award for best actress in a supporting role for Catherine Zeta-Jones for her role as Velma Kelly. Best art direction went to John Myhre for art direction and Gordon Sim for set decoration. The best sound Oscar was given to Michael Minkler, Dominick Tavella and David Lee. Colleen Atwood won an award for her work in costume design. The best film editing nod went to Martin Walsh, and if that wasn't enough, *Chicago* also won best picture of the year. The only decision I had a problem with is the fact that *Chicago* won best picture, an award more suited to *The Pianist* but still, *Chicago* won and there is nothing anyone can do about it now.

Jim Rygiel, Joe Letteri, Randall William Cook, and Alex Funke of *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* won the Oscar for best visual effects, and Ethan Van der Ryn and Michael Hopkins won an Oscar for sound editing. Just in case you were wondering what the movies were that *Rings* beat for the award in special effects, they are *Spider-Man* and *Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones*. So yes, the special effects in *Rings* are that good.

Michael Moore and Michael Donovan won the award for best documentary feature for their work in *Bowling for Columbine*, a documentary about gun violence in America. However, judging by his Bush-bashing acceptance speech, Michael Moore will never be invited back to the Oscars, regardless of

any future awards he may win. The award for best documentary short subject went to Bill Guttentag and Robert David Port for *Two Towers*, about the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.

The Oscar for best actor in a supporting role went to Chris Cooper for his work in *Adaptation*. And speaking of awards that are long overdue, Peter O'Toole won an honorary Oscar for lifetime achievement.

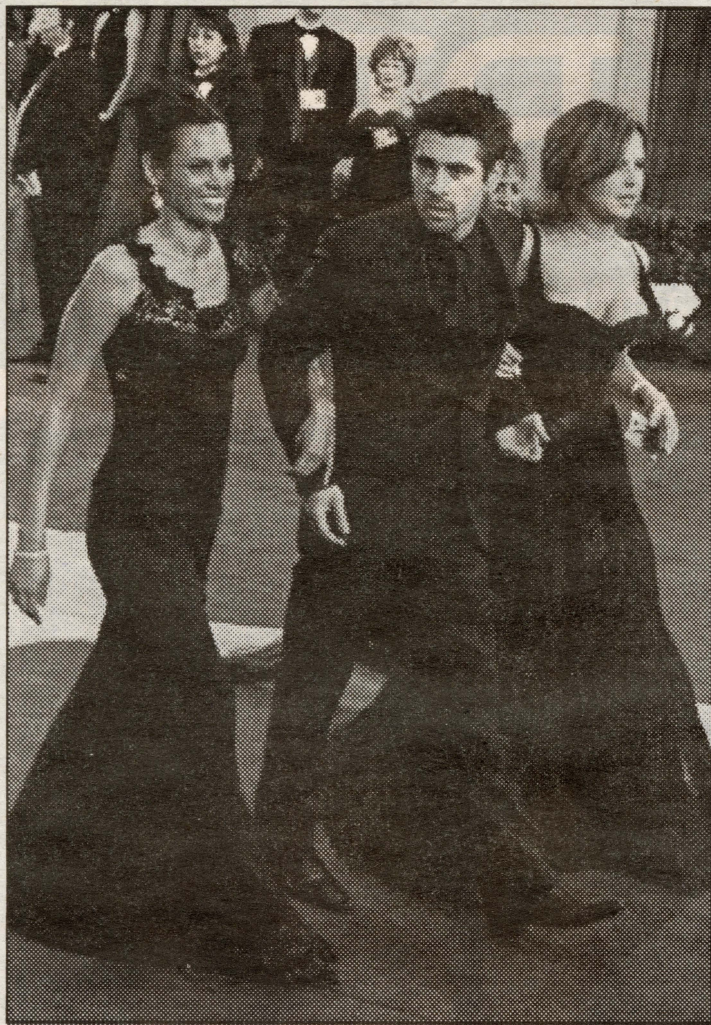
The best writing (original screenplay) award went to Pedro Almodovar for his work on *Talk to Her*. I didn't see the movie so I can't comment. I can talk about Conrad L. Hall's award for best cinematography, however. The cinematography in *Road to Perdition* is some of the best that I have seen in a long time, so if any other film had won, there would have been a Congressional investigation.

The short film Oscars went to Eric Armstrong for *The Chubbchubbs!* (animated), and to Marting Strange-Hansen and Mile Andreassen for *This Charming Man* (*Der Er Yndig Mand*) (live action). Having seen *The Chubbchubbs!* I can safely say: "OK, what was that all about?"

And last but certainly not least Hayao Miyazaki won the best animated feature film for *Spirited Away*, and Caroling Link of Germany won best foreign language film for *Nowhere in Africa*.

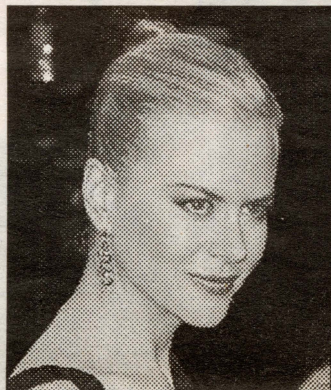
It seems that such a paltry display of disgusting self love can only be equaled by the incredible gullibility of the American public. With only a few honors being heaped on deserved movies, the Academy Awards revealed itself to be what it always is, rich assholes letting other rich assholes wax their assholes.

photos courtesy of yahoo.movies.com



Above: Colin Farrell is accompanied by two young ladies who were practicing for later, as their dresses started falling off their statuesque shoulders a bit early.

Right: Kidman obviously is doing better now that she's rid of Tom Cruise.



The Pianist plays a pretty tune

by Cecilia Carboni
Staff Writer

Although not the average date movie, I went to see *The Pianist*. And also uncommon on dates, I took my little brother, although I digress. I was drawn in initially by the fact that it is a WWII movie, and I happen to be a historical nut. Everything about the movie was amazing to me.

The casting seemed perfect. Adrien Brody plays Wladyslaw Szpilman, a Jewish pianist. His melancholic look makes him a pleasure to watch, and his already skinny frame seems to get even weaker as the movie progresses. He is almost unrecognizable from his character in the movie *Summer of Sam*, where he plays a punk and a male prostitute. It didn't hit me until a couple days later.

The story begins with a basic introduction of his life and of the Nazi threat that hovers overhead. It follows him into the Warsaw ghetto where his family, along with countless others, are forced to live. The detail of the ghettos is quite remarkable. The portrayal of desperation and poverty is real and raw. Unlike some WWII related movies, this one does not trim the edges of reality into some sad little moral tale. It shows corpses lying on the filthy crowded streets and it shows the complete obliviousness of others as they trample or kick it aside.

The pianist himself is no hero. He is just a man that manages to survive through the help of others and perhaps with a touch of luck. He escapes from the ghetto and the movie chronicles his survival from there on. The portrayal of the Nazis was interesting as well. They aren't shown as diabolical monsters; they are simply human, perhaps cold and cruel, but still human. In a way that adds to the sentiment of horror. I should point out, however, that we do meet one kind SS officer. It adds a nice complexity to the story by shaking that "Us vs. Them" kind of mentality.

The sets are highly detailed. One scene shows the empty smoking shell of a bombed city stretching clear into the horizon. The dialogue never fades and the story is well paced. It is an

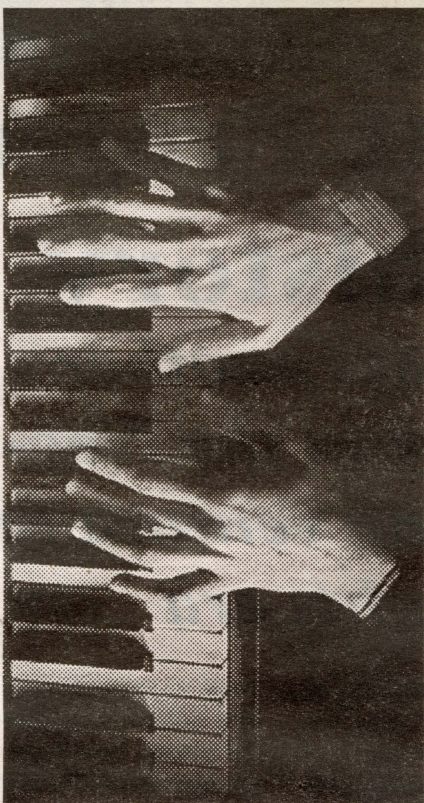


photo courtesy of thepianistmovie.com

Who wants to tickle the ivories?

excellent story, even for those with no interest in the historical aspects; however, I was pleased to see specific instances and events portrayed. The music, which sadly at times seems like a secondary player, is still haunting and beautiful. I was drawn into awe as I watched hands skimming past ivory keys like butterflies flapping their wings.

It was truly amazing to realize that this was a true story. Definitely a movie to watch for its fine acting, spectacular visual style, music, and overall historic detail and brutal honesty. It was directed by Roman Polanski, whose movies I like and whose personal life I'd rather to get into. Polanski, himself a survivor of the ghettos, knows how to treat the atmosphere and the emotion firsthand. It is definitely a movie to watch, and definitely not a movie to take your 10-year-old brother to.

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Laughter is the best medicine

by Joe Hertel
Staff Writer

The Stage Center Theater production of "The Good Doctor" will have you laughing out loud to the antics of the different characters portrayed in this light hearted Neil Simon comedy based on the writings of Anton Chekhov.

Considering that the cast was presented with the work of two very great and wonderful writers, it still lies in their talent, and the power of the director, to pull off an evening of comedic success. And they did so with exceptional results.

Director Stuart Carden has set the stage, literally, and given us a taste of subjective reality, by presenting the play in a theatrical setting, where we, the audience, become responsive to the actors as players in the mind of the lead character known as "The Writer", who ties the nine separate vignettes together in a presentation reminiscent of "Our Town" productions.

Carden's theatrical setting is enhanced by Robert G. Smith's whimsical, somewhat surrealistic, set design.

The play actually takes place in the theater and we become privy to The Writer's thoughts and dreams, as he explains directly to us his passion and invites response.

As we enter the theater, we see "The Writer" sitting at a table, uh... writing. Suddenly, as the house lights dim and the lighthearted

Russian folk music fades, he introduces himself and leads us on a journey of the mind into nine of his offerings.

And what interesting offerings they are. And what a great job the five actors did in portraying around twenty one characters.

Space prohibits me from detailing all the nine vignettes, so I will mention the two that gave me the most laughter and presented the most memorable characters.

The best animated feature was "Surgery", where a poor sexton, played hilariously by David Ropinski, shows up at the dentist's office to have a tooth pulled only to discover the dentist is away and his apprentice (The Writer), played by Travis B. Paul, will perform the extraction.

The audience empathized with the excruciating pain being suffered by the sexton's bad tooth, and burst out into gales of laughter as the scene progressed and the inept apprentice pulled Ropinski's massive frame along the floor with a pair of pliers. As The Writer indicated: "Pain is funny when it is someone else who is in pain".

A wonderful slapstick presentation which anyone who has ever had an impacted wisdom tooth, can attest. A line to remember is when the apprentice puts his hand in the sexton's mouth, and is told: "If you keep your hand in there, it will be the first solid food I have had in days."

Jen Goode, who plays a

formidable mad woman in "A Defenseless Creature", had us rolling in the aisles as she demands payment for her sick husband.

The bank official, played by David Ropinski, again had us laughing at his bad case of the gout (Ropinski's characters suffered in this production with toothaches, gout, being sneezed upon and passing up a chance at love).

Goode's portrayal of the mad woman, with her peasant costume (designed by Nicole Burchfield) reminded me of the Carol Burnette "cleaning lady" character, and Goode was just as funny in delivery and presentation.

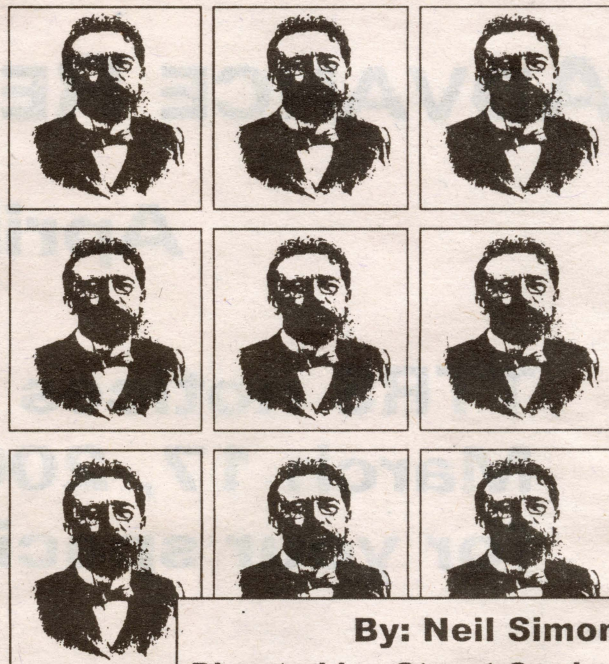
A few notes about the rest of the play. Meredith Bell, who played five characters, was especially convincing as the sheepish, non confrontational Julia, the governess, whose stipend is systematically reduced by the aristocratic mistress of the house, and as the demure actress who will be "however old you want me to be." in "The Audition".

Ben Fishbein impressed us with a broad range of his comedic talent especially as Cherdakov, the young man who unfortunately sneezes on the neck of his pompous boss, and as the sailor, who charges people to watch him drown.

"Too late for Happiness" was a melancholic musical presentation that made my eyes water, and although the actors were not professional singers, I think that

STAGE CENTER
THEATRE

The Good Doctor



By: Neil Simon
Directed by: Stuart Carden

lent to the poignancy of the song's lyrics. And, saving the best for last, Travis B. Paul, who, as The Writer, takes us with him throughout the entire production, wanting to end each presentation with an alternate ending where the protagonists all win the lottery of 5,000,000 rubles and live happily ever after.

The Good Doctor was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and, with finals coming up, and the semester coming to a close, perhaps a little diversion might be in order.

I recommend this play as an evening of suspended disbelief for anyone who needs a good laugh. And you will laugh.

Out of the Ashes gives inside look at Saddam

by Atoor Lawandor
Staff Writer

Out of the Ashes: The Resurrection of Saddam Hussein is probably one of the best books I have ever read.

The book, which is written by Andrew Cockburn and Patrick Cockburn, explores all the relative topics concerning Iraq with great care and immaculate attention to key details. It also includes a great deal of information on the origins of Saddam, the Ba'ath party, the

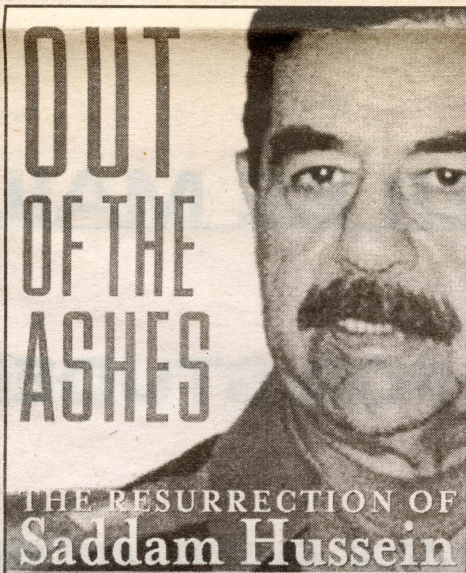
creation of Iraq by Great Britain, the regime of sanctions, Iraqi-palace-politics, the UN inspection policy, and a chilling look inside the Iraqi ruling family, all of which are as interesting as they are informative.

What caught my attention and my intrigue, more so than anything else in the book, were the striking similarities that I found between Saddam's family politics and the Sopranos. Not surprising, since Saddam has been known to think of himself as a mafia-leader (he has been known for his fascination with mafia films, particularly the *Godfather* series). The book gives the story of Saddam from his humble beginnings as a peasant farmer in a small town in Tikrit, where he learned the ruthless tribal law, by which he has abided by ever since.

In addition, the book sheds some light on the individuals of which the ruling Ba'ath consists and the relationships of these individuals with their leader, and their people. Violence, suspicion, and fear; these words describe the atmosphere of this highly exclusive, highly dangerous circle of kinfolk-they are all related to one another.

More importantly, the book gives a vivid description of the social fabric before the sanctions and its deterioration afterwards. It gives heart-breaking accounts of the way hospitals are left with not even the most basic commodities to save children from dying of the most common diseases. It explains with utmost care to details how Iraq, a wealthy country with one of the most educated population in the Middle East, fell back into the pre-industrial age a few years after the sanctions were imposed upon it.

This book, which was published in 1999, explores a subject that is very relative to the present events. A definite must-read, whether you are for the war in Iraq, against the war, or whether you just want to learn more about one of the most vicious regimes of our time. In short, the book is a brilliant piece of literature.



Irma Vep is a tour de farce

by Dan Peikes
Staff Writer

The Mystery of Irma Vep is a bizarre tale about love, devotion, bloodlust, backstabbing, and trickery.

Much of the play is set in Madecrest Manor along the moors of London, home to the Lord Edgar Hillcrest. Residing there with him is his second wife Lady Enid Hillcrest and two servants Jane Twisden and Nicodemus Underwood.

The beginning deals with the issue of Lord Enid's problem with letting go of the memory of his deceased wife Lady Irma. This leads eventually to adventures involving a werewolf, a vampire, and the reincarnation of an Egyptian Princess.

The genre of this show is definitely comedy, while infusing horror, drama, and mystery. Its style is very campy, but not unprofessional. While the set was not elaborate, it was still well made. I have seen similar style sets in major Broadway productions.

The show it self was very entertaining. The fact that they only use two actors for seven roles necessitating split second

costume changes very frequently throughout the show makes it immensely amusing.

The story it self left a bit to be desired. The plot was pretty thin. Do not go to this play to see a theatrical masterpiece. Go see this show if you just want to have a good time. The acting is overdone intentionally to add to the comic feeling of the show.

The costuming was one of the highlights of the show. It gave it a very early 19th century feel. One of the strongest aspects of the show was the characters. For a show that left something to be desired in the story department the characters were very well developed and played.



The servant roles I fell were played out the best. You really get a feeling for what it was like to be devoted to the service of a British Lord.

While at the same it time it made the social lines between the Master and

help extremely obvious. This was a great feat, especially because Lord Edgar and Jane Twisden were both played by the same actor, Tom Aulino and Lady Enid and Nicodemus Underwood were both played by Jamie Baron.

If you are not a die hard thespian you will definitely enjoy this show, and even if you are get off your high horse and have some fun.

It is a bit pricey, tickets cost between \$34 and \$46. If you have the money it is worth seeing, but if not I would say you can skip this one.

It is running at the Northlight Theater in the Northshore Center for the Performing Arts at 5901 Skokie Blvd. until April 27th. For more information call the box office at 847-673-6300 or check them out on the web at www.northlight.org.



ADVANCE REGISTRATION - FALL 2003

April 7 - May 9, 2003

TTRS notices were mailed the week of March 17, 2003. Refer to your TTRS notice for your specific time to register.

The Schedule of Classes will be available on the NEIU web site www.neiu.edu on March 27, 2003. The printed Schedule will be distributed on April 3, 2003.

If you have any questions, please contact the Registration Office at 773/442-4040.

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Economics Department calls for change

Dear Editor,

The faculty of the Department of Economics has no confidence in the ability of our current chairperson, Dr. Diane Stehman, to lead the department in a competent or effective manner. The chairperson has demonstrated no ability to operate in a collegial or professional manner in several areas of key departmental concern. Among these areas of concern are:

1. **The scheduling of courses** and hiring part-time instructors in a manner that protects the integrity and quality of economics courses and the economics major and minor. The chairperson has acted consistently in ignoring or failing to consult the department faculty in this key area of our professional responsibility. The chairperson has ignored three separate departmental motions, passed in departmental meetings, pertaining to the process of scheduling courses and the selection of part-time faculty.
2. **The chairperson has never provided** a systematic or defensible rationale for the courses offered by part-time instructors or the criteria used to select part-time faculty.
3. **The chairperson has repeatedly** failed to deliberate, or even consult, with departmental faculty with regard to long-range departmental plans and objectives.
4. **The chairperson has made** unilateral decisions with regard to travel monies and departmental resources. This is a complete break with past departmental practice of all previous chair/coordinators who brought such matters to departmental discussions and departmental decisions.
5. **The chairperson has demonstrated** no understanding of the nature of research and teaching specializing in the assignment of courses and teaching assignments. Furthermore, most decisions about schedules have been made unilaterally with very little or no prior departmental discussion.
6. **The chairperson has acted** with willful disregard to colleagues and taken the right to make all decisions regarding student advising, communications with former students, and departmental communications with the rest of the university. This style of management may be termed, without fear or hyperbole, as dictatorial and more suited for to a grade school principal charged with administrated a staff of new student teachers.

We, the entire full-time faculty of the Department of Economics, call for a new selection of a chairperson and point out that the current chairperson was installed in the position to replace the former chairperson who retired. The installation was not preceded by a vote we would like our input and counsel to be taken into consideration in the choice of a permanent chairperson.

cc. Dr. Diane Stehman

Economics Facult: Lewis Freiberg, Edward F. Stuart, Daniel Bergan, Audie Brewton, Thomas Collum

The *Independent* is taken to task

Dear Editor,

As a student-reader who depends on the Independent for campus and student related information and news, I have grown very frustrated as a result of your lack of coverage. There are many organizations on campus that do a wonderful job informing students on numerous subjects, events, and issues that are essential to our growth as students and human beings. Many students take time out of their busy work and class schedules in order to create a more cohesive, informative, and intellectually stimulating environment; however, their efforts are consistently ignored by the Independent's staff. For example, the FMLA, GLBA and Socialist Club have all contributed a great deal of time and resources towards organizing and informing students on how to adapt to a diverse and ever changing world. Unfortunately, their efforts has been ignored by the Independent. One does not need to adhere to the politics of any of the aforementioned organizations in order to cover their efforts. For example, I find the "socialist-state" another version of the "oppressive-state" and not a solution to it. However, the members of the Socialist Club have invited students of all color, gender, and religion into an organization that offers a sense of community. That should be commended and advertised, considering the level of segregation on campus. These students have taken an active role on campus and is, I believe, seriously dedicated to bringing about a better world. As a result, their efforts should be covered (and not by the offensive and racially insensitive Shana Stone, who overshadows the purpose of the event with her own "hate" politics). Furthermore, the FMLA and GLBA have educated many students on "heterosexism," "sexism," and "racism," which has created a less homophobic and misogynistic campus environment. Events like the Gay-Straight Experiment, Feminist Film Festival, Gay Ball, and numerous workshops and village square information distributions has forced many students and educators to think critically about the intersection of race, gender, and sexual orientation. As a result, all of us can learn how to work towards a community premised on respect rather than bigotry. All student organizations have the potential, as displayed by the FMLA and GLBA, of providing an education that is critical to our growth in a diverse and ever-changing world. I would like to commend these organizations for having the courage to continue to make our campus a better place to study, think, and engage. It is sad that I know how each writer (on the Independent) feels about the War. What is even more traumatizing is that none of you have displayed a sliver of insight thus far. Case and point would be the columnists whining about someone who gets the better of him in war-debates. Please pay more attention to the thousands of individuals on campus. How many soldier-students have you interviewed that are being deployed? Have you interviewed any professors whose students have already been deployed? This would make for an interesting "war" discussion since it would display the intimate and direct involvement of Northeastern students. Please stop bombarding us with war platitudes. Also, please save us from columnists displaying their insecurities in a public sphere. Please respect your positions as journalists and report on things that matter to your audience.

A bored and disappointed reader, Desmond Jagmohan

Where have all the summer courses gone?

by Jenni Lada

Staff Writer

Many students at NEIU have already felt the frustration of searching for available summer school classes; I know I have. They have gone either to an advisor to register for a class or attempted to touch-tone in, only to discover that the class they need is completely full. If an NEIU student would want to graduate in four years or less, summer courses are a necessary evil. However, these courses are very limited and often fill up within the first few days of registration. How can students get classes they need when all of the classes are full?

The main reason that courses are so limited is because of a change in the whole class set-up that took place a few years ago at this university. Originally, NEIU ran on a trimester system. This meant that the fall and spring sessions were each four months long, and during the summer there were two smaller class sessions that ran from May to June and from July to August. That period was considered an actual term and ran a full course load for students. The faculty was obligated to teach at least one class during one of these time periods. Now there are no obligations, professors can teach whenever they please, and students are the ones who suffer.

The old set-up had many downsides, though. Due to the nature of the summer sessions then, it was actually like taking classes during the regular school year. It made it very difficult on students who might have wanted or needed to work during the summer. It also forced professors to actually teach during one

of those sessions. Also, the fall and spring sessions were very short. However, wasn't this a small price to pay in order for students to have more chances to take classes they might have needed? After union negotiations and many talks within the university, the trimester system changed to a semester system.

Under the new semester system, the fall and spring sessions would each instead be four and a half months. Of course, at this point, teaching for the summer sessions then became contractual, with extra compensations being provided to professors willing to teach during these sessions. Many professors opt not to take on classes during the summer, despite additional enticements that might be offered to them. It can be very difficult to get things organized and accomplished during the spring and summer sessions, plus some of the faculty already have previous engagements. Visiting lecturers are also invited to come and teach classes during these times to help make more options available to people wishing to attend a summer class. Still, few people are here, and we shouldn't have to suffer just to get one or two classes so we can graduate in a semi-timely fashion.

This year, despite how small the schedule may look, there are actually more classes being offered than there were last summer. Traditionally, the number of classes available for summer is always much lower than the number offered during fall and spring. In the English department alone, more 300 level classes, graduate student classes, and English 102 classes are available. Plus, most professors are very understanding and might be willing to

allow a few extra students into their classes. Some departments have had to cut back a tad in the number of classes they allow, but usually the cuts aren't very major. One example is the History department, which is offering only one course less than last year. Also the departments make a strong effort to try and provide courses that are needed. Also in the History department, students are always able to find at least two upper level courses and even a few graduate student courses.

It is nice to see that even though it might be a small effort, the school is trying to make some steps forward to accommodate their students. But it really isn't enough. The number of people realizing they need to take summer classes is growing each year, and adding only three or four classes won't help them acquire the classes they need for their major or minor. The university has to realize that if they want to encourage students to remain at NEIU, they shouldn't make us have to walk on coals or go to Oakton Community College to get courses that we need.

Maybe if the school could make it more enticing for professors to teach during the summer, more would be willing to come in and make the effort. The university says all the time that they care so much about education; they should prove it by showing it.

A sufficient number of classes should be available so that everyone has an equal opportunity to get access to the classes they need. Until then, however, we all just have to be ready to show up on the first day of class or religiously watch the board in front of the cashier's office to see if new classes are added.

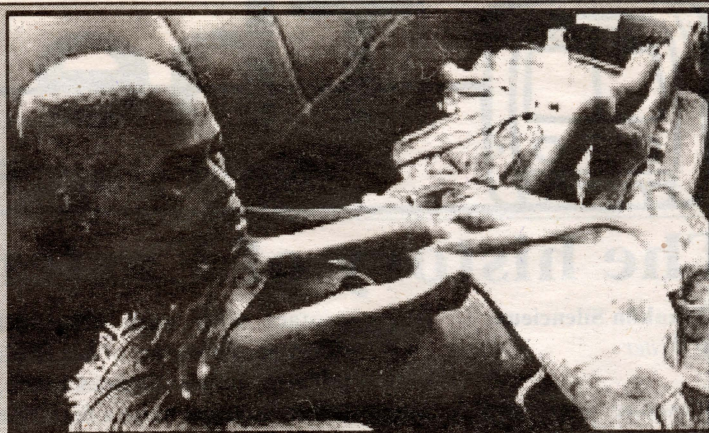


photo courtesy of yahoo.com

Human face of a crisis that has brought the African continent to its knees.

Africa vs. AIDS

Military dictatorships on the continent continue to ignore a public health threat that could be contained and prevented

by Atoor Lawando

Staff Writer

The numbers of HIV/AIDS infected people living in the Sub-Saharan region of Africa has reached critical levels. The Sub-Saharan region is home to 70% of the adults and 80% of the children living with HIV/AIDS in the world today. According to a U.N. AIDS study, there were 28.5 million adults and children living with HIV/AIDS in the Sub-Saharan region by the end of 2001, and these numbers are on the rise each year. As the social fabric of the Sub-Saharan region deteriorates due to war and poverty, and the public health systems continue to fail the citizens, the HIV/AIDS epidemic finds fertile grounds on which to flourish and thrive.

When I was assigned this article, I was told to write about what is being done to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Africa, and whether what is being done is enough. But I soon realized that in order to measure the effectiveness of the efforts that are put in to halt the epidemic--and there is a sizable effort put into the fight against HIV/AIDS by the world community--I had to look at the causes of its prevalence in that particular region of the world. For example, why are we in the United States more successful in controlling the HIV/AIDS epidemic than South Africans, or Kenyans? The answer that I found repeatedly was simply *poverty*.

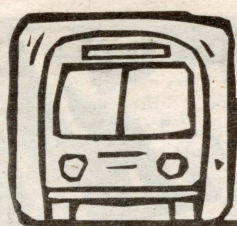
Like any other epidemic, HIV/AIDS thrives on poverty. Poverty causes deterioration in the social fabric of a society, leading to a rise in social problems such as prostitution and drug use in the general population. Poverty also means a lack in adequate public health resources, such as free clinics, epidemic surveillance centers, and health care workers like physicians, and nurses. Poverty is also to blame when a society fails to provide proper education for its citizens. Poverty, then, is dangerous as well as deadly, but what could be fueling the problem of poverty? In the Sub-Saharan case, the answer is corrupt leadership.

An effective fight against the HIV/AIDS epidemic requires a strong political commitment. The HIV/AIDS epidemic triggers three common patterns of response by the political leaders of any given country. These patterns are 1) Denial that a problem even exists; 2) Recognition that the epidemic does exist; 3) Mobilization, or actions to stop the epidemic. Many leaders in the countries hit the most by the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Sub-Saharan region are still in the first response phase of denial. They either don't accept the epidemic as a threat to the stability of their countries or they are simply preoccupied with other issues, which brings us to the next obstacle in the battle against HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa: government spending.

Most African governments are more committed in their spending to other activities such as military advancement as opposed to social programs and public health. The national government spending on HIV is drastically low in most, if not all, Sub-Saharan countries. Zimbabwe for example, has a military spending rate that is 6,782 times larger than its spending on HIV/AIDS programs. Zimbabwe is also a country where 1.5 million people are infected with the HIV/AIDS epidemic. A study provided by UNAIDS shows that international donor expenditure is fourteen times that of national government spending on HIV in most African countries. This shows a displacement of priorities on the African government's part.

The overall situation of the HIV/AIDS epidemic continues to be grim; not enough is being done on the part of the African governments who place much more importance on military spending than on the health and well-being of their citizens. While the world community continues to provide monetary help for these countries to combat the epidemic, the donations are not nearly enough to adequately battle the problem of HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa.

It is the African government's responsibility to properly address the problem of HIV/AIDS in their countries and take the appropriate measures to put a halt to it. Although other countries should provide some assistance to these African countries, the responsibility of fighting HIV/AIDS in Africa should not fall solely on the shoulders of the world community. African leadership should be the one to take on the full load of the battle against the HIV/AIDS epidemic. As of now, African leaders have shown little or no indication of their commitment to solving the problem of HIV in their countries; they are preoccupied with other issues, such as military spending. But little do they know that a strong nation is not necessarily a nation with a strong military power, but a nation with a healthy and strong population.



The Commuter

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

The history of Easter: Christianity remakes a holiday

by Franklin Silencieux
Staff Writer

Someone once said to me, "Easter bastardized holiday, commercialized and simplified! The significance of the resurrection of Jesus has all been lost, replaced by Easter bunnies, chocolate treats, and children's games. It was once important; now it's trivial."

The truth is just the opposite. Easter, which once meant spring, didn't begin with Christianity. The Christians took the holiday as their own. The bunnies were already there. Even the eggs. Tying these symbols to Easter came later. Once a primitive festival based on mysterious rituals, orgies, and pagan gods, it's become a Christian holy day, celebrated once a year.

Let's take a time machine to an era where Christianity didn't exist yet. From the Egyptians to the Canaanites, from the Anglo Saxons to the Romans, everyone worshipped pagan gods. There was a god for everything the land, the sea, the harvest, war, etc. All of these religions celebrated the spring season with similar themes, including a certain Goddess of Fertility.

This was a famous woman. People who spoke very different languages and never came in

contact with each other all worshipped a version of her. She's had many names (Asherah, Eastre, Ostara, Ishtar, to name a few). She was also the goddess of sex and war and many of the wild and varied rituals temple prostitutes, phallic statues, and infanticide.

They depicted her in many ways. For example, Asherah was nude, straddling a lion, holding lilies in one hand (a lily meant grace and sex appeal) and a serpent in the other hand (which meant fecundity, abundance). The Norse mythology version of this Goddess was a rabbit named Ostara.

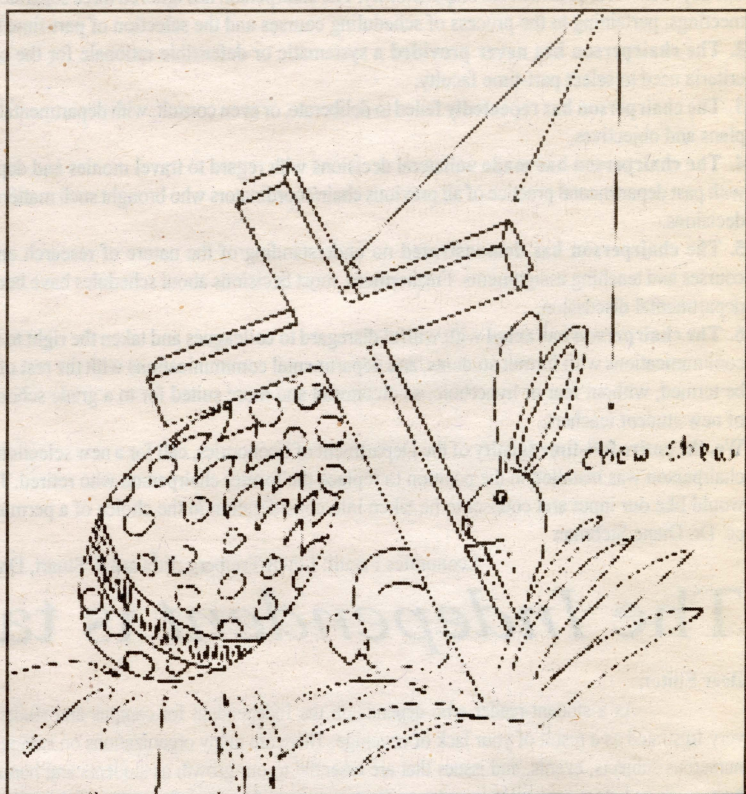
The Jews were a self-conscious lot, struggling away from paganism with an overbearing God. Their most important holiday was Passover, when the Angel of Death, sent by God, swept into Egypt, mass murdering first-born offspring (of humans and their pets), only passing over those with the blood of sacrificed animals on their door, a contrast to the Goddess of Fertility. Since this event led to their freedom from slavery, Passover came to represent that exodus and was also celebrated at the onset of spring.

Jesus was celebrating this very holiday when the Romans arrested him. This is why the Christian holiday is so close to Passover.

After all the hoopla surrounding the death and resurrection, Christianity was slowly becoming more popular. Missionaries set out to convert as many heathens and pagans as they could. As they traveled and met pagan peoples, they taught them to infuse Christianity into their own rituals. So pagan festivals became less and less about worshipping the earth and its fertility as they began to acknowledge and fear the one God. The fear of God spread like wildfire, and even the emperor of the Roman Empire began believing in God.

In the middle of a battle, Constantine the Great saw the light. He told all persecutors of Christians to cool it. He called his officials together to the Council of Nicaea and decreed that Jesus had not only been a great man and teacher, he was officially a divine being, literally the Son of God. He also decreed Easter to be an official holiday, to be celebrated the first Sunday after the first full moon after the start of spring. (He was into calendars).

Now we can understand how Easter leaped from a worship of nature to a worship of Christ, but what isn't clear to many historians is how we leaped from a rabbit goddess of sex and fertility to the cuddly stuffed Peter Cottontail



who "hippity hops down the bunny trail." The Germans were the first to introduce "Oshtar Haws," or the Easter Hare. And when they immigrated to America, where Easter wasn't celebrated very much, they brought it with them (incidentally, they also introduced Christ-Kindel, also known as Sinter Claas, who soon changed his heavy-handed name to Kris

Kringle and Santa Claus). Since then, it's become a literary figure.

Easter has featured eggs, bunnies, and kids marching around in their new Sunday clothes long before the Christians put their hand in. It's a credit to the open-mindedness of early Christian missionaries that such a pagan event is even a little more evolved. Enjoy your Cadbury eggs!

Why do we write, or sing, or dance...

by Joe Hertel
Staff Writer

The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle in his famous essay *Poetics* wrote that the greatest pleasure comes from learning the greatest truth. He was writing about theater, primarily, but then what is theater but a presentation of words within a select environment?

Was not the play written before it was performed? We learn, in communication courses, that there are three basic types of presentation: informative, persuasive, and entertaining.

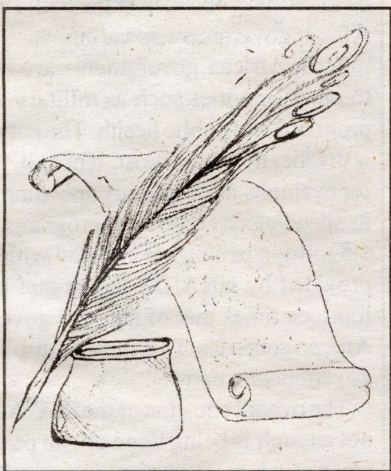
The artist conveys the selected message through a medium of writing, speech, painting, music, or performance in the hopes of (our) understanding the truth about life, love, situations, experiences, and, by seeking and learning truth, we derive our pleasure through the medium we have chosen to express ourselves. For clarification, Webster's defines pleasure as "a source of delight or joy; a state of gratification." We write for satisfaction.

Truth, according to Webster's, is sincerity in utterance, action and character. It is actuality, the body of real things, events and facts. As the artist with a brush has chosen to interpret truth, some have chosen the pen to express their inner thoughts, conveying to the reader information acquired, or persuading the reader to consider certain beliefs, or perhaps just to entertain the reader with episodes of experiences, real or imagined, to provoke an emotional response, and, in doing so, provide a derived pleasure from agreeing or disagreeing, of enjoying or not enjoying, laughing or crying, accepting or rejecting, all of which are a journey to the greatest truth.. It is the truth about ourselves.

We write to share our passions.

The greatest truth, I think, is that not one of us can achieve perfection. We can learn, we can grow, we can have an impact on others. I believe that is why so many choose to worship their God and to try and achieve a state of perfection through whatever their faith offers.

By understanding that we are all striving together, we can be content knowing that we are not alone in this journey of Life. Shakespeare said it well: "All the world's a stage, and we are merely actors, having our entrances and exits." Ah, yes, we



are born into a role that we develop ourselves based on our environment and experiences, and as we mature, we communicate with others and share with them our experiences, our thoughts, and our beliefs.

And the greatest compliment, the greatest pleasure, is when someone reads what you wrote, hears what you said, reacts to what you painted, and says, "Yeah, I know what you mean!" or, "I know how you feel." We write for understanding.

As you finish reading this issue of the *Independent*, think about what I have said. Did the different writers, in their articles, inform

you? Is there a subject you know a little more about, or have more perspective on? Were some of the articles entertaining? Did you laugh or ponder what was said? Because of what you read, are you persuaded to see a play, or read a book; listen to a CD, write a retort, discuss with friends, transfer to a different school? We write for response.

Remember that pleasure does not mean that your response is always a happy one. When you saw a play or read a book and it made you cry, did you not still applaud at the end, or set the book down in a sigh of satisfaction? Do you not select music to fit your mood, or to perhaps alter it? You responded, and the artist achieved the goal. The truth had made you free. We write to inspire

Everyone of us wants to share an experience with a friend or family member. We talk to each other about what happened to us at school or work. We talk about what happened to others or about the world situation.

We express our thoughts and ideas daily through E-mail, chat rooms, coffee shop conversations, and phone calls, and some of us, wanting to share with a larger audience, hone our skills and become painters, writers, actors, musicians, and speakers.

You know yourself, nothing pleases us in such a way as when someone listens and responds to what we are saying or doing, especially in a favorable way. We learn from each other, we are encouraged by one another, and we become more aware of the fact that we are all in this together.

We seek truth through experience and knowledge, and input is required; this is why writers write, painters paint, musicians play, and actors act. We write for posterity.

What are you drinking?

by Staci Sonenthal
Staff Writer

Does anyone really know what they are drinking anymore? Considering that the average person drinks 3 times more soda and juice than water, it's worth looking into.

According to doctors, the daily consumption of water should be an average of eight to ten 6oz glasses a day. But studies show that most people drink 2-3 glasses of water a day, and triple that in adulterated beverages, such as soft drinks, tea, coffee, and fruit juice. But with water being so bland tasting, and sweetened or flavored liquids a generally more enjoyable option, why is it really important to drink so much water? Well, next to air, water is the element most necessary for our survival.

Our bodies are made of more than 80% water, and even a small deficit can lead to big problems. A normal adult can go without food for almost two months, but without water for only a few days. Dehydration is one of the most common causes and contributors to heat stroke and complications during serious illness. It allows us to replenish our bodily fluids, produce saliva and stomach acids to help digest food, saline to keep our eyes moist and functioning, and even help us walk upright without pain.

In addition to this, water gives us stronger, healthier teeth and bones, helps with weight loss. Water is also the natural cleaning solvent for our bodies' processes as well. It flushes toxins out of our blood and digestive tracts and keeps harmful substances from building up within us. Without water, we would be poisoned to death by our own waste products.

Now let's look at the alternatives, such as soft drinks, fruit juices, and

hot drinks. People need to realize that many soda drinks are intensely corrosive (especially Colas), to the point of eating drywall and paint right off your home.

Do you really want to be ingesting something that can clean corrosion from a car battery, remove rust from a car, and can be used to scour your toilets? If soda can do those things, imagine what it does to the inside of the human body. However, Colas do have a couple beneficial factors. They can be used to calm your stomach during nausea, and can take grease out of clothing. However, it must be also noted that children who drink one glass of coke get the same amount of sugar consumption as a daily consumption of candy, cookies and ice cream. So adults have no reason to wonder why children can not concentrate in school.

Teas and coffees can permanently stain your teeth, as well as up the levels of caffeine and tannic acids in your system. Coffee is also a known dehydrator of the body. And depending on how you take your morning brew, the sugar and cream can be unhealthy as well.

Not to forget fruit juices. While many juices are high in sugar and made from concentrate with a good deal of additives, they still have their benefits. First off, the juice that we put in our bodies stimulates the immune system, while it also reduces blood pressure. Most of the fruit juices that we drink have a good amount of calcium, vitamins, and potassium to supply our whole body. Certain juices are low in sodium and reduce the risk of stroke.

While one may survive on a diet of drinking coke or juice for their daily consumption, drinking water is far more beneficial in the long run. Just remember, you are what you eat, and in this case, what you drink.

Memories of a soldier's life spent defending ours

by Patrick O'Brien
Production Editor

Editor's Note: The views expressed by the subject of this interview are not those of the U.S. Army, or any part of the United States government. The remarks are those of a private citizen.

As we the war with Iraq progresses, Americans have been privy to countless reports from the Middle Eastern nation and the effort of the Western coalition armies from talking heads, analysts and current military chiefs. The opportunity presented itself for a conversation with a former First Sergeant in the United States Army who has served in both the Vietnam War and the first Gulf War.

ISGT. (Ret.) Michael Condrella served in the United States Army for more than 21 years on active duty, serving tours of duty in Da Nang in Vietnam with the 1st Div. of the 6th Infantry and in Chu Lie, Vietnam with the 1st Div. of the 1st Cavalry. Also in the Persian Gulf with 101st Airborne. He has also served in the Pathfinders, Army Ranger, been a jump master and was on full jump status for 13 years.

Our conversation centered on his experiences as an American soldier then and now, as well as his own unique views on the current conflict in Iraq.

What strikes you when comparing the wars you've fought in?

"You gotta go back further to Vietnam, when Vietnam ended and most of the veterans came home, for the first time you could lead a combat zone at 9 in the morning, and 9 o'clock the next day, you're back in the world.

And the major problem being that Vietnam was a very unpopular war, and you'd come home, and you walk through the airport and people spat at you, people called you names, you tried to get out of your uniform as fast as you could.

Then you went to the Gulf War, and the Gulf War was different, it was a very popular war. Here was an aggressor who had invaded another nation and here were 130 other nations, and everyone wanted to help you, push him back out. But it was a very fast war, we met the political objective, pushed him back out of Kuwait, and world opinion and world pressure said stop, **and unfortunately we stopped.**

When we came back to the States', it was night and day. You come back from Vietnam, people were spitting at you, you came back from the Gulf, and people were shaking your hand, slapping your back, buying you a drink. Then all the sudden it became a good thing to be a soldier again.

The first Gulf war, most vets remember putting on gas masks every time the SCUD missiles came in, the heat, the sand, days and days of boredom, and **moments of stark terror** when the stuff actually hit the fan. And it wasn't that intense a war. The mother of all battles became the mother of all surrenders. Because basically the units you were facing, they didn't want any part of it."

What do you think of the media coverage of the second Gulf war so far?

"Actually, I think the media's coverage has been pretty good. Some of what's being done, the analysis that's being done, areas of advance and their not getting into specifics, but I'm sure there are some commanders on the ground who aren't real happy with the fact that you're telling the enemy exactly where he is, 'well we're 20 miles outside of Baghdad' on the highway and you can see the highway signs going by, and you and I can't read them, but anyone who's over there who's looking at it can tell exactly where they're at.



photos courtesy of Michael Condrella

Snapshots of ISGT Condrella's tour of service in the first Gulf War with the 101st Airborne, above and below.

I have great respect for the reporters embedded in the units, because these people aren't armed, and I'm sure the commanders are trying to keep them out of harm's way as much as possible, but, you gotta have guts to go into a combat zone and not being a combat soldier.

And I think the reports you're seeing from them are bringing it right home to our everyday lives, but as always, everyone has a fascination with dead bodies. Everyone's got a fascination with prisoners of war."

And I saw one reporter who did a report, I thought he did really well. On either MSNBC or another satellite channel, they showed **prisoners of war blindfolded**, what they do is put sandbags over their heads, and the reason you do this is when you take away a person's senses, you make them more docile and there's less chance of them doing anything stupid, especially once they're a prisoner.

And he was the telling the story of how one Iraqi individual came in with his little boy. They put the bag over dad's head, and the little boy gets really excited, gets really scared, and the Marines in this particular case took the bag off his head to calm the boy. That'll give you an idea of the difference in an American soldier taking care of a POW and an American POW being taken care of by them."

Arming Iraq

"The other thing that nobody looks at is the fact that those countries that are currently opposing us, and I don't quite know how to say this, but those that didn't want you to go into Iraq this time again, are the same ones that armed them to begin with. Look at the equipment the Iraqi army is currently equipped with. T72 Manned Battle Tanks, Russian. AK-47's, Russian. APG's, Russian. Then if you look at the records for a lot of the chemical munitions, I'd like to see where the 'Made In' is on them"

Do you think that popular support for

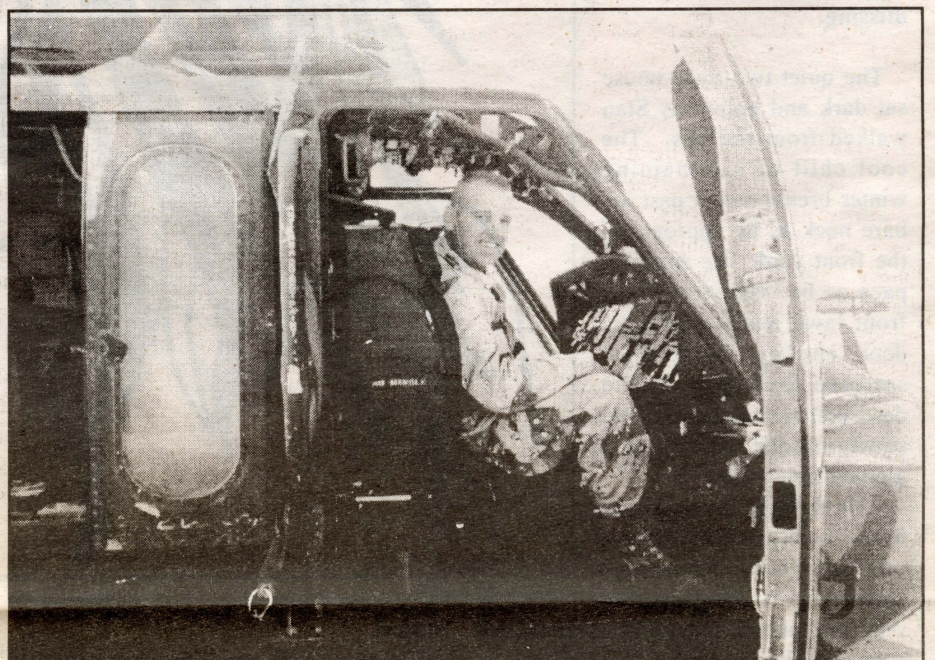
this war would make it easier to fight for the soldiers there?

"Easier for the soldier of course, its easier to fight a war that's popular, or at least one where no one's calling you names than it is otherwise. Its really hard, especially when you're in a combat zone, that if you happen to watch the news or see a paper and watch all these people protesting against you and what you're doing. It's not the soldier that decides, 'we're gonna go to war'. Nobody hates war more than a soldier. He's the guy who's on the frontline who's actually doing the bleeding and the dying."

Do you think the strategy being employed by the U.S is acceptable?

"The incident that just took place where the van was coming at the checkpoint, and the people on the ground 'waited too long', to fire shots (warning shots). You weren't the person standing at the checkpoint. Thinking, well should I shoot, or shouldn't I shoot? And then they shot, and the van didn't stop, and prior to this, **this same tactic was used** and the car exploded and four troops were killed."

"And if you weren't standing there with the weapon, with that van coming at you, what right have you got to second guess what that soldier did in that position? And if the people in the van didn't stop, and its what we refer to as **collateral damage**, yeah you're sorry, but faced with the same situation, put yourself in the shoes of the soldier."



Is there anyway to describe the experience of being in a battle?

"During a battle, the individual soldier, you're worried about what's right in front of you. When you're a soldier on the ground who's actually in the front lines actually doing the fighting, when the bullets start flying, and the bombs start going off and the grenades are going off and people are screaming, and **people are bleeding and people are dying**, you're no longer fighting for the political end of this particular war."

"You're fightin to stay alive and you're fightin for your buddy. Your concept of the whole war during a battle narrows to what your field of vision is."

What would you say to the average American seeing these battlefield pictures on TV?

"That you're only seeing snapshots. Right now we've got in essence four divisions involved in the conflict. And when you look at the numbers in these units, the number of casualties we've

taken is very small. Those casualties are not really great, not on a percentage basis. We're looking at snapshots, individual, emotional, entities. And each one of them is important. But you have to put in perspective that you're looking at an individual event."

Is there such a thing as a moral or just war?

"There's no such thing as a just or a moral war. War is a dirty dying business. If there was a way not to do it, there isn't a soldier out there who wouldn't agree. But everybody knows that's ridiculous. Especially when you're dealing with a regime like the current regime in Iraq."

Conscientious Objectors

"I've read in the paper about the young Marine who decided he wasn't gonna go, (to Iraq) he decided he was a conscientious objector. Now, after this war started. Now why did you enlist in the Marine Corps?"

"I knew a conscientious objector, a true one. When I was in Vietnam, I had a young Mormon who was with me who was my medic. He was probably the **bravest man I have ever met**. Because he went to the field with us every time out, and he didn't carry a weapon. And the firefights would start, and somebody would get hit, and I've seen him move under fire a few times, to get to someone who was hit and patch him up. He was a conscientious objector. You wanna live up to that standard, then you be a conscientious objector."

Is this the last war in the war on terrorism?

"There's been a war for every generation of children this country has ever had, and I'm sure there's gonna be more of them and I don't think this is gonna end terrorism. It might end a great portion of the threat."

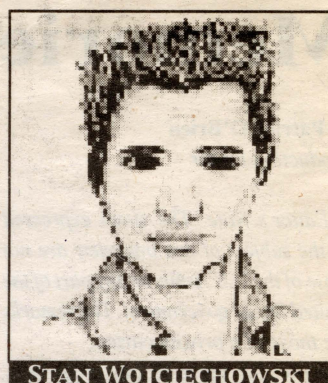


An Iraqi dinar ISGT Condrella bought from an Iraqi civilian in 1991 as U.S troops left the Gulf.



ANDREA ZELINSKI

Stan's Life



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI

Throughout the semester, Tori has tried time and time again to tell Stan how she feels about their relationship. After constant attempts to get time alone with him, she is set aside so he may spend time with his 4 year old daughter, work, or occasionally hang out with his buddies. Frustrated and lonely, Tori is persistent to show Stan how she feels. Meanwhile, Lyndsey has been waiting oh so patiently for a window of opportunity to show Stan what he's been missing.

The quiet two-story house sat dark and empty as Stan walked from the bus. The cool chill of a remaining winter breeze swept past his bare neck as he approached the front yard. He sped his pace as he walked over his front lawn and towards the door. His keys jingled as he searched for the key to the dead bolt and doorknob. He slowly opened the door to a gloomy front room.

He dropped his backpack by the couch and threw his coat on a chair. *God, I'm exhausted.* Opening up the refrigerator, he searched for and found a beer. He twisted it open as he listened to the message on the answering machine. One was from his parents, reminding him that they wouldn't be home tonight. *Sweet. Got the house to myself for once.*

Realizing it was already 10 p.m., he turned on the news to hear the latest developments in the war. As he lounged on his couch, relaxed and comfortable, the doorbell rang, echoing through the entire house. *Who the hell...*

He staggered to the door and peeked through the eyehole. As he opened the door, he found Tori waiting on his doorstep. "Hey. What are you doing here?" he asked as he invited her in.

She was dressed in a ragged pair of jeans and a T-shirt. Her hair was frizzy and unkempt, tied in a ponytail. The dark circles obscured the once cheerful glow of her face. Tori nervously cracked her knuckles as she began to speak. "Well, I was just driving through the neighborhood, so I thought I'd check to see if you were home," she replied without much emotion.

They sat on the couch and watched the news as he wrapped his arm around her shoulder and she leaned against his chest. The dim light from the television created the only light in the room. They watched the TV in silence until the commercials



started. "I actually did come here for a reason," Tori said as she buried herself further into his chest.

"Why? What's wrong?" Her eyes wandered the room as she gained the courage to speak. "Do you love me?" "What do you mean, 'do you love me?'" Of course I love you. You know that," he replied as he moved his head so he could see her face.

"Why don't you think I love you?" She took a deep breath and began. "You don't act like you do. You never make time for me, and whenever you do, I don't feel like the relationship we share is about love."

"Then what's it about?" "Convenience." The room hushed. She continued, "Maybe its because we've gotten so used to each other that we've stopped worrying about really making each other happy. Its like we're too comfortable. We stopped trying to impress each other or make the other feel good about who they are. It's just that we're too comfortable to make a change."

Stan sat dumbfounded as he let the words sink into his head. "I don't know what to say," he stopped. "I think you're wrong. I don't think you realize how much you mean to me. I'm always thinking about you and"

"If you think about me so much, why don't you let me know? Why don't you show me?

You're always busy and anytime we get a chance to talk, it's always about *your* problems with Sid's brother, or how behind *you* are in your classes, or problems with *your* daughter. I just don't think you have time for *me*," she said as she searched for his eyes in the darkness for a reply.

"Do you really feel that way?" She nodded her head. "Why didn't you say something earlier?" She paused. "I didn't think you'd change. You're so wrapped up in your life that I don't think you'd have room to change."

"Well I can." "I don't think so." "What?"

She took a deep breath as her eyes began to sting. "You obviously have things to do and goals to accomplish that don't include me. Regardless of how hard you try, I don't think that you can really commit the time that we both deserve," she paused. "And frankly, I'm tired of being tied down to someone who can't even give me the time I need. I want to experience my own 'college life.' You obviously want to, too."

"But I want to do it with you." "You can't." "Why?" "Its because you are too tied up with yourself and your own problems to want to share anything with me."

"But that is what a relationship is about; sharing both the positive and negative aspects of each other's life."

"What have you shared? What have you let me share? Its all about you," her voice began to crack and she took a deep breath. "You don't get me, who I am, or what I'm about. As much as you try, you haven't tried hard enough to really know who I am," she stopped and took a breath. "You know what; I don't know you either. You've put up a shield and refused to let me in, or anyone else for that matter. I don't know how else I can get through to you. As much as I try, I don't think you'll ever be able to let me in."

Stan watched her intently as tears slowly ran down her cheek and fell off her face. All he could do was stare into her eyes, hoping she'd change her mind and say she forgave him.

He took a deep breath and put his arm around her as she began to cry. He leaned her back to his chest and stroked her hair as curled up on top of him. He lowered

his head and kissed her on the forehead as her quiet sobs weakened. "I will always love you the way I do right now." She continued to cry until she fell asleep in his arms.

* * * * *

Lyndsey sat quietly in the corner booth as her friend approached the table with two cups of hot Starbucks drinks. She took one from her friend's hand and put it on the table.

"So how is the pursuit of that Stan guy going?"

"Alright," Lyndsey replied almost annoyed by the question.

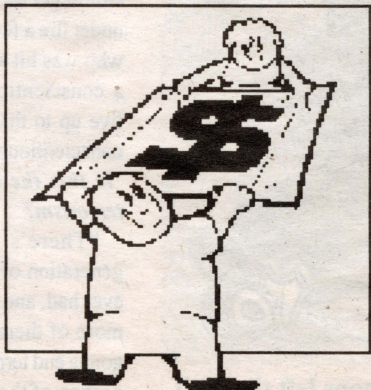
"You remember our bet, right?" Lyndsey rolled her eyes. "Of course I do. You'll be giving me two hundred dollars once he all mine."

"Yeah. Whatever," the friend replied with a smirk on her face. "This is your last chance if you want out. Tell me now, otherwise the bet is still on."

"I'm not backing out. I have him right where I want him."

"Yeah, with his girlfriend?" the friend snickered.

"Go ahead and make your jokes. We'll see who's laughing when someone goes home two hundred dollars richer," Lyndsey replied as she took a sip of her steaming coffee. "We'll see."



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Awakening your sleepy perceptions of Narcolepsy



photo by Andrea Zelinski

Denying your body sleep is one way to aggravate your narcolepsy.

by Cecilia Carboni
Staff Writer

Narcolepsy is a neurological disorder that affects the central nervous system. It affects 0.2 to 1.6 per thousand in European countries, as well as in the United States. Those figures are equal to those of Multiple Sclerosis. Narcolepsy is a disease of excessive sleepiness. It is frequently undiagnosed, and can be very devastating to an individual's social life

and career. It usually begins in adolescence but few cases are treated until years later.

Narcolepsy causes excessive daytime sleepiness and abnormal REM patterns. The person may feel an overwhelmed need to sleep in the day. Some symptoms are related to problems with the central mechanisms that control REM.

Sleep paralysis is when a person is falling asleep or waking up and finds their body paralyzed. They may be unable to move for several minutes. Hypnagogic

hallucinations are auditory or visual. These dream-like hallucinations occur as well when the person is attempting to fall asleep or awake. Cataplexy, the only symptom that occurs only in narcoleptics, is an episode of muscle weakness brought on by emotions. Laughter, surprise, or anger is expressed as the body becomes paralyzed and the body shuts down reflexes. Another symptom is automatic behavior, where familiar tasks are done without full awareness and with no later memory of them.

Studies done on narcolepsy show that those who suffer from it lack a chemical in their brain called hypocretin, which stimulates both arousal and regulates sleep.

Often there is a lower level of the neurons that secrete this chemical. Whether it is an immune response or a degenerative process is still unknown. Diagnosing Narcolepsy is done by using a nocturnal polysomnogram. By performing a multiple sleep latency test, doctors can measure the time it takes to fall asleep and the sleep latency of each REM cycle. Cycles fewer than five minutes will signal an abnormal latency. Brain waves, body movements, nerve, and muscle function are all monitored. It is recommended to consult a sleep specialist, for most doctors might misdiagnose these symptoms as being associated with other disorders.

Doctors can prescribe stimulants to increase alertness in combination with anti-depressants, which controls the REM related symptoms. Common side effects to stimulants are headaches, irritability, insomnia, irregular heartbeats, and mood swings. Symptoms from anti-depressants depend on the individual drug. Commonly reported side effects are drowsiness, sexual dysfunction, and lowered blood pressure, anxiety, or over-excitement.

In combination with prescribed treatments, there are also steps an individual can take to encourage a better night's rest. Avoiding caffeine or nicotine in the evening is one option. Exercising regularly, establishing a routine time to go to sleep and to wake up, and getting at least eight hours of sleep nightly are other options. Narcoleptics are also recommended not to use their bed during waking time or for "unrelaxing activities." Some doctors recommend taking several naps a day in order to avoid sleep attacks.

Narcolepsy can be detected and dealt with early on with a good treatment plan and support. Educating friends, family, and teachers is a good way of helping someone deal with narcolepsy. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) can help students who suffer from narcolepsy to get through school and into the job market. Some tips for managing narcolepsy at a college level

are informing instructors on symptoms, scheduling classes around naps, recording classes for later review, and choosing smaller classes.

Individuals who suffer from narcolepsy can have a normal career life. It is recommended to find jobs that keep them busy and moving, interacting with others, and which allow for flexible scheduling. With acts such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, employers are required to make reasonable changes in order to accommodate those individuals.

Narcoleptics can get a driver's license and are no more at risk of collision than anyone else. There are however safety tips to follow. If they start to feel sleepy, they are recommended to pull over in a well-lighted area and take a nap. Caffeine is also a choice for short-term alertness.

The risk of narcolepsy is higher in the children of those who suffer from it, almost 1 to 2% higher. A pregnant woman who suffers from this disease may want to consult a doctor on the effects of the medication on the baby.

Without proper treatment, Narcolepsy can result in the loss of employment as well as social withdrawal. Low self esteem or depression may develop. It is important to educate yourself and those around you to understand the disorder. With proper treatment and support, an individual can successfully cope with narcolepsy and lead a healthy life.

These dogs need homes from you

By Jenni Lada
Staff Writer

With the coming of spring, people are eagerly flooding into pet stores to coo over all of the cute little puppies and kittens. Though the new store animals may look cute and appealing, all over the country animals of all ages and varieties are being abandoned and placed into animal shelters.

In Illinois alone there are over 165 animal shelters with hundreds of dogs and cats, along with even exotic animals, looking for a home. Almost half of those are no-kill shelters, which will not euthanize animals which are at the shelter. Most organizations are very successful in finding homes for their animals. The Anti-Cruelty Society alone places over 6000 animals in happy homes each year.

Most of these shelters have been around for many years. Orphans of the Storm was founded in 1928, and the Anti-Cruelty Society was founded in 1899. With so many different shelters it is easy to find one close to your home to choose a pet from.

Adopting a pet from an animal shelter is very simple and relatively inexpensive compared to actually buying a dog or cat from a pet store or shelter. When buying from a pet store or breeder, prices can reach hundreds of dollars for a single animal. If you should choose to adopt from a shelter, which also can have many purebred animals, you will usually only be charged a donation fee ranging from \$40 to \$80.

In many cases, if there are two animals which came into the shelter together, in order to help entice people to adopt them as a pair, the price of adopting both will even be cut in half. In the case of the Anti-Cruelty Society, adopting an animal is even free for senior citizens. Also, when adopting from a shelter, your pet will already have visited a vet and been given some of the necessary medical examinations and shots.

Almost all shelters have a vet on staff or an actual clinic on the grounds. All animals are given a full veterinary exam. This includes both rabies and distemper vaccines for both cats and dogs. Every animal is also already spayed or neutered.

Many shelters have raised adoption fees a bit in order to provide each animal with a permanent identification microchip. Some shelters may even offer free veterinary care for 15 to 20

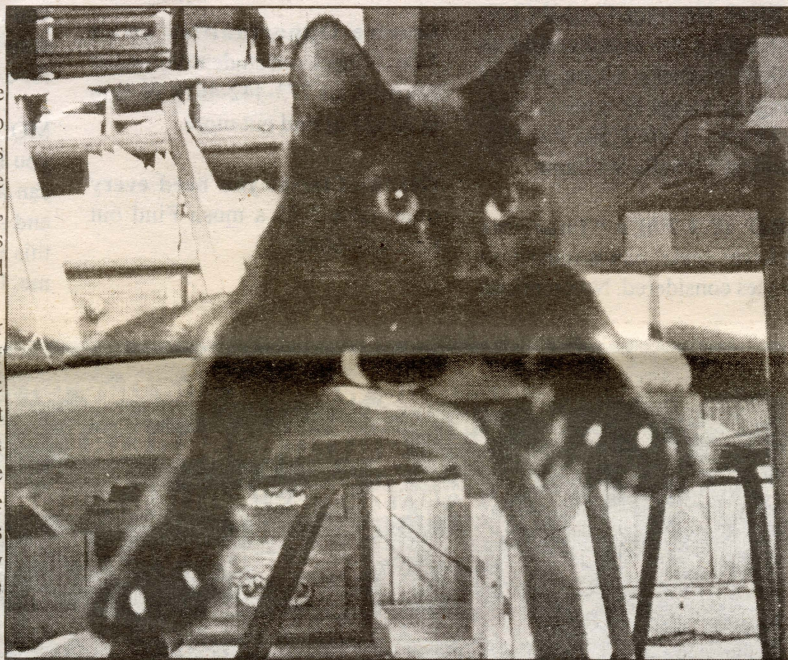


photo by Andrea Zelinski

Pets like this are always looking for a good home and family.

days after your adoption in case there was some illness that was undetected before you adopted your pet. The Anti-Cruelty Society shelters also offer low income clinics, reduced rates on spaying and neutering, and a vaccination van to different sites around Chicago to vaccinate animals for free.

All of these services are very expensive, but still animal rescue organizations do not raise their rates. Animal shelters are non-profit organizations. Very rarely do shelters receive funding from federal, state, or local governments or taxes.

Expenses for all of these organizations are paid for by donations from caring and generous individuals in the community. Many vets, stores, counselors, and even everyday people devote their free time to help work with abandoned pets.

In order to volunteer, you must be of at least 18 years of age, although some shelters may allow people as young as 16 to volunteer as long as they have permission from their guardians. This is because dealing with hurt or abandoned animals can be dangerous, or you may be called upon to even temporarily house an animal in your home for a short time. Before actually working with the animals, you also have to under go some training or short class which the shelter provides.

Adopting is the most important issue, and it is the one shelters are most concerned with. They want to place each animal with an appropriate family and in a situation which will be fulfilling for

both owner and animal. When going to a shelter to adopt, you can expect to spend at least an hour for your first visit. All members of your family should be there in order to make sure the animal will be compatible with everyone.

Be prepared to also have a valid ID on you and, if you live in an apartment, a copy of the lease along with the name and phone number of your landlord so that the shelter can check and make sure pets are permitted. Then you will talk to a counselor and view the animals. After you find the perfect pet, you will fill out another form.

The shelter will make some phone calls and review your application. If you show that you are willing to make a commitment to take care of your new pet, within 3 to 5 days you will be able to take your new member of the family home.

Remember though, a pet is a huge responsibility. It will become a member of your family and one of your best friends. Be sure before bringing any animal into your home that you will be prepared to take care of it for the years to come.

For more adoption information, you can always visit the Anti-Cruelty Society's website at www.anticruelty.org. To help find a pet shelter in your area with the kind of pet you are looking for, Pets 911 at www.pets911.com or Petfinder at www.petfinder.org are both invaluable resources. Your perfect pet could be waiting for you.

Take our cafeteria food with a grain of salt

by Joe Hertel
Staff Writer

While I don't have to keep kosher, I do have high blood pressure and allergies. So before I eat anywhere, I have to do some preliminary checking, and, if you are concerned about your diet or health, you also should check. When I returned to NEIU and saw what the cafeteria offerings were, I decided to see if eating there on a regular basis while attending school was plausible. And I was pleased that, for the most part, if acting responsible in my selections, I could occasionally enjoy most everything on the menu except the fried chicken (a whopping 2000+mg of sodium). In addition to it's regular fare, the cafeteria provides specialty items during certain times, and also strives to provide a daily choice of nutritional meat or vegetarian dishes. And, according to Mark Weiner, food manager, the cafeteria is cautious about persons with allergies and does not use peanuts or MSG in any of it's preparations. If you have specific allergy or dietary requests, you may check with their office in SU009, and they will assist you in either checking ingredients or offering alternatives. Since I am a big fan of cream of something soups, I was pleased to learn that the soups provided in the cafeteria had lowered sodium content (around 300-400mg per serving).

Most nutrition facts printed on the side of boxes and cans of the prepared foods we digest at home are based on a 2000 calorie a day diet. Most of us eat more than that which is why we are overweight. Fast food franchises do not have to list this information, but it is provided if you ask. In the NEIU cafeteria, which is run by Sodexo Campus Services, you should now be able to find the nutritional information posted right there on the counter. I have been on a 2000 calorie a day diet for two years and it isn't easy. I will tell you, from experience, if you are taking in more than 2400 milligrams of sodium a day or around 80 grams of fat (25g of saturated fat) then you are not doing yourself any favors and could possibly wind up like I did: overweight with high blood pressure by the time you reach 35. So I decided to pick two franchises and check the nutritional information in their products, and found the culprit I anticipated: salt!

Legal ramifications prohibit me from being specific, so I encourage you to visit these two website pages which will list practically all the cafeteria offerings from Subway and Pizza Hut. This will save you several clicks of your mouse: <http://www.pizzahut.com/nutrition/personalpan.asp> and http://subway.com/web_docs/nutrition/USA_Sandwiches.stm. The information should also now be available from the cafeteria franchise sites in plain view or on request.

How bad is it? Well, not too bad if you limit yourself to one meal a day in the cafeteria and avoid heavy eating later on in the evening. For example, all the classic 6 inch Sandwiches at subway will give you between 50 to 75 percent of your daily requirement of sodium. Pizza Hut individual pans give you an average of around 60-65%. So, if you have a personal pan pizza at noon and then a classic subway before you go home, you have exceeded your sodium for the day (based on the 2000 calorie diet). Did you have a bag of chips with that, or salted fries? Uh, oh. Watch it!

And what about the fat? Well, that isn't so bad. The individual pizzas have a range from the cheese only to sausage of around 25-35 grams, so that's about 30%. Subway varies with their highly advertised under 6 grams (9%) of fat sandwiches (which are prominently displayed on the menu board). But as we move again to the classic 6" sandwiches, the fat increases to around 15-25grams, and if you are consuming an entire 12 inch sandwich, that's 30-50 grams of fat and - hold on to your sphygmomanometer, 2500-3800mg of salt! You want fries with that?

Cholesterol? Carbohydrates? Calories? Saturated fat? If you are really concerned about your health and what you are eating, and don't want your arteries clogging up like Lake Shore Drive during a protest demonstration, then you will ask a few simple questions before you pounce on a Double Fatburger with cheese and bacon with a side of deep fried salted starchies. Remember that it is not an occasional pizza, or sandwich, or burger and fries that does it. It is your overall diet. And if you are eating too much in the cafeteria, or any other fast food place, day after day, then you should be concerned. And on a final note, if you find yourself suddenly blossoming into new sizes in your wardrobe, and your blood pressure higher than your ambitions, blame yourself. The information you need to have a healthy body and good diet is out there. It just takes a little research and, most of all, plain old common sense.

Golden Opportunities

2001-02 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! Email Robert and 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) 97-3839

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. 4110/ mo, heat included. Call (847)338-5121

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2 Bushnell Binocular Set 10x50 w/neck strap ease; 8x21 w/ease. Brand new, never been opened. Retail for 475, now only \$45 (708) 984-9835

1999 Pontiac Sunfire. Low mile - Great car for school & work. \$6995 OBO. Call (708) 705-0308

For Sale! Small trailer, 70x50x18 inches high Price \$ 175. Call Joe at

(773) 763- 2812. Car tires.

Services

Frank's Fret Shop. Guitar repair, design and sales. 3909 N. Cicero (773) 271-7897.

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Scrapbooking classes now forming, beginner to advanced techniques. Email: SIAS_Gayl@iwon.com. or call Gayl evenings: (773) 725-0745.

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RELIABLE! 1989, 4 door Plymouth Sundance. 2.5 fuel injected turbo engine Automatic locks. Great on gas. Call (773) 727-1104. \$1000 steal.

For Sale 200+ My Little Ponies. In various conditions, most in near-mint to good Sometails and Custom baits available, custom jobs done upon request. Will sell as a set or separately, \$2-\$20 each, depending on rarity and quality. Email at xgonebadx@aol.com with want list, include species and color specs.

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

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

Organizations

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

The Black Heritage Gospel Choir is extending its membership to all NEIU students. Come join us in singing songs of praise. Tues and Thurs., 1:40-2:50, FA 152. -President T'challa Williams

WZRD 88.3 FM's "Thursday Nite Live: seeks bands/musicians All styles considered. No promises.

Must have demo. Send band style descriptions and biography to secretagentbill@hotmail.com

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 femajoirty-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 staff. For more information email Pamela Barnes , BMC President at P-barnes@neiucom

Care about your environment? Let's start a NEIU environmental organization! Contact or leave message for Sara 9773) 561-5131 or revol@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 mush 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 not 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 Campus Fundraiser 3 hour fundraising event. Our programs make fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get this the program. It works Contact Campus Fundraiser at (888) 923-3238, or visit

Personals

You know you want my T-shirt, just ask before you leave my bedroom.

Hold on, I think Patrick and Brian just missed a couple more shots. Patrick kinda looked liked a beached whale out there. And if you wait another minute, he'll try to crawl back and play some defense for a change.

MQ: There is no way to really show you how much I really care. All I can ask for is your patience, love, and support to help me get through this mess. You mean the world to me. I love you.

The Word of the Day is:

quintessential

\kwin-tə-'sen(t)-shəl\

(adjective)

representing the essence of a thing
in its purest and most concentrated form

Example sentence:

UPS is the **quintessential** example of a great place to work. Not only do they provide the excellent pay that Charlie needs, but they also offer him benefits that few other employers can match, including up to **\$23,000* in College Financial Assistance.**

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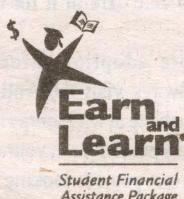
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