

4-22-2003

Independent- Apr. 22, 2003

Andrea Zelinski

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**SMOKING AND
CHILDREN
DON'T MIX
PAGE 8**

**THE SEMESTER IS
FINALLY OVER!**

**AN INTRODUCTION TO
THE B-WING'S
COMPUTER LAB
PAGE 3**



SINCE 1988

4 TIME ICPA AWARD WINNER

CHICAGO, IL.

Independent

Vol. 19 Issue 17

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

APR 22 2003

Tuesday, April 22nd, 2003

ARCHIVES

Every vote counts

Nazario-Rose tips Young for V.P.; Gaspard slugs Cruz in a landslide

by Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor

In a neck-and-neck race to the finish, current IBHE-SAC representative, Evelyn Nazario-Rose won the race for Vice President of the Student Government Association (SGA) by a difference of only four votes Thursday, April 10. Joining her during the fall term will be Gary Gaspard, winning his second Presidential election by over a hundred votes.

After a tedious and lengthy counting of the ballots, Nazario-Rose and Kendra Young waited patiently for the final day's votes to be counted off. Before a first count made by the Election Commission was announced, Tony Currier, Programming consultant and member of the commission, insisted on a recount.

"Being 32 votes behind, I didn't think I had a chance in hell," commented Nazario-Rose. She says she knew the results would

be close once she saw the piles of votes for her and her opponent.

Upon the recount, 3/4 ballots voting for Nazario-Rose were found mistakenly filed in Young's pile. Once the ballots were recounted and correctly filed, the Commission announced the totals for the final day of the election. The totals for the entire voting period left Nazario-Rose with 604 votes and Young with 600.

"I knew I had it when the 3/4 votes came out," commented Nazario-Rose moments after the votes were read. "I love this; this is history in the making."

Among the winners of the Spring 2003 election are Omar Otero as Speaker of the Senate, Kevin A. Williams as IBHE-SAC Representative, and Angel Monterroso as Student Trustee. All of the following will be taking a seat as elected Senators; Adejoke Ashaye, Kuby Eyiwuawi, Christopher A. Palmer, Tasha Carter, M. M. Morgan, Nolan

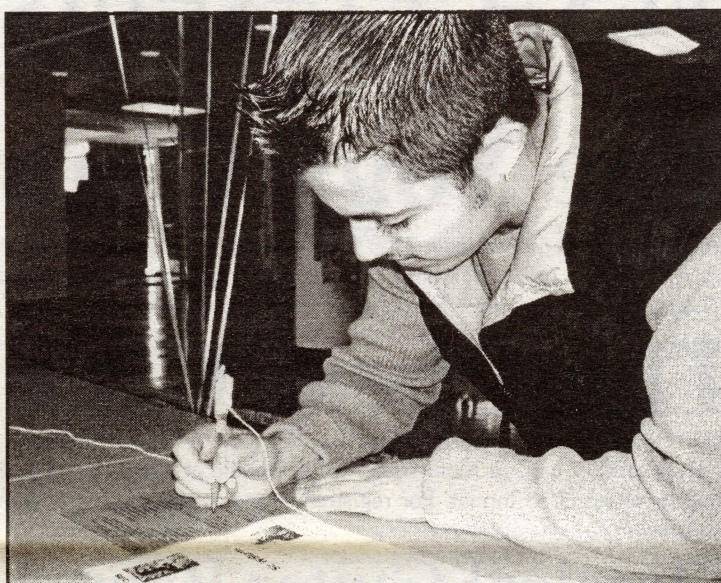


photo by Len Grayes

Over 1300 students voted in last week's election.

Fletcher, Mohemad Talha Anarwala, Michael Magee, D.J. Gonzalez, David Zaboli, Emil Woods, Camilla Steffen, and Leticia Naranjo.

Voting began Saturday, April 5th on the Main Campus. Balloting took place Monday and Tuesday, April 7 and 8 at CICS and El

Centro. Main Campus elections were held on Wednesday and Thursday, April 9 and 10.

The parties

Like last year, two major political parties dominated the election. On one ticket was the Student Action League (SAL), spearheaded last spring by the

current SGA administration including President Lukasz Dobryzinski, Vice President Georgia Logothetis, Speaker Caleb Avraham, Senators Victor Dula, Ahmad Milwala, and braintrust Jacob Heiss. The candidates who recently ran under the umbrella of the SAL party consist of presidential candidate Jason Cruz, vice president elect Nazario-Rose, speaker candidate Javier Vargas, IBHE-SAC candidate Sir M.V. Williams, Trustee elect Monterroso, and senator elect Zaboli.

This year's dominating party, the Student Vision Party (SVP), scooped up just over half the positions available at this year's election. Conceived in the spring of 2001, the SVP has been lead by president elect Gaspard. Members of his party include vice presidential candidate Kendra Young, speaker elect Otero, IBHE-SAC elect, Williams, and Student

See Election, p.4

Student accuses campus police of abuse

University disputes validity of claim, citing student's history

by Scott Plencner
Senior Staff Writer

On February 19th, NEIU graduate student Ladina Whitfield was apprehended by Public Safety and handed over to the Chicago Police, charged with alleged misdemeanor assault.

After being released from women's lock-up, Whitfield filed formal complaints with the university's Affirmative Action office and the Public Safety supervisor against the arresting officers. The administration has reacted by in effect dismissing the complaints as "crying wolf" and calling into question Whitfield's credibility.

On the day of her arrest, Whitfield said she was waiting for a parking spot to open up in the D lot west of the classroom building. As an open spot presented itself Whitfield and another student rushed to the space. The other student, whose name is being withheld, allegedly hit Whitfield's car and then backed into a van behind her in her attempt to quickly squeeze into the spot.

The two people hit, including Whitfield, left their car to survey the damage, which was reportedly minimal. The woman in the van left. Attempts made by Whitfield to locate her have been futile. From this point, the story is completely different depending on whom one chooses to believe.

Whitfield approached the woman who

took the spot and asked for insurance information. Witnesses report that a yelling match then ensued. Whitfield and another witness who overheard the exchange say that the driver who hit Whitfield's car sat in her car with the window partially rolled down. According to a corroborating witness who preferred not to be named, the driver told Whitfield to leave her alone and "get the hell away from my car or I'll shoot you." Whitfield accused the driver of leveling racial slurs as she refused to exchange information.

The driver then rolled up her window and called Public Safety from inside her car. According to police, the driver simply wanted to get out of her car and safely get to class and away from Whitfield, who was allegedly pounding on the car. The driver eventually pressed Public Safety to assist her in filing assault charges against Whitfield whom she accused of threatening her with a gun and threatening to "kick [her] ass" if she didn't get out the car. Whitfield claims that police persuaded the driver to file charges. When the matter came up in court, the driver did not show up and the case was classified "SOL" or "status on leave." The *Independent* attempted to contact the driver, but attempts were unsuccessful. Lt. Jack Baker, acting supervisor of Public Safety, hoped police could have resolved the matter without formal charges being filed and does not

expect a judge to reopen the case since it is such a minor offense. "I was hoping they would remand her [Whitfield] over for psychological treatment," Baker said of the court's decision.

Whitfield feels the situation was handled inappropriately by Public Safety officers angry about a complaint of racism she had filed two weeks prior. That followed a similar screaming match weeks earlier, according to police. "It's not unusual for groundless complaints," said Baker. "But we shouldn't treat any complaint as groundless."

Police asked her to follow them into the office for questioning. She obliged. Whitfield says Officer Sanford, who brought her into the office, was pushing her. Officers deny this. "Sanford had his hand behind her back as he led her into the office," said Baker. "He was not pushing her, but she kept saying, 'Stop pushing me.'"

He added, "Sanford was When she entered the office, Whitfield says that the officers, Barrios and Bartz, whom she had filed previous complaints against, exclaimed, "We got her." Lt. Baker said, "That is not like Barrios. He's so polite that people think he's making fun of them."

Police asked her for her keys so they could search her car for the gun. Because of the gun threat made by the driver, Sgt.

See Whitfield, p. 4

Financial Aid follow-up

by Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor

The alleged problems in safety on campus, triggered by the April 4 issue of the *Independent*, have come to a resolve. While an office on campus was easily accessible during the late hours of a weekend, organized security measures are consistently being taken to prevent any criminal acts.

After a recent investigation by a member of the *Independent*, security of vital offices on campus have been questioned. Late on the evening of March 18, Patrick O'Brien, Production Manager, had found an accessible entrance to the Loan, Admissions and Records, Financial Aid and Cashier's office via an escalating staircase.

Curious, O'Brien had ventured into the office complex to find the door into the Loan office ajar. As O'Brien passed through it, a silent alarm was triggered in the Public Safety Building. "It was almost like it was during a regular school day and I was going to hand papers to somebody at the desk," commented O'Brien despite the fact that it was 10 p.m. and the school was closed.

According to O'Brien, he had been in the office almost 15 minutes before police officers had reached him. "I was surprised that officers weren't there within the first 3 minutes."

"Quite frankly," began Lt. Jack Baker, "when you have an alarm in the cashier's office, you don't want to go rushing in there right away. You want to see who's in there and what are they doing, and if there's a guy covering him with a shot gun before you go through the door."

After officers had stopped him, they proceeded by conducting a protective pat down. This pat down is for officer safety to check for weapons and is a standard and acceptable procedure for police officers.

The police officers let O'Brien go shortly after verifying his identity through a brief background check. "Based on what he was doing, a large part of what happened after they grabbed him was based on the observations that he wasn't doing anything," said Lt. Baker. Regardless, a standard report was filed.

According to Lt. Baker, the door directly below the cashier's office has never been secured to his knowledge. Instead, the door leading to a series of hallways is designed to secure the entire area and should remain locked while the university is closed.

See Financial Aid, p.3



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Friday

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

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AROUND CAMPUS

Faculty/Staff Lecture Series

Presented by Dr. Edward Stuart and students will discuss the "Medierranean Roots of European Unification." Tuesday, April 22, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m. in room SU-215.

The Department of Music

String Orchestra's 9th semi-annual concert. Feturing music by Handel, Barber, and Bloch. Joseph Glymph is the conductor and Mikhail Yanovitsky is on the piano. Thursday, April 24 at 1:40 in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall.

Stage Center Theater

Winner of the Ronald Williams Playwright Contest, May Steelsmith, presents "Isaac, I am." April 24, 25, and 26 at 7:30 p.m. Free with NEIU I.D. card

Spanish Club Meeting

Final Spanish Club meeting. Tuesday, April 22 at 1:40 p.m. in room FA 225. Refreshments will be served.

MSA Presents

MSA presents "Muhammad: The Heart of Islam." The truth about his life. Tuesday, April 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Golden Eagles room.

The Yoga Club

Bring a Vegetarian dish to room 2140 in PE building on Saturday, April 26 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Wear loose fitting clothing. Reserve your spot at D-Sheppard1@neiu.edu. Instructed by Dr. Anita Ambardar.

The Chess Club

NEIU Open Chess Tournament of spring 2003 will be held on Saturday, April 26 at 9:30 a.m. in room B022 in the Ronald Williams Library. 5 round modified G/30 format. For registration and information visit <http://www.neiu.edu/~chess/>.

Classical Guitar Recital

Performed by Stephen Tunstall. On Tuesday, April 22 at 8 p.m. in Recital Hall. Feturing the music of Villa-Lobos, Giuliani, Tarrega, Scarlatti, and more. Free admission. Call Music Department for information @ (773) 442-4636 or (847) 630-6412.

Locker Notice !

RENEW LOCKERS NOW! Monday, April 21 - Friday, May 2. No changing lockers.

NPB carnival a hit for all ages

by Staci Sonenthal
and Jenny Lada
Staff Writers

The Northeastern Programming Board presented their end of the year carnival this past Saturday night. The carnival took place outside of the Student Union and inside the Student Union, as well as the cafeteria and Alumni hall from 3pm to 11pm. The event played host to the general public. Most of the carnival attendees were between the ages of 8 and 21. The overall turn out of the event was larger than expected.

The carnival started off with an inflated mountain climb, among other inflatable gymnasiums for the kids to play on. While this was going on many people were either feeding or petting the animals, getting a balloon animal, being tattooed by the air brush artist or getting a rice necklace with their names printed on them.

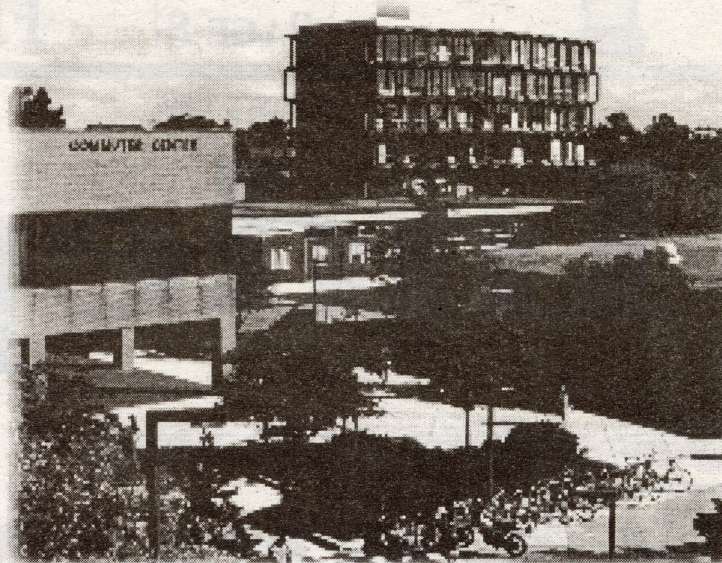
Needless to say the kids as well as adults looked like they were having fun. While the weather did play some role in the events the overall turnout was great. Families from all around came to join in on the festivities. The crowd favorite was the stilt walker that was creating balloon animals.

Some events like the inflatable mountain climb had to be taken down because of the rain showers. The movie *Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* was moved into Alumni Hall. The Carnival took place from 3pm till 7pm followed by the movie starting at 8pm and ending at 11pm.



Carnival goers enjoy the petting zoo.

photo by Len Grayes



FINALS!

Friendly reminder that Finals are on April 29, 30 and May 1. Check with your professors for exam times. Study, Study Study.

Letters & Ads Hot tip? Please Note

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

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



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.

In memory of Dr. Stanley Kerr

by Desmond Jamgohan
Special Contributor

On April 7th 2003 Philosopher Dr. Stanley Kerr passed away. Dr. Kerr received his Ph.D in Philosophy at Yale University in 1971. His academic awards were numerous and he published several articles.

He was a lecturer here since the mid 1970's and has chaired the Philosophy department for many years. His areas of expertise were Philosophy of Science, Logic, and Ancient Philosophy. Dr. Kerr clearly left a void that will never be filled.

He will be remembered most for what he meant to all his students. His razor sharp intellect and overwhelmingly brilliant wit always made for thought provoking and yet amazingly funny lectures.

He possessed that rare talent of being able to take the most abstract and opaque philosophical idea and explaining it in such a manner that we all got it. He was the only person I knew that made Immanuel Kant's epistemology make sense through a cartoon description.

What we will all miss most is the level he taught at. He made us search the deep corners of our minds to find clarity where there was complexity.

He taught us how to think logically first and passionately second, how to value logical consistency, and most of all, how to appreciate and value ideas. He was most deserving of the title teacher and no one has worn it better.

We will all miss his humor. All of the philosophy majors have references for our professors that capture them and convey warmth. Dr. Kerr has as many as he had witty comebacks.

Last semester we were all sitting waiting to take our final in History of Modern Philosophy and he walked in with his skull-mug. The class immediately erupted in laughter and the nervousness immediately went away. He had the ability to make us all smile in a single gesture.

This semester most of us did poorly on our first logic exams and he came in and decided he would cheer us up, Dr. Kerr style: "well, you know William James could never pass a hundred level Logic class either, and if you read him it is obvious." I don't know if any of us felt better about our grades, but we all got a great laugh. He was the only person I could get an "F" from on a test and then leave class cracking up.

Like Bertrand Russell, who he often quoted, Dr. Kerr had a range that is not easily matched. His base of knowledge was overwhelming. He possessed all the qualities of a Scholar and a Philosopher and he wore them well.

He reached all of us in his own way. His influence will be passed on to all those that we reach. His wit and genius is immortal in our hearts and minds.

Thank you for teaching us how to be better thinkers. You are missed.

Opting for more responsive politics

With the SGA elections concluded on April 10th, its time to assess the portfolio of our rulers to be, the Student Vision Party (SVP), who regained the President's throne when Gary Gaspard easily defeated Jason Cruz of the Student Action League (SAL). Yet being Northeastern politics of late, the picture is a bit more complicated than that.

While the SVP also took the offices of Speaker and IBHE-SAC Representative through the victories of Omar Otero and Kevin Williams, the revamped SAL still retained the Vice President's seat and the Trustee position, giving NEIU a taste of bi-partisan government for the first time in several years.

The hope is that the contentious debate and scandal that has surrounded student government for most of the past two years will give way to actual progress on the goals set forth by the two political parties, and those goals were ones SAL and SVP have set out to achieve the past few years with mixed success.

In speaking to current President Lukasz Dobryzinski, he qualified the efforts of both parties with the disclaimer: "The U-Pass is not feasible here at NEIU." And on measuring the school's reputation outside campus, "it is hard to measure whether you're making any progress, it's a hard thing to measure."

The CTA U-Pass, retention programs and furthering the academic reputation of Northeastern have been bantered about by our student politicians time immemorial, and yet this platform is trotted out successfully most every year by most of the students running for elected office.

It remains to be seen whether anyone elected to these offices has the charisma and/or influence to win any bold initiatives with the school's budget set to be cut up to 8% and more cuts possible. As reported in the last issue of the *Independent*, some university services are already facing cuts this year, giving Gaspard and the SVP a tall task.

The SVP remains optimistic about the goals of their team in the face of current circumstances, however. "It's going to be a good year," noted unsuccessful Vice Presidential candidate Kendra Young, who does expect to be included in student government in an appointed position by President-Elect Gaspard.

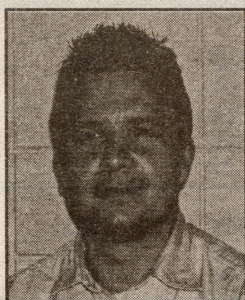
This move is sure to evoke controversy given past events concerning the very party driven politics that have ruled Northeastern. "I will be involved in SGA under Gary's administration," Young commented, though in what capacity it is not yet clear.

The trump card is the presence of Vice President Elect Evelyn Nazario-Rose and Angel Monterroso as Student Trustee. As members of the weakened SAL, current history would indicate a tenuous hold on office for at least Nazario-Rose. Gaspard's first Vice-President, Richard Caragol, resigned in 2001, though there were no strictly organized political parties then to potentially influence such a decision.

It may prove difficult for the past to be overcome by these groups for the good of the students. Nazario-Rose still wields substantial power in a mixed government, and she hopes to use it. "Realistically, I think if we stop worrying about personal interests, we can work together as a unit." Nazario-Rose also made clear her goals in SGA as well, "I look forward to working with Gary Gaspard, and serving the students at NEIU." So indeed optimism abounds in SGA for now.

Yet it remains these political parties don't always serve the student government's best needs either. President Dobryzinski recalled of Senate meetings this past spring, "We had a very diverse group of students. Independent thinking and diversity in general is the key to SGA, not creating yes-men." Dobryzinski was alluding to the voting along party lines of some SGA senators this past year, and the collusion of same-party members in the past several years.

The return to serving students could eliminate the need for these parties altogether; Gaspard captures the mood of the NEIU community, saying "I want the best for this school, just like any other student." Stay tuned to see if him and the rest of the new-look SGA can deliver on the flashy campaign promises and give the students something worth talking about.



Patrick O'Brien

Microsoft visits NEIU to demonstrate

by Len Grayes
Staff Photographer

The Computer Science Club hosted a conference with guest speaker, Martin Schray of Microsoft who presented his company latest product, Visual Studio .NET, on April 16th at the Golden Eagles room.

Schray's goal was to show the strength that Visual Studio .NET, or what students simply referred to as dot-net, has to offer. According to Schray, .NET has projected excitement in the academic world: computer science courses in compiler design will help students see the flexibility of using their own programs in a common language infrastructure.

Great success was met as well at the corporate side where case studies involving giant companies like Bear Stearns, Carnival Cruise Lines, and Merrill Lynch and Co., have praised .NET for its extensive usability.

Microsoft .NET gives access to different languages through a single run-time environment, one framework, one integrated development environment, also known as IDE, and one debugger, states Schray. In layman terms, developers can create a program using any of the 20 or more computer developer languages, expand the program to a different language, and correct errors or malfunctions in a different one. Its

framework consists of a Common Language Run-Time (CLR) feature, which allows the languages to be interoperable and run together, and specialized applications like ASP.net and XML for database access.

Schray demonstrations were running on beta software. The first demo was a shorthand notation for a loop, merging database, and receiving information from different computer languages. The second demo was of how to use link lists and sort the list. The third demo was an introduction to web services.

Students were shown a video about an upcoming technology called the smartphone where, with one phone call, all your medical needs will be served: identity check for insurance purposes, clinical referral services, and how far you are from your physician.

All of these can be done through the web. The fourth demo involved accessing information from a web service through a mobile phone or

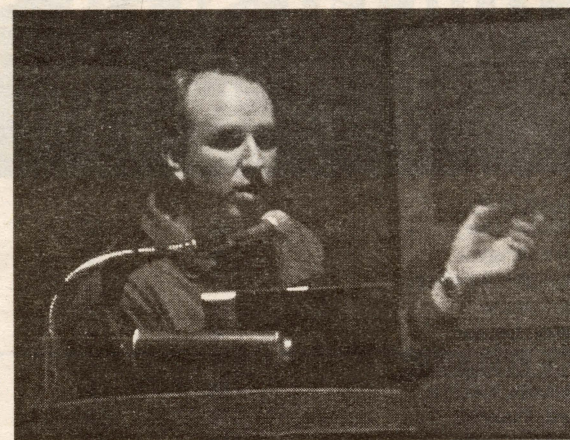


photo by Len Grayes

Schray explains how .NET will effect students.

other mobile application.

Programs to be created on .NET can be developed only on Windows 2000 or XP, but deployment will run at Windows '95, '98, 2000 and XP. Microsoft other new software, Windows 2003, will be available with the .NET framework already installed. .NET has received approval from ECMA (European Computer Manufacturer's Association) and ISO (International Standards Organization), the leading organizations that set standards for information and communication systems.

The Computer Science Department has purchased Visual Studio .NET as part of a program called MSDNAA. More information regarding Visual Studio.NET can be found at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio>.

B-Wing opens long awaited computer lab

by Cecilia Carboni
Staff Writer

A new computer center has been unveiled at Building B. It is not any center though; it is a Student/Learner Centered Technology Enhanced Classroom, or a Student IT Resource Training and Support Center.

What that means is quite simple. It is not only a place to go and use the computers, it is a place for students to get help and learn skills necessary to them, at their own rate and level. A lot of time and collective effort has been placed in this project and the final product is one that needs to be experienced first-hand.

The center has about a hundred state-of-the-art computers with the

most current Macintosh and Microsoft software. One feature that sets this center apart from the others is its training rooms. These rooms offer open workshops where student can learn how to use programs such as PowerPoint, Excel, and Word.

The uses of these programs are not only applicable in class work, but also are necessary in everyday life. Group work facilities are also offered so several students can work together on a project. Teachers can also schedule time in order to go over the workshops in the first Mac lab on campus with their classes.

Tables are available for hooking up laptops to the Internet. Future plans will include the installation of wireless Internet for students in the B Wing courtyard.

Students will be able to sit outside in nice weather with their laptops and be able to work on-line.

Also ceiling mounted projectors

will be added to replace the current desk-bound variety. A web cam will possibly be installed in the corner of the room so that Internet surfers can view the facilities for themselves.

The information desk is located at the center of the room. Unlike labs in other colleges, where the desk is hidden in the corner, this one is central. It is meant to encourage students to ask for help and to receive it by a courteous staff. Accessibility was a factor in the design of the lab.

Architects worked closely with Facilities Management in order to create a friendly atmosphere. Large windows overlook the courtyard. The room is nicely lit by natural light while the computers have been set in positions optimum for reducing glare.

The workshops are available during activity hour. Additional times for the lab and the workshops being offered can be found on-line by checking the student client services webpage.

Several departments have worked hard to realize this project. This facility has been built with the students needs in mind. They encourage students to stop in and ask questions. It is a wonderful resource open to all students and it must be taken advantage of.

Pool reporting by Jenni Lada

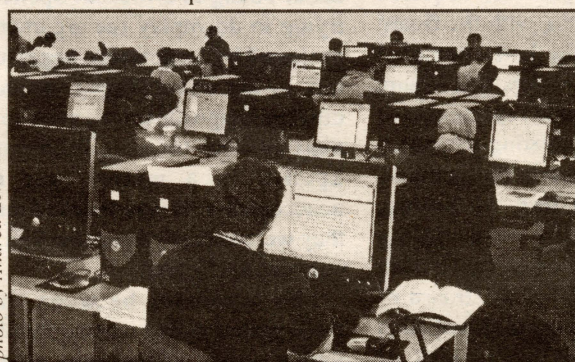


photo by Andrea Zelinski

New computer lab in B-Wing holds about 100 stations.

Free seminar

You are cordially invited

Building bridges and promoting cultural harmony!

Lecture Islamic faith and practice, and Judeo-Christian traditions

Speaker Dr. Jerald Dirks

- > Former ordained minister (deacon), Methodist church
- > Harvard college of Divinity
- > Author: *The Cross and the Crescent*

Date/ Day April 25, Friday

Time 6:00pm - 9:00pm

Place Lal-Qila restaurant

6345 N. Western Ave., Chicago

Dinner will be served

• Please come and bring your friends and family with you

• Free as well as for-sale literature will be available

• Please confirm your participation by contacting us: 800.662.ISLAM or RSVP@ICNACHicago.org

Islamic Circle of North America

Financial Aid follow up from page 1

According to Director of Public Safety, Chief of Police, Donald R. Challis, this is not always the case. A number of engineers and custodial staff are working through all hours of the night throughout the buildings. "Engineers [are] always on duty checking boilers, checking fans, checking alarms. So they have a right to be down there, we just need them to lock the door behind them," said Lt. Baker.

Most incidents occur due to neglect on the part of the campus staff to lock the doors. "We have to rely on those who work down there to lock up after themselves commented Challis. "We are all supposed to lock the doors behind us. We [Public Safety] are the ones with the actual duty of making sure they are locked and stay locked. We can't stand by the door around the clock either. We need a lot more staffing for that."

One of the frustrations the police force has faced is the random opening doors throughout the building. "They [police officers] will walk through at 1 o'clock to secure all the doors, then at two, half are all open again," commented

Challis.

"Should this happen? No. Is it going to happen? Yes. Best thing we can do is be aware of what happened now and we're working with people involved to make sure it doesn't happen again. Is it going to happen again? Probably. And then again, we'll go at the next step to try to make it better... We appreciate that it has been raised, and now we're working to fix it," commented Challis.

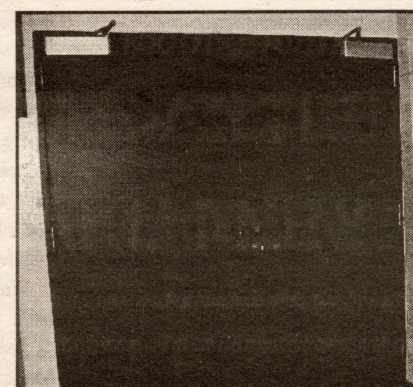


photo by Andrea Zelinski

Another indirect path to the Cashier's office.

Official SGA Spring Election results

	SAT 4/5	CICS 4/7	CICS 4/8	El Centro 4/7	El Centro 4/8	Main 4/9	Main 4/10	Total
PRESIDENT								
Gaspard, Gary	66	44	25	11	6	254	205	611
Parks, Angela	6	22	39	0	3	35	32	137
Bonfiglio, Michael	7	2	1	0	0	19	14	43
Cruz, Jason	43	3	1	12	11	230	183	483
Lopez, Mynor	4	0	0	1	0	28	12	45
VICE PRESIDENT								
Nazario, Evelyn	69	3	3	13	14	269	233	604
Reed, Tineeka	3	20	32	0	1	43	20	119
Young, Kendra	54	48	32	11	5	253	197	600
SPEAKER								
Otero, Omar	66	54	34	16	12	291	232	705
Vargas, Javier	56	14	28	8	8	265	208	587
IBHE								
Williams, Kevin	71	52	42	18	10	289	220	702
Williams, Sir M. V.	48	15	19	6	9	265	216	578
TRUSTEE								
Monterroso, Angel	68	18	25	12	12	285	228	648
Alcott, Kelli-Ann N.	52	50	38	11	8	259	206	624
SENATOR								
Ashaye, Adejoke	11	9	6	0	0	58	33	117
Eyiowuawi, Kuby	10	10	1	1	0	36	20	78
Palmer, Christopher A.	9	7	11	5	1	58	54	145
Carter, Tasha	10	22	16	1	5	56	50	160
Morgan, M.M.	1	1	2	1	0	41	17	63
Fletcher, Nolan	11	6	7	2	0	34	31	91
Anarwala, Mohemad Talha	25	0	1	4	1	65	56	152
Magee, Michael	14	6	8	2	0	64	53	147
Gonzalez, D. J.	17	2	2	7	9	67	47	151
Zaboli, David	14	1	0	0	4	51	51	121
Write In								
Woods, Emil	0	2	6	0	0	13	8	29
Steffen, Camilla	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	5
Naranjo, Leticia	0	0	0	0	0	10	12	22

Want to
join in on
the fun?
Stop by
E-049 to
join our
award
winning
staff!



Members of the Election Commison recount votes for Vice President.

to intervene. No action has been taken as of this date against the Logothetis or Speller.
Tallying the ballots
The counting of ballots took place every day after the polls had closed. An Election Commission counted ballots.
The commission is composed of 12 members. Three of those members were faculty or staff nominated by University President Salme Steinburg. Three members of the Commission were SGA members who were not

participating in campaigning or running for office. The remaining members were students nominated by student organizations or other students. "We feel that the Commission was highly representative of the student body, as the students who served so well on the Commission had a wide range of majors and campus involvement," said Logothetis.
The tallying process, a long and intricate procedure, consisted of tallying the votes every day after the polls had closed.

the parking spot."
Taking the advice of Professor Ty Okusun, Whitfield has proceeded to consult with lawyers and Operation Push about her case. "The police didn't give me the benefit of the doubt," she said. "They saw black and responded. That's the root of it." Whitfield hopes that the officers involved will be reprimanded for straying from procedure and hopes all students learn from her story.
"Our hands were tied when she left our custody," Baker said. "This is a matter for the courts and for the administration now." Baker insisted that Public Safety officers receive rigorous training at local academies on procedure and cultural sensitivity.
"Unlike the Chicago police who consider the people out there as 'others,' we are very much part of the community," Baker explained in defense of his department.

Whitfield may have finally found an ear open to her in the administration. Dean Murrell Duster, installed April 1st as the new permanent head of the Office of Affirmative Action, hopes to review the case effectively closed by her predecessor. "I will meet with the appropriate individuals," she said, later adding, "There are some things I want to understand about Public Safety's procedure in this case." Duster promised that the office would follow up on this and all cases like it.
"We are here to protect the rights of students, faculty, and staff," she said. Meanwhile, at least one witness to the event in Lot D that sparked everything has been found and is willing to talk. "It's the right thing to do," said the witness Dana. "What happened to [Whitfield] was cruel and wrong considering she's a woman."
It seems now that whether Whitfield's case is really one of police brutality or abuse will either be decided by Duster's office or a judge.

From Election, p.1
Trustee candidate Kelli-Ann N. Alcott.

At the polls
While this year's election was less disruptive to students than last spring, a number of representatives from both the SAL and SVP remained actively campaigning throughout the voting times on the main campus.
Fifty feet from the voting table, candidates and campaigners worked for hours without rest in order to inform voters of their agendas and plans for their term if elected. Many voters were approached by more than one party simultaneously, causing some small scenes and disruptions.
Minor complaints of 'dirty politics' were spread by word of mouth predominantly by the SVP. "We got burned at CICS [Center of Intercity Studies]," said Gaspard in regards to the campaigning done by two candidates. According to Gaspard, Presidential candidate Angela Parks and Vice Presidential candidate Tineeka Reed were campaigning at CICS in order to take votes away.
Allegations were also raised against the campaigning methods by the SAL. The bulk of the SAL's

campaign material was printed on white paper. As voters would walk to the voting booth, SAL campaigners would ask voters to 'vote for the candidates on the white sheet of paper.' The SVP, mainly composed of African American students, thought this to potentially damage their campaign and advertise discrimination to their race and ethnicity.
The majority of disturbance during the election came from an interaction with Professor William Speller regarding Vice Presidential candidate and Trustee Young. He had allegedly told a student, Vice President Logothetis to "shut up and be quiet," while in an argument with her regarding Young. According to Logothetis, while Young was campaigning on Thursday, she was required to be at a meeting with the Board of Trustees. She had attempted to point out to voters that Young was an inadequate representative for skipping a meeting for which she was to represent the students.
According to Young, this was not the case. Young had receive a voice mail from Jean Kelchauser of the Board of Trustees regarding the cancellation of the meeting due to lack of

quorum. Instead, the Board of Trustees would hold an executive meeting via teleconference, and Young's presence was neither required nor requested.
According to Logothetis, while in debate with Speller, he had said that he personally gave Young permission to be campaigning. When challenged that he has no right to dismiss her from a Trustee meeting, he replied by saying he owns her, and thus gives her permission. According to Logothetis, during their debate, he had unprofessionally told her to "be quiet and shut up."
According to Young, the roles are reversed. While engaging in a private conversation with Young, she claims Logothetis had started making loud comments about Young in criticism. Speller, trying to downplay the argument proposed by Logothetis, began to talk to her about Young. Young claims Logothetis have been disrespectful towards Professor Speller in a matter that is unacceptable. "I was shocked that they were verbally attacking him," commented Young.
The argument between the three parties ended when a Public Safety police officer was asked

From Whitfield, p.1
Sanford carefully ordered a female officer to perform a pat down. "We need to be careful with our procedure," Baker explained, "We need to take every gun threat seriously to avoid another potential Columbine." He added, "Considering her history of gun charges, we were especially careful."
Whitfield asks how officers found the time to pull up her record as she walked to the office and feels that they found out about her history only after she filed complaint. She did admit to a gun possession charge and said she served a one-year conditional discharge. "I was taking my mother's gun out of my house and away from my children," she explained. She was pulled over as she was transporting it to Indiana where such firearms are legal to give it to a relative.

When Sanford ordered the pat down, Whitfield reportedly exclaimed, "I have nothing to hide." She proceeded to take off her clothes, lifting her blouse and dropping her pants, in the middle of the office to prove it. She admits that she did so voluntarily, but felt a lot of pressure since her bag and coat were taken away and since Sanford allegedly had his hand on his holster. "I was humiliated," she said. "She was acting irrationally," said Baker.
The female officer on the premises then escorted Whitfield to a back room where she was held until paperwork was completed, according to Baker. Whitfield says, though, that she was held over two and a half hours and never allowed to file counter-charges.
While being held, Whitfield collapsed, from what she called a diabetic attack. "I needed insulin," she said, "but I was handcuffed to a chair and then Sanford told me that I wasn't diabetic." She passed

out and Sgt. Sanford attempted to lift her. "He bruised my elbow," Whitfield said. Paramedics were called in, but left her in police custody. "When they entered the room, she immediately woke up," said Baker.
Whitfield was sent to CPD District 25 lock-up where she was later released pending court proceedings. "It's dangerous," she said, "when people make accusations and people end up in jail."
"I don't want others to go through this," said Whitfield as she explained why she went to great lengths to file complaints. Dean of students Michael Kelly and Vice-president Melvin Terrell met with Whitfield and told her to report the event to the Affirmative Action office, then tentatively run by former history professor Joseph Morton. Morton performed an investigation. "He wrote it all off," said Whitfield, "and even had the audacity to say that I didn't have a right to

"Considering her history of gun charges, we were especially careful."

"The police didn't give me the benefit of the doubt. They saw black and responded."

COMMENTARY

DRAWING BOARD

BY MICHELLE ZELINSKI, SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR

"I'll be taking that now."

Lukasz Dobryzinski

Gary Gaspard

Georgia Logothetis

Bringing down the giant



Images from the streets of Iraq after the ouster of Saddam and celebrations post-Saddam.

by Atoor Lawando
Staff Writer

The media has been flooded lately with images of celebrating Iraqis, not only in Iraq itself but the Iraqis living here in the United States as well.

As the larger-than-life statue of Saddam was toppled in Firdos Square in Baghdad, on April the 8th, Iraqis living in Iraq and those living elsewhere burst into euphoric celebration, marking a new era in history. But amidst the festive mood of the recent days, I couldn't escape the feeling of skepticism.

Many believe that the war in Iraq is over, or at least they wish it to be over. The truth is, however, the real war has just begun. The fact that Saddam and his regime are gone is in fact a cause for celebration for the millions of Iraqis who have lived under his dictatorship.

But now with Saddam gone, the state of Iraq went from a totalitarian police state to absolutely free anarchy overnight. For the many Iraqis who have lived under the dictator's rule, these are times that they have never even dared to dream of before. One, however, must keep a skeptical eye on the situation.

While cheering in the streets and destroying every trace of the former regime may be liberating and may feel good after long

years of oppression, when will the cheering end? And what will come after the celebration stops? Looting former government buildings may be justified as an act of vengeance against a cruel dictator, but even hospitals are being looted.

The celebration has now turned into chaos, which could then turn the current situation in Iraq into a catastrophe very quickly.

In a state of absolute freedom, such as the current state of Iraq, no one's freedoms are protected. More than enough civilians have managed to gain access to guns and ammunition and are using them to loot former government infrastructures, hospitals, banks, and Humanitarian aid headquarters. So we have a situation of armed civilians in a country currently without a central government. The former police state has now turned into a state of constant war of one against another.

Iraq is in dire need of a strong central government. It is the government who will help maintain stability in the streets and regulate the distribution of humanitarian aid so that it is distributed to the appropriate parties and not sold on the black-market.

Without a formal leadership, without laws, and without law-enforcement, people will constantly infringe on each other's rights.

Only when a government is in control of the state can the citizens live without the fear of their rights being violated.

Iraq needs civil order to be restored very quickly. If the transition process between now and a new Iraqi government takes too long, there will be a great deal of resentment from the Iraqis towards the United States and Great Britain.

Bringing down Saddam is a great feat and many do feel grateful towards the Coalition Forces, but this is only the first half of the test; the second and more crucial part is yet to come.

In war there are no winners, only those who lost and those who lost more. Both the United States and Iraq, along with probably every country in the world, have experienced in some way, shape, or form the negative effects that accompany war.

Although some people (me included) have accepted the option of war to oust Saddam and rebuild a new Iraq, the outcome of Operation Iraqi Freedom will not be ready for the world to evaluate for quite sometime.

It is too early now to determine whether or not Iraq has been truly freed; only history will tell us that and history is not written in a day or two. For now, however, I shall go back to my cheering and chanting.

Frightening times ahead

by Shayna LaBue
Staff Writer

Guerilla warfare tactics are being re-introduced in the war between Iraq and the U.S. There has been a massive increase in the number of suicide bombings, and it is rumored that there are at least 4,000 volunteers from 23 Arab countries that want to participate as carriers now. Scary number, huh?

Two Iraqi women, who are now being honored posthumously by Hussein, led the most recent of the suicide attacks against our troops. Their families are being awarded the Decoration of Umm al-Maarek (Mother of All Battles), Wisam al-Rufidain (Order of Two Rivers), and 50 million dinars. Doesn't that feel like a slap in the face to our troops and their families?

Many people are questioning as to whether or not our country should worry about suicide bombers coming here. My thought is that anything is possible and maybe even probable.

Everyone was caught by total surprise by the events of September 11; I think Americans should be ready for anything. I'm not saying to start hiding out at home, but to just be ready for anything and everything. I am not about to change around my life because some people think that my way of living is unholy. I remember hearing that the terrorists begin to win when we begin to be scared of waking up in the morning and leading normal, everyday lives.

Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak, says that the war will produce "100 Bin Ladens" now. He is pretty much assuring

us that terrorism will likely increase in the U.S. Mubarak also claimed that he tried to warn the U.S. of the impending September 11 attacks but to no avail.

His people are actually starting to criticize him because of his close relationship with the U.S. He condemns

the war but blames Hussein for his failure to cooperate with the international community.

Can we trust Mubarak? Should we? We've trusted others before and look what happened.

All I know is that I do worry about the possibility of another terrorist attack in the U.S. I almost expect it and feel that something is bound to happen to us maybe in the distant future. It's a time when almost everyone is at danger here. No one even imagined that anything like September 11 would happen to America until it actually did. I think that as long as there is a threat against our country and way of life, we should all be on our toes. We need to plan and know what to do in case something happens. My father and I have worked out a plan that if he calls and says to get my ass home ASAP, I'm gone.

As Americans, we all need to watch out for each other now. These are turbulent times, and who knows what the heck is around the next bend? I think the people of the United States should just prepare themselves physically and mentally for another possible tragedy, just so we don't end up with our pants around our ankles again.

Basically, we all need to stick together and face every hardship as a united country because it's the only way we're going to get through this.

Modus Operandi: Profiteering

by Chad Nelson
REV Editor

As of late, I have noticed (and reacted primarily with horror and then disgust) the host of ways in which Northeastern Illinois University functions as a business rather than an institution of higher learning. With policies and requirements that make four-year graduation difficult, I constantly feel as though I am a "client" and NEIU is a "service provider" trying to keep its client base full. Now, being objectified as a consumer by large corporations is something I expect, but I do not think that a university, specifically such a diverse university whose impact on democracy is incredible, should be run with profit as a motive.

The first policy I take great exception to is part of the general education requirements. I have no problem taking classes in a multitude of disciplines, and in fact I quite enjoy taking classes outside my major. However, I languish with the idea of having to select classes from a limited list, most of which are introductory classes for that department. I would like to have the option of taking a 300 level sociology class that piques my interest instead of the lower level course, but I have no such option. Essentially, I am asking for extra work and looking for more of a challenge, which to me means getting more out of it, and I am being denied. What particularly irritates me is that I cannot use that gen-ed class to fulfill the 42 credit hours at the 300 level, and thus I have to take one more class. I can see no reasoning for forcing students to take introductory classes when they would prefer to be taking advanced classes except as a way to get students to take one more class, stay one more semester, and pay a few hundred extra dollars.

A second policy I have a problem with comes from the Physics Department. According to their policy, no student can pass a physics course if they do not pass every test and exam during the course. So, even if you are going into a test worth ten percent of your grade with a 100% average in the class and you bomb, and fail by even one wrong answer, you can not pass that class. To me, it just seems a very easy way to force students to retake classes, which again keeps the schools bankbook full and also a poor policy for an institution devoted to a friendly learning environment. More than anything, I think this policy will discourage students struggling in a class.

These two problems combined with a shortage of classes during the summer and the poor counseling students receive before declaring a major add up to a long, long trip for students at Northeastern, and ultimately, an expensive one.

French are taking it from all sides

by Cecilia Carboni
Staff Writer

France's opposition to war has gained them great criticism. Most painful to France has been the White House decision to change the word "french" in French fries to "freedom." French toast has also undergone the same symbolic change. Those that are pro-war in general have boycotted French products. Does taking the word "French" or banning French products really have an effect?

The changing of names seems silly. It seems to appeal to the eight-year-old in each of us. It is as if we are denying them of some great honor. Contrary to popular belief, French fries are not French. The word refers to the manner in which they are fried. The origins of these Frenched and fried potatoes are actually traced back to Belgium. Such petty changes seem ridiculous to me, especially when our government should be worried with greater issues.

Reports have been made on Americans pouring French wines down sewers. Consumers and wine connoisseurs have been asked to boycott all French wines; in return, they have been offered Washington wines. Opportunist, perhaps, but most importantly, patriotic.

According to distributors of French wines, the boycott doesn't affect them as much as many would think. Just as there are pro-war individuals refusing to buy their products, there are anti-war advocates who seek them out. In the end, the numbers even themselves out.

History has been brought up against the French. WWII is



photo courtesy of yahoo.com

French products have been the subject of scorn recently.

constantly cited. America may have helped them then, but that doesn't mean that France has to agree with them now. The French government has the right the point out what they think is a mistake in our going to war with Iraq.

One would think America helped France because it wanted to help a country in need, not because it expected it to be its unconditional friend on the playground. The French helped in the Revolutionary War, so I assume that makes all of us even.

Regardless of intentions, there shouldn't be a boycott on French products. The people that make their living selling these products live off the sales of the products. Not all of the sellers decide on what their government's stance should be.

These boycotts, if they were to achieve the devastating effect desired, would be a blow to the American belief of democracy. I would like to see how many people would accept losing money in the

name of their government's ideal, especially when they don't agree.

It is immature to expect every country to jump off the bridge with us. They are entitled to oppose the war. America found itself deep in the ideals of isolationism as Hitler bullied himself into Czechoslovakia. We waited patiently as Poland was ravaged and few seemed to mind. I hardly think anyone can proclaim himself or herself as morally superior while giving everyone else that look of "shame, shame."

Those who do not want to be involved simply shouldn't. Spilling their wine may not be as devastating of an effect as was desired, but the intention is dangerous. To take such measures against a country simply because they do not wish to follow in our footsteps does not mean they deserve such treatment.

Personally, our troops have greater worries, like returning home safely to their families. Name calling and spilling French products seems

'X' marks the spot of lakefront park New park is planned for spot where Meigs Field sits

by Joe Hertel
Staff Writer

In a recent *Tribune* and *Sun-Times*, a full page open letter from Phil Boyer, President of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, blasted Mayor Daley for his wanton destruction of Meig's field and the determination of the organization to re-open the lakefront airport. Mr. Boyer, give it up! It's over, and your wings, as you stated, have been clipped. We are getting a park. Meigs field, however unceremoniously, has been shut down for good by the City.

Even Walter Jacobson, on Fox news, who usually has some sarcastic comment about the Mayor, supported the Mayor's action (not necessarily the method employed) and gave good reason. The airport serves no great purpose. It loses money (last year a loss of \$4,000,000) and caters only to big shot executives who fly in and out of downtown for lunch. And now they will have to find alternatives, which are available and not that inconvenient.

Over the past six years, flights have decreased by 38%, and, according to Richard Roeper, who thinks that "Carving up the runway in the middle of the night was one of the silliest and stupidest things the mayor has ever done," some 31,900 landings and departures took place at Meigs last year. Well, for each takeoff there must be a landing, and dividing by two and then by 365, that comes out to about 43 flights a day, about 2 take offs or landings per hour. Not very many for the amount of space being used. So was it silly and stupid? Not if you are the mayor and want a park there. It's damn smart. Did the mayor go about it the right way? Well, for expediency, yes, but for a free society, it was

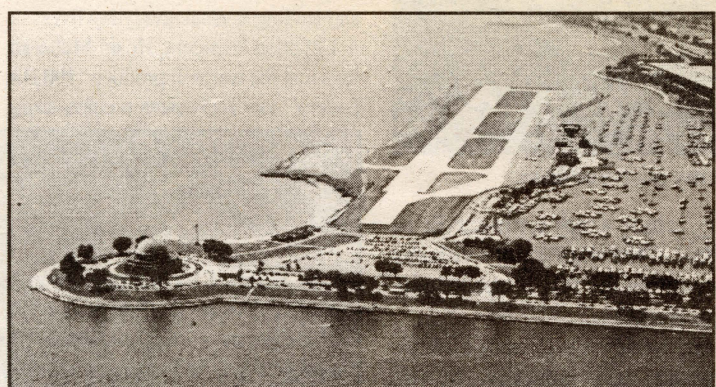


photo courtesy of yahoo.com/news

A shot of newly unusable Meigs Field after X marked the spot.

arrogant and somewhat underhanded behavior to roto-route the airstrip in the middle of the night. It was, however, perfectly legal since the airport belongs to and is run by the city.

It was Daley's version of "Shock and Awe," according to the *Sun-Times*, and admittedly, many thought it was an April Fool joke. I am sure many a jaw dropped when the news hit the stands, especially when people showed up for work at Meig's the next morning.

Most of us really don't care what happens to the tiny airport there and whether or not it becomes a park. But we should be concerned about the power of authority our politicians might exercise in the name of Homeland Security.

It must not become an excuse to flex blatant power to achieve personal goals in the name of protecting the citizenry.

And a park existing where Meigs field used to be was a personal goal of Daley. And a good goal, one that I would have supported as many others do. So I think most of the hooplah in the papers is because the media was not informed, and a few reporters who felt they had an inside track to city news, suddenly found themselves outside the door and were upset that they missed a

"scoop," which could be a reason the *Sun-Times* ran such an arrogant looking mayor on its front page April 1st.

The mayor wants to see his park become a reality before his current term ends, and his method of closing Meigs, rather than fighting its opponents in long drawn out skirmishes, will achieve his desire and no doubt will benefit the people of Chicago.

I also have to admit he was justified in doing this if you studied all the facts in the case. Meigs was just not working out and should have been closed years ago.

But if the mayor thinks that I, as a citizen, think the x-ing out of Meigs was done just for "security" reasons, he misjudged my intelligence. And, in actuality, I feel a little less secure, not because of fear of an airplane veering off course over the lakefront and into a building, but of bulldozers suddenly showing up in the middle of the night in front of my home or business.

If I were the mayor, I would consider not using my power so arrogantly in the future. It makes people uneasy and insecure about just how "free" they are, and perhaps just might force the other party to run a much stronger candidate in the next election. But thanks for the park, anyway.

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

SGA gets it right, NEIU isn't so lucky

WELL, LET'S START THIS THING OFF POLITELY BEFORE WE MOVE INTO THE "PISSING PEOPLE OFF" SECTION. I'D



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

LIKE TO HONESTLY CONGRATULATE THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION FOR RUNNING A RELATIVELY SMOOTH ELECTION. NO HACKERS, NO ILLEGAL DISQUALIFICATIONS, NO REAL DRAMA. I WAS SHOCKED.

Another round of congratulations to Evelyn Rose, VP-Elect (and congrats on the marriage). She won by only a handful of votes, and I'm looking forward to seeing her run those

meetings. Also, kudos to Omar Otero, new Speaker-elect. He sat in as Speaker in a recent meeting, and he was incredibly impartial, a rare thing indeed for a member of Gary's party (in my opinion, of course). Should be an interesting upcoming year in SGA.

On a slightly more somber note, I'd like to offer my heartfelt condolences to the NEIU student body on their apparent loss of good judgement. How else can I explain the fact that people *still vote for Gary*? After all the shit he's pulled, I'm shocked he hasn't been suspended or expelled, let alone that he continues to win elections.

And this time, once again, he's promised that this will be his last term in office and that he won't run again. It seems like he's had more "last runs" than Michael Jordan. Whatever, if a 30-something man with a wife and two kids wants to be the king of the pretend-government, that's his business.

The good news for friends of Gary is that even if you can't win an election on your own, he'll create a spot for you! Yep, check out the news story for some info on that. Kendra Young lost the election, so Gary plans to create a very special position just for her. What's the job description going to be? The "I know I'm not the Vice President of SGA anymore and I know I don't get to vote in SGA meetings but I'll speak out of turn and act like I'm still in charge and keep my hand up anyway because I don't care how rude or disrespectful I am being" job? Oh, wait, that's apparently Young's *current* job description. My mistake.

OK, let's abruptly change subjects before Gary scurries off to the Dean of Students or accuses me of racism again. Everyone knows that it's almost time for finals, and that means that next semester will be slowly creeping up on us.

I'd like to know just what the hell is up with the horrible selection of classes, specifically in the English and Philosophy departments, but also everywhere else, from what people have been telling me.

I need a few more 300 level courses before I can get the hell out of here, but nearly all of the 300 levels offered in the fall I've either taken, are all at night, or are at conflicting times. Christ, this college (I use the term loosely) has over 12,000 students! No wonder it takes over five years to graduate, unless you're in the Honors Society (what a joke *that* is, by the way), take full loads in fall, spring, and summer (good luck with that if you don't have the priority registration of the Honors Society wiping your ass for you), and/or you take overloads (more than five classes in a semester). I thought college years were an idyllic time. I guess it can be, if you don't mind taking 20 years to finish your Bachelor's.

This isn't a problem just with NEIU, from what I've gathered; it's a problem with colleges in general. Is a big part of this the Gen-Ed requirements? I think it is. I know that the Gen-Ed requirements used to be different several years back. Why were they changed? Well, I'm writing a paper about this for a class, so eventually I'll find out, but right now I don't know. If an administrator who *does* know would like to send me the information about it so I don't have to research, I'd be appreciative. But I digress.

I still think it would make more sense to take more classes in our majors and minors than in Gen-Eds. I'd rather know a lot about English and Philosophy than about statistics, biology, and music. I ask you in all seriousness, when during the course of my teaching college level English will I come across a glob of clay that needs to be thrown into a pot? Don't get me wrong, Ceramics was fun as hell, but come on.

I wasted *way* too much time early on (at the advice of those stupid academic advisors, not the specific one for your major, the general public ones) taking 200-level Gen-Eds, shooting my GPA all to hell, so finally when I get around to taking my major and minor requirements, not only do I have a shit-ton of 300 level courses to make up, but I have to claw my way back up to a 3.0. It's a bunch of shit.

I know what some of you are saying, so I'll say it for you and ruin your fun: "We're adults, we need to take responsibility for our own schedules." I know. I agree. But when NEIU or any college offers a service, like people with offices who will suggest what classes you should take, they should do a good job at the very *least*. They shouldn't tell you to take classes that can't be applied to any part of your college educational future. However, they do tell you to take useless classes, they do screw up your schedules, and they are *not* earning their air today.

What's the solution? Aside from firing those general counsellors (someone once wrote a letter to the editor to me, telling me that there are no guidance counsellors in NEIU because NEIU isn't a high school. Bullshit, I can make an appointment tomorrow and talk to a counsellor), I honestly think that the Gen-Ed system in general (if it is indeed similar or the same in all colleges) needs to be overhauled and changed, so we get a little more training in our majors and minors.

Of course, while I wish for things that are not only beneficial to everyone in NEIU but at the same time are things that will never happen, I might as well wish that Gary would leave NEIU. So, I think I will.

Have a good summer, and remember, I hate you all.

The key factor in *Groove* makes you move

by Dan Demchuk
Distribution Manager

I walk into the orange glow of the smoke-filled Jazz club and face a wall of dancing, grooving, bouncing heads freakin' it on the dance floor while a massive band on stage steps and slides in time to the hip-hopped funky jazziness created by their collective efforts. The club is so densely filled that the dancing wall is impenetrable, so I stand along the surrounding structurals and observe with intent attentiveness the hypnotic and subliminal effects of such dope fuckin' jazzmatazz magic.

I find it hard to resist succumbing to the self same spell that has enraptured everyone else. My hips start swaying and dipping from side to side. My shoulders bounce in time to the downbeat of the snare drum, and my feet start steppin' like somethin' possessed. My knees are lockin' and poppin', my head's noddin' in harmony with the high-hat, and my hands find themselves drawn by some undeniable rhythm high above my head, pumpin' and testifyin' to the indescribable power and groove of the RH Factor.

Unbelievably talented Jazz drumming, sultry saxophone serenading, funk'd out lead guitar licks, trumpeted soulfulness, bouncing ill bass lines, and keyboard caresses are occasionally coupled with the vocal talents of Erykah Badu, D'Angelo, Shelby Johnson, and Stephanie McKay, not to mention Common and Q-tip, who also contribute freestyles to a few of the

tracks on the RH Factor's latest release *Hard Groove*.

Man, I have to admit, I was lying about being at that show. But when I listen to the album, right from the uptempo trumpet blats on the title track opener, that's what I *feel*. This disc could get the party live as soon as you put it on because the music moves your body without you having to think. It says, "Damn! Shake your booty! Get that shit!" You just wanna bounce and move and dance to every song on this eclectic ensemble's release, even the chill songs where you'd be all grindin' all close up on each other in the club, feelin' that stand-up bass' beat and double kick of the bass drum, that trumpet solo, and those clean guitar grooves that just speak to the rhythms of your body.

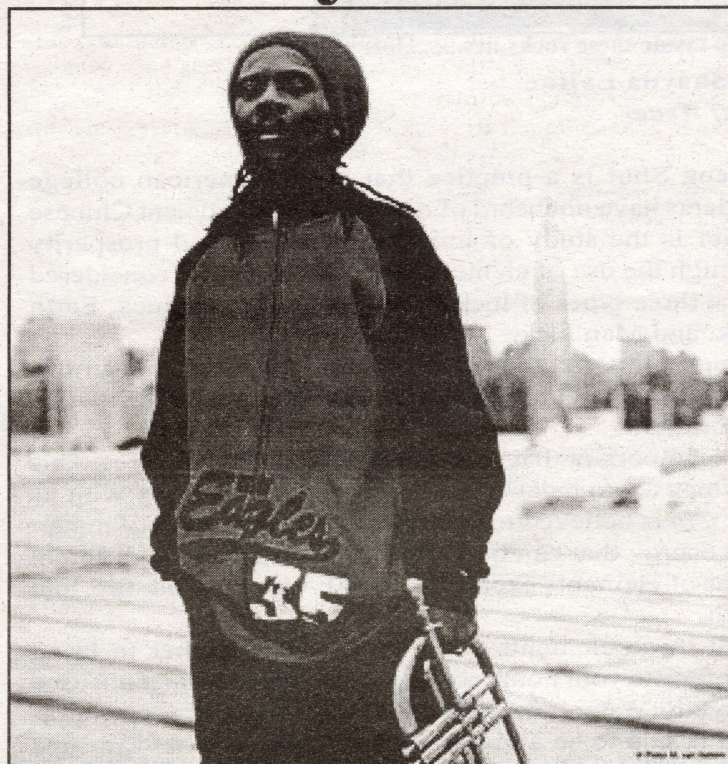
The greatest thing about this CD is that the majority of the songs are instrumental. The guest performers take a backseat to the talented instrumentalization of the RH Factor's collective of about 25 musicians, led by the group's namesake, Roy Hargrove. Not to say that the vocal tracks aren't good, because they are totally pimped out, many sounding like a flashback to the original era of funky sexiness, the swingin' seventies. And none of the words they sing are all crazy and disruptive to the inevitable make-out session that this disc's aphrodisiac melodies can also appropriately accompany. You put some of the slow cuts on, guy or girl, and it's over. No one can resist the sexy groove of jazz and hip-hop.

Now, jazz alone, or hip-hop by itself, I can see. Traditional jazz can put some people to sleep, and a lot of hip-hop can be too abrasive, or just too funny, that it can kill a mood almost entirely. I remember this one track's sampleplaying at the most inappropriate time. The guy goes, "I said suck the muthafucka, you bitin' it! Shit!" I'll say no more.

Hard Groove by the RH Factor thankfully exhibits that *someone* still knows how to craft an alluring and seductive, while at the same time soulful, jazzy, and danceable album in this era of media fallacy and one-hit-wonder hype. This disc can get the party started and keep it goin', or you can do like Com.

Sense and 'Tip, bustin' a freestyle, as

you cruise for miles, the words in your lexicology you have to compile, to keep it tight, let 'em know the RH Factor always brings it right, while you free-style, as you drive in the day or night, in your car, regardless if your journey's near or far, the more you listen you'll improve, so cop their album called *Hard Groove*.



Roy Hargrove, the trumpet player and producer for the RH Factor. The group has 25 members.

photo courtesy of ververecords.com

House of a thousand cringes was the worst

by Brian Blaszkowski
Associate Editor

Five years ago, I was still innocent of the horrors that are NEIU registration, I was still happily smoking, and I was sitting in a crowded theatre with some friends.

The movie is unimportant, as is so often the case with the crap that Hollywood churns out every couple weeks, but what *was* important was one of the previews. Heavy metal music flowed over scenes of what appeared to be extreme violence and mayhem.

This appeared to be the ultimate of scary movies, the acme of the horror genre. Better still,

it was written and directed by Mr. Rob Zombie, a paragon of class, virtue, and music about living dead girls. I was smitten.

Unfortunately, the company that was releasing it (was it Universal? I can't remember, nor do I care) turned into a bunch of pussies, and refused to release it unless Zombie cut out some gore. He didn't want to cut out gore, he wanted it released in full, which would apparently constitute an NC-17 rating. Things were said, words were exchanged, and Zombie's movie, *House of 1000 Corpses*, was not to be released.

I spread the word, checked online, and soon

resigned myself to the fact that this movie, this ultimate of horror movies would not be released. Then, mere weeks ago, I saw a preview that looked vaguely familiar. The heavy metal, the gore, the violence... it was all so beautiful.

I waited rather impatiently for this movie, myself being a huge fan of the horror movie and having been disappointed so many times by the genre. I knew that Rob Zombie also loved horror movies, and I felt confident that someone who shared my love would not disappoint me.

Alas. I didn't know that son of a bitch apparently also loved B-movies; had I known that, I instead would have wiped my ass with my seven bucks and considered it better spent.

For expediency's sake, I wanted to describe this movie in four words so I can put this ugly incident behind me. I thought about "big piece of shit," but that's so cliché, especially in my articles. "Vomit encrusted public toilet" captured the mood I was in, but it didn't quite work, either. So, with no other option, cue the voice of Comic-Book Guy: "WORST...HORROR MOVIE...EVER."

I was so disappointed. Do you want to know how bad it is? During the movie, I was squirming in my seat, fearful of being recognized by someone while watching this shit. I kept turning my head to the walls of the theatre, and preferring that view to the one on the big screen. I actually started standing up to walk out about seven or eight times.

What exactly made it so bad, you ask? Well, within two minutes of the movie starting, my mouth was hanging open, my eyebrows were furrowed, and I was thinking to myself, "Wait a minute, what the *fuck* is going on here?"

It was the standard B-movie: bad acting, unbelievable dialogue, plot thinner than Karen Carpenter hopped up on laxatives (and about as attractive)...I think I can honestly say that this movie made Baby Jesus cry.

Who is to blame, however? Is it Rob Zombie's fault? Yes, partially. How could he be sitting in the production room, watching this movie, and think to himself, "Yeah, this is a good product, I think we can wrap it up"? Was he on drugs? Are these new drugs, drugs possessing an hitherto unparalleled level of delusions of grandeur?

One thing is clear: Rob Zombie must never make another movie again. Much like Ozzie Osbourne was victim of a banning after he pissed on the Alamo, Rob Zombie must be banned from horror movies after he pissed all over the genre. Damn him.

But all of the blame shouldn't rest squarely upon his shoulders. Lion's Gate (the company with the balls and the poor judgement to release this shit-fest) released it under the combined genres of "horror" and "suspense," rather than the more accurate genres of "abscess of the bowels" and "mistake of the century."

In any event, this movie is so God-fucking-awful that I don't want to think about it ever again. The best thing for everyone to do is to just pretend it didn't happen.

As for those of you who, like me, love horror movies, the good news is that *Darkness Falls* is coming to DVD, and that was a good horror/suspense movie. In conclusion, Rob Zombie needs to leave the movies to people who can tell a decent movie from something your dog left in your shoe.

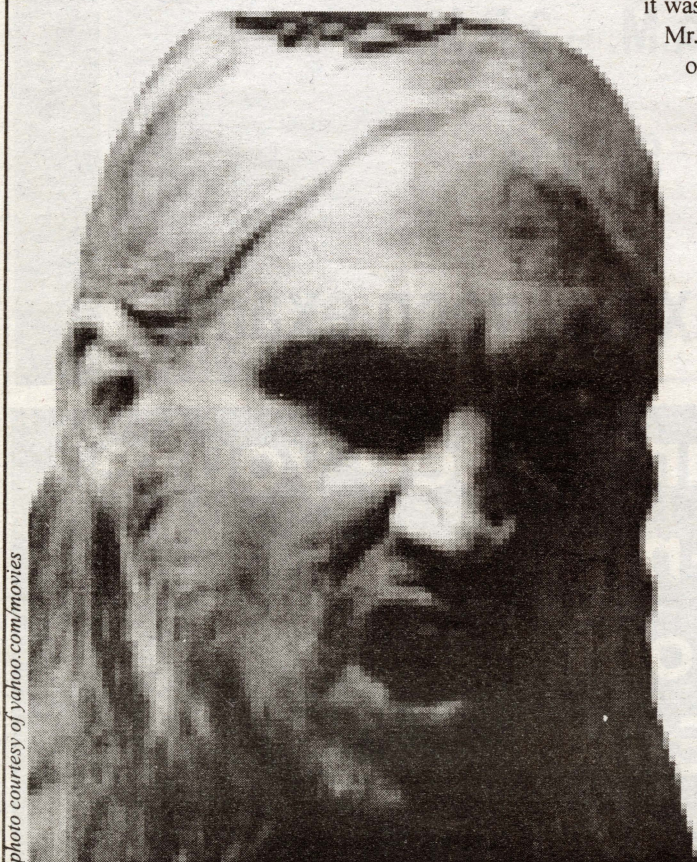


photo courtesy of yahoo.com/movies

Looks like this guy has seen *House of a Thousand Corpses*.

**Feng Shui: way to harmony
and peace lies in the couch**

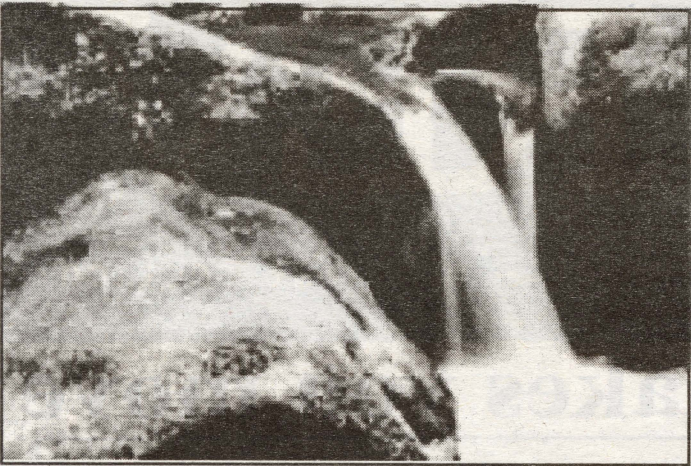


photo obtained from yahoo.com/homes

Deep inside these rocks lies.....lots of rock

by Shayna LaBue
Staff Writer

Feng Shui is a practice that many American college students have not heard of or studied. This ancient Chinese belief is the study of living in harmony and prosperity through the use of elements and luck. There is considered to be three types of luck for humans: Heaven luck, Earth luck, and Man luck.

Feng Shui is the combination of town-planning, environmental improvement, architecture, and interior decoration.

It is important that your home is by water and trees. This is supposed to balance your home more naturally with its *chi*. *Chi* is believed to be a form or combination of matter and energy that can be visible or invisible. Five different types of elements exert *chi*: metal, water, wood, fire, and earth.

All these elements can either work together to bring harmony to your home and family or against you if not used correctly. Water is described as always running downwards, so it is said to be a liberal element. Its shape is wavy and is described by the colors black and dark-blue.

A tip for bringing fortune to your home is to correctly place an aquarium in the corner of your house. It must be placed correctly, though, or else it will bring negative financial effects.

Wood is seen as enduring because it is described as always growing upward. Rod or beam-like objects and the color green represent wood. Fire spreads in all directions and is seen as radiant and hot. The element is seen as a triangular shape with red, orange, purple, or pink as its color.

Metal is seen as sharp and pointing because it always pierces in one direction. With the use of chimes, it is believed to be able to dissolve and absorb any evil before it reaches the house. But, as with any element, if used incorrectly it may result in bad fortune befalling your household. White, gold, and silver spherical objects are its representation.

Earth attracts and increases concentration to render it as being seen as a stable element. Cubic shapes in brown or yellow show it.

Combinations of these elements can bring many different effects to how you live your life. Another helpful item introduced in Feng Shui is the calabash. This dried fruit is believed to cure sickness when hung outside in the trees. This belief led to the practice of early doctors carrying medicine around in hollowed calabashes.

There is much advice available to anyone who would want to learn more about Feng Shui. The use of the five elements is not the only way open to people to experience this practice.

Feng Shui concentrates also on the stars and planets to connect and further use your *chi* to bring positive effects to the practitioner.

Many seminars are available to beginners as well as many reading materials, some even in our own school. For more information, contact Student Activities.

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Silenced through the song

by Chad Nelson
REV Editor

In past times of social upheaval, international crisis, and frightening displays of nationalistic power, music has been a foundational tool of voicing opinions, moving people to action, and in general, getting people to think about the world around them.

Throughout U.S. history, songs have been able to convey meaning that other mediums could not. Many "Spirituals," traditional and religious songs of slaves on pre-Civil War Southern plantations, had a sub-text of resistance. The songs conveyed specific meanings about where it was safe for abolitionists to hide escaping slaves. Because the songs fell below what slave-owners considered intelligibility, they were able to convey their hidden messages in an otherwise dangerous situation.

Later, during the 1960's, protest songs were as popular as anything else--most of these songs are not even considered protest songs anymore, just good tunes. They lamented troubles in the world, war, inequality, and constraints on freedom. A message of peace was conveyed to a huge audience even at a time when dissent in the form of protest, marching, and civil disobedience was being silenced.

It seems to me that more people learned about problems in the world listening to Bob Dylan than learned about those problems in college classes. Then, the late seventies and into the eighties saw the rise of politically minded punk groups like the Dead Kennedys and Crass. They fused raw emotion and adrenaline into music to not just point out injustice, but to make a vehement declaration of their unwillingness to sit passively and watch it unfold.

Outside of the U.S., music is incredibly important to resistance movements. Many Irish drinking songs deal heavily with England's colonial control of Ireland. A more recent example is a movie that is playing in theaters now; *Amandla: A Revolution in Four-part Harmony* is a documentary detailing the importance of song and music in the South African struggle to end apartheid during the 1990's. Worldwide, countless other examples exhibit music's power to move people, to raise awareness, and even to cause change.

If, however, you tried looking at popular music today for its political stance, you might as well be staring into the abyss. While many visible and recognizable musicians and entertainers (you should know there is a huge difference between Pete Townsend and Justin Timberlake) poured out their sympathy for the victims of 9-11 and quickly condemned the murderers, very few have been quite willing, or perhaps able is the apt term, to take a stance on U.S. policy since. The only band who openly criticized U.S. policy that got much mainstream attention was the now defunct Rage Against the Machine (by the way, RATM has been officially banned from MTV, and most commercial radio stations).

In a tightly controlled world, where corporate sponsors can't be offended and thus broadcast industries self-censor, you are going to have to dig a little deeper for music with a message, at least with a message other than CONSUME. The most notable, most prolific, and yet still quite absent from any mainstream press, is Ani DiFranco. The upstart, "righteous babe" in boots has been actively calling the government, society, media, and corporations on their bullshit for about 15 years now. Her latest album *Evolve*, released just a few weeks ago, contains a ten minute poem/song "serpentine," which decries Uncle Sam for "rigging cockfights/ in the promised land." My favorite set of lines has to be: "we start out sugared up on kool-aid and manifest destiny/ and we memorize all the president's names/ like little trained monkeys/ and then we're spit into the world/ so many spinny-eyed t.v. junkies/ incapable of unravelling the military industrial mystery/preemptively pacified with history book history." I think that just about speaks for itself, and I have already given Ms. DiFranco her due this semester, so...let's move on.

Not quite as popular, but certainly just as political, if not more so in an overt way is The (International) Noise Conspiracy, a Swedish band that I think I can only fairly categorize as either anarchist dance music or punk rock-James Brown. The five whitest, though all dark haired, Scandinavians laying down funk and beats and anti-capitalist diatribes like hellfire spit straight from the devils mouth. Every time I listen to their albums I can't help myself from wanting to dance like a wild animal. I'm not conscious of my movements but

just knowing I have to dance, and yet at the same time I am filled with the urge to rally everyone I know into a fervid pitch and destroy capitalist power structures everywhere.

"Situations, symptomatic / define the objectified and please celebrate the phallic," is from "Breakout 2001" off their most recent full length album *A New Morning, Changing Weather*. It signifies their appraisal of global capitalism and world economic policies as the creators of a new kind of slavery, and also how culture itself is packaged and sold as "some billboard advertising dream." The social hierarchal structure that is reinforced through patriarchy, sexism, racism, and other normative systems seems to be the referent "it" when they say they "want to smash it up, for gods and masters / who made us die so much faster."

The (International) Noise Conspiracy takes the energy of punk rock and the political consciousness too, but instead of producing only anger, they give a listener a sense of hope that things will change for the better, but its going to take some work, some of which is illuminated on their website: <http://alt.digitalfarmers.com/tinc/english/news.html>.

Along similar lines is Olympia, WA based trio Sleater-Kinney. Named after a highway in the area, the post-punk, still-feminist, post-grad group's most recent release *One Beat* displays a politics more interested in people than oil profits. Constantly bordering on discordance, vocalist Carrie Brownstein emits everything from soothing melody to screech, yet deftly eludes descent into cacophonous noise in juxtaposition to Corin Tucker's guitars.

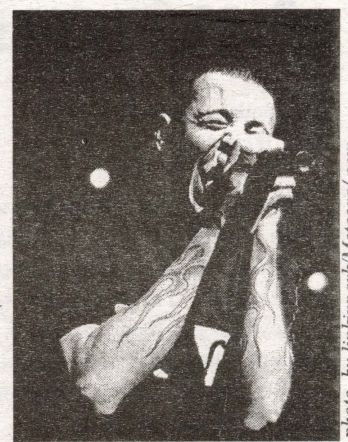
The title track, also the opener, is a poetic demand for new, clean energy sources to eliminate "bloody arms and oil field," but also reveals a reverence for science beauty as well as utility. "Far Away" describes watching and reacting to the events of 9-11, the tragedy it was and the fear it caused, but also the classist policies displayed as "the president hides / while working men rush in / to give their lives." Abrasive starts and stops in Janet Weiss' drumming heighten the tension of song filled with chilling memories. Later on the album, "Combat Rock" takes on the post 9-11 government and its drive towards war directly, and without pulling any punches. "[b]ut are we innocent paragons of good / is our guilt erased by the pain we've endured," expresses a sentiment of anti-war dissent movement that has not been shown in mainstream media at all.

A further vivisection of America's inherent vicious circle of capitalism explodes with "...show you love your country, go out and spend some cash / Red white and blue hot pants doing it for Uncle Sam." Taking on patriarchy, racism, war, and exploitation is not to difficult, as they all prop each other up, but Sleater-Kinney's panache and unrelenting intelligence set them apart.

While mainstream musicians may acquiesce to "diagnosis: patriotism" as a cure for what is ailing the U.S., many sub-culture musicians are providing alternative voices. I think we should take that as a paragon of where to look for answers to questions that trouble us. Always just referring to mainstream sources leaves much of the story untold, so look to the sub-cultures of information, of art, of people; they're out there, and they have a whole lot to say.



The International Nose Conspiracy gives listeners a sense of hope.



True art rock at its best.

Linkin Park

by S. Fatima Quadri
Staff Writer

In an age where popular culture is governed by the big bucks and continually changing fads, Linkin Park remains true to music as a form of art and self-expression. By producing their own lyrics, the group has repeatedly mastered the art of pinpointing those dark and hidden feelings inside of us and expressing them in a way that becomes utterly liberating. Linkin Park has often been criticized for a creating sullen and hopeless music; when in fact the lyrics extract feelings of anger and helplessness that most people fear to admit even exist.

All right, I'll admit the songs are a bit morbid, but what matters is that for most people the feelings expressed are real and almost always dying to come out. In their albums Linkin Park releases those restricted feelings for their listeners to relate to, what's more is that they do it without using offensive language or profanity.

After their last hit *The Hybrid Theory* in 2001 with some eight million copies sold, the group came out with *Reanimation*, a remix of previously released music. Finally, the latest album, *Meteora*, has hit the shelves; *Meteora*, much like *Hybrid Theory* contains a mix of rhythms, with mixed flavors from metal to hip-hop.

The best song on the album no doubt is "Somewhere I Belong." With its rhythmic creativity and sonorous lyrics, the song expresses unflinching self-recrimination: "Not the only person with these things in mind, inside of me, but all the vacancy the words revealed is the only real thing that I've got left to feel," raps Mike Shinoda, Linkin Park vocalist. Also, the song "Numb," a piece that for Linkin Park "just simply came together," articulates the frustration of being a disappointment similar to their previous single, "In the End." The song incorporates lively melody and stern emotions; some of the lyrics read, "Caught in the undertow, every step I take is another mistake to you".

The song "Easier to Run" sung rather passionately by Chester Bennington, Linkin Park's other vocalist, again captures a horde of sorrowful sentiments like other songs in the album; he sings, "If I could I would, take back the pain I would, retrace every wrong move I made I would." Finally, the most melodically creative song in the album is "Nobody's Listening" with an inclusion of Japanese pan flutes and elements of hip-hop.

With the exception of a couple songs, *Meteora* is yet another success for Linkin Park and an excellent album to purchase for anyone who appreciates music for its artistic value. The group has also included a number of features for the enhanced CD such as a 17 minute documentary on the complimentary art of *Meteora*, the video to "Somewhere I Belong," downloading access to Linkin Park screensavers and much more.

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Antique books for old-fashioned prices

by Cecilia Carboni
Staff Writer

Some people collect stamps and stickers. Some collect paintings of Elvis and others search for coins. Antique books are also collectable. They are not historically interesting, but they can cover a variety of subjects. They may contain points of interests in their artwork and in the information, or the point of views they hold.

Finding rare or out-of-print books is not quite as difficult as one may think. It is not as expensive, either. Many collectors will search for desired books on-line, either from private collections, auctions, or bookstores. Depending on the book, the costs vary. However, for those with little cash and lots of time, there is another option. Garage sales are a treasure trove for old books, especially in areas with equally old homes. Oftentimes, people get rid of valuable objects without knowing it. My first book was *The Light of Asia*, which I bought it for ten cents. It was from 1880, and it was in excellent condition. On-line sellers will normally price a copy in reasonable condition somewhere in the range of \$200 to \$300. On a nice summer day you can find a good number of old books just going from one sale to another.

Old books are easy to spot. Checking the copyright date is the easiest way to tell. However, in some antique copies there may be no date. Previous to the 1850's few publishers felt the need to date their books. Those books would have to be checked out online through whatever reference numbers or stamps they may have. Each company has its own trademarks and usually a date can be pin-pointed with that information.

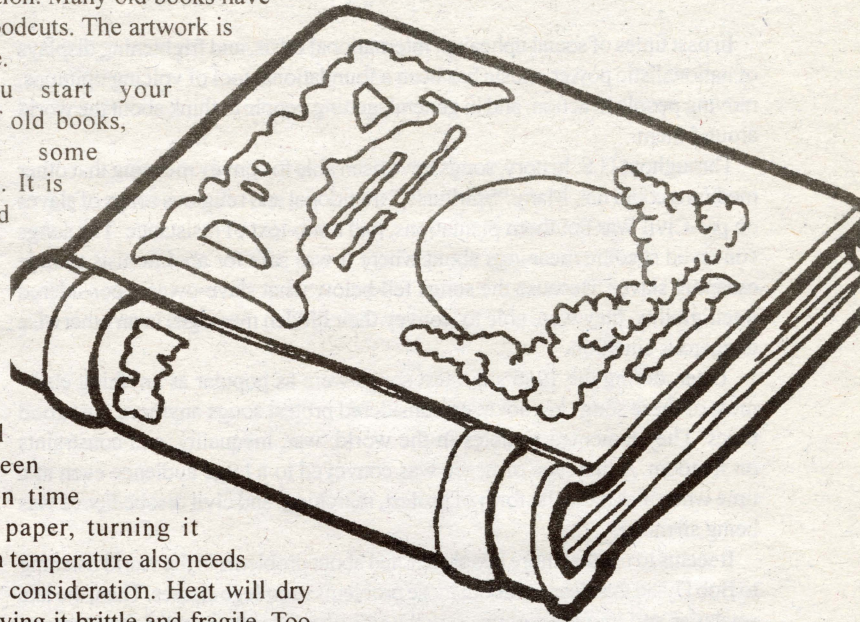
However, it should be clear that the date on a book isn't always an indicator of a valuable book. The value of a book depends on collectors' interests, the number of copies in existence, and the condition of the book. A book might be over a hundred and fifty years old but might not have a large monetary value. On the flip side, it might not be more than fifty years old and be worth a lot. First editions, especially of classic books, are generally worth considerable amounts.

The worth of a book should not be judged solely on how much you could sell it for. The true book collector appreciates books simply for their intrinsic value. Certain collectors might collect books on science, history, or philosophy. Psychology books from the turn of the century are often interesting because one can compare the changes the field has undergone. One may find history books

written by someone who lived through those events. Science books are also fascinating for their information. Many old books have incredible woodcuts. The artwork is quite intricate.

Once you start your collection of old books, there are some helpful hints. It is recommended that they not be kept standing up on a bookshelf. Dust particles will land between pages and in time damage the paper, turning it yellow. Room temperature also needs to be kept in consideration. Heat will dry the paper, leaving it brittle and fragile. Too much moisture will encourage mold and pests to ravage the books, leaving large holes in pages.

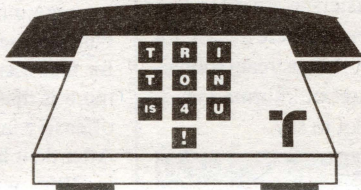
Collecting books is a serious hobby, and it can be expensive. The best advice is to start small at garage sales or in on-line forums. Contacting private collectors or dealers in



antique books may help you appraise your books and give you more information on how to maintain them. You won't realize how addicting it is until you find your first book.

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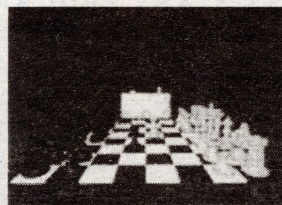
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photo courtesy of AmericanLife/Madonna.com

An image from Madonna's controversial new video.

Madonna's *American Life* is really an American lie

by Patrick O'Brien
Production Editor

Madonna's new song *American Life* has stirred up plenty of controversy lately as this society tries to decide what is acceptable as free speech while at war. The video featuring Madonna amongst other things throwing a grenade at President Bush. No word yet on whether Bush is considering invading her mansion and calling for regime change.

Madonna injected herself into this debate by practicing self-censorship regarding some scenes from the video *American Life*, and she will now air an edited form of the video minus much of the footage that she believed would cause an uproar. It may seem ironic, but the same woman who rubbed her breasts all over a Catholic church in *Like A Prayer* has suddenly found sensitivity and morality.

A convenient notion for Madonna, considering she was also the same entertainer who made *Justify Your Live*, a video so obscene and graphic to MTV that the always conservative network that brought you Marilyn Manson decided to pull the video when it debuted 10 years ago.

Madonna, it would seem, has ended debate before it can even begin. By selling herself short, she has also assured the album will sell many more records than had she kept her mouth shut. A publicity ploy perhaps, but in these times when free speech is under attack from all sides, someone willing to push the boundaries like her is a crucial element in our society.

Far too many celebrities and average folk have become silent at a time when history has demanded more than that from them.

Madonna also wants us to all know she supports the troops; I guess you just have to support the troops, don't you? I mean, unless you need to further your own career at their expense. If this was a more unpopular war, many more celebrities like Madonna would be speaking out. As it is, many of them stay quiet because their careers mean more than their principles do.

In the U.S., we understand the profit motive well; but hypocrisy doesn't sit quite as well. For Ms. Madonna to disguise the way she obviously feels in a veil of meekness only makes it that much more difficult for all of us to exercise our free speech rights. And since she's already done a video in *Like A Prayer* that mocks Christianity, her sudden affinity for not offending the U.S. government tells us where she has her priorities.

It doesn't matter if you agree with the war or not; diversity of opinions is what made America worth dying for. These freedoms that Madonna treats like just another commodity in relation to her own profit and success are more important than a 44 year-old aging pop legend who is drumming up support for her album.

By clamping her own mouth shut, Madonna did a great disservice to those troops who are allegedly dying to let her open her filthy mouth and entertain us. If this is indeed her American life, then she should live it and stop being afraid of her own great music.

More fallout from a hateful word

Dear Editor,

So my question is, If the letter from Governor Blease is to be presented in a history class, why not present it during the white history months or in the white history classes? It is, after all, white history.

But the question I understand the anonymous African American student to be raising concerns the performance of reading that letter And that question is of concerns the presenting material like this. What is one doing in reading it? (I'm not asking why one is reading it.) What am I doing in my class when discussing the performance of hate speech. Of course context matters. Dick Gregory wrote a book by that name, and black hip hop artists resultantly reframe the word. Significantly, these performances are not a matter of individual intent, and individual intent is not central in this case either; nor is and academic context immune from reenactment. To simply say that the utterance is part of an elucidating curriculum is not enough. What many scholars and activists of color expose is the performative nature of Western objectivity.

I know I wouldn't hang around in a Women's History class in which the word "cunt" rolled off a male professor's tongue as he read a document to prove misogyny in this country, even though Eve Ensler reframes the word in *The Vagina Monologues*. But if male performances of the term were to be presented as part of history, I would want it clarified that this is men's history. They have been the dominant framers in this regard, still are.

But back to the question of performance, that the utterance of the "n" word brings shame and discomfort to black people, not white people, or that words designed to denigrate women's sexuality bring shame and discomfort to women, not en, indicates these histories are still alive and well. And academic settings have been and continue to be complicit in a variety of ways

Finally, celebrating means recognizing and honoring Celebrating Black History in February in philosophy classes, I look at the strategies of resistance used by slaves for example, the use of white stereotypes to make escapes and otherwise sabotage plantation work/exploitation, their agency, how they were significant actors in history. Or I might look at the community engagement and strategies of resistance of black people while white people like Blease were/are in power. And I'd acknowledge the fact that this country was largely built by African Americans.

Slaves' agency is particularly significant as they were not in control and under incredible institutional as well as individual threats Their tactics and strategies provide lessons of us all, especially in times like these.

Sarah Hoagland
Philosophy and Women's Studies

Serving in silence

Dear Editor,

In the April 8 edition of the Independent, a veteran shared memories of fighting in previous American wars. Such first-hand accounts allow us to see the human element behind wars fought in distant battlefields. Regardless of one's beliefs in the War on Iraq, American soldiers unquestionably merit recognition of their bravery and service. Many who oppose the war already know that soldiers have no impact on government policy. It is possible for one to have a high regard for the men and women in uniform, yet at the same time, disagree with the foreign policy of this government. Unfortunately, our all-volunteer military does not value the contributions of certain officers within its ranks. The "don't ask, don't tell" policy enacted by former President Clinton allows gays and lesbians to serve as long as they do not disclose their sexual orientation. Last year, the army dismissed seven Arabic linguists because they were gay. In a letter to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, the Gay and Lesbian Service Members for Equality wrote, "What is paramount amongst the ranks of today's military is professionalism, ability and dedication, not the personal orientation of any particular member. In this time of shared sacrifice, we believe that the military cannot afford to waste the talent of any American who is able to serve." It's estimated that 10,000 gay personnel may be currently serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Also, the NEIU course catalogue says, "Students may enroll in Military Science Courses regardless of sexual orientation in accordance with the university's nondiscrimination policy." It goes on to remind students about the federal government's "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Why would a gay student take ROTC courses if he/she cannot serve in the military? I had the impression that "supporting the troops" meant supporting all of them.

Sophia Lopez
Student

Economics professors respond to letter

Dear Editor,

It has been brought to our attention that a letter has been published in the student newspaper, The Independent, over our names.

We wish to state for the record that none of the undersigned are responsible for making any such document available to the Independent, and that we regret that this took place, as it reflects poorly on everyone concerned, including us, to publicize matters that are properly dealt with in a confidential manner between faculty and administration.

We do not know who gave any such document to the paper, nor do we understand their motives for doing so. We place no blame on The Independent for publishing it if it was obtained honestly. But we also wish to make clear that whoever gave any such document to the paper is guilty of at the very least a breach of professional standards.

T. Collum, E. Stuart, D. Bergan, and L. Freiberg

Economics professors jealous?

Dear Editor,

I read your letter to the editor from the Economics faculty, regarding Dr. Diane Stehman. Everyone on the faculty that signed the letter is male. Economics is typically a male dominated field. Didn't it strike you as odd that now that their chairperson is a female, they have a problem with it? Lets hear Dr. Stehman's side of it.

Diana Campbell
Student

Logothetis chides Speller on ownership

Dear Readers,

I am writing to expose a professor who represents the height of arrogance and disrespect. I am not a disgruntled student who got a C in his class; in fact, I've never taken a course with Professor Speller in my life. However, I have had a couple of experiences with him, both of which left me wondering why such an insolent person is still allowed to work at NEIU.

Last week, the Student Government Association held its Spring Elections. I was campaigning for Evelyn Nazario (who is now Vice-President elect) and the rest of the Student Action League (SAL). The SAL campaigners were active in their dialogues with students, engaging in dialogues about the issues. Some SAL members were having a discussion with the current Student Trustee, Ms. Kendra Young, in Village Square. We asked Ms. Young why she was skipping a Board meeting to campaign for a different position if she purported to be representing the students as Student Trustee. Professor Speller walked into our discussion and interjected, saying "I give her permission to be here." What authority did he have to dictate the actions of a student representative? "I own her," Professor Speller said defiantly.

I could not believe my ears. Ms. Young nodded, saying "Yes, he owns me." At this point, Professor Speller turned to me and spat out, "And I give *you* permission to shut up and be quiet."

Needless to say, the students who had gathered around were shocked at his comments and confronted him, demanding to know how he could be so utterly disrespectful towards students. Professor Speller and Ms. Young continued to raise their voices, yelling to the point that a public safety officer had to rush over and tell Professor Speller to back off.

There are various theories about why Professor Speller would act in such a way. Some students reportedly smelled liquor on his breath while others say that's just the way he is. My theory is simple—Professor Speller is just a malicious being devoid of human decency and respect.

Could you imagine if your professor said he *owned* you? To say such a thing is not only pompous and degrading, but immoral as well. It's not the 1850's anymore.

Faculty members have NO RIGHT to "give permission" to anyone to shut up. I am not Kendra Young, and I refuse to let anyone "own me" or permit me to do anything. Professor Speller is obviously delusional or has a god complex if he thinks he can command anyone.

This is not the first time Professor Speller has demonstrated his utter indifference towards students. A few months ago, he approached me to ask me a question and while I politely answered, he shoved his open hand in my face and told me to be quiet.

Well, Professor Speller, I will not be quiet. It's time for the entire university to learn about your lack of professionalism and reprehensible behavior, especially the students who pay your salary.

I sincerely pity the students who must sit through Professor Speller's courses and be exposed to his arrogance. If you have not registered yet for Summer or Fall courses, I urge every student to avoid taking any course with Professor Speller. If you've already registered, drop his classes. I honestly believe that he has no right to be working at our university anymore. I know that I am not the only one who has been disrespected by him, and I fear for future victims of his abuse.

I am graduating in May and off to law school in the Fall, but Professor Speller will probably still be wandering the halls of NEIU, sputtering his biased, uninformed, and offensive views to anyone who will listen. My advice to anyone he approaches: walk away, right away. Unless you want to be "owned."

Sincerely,
Georgia Logothetis
Vice-President of Student Government

President-Elect addresses students

My Fellow Students of the Northeastern Illinois University:

I appear before you in this writing to accept the appointment to perform by the choice of a free people who enrolled as students in the retention book of Northeastern Illinois University. I avail myself to faithfully execute this highest-ranking office of the SGA and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect, and defend our newly approved Constitution and to this customary and solemn occasion to express my gratitude.

First and foremost, my thanks are due to Almighty God for the numerous benefits, which He has bestowed upon His people. Our united prayers ought to ascend to Him that He would continue to bless our great school in time to come as He has blessed it in time past.

Second, I thank everyone who was involved in the election for their participation. Despite our lost for the Vice Presidency position and the Trustee, I want to congratulate my Student Vision Party staff for a great job well done, especially Kendra Young and the newly elected Senators. I look forward to working with you for an incomparable year to come. I express my gratitude to the diverse ethnic groups on campus the Middle Easterners, especially Assyrians; Hindus and Muslims, Indians and Pakistani, Spanish, Asians; Europeans and Africans and African-Americans. I thank faculty and staff for their wise advising to run in this past election with a positive attitude expect and accept whatever the outcome of the election.

Lastly, we have recently passed through one of the toughest presidential contest in which the passions of our fellow-students where applied to the highest degree and excitement by questions of deep and vital importance; but the NEIU students proclaimed their will with a mandate the tempest at once subsided and all was calm, despite the small issues...

Now I shall proceed to take the office of the SGA President of the Northeastern Illinois University that prescribed by the SGA constitution whilst humble invoking the blessing of Divine Providence on this great institution.

Yours truly,
Gary Gaspard
SGA President-Elect

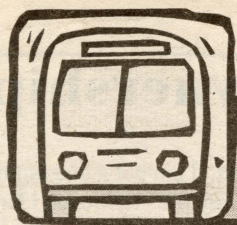
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The Commuter

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

Smoking and kids don't mix

by Staci Sonenthal
Staff Writer

Just what is second-hand smoke? Second-hand smoke is made of exhaled smoke or smoke that comes from putting out your cigarette or cigar. This smoke gives off harmful chemicals. Across America and Canada, over 3,000 non-smokers die each year just from being exposed to this smoke.

What are the affects of second hand smoke, one may ask? Second-hand smoke can cause a respiratory infection, which may be a cold, pneumonia, or bronchitis. People can also develop asthma, as well as many different kinds of cancer, most of them deadly. Cigarette smoke can be deadly not only for adults, but for children as well. Lighting up one cigarette for a smoker is like lighting up two cigarettes for a non-smoker or a child.

Children who are subjected to cigarette smoke have developed a higher blood level of cotinine, a by-product of nicotine. Those children tend to have more cavities in their deciduous or primary teeth than children who are not submitted to cigarette smoke.

When a child is exposed to cigarette smoke, the smoke then inhibits their body's ability to fight of infection, making them more susceptible to illness. These illnesses range from colds to earaches to tooth decay.

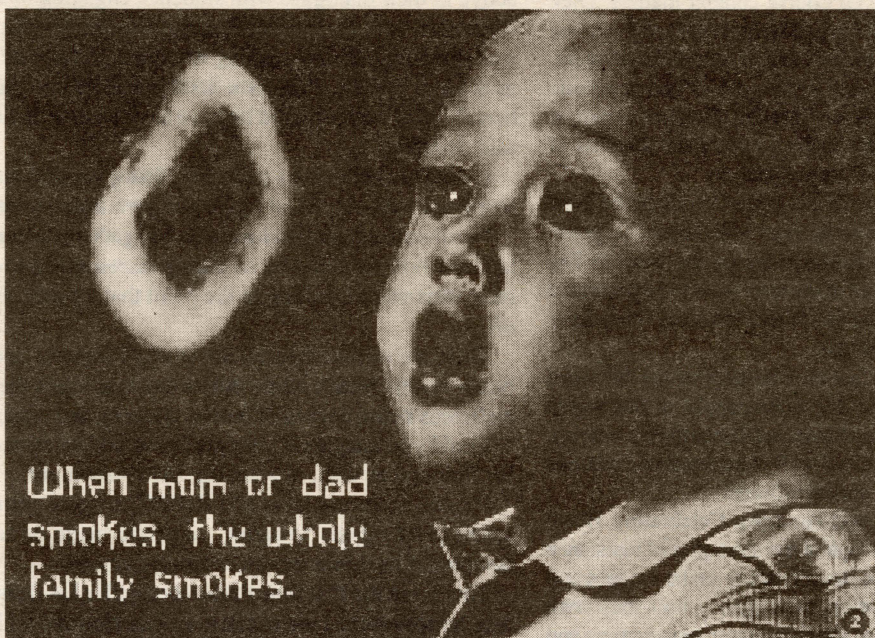
According to the research done

by the American Medical Association, in a study of 3,000 children between the ages of 4 and 11, one quarter of them would not have developed cavities in the baby teeth if they were not exposed to environmental smoke. While tooth decay has steadily decreased since the use of fluoride, tooth decay still remains the most common childhood disease

Exposure to tobacco smoke nearly doubles a child's risk of having cavities. The reason for this is at the young age of a child, the primary teeth have a thinner protective enamel covering. This makes it easier to the teeth to develop cavities.

Children are more susceptible to developing these problems and others such as tonsillitis, meningococcal infections (meningitis), heart disease, and adverse neurobehavioural effects. Children can also develop leukemia and brain tumors from the effects of second-hand smoke in the home.

We are still learning about the long term effects of second-hand smoke as it affects generation to generation. Tobacco smoke contains



Children are many of times more prone to health problems from cigarette smoke.

over 4,000 chemicals that are inhaled or absorbed into our bodies. Of the 4,000 chemicals found in second-hand smoke or environmental smoke, over 40 toxic substances go directly into the lungs.

These are only some of the effects of second-hand smoke. Babies who are also submitted to the effects of second-hand smoke have a higher risk for sudden infant death syndrome, or SIDS. When comparing children of non-smokers children of smokers perform more poorly in school; they have lower test scores and shorter attention spans.

Some of the reasons that children

of smokers do so poorly in school and on tests could be because: 1) 13% are out with ear infections, 2) 24% are out with tonsillitis, 3) 13% are out with asthma, 4) 16% are visiting their doctors due to coughs, and 5) 20% are out because of bronchitis and pneumonia. You can find these percents at www.Smokefree.ca/Second-Hand-Smoke/health_kids.htm.

Second-hand smoke exposure is also associated with psychological changes in children that may increase the risk of cardiovascular disease. Today, more than 2.8 million children under the age of 15 are exposed to second-hand smoke on

a regular basis. While many people will not smoke in their homes, visitors are permitted to do so.

People who smoke are more likely to have friends that smoke. Exposure to second-hand smoke can harm an unborn child as well. Smoking or second-hand smoke may cause low birth rates, spontaneous abortion, and may cause complications in pregnancy or delivery. Even if smoking is confined to just one room, the smoke is still dispersed throughout the house.

Many people do not realize what they are doing to themselves or to their children when they light up a cigarette. They also may not realize the effects of second-hand smoke on adults and or children. Many parents try to set an example for their children, and fail to see this habit as one they should discourage by setting that good example. If you do smoke, it may be a good idea not to smoke in front of your children, and not in any area where they will be exposed to your smoke.

The people who realize the effects of second hand smoke and also realize what they are doing to themselves as well as their children usually start trying to kick the habit right away, or developing alternatives that are better for their family, such as smoking out doors. Don't let yourself or your children become a health statistic. And remember, when you light up a cigarette around your kids, you're lighting one up for them, too.

Step on a crack, break your mother's what?

by Cecilia Carboni
Staff Writer

Superstitions have existed in societies for centuries. Every culture has had its own beliefs and mystical rules. Many of these rules, most meant to keep us from harm or bring us luck, are still followed today, even if their meanings have been generally forgotten.

Many people refuse to walk underneath ladders. They know it brings them "bad luck" but they don't know the reason why. It simply does.

A ladder leaning against a wall will form a triangle. In early Christian beliefs, walking through it causes the disruption of the Holy Trinity. If one did so, it was believed they did so in name of the devil. A few of the ancient cultures did regard the triangle as a mystical shape.

Another theory is that the triangle was a channel of energy, and breaking the energy between those points caused a sort of cosmic backlash. Perhaps the superstition goes for all objects that form triangles, for there seems to be no significance in the ladder itself.

Never let a black cat cross your path. The ancient Egyptians would have disagreed. Their goddess, Bast, was a black female cat. When Christianity entered Egypt, they vowed to destroy all traces of its religion. Priests convinced their followers that black cats were to be destroyed because they were actually demons. Of course, their caretakers often followed in their steps. The next time you see a black

kitty cross your path leave it alone and allow it the same respect the ancient Egyptians did.

If you spill salt, you have to throw it over your shoulder. It is meant to strike the eyes of the devil. There are several origins or beliefs connected to this superstition. Some Christians believe it comes from Judas supposedly spilling salt during the Last Supper.

A more general reason may be the value of salt during ancient times. It was used in medical practice and kept food from spoiling. To waste it was a very tangible threat.

It is bad luck to open an umbrella in the house. Aknenaten was an Egyptian pharaoh and a monotheistic sun worshipper. He popularized his religion between 1380-1340 BCE.

The temples of worship had no ceilings in order to let the rays in. Any person who opened a parasol was rejecting the sun and committing a serious spiritual crime.

Some things aren't really superstitions but customs we have adopted. Many times we don't even question them. Bridesmaids at weddings are meant to act as decoys. Their presence, as well as the veil, will keep evil spirits from finding the bride.

The custom comes down from Roman law, when it was dictated that ten witnesses had to be present in order to confuse the spirits.

Opals should not be given on wedding rings. The light pink stone is very sensitive to body heat. During the Black Death, when someone died wearing an opal, it

would instantaneously turn black. People interpreted that it was the stone stealing the person's soul.

The stork is said to deliver babies because it was sacred to Venus in Roman myths. For a stork to build a nest on a roof was a blessing from the goddess of love.

Two last ones were particularly interesting and deal with religion. There is no actual historical evidence that puts Christmas on December 25. That date was adopted in 354 by Bishop Liberius of Rome.

The only theory for why this date was chosen was to compete with Mithraism, a religion that worshiped a sun god, whose holy day happened to be December 25.

A ray of hope for those who believe, the Hayden Planetarium in New York produced a recreation of what the skies would have look like on Christ's birthday.

While nothing was found on that date, in 6 B.C.E there was a formation of three stars that were so close to each other that they could have formed one bright beacon.

The word "Easter" comes from an Anglo-Saxon goddess of the dawn, Eostre. She was honored at the beginning of spring, and Easter wasn't celebrated in America until after the Civil War.

There are countless numbers of superstitions. Each culture has its own, all revolving around their fears, hopes, and beliefs. So many of our references or customs have been passed down, but their reasons are frequently lost.

Yet, for many, that doesn't seem to make them any less potent.



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A tribute to local heroes who sacrificed their lives

Name: Evan T. James
Branch: Marines
Rank: Corporal
Age: 20
Hometown: La Harpe, Illinois
Unit: Engineering Company C, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Peoria, Ill.
Killed: March 24, 2003

Drowned in the Saddam Canal in southern Iraq while fording the canal to set up a fire support position for a water purification unit. It is unclear how he fell into the water.

Name: Lincoln D. Hollinsaid
Branch: Army
Rank: Staff Sergeant
Age: 27
Hometown: Malden, Illinois
Unit: B Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, Ft. Stewart, Ga.
Killed: April 07, 2003

Died in action in Iraq when the crane he was driving was hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. "He was proud of what he did. He was proud of the Army," said his father, Dan Hollinsaid.

Name: William A. Jeffries
Branch: Army
Rank: Specialist
Age: 39
Hometown: Evansville, Illinois
Unit: D Company, 1st Battalion, 152nd Infantry Regiment, Illinois Army National Guard
Killed: March 26, 2003

After suddenly becoming ill, he was evacuated from Kuwait to Rota, Spain, where he died.

Name: Brandon J. Rowe
Branch: Army
Rank: Specialist
Age: 20
Hometown: Roscoe, Illinois
Unit: C Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Ft. Campbell, Ky.
Killed: March 31, 2003

Died in action by enemy artillery in Ayyub, Iraq. He's believed to be the first person from the 101st Airborne Division to die in the war. "He cared about the guys that he was in the platoon with," his mother said.

Name: Bradley S. Korthaus
Branch: Marines
Rank: Corporal
Age: 28
Hometown: Davenport, Iowa
Unit: Engineering Company C, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Peoria, Ill.
Killed: March 24, 2003

Drowned in the Saddam Canal in southern Iraq while fording the canal. Korthaus was engaged and was planning to get married upon his return.



Not
pictured



ConTacto Latino

LOS FINALES Y EL ESTRÉS

Por: Andrea Belard

Que bonito es abril, especialmente por que según el calendario estamos en primavera. Es bastante obvio el deseo que tenemos todos de que el frío pase de una vez, hace una semana, cuando la temperatura subió un poco, ya se podía ver mas gente en las calles, un cambio de moda, y sobre todo, mas estudiantes en los jardines de la universidad. La primavera trae consigo una serie de vibraciones distintas, hay más ánimo y más alegría, pero de pronto nos acordamos de algo mas... ¡OH NO ya se acerca la época de exámenes finales! Todos conocemos la tensión de los finales, se cumplen las fechas para entregar trabajos, se junta el material de estudio y si a eso sumamos que la mayoría de los estudiantes toma por lo menos cuatro materias por semestre estamos hablando de cuatro veces el mismo trabajo.

¿Sabías que la mayoría de los estudiantes, en esta época de la universidad aumenta su nivel de estrés sin ni siquiera darse cuenta? Si aprendemos a reconocer cuales son las pautas físicas y psicológicas que nos da el cuerpo, es más fácil que sepamos lidiar con el estrés. Acá te pongo algunas de las pautas, puede que estés con el nivel de estrés alto y no te hayas dado cuenta:

- Cambios en el hábito de sueño. Te toma mas tiempo poder dormir, o te levantas con cansancio.
- Cambios en los hábitos de alimentación.
- Dolores de cabeza más frecuentes de lo normal.
- Cambio en el estado de ánimo.
- Frecuentes dolores musculares.
- Desorganización o dificultad al completar ciertas tareas.
- Mayor sensación a la presión del tiempo.
- Frustración, angustia o enojo.

Todos tenemos estrés como algo normal en nuestro vida diaria, pero como todas las cosas, mucho estrés es dañino para la salud. Este nivel de estrés excesivo generalmente se alcanza en un periodo de tiempo que pasa inadvertido por el individuo, hasta que se alcanza el límite físico o emocional de la persona.

¿Como disminuir tu nivel de estrés? Hacerlo no es tan difícil como parece, ya que el estrés es tanto físico como psicológico, aumentar ciertas actividades en tu vida diaria pueden ayudarte:

- Hacer ejercicio por lo menos 3 veces por semana. Caminar, correr o nadar son muy buenas opciones. Mediante el ejercicio se asegura que pequeñas molestias físicas se acumulen.
- Fijarse metas a largo plazo (este semestre o este año) y a corto plazo (este día o esta semana). Anotarlas y hacerlas parte de la manera en la que organizas tu tiempo.
- Dedicar 20 minutos al día para tener un momento a solas. Tomas un paseo, escribir un diario, tomar un baño, etc. Este momento es importante para que la persona medite sobre su vida y sea más fácil que organice su tiempo.
- No te ahogues en un vaso de agua! Pregúntate si el tema en cuestión es tan importante como para darte un mal rato. No gastes tu energía en vano
- El humor y el pensamiento positivo son herramientas importantes para poder manejar la tensión.
- ¡Lo más importante: comunícate! El hablar con una persona en quien confíes ya sea un amigo, compañero de cuarto, miembro de la familia, profesor, novio/a o el compañero de trabajo sobre tus preocupaciones es muy provechoso. Todos necesitamos de alguien que nos escuche.

Espero que estas pautas te ayuden, suerte en estas ultimas semanas y ¡A ponerle ganas!

Si quieres comunicarte conmigo escríbeme a: andrabelard@hotmail.com

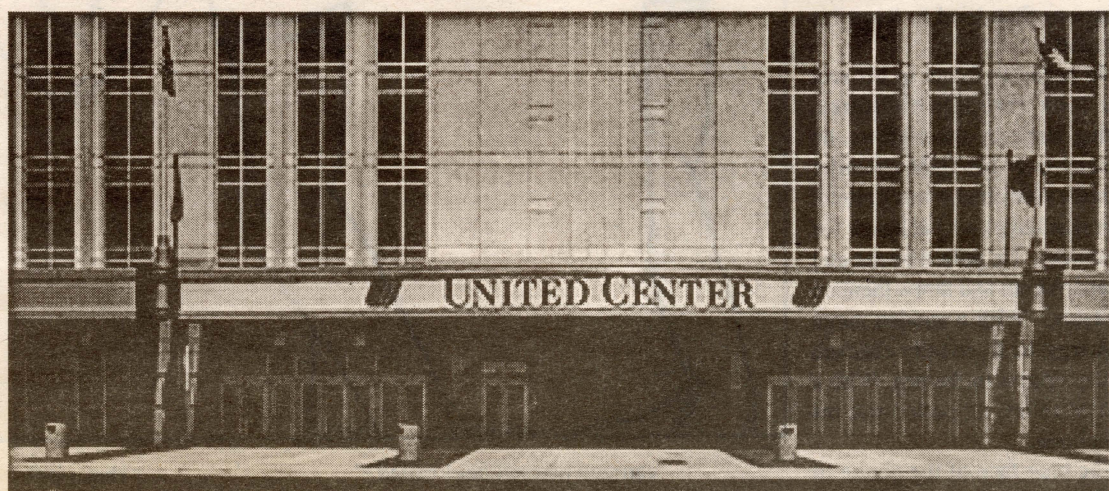


photo by ChicagoBulls.com/UC

The house that Michael built on west Madison has seen many good times.

The United Center: tourist heaven

by Sherri Rafelson
Staff Writer

Many Chicagoans in past have complained that the city is only known for wind and frigid temperatures. They exclaim, "There is nothing in the city" in respect to cool places or tourist spots.

Yet if one stops and thinks, Chicago is home to some amazing and world-famous things. Some include pizza, museums, and one heavily down played aspect: sports. Chicago is known to be an all-sports town, one of the few cities with two-baseball teams and a team of just about every type of sport imaginable.

The home to two famous sports teams (NBA Chicago Bulls and NHL Blackhawks) is the United Center. This place is one of the city's landmarks, and people come to town just to witness this unique arena. In fact, they sell pictures, posters, post-cards, magnets, and many other items.

Visitors often enter the city just to gaze at the Jordan Statue or the Blackhawks Sculpture. Others wish to take a walk through the inside of the building, to catch a glimpse of the various pictures on the walls. Individuals also stop to witness the jerseys of some of the most famous players of yesterday. Of course, today some people regard them as infamous players.

Centrally located in the heart of the city, one can find their way to the United Center via their own car or public transportation. It is in between four main streets: Madison, Damen, Adams, and

Wood; it also has four entrances, making it very convenient and efficient to leave after a show.

However, not long ago--in 1988 to be exact--the United Center was actually known as The Stadium. It was about half the size of the modern United Center with nowhere near the audience capacity.

Furthermore, during games, the fans were not in close proximity to the players allowing no fan-player interaction during game time.

The plans for a bigger sports and entertainment venue came about when William Wirtz and Jerry Reinsdorf made a pact to open an arena equipped for sports and entertainment for the 21st century.

The construction began in April of '92, just after the Bulls won the first of six championships. The United Center opened its doors with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 18, 1994; just after Michael Jordan retired for the first time and played baseball for the White Sox.

Interestingly, there are several secrets among Chicagoans regarding the United Center. The cause of the name change is that the Chicago-based United Airlines donated a lot of money to have this immense building constructed, and compensating their generosity, they named it United Center.

Furthermore, this is the largest and most energy efficient arena in the United States, meaning the reason the roof of the building is in a three-dimensional circle is that less energy is being used while

telecasting something.

Ever since the United Center opened, it was an automatic hit with fans. They declared it much nicer and one can actually see from any seat in the arena.

Some fascinating facts about the United Center are it has hosted well-over twenty million guests for a wide variety of shows.

The arena has been hosting yearly events such as Disney on Ice, Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, Champions on Ice, and DePaul College Basketball.

They have also hosted some phenomenally successful entertainers such as The Rolling Stones, U2, No Doubt, Madonna, N' SYNC, Shania Twain and many others. They even were the home of the 1996 Democratic National Convention.

For anybody interested, the United Center does offer backstage tours for a nominal fee. This covers a view of the Blackhawks' Organ Room, the Press Box, and the Scoreboard Control Room.

It also includes the 100 level concourses as well as a suite tour. Additionally, schedules permitting, one can have a peak of the visiting NBA team's locker room, and finally (but arguably, most importantly), the fee includes lunch.

Moreover, all proceeds from the tours go to different charities, so one is also doing a good deed while being mesmerized.

After all, the official gift shop in the United Center isn't named Fandemonium on a whim.



ANDREA ZELINSKI

All through the semester, Stan's relationship with Tori has taken a toll for the worse. After introducing her to his 4 year old daughter and spending his time with everyone but his girlfriend, Tori realizes that she can only take so much. Finally coming to grips with reality, Tori breaks up with Stan knowing that he will never know how much he means to her.

Stan sat alone on the second floor of the library as he stared blankly at his notebook. The tables adjacent to his stood empty as the sunlight soared through the glass onto the surface. People randomly walked through the library as Stan tried to focus his thoughts.

He began to fidget in his seat and look through his notes. Sitting alone by the widows, he glanced over his right shoulder to make sure no one was around. Stan reached in his backpack for a moment. He pulled books and notebooks out and threw them on the table. With a sudden surge of energy, he frantically checked all the zippers in the bag. With a sigh of relief, he pulled out his cell phone.

The blue face of the phone lit up as he pressed the center button underneath the screen. He held the phone for a moment while he contemplated whether or not he should do what he was about to. His heart began to pump harder as he felt a heavy weight hanging on his chest. A heavy ball began to build in his gut as he pressed a few select buttons on his phone. He again turned his head from side to side to verify his privacy.

Ring. Ri- "Hello..." answered a soft voice on the other end of the line.

"Hey, Tori?"
"No, I'm sorry. This is her mom."
"Oh, hi. How are you?"
"Okay. Who is this?"

Stan's face turned cross. *How can she not know who I am? Her daughter and I only dated for 8 months!* "Stan."

"Oh, hi Stan. Sorry, there are so many people calling this house, I lose track of who everyone is."

"Oh..." Stan trailed off. "Well, is Tori home?" he asked as he glanced at the clock. The time neared 6 p.m.

"Sorry, she went out with a friend of hers. I think she went out to see a movie."

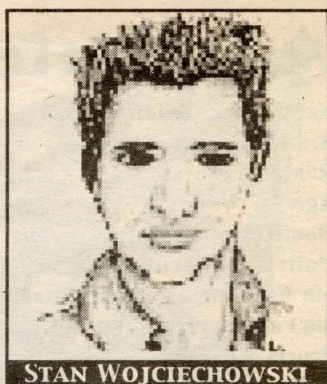
"Do you know when she'll be home?"
"Well, he said he'd bring her home a little late."

"What?" Stan asked as his heart began to race. "Who's 'he'?"

"Her friend," Tori's mom became a little flustered. "I don't know his name."

"Oh," Stan replied, disappointed. "Well,

Stan's Life



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI

mischievous smirk. "What about you?"

"Well," *should I really get into it?* "Just a lot of shit. Tori and I broke up about two weeks ago."

"Really?!" She asked this with a strange enthusiasm.

"Yeah. We still talk and everything. It's just really hard, with finals and all."

"I bet," she said, pretending to be comfort him. "Looks like you've got a lot of stress these next couple of weeks."

"Yeah, I guess you can say that," he said, slowly opening up. "See, I haven't really talked to anyone about it. I've be letting it bottle up inside for the last couple weeks, and its starting to take a bit of a toll on me."

She winced, as he continued to go on about his longing to be with Tori. Realizing his vulnerability, she kept feeding him with compliments. "She's a fool. She has no idea what she's loosing out on."

"You think so?" Stan replied, revealing his insecurities.

"Yeah," she said softly as she put her hand on his shoulder. She traced her fingers along the seams of this shirt and slowly

drew herself closer. "I care about you."

"Well, that's not enough," he replied abruptly. "The truth is that I have never cared for anyone as much as I do Tori. Regardless of what other people think or feel for me, it doesn't matter. Tori is what matters, and its hell going on without her," he ranted.

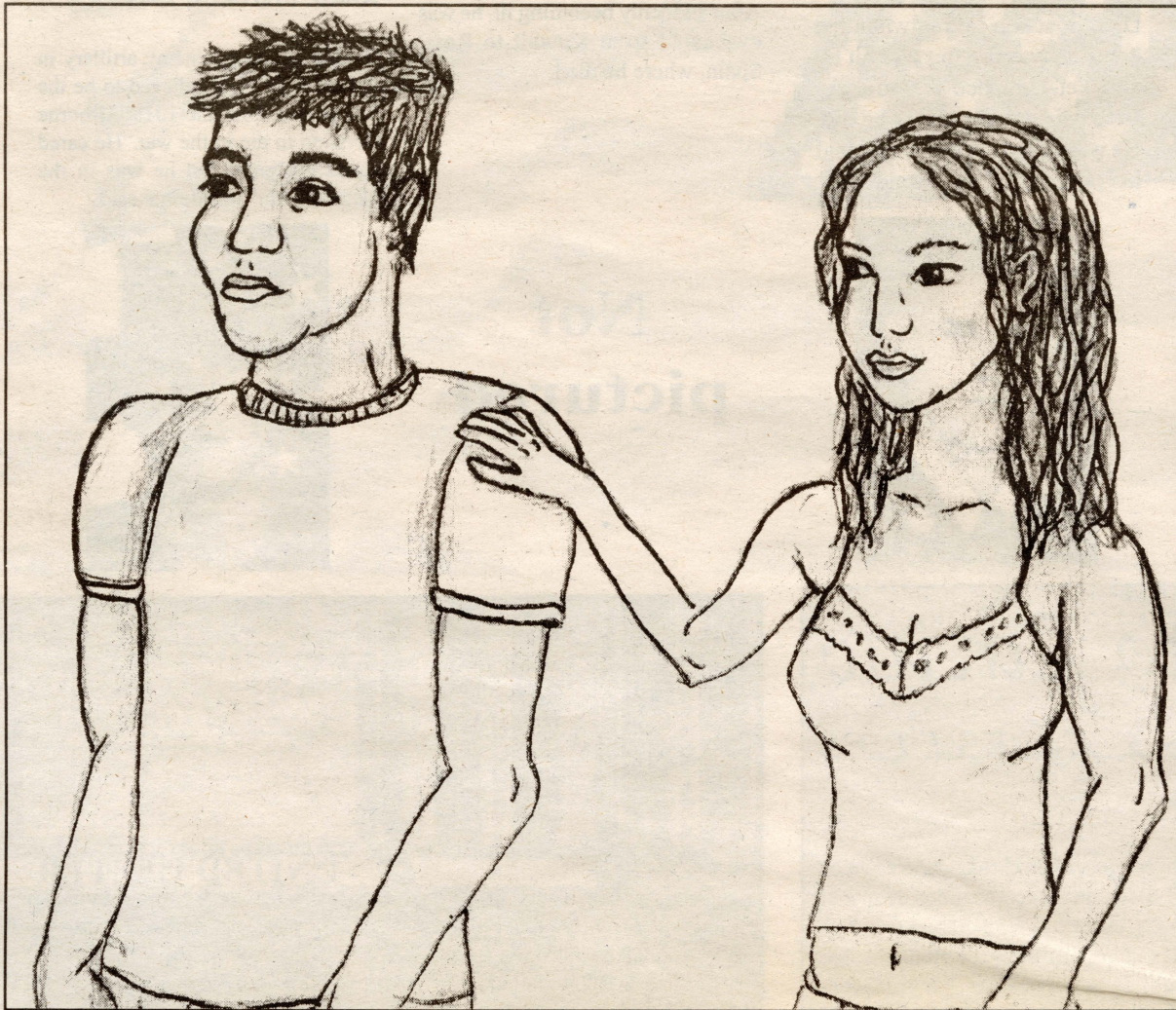
Taken aback, Lyndsey pulled her hand from his body. "But why would you want to devote so much time to only one person? You're young, Stan. You are a young, smart, and attractive guy. You could be having so much fun enjoying your life instead of obsessing over such trivial relationships." She paused. "Take things one day at a time," she said as she again placed her hand on his shoulder. "Enjoy your freedom from relationships. That's what I do." She began to softly run her fingers up and down his back in a sensual and fluid motion.

An inviting chill ran up and down his entire body. As much as he wanted to give in, Tori's face flashed in his mind and guilt overcame him.

"You know what? I can't do this. I don't think I can ever do this. Not with you, not with anybody right now. I've got to go," he picked up his bag. "See ya around."

Lyndsey slowly retreated to the cafeteria to find her red headed friend waiting with a gleaming smile. "From the look on your face, it looks like you got rejected," she observed.

Lyndsey rolled her eyes as she slumped into the chair. Realizing her friend was right, she pulled out her checkbook and signed a check for \$200 dollars. "You win the bet."



can you just tell her I called?"

Tori's mom paused. "Okay, Stan. You take it easy."

They shortly hung up. Stan slowly put the phone on the table in front of him and pulled his notebook closer. He flipped through the pages until he found his recent lecture notes. He blankly stared at the sheet as his mind began racing. *Who is this 'he' guy? Did Tori already start seeing someone else? I can't believe this.* He noisily clicked the back of his pen as he looked at the paper.

As time slowly passed, the tables next to him began to fill with fellow students. Stan tried hard to focus his attention to his class work, but his mind kept on wandering to the thought of Tori on a date with an unidentified guy.

The cell phone in front of him abruptly cut the silence of the library. The high-pitched ring made Stan jump in his chair. Hoping the caller was Tori, he quickly answered the phone. "Hello?"

"Stan?" Asked a soft, feminine voice. "Its Lyndsey. How are you?"

Lyndsey? *What's she doing calling me?* "Sup."

"Oh nothing. I was just wondering if you were on campus today."

"Yeah, I'm up in the library studying for finals," Stan replied as he noticed students giving him dirty looks. "Hold up a sec," he stood up and walked to the stairwell. "Why do you want to know if I'm on campus?"

A short pause followed. "Uh, I haven't seen you in a while."

"That's it?"

"Yeah, I was just wondering what you were up to."

"Okay?"

"Well, I'll be in the Student Union for a while. If you want, you can stop by."

"Maybe I will," replied Stan as he flipped through the notes lying in front of him.

Stan strolled through the Student Union, looking for a place to sit. Finding an empty table, he dropped his backpack on a nearby chair. *What am I doing here?* He started to pace regularly as Lyndsey was nowhere to be found.

His mind began to race again as thoughts of Tori and some unknown guy going on a date. His heart began pulse just thinking about the unknown guy's intentions with her.

As Stan continued to pace through the hall, a short, tiny figure approached him from behind and grabbed his shoulder. Stan whirled himself around to find Lyndsey impatiently waiting for a hug.

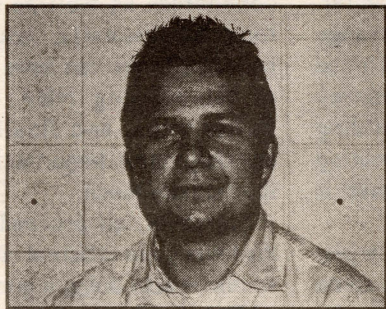
Damn, look at her in that shirt! She dressed in a sleek tank top and low-rise jeans, flattering her slim and sexy figure. Her dirty blond locks fell carefully from her head in soft curls. Now why can't I get with a girl like her? Wait, what am I thinking?

"Well? Don't I get a hug?" She asked playfully.

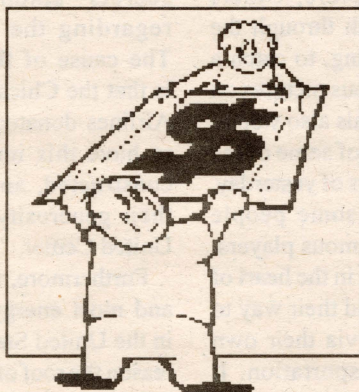
"Sure," Stan answered as she wrapped her arms around him. *What's this all about?* "So what's up?" He asked as she let him go.

"Nothing really," she replied with a

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Steiff toys a singular seam of quality

by Franklin Silencieux
Staff Writer

Stuffed animals are everywhere in stores, gift shops, theme parks. They are a business raking in hundreds of millions of dollars a year. These furry little friends are not just for children anymore, either. Adults are also infatuated with those cuddly beasts, especially the more expensive ones. These toys come in all shapes and all animals are represented, but the most popular and most mythic has always been the bear.

There are many bears available today, in every imaginable shape and size. Ones bearing the brand name “Steiff” have traditionally always been especially expensive. The Steiff bear has become almost a tradition in some families, with each child receiving a bear as a special gift from their relatives, or as a keepsake to mark a special occasion. One Steiff bear, twelve inches high and wearing golf clothes, costs \$255. A Steiff Soldier, offered by FAO Schwartz, is over \$300. Most of the Steiff animals and bears are collector’s items, and can be enjoyed by all ages. They’re such a special category because they were some of the first bears created, almost a century ago, when teddy bears had just become all the rage, and come with a history all their own.

The story began in the early 1900’s in the town of Giengen, Germany. Margarete Steiff, a seamstress bound to a wheelchair since the age of two, went against the odds to begin a small business of her own. Using excess materials from her work, she made toys in the shapes and designs of animals, beginning with several small gray elephants. The Felt Toy Company was started and continued to grow from then on, inspired by her lovable designs and quality workmanship. One by one, her nephews (Richard, Hugo, Otto, Paul and Franz) came to join her, taking over different aspects of the company. Richard was the artist and concept man of the family, and visited zoos to study the way bears looked and moved. From these observations, he designed a creature that was part bear and part human. He gave his aunt a prototype and, amusingly enough, she thought the design was entirely too big and too expensive.

Richard kept at it thankfully and got a new prototype ready for the Leipzig Fair in 1903. Made of mohair, stuffed with straw, and sporting glass eyes, the bears attracted no one at first. But, by the end of the fair, one American just happened to walk by and spotted the bear, falling in love with the possibilities of it. He subsequently bought thousands of bears. Even after this fluke success, Richard continued to perfect his concept, using disks to secure the limbs rather than thread, making the bears smaller, more durable, mobile, and more accessible. He never forgot his aunt Margarete’s favorite saying, “The best is just good enough for our children!”

Here in America around the same time, Rose Michtom, also a seamstress and toy-maker, designed a bear inspired by big-game hunter and president Teddy Roosevelt, who couldn’t bring himself to shoot a bear that had been tied up and prepared for him and his hunting party. Rose’s husband, Morris, a businessman, began to sell the bears, but only after sending one to Roosevelt himself and asking permission to use the name “Teddy.” This is the history most people know about teddy bears and where the concept came from.

Margarete’s other nephew Franz, the chief technician, was aware that there would be plenty of imitators and decided to stamp each bear’s left ear with the famous “Button in Ear.” Every few years the buttons change, but it has remained a trademark symbol of quality, value, prestige, safety, and craftsmanship virtues instilled by Margarete.

The economy took a bad turn around 1908 and Margarete’s health also declined. Tired and weary, she watched the activity of her company from the sidelines. She died in April 1909 at the age of sixty-one, but her legacy would go on for another century in the eyes and arms of countless children and collectors around the world, as little stuffed Steiff animals found their homes.

The company is still in business today and is known for high quality and quite beautiful creations of not only teddy bears, but an entire menagerie of animals. And every year, there’s an annual Steiff Festival where the quiet German town of Giengen becomes a fairground, bringing together tourists and collectors from all over the world to see these classic bears (*Details at www.steiffusa.com*). Competition with other manufacturers, including the twenty-year-old Vermont Teddy Bear franchise, hasn’t affected the appeal of the Steiff toys at all, as they continue to create with the same standards of quality as they had almost a hundred years ago, new and beautiful toys to delight all ages.

X-rays, revealed under a new light

by Shayna Labue
Staff Writer

By now, almost every person you know, has had or knows someone who has had a standard hospital x-ray. No big deal, right? In actuality, there have been growing concerns over the misuse of x-rays in hospitals. With insufficient knowledge and control over the radiation exposure to a patient, many lingering effects are thrown into their lives.

When conducting an x-ray, the idea is to use the smallest amount of x-rays in order to get the desired information from a patient’s body. The higher the dose, the more cells you kill. The lower, continuous doses can eventually result in cancer to the

area receiving the most radiation. Doctors try to even out the amount of radiation used so as not to cause the patient additional harm. When an x-ray passes through materials (such as flesh, etc.), the material becomes ionized (charged), which can result in damage to the cells, matter, or DNA. It affects rapidly dividing cells more than slower ones because the dividing genetic material is more sensitive to the x-rays. This is why doctors can use concentrated blasts to kill cancer cells and cause limited damage to healthy cells around the cancer.

The most sensitive parts of the body to x-rays are the breasts, thyroid gland, reproductive organs, and bone marrow. An x-ray-absorbing metal apron usually shields these specific

Get the lead out!

Preventing Lead Poisoning in Small Children

by Joe Hertel
Staff Writer

Summer is coming, and that means that young children will be outside playing, and thereby could be exposed to possible lead poisoning in and around their home environment. If you have young children, brothers or sisters, or know of someone who does, this article will be of importance and may help prevent a child you know from being exposed to the dangers of lead poisoning.

In Chicago alone, ten percent of children *one year of age and younger*, and thirty percent of children between the ages of two and five years, who were screened, had elevated levels of lead in the blood, according to Chicago Department of Health 2001 records. Why? Because children like to put things in their mouths, especially sweet things, and lead is a sweet tasting danger. Ingestion of lead dust (hand to mouth) is the most common method of contamination.

In Illinois there are over 25,000 cases per year of elevated lead in children under the age of six, the majority in the Chicago area (Illinois Department of Public Health). I should know. I was a licensed lead-risk assessor and building inspector, certified by the State of Illinois and worked for the Chicago Department of Health for over 20 years. When I started in Children’s Lead Poison Prevention, around 1978, there were *three to four million cases a year* in the United States and when I retired in 2000, the numbers had dropped to around a million a year. But numbers mean nothing if it is your child, or someone you know, who becomes a statistic. This will explain briefly how lead poison affects the body, and how to spot the most common risk areas and offer a few suggestions to reduce the hazard.

The body cannot tell the difference between lead and calcium, and therefore treats it the same: by keeping it in the bloodstream for a few weeks and then storing it in the bones where it collects. Children are affected the most because their bodies are developing rapidly and lead impairs that growth. They have a higher degree of exposure because they tend to play on floor surfaces and in the yard soil and, of course, they are putting their hands in their mouths frequently.

Exposure to lead, even at low levels, permanently affects children. Symptoms are not always immediate, and, unfortunately, any damage done is irreversible. Lead attacks the nervous system and causes kidney damage. And, as stated by Anthony Amato, Supervisor of Inspectors at the Chicago Department of Health, lead poisoning causes learning disabilities,

attention deficit disorder, memory loss, and decreased intelligence levels. It also is responsible for decreased muscle and bone growth and speech and hearing damage.

An estimated 26 million homes in the United States have significant levels of lead paint hazards, according to HUD (Housing and Urban Development). This hazard exists normally in structures built prior to 1978 when lead paint was outlawed for residential use.

Lead paint is most commonly found on exterior window and door surfaces, porches (especially rear porches), fences, and in soil around the exterior of houses and apartment buildings. In most lead poison cases I investigated—I would say over 70%--the lead hazards found were from older rear porches (with that “battleship” gray paint) and exterior window frames, including sills and sashes.

It is not always easy to determine if the paint on the windows, doors, and porches is lead based without professional testing, but older structures may exhibit certain deterioration characteristics that you can spot. This is called “alligator flaking” because the paint flakes off in small geometric squares and rectangles, and the surface has the appearance of alligator skin, hence the name. Lead paint is usually thicker and heavier than non-lead paint. Friction and strike areas, such as window wells and jambs and door frames, produce the most danger, since the constant opening and closing of the structures causes lead dust, the most common form of lead ingestion. And, during the summer, if you put a fan in the window to blow in cool air, you might also be blowing in lead dust and chips from the window well! Remember that lead paint becomes hazardous when in a deteriorating condition. Lead paint that has been stabilized through new paints and is generally safe unless disturbed by friction.

Even if you are not sure if you have lead paint, it is a wise idea to take certain measures to protect children from exposure to potential hazards. Here are a few suggestions from the Environmental Protection Agency: 1) wearing latex gloves, clean up loose paint chips around peeling areas by *carefully* brushing chips onto a piece of

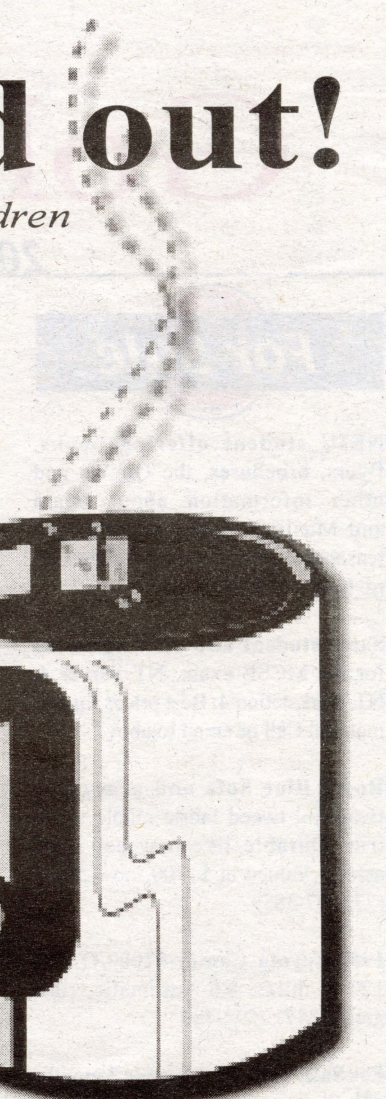
paper or cardboard, and place them in a paper bag and dispose of in the trash, 2) Again, using latex gloves, wipe dust areas like sills and floors with a damp rag and *Spic n’ Span*. Do not rinse the rag. Wipe easily and once, then dispose of the rag. Handi-wipes are good for this use. Dispose of rags and gloves in trash. 3) Avoid storing water or edibles in imported pottery and ceramic or lead crystal objects. Certain pottery items, especially from Mexico, may contain lead in the mixture. I personally have witnessed Hispanic families storing water and beans in pottery from Mexico which contained lead, and were purchased in Chicagoland grocery stores. The families claimed that it gave a “sweetness” to the water and the beans. Well, remember what I said earlier about the taste of lead? And if your favorite coffee mug is chipped or cracked, play it safe and buy a new one. 4) Teach children to be aware of the danger of putting things in their mouth. Have them wash their hands after play and before eating. Just these few simple suggestions may help prevent lead poisoning in some little one you love.

You are now armed with information that can effectively reduce lead hazards around your home. You know where it is found, what it can do, and how to minimize the danger. I urge you to share this information with friends who have small children. You can find additional information on-line at www.Chicagolead.org. I hope this has been helpful; now, get the lead out!

spots. Thanks to it, 90% of the radiation is absorbed instead of polluting your body. These specific parts are taken into important consideration because of their sensitivity. If an x-ray is required of that region, doctors try to go about it with very small x-rays of specific areas.

The greatest risks of x-rays are to unborn fetuses and children with chronic conditions. X-rays cause damage to fetal cells that can eventually result in miscarriage, birth defects, mental impairment, or childhood cancer. The risks are at the highest stake during the unborn child’s first three months in the womb.

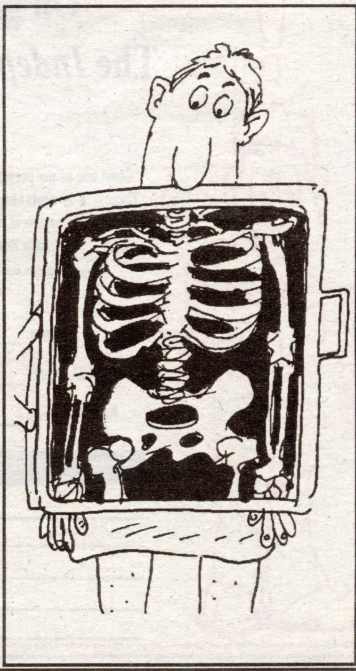
Everyone is constantly exposed to a very low level of radiation on



Lead poisoning can strike in some most innocuous ways.

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Personals

Congrats to class of 2003.Georgia-you are the greatest friend and the best VP ever! Good Luck in all you do. Brian,Javi,Angel,Desmond,Jacob , Jason,Caleb, Luke,etc. I will miss you,KIT. love Sophia To the 2 koukles,

S: Good luck teaching your propaganda! I'll miss your "Dula wit" and your surprisingly exceptional ping-pong skills. I've never seen anyone do backflips in a table-tennis game before.

G: What can I say? You're my best friend in the whole world, and I'm going to miss you like crazy. How can I pass my classes without your good-natured nagging? Thanks for all your help, and don't forget the little people when you're a big-shot lawyer.

What I'm about to say is spelled phonetically, so please go easy on me:

Kali epitihia koukles! Tha sas epithimiso, min me ksheinate otan yinete plousies! (God, I hope that means what I meant it to mean...)

Thanks to the staff of the *Independent*, but especially Duncan, Stacy, Jenny, Cecilia, Shayna, Joe H., Joe A., Tim, Atoor, Dan G., Daniel P., Azi, Franklin, Anne J., and Len you are the future of this organization, and I feel good about it. See you guys next year.
Patrick

The Word of the Day is:

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\kwɪn-tə-'sen(t)-shəl\
(adjective)

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