

9-9-2003

Independent- Sep. 9, 2003

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Independent

Vol. 20 Issue 2

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

Migrant workers feel city's squeeze over local worker site

by Carole M. Brown
Senior Staff Writer
Joy Elitzer
Staff Writer
Stephanie Tichenor
Staff Writer

The Albany Park Worker's Center, formerly located at Pulaski and Foster, has floundered in finding a champion for them in the halls of city government.

Members of the Latino Union of Chicago (LUC) had been attempting to work in tandem with members of Chicago government and local politicians to find a solution for a permanent democratic workers center in Albany Park. The Juan Diego Workers Center was temporarily placed in an old bus turnaround, nestled in the trees off of Gompers Park. The workers were allowed by Alderwoman Margaret Laurino to use the land for several months while working on a compromise.

Despite the supposed collaboration between all interested parties, a breach of trust was executed recently. "[The workers] feel betrayed by Ray Vasquez," said Jose Landaverde, head of the LUC.

While leaders of the LUC were in a regular meeting with Ray Vasquez and other city

officials, park district workers were sent in to remove the Worker's Center from Pulaski and Foster.

Landaverde spoke to the *Independent* on behalf of the workers, explaining what had happened on August 26. "There came a group of [park district] workers and they came in and told them [the day laborers] that if they don't leave they would arrest them, and they began to throw away everything that we had out there."

"We had a building for the Lady of Guadalupe," Landaverde continued, "and they destroy it, and throw it away, and they destroy everything. One of the workers asked for the building and they wouldn't let them in to take them because they said they will gather everything, because they got to take everything to the alternate space."

"When that wood belongs to the workers because they bought it.... Them workers were here and couldn't do nothing because they came in here with a lot of authority to destroy the workers center," Landaverde said.

Neither the wood, nor statue of Our Lady of Guadalupe has been sighted at the alternate site or returned to the workers or the LUC. Other quality of life things, such as port-a-potty service that the workers pooled funds together to pay for, were taken away.



photo by Patrick O'Brien

These workers found their worker's center in shambles on Tuesday, August 26.

Carmelo Vargas of the city's Department of Human Relations defends the move by saying, "When they [the workers] were asked to move into that area, they were told it would be a temporary area because the city had plans for that area."

When asked why it was imperative that the city suddenly decided to move on plans that had only been in the works for five years, Vargas was simple in his answer. "I don't know about that," he said.

See Workers, page 4

There's more than corn in the B-Courtyard



Free corn and soft drinks welcomed students to campus August 25 and 26. Provided by the University, students were invited to enjoy ears of corn and soft drinks in the B-Courtyard for no charge. Top: Joann Larkins (left) and Noreen Hernandez (right). Left: Manny from Food Services. Bottom: Claudia Valiente.



photos by Len Grayes

"Warning" a cause for concern to NEIU students

by Patrick O'Brien
Production Manager

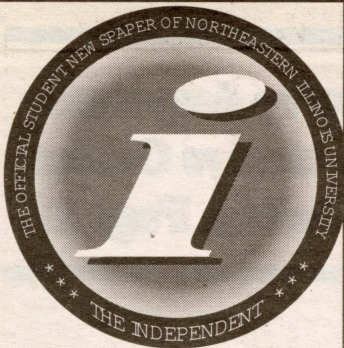
This past week, students from the Women's Studies Department discovered a "warning" of sorts posted on the bulletin board outside Classroom Building Room 2096 concerning the status of homosexual professors and students and attempts at influencing the sexual orientation of students here at NEIU. The letter also included allegations of sexual misconduct by an NEIU administrator.

Though due to its offensive nature and the wording of the note it cannot be repeated here, it has raised the ire of Anne Mothkovich and Robin Matthews, members of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) and the GLBA, The Gay Lesbian Bisexual Alliance, who have voiced concern that comments such as those posted go beyond protected speech and have a chilling effect on closeted gay students, intimidating them into further secrecy. "We're not saying that we're everybody's champion, but things like this just make it even more difficult for someone who is in the closet to come out," commented Mothkovich.

Matthews also hoped that university officials in the NEIU administration would make a statement regarding the incident, which comes just weeks before the GLBA-sponsored Coming Out Ball, an event aimed uniting students of all sexual backgrounds in a night of free entertainment in Alumni Hall. "There has to be some response from the faculty and students about this, or else it just makes it seem like this kind of activity is tolerated here", she added.

An officer at Public Safety termed the incident as a free speech issue, though Mothkovich did assert that such speech is considered a hate crime under recent state legislation. The slurs used in the letter have been stricken from the allowable language of many American workplaces and schools. The *Independent* was unable to obtain a copy of the complaint as this story went to press.

It is not clear whether there will be any further investigation into the incident, which follows several random postings on the GLBA bulletin board last school year. Those postings included the word AIDS being scribbled across a board devoted to GLBA events near the Student Commons. Mothkovich added, "We've let this go in the past and never said anything. It's just at the point where enough is enough."



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Monday-Thursday
9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Friday

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

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AROUND CAMPUS

Future Teachers Club!

Are you interested in receiving certificates for your portfolio? Do you want to attend hands-on education workshops? Would you like to meet fellow education students and network? Then join Future Teachers Club. Meetings are held every other Monday from 7:00 - 8:00 pm and Thursdays from 1:40 - 2:40 pm in CLS 3109. For info. See our bulletin board by CLS 3010 or e-mail at ftneiu@hotmail.com. First meeting is Thursday, September 18th, 2003.

Chinese Student Club

Come join us for fun. You do not have to be Chinese to join. Meetings on almost every Thursday from 1:40 to 2:30 pm at CLS 2020 or visit www.neiu.edu/~csc for more information.

Business Management Club

BMC will meet every Tuesday from 1:40 to 2:30 at CLS 3105.

Hispanic Heritage Month

La Noche de la Familia: The 2003 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration! Join the celebration on Friday, September 26 in Alumni Hall from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Enjoy refreshments, Hors d'oeuvres, music and dancing! Attendance is free, but you must reserve your space. Please calls 773-442-4205 or e-mail alumni@neiu.edu by Sept. 23.

Back to School Week

The week continues the Student Organization Fair, sponsored by Student Activities, on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 9th and 10th from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm in Village Square. Then Thursday the 11th begins with Campus Resource Information day, sponsored by Dean of Students Office, from 10:30 am - 1:30 pm in Village Square. At 1:40 - 2:40 pm in Alumni Hall, the President's State of the University Address. At 4:30 - 7:15 pm in the Science Building "East Lobby," the Information for Evening Students. The week concludes with the Campus Recreation Day, Barbecue and a variety of activities from 11:30 am - 2:00 pm in P.E. Complex Commons. Also at 7:00 pm in Alumni Hall, the "Back to College Movie" will be *The Matrix Reloaded*.

CORRECTIONS:

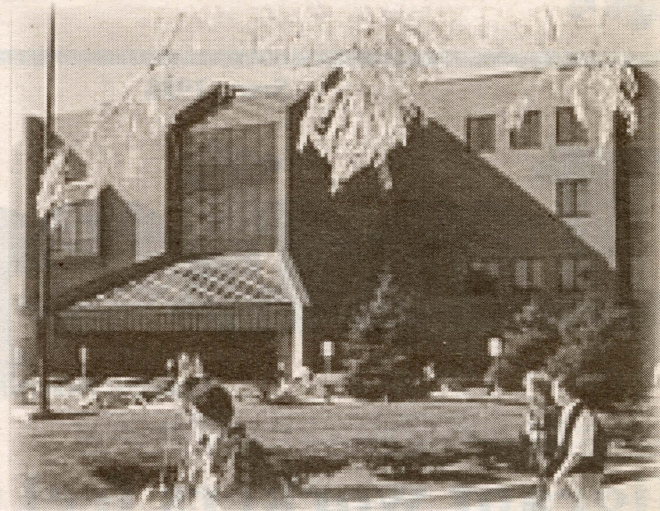
The following corrections are in regards to an article appearing in the August 26 edition of the Independent, Volume 20, Issue 1. The article appeared on the front page titled "Once again, construction welcomes students back."

The road formally known as the B-Drive, not Catalpa St. will be a part of the most visually apparent changes to the campus.

Phase 1 of the "Commons" reconstruction is intended to serve a functional purpose by repair the heart of the campus. The biproduct is an opportunity to take advantage of the construction and create a more open and enjoyable gathering place.

The previous design between the Student Union, Fine Arts Building, and Building B did not have inaccessible entries for heavy duty vehicles.

The buildings referred to as A-Building, B-Wing, and C Building are correctly named Building A, Building B and Building C respectively.



Dates to remember

September 22

Last day for 1/2 (50%) refund of tuition.

October 20

Last day for 1/4 (25%) refund of tuition.

November 7

LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES OR "COMPLETELY WITHDRAW."

November 27 - 29

Thanks Giving Holiday - NO CLASSES

December 6

FINALS FOR SATURDAY CLASSES

December 9 - 12

FINALS WEEK!!

Publication Dates Fall 2003

September 23

October 7

October 21

November 4

November 18

December 2

Letters & Ads 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.

Hot tip?



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

Mega-Pixels is the way to go

A picture perfect overview about digital cameras

By Len Grayes
Photo editor

Digital photography is the way to go, there's no doubt about it. But since not all of us are techno-savvy, where do you start?

The first word you should know is mega-pixel. In the digital photography world, your image is composed of little dots called pixels. The prefix 'mega' means a million in computer language. So when an ad states '3-megapixel', this means the camera can record approximately 3 million pixels worth of data. The more pixels you get the clearer your pictures will be, and quality may be compromised if your camera is 4-megapixel or less.

But the cameras become more expensive as you increase the number of megapixels. If image quality is not your priority, you should buy a 2-megapixel camera and spend less than \$300. This is the type of camera real estate agents use to immediately post their pictures online.

The pictures taken with digital cameras don't have to be printed. Users are able to print their pictures, save them

to a disk, or post them online. The largest picture size of an image printed by one of these cameras is about 4x6 inches. You are going to have to spend more money if you want larger size pictures.

For those hard-core photographers, spending a great deal of money is necessary for the results you might require. Just remember: experts say that true photo quality can be only obtained from a 6-megapixel camera or higher. These cameras start at \$1000, and are usually used by professionals.

Prices are constantly being dropped, and not just on the cameras, but also on necessary accessories. Digital cameras record the picture data on different types of media, which range from cards, CDs, or memory sticks. Many times cameras come with accessories in package deals. Most manufacturers include an adapter, battery, cables to connect the camera to your computer, or a case to protect your camera with your purchase.

So you've got all of your accessories, so what's next? Printing your pictures is the last major concern. There are three ways to do this: you

can take your media card to a Walmart or Walgreens where there are kiosks, order your pictures online from ofoto.com or photoworks.com, or buy your own printer. When you buy your own printer you have the most control over how your pictures develop.

You have to buy one thing after another when you get into digital photography, but when you think about it, the advantages far outweigh the costs. There's no need to wait an hour (or half-hour) for developing; the picture is ready to be printed after you take it. There's no worry about how the picture will look; you can see the picture right away on the camera screen. There's no extra cost for film; images you don't need can be easily deleted from most recordable media. There's no need for extra batteries; most camera packages come with a battery charger.

So are you hooked yet? If you want more information, try checking out dpreview.com or any major retailer. Photography is one way to express your creative self. Digital photography lets you do that, but it makes everything convenient and more fun.

Cream of the Crop

Best buys of Digital cameras for all levels:

Beginner
Kodak EasyShare 2.0-Megapixel 3x Digital Zoom Digital Camera
EKC CX6200

Source:
www.circuitcity.com
Price: \$129.99 and free shipping

Comes with: 2 AA batteries, USB cable, Wrist strap, Kodak EasyShare software CD with interactive software tutorial, Welcome kit and user's guide, Custom camera insert for optional Kodak EasyShare 6000 series camera dock, A/V cable



Intermediate
Nikon 4.0 Megapixel 3x Optical/4x Digital Zoom Digital Camera
NIK COOLPIX4300

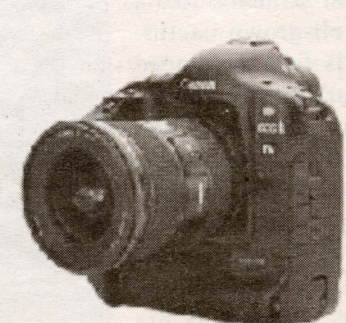
Source:
www.circuitcity.com
Price: \$399.99 and free shipping

Comes with: Lens Cap, Wrist Strap, Video Cable, Nikon Coolpix Starter Memory Card, USB Cable, (1) Rechargeable Li-ion Battery, Battery Charger



Advanced
Canon EOS-1Ds Digital SLR
Source: www.cnet.com
Price: \$7000-8000

Comes with: 1 x Lithium ion Rechargeable Camera battery, Power adapter + battery charger, Hand strap, Neck strap, Adobe PhotoShop LE, Drivers & Utilities, Canon Remote Capture, 1 x IEEE 1394 cable, 1 x DC coupler cable kit



Level 1: The history of an addiction

By J. Louis Bracich
Business manager

According to the nice people from that old business rag, the Wall Street Journal, video games have officially grossed more money than Hollywood by a factor of 2! Last quarter alone, Sony made a little over \$200 million dollars on the Playstation 2 that resides in 17 million homes in the US, and in 15.6 million homes in Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Australia combined. In fact, it was the Sony Computer Entertainment division (SCE) that saved Sony's hide this year, as it was the only profitable part of the company after Sony's stock collapsed in April following a surprise loss.

Of course you all have noticed the video-game themed movies that have come out, some good and some bad (good: the first Tomb Raider, the bad: Super Mario Bros). Seeing this as some sort of 21st century fountain of earnings, Hollywood has ratcheted up its focus on video games (some of your top game makers are partially owned or financed by the studios) or more movies based on games (the two biggies in pre-production being Tim Burton's Zelda, and Metal Gear from the same people that gave us Resident Evil).

This is all a far cry from when this whole mess began. When video games first began is debatable, with some saying it started in the late 40's, while others say it began even back in 1890! For the next couple of issues, this humble writer will take you through the years that shaped video games, from the technical things, like what was the first game "system," to fascinating tales of business stupidity (the great Donkey Kong suit), to tragedy (the death of a genius).

I will admit though that this is not a complete history, as there is simply not enough room on the paper (nor our editor's patience). If you want a good read on this, please check out the many fine libraries that the city has to offer, you'd be amazed what you can find there! Anyhow, this is simply supposed to be a fun read. So while the rest of the paper is dealing the serious stuff, let me help you put your brain on a temporary coffee break. Relax and enjoy.

In the Beginning, there was "Tennis for Two."

The year was 1958, and the folks at the Brookhaven National Laboratory in New York would hold an open house every fall. During these open houses the scientists would set up some of the things they were working on in the gymnasium. Tens of thousands of people would come to these events to see the various exhibits on display by the various units at BNL.

The problem was that a lot of the exhibits on display was not exactly exciting (I guess science fairs were boring even for people in 1958). "I knew from past visitors days that people were not much interested in static exhibits, so for that year I came up with an idea for a hands-on display of a video tennis game." said Higinbotham, a scientist at the BNL.

Only around 1961, at the Massachusetts Institute for Technology (MIT), was there was another attempt at a videogame. Higinbotham's Tennis For Two was the first genuine video game. The "game system," if you want to call it that, consisted of a series of analytical computers, resistors and relay switches. "It was simple to design," remembered Higinbotham,

written in the book "Basic Computer Games" by David Ahl. "Back then, analog computers were used to work out all kinds of mechanical problems. They didn't have the accuracy of digital computers, which were very crude at the time, but then you didn't need a great deal of precision to play TV games."

The game itself proved to be a sensation. Tennis For Two was similar to another tennis-like game that would show up in the future, Pong, only instead providing an overhead view, the game was viewed from the side. Displayed on a small 5 inch oscilloscope, players took control of these metallic/chrome-like boxes that were the size of today's Xbox controllers that only had a knob and a button. TFT even had sounds, though it was only a clacking sound emitted by one of the machines to correspond with where the ball went. The game's programming was very good at mimicking a tennis ball, as it bounced and flew across the net (actually a small green line) like a real ball would (but with a glare). Rotating the knob would change the angle of the ball, while hitting the button would send it in the opposite direction. Many of the visitors were boy scouts and science whiz kids, who loved the game.

From tennis to SPACE WAR!

In 1961 at MIT, there was a battle going on as to what to do with the new Digital Equipment Corp (DEC) PDP-11 computers. Around this time the Tech Model Railroad Club, created for the local hobbyists at MIT in 1946, met in Building 20 where the club would set up big model train sets. By 1958, the area now known as "the rats nest" had grown so complex as members continuously "hacked"

on new additions. Originally these "hackers" were keeping tabs on their sets using an old TX-10 computer. For days on end they worked on the computer and eventually it became the new hobby. The trains were left to the wayside.

However, in 1961 the TX had been reassigned for other purposes and the Club wanted to use a new computer. Low and behold, MIT had purchased the new DEC PDP-1 machine. The hackers, who had labored on the old TX, decided to write games for the PDP-1.

What originally started out as a prank on two crabby professors transformed into something revolutionary. The two professors were told that the club members had invented a smart chess game. Each was led into a separate room with a DEC PDP-1 that was connected to the other's room. For a while, both professors were amazed at the smart game, not knowing that they were playing against each other and not some program.

The prank was exposed when one professor was inquiring as to why the program housed in the next room was starting to swear. One professor also noticed that, for a computer program, it was typing up words and response times in an awkward manner. Curiosity led the first professor to open the door to the other room, and both found out the truth. The first network game was born.

The professor who discovered the prank, John McCarthy, was now curious about capability of the machine to write programs. He was initially working on chat programs and the LISP programming language at the time. During the course of his other research he had met up with a student named Steve "Slug" Russel.

Russel had been assisting McCarthy in setting up the LISP language. Russel also previously worked with a professor who accidentally discovered how to draw circles on the computer (trust me; this was big thing at the time.). Russel thought you could use these new graphic discoveries to make a new type of game.

After a year of working with the hackers they came up with Space War. This videogame pitted two players against each other; one as a cigar-shaped space ship and the other as a needle-shaped space ship. Both 'ships' shot out little white dots that were supposed to be "super death torpedoes." It used controls similar to those in Higinbotham's game, and became a great hit almost immediately.

Because so many people worked on Space War the code for the game became public domain, making it one of the first open-sourced games. For the next several months, Space War would appear at all university campuses that owned a DEC PDP-1 machine.

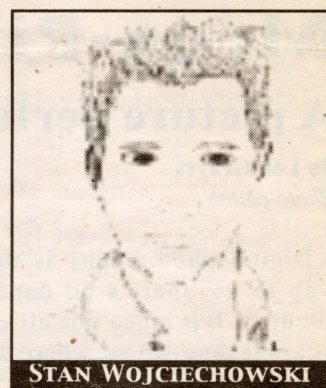
In the late 60s a college student named Noland Bushnell, while working at an amusement park watching the kids play the pinball machines, came to realize that video games can appeal to the average consumer. By 1971, Bushnell managed to jury-rig a dilapidated PDP machine and housed it and a small television, in a standup case. In doing so he created the first video arcade game, "Computer Space," based on Space War. The success of Computer Space would lead Bushnell to form Atari.

Next Issue (or Level): The world becomes afflicted with Pac-Man fever, and invaders from space hit earth.



ANDREA ZELINSKI

Stan's Life



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI

"Who the hell do you think you are?"

"Come on, Elliott. Just this once."

"But if I do it this time, you're gonna want me to do it again next time," Elliott replied as they walked down the hall of the second floor in the classroom building. He turned to Stan who looked more pale than normal. The stubble on his face appeared rigid and scratchy, like a well-grown cactus. His face developed dark circles under his eyes; dark like someone drew on his face before he woke up that morning. Elliott looked at him and sighed as he stopped at his classroom. "You look like shit."

"Whatever. I don't give a shit about how I look." Elliott listened as he continued to study Stan's face. "I haven't been sleeping lately. I've been up reading for that goddamn math class. I can't afford to take that piece of shit class again. I've been stuck in Math 102 for two semesters now."

Stan looked into his classroom, judging the amount of time he had before class would start. "Look, I don't ask you for many favors. And this isn't even a big deal. All I need you to do is pick me up a case of beer. I can't help the fact that I can't turn 21 till March."

"Why d'you have to drink tonight? How about you come out and meet me at the pool hall?" Elliott suggested, trying to avoid buying him beer. He hated buying beer for his friends; he hated drinking period. He'd been in too many situations

where alcohol caused more problems and pain than relief and relaxation.

He looked into Stan's eyes to see a desperate spark of hope. Stan had put himself through hell since his ex-girlfriend, Tori, broke up with him. Strung out and irritable, Stan's been hard to deal with ever since. Elliott sighed and closed his eyes, realizing he was going to give in. "So what kind of beer do you want?"

Stan found a seat in the third row just as the professor walked through the doorway. He dropped his backpack on the floor as he set a full coffee cup on his tiny desk. Again, his seat ended up next to the same girl he sat by on the first day of class. As he sat down, the girl, Isabella, rolled her eyes and shifted away from his desk.

The professor began to fumble

through a stack of handouts at the podium before he started talking. "You'll need these to start on the next assignment outlined in the syllabus. Don't loose these; they're the only one's you'll get," the professor warned.

Stan glance at Isabella while the professor passed out a stack of papers. Turning to her, he placed the cup of coffee on her desk. Steam drifted from the cap of the tall, creamy white cup. She tried to ignore him, but couldn't help turning to him and saying "You better be damn careful with that coffee." She stopped and looked at the cup he put on her desk.

"Why's this on my desk?" she asked with a hint of attitude.

"I felt like shit for dropping that cup on you last week, and I couldn't think of something better to say sorry?"

"So you wanted to say sorry with a cup of the very thing you

burnt me with last week? I don't understand the logic."

He looked down and searched for something to say. "I'm sorry, alright. Just accept it as my apology," he said squeezing out a half smile.

She looked at the cup, then up and Stan, then back at the cup. "I don't drink coffee," she replied. Isabella picked up the cup and placed it back on his desk. "Be careful with that next time, I had first degree burns on my foot after you spilled that shit on me. I don't want to go through that again, if you understand what I'm saying," she remarked with more attitude in her voice. She turned her head towards the front of the classroom and virtually ignored him for the remainder of class.

Down in the underground layer of his basement, Stan sat quietly at this computer flipping through

websites in the bitter darkness of the night. He sat comfortably in his computer chair and stared blankly at the glowing screen illuminating the basement walls. It was dark and clammy down there, cluttered with boxes, board games, Christmas decorations, and old furniture. Rickety wooden shelves lined most the walls with baby food jars with nails, screws, washers, and bolts occupying the entire space. The empty walls were covered with random posters ranging from old rock bands to the six foot movie signs of Hanibal, Xmen, and The Wedding Singer. For the most part, the basement was a mess, similar to Stan's life.

His computer desk, regularly overwhelmed with papers, Cds and pop cans, was covered by empty beer cans. About eight cans sat lifeless on the desk's surface, their open mouths sucked dry by Stan's growing obsession with alcohol. He set a ninth can next to the others and wiped the drops of beer off his chin with the sleeve of his t-shirt.

His head bobbed as he reached down to the small fridge underneath his desk for another. He swung open the door with more strength than he had intended as the door smashed into a leg of the desk. "Ah, shit," mumbled before he grabbed another cold can from the refridgerator. He pulled the tab of the can and sighed at the sound of it's seal breaking. He lifted it up to his face and let the beer flow through his mouth with refreshing ease.

There, in the heart of his basement, he continued to drown

Spongebob Squarepants just doesn't cut it; First impressions count

By Joe Hertel
Staff writer

If you have already entered your first day of class this semester wearing a "Bite Me" T-shirt, there is little I can do for you, especially if you are an instructor! We all know ourselves to some degree, and that is why we dress and act a certain way. It is not necessarily to impress anyone; it is just a reflection of who and what we think we are. But it can also be a reflection of whom or what we want to be.

As of now it is too late to offer any advise as far as making a good first impression on your current teachers for this semester, and also too late for the professors. So maybe this little bit of advice and information might help next semester as to how we will be perceived by each other

upon initial introduction.

Now I don't want any complaints that I am trying to establish dress codes here. I am not. What I am saying is that for a positive reaction from an instructor the first few sessions of class, until they get to know you, it is best to give the best introduction possible so that you do not have to undo negative first impressions. I am not saying it's right. I am also not saying it's fair. I am only saying that that is the way things are.

What helps make a good first impression is to dress like you want to learn something when you enter class for the first time. Need help? Go to the internet and search *Psychology of First Impressions* and see what you get. You might find that the way you are perceived by others is not what you think.

What we wear and how we act defines us in the mind's eye of others even before we open our mouths. And, when we do say something, it will either enforce or contradict that initial impression. Once people get to know us and our personality takes root we might hear the phrase, "That's not you", from our friends when we sport the wrong apparel.

To give you an idea of what I mean I present the following scenarios: You walk into your class and the instructor, who is around 40 years old, is wearing khaki shorts and a "Megadeth" T-shirt. What would be your impression of her? Which male instructor would you feel more comfortable in approaching: the one wearing a white shirt with a "Sponge Bob Squarepants" tie, or one wearing a

"man-in-black" outfit? I don't think I'm telling you anything you don't already know.

Some dress to show off their bodies (and my thanks to some of you young ladies for doing so); some dress to hide them; some dress to intimidate or draw attention, and some just dress in what they have. Some of us have taste and some do not. It is a good idea to reflect on what people will think when we wear certain items.

Just ask yourself what *you* would think if you saw someone else in that get-up. We are, after all, attending a university, and we are here to learn. You can be stylish without being strident, sexy without looking like a streetwalker, and casual without being sloppy, and cool without intimidating. Man, I sound like a counselor... sorry.

Most instructors know the psychology of clothes, and that is why, when you first walk into class, you will initially perceive if that instructor is approachable, stern, relaxed or "all-business". And, believe me, they label you just as much as you label them, so it is a wise move not to dress in something that you will be spending the next few weeks trying to negate.

And, as a side note, one of the worst impressions we ever make, regardless of clothes, is entering the first day of class late. All effort should be made to get there, initially, on time, even early, if possible.

So if you want to make a good first impression, then don't dress like Brian Blaszkowski. It's his last semester here and he can get away with it!

COMMENTARY

Our economic 'recovery' needs some muscle

by J. Louis Bracich
Business Manager

One can get very confused trying to figure out where this economy is and where it may be heading. Every newspaper and news magazine from *Businessweek* to the *Wall Street Journal* has been showing conflicting news. Recent economic reports show the economy improving from the lows of 2002, with some economists claiming that the recession started back in 1999 and others claiming it was around the March stock market descent of 2000.

This week's Beige Book report, a summary of reports from the twelve districts of the Federal Reserve, indicates that the economy continued to improve in July and August. The report also indicated that consumer spending and manufacturing activity was up. The Department of Commerce's report on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) showed an increase at an annual rate of 3.1 for the Second Quarter of 2003, versus 1.4 % for the previous quarter. Of course, you have the talking heads like Lawrence Kudlow on CNBC's "Kudlow & Cramer" and fund manager and ever-perennial bull Joseph Battapaglia talking up the economy. A good gauge of what the top money managers' and "experts" take on the economy and the market can be found by looking at the latest Investor Sentiment numbers, which have been showing bullish readings at all-time highs (not seen since the top of the market in '99).

See, I have a problem with all this optimism, if that is the right word to use. Here I am watching my television, and I see Treasury Secretary John Snow talking about how we have "turned a corner." Frankly, this White House has not really paid attention to this economy, and is more concerned with a certain country in the Middle East. Without debating the merit (if

any) of this war with Iraq, it was hoped that the government was going to take into account the costs of this war. Now we are face with a multi-billion dollar expenditure, with the actual figures changing by the week (i.e. going up). Going back to the homeland economy, where is the evidence that we have "turned a corner," as per Secretary Snow's observation? In fact, I see quite the opposite.

The Cracks in the Optimists' Wall

One glaring omission from all these bulls—be it one of the salesmen on CNBC or our President—is what are we going to do about getting jobs? Just now, across my screen, Dow Jones is reporting that over 93,000 jobs were lost this past month, and approximately 2.7 million jobs in manufacturing were lost in the last three years! Now I know that the opinion on Henry Ford, founder of Ford Motor Company, is somewhat negative, but he did have one right idea: if you want people to buy your products, you must give them a wage to afford those products (mind you his treatment of workers was total crap). I have family who live near Silicon Valley in California, many of whom are programmers or engineers and executives in companies that are in the Nasdaq 100. Everyday I get emails how all their jobs are going to India or Russia. The excuse today is not to worry about those manufacturing jobs going to places like China because the workforce will supposedly take on new "smart jobs" in new innovating fields, not to mention that people will also take on more so-called higher paying jobs.

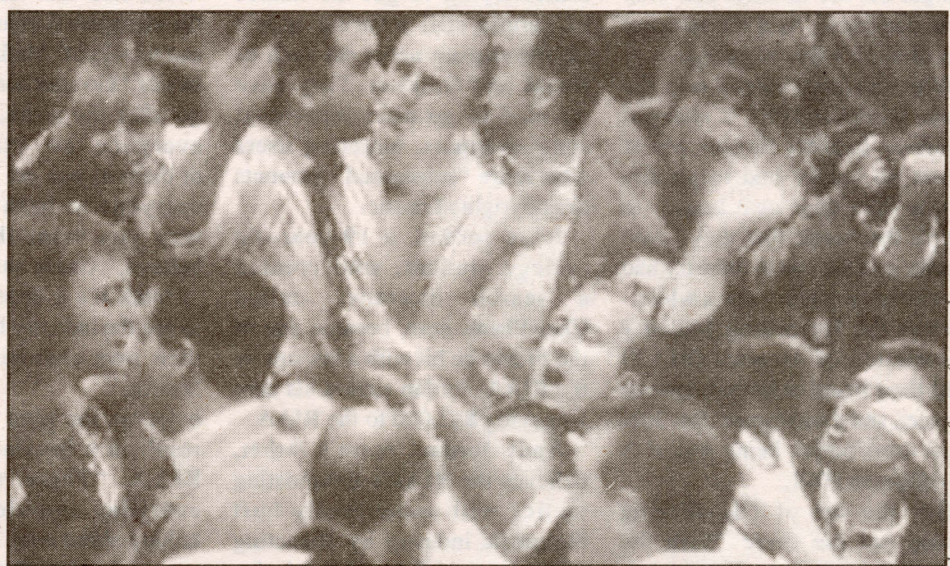
Recently, I had to fix a friend's Dell and called up their service center. Anyone who knows Dell Computers knows they are based in Austin, Texas. Last winter, I was at a wedding and during my stay there I got a chance to visit the plant. To my surprise, that evening I was fixing my friends machine, the guy on the

other end was in Bangalore, India. Besides Dell, everyone from AOL, handling their billing and credit card operations, to Charles Schwab, handling financial analysis and sales, is now in India.

This is not an attack on India, but I simply want to point out the fallacy in these folks who want to say that we don't have to

worry about losing our manufacturing jobs and to focus on service jobs. In order to boost demand, people need to have jobs, and those who have them must feel secure that they will continue to have them in order to pay that enormous credit card debt. I'll say this: if we have a recovery in jobs, then I'll buy that this is resurgence. Chances are, we may not see that unless there is some major demographic shift (a massive wave of baby boomer retirements, perhaps?).

Another item that could prevent a full recovery is something that is hardly talked about: pension funds. Today in the *Journal* and also the other day in the *New York Times*, the Pension Guarantee Fund, which was set up to aid in financing pension programs when those originally financing them can no longer do it, is facing financial problems itself. Bottom line with the PGF is that it is running short on cash to help pay out all those obligations. Various industries like the automobile companies, such as GM, are facing big time problems with their obligations to their retirees; two of the "Big 3" have now reported that



Will this chaos ever end? Not anytime soon, I'm afraid.

these obligations now cost more per car made than the steel that goes into their product.

We all know or have heard of someone who has retired and are now living worse than when they were working. In the house behind mine, there is an old lady whose late husband worked for US Steel; during his last two years he was told that many of his medical benefits were to be cut back. Following his death, she is now selling her home of 20 years because she simply cannot afford to live in it anymore.

A New Bull Market?

The Dow Jones Industrial Index is approximately 2000+ points away from its all-time high of around 11,600 it has made in 1999. From 1999 to 2002, the Dow had dropped to as low as 7200 or about 38% from the high. At the low point, the PE ration (that's price multiplied by the earnings) was around seventeen or eighteen; right now the PE ratio is around 21, which is where it was at the peak. The PE ratio during the major low before the bull market in 1982 was around seven. So you see, if the lows in '02 were the low, then the ratio should have been

much smaller than seventeen!

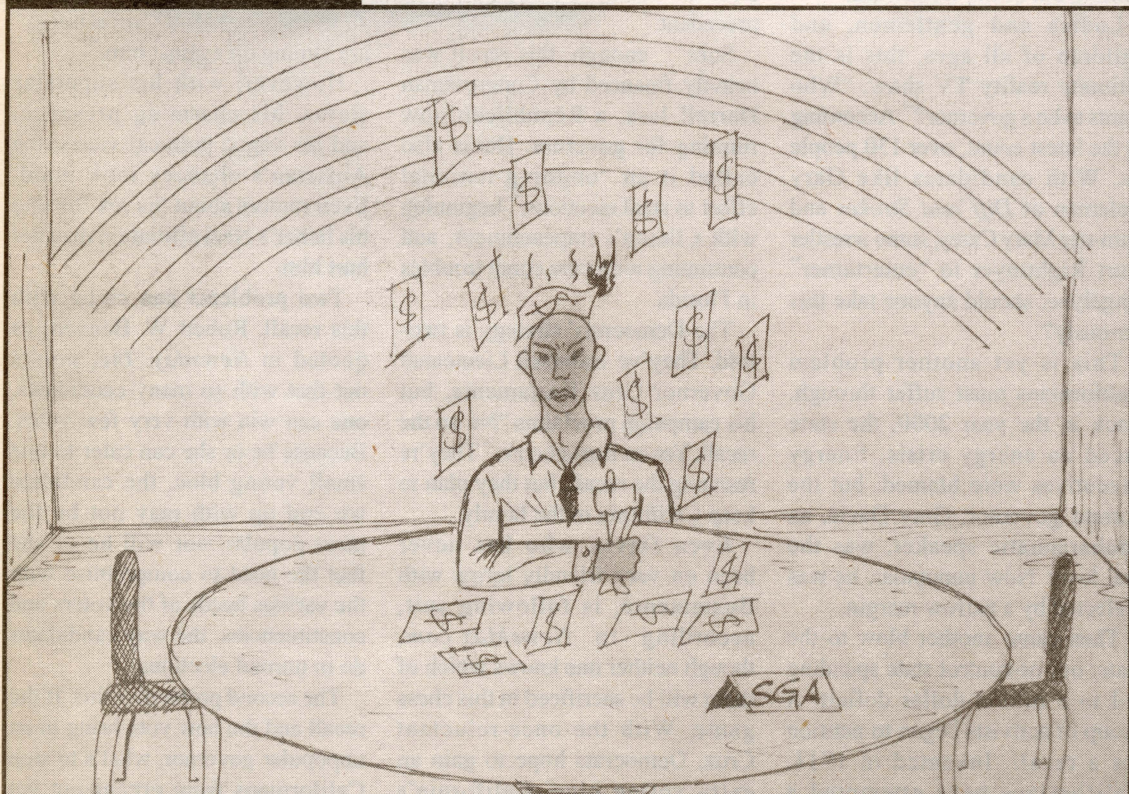
How can a company, or a stock index for that matter, command such a high premium when earnings are in question? Most of the middle class and up don't save most of their money, they sock it in mutual funds. So, whatever happens in the market will have either a positive wealth effect, or a negative one. Is it any wonder that people were splurging and going into debt (which many cannot payoff now...this includes companies as well!) in the 80's and 90's when the market was making historical heights?

I don't care if it's stocks, commodities, or even freaking beanie babies—when too many people like it, you know that's when to get out. Back in 1929, a stock speculator by the name of Bernard Beruch was getting his shoes shined when the shoeshine boy said he had a hot stock tips. That afternoon Beruch sold every stock he owned; a week later the Great Crash of '29 happened.

Now, I'm no Bernie Beruch, but the other day, I got a stock tip from one the girls behind the register at the Borders Café...

DRAWING BOARD

BY ANISHA MOTILAL, STAFF WRITER



Got money?



Got friends?



If you answered no to either of these questions, come get some at the Independent.

George's burning bush

by Daniel Peikes
Staff Writer

Last week George Bush announced plans to pass some sort of act to make forest thinning much easier. He did this after visiting the western part of the U.S and surveying the damage of what he calls one of the most devastating forest-fire seasons ever.

The President seems to think that by thinning out the forest, it will prevent forest fires. He maintains that we have been over-protective of our forests and they have become too dense.

This new act would cut through much of the red tape involved in getting permission to cut down many trees. The President also claims this would create thousands of new jobs and will give a boost to our sluggish economy.

Ecologists see it as a way to give access of a precious natural resource to logging companies. They are especially worried that it will make many of the larger, older, and more precious trees too easily accessible to lumber companies, who would decimate them. I honestly think this is a legitimate concern. In fact, I do not think they should make any of the trees more available to the logging companies.

I think in the long run, it will only lead to the cutting down of too many trees. It is pretty well known that our stock of natural resources is disappearing way too fast.

Trees serve many purposes. First of all, they are essential for air renewal. They "breath in" the carbon dioxide that we exhale and release the oxygen that we need to breath. They also help to prevent soil erosion and are home to many of species of wildlife.

I think that before we give logging companies *carte blanche*, we should examine the long-term effects of what this could do to the ecosystem.

The President is being a bit rash in his decision here. He sees it as a quick fix that will show immediate benefit to the economy and—so he thinks—to the ecology. To me, it just seems that the risk of forest-fire is tolerable compared to the risk of totally destroying the fragile ecosystem of the country.

Downloading music is burning college students

by Chaim Zimmerman
Staff Writer

Anyone who has been following music in the least bit in the past couple of years has heard of Napster—the revolutionary program which allowed anyone with a computer and a lot of time on their hands to download songs straight off the internet and onto their computer. And the greatest part of all: it's free of charge.

When Napster barged into the music world in 1999, it changed the music industry forever. Music lovers no longer had to go any farther than their own houses to get all the music that they could handle, and the music industry had no way to respond... for a while.

Then the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) filed their massive lawsuit against Napster, and the company lost 20% of its users before being forced to go offline in 2001.

But the art of file-sharing would not die there. With the pioneering company gone, many other companies began sprouting up all over the Internet. They took advantage of the RIAA's focus on taking down Napster and began to make names for themselves.

Downloading music became easier and faster with every passing day, and different companies were broadening their file-sharing capabilities, making it possible to download even larger applications and files, such as movies and games. Taking the lead of the pack was Kazaa, which became

widely used among the file-sharing community. People believed that they were free to "rip" music and other files off the Internet without any worries of the RIAA shutting the companies down. These people, however, were wrong.

The RIAA has now issued over 900 subpoenas to Internet service providers across the United States trying to get the names of people still offering music on file-sharing networks such as Kazaa and Grokster. They have decided to go after individual song-swappers, targeting users who share "substantial" amounts of copyrighted music.

Jesse Jordan, a 19-year-old college student, who created a search directory called ChewPlastic.com, became one of the first to be hit with a lawsuit by the RIAA. Jordan settled his case by paying \$12,000 to the RIAA.

Andy Jordan, Jesse's father, believes the RIAA's intimidating tactics will undoubtedly hurt the music industry by alienating music buyers. An avid music fan for more than 40 years, he shudders at the impact this will have on the industry's most fervent fans. "I don't know how strongly the music companies—the people who really run the music companies—I don't know if they realize what the impact of this misguided attempt at intimidation is going to be."

The Electronic Frontier Foundation, set on defending freedom in the digital world, has put up several ideas to help Peer-to-Peer users avoid being targeted

by the RIAA. They have also started a campaign to make file-sharing legal. Other people around the world have been voicing their disgust with the RIAA's actions.

Intellectual property expert and IP Justice Executive Director Robin Gross said that targeting file swappers is unjustified and smacks of "Mafia-like" tactics. "Go after someone, go after the weak, make everyone an example of them so you get everyone to behave the way you want them to behave," Gross said sarcastically. "I think it's a little disappointing to see the industry treating people, their own customers, in such a fashion."

Gross believes the plan will probably result in a backlash against the RIAA. "These are ordinary, everyday individuals we are talking about now. And when they get sued, a lot of times they'll be minors, college, or high school students. And now their parents and families are going to have to cough up the \$10,000 to \$20,000 that will be required to defend them in a court of law."

Message boards have also been buzzing with anger towards the RIAA. One angry file-sharer posted, "C'mon, the RIAA really needs to get a life here. This all started many thanks to Lars Ulrich. C'mon Lars, aren't you guys making enough off of merchandising, CD's, concerts,



After years of illegally downloading music, the RIAA is cracking down.

and other endorsements or promos? You don't see stars of major movies and TV throwing a fit because they're not rich enough. And we know that a lot of film and TV careers don't last as long or provide as much income as a music career does. So when are we going to draw the line here?"

While the RIAA is backed by dozens of popular recording artists, including Sheryl Crow, The Dixie Chicks, Peter Dinklage, and Missy Elliott, other bands, such as the former Smashing Pumpkins, and Radiohead have used the internet as a means to get their albums more publicity.

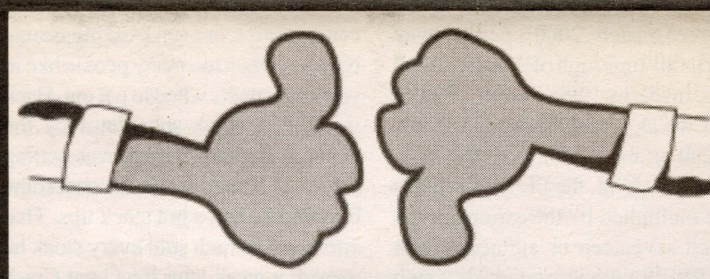
Another message post: "Okay, while I agree that the sharing of copyrighted material is illegal, here's another question: everyone that's ever taped a movie or show off of TV, isn't that copyright infringement? I do not understand

the problem except that those who aren't making as much money as they would like are whiners! If you check, you probably find most people have that same CD in their library which they have just downloaded the music file. It is terrible to buy an overrated CD for one song, but we do. I suggest they start trying to write and produce a full CD of good music and quit whining."

But the efforts and rantings of a few file-sharing music-lovers are not going to stop an organization like the RIAA from getting what it wants. More subpoenas are going out by the day, and the lawsuits will continue to come.

So how are you able to download all of your favorite songs without fear of being sued for all the money you can shake out of your piggy bank? It's simple: find a really good lawyer.

Thumbs Up! Thumbs down?



Chicago's the murder capital of the United States

The economy may be recovering

The United Nations wants to help in Iraq

Beautiful blond women kissing on national TV

Getting into the classes you wanted

Free corn during the first week of school!!

Construction will be over soon!

Anyone could win California governor's race

September 11th didn't destroy us

You could be next

You're too busy looking for a job to notice

See: Bosnia

Shameless publicity stunts by crappy pop stars

Now you want out of those same classes

They fired professors to pay for it

Soon meaning never

Gary Coleman, Porn Stars, Arnold Schwarzenegger

Has anything really changed?

California's 'total recall' is a joke

by Franklin Silencieux
Staff Writer

Newspapers around the world have said this could only happen in America. Our own media is having a field day with the fiasco. People who have always known California to be an insane asylum are shaking their heads. But at least we're all getting a good laugh at the three-ring circus that has become the California recall.

It's become a freak show, with celebrities, mini-celebrities, businessmen, political dilettantes, porn stars, half-wits and dimwits coming out of the woodwork.

Ladies and gentlemen, and children of all ages, this is the ultimate reality TV show. "Who wants to be a governor?" According to the latest count, over 130 people do. With candidates like Gary Coleman of *Diff'rent Strokes* and porn star Mary Carey, sumo wrestler Kurt Rightmyer to "entertainer" Angelyne, should anyone take this seriously?

This is yet another problem Californians must suffer through. Back in the year 2000, the state faced an energy crisis. Energy executives were blamed, but the current governor, Gray Davis, an uncharismatic speaker, was the real loser. Now unpopular, he was reelected by a narrow margin.

Then came another blow to the state: out-of-control state spending led to a billion-dollar deficit. A group of activists began to petition for a recall. Invented in 1911, Californians have attempted a recall many times before. It's only now they've been able to secure enough signatures to take their case to the ballot box of October 7. Now voters can decide whether 1) they

want the recall and 2) who should replace Davis.

At the heart of this farce is a very serious power struggle.

Gray Davis, in his speech last week at UCLA, called the recall "a right-wing power grab," noting the many of the energy companies he fought with during the crisis have ties to Vice President Cheney and other Republicans. Fighting for his right to stay in office, he dismissed the recall as "expensive, undemocratic and a bad precedent."

Sure enough, this recall was heavily financed by Congressman Darrell Issa, a Republican now running for governor. Davis also called it an "ongoing national effort to steal elections," beginning with Clinton's impeachment, and continuing with vote count troubles in Florida.

The Democrats' strategy is two-fold. They've endorsed Lieutenant Governor Cruz Bustamante, but his campaign proclaims "No on the recall, Yes on Bustamante." They're resisting the recall, but they plan to keep California in the family.

Even Davis, who has never been on very friendly terms with Bustamante, is following suit, according to *NewsMax.com*, though neither one knows which of them will be sacrificed in this chess game. With the once-reluctant Cruz, Democrats hope to gain an extra voting bloc, California's considerably large Hispanic vote.

Besides Issa, who do the Republicans have? Enter the Terminator.

A long line of Republican

businessmen have joined the list of runners, but the front runner is bodybuilder, action movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger. Arnold is one of those rare Hollywood celebrities who happen to be a vocal Republican. (NRA representative Charlton Heston is another.) Hollywood generally hates Republicans, even moderate ones. *Newsmax.com* reported that other

"...a freak show with... half-wits and dimwits coming out of the woodwork."

celebrities, including Tom Hanks, Martin Sheen, Barbara Streisand and Steven Spielberg,

are "lining up against him." However, with his superstar status, his charming presence, and his vague political views, the Austrian's chances look good. Even rumors about his sex life and his father's Nazi affiliation may not hurt him.

Two problems can come with this recall. Robert W. Bennett, as quoted in *Newsday, Inc.*, points out that with so many candidates, one can win with very few votes. Because he or she can cater to one small voting bloc, the candidate we end up with may not be the most popular, nor will he or she feel the need to compromise with the various needs of the voters and constituencies, the way candidates do in normal elections.

The second problem is this. If the recall and the new vote bring in an unpopular governor, what's to stop Californians from organizing yet another recall? Having opened this Pandora's Box, how many more recalls will it take to satisfy the voters?

This piece of crap will be on video in a matter of days

by Brian Blaszkowski
News / Opinions Editor

Freddy Kreuger. Jason Voorhees. Two bad-asses with no remorse. Combined, they've killed hundreds nay, *thousands* of horny teenagers throughout the years. Any fan of horror has seen these movies. For what they are, they are masterpieces. The first of each series pioneered several horror movie tactics, according to some documentary on horror movies that I saw whilst drunk and have now all but forgotten. But none of that matters.

What does matter is that ever since I saw both of them, I wondered. I theorized. I hypothesized. I even fantasized but not in the sexual way about what would happen should the two of these ever decide to duke it out. Who would win: the personification of horror and terror that is Freddy Kreuger, or the unstoppable demon-man-child that is Jason Voorhees? Sometimes I even threw Michael Myers (from Halloween fame) into the mix to spice up the stew, so to speak, but he always died first Michael Myers is a pussy.

Anyway, the latest installment of these two series sees both of the hardcore bastards upping

their respective body counts. I will be spoiling the movie below, so be warned and go read other things if you want to be surprised.

I know this movie is shit. I know *all* of the Freddy and Jason movies are shit. But it's *good* shit. Primo, even. First, the premise is not what I expected. I expected either Jason or

Freddy to start wasting people on the other's turf, and a sort of mass-murderer/gang-warfare melee to ensue. Instead, it turns into something of a think-piece, from which my friend's girlfriend is *still* confused about (God damn it, Jaime, the father *wasn't* Freddy!).

Anyway, the premise is that Jason comes back and starts wasting kids and people on Elm Street, Freddy's stamping grounds. The adults in-the-know are covering it up, because that's what adults do. Never trust adults, kids. But I digress. Anyway, through some keen detective skills, the bimbo-in-distress this time around (Monica Keena. Christ, she's hot) discovers that Freddy had brought Jason to Elm Street because Freddy can only be strong enough to kill people when people are afraid of him. That, apparently, is why people keep covering up the murders Freddy does.

Moving along, people on Elm Street, familiar with Freddy's homicidal ways, do indeed suspect him. Kreuger's name leaks out into the public, and enough fear is generated in his name to make him strong enough to kill again. He is happy, and sets about murdering an innocent chick with large, perky breasts. A twinkle in his eye, Kreuger reaches forth to stab her with his fingers of metal.

Alas, Jason must not have gotten the memo about when he should stop killing, because he kills the chick *right* before Freddy can. Freddy is pissed, and sets about killing Jason. They fight a lot, hacking the shit out of each other. The humans keep trying to get them to kill each other, setting off on one hair-brained scheme after another.

It culminates with Freddy (my personal favorite in all of my imagined battles) hacking the shit out of Jason's back with Jason's machete and only one arm left (don't ask) on the docks of Crystal lake (I *said* don't ask!). The humans interfere, blowing up the docks with some propane tanks handily left nearby, even though Crystal Lake was closed back in the 70's, before the widespread use of propane tanks near docks. Or maybe propane was used a lot in the 70's. I'm not exactly doing a whole lot of research for this.

So the dock blows up. The two remaining people are recovering, Monica Keena's ample chest heaving with the exertion of throwing two torches at the gas-covered tanks and screaming some random one-liner. The scene has a bit of a teaser, with some boots walking on the remarkably undamaged docks, a machete dangling in the screen. That has *always* signified Jason, but *BAM!* Hollywood throws a mind-fuck in your face and it's Freddy, with only his non-glove-clawed arm left, raising the machete to kill the lovely Monica (seriously, man, she's hot). Just when you think she's dead...

Kaboom! Freddy's amputated arm gets shoved through his own chest in what has to be the biggest ironic scene in the history of this particular movie. Jason collapses into the lake, spent from the effort of being ironic. Monica (I don't know her movie name. It doesn't matter, *look* at her!) grabs the machete and throws one of Freddy's earlier lines back in his face before chopping off his head. She watches Jason sink peacefully and serenely to the bottom of the lake, the murdering *p s y c h o* vindicated. And, in what can only be described as an incredibly lack of foresight, she drops his machete into the lake, too. The movie ends shortly after that, with Jason emerging from the lake, carrying Freddy's decapitated head. But, just when you thought it was over, Freddy looks at the audience and says, "What happened to my career?!" I mean, he looks at the camera and winks.

So, this movie clearly is superior to the last two installments of either series. The soundtrack is bad-ass, too. For what it is (a cheesy, shitty, slasher movie standing only by virtue of nostalgia and two big names), it's a good movie. Worth the money, if you like horror. Worth the money if you like *bad* horror, too. So, go see it, and revel in the splendor that is *Freddy vs. Jason*. Oh, and don't forget to enjoy Monica Keena, too.

Photos courtesy of www.freddyvsjason.com

Wonders is certainly that to behold REV BOOK REVIEW

by P.J. Beemer
Staff Writer

In a year when death visits both the rich and poor alike, Geraldine Brooks employs both vivid imagery and feverish action to highlight the plight of one small mining village ravaged during the 1666 outbreak of bubonic plague. What makes this story unique among those of other towns enduring the plague is that when the people of this mountain village realize the severity of their situation, they decide to quarantine themselves voluntarily to protect those people of the neighboring towns and villages.

In her authorial debut, entitled *Year of Wonders: A Novel of the Plague*, Brooks allows the reader to view the horrors endured by the villagers through the eyes of Anna Frith, a widow employed as a sometime servant of the reverend Michael Mompellion and his wife, Elinor. Anna travels among all strata of society, which allows the reader to view the tension pervading the home of the local gentry as well as the fear and disbelief that suffuse the homes of the poor.

As talented a writer as this novel proves her to be, Brooks did not just create this town and

their trials; the tiny village is actually based on the hamlet of Eyam in Derbyshire.

In detailing the lives of the Eyam villagers, Brooks' imagery leaves nothing to the imagination. Rather, she highlights the details that breathe life into the actions and situations that befall the villagers. Whether she is describing the overgrown herb garden belonging to Mem and Anys Gowdie, or the temporary prison of Aphra Bont, Anna's stepmother, her phrasing and use of color are perfectly in tune with each other. To give you a taste, "He had fashioned a gutter... from which he could [spread] the well-rotted manure into his barrow... The stench was caustic, scouring the throat and chest. The muck lapped, brown and frothy and alive..."

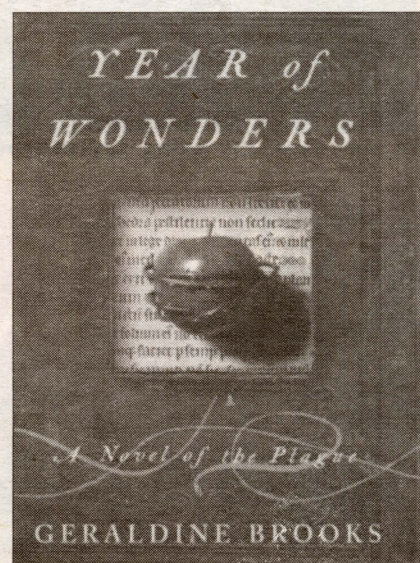
She also makes good use of timing throughout the story. The narrative starts about two-thirds of the way through the timeline of the novel. This offers just enough information to acquaint readers with the main characters and the hardships that they have faced. In the chapters grouped under the heading "Leaf-Fall 1666," Brooks introduces the main characters- Anna, Elinor and Michael. The reader is then taken to

shortly before the plague is introduced into the village, the chapters entitled "Spring 1665." As the novel surges forth, the secondary characters that round out the cast list are introduced. Men like George Viccars, the journeyman tailor lately out of Canterbury who rents the attic space in Anna's cottage, and Josiah Bont, Anna's drunken father make brief appearances. Josiah becomes, in the middle of the plague, the village's undertaker, often extorting the villagers for his fees before they are even dead.

Women like Anys Gowdie and Aphra Bont, while making only brief appearance in the novel, still manage to stand out as unconventional characters. Both serve to appeal to the reader's sense of the bizarre and each serves to heighten the tension and propel the plot ever forward.

The third section of the novel takes up where the first section leaves off. From this point onward, the plot twists and turns, winding its way through a maze of surprises that leave the reader pleased, then stunned, and concludes with an ending that plays on the more emotional strings running through the reader's heart.

On the whole, this work proved to be both captivating and stimulating, provoking further research into the time-period and conditions suffered by those who had the plague. I would recommend it as both a light read for travel as well as a novel for those looking to read more deeply into the genre of historical fiction.



Captivating book from Geraldine Brooks.

Image courtesy of yahoo.com

Did it need a sequel?

Jeepers Creepers is a flop, just like the first one

by Tim Malina
Staff Writer

Have you ever seen a movie that is so devoid of everything both good and bad that you respond to it as though it had never been made? Well, if you would like this unique cinematic experience, see Jeepers Creepers 2 a film by Victor Salva, starring a whole bunch of people I have never heard of, and one guy that looks vaguely familiar.

The plot is relatively simple, even for a horror movie. Some strange demon is terrorizing (and later eating) high school jocks and a few scattered nerds that are trapped on a school bus. If you expect a lot of plot twists, I am sorry to disappoint you, there are none. Similarly, if you expect to lose sleep over the appearance of the demon, don't worry, you won't. And after the plot is revealed, along with the demon, the mediocrity continues to the end of the film.

There are, however some good points to the movie. The makeup, for one is not quite as bad as I'd expected it to be. There were also just enough killings to keep me entertained to the end of the movie (This DOES NOT mean there was a high body count, just high enough to not be a low body count) and just enough gore to make me think "That would hurt like hell!" Also, even though the movie is long, by monster movie standards (1 hr 46mins.), it never really seemed to drag. Even better than the non-dragging pace of the movie is the fact that there is 1 1/2 decapitations, which always count for something good.

In every movie that has a good there must be a bad, and Jeepers Creepers 2 is no exception. The worst of the bad had to be the acting. It was not nearly as bad as the acting in Freddy vs. Jason, but it was bad enough to earn dishonorable mention. And I don't know what Victor Salva was smoking when he wrote up the ending to Creepers 2. But I do know it caused him to write an ending similar to the ending of Jeepers Creepers which, as all two of you who saw the movie know, just about ruined the entire movie. The last minor thing I didn't like about this movie is the fact that they never really adequately explained just what the hell the thing was that was stalking the kids. Call me weird, but that is the kind of stuff that matters to me.

Overall, I would much rather see Jeepers Creepers 2 15 times than see House of 1000 Corpses again, but it is still not that great of a movie. If you are bored and have nothing better to do, go see it, but I doubt any of you will ever get THAT bored.



photo courtesy of www.mgm.com

Don't you wish you could have gotten your money back? I bet he does.

REV

INTER-VIEW

A New York best seller hits the air at WZRD

by Dan Dziedzic
Staff Writer

For many people the name Jim Hightower may not mean much, but if you have any dislike for the current state of politics in American, he is your new best friend. He recently stopped by Northeastern University to promote his new books and do an interview with WZRD.

He has been battling the wrongs done to this country for nearly three decades and has no intention of stopping any time soon. His book *If the Gods had Meant us to Vote They Would Have Given us Candidates* is currently on the New York Best Sellers list and worth a read for anyone interested in what is happening to this country. He explains how President Bush's term in office or Bush Co. is ruining our great country. He is not for an overthrow of the presidency or anything like that but rather establishes himself as part of the progressive movement and endorses candidates like Democrats Howard Dean and

Dennis Kucinich. Hightower states, "we can't abandon the [voting] process, but rather [should] take it over". He feels it's time for the American people to stand up against Bush Co. and all large corporations, such as Wal-Mart. He wants us to keep the small businesses alive throughout the country. In his book he explains how every one job created by Wal-Mart takes away three jobs from small businesses. The cover of his new book shows Mr. Hightower outside the Texas capital standing in just a pair of red long underwear to show that the current political system is failing and has stripped the common man down to his underwear. He is optimistic for the future, however, because he feels we are a progressive people that if we unite will be able to take control back for the people.

If you are interesting in learning more about Jim Hightower and his views visit his website at www.jimhightower.com or pick up one of his books at your local bookstore.



photo by Chad Nelson

"We can't avoid the voting [process], but rather [should] take it over." Jim Hightower

YOU IN A BAND? WANT TO SEE YOUR BAND'S NAME IN PRINT?
E-MAIL US AT NEIU_REV@YAHOO.COM,
DROP OFF A DEMO AT E-049, OR
CALL US AT 773-442-4577

REV

MUSIC REVIEW

Laughing City: laughable, shitty

by Dan Dziedzic
Staff Writer

The new EP *Laughing City* from the Texas-native band Eisley is much of what you can expect from a new band these days on the "rock scene". Nothing special. When I popped in the CD to check it out, the first song summed it up perfectly for me, "I Wasn't Prepared". Many of the songs are filled with dark sounds accompanied by the lamenting lyrics of two of the DuPree sisters, Sherri and Stacy. This family band consists also of Chauntelle DuPree on guitars, Weston DuPree on drums, and family friend Jon Wilson on Bass.

Now, I am never one to hate a band just because they have depressing lyrics or a dark sound. In fact, most of the music I listen to consists of this. However, Eisley seems to be a very inexperienced band that should have waited a few more years before joining the mainstream. To my surprise, however, they have been signed to the Warner Bros. Label and were even on tour with Coldplay. This just goes to show that the bands that get noticed are not always the best ones. Warner

Bros. probably took one look at the family based group, Eisley, and said, "This band is a goldmine." What looks better than three cute sisters and their brother, all from a small town in Texas, starting a band? Eisley's repetitive guitar riffs and monotonous drum beats leave the listener wanting more at the end of each song. This is what should have been looked at before the band was signed.

The only catchy song on the EP I could find was "Tree Tops". I especially enjoy the intro with its circus music sounding keyboards. If anyone stands out in the band I would say it's the singing quality of Sherri and Stacy. Though in a few parts there harmony seems to a slightly off, overall they do a decent job. Their range as singers isn't extremely wide on this album, but for setting the melody of the music being played, they get the job done.



photo courtesy of www.eisley.com

The firing squad's official photographer screws up again, kinda like they did with Hanson.

Well, I decided to give them one more chance and check out their website to see what they have done since *Laughing City*, their May 20, 2003 debut. This was also

a disappointment because they apparently have not updated their site since before this EP came out. So it looks to me like this up and coming band, whose "music runs

deep in the blood," (says Warner Bros.) is now running deep into the ground where they will probably not be heard from again. Good riddance.

REV

BOOK REVIEW

A hidden treasure buried in the sand

by Joe Hertel
Staff Writer

The Edgewater Beach Café, located on the first floor of the 19-story building of the same name, is a hidden treasure of intimate dining experience, fabulous food, and unusual, unrushed atmosphere for those who are willing to discover it.

The owner and host, Zung Dao, welcomes his guests with the eccentricities of a former soldier in the South Vietnamese Armed Forces, and insures that your visit will be an enjoyable one. It is not unusual to stop in on a Friday night and find not only writers, musicians, war veterans, and professors from Chicagoland colleges like Columbia (where Zung has spoken on the Viet Nam experience), but also from Viet Nam. The restaurant is sort of a well-kept secret between its patrons, and it is not likely that you will find it excessively crowded, unless there's a party.

The restaurant has been a family run operation for 21 years, and Zung prefers to know his diners are there through word-of-mouth (he rarely advertises). "I like the intimacy of dining, and so when I have a few tables occupied by guests, I can take the time to make sure everyone is enjoying the experience," says Zung, who does not like a filled-to-capacity operation. "Some nights, there will only be a few people and maybe someone will play the piano; other times everyone drops by at once and we have poetry recitations, guitar playing (there's one hanging on the wall), whatever my friends enjoy doing to entertain!" And, after you have been there a few times, Zung will remember you and even invite you to partake of the "inner-circle" of friends, by offering you a shot from a bottle of

"Cobra juice" (the bottle actually has a snake in it!).

Zung's wife, Kim is the chef. Not just a cook, but a true chef who trained under her aunt in Hanoi (who was awarded cordon-bleu) and prepares excellent, French-inspired dishes offered on the limited menu, along with nightly specials (always ask Quan, their son, about the evening's offerings). I am most impressed with Kim's excellent sauces, which are subtle, yet flavorful, not taking away from the main portion. Hopefully you will arrive on an evening when Kim's special will be Leg of Lamb or Country Baked Ham in a Cranberry Wine Sauce!

Appetizers include Escargot Bourguignon—the best I have tasted, Spinach salad with hot bacon dressing (with chopped egg), Shrimp Cachonette which is prepared with jumbo shrimp, goat cheese and sautéed spinach and baked. Appetizers range from \$5.25 to \$8.50. Entrees include Fillet Mignon Marchand de Vin, which is presented with a special topping of shallots, garlic and butter in a reduced wine sauce, Roast Duck with Apple Brandy Sauce, Pan Fried Cat Fish, and Grilled Shrimp with a tasty Burgundy and Mustard Sauce. Entrees include soup or salad, potatoes or rice and vegetable. Prices range from \$9.95 to \$19.95.

In addition, the Edgewater Beach Café has a Sunday Brunch offering Eggs Benedict, Gruyere Cheese and Spinach Omelette; Chicken Florentine and includes potato, veggies, muffin, and fresh fruit. This is mostly for residents of the building, but all are invited.

It will take a bit of doing to enter the place. The building is right on the corner of Bryn Mawr and Sheridan Road, where it turns into Lake Shore Drive. Street parking is all

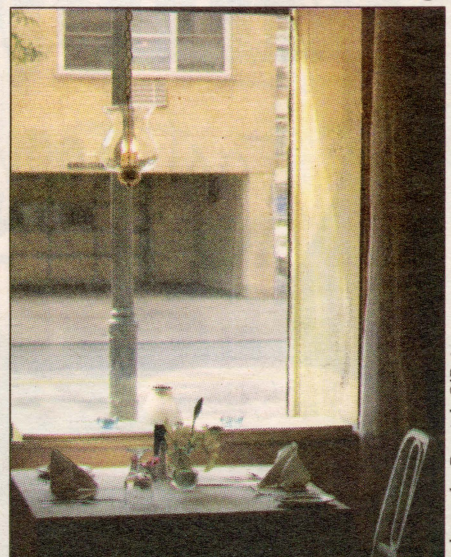
but impossible, so I recommend you use the parking facilities in the basement of the building, which is only a few dollars. Entrance is to the south of the building on the east side of Sheridan Road. Drive down the ramp and the parking attendant will direct you to the restaurant.

Dining is casual and the low lighting and discrete décor provide a romantic ambience. But be prepared for the possibility, especially weekends, of someone playing ragtime on the piano, or folk songs on the guitar, or maybe story-telling or poetry from a nearby table. The atmosphere is more than friendly and the food as good or better than other higher priced, trendy restaurants. The bar is limited, but Zung will recommend a wine or drink to go with your meal. It is a fun place to go to for an intimate dinner with a few surprises possibly thrown in. Reservations are not necessary but recommended for larger groups and/or holiday weekends. Bon Appetite and, if you want to play piano or guitar...just ask; someone may buy you a drink!

Edgewater Beach Café, 5545 North Sheridan Road, Chicago. Open Tuesday through Saturday: 5pm until 10pm; Sunday Brunch: 11:30am until 2:30pm. Phone 773-275-4141.



This little hidden treasure can be found on Sheridan Road, Chicago.



This seat, like many others, share a gentle and languid atmosphere.

photos by Patrick O'Brien

A full dose of of pure Gonzo

by Daniel Dziedzic
Staff Writer

For anyone not familiar with the Good Doctor, Hunter S. Thompson, what are you waiting for? Read one of his books you pigshit. Now that wasn't meant to offend you but just to prepare you for what you're getting into if you do read one. Most people are familiar with the movie *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, originally a book written by Thompson. Now do you know who he is?

His new book *Kingdom of Fear* is filled with even more stories, not only his crazy drug-induced journalistic adventures, but also about his pre-drug childhood in Louisville, Kentucky. This seems the optimal place to start so that we can understand that all his drug use isn't the only cause of his gonzo behavior. He was just as messed up as a child as he is as an adult. His first run-in with the FBI came at the ripe old age of nine years old, complete with charges of destroying federal property. The only reason he did this, however, was to get "revenge on a rude and stupid bus driver who got a kick out of closing his doors and pulling away as [kids approached the bus stop]."

The book keeps the reader on their toes throughout with thought provoking pictures and quotes scattered all over, some of which are more disturbing than others. Just to give you a taste of what I mean, one such photo shows the good doctor vertical in mid-air coming through a door with a car parked directly in front. The caption underneath reads "editorial conference". Just what in the hell kind of conference is that? I am sure one that only Thompson could imagine.

Anyway, the book stories his career at the O'Farrell Adult Theater, his political campaign for becoming sheriff of Aspen, his near conviction of drug charges that he eventually turned around against the district attorney, his slapping of a Buddhist, his mock siege upon Jack Nicholson's house as a present to Jack's children, and a strange drugged filled adventure where dozens of sheep were killed. These are just a few of the more memorable stories he tells from his fortified compound near Aspen, Colorado in a way only he knows how. Many people feel his stories are greatly exaggerated, and I am sure some of them are a little, but his vivid gonzo journalism will make even the biggest skeptic realize the narratives he tells are so unbelievable that they have to be true.

Even people who aren't avid drug users or interested in people who do use drugs will be entertained, at the least, by stories about sexy women, fast automobiles, shoot outs with hicks, and even a short love story at the end the book. But fear not Thompson enthusiasts, the Good Doctor still experiments with plenty of drugs throughout the book. Personally, I felt doing a few myself added to the vivid imagery that Thompson already displays throughout *Kingdom of Fear*, especially the part about the sheep. This, however I would only recommend to responsible people who understand that the context of the book should not be attempted unless you are a professional, as Thompson is. Just like he often states in the book, "When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro."

For anyone interested in reading his other books, his first novel *Rum Diary* is very good. If you don't like to read, look for it coming to theaters sometime next year starring the only man who could properly represent Hunter, Johnny Depp. As for *Kingdom of Fear*, I recommend it highly to anyone and everyone. The only thing you have to fear is the back of the book jacket; I will not ruin the surprise but don't say I didn't warn you.



Don't find him familiar? Think of *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. The movie was based on his book. Now's do you recognize him?

The Silence of the Cows

Everything you do (and do not) want to know about fast food

by Joe Hertel
Staff Writer

Those of you who frequent fast food places might not want to read this expose written by Eric Schlosser. It graphically takes you through the entire history and current processes involved in serving you that paper-wrapped burger on a bun. And *Fast Food Nation* covers everything (including some things you probably

would rather not know) to the point of making the reader into a vegetarian.

Eric Schlosser is a correspondent for *The Atlantic Monthly* and this is his first book. It exposes the "dark side" of fast food; a revealing and disturbing work that, if it doesn't turn you off entirely to hamburgers and tacos, will make you aware of the workings of the industry that brought you that "happy" meal.

I found the book on a table at a friends house, started to peruse the contents and suddenly could not put it down. I was riveted; took the book home and for the next two days read it from cover to cover. Okay, so you think I may be over emphasizing? Let me just sight a few tidbits I found in the book which should make you want to run out of the restaurant and into the library or local bookstore and get a copy:

+Every month more than 90% of the children in the United States eat at McDonalds.

+One fast food hamburger now contains meat from dozens or even hundreds of different cattle.

+About 75% of the cattle in the United States were routinely fed livestock wastes — rendered remains of dead sheep and cattle — until August of 1997. They were also fed millions of dead cats and dogs every year, purchased from animal shelters; sawdust and old newspapers and chicken manure.

+One of the nations largest slaughterhouses kills approximately 5000 head of cattle every day adding to the 34 million slaughtered annually in the United States.

+A typical artificial strawberry flavor found in milkshakes contains around 50 chemical ingredients including ethyl nitrate, isobutyl anthranilate, and benzyl acetate.

+Carminic acid, used to make processed foods look pink, such as Dannon strawberry yogurt and other fruit bars, candies, fruit fillings, is made from the desiccated bodies of female *Dactylopius coccus* Costa, a small insect harvested mainly in Peru and the Canary Islands. The bug feeds on red cactus berries and the color from the berries is accumulated in the females and their unhatched larvae. The insects are ground into pigment. This is all covered by the words: "color added".

It isn't bad enough that the industry itself is feeding us stuff we know little about, but employees of the franchises have also been caught tampering with the food before serving it to customers. I won't go into detail here, but the book also sites cases where an employee came right from work as an auto mechanic and prepared food without ever washing his hands, or the servers who dropped stuff on the floor and picked it up and used it, or of cockroaches in the shake machine. Lost your appetite yet?

The book is amazing, with the information provided in concise clear language, a both descriptive and even humorous approach. But there is not any humor in the tens of thousands of injuries yearly in the slaughterhouse trade, or the kids that got sick or even died from E-coli bacteria, or the shootings and robberies of young people which take place in the franchise operations on a regular basis; with little being done to change things.

The fast food hamburger has dramatically altered America's eating habits, and most people cannot recall what a pre-McDonald's world was like. But in our rush-rush, hurry-up

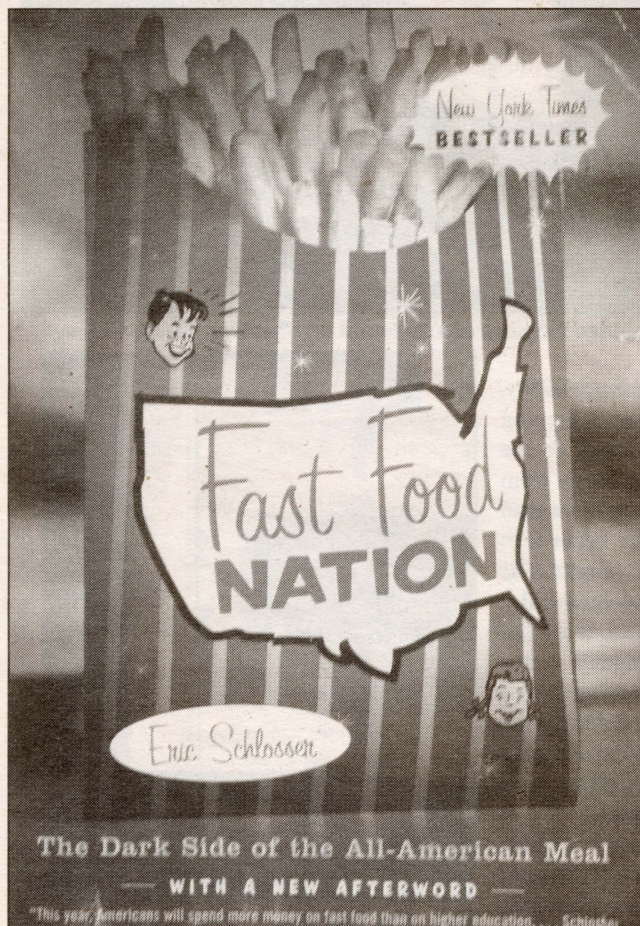
environment, fast food is the norm with easy in, easy out drive through service where, in a few minutes, you can be eating tacos, chicken, and fish without leaving your car. And Schlosser's book relates the true cost of the 99-cent burger to our way of life and the lives of our children.

Targeting children through advertising, happy meals and kid's clubs, clowns, toys and even on-premise playgrounds, fast food purveyors are not unlike the tobacco industry that want to "get 'em hooked" when they're young and build a base of long term customers regardless of the consequences, which with fast food is obesity. And, with today's technology, the addition of manufactured textures, odors, colors and tastes, what we eat does not have to be good, to look, smell, and/or taste good.

Armed with the facts presented in this book, individuals can be more responsible in how much and how often they eat in fast food establishments. It is apparent that we do consume a lot of food. Millions of burgers, mega-tons of fries and lakes of carbonated beverages, and, for the most part, ignoring what goes on and into what we eat, we are blissfully unaware of potential danger and harm not only to ourselves and children, but also to the laborers who work under unsafe conditions for minimum wages and below, hour after hour, day after day, to feed America.

Fast food provides cheap eats to millions, and it employs millions cheaply, and, occasionally something goes wrong. That's the price we pay in this day and age. The book points out that the operations could, and should, be better regulated and employees better treated, and products better handled. And we have to be careful because, as the book says, we sometimes get sick because, literally, "there is shit in the meat."

Fast Food Nation by Eric Schlosser (soft cover) 2002



Venture to the dark side of fast food. You'll never turn back.

Do we need to lose weight this fast?

by Carole M. Brown
Senior Staff Writer

With the current rise in overweight members of the population, many pundits use the keyword *overindulgence* frequently. The true overindulgence is in the proliferation of media pushing weight loss aids.

How many supplements, dietary plans, energy bars have been hawked to consumers over the years? Then, as if that was not enough, in today's "everything must be done NOW" society there is an influx of surgical and medical remedies. Is it a necessity for a person to have their stomach reduced, or seek out liposuction to attain a body image that might not be accurate for them?

Does an everyday person need to check themselves in for gastric bypass surgery? Some people suffer from morbid obesity, where they check into atreatment where the stomach is stapled, creating a much smaller stomach. The small intestine is then rerouted to bypass the majority of the stomach. Since when is surgery a necessity for weight loss?

People are bombarded nearly every day with various ads, pamphlets and informational programming about how they need to improve their bodies. Not that they should, but that they need to do this otherwise they will not have a perfect life. When did sitting at dinner counting how many points your meal makes up become adequate dinner conversation?

Is it necessary for consumers to be bombarded with eight commercials about one weight less gimmick or another in an hour of television viewing? How many times must

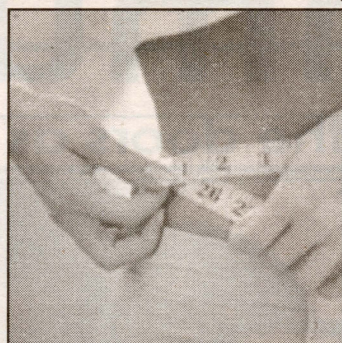


photo courtesy of www.yahoo.com

What's more important; a sexy body or a healthy heart?

magazines run an ad touting how this person or that person has "lost 80 pounds in 13 weeks!?" When any adult can rattle of a list of supplements and aids such as; LA Weight Loss, Metabolife, Stacker 2, Slimfast, Hollywood Miracle Diet, and Dexatrim.

Rapid weight loss may be good and will probably feel great, but it is not necessary, and can be dangerous. With all the recently published reports about the side effects of ephedra, and supplements based on diuretics, it only helps prove that the body will not deal with whatever it feels it should be repelling against.

Metabolife recently enacted an optional recall once they realized that their energy bars contained a much higher level of vitamin A than was thought. Even an overabundance of vitamin A can cause serious health problems such as liver damage, bone abnormalities and birth defects.

Trading health for the perfect body is not worth the risk and is not logical. How is it logical and reasonable is it to starve a body by taking a supplement and then not eating for two days? It is not, and all that does is shock the body. A person's body can go into starvation

mode after missing only one meal.

All a person needs to do to start on the road to health is first of all make the conscious decision that they want to lose the weight. Then they need to start small if that's what it takes. Take the personal challenge meal-by-meal. Eat the meal slower, savor what is being eaten, and look for something that can be cut out or not needed in an as big of a quantity.

Becoming more active is simpler than it seems also. All a person needs to do to start becoming more active is to take the stairs for that one flight instead of the elevator. Even if they need to take the stairs slow at first, the activity registers on the body. In a city like Chicago, the possibility for activity is everywhere; public transportation, visiting the lakefront, stopping by a neighborhood festival.

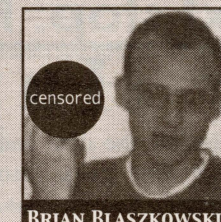
Of course, other things do help, such as drinking a lot of water. The average person needs to drink at least eight glasses of water a day. Water can make a person feel full. Plus, people should also eat at least three meals, even if they are small meals, especially breakfast. Breakfast is important for the simple fact that a person's body has not consumed food in at least eight hours.

Over time the little things add up, and the immediacy of the NOW must be given up, because developing a healthier lifestyle is better over the long term.

People don't need multiple images and ads sitting there and telling them they are worthless and can have no worthy life if they do not diet. Weight loss patches are not needed, and neither is the re-affirmation of self-pity and self-loathing the media instigates.

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

Internet-iquette



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

I'll be the first to admit it: I'm a loser. I have very little life to speak of, so I find myself spending lots of time online, surfing to my favorite websites, checking out random message boards, chatting with my other loser friends. This is how I spend my Saturday nights, when I don't have beer money.

Throughout my travels online, I've run across a few things that annoy me (what are the odds, right?). These things usually occur on message boards and in chat windows, but they also rear their ugly little heads in emails. Every single one of you out there *must* know someone who does things like this. If *you* actually do any of these things, please come to the newspaper office so I can punch you in the throat.

Let's start off easy. People who punctuate every line they write with "LOL!!!!!!" need to have their internet connections forcibly removed from them. Seriously, what are you saying that is so funny? I'm not even going to *talk* about the fact that you lack the ability to hold down that cumbersome shift key throughout the duration of your uncontrollable orgasm of exclamation points. When you add laughter after everything you write, not only do people think you're a dumb ass, but they also get the feeling that you're not confident in your jokes. Remember, 9 out of 10 women who turned me down for a date last week agree that confidence is a turn on. Except in my case; then it's harassment.

I assume everyone knows what "smilies" are, but in case you've been living in Utah for the past several years, I'll explain. Smilies are little yellow (sometimes other colors, but those are stupid) faces that denote feelings. "I'm happy" smilies, "I'm angry with you" smilies, "I know you were out with that slut last night" smilies. There's quite a selection. Anyway, I've been known to bust out with a smiley now and again. That's not the problem.

The problem lies with those of you who put a smiley down every six words. What the hell is wrong with you? What are you, six years old? Put down the sticker book and come back to your generation. If you're happy during your email-writing experience, one smiley is all it takes. Until your words say otherwise, I'll assume you're still happy. Some of these emails I get that are laden with smilies almost give me a seizure, there's so much bouncing and winking yellow all over the place.

Let's talk about forwards, people. Guys, it's over. It's all over. Forwards are not longer by nature "cool." They have to be cool by merit now. I don't want to get another of those "Friendship Totems." I don't want another one of those "Send this to 37 people and Bill Gates will send you a dollar!" The *Taco Bell* dog will not dance across my screen if I send this to everyone in my address book; the *Taco Bell* dog died long ago after accidentally eating some *Taco Bell* and having his stomach eaten away by parasites. And *please!* Don't send me "Snippets of Wisdom for Everyday Life." I'm not going to smile, I'm not going to hug my mother, and I *certainly* won't dance like nobody's watching. Peddle that shit elsewhere, I live in reality.

This more often than not happens in message boards, but I've also been know to open my inbox and find this rancid email screaming at me. Not a pleasant experience. Anyway, I'm going to beg you people to stop doing this, because I just can't take it anymore. My eyes hurt. Please, type out the whole God damned word. It just takes a second to type out "you" instead of "u." Not including vowels in your messages doesn't make you cool, it doesn't make you "internet savvy;" it makes you look like you just had an unnecessary lobotomy. And where in the blue hell does "Kkthxbyela~!!!!!!" come from? Can we send it back? You know what, if you find yourself typing to someone "Wut r u doin 2nite" and actually *meaning* it, email me. I have a virus I want to give you.

This is perhaps the most innocuous of my complaints today (I'll pause to let the Education Majors look up that big, scary word), but it still sucks. Let me make one thing abundantly clear: if you're online, typing in all-caps means you're shouting. It makes you look like someone in a Japanese chat room typing in all-caps because he doesn't speak Japanese (yes, that happens). We have someone on the newspaper who does this shit. Sorry, Pat, but whenever I open up an email of yours and see all-caps all up in my face, I just delete it. Typing in all-caps will automatically reduce whatever intelligent content your email ever had and turn it into a third-grader's dissertation about stepping on worms. Rip that damn "Caps Lock" key off your keyboard; it's not doing you any favors.

There's plenty more, but I think you have the gist of it. Any and all intelligence and benefits towards intelligence the internet may have once had is practically negated by the idiots sending out smiley-coated forwards about some little four-year-old boy in Cuba dying of cancer who wants to meet Mickey Mouse and Disney agreed to donate one nickel for every time the message is forwarded, so maybe that little boy's dream can come true. Screw that, my dreams crash and burn every day. That four-year-old isn't getting shit from me, and you shouldn't give him anything either.

All this "internet-iquette" is basically common sense. Just think to yourself, "What would the Voice of the Campus do?" Then do the opposite, because I don't have a fulfilling and successful life. Kkthxbyela~!!!!!!

MAIL BOX

"Cryonics" May be a Dubious Endeavor but "Cryogenics" is a Vital, Important Area of Science

While it is refreshing to find an article about science in the *Independent*, and one in which most of the science seems to be accurate, on behalf of myself and the Low Temperature Physics community, it is important that a some glaring errors be corrected.

The most serious of these is in the terminology that is used, which thus gives even the title an erroneous meaning: "Cryogenics" is the study of the production and maintenance of low temperatures, and of the properties of materials at these temperatures (roughly -100 Celsius and below). As such, Cryogenics has been an area of intense and active study for more than a century, and has been a boon to researchers in many disciplines, including physics, chemistry, biology, and medicine. MRI scans would be impossible without cryogenics, as would in-vivo as well as in-vitro fertilization (both in humans and in other animals), in which the sperm & egg cells are cryogenically stored, often for several years. Hospitals frequently store oxygen as a liquid, and of course the space program uses as fuel the combination of liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen.

"Cryonics" is specifically the biological application of cryogenics that deals with storing an entire animal (&/or the head of the animal), with the speculation that the deceased being can be reanimated at some point in the future. This specific sub-discipline within cryogenics remains quite speculative, and IS an area that is often shunned by the serious scientific community. (Cryonics has had some recently headline news, in that the children of the late baseball great Ted Williams have had their father's body frozen -- though news reports indicate that his head has been separated from his stored body, so that in some respects he is both an 'entire' and a 'neuro'!)

There is also one factual error not involving terminology: the article states that "... the liquid nitrogen begins to warm ...", which is untrue. The liquid nitrogen (essentially liquid air), is at a constant temperature of -196 Celsius, which is its 'normal boiling point' at atmospheric pressure. The nitrogen liquid is equivalent to a pot of water boiling on the stove, which is at a constant temperature of +100 Celsius. However, just like the boiling pot on the stove, the liquid nitrogen does evaporate, and needs to be replenished periodically. In addition, in a closed container, there is always a relief valve, so that excess pressure does not build up in the liquid container, just like the relief valve on your home water heater.

Cryogenics is also not an esoteric discipline found only at research institutions. In fact, there will be a "Cryogenics" course offered at NEIU this spring, namely Physics 362: "Materials II: Emphasis on Superconductivity". Students will not only study the properties of materials at 'cryogenic' temperatures, but will make their own superconducting pellets. I invite the *Independent* to visit the Physics department next term (or indeed anytime), and see "Cryogenics" at work.

Paul Dolan
Physics Professor

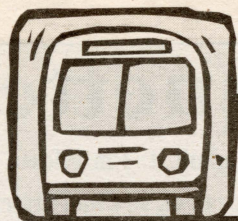
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The Commuter

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

Dying For Happiness

by Staci Sonenthal
Office Assistant

Many people might wonder what is actually involved in the body art known as mehndi. This article is here to inform you about this art that is steadily growing in popularity. Mehndi was first developed in India in the late 1950's and is still practiced to this day.

The reason why Mehndi is used in their culture is to show the person on whom the art is being done much you appreciate him. In a way, by creating the designs on the person, the artist is blessing him. Mehndi is typically seen on Indians, Punjabis, Hindus, Guratis, Muslims, and South Arabians. Most often you would see the designs on the hands and/or the feet during a special occasion, such as a wedding. However, this form of artistic expression has recently becoming very popular as people of all backgrounds

learn to appreciate the time and workmanship that goes into these elaborate decorations.

Mehndi is made up of henna dye, which is a mixture of tea leaves, lemon and water. When all the materials are mixed together they create a mud-like substance which is then used to create designs on a person's body.

When having the art done, there are many different designs to choose from. It usually depends on the person and what their aesthetic preferences might be. Mehndi should only be applied by a professional who has had prior experience and knows the traditional methods.

Mehndi is simply applied with a funnel-shaped structure which makes it easier to handle and apply the dye. After the dye has been applied it is advised that one applies lemon and sugar on to the design. The lemon and the sugar prevent the dye from seeping into

the body when henna is left on over-night. This is done in order to keep the designs bright and prevent fading. When the lemon and sugar are applied, bags must be put on the design to help insulate and keep it in. The bags, lemon, and sugar must be left on for at least 24 hours after application. After the 24 hour period is over you then take a butter knife and scrape off the excess material still left on the design. No water should come in contact with the Mehndi within the first day after application, or it will start to fade.

Once all of the excess dye is scraped off a special Indian oil called thail must be applied to all of the areas the Mehndi is covering in order to help ensure the design will last as long as possible. Once all of the steps have been completed the Mehndi design should be a dark orange or red. This design will last about 2-3 weeks and begin to fade after that time.



phot courtesy of www.planetvermont.com

The complexities of Kosher

By Daniel Peikes
Office Assistant

This article is a brief overview of some basic concepts of kosher. It should by no means be taken as some sort of religious guideline. I am not a rabbinic authority or qualified to give religious advice in any way, shape, or form. What I am is a third generation kosher caterer with eight years of personal experience.

Let us start with what kosher is not. Kosher does not mean your food has been blessed by a Rabbi. No matter how long a rabbi blesses or prays he cannot make your b a c o n

cheeseburger kosher. It also does not mean that the food is prepared in more sanitary conditions or that it is any healthier for you. Many factors go into keeping something kosher. I chose the term 'keeping something kosher' because if something is not kosher to start with it can never become kosher.

There are two main concepts when it comes to kosher restrictions. First of all no animal products can be exposed to any dairy products. This includes anything made from any meat or fowl product. For example, there is no such thing as an authentic kosher cheeseburger. You would have to replace the cheese with a non-dairy cheese substitute or swap the beef for a non-meat product.

It is permissible to mix fish and dairy, although fish may not be combined with any meat or fowl.

In addition, eggs can be combined with either dairy or meat.

The other main concept in kosher pertains to what kind of animals are kosher. For livestock to be kosher they must have split hooves and chew their cud. To chew cud means to chew food once, swallow

turkeys are kosher but hawks, crows, and buzzards are not.

There is also a very specific process for slaughtering livestock and fowl. They must be killed by slitting the throat. This way the animal dies almost immediately and feels very little pain. This procedure must be done with one swift cut using a razor sharp knife without any nicks in it.

Afterwards the animal must be checked for any terminal illnesses. If it had any physical defects that would have killed it within a year then it is deemed non-kosher. Also, for an animal to be kosher it must be prepared in a manner in which all the blood and blood vessels are removed. The blood is drawn out by salting the meat and the blood vessels are usually removed by hand. The hindquarters of most animals are not used due to the complexity that goes into removing the blood vessels. The slaughtering, blood and blood vessel removal must all be done by a certified slaughterer.

All prepared and processed foods must be made on utensils that have only been used for kosher foods. In addition, utensils that are used for meat may not be used for dairy and vise versa. A certified kosher inspector must supervise all food preparation.

This is just a basic overview of kosher. There are literally hundreds of volumes written on the subject. It is one of the most complicated topics in Judaism, and people may devote large portions of their life studying its intricate laws.



it down, regurgitate it, chew it again, and then finally digest it it. This group includes animal such as cows, goats, sheep, deer, and even giraffe. While a pig has split hooves it is not kosher due to the fact that it does not chew its cud.

The qualifications that mark a fish as kosher are it must have both fins and scales. For example, salmon and whitefish are kosher but catfish is not.

As for which fowl are kosher the Torah (Bible) gives a list that basically sets the guideline that any bird that is not a scavenger or a bird of prey is permissible to eat. For example, chickens and

Down Syndrome: An in-depth view

by Shayna LaBue
Staff Writer

When faced with the harsh reality of Down's Syndrome, many people raise questions as to why this condition occurs. Any potential mother or father is faced with the risk that their precious child might be born with a disability that they cannot prevent. Down's Syndrome is one of the conditions that a potential parent may have to face someday.

John Langden Down first diagnosed Down's Syndrome in 1866. He was the superintendent of an asylum for children in Surrey, England. John Down noticed the differentiated behavior of the children affected by Down's and gave their condition an identity.

It wasn't until 1959 that Jerome Legeune and Patricia Jacobs discovered the actual cause for the disability. A trisomy (triplication) of the 21st chromosome leads to the total number of 47 chromosomes, instead of the normal 46 chromosomes, which can lead to Down's Syndrome.

The human DNA is made up of 46 chromosomes that contain all of our genetic information. A baby inherits 23 of those chromosomes from each parent. By chance alone, many errors can occur during the cellular pairing and division. The exact cause of trisomy is unknown, but believed to be connected with the maternal age of the mother. About 80% of trisomy occurred in cases of mothers giving birth when they were around 35-40 years of age.

The technical term for what your genes do is called its expression. A gene's expression could direct your body to have blue eyes or a dark skin pigment. When trisomy occurs, it's basically an over-expression that leads to an increased production of certain products. There are three types of documented cases of Down's Syndrome today. The first is the Standard Trisomy 21, where the extra chromosome shows up on chromosome 21. 90%-95% of Down's Syndrome is a result of this.

The second variation is Translocation, which has chromosome 21 pair up with another chromosome which still results in one extra pair. Only 3%-5% of afflicted patients experience this.

The final variation is Mosaicism, where there is a mix of cells resulting in the 47th chromosome. Only a 2%-5% of Down's Syndrome cases have this mix of cells.

The vast majority of Down's Syndrome cases that occur are not inherited, but there is a possible 1 in 5 chance of passing it to the child if the mother is a carrier. There is nothing you can do to prevent Down's Syndrome from affecting your future children. A slim possibility is to have you and your mate's DNA checked out, and try to estimate the probability.

For information on organizations which deal with Down's Syndrome:

- National Down Syndrome Society
www.ndss.org
- National Association for Down Syndrome
www.nads.org
- UPSIDE! Down Syndrome Society
<http://www.telebyte.com/upside/upside.html>
- National Down Syndrome Congress
<http://www.ndscenter.org/>
- Mosaic Down Syndrome on the Web
<http://www.mosaicdownsyndrome.com/>

President Gaspard approves GLBA ball

After the suspense of a possible veto, Gaspard does allow funding for ball

by Anisha Motilal
Staff Writer

Members of the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance (GLBA) are all-smiles now that their Second Annual Coming-Out Ball is officially funded by the Student Government Association after SGA President Gary Gaspard made a formal announcement recently.

President of the GLBA Anne Mothkovich is glad that they do not have to "waste more time gathering support for the Ball," and can instead focus on the

task of organizing the event itself. They expect over 500 people to attend, with NEIU students getting free admission with their NEIU student ID. Members of the community are also invited, but they will have to pay \$8, with proceeds from ticket sales going to charities of the GLBA's choosing.

The funds for the event were approved by the Senate after they heard the report and recommendations of the Finance Committee, an SGA committee that is in charge of reviewing NEIU's student organization's requests for funds and recommending to the Senate whether or not to approve them.

The event was in limbo for a time while everyone involved waited for SGA President Gary Gaspard to decide whether or not to veto the bill, which he implied he may do in an SGA meeting. "I had to do some research, I can't just go by popular demand," President Gaspard added. Gaspard reviewed the information packet that the GLBA gave to all present at the Finance Committee Hearing, and then rendered his decision.

"For an event to be publicized so gallantly, I don't see why the President wants to veto it," said SGA Vice-President Evelyn Nazario-Rose. She also added that for the past five years, NEIU has been recognized as the "number one college in diversity," and as an advocate for diversity and

as a believer in equality, she supports the Ball.

Senator M. M. Morgan also supports the GLBA event. "I believe that the President may go ahead with his decision and veto the bill, but as senator I assure you that the Senate would fight [his decision]."

Gaspard was not the only opponent of the GLBA's request for funding. Senator Kendra Young voiced concern about which charities would receive funding, and asked that the Senate be allowed to suggest other charities and vote upon which would get the money.

The GLBA, especially Robin Matthews, Vice President of the organization, was frustrated by the apparent confusion and negativity towards the event displayed by some senators. "The Ball is not just open to GLBA members, but to people from all walks of life," said Matthews. She also said that the event will be widely publicized by various members of the press, including FOX news and Windy City Times, and other GLBA organizations from colleges and high schools will attend the Ball.

Aware of the confusion and the lack of support, the GLBA set up a meeting that took place on August 28, providing a forum for students and SGA members to voice their concerns and ask any questions they may have concerning the Ball.

The meeting saw students, SGA senators, members of the Socialist Club, and even someone from another GLBA organization show up and support the event. Gaspard also was at the meeting, which took place right before he had promised to make his decision about the ball.

During the meeting, senators showed their support for the Ball, and had a few questions. Senator Morgan asked, "How much of the budget is the GLBA willing to cut?" This question

was prompted by the fact that the GLBA requested \$5,706 for the event, an increase from last year's request. Mothkovich and Matthews answered the question by saying that they had taken the budget they outlined for the event and placed it in front of President Gaspard, and then asked him which parts of the budget he thought should or could be reduced. "He wasn't willing to look at the budget or provide us with answers," they said.

There was also a bit of anger about some comments made by Gaspard, one of which was made during the SGA meeting that saw the Senate approve the funding for the Coming-Out Ball.

The GLBA attended that meeting to answer any and all questions about the event, and they at one point voiced concern that funds would be withheld due to a bias against the organization. At this point, Gaspard stood up and said that it was OK for Senators to be biased, a comment which did not sit well with the GLBA and members of the NEIU community.

Gaspard cited his support and granting of substantial funds to the GLBA two years ago as proof of his lack of bias.

However, Gaspard had actually supported funding for the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA), a different organization. The GLBA also said that Gaspard is not aware of who the members of either organization are.

Despite his apparent reluctance to support the event, in a recent letter to the NEIU community, Gaspard stated that he would not veto the bill and he supports the designation of funds to the GLBA, without reservation.

"What made me decide to fund it, was that I saw a need for it on campus," Gaspard added.

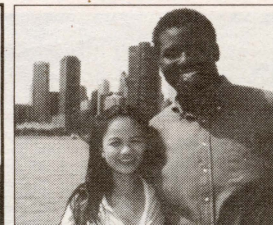
GLBA members and students alike are now looking forward to the event, which is scheduled to take place on October 10 in Alumni hall, from 8pm until 1am.

"I had to do some research, I can't just go by popular demand."

"The Ball is not just open to GLBA members, but to people from all walks of life."

THERE IS A NEWSPAPER ON CAMPUS, AND IF YOU'D LIKE TO SEE YOUR NAME IN PRINT, STOP BY THE OFFICE, WE'LL BE WAITING TO HEAR FROM YOU. ROOM E-049 THE INDEPENDENT. THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO BE HEARD!!

Smooth sailing for NPB event



Top: Miller, Vice-Chair, and guest enjoy view from the Mystic Blue at Navy Pier. Left: Daniels, Chairperson walks on the deck with family and friends.

by Anna Berkovich
Photographer
Brian Blaszkowski
News/Opinions Editor

On August 25-27, the members of the Northeastern Programming Board (NPB) were handing out free boat cruise tickets to any NEIU student who could show his or her ID and the Fall Validated Bill.

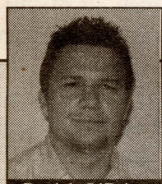
"This cruise was a nice way to bring the Northeastern community together in a relaxed way," said Andrea Daniels, Chair of the NPB.

The boat cruise was held Saturday, August 29, at Navy pier. Some came alone while others brought their friends and family members with them. The boarding started at 12:30 p.m., and the boat departed at 1 p.m.

NPB Vice-Chair Brian Miller felt this year's boat cruise was a success. "The response of the students to the NPB's annual boat cruise has been overwhelmingly positive." He added that, after last year's successful cruise, "It was a no-brainer to organize another boat cruise."

The cruise featured a lower level dining room with an all-you-can-eat lunch and unlimited soft drinks. After lunch, the upper deck afforded a beautiful view and a fresh breeze. Towards the end of the cruise, coffee and desserts were served in the dining room, and the students and their friends and family danced the night away.

"We really enjoy serving the student body in this capacity and look forward to providing the NEIU community with quality programming," said Miller. Daniels echoed this sentiment. "We are pleased with the outcome of this event and we anticipate future successes." She also thanked the NEIU community for their involvement and their support.

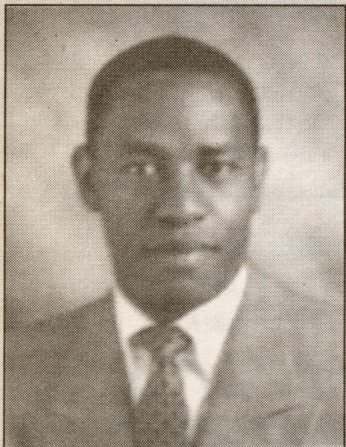


Patrick O'Brien
by Patrick O'Brien
Production Manager

The offices of the President and Vice-President of the Student Government are situated 10 feet from each other in the basement of the Building E here at Northeastern. What our students may or may not know is that these doors are rarely open at the same time as the result of a political rivalry that makes Bush-Gore look like a fight at recess.

Let's be clear here, no sides are being taken; it is fact that the current Student Government is tangled in bureaucratic dealings and quorum issues.

President Gary Gaspard and VP



Gary Gaspard, SGA President

THE LAST WORD SGA rivalry has Independent, integrity caught in the middle

Evelyn Rose have feuded over every issue that has arisen since they were elected last Spring. Let's look at the list: First, summer stipends, paid for by student fees, where one wanted them and the other didn't (they both collected them by the way). Then it was a potential Homecoming Dance (is it happening?). Next, it was funding for the Coming Out Ball, which will go on as planned.

Now we've arrived at our next slugfest: who will be the 20th Senator? Though Fall elections are less than a month away, the two political rivals have both let *The Independent* know in no uncertain terms that neither cares for the way the situation is being handled, only they won't tell each other that. They instead travel back and forth to the offices of *The Independent* to promote their own Senate candidates who include Dorian Santiago, Sir Williams, and several other unknown applicants.

Applications for positions in SGA have been available all Summer, and a few Senate spots have already been filled by President Gaspard so far. Santiago has already been attached to the Vice President's political entourage, as witnessed by his frequent presence of late in her office. Sir Williams is a political moderate with student government experience who may or may not have

interviewed for the position. Gaspard has spoken of some other, undisclosed candidates for the office.

Neither side has met with the other to discuss candidates for the spot, as they have elected to fight through the media. Both sides have spoke to each other in the last few weeks, though. Gaspard termed the discussion as "disrespectful," noting that VP Rose barged into his office to confront him about why Santiago had not yet been interviewed about the vacant Senate seat.

Gaspard also alleges that VP Rose has withheld the application of Sir Williams to strengthen the candidacy of Santiago. This point does not explain why Gaspard has failed to contact the two candidates; he cited time constraints acting upon his schedule.

By the time this goes to print, you also may have witnessed a executive power grab by the Vice President in the interests of building a political base from which her own agenda could emerge. Both the President and Vice President declined to draft letters to the editor for this issue, for differing reasons.

President Gaspard wants to wait to hear what action may be taken by the Vice President, while VP Rose herself forwarded this statement to *The Independent* last Friday: "Upon

further consideration, members of the Student Senate, including myself, have decided to withdraw the request to post a letter to the editor at this time." This email was addressed to the Voice of the Campus as well, meaning the Vice President is in contact with multiple members of *The Independent* at the same time.

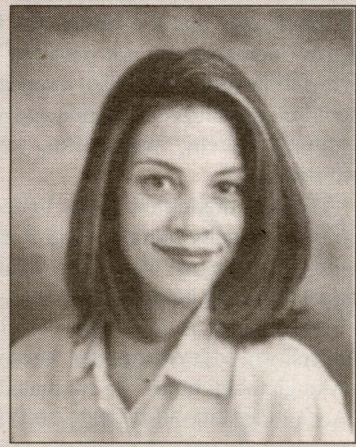
The message also implies the nature of any upcoming activities initiated by the Vice President as well as a potential voting bloc. Evidently Rose counts herself as a member of a group of Senators who did want to make a statement about the Gaspard administration. Enter Santiago, Rose's newest political ally. He made several demands on behalf of this group, although he is not actually a Senator, nor does he hold any position in Student Government.

Santiago made a series of demands over the weekend to *The Independent*, including directing the editors here as to where a story detailing the corruption of the Gaspard regime should be placed. Santiago went on to request that "your best journalist" be assigned to cover the impending dismissal of Gaspard. Since the messages were left on the personal voicemail of a staff member who did not disclose their telephone number to Santiago, it appears that some members of the Rose camp believe

they have an ally in the offices of *The Independent*.

In the history of journalism, there have been numerous instances where conflicts of interest have arose out of friendship, patronage, and even bribery. In the past year alone there have been scandals involving the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and the integrity of their staff members.

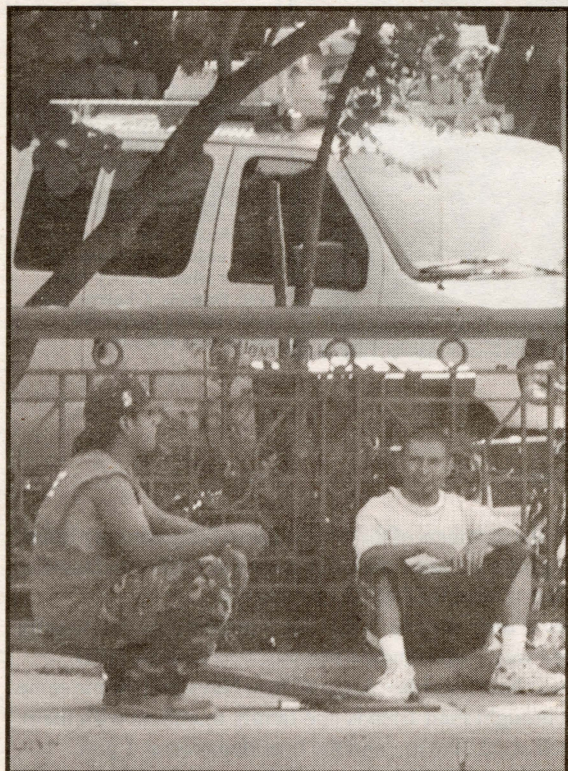
Truth, at the end of the day, is the only thing a newspaper has. Our own personal credibility as journalists is all we have as writers. These two elements would be compromised if we allow ourselves to be involved in the political bickering that is wasting our student activity dollars every second it continues.



Evelyn Rose, Vice President



Robert Zavala and other workers making a statement to the media at the former site of the work center at 5111 N. Pulaski



"All I want to do is make money to feed my family. We are living for these jobs."

Workers Continued from pg 1

In response to the sudden upheaval of their gathering site, leaders of the LUC and several workers still gathered at the original location at Foster and Pulaski and declined to move to the new temporary site at Addison and Central Park on the far end of the K-Mart parking lot. As the week wore on workers continued to still meet by the old bus turn-around instead of traveling to the other site. Transportation to the new site requires some of workers to take three buses.

They did continue to meet there until later in the week when the city placed a cyclone fence across the entrance. Through the fence all that can be seen is the remains of a wooden structure and a new sign stating no trespassing and for people to call 911 if any unauthorized person is seen within the fenced in area. City workers were witnessed soldering the fence shut to keep others out.

Landaverde and other members of the LUC and also the Jewish Council on Urban Affairs, who are an ally of the day laborers, delivered a letter to Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley's office the Wednesday after the shutdown of the worker's center. The letter asked for Daley to comment on the situation at hand and to discuss a permanent situation for the workers.

"We want to meet with the mayor to make him aware of the difficulties faced by day laborers, and to discuss some creative ideas we have for resolving the situation," Landaverde said. "It is hard to imagine that

side of the road hoping for some construction boss to come by and pick them for work. Many workers are hesitant to leave the area because they have no adequate transportation to other sites, and potential employers are familiar with workers being in the vicinity of Pulaski and Foster. The more workers move around, the less work they receive because potential employers will not drive from site to site because a worker might be there.

Despite the workers' appearance of loitering by other business such as the Aldi's down Pulaski, they have not been harassed as of this printing. Although, there is now a beat car stationed in the Park District's parking lot across from the former worker's center; 17th District police have ticketed employers who stop to talk to the workers for "improper lane usage."

Vargas was asked if he felt the workers were being punished because of their race or immigrant status. "No," Vargas said. "This is a problem the city of Chicago has in other areas. It is not like an isolated area. We have the same situation in other areas of the city. It is just going to take some time and someone to sit down and come up with some policies and conditions to deal with."

The workers and LUC are determined to see some action on behalf of the day laborers. When asked what would happen if Daley would not see eye-to-eye with them, "If he doesn't respond we are already planning in taking further action like hunger strikes in his office, and not to move from there," Landaverde said. For now, they have watchdogs looking over the workers, documenting if city workers do anything against them and are considering a lawsuit against the city if any problems should occur.

Alderman Laurino would not respond any inquiries given to her office, and Alderman Ray Colon, whose ward the workers were to be shuttled to, could not be reached for comment at this time.

Pool reporting by Tom Robb, Special Contributor.

Faculty here concerned with uneven budget pressure

by Chad Nelson
REV Editor

Members of the University Professionals of Illinois (U.P.I.) here at Northeastern are concerned that increases in faculty workloads and class sizes, combined with non-equitable salary adjustments and loss of acknowledgment for faculty involvement in student organizations, may have serious consequences for Northeastern. Further, a feeling exists that recent state budget funding reductions are affecting faculty more than other areas in the university.

The administrative decision to increase class size maximums and to limit new faculty hiring has met critical response from faculty and students alike. An apparent surge in enrollment has packed classes, leaving many students unable to get into required or desired classes. "It's discouraging to hear a student say 'I'm an English major and I can't get any classes. Why did the university admit me?'" said Tim Libretti, Professor of English, relating sentiments a student expressed during the first week of classes.

Several professors have noted that they have classes bordering on fifty students. "In the past, I was happy to take on extra students. It wasn't a burden; it was a joy. But when we feel unrecognized, and assaulted in some ways, the result is a reluctance to keep taking on more," said Libretti, citing also that faculty are no longer acknowledged by the university for their support of, and work with, student clubs and organizations.

The most recent contract, a two year deal negotiated in spring 2002, contained no across-the-board pay raise for faculty for 2003, and a 1-1/2% across-the-board increase for the 2004, with some individual increases negotiated in each year. "That doesn't even cover cost of living increases," said Higgenbotham.

Libretti says that the "union has been repeatedly told that faculty increases are not possible" because of the present financial situation. "But when it appears that money is still being spent for cosmetic construction and administrative functions," continued Libretti, "we question where the Administration's priorities are."

"The Administration needs to see the implications of its actions on faculty morale," said Rohan DeSilva, Professor of Sociology. "We just want to be assured that the burden of the budget crunch is being equally shared," said Libretti.

"The faculty is very upset" said Higgenbotham. "The University needs to realize that we have done enough to support it through tough times" he continued.

According to the NEIU 2002-2003 Internal Budget, pay raises for the new Provost of Academic Affairs and the new Deans of

the College of Arts and Sciences and College of Business and Management totaled \$56,752, as well as \$16,198 for President Steinberg.

Funding for capital improvements around the campus, including the work on the Auditorium and the area between the Student Union and Fine Arts building, are mainly allocated by Capitol Improvement Board, a function of Springfield legislation, and separate from funding that goes for educational purposes. "Who decides the priorities?" asked Libretti. "It seems that down state requests have not put faculty high on the list," he continued. "The administration needs to be more vocal in defending university interests at the State Legislature," said Loretta Capeheart, Professor of Criminal Justice.

According to Higgenbotham, U.P.I. is involved in lobbying to improve funding for Northeastern, specifically to "help attract and retain good faculty." Two full time lobbyists are assisted by groups of faculty and staff that go to Springfield every year. "We hope to send a coalition of students and faculty in the spring to lobby legislators," said Higgenbotham.

Another concern is over new faculty hires brought at higher salaries. Some new hires will receive almost twenty percent more than faculty hired last year, which in some cases is also more than Associate Professors who have been at Northeastern several years. "None of the faculty resent what the new faculty make," said Higgenbotham, "we just want to ensure that there is equity in pay for all of our members."

Kate Forhan, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences said that when she took the position last year, she felt that "hiring good people at competitive salaries," would benefit the university. She offered the higher salaries for the new faculty, who were not included in the Spring 2002 contract, which Forhan was not involved with. "It's up to the union to negotiate for a new contract," said Forhan, for those faculty are seeking equity.

Some faculty are dismayed about the University's policy requiring a higher salary offer from another university in order to acquire an individual raise from Northeastern; similar methods are used at many other universities. Capeheart and DeSilva, who each chaired new faculty searches in their respective departments, expressed concerns that this practice creates an ethical and professional dilemma for a faculty member seeking a raise. "It's a lot of work to go through in the search process," said DeSilva. It is "wasting" a "colleagues time at another university," if the professor doesn't actually intend to go elsewhere, continued DeSilva. Capeheart cited a recent study in the journal of Higher Education that claimed that this process may favor male professors, for a number of

reasons.

"There was a sub-culture of complacency here among the faculty," said DeSilva. He said that the kind of unwritten code was that for a good school with strong faculty camaraderie, good students, and lots of support the only price was not the best pay. However, it seems that "the pay doesn't match the qualifications" of faculty, said DeSilva. "Given all of this, with many having been pay-jumped, no one is taking it out on students," he continued.

"The union is willing to talk with the University to increase faculty numbers to meet the needs of students," said Higgenbotham. "The faculty are the heart of the university," added Higgenbotham, "and so the well being of the faculty needs to be a priority."

The next collective bargaining for U.P.I. with the University will begin in Spring 2004, to be effective August 2004. The fear is that "negotiations will not proceed in good faith," said Libretti. As well as clarifications of a grievance process, U.P.I. is also seeking to have domestic partner benefits implemented for its members.

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Are you as smart as you think you are?

by **Brian Blaszkowski**
News / Opinions Editor

What is an IQ test? Coined by American psychologist Lewis Terman, "IQ" stands for "intelligence quotient." The original concept that intelligence should or could be tested began in the 19th century with British scientist Sir Francis Galton. Galton believed that mental traits were in fact hereditary, like eye color or blood type.

His ideas were inspired mainly by the work of a Belgian statistician named Lambert Adolphe Jacques Quetelet, who was the first to apply statistical methods in the study of human characteristics. He discovered that the bulk of the human population fell within two extremes, forming the well-known "bell curve."

Galton's ideas were published in a book called *Hereditary Genius*, which resulted in a rush of IQ testing in America, mainly due to a student of Galton's, James McKeen Cattell. IQ testing died down relatively quickly when it was discovered that a high IQ did not necessarily translate into

a student doing well in school. As a German psychologist named Wilhelm Stern said in 1914, "No series of tests, however skillfully selected it may be, does reach the innate intellectual endowment, stripped of all complications, but rather this endowment in conjunction with all influences to which the examinee has been subjected up to the moment of testing."

What that basically means is that no test is an absolute measurement of the intelligence, and furthermore, the potential, of any one person. IQ testing came back due to the work of others, though, and it prospered up until the 1960's, when it was alleged that IQ tests contained racially-biased questions. Though the accuracy of such tests can be and has been debated, IQ tests remain a popular gauge of intelligence, though without a great deal of weight placed upon the results. As many are no doubt aware, IQ tests have some bare legal weight, as well, as those of a very low IQ have often been acquitted of crimes due to their low intelligence.

There are a number of online IQ tests

one can take, though few dare claim to be official. Most tests focus on reading comprehension, mathematical skills, and logic to evaluate one's intelligence, which could explain why most schools no longer require students to take IQ tests to measure their placements in said schools. A quick online search (using www.google.com) returns thousands of sites, ranging from ten-minute quick tests to "more accurate" tests that can last for over an hour or two. Generally speaking, the longer a test, the more accurate it is seen as: one could get lucky on a test with only ten questions, but luck can quickly run out when faced with 100.

Though IQ tests can be indicators of how smart a person is, a high IQ does not necessarily mean one will be a successful student or successful in life, nor does a lower IQ score guarantee a life of menial labor. In summation, by today's standards and with the prolific existence of an information medium such as the internet, IQ tests can be an extensive source of great amusement, though they should not be taken seriously.

You might be (An alternative)

Howard Gardner recognized the flaws in conventional IQ testing, which focuses on verbal and computational skills, and decided to form an alternative. He designated seven categories to describe the different skills involved in our mental processes. By assessing and combining the multiple scores, a more accurate representation could be obtained of an individual.

He also acknowledged the role that cultures plays in our learning and development by distinguishing what skills are valued between societies. The seven categories are products of these considerations.

Logical-Mathematic: the ability to detect patterns and reason. Associated prominently in the areas of science and math.

Linguistic: The ability to express one's self verbally or in written form. Writing poetry is a manifestation, as is being able to draw information from language.

Spatial: The ability to visualize objects and mentally manipulate them. Measures an individuals' optical memory and eye for detail.

Musical: The ability to recognize and compose musical pitches, tones, and rhythms. Knowing how to organize the mechanics of song.

Kinesthetic: Being able to coordinate physical movement, as in dance or in sports.

Interpersonal: Deals with a person's ability to interact socially, as in how they interpret others emotions and how they respond.

Intrapersonal: Being able to interpret one's own feeling and intentions. The level of personal awareness that an individual maintains.

Each individual has their area of prominence, but it is the unique interaction of these categories that creates a representation of one's abilities. This theory is one that has many followers who feel it should be implemented in educational environments.

Summer might be almost gone but Great America isn't

By: **Daniel Peikes**
Office Assistant

You can't miss it when cruising up I-94, the mammoth red, white, and blue structure that is the American Eagle. This is the first sign of the major theme park closest to Chicago, Six Flags Great America. It is located at Grand Avenue right off of I-94 in Gurnee.

What can you find there? Fun times for the entire family. This park has something for everyone from the very young to the young at heart. The rides range from a slow moving carousel to roller coasters that throw you in all sorts of directions at speeds that rival some Italian sports cars.

There are two sections of the park specifically designed for small children. One of these areas has a Warner Brothers Looney Tunes theme and the other has a Hanna Barbara Theme. They have slower, less intense rides and other activities such as ball pits, slides, plastic tunnels, and kid friendly obstacles.

The main attractions in Great America are the 10 major roller coasters. They range from the

Whizzer, a relatively mild coaster that does not go upside down, travels at a moderate speed, and has small drops; to a coaster called Vertical Velocity that accelerates from 0-60 in a matter of minutes and throws you in every direction.

New for this year is the roller coaster called 'Superman: the Ride'. This metal monster tilts you in a flying position before it releases you from the loading station. It has some nice loops, steep drops, and last-minute turns.

If you are not a fan of going upside down, I suggest trying a roller coaster called Raging Bull. This is one of the smoothest coasters, does not jerk at all, and has some amazing drops.

If you like exciting rides that are not roller coasters, you may want to try the Giant Drop. This ride does exactly what its name suggests. You are strapped into a seat lifted several



At a speed of 73 miles per hour this is truly a Raging Bull.

hundred feet in the air and then dropped, stopping less than 10 feet from the ground. The entire decent takes less than 10 seconds.

If you are a long time Great America fan, as I am, I have some bad news for you. Shockwave was removed to make room for Superman. You can still see the remnants of the older rollercoaster lying on the grass when you are at the peak of Superman. For those

of you who do not know, Shockwave was a rather large metal monster and was one of the first upside down coasters at Great America. It also used to offer a unique souvenir. A camera would take your picture as you sped down the first slope, and you could later purchase that picture and have a keychain reminder of your experience.

Other rides that some of you may remember that have been removed are the Cajun Cliffhanger and the Power Dive. However the American Eagle still remains, and they have started running it both backwards and forwards again.

One downside is that Great America is not is cheap. It costs somewhere in the vicinity of \$40 per person. It is a bit less for children under four feet tall and is

free for babies. You can sometimes obtain discount coupons from Coke products or from Dunkin Donuts. If you are going to go more than twice in one season, then it is beneficial to get a group together and buy a four pack of season passes. Season passes are accepted at any of the many Six Flags parks across the country and tend to cost around \$75 per person. Also you can expect to pay about \$10 for parking.

Coming up in October is Great America's fright fest. For a few weeks before Halloween, they dress up the entire park in spooky attire.

If you are going to only go once a year the trick is to maximize your trip. Make sure to get there early and stay there until the end of the day. If at all possible, get there before the park opens and before the lines get too long. The lines are always shortest early in the morning and late in the evening. Also, try to go on a weekday if possible, this will also make your time spent waiting in lines shorter.

One final token of advice is to remember the park is pretty much a giant circle, so it is wise to go through it in a clockwise or counter-clockwise pattern.

You could be lovers or you could be friends

By **George Alexiades**
Staff Writer

Relationships for the socially challenged

Millions of singles around the globe are searching for romantic relationships with the aid of online dating and friend services. This idea is hardly new, as meeting people through mass media has been present for many years with the assistance of newspapers and restrooms everywhere. A bachelor would write an ad about himself that would also tell what kind of person he was looking for.

Online dating has hit new heights and has people flocking in everyday to hopefully bond with someone they might like. There are numerous places where one can place an ad or view ads of other individuals. Match.com is one of the most popular of these kinds of sites. An ad unusually

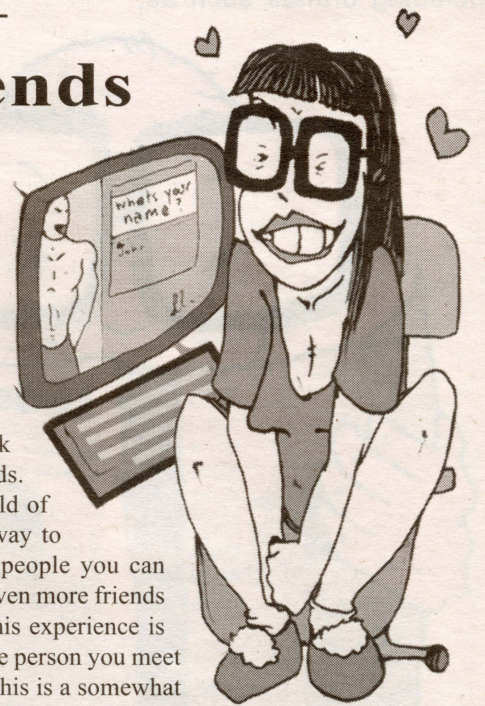
consists of a short description of your appearance, personality, lifestyle, background/values, type of relationship you are searching for, type of person you are looking for, and occasionally a photo. When someone responds to your profile, you can then look at their profile and picture and see if you would actually like to meet that person.

Most dating sites require some kind of payment, but usually posting a profile is free. Using the services offered is safe and easy. You just follow the steps they provide to create a profile and then you wait until you hear a response. Waiting is often not necessary since you can search profiles available for qualities you find important; for instance location, what kind of relationship they are looking for, appearance, or even their favorite

movie.

Friendster.com works with the people you know in real life. You create a profile and you include your real friends. The difference here is that you may only talk to friends of your friends. So, you can not get a hold of just anybody. The best way to increase the number of people you can view is to try and make even more friends in your everyday life. This experience is more in-depth because the person you meet is your friend's friend. This is a somewhat more social and involved situation, but it may not be better for some people.

The one question on everyone's mind is does this really work? According to the statistics from Match.com it does. They state that "In 2002 alone, more than 89,000 members reported they found the type of match they were hoping to meet." It may sound promising, but you also have to consider how many people actually use this service.



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Organizations

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

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

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

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

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

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

Care about your environment? Let's start a NEIU environmental organization! Contact or leave message for Sara 9773) 561-5131 or revo1@chickmail.com.

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

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Fraternities, sororities, clubs student groups. Earn \$1,000-\$2,000 this semester with a proven Campus Fundraiser 3 hour fundraising event. Our programs make fundraising dates are filling quickly, so get this the program. It works Contact Campus Fundraiser at (888) 923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraser.com

Vet Support Group, made up of veterans. Is your spouse, sibling, parent or friend a

veteran or on active duty? Learn about the exsisting national veteran support groups by attending a meeting of the "NEIU friends of Vet's" group. Meeting times and places will be published in the Independent in the near future. Cass Swider 708-358-1440.

Wanted

R/L guitarist/writer, 30 yrs exp. Seeks rhythm section (bass & drums or percussion), for once/wk developement of original material. Age not a consideration, but strong rythmic sensibility and improvisational spirit are. bonzadog@hotmail.com.

Personals

Long night getting it all just right. Tommorow sneaks up on me and I will use the darkness as my pillow, until you can take its place. For now i dream...staring at a computer screen.

Thumbalina- Staring at screnes all night alone is when I think of you at the most. And when I am with the "crew" I never forget who is at the center of my soul. -Goldfish

Let's get lost in midnight revies, let's find each other in dreams, let's not forget to whisper words of love, As we fall to sleep. -Pappa Smurf

I sit and wonder how someone like you could still be in love with someone like me. I can only hope for the day that I can fall asleep next to you again.

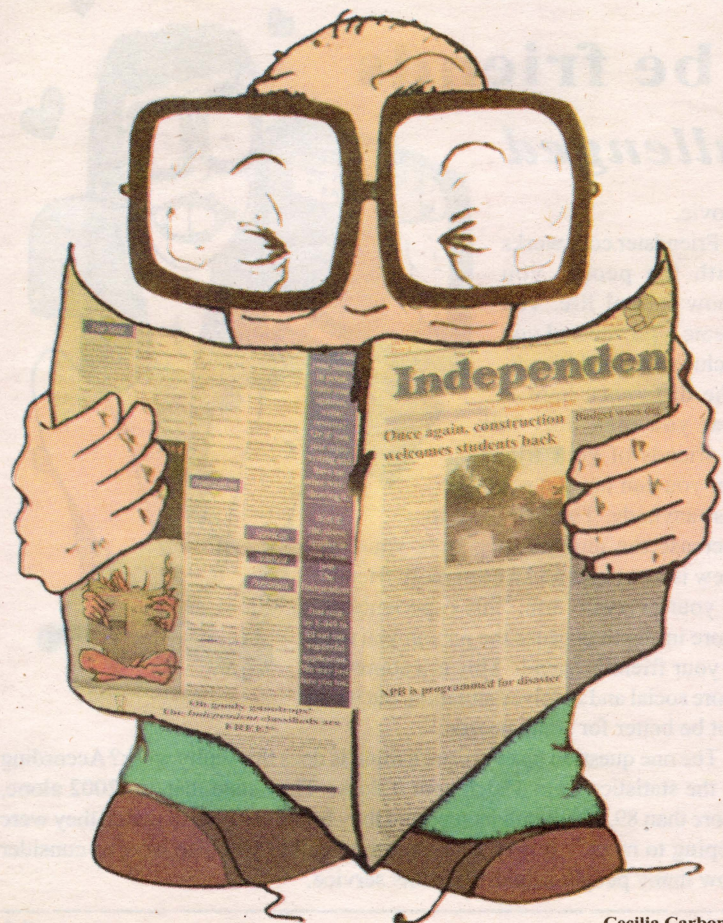
Never wonder my dear, how I can love you, I believe there is no way to explain it with my words, so I will live all my days showing you that this is exactly what it feels like, what it is, a love that cannot be defined.

Love to see your name in print, voice your opinion, and write reviews? Or just enjoy writing and have no other way of showing it?

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Cecilia Carboni

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