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Independent- Jul. 14, 1998

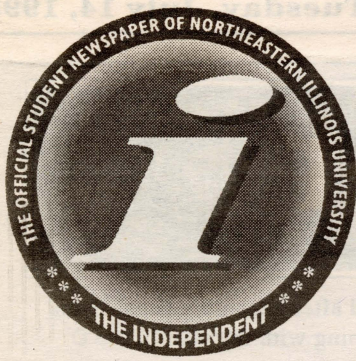
Michael F. Buino

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1988 - 1998 Ten Year Anniversary

independent

Serving Northeastern and the surrounding community

Volume 15, issue 14

Tuesday, July 14, 1998

Chicago, Illinois

University's Top Women

Changing the face of Northeastern Illinois University



University President Salme H. Steinberg



University Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Estela R. Lopez

Intercollegiate athletics not in school's future

Steinberg plans to meet with SGA to discuss lower fees

by Thomas J. Foley
Senior Associate Editor

No more intercollegiate sports at Northeastern. After two years of debate, a failed attempt to save it, a fund-raising feasibility study and a poll of the student body, President Salme H. Steinberg and the Board of Trustees decided not to pursue any intercollegiate athletic affiliation in the foreseeable future.

This decision was handed down at the June 11, 1998 Board meeting, held at the Center for Inner City Studies (CICS). The main reason cited was a lack of student support for intercollegiate athletics. The student questionnaire that was mailed to every student just recently was offered as evidence of this lack of student support.

According to Board Chair Daniel Goodwin, "Thirteen percent of the student body responded, which was much less than we were hoping for."

As of the June 11 Board meeting, 1277 students had responded to the questionnaire. Out of those 1277, only 875 expressed an interest in intercollegiate athletics. Trustee Keith Brown

questioned whether 13% was a good response or a bad one, asking whether the students had ever been surveyed before. While it was unclear what kind of surveys may have been done in the past, it was made apparent that this was not a positive enough response to save intercollegiate athletics.

In answer to Trustee Nancy Masterson's question about what to do with the P.E. Building, Steinberg responded by offering the idea of expanded intramurals and using the facility as a state-of-the-art athletic/health club for students, staff, and faculty. She also reassured the Board that the various Health and Physical Education classes would continue as normal.

Although the decision was made to drop intercollegiate athletics permanently, no decision as to the future use of the P.E. Building was made at that time. Instead, Steinberg plans to meet with Student Government to discuss combining the athletic fee and the recreation/intramural fee and drastically reducing them. That issue will be revisited in September.

see Athletics
page 3

Changes ahead for Summer '99

by Carole M. Brown
Junior Associate Editor

"It's crazy, there was one class I needed which was offered in both the five-week and the eight-week semester, but I needed it in the 12 week semester," complained NEIU student Eric Brown.

NEIU Provost Dr. Estela Lopez and the members of the Summer School Committee hope that they have changed some of those problems for the better. The new Summer Schedule will consist of two six-and-a-half week sessions and will still offer the 12 week courses. The school hoped to capitalize on the fact that they had seen that more students come in during the eight week program over the summer followed by the 12 week, and then the five week course. Six-and-a-half weeks was seen as a compromise.

Lopez is leading the charge to install new changes in how summer school is run at Northeastern. These changes will go into effect in time for the Summer Session 1999 to be affected.

Lopez's comments on the upcoming changes is best stated, "It's not perfect, but I think we did a better job." The revisions will mostly be concerned with the scheduling of the Summer Sessions.

Student L. Reyes brought up another

problem with the current summer schedule, "They [Northeastern] don't offer the courses we need."

Other factors that are considered "do-able" under this new time system are more Friday evening course hours, later Saturday hours, and changing the Monday-Friday evening time frame to starting at 6:00 p.m. or later. These changes offer more flexibility in the class schedule, plus it follows suit to other colleges and universities. "It has been designed with the student's perspective in mind," states Lopez.

Before being officially accepted by the University community, the proposal went through proper channels. First, it went before a special committee made up of people from Admissions, the colleges, and Student Affairs. Then it traveled before the Provost's Council, the President's Council, the Faculty Council, and took its turn in the Student Affairs Office so students could comment on it. The new measures to be implemented in Summer of 1999 have been approved and the faculty hope the students will approve of it.

Student Jennifer Adams, on seeing the new course layout stated that "It looks like a good idea, but we'll see how it works." There appears to be no dissension to the changes as the administration faces its new challenge. Lopez says "Next is that we offer courses that the students need."

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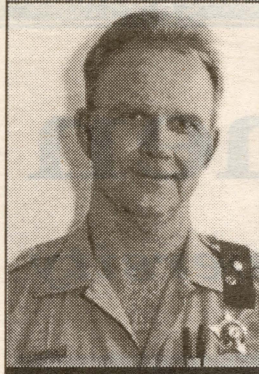
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Campus Police Blotter

Extension 200

June 04

Auto Theft and Recovery: A visitor reported her car stolen from the D-lot.



OFFICER PAPROCKI

Later in the day, a NEIU police officer noticed the car parked in the C-drive. It had been taken in error by another visitor who had the same make, model, and color, and whose keys who fit the ignition. Both autos were returned to their rightful owners.

No charges were filed.

June 05

Medical Assist: A young visitor was injured during a dance performance. She was treated with ice, and was able to continue in the show.

June 09

Other Police: CPD requested assistance in locating a staff member. This person was arrested off campus, by CPD.

Criminal Trespass: Three persons entered

the P.E. Building and refused to pay the service fee. All left the campus after being warned against future trespasses.

June 10

Traffic Offense: A non-student was issued two state citations after squealing his tires in front of the classroom building.

June 12

Medical Assist: An elderly non-student was scalded after removing his auto radiator cap when his auto broke down on Foster at St. Louis. NEIU police called C.F.D. ambulance for treatment.

June 13

Domestic Battery: A former student in a wheel chair tried to break the window of a current student near the campus. The student refused to file charges and was informed of the procedure of attaining an arrest warrant.

June 14

Disorderly Conduct: Two non-students gained admission to a computer lab and used the telephone to make obscene phone calls. They left before Public Safety Officers were notified.

Theft: The same two offenders listed above may also have stolen a bicycle from the K-

lot.

June 16

Traffic offenses: A non-student was issued five state citations after driving near campus with a defective muffler.

June 17

Station Info: A window in the A-wing was found broken by unknown person(s). A loss of \$150.

June 18

Other police: NEIU police arrested a youth who had broken several house windows on the 5700 block of Drake Avenue.

Accident: A state vehicle was involved in an accident near the campus. No injuries were reported. No estimate of damage given.

June 22

Theft: \$300 worth of gym supplies were reported missing from a locked cage in the P.E. building.

Suspicious Circumstances: Two non-students were located in a restricted area with a faculty member's keys which ended up having been lent to them.

June 23

Disorderly Conduct: A non-student was

arrested after becoming abusive and threatening with the staff in the D-building.

Theft: A staff member reported \$40 taken from an unlocked room in the Classroom Building by unknown persons.

June 25

Station Info: A staff member reported unauthorized use of office equipment by unknown persons.

June 26

Theft: A staff member reported a missing wallet from the Classroom Building. The wallet eventually was found, with \$60 missing.

June 28

Theft: A non-student reported his bicycle stolen from near the tennis courts. A loss of \$210.

June 30

Theft: A staff member reported the loss of a \$50 pen from an office in the D-Building. A suspect was identified.

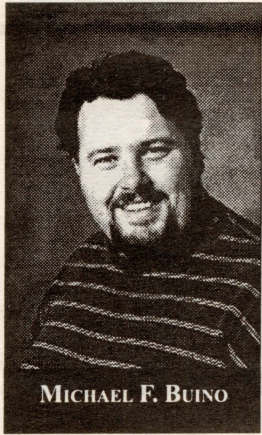
July 01

Theft: A student reported his \$350 bike stolen from a rack at the P.E. Building.

Compiled by Public Safety Officer Bob Paprocki

For jump starts, auto lockouts, and all emergencies, please contact Public Safety at extension 200

Mike's Briefs



MICHAEL F. BUINO

Get out of the lines

Lines for parking permits may be shorter this fall. Faculty and staff can now order their permits through the mail, allowing them to bypass the lines that form at the beginning of each semester. A memo with a payment form was distributed through inter-office mail detailing the process. If faculty and staff take advantage of this new offer, it will mean one shorter line for students to stand in this fall, and that would be a good thing.

Check your calendars

The Dean of Students Office is sponsoring a minority student mentoring meeting in the Golden Eagles Room, on Wednesday, July 15 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Award winning manner pays off

Judy Cascone of the Personnel Department was awarded the Employee of the Year award at the Northeastern Civil Service Awards Ceremony. President Salme H. Steinberg said, "[Judy] is recognized throughout the University for her extremely conscientious and helpful manner..." As part of the award Judy received a plaque and a \$300 check. Congratulations.

Off to the land of beer and the auto bahn

History professor, Patrick B. Miller was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship and will be teaching in Germany during the next school year.

Shakespeare on early morning radio

Has anyone caught Northeastern's radio show on WTMX-FM (101.9)? *Vantage Point* is hosted by the acting dean of the College of Arts and Sciences David Unumb. It airs in the wee hours of Sunday morning at 6:30 a.m. Topics include International Business Education in India (July 19) and Chicago's Shakespeare Theatre (July 26).

Election results are in

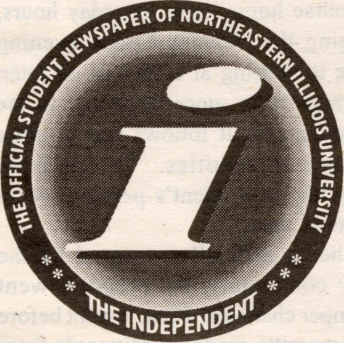
Political Science Professor John Murphy will stay on as the President of the faculty's union for two more years. He was re-elected President of Northeastern's Chapter of the faculty union (University Professionals of Illinois) local 4100 at the recent elections. Valerie Simms, also a Political Science professor, was elected to a two year term as Vice President and UPI Executive Board Representative.

Fun off campus

Looking for some fun this summer? Madonna High School will be holding their annual Family Fun Fest on July 29 through August 2. It will be held on the school ground located near Belmont and Pulaski. There will be carnival rides, games for the kids and live entertainment. For more information call the school at (773) 282-2552.

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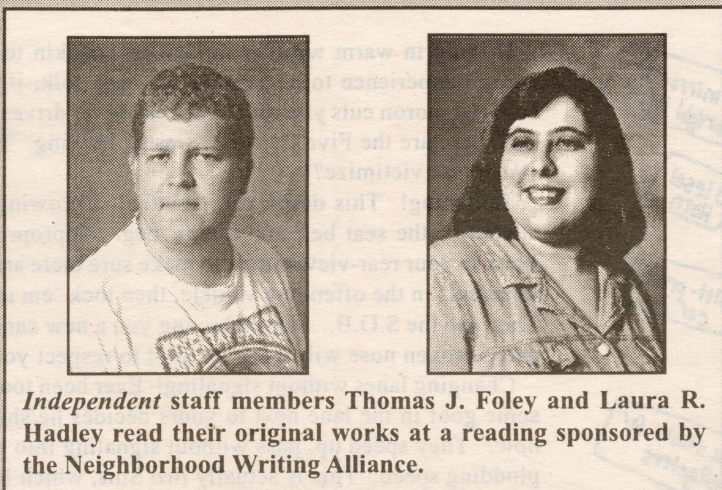
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Students perform at Chopin's Guild Complex

Two NEIU students and members of the *Independent* who have been involved with the Neighborhood Writing Alliance (NWA) got a chance to read some of their work at the Guild Complex, located beneath the Chopin Theater at 1543 W. Division on July 1, 1998.

Thomas J. Foley and Laura R. Hadley got involved with NWA through its coordinator, Debra Epstein about eight weeks ago at the Chicago Public Library's Uptown Branch. The group met once a week through the end of June on Wednesday evenings. Those involved would read works aloud to the rest of the group, who would respond with criticisms, suggestions, questions and praise. All of those involved in the group will be published soon in the *Journal of Ordinary Thought*.

The Guild Complex sponsored a reading by all of the writers who will be published in the *Journal*.



Independent staff members Thomas J. Foley and Laura R. Hadley read their original works at a reading sponsored by the Neighborhood Writing Alliance.

NWA writers from all over the city converged on the Complex to read artistic works based on the experiences of the authors. Hadley read two works, entitled *The Earth Moves* and *Alone*. Foley read one longer piece, entitled *Lock-Down*. Both works were well received by the audience of 75+.

The NWA has groups that meet at various libraries across the city. The Uptown Branch group will be continuing under the direction of author Susan House. They meet every Wednesday at the Uptown Branch of the Chicago Public Library at 6:00 p.m. New members are encouraged to attend.

Athletics

continued from page 1

In her report, Steinberg addressed a number of issues, including the information to wire the new Fine Arts Building for data and telecommunications. She presented a number of bids, the lowest of which was Ameritech's, at \$102,825, almost \$200,000 less than initially anticipated. The motion to accept Ameritech's bid was approved quickly.

She also reported on the total failure of the CIS/CARS to meet the needs of the university's financial reporting. While CARS is still used for storing and retrieving student academic files, the financial aspects of it were a complete failure. Steinberg wanted the Board to approve a selection of a new financial reporting system. Her reasons for immediate action were that CARS is not Year 2000 compatible, and the new Illinois State Procurement Law, set to take effect on July 1, might cause delays. The Board decided to discuss this matter in executive session.

Steinberg also introduced a set of goals for the period from the year 2000 until 2004, and also introduced an amended budget plan for the

fiscal year 2000. Both items were approved by the Board.

The Board meeting opened up with some tours of the CICS building, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and featuring some striking artwork in the lobby by Chicago State Professor of Art Ausbra Ford. Jesse Madison, President and CEO of the Abraham Lincoln Centre, spoke about the partnership of CICS and the Lincoln Centre on the Bridge to Work Program, designed to help welfare recipients gain meaningful employment. Madison credited Dr. Aaron Horne, CICS Director, with being very enthusiastic about this program. When told of the program and asked if CICS would be interested in helping, Horne said, "I want to do this."

Bridge to Work has increased the visibility of CICS in the surrounding community at least four-fold, according to Madison. Currently, the program has 150 people enrolled in it, most of them women, and most of them victims of rape, many incestuously.

"Truly, these women are victims of their circumstances," said Madison.

Some fall classes to be held off campus

by Jeanette Rocuant
News Editor

Students may find themselves being asked to leave campus grounds when searching for their new classes next semester.

Due to increasing enrollment, College of Education students in particular having been facing tighter classes that have been in threat of being canceled. Academic Affairs maintains that no known classes have been canceled due to the lack of space.

According to Institutional Studies, enrollment was up from 10,035 students in the fall 1996 semester to 10,224 students in the fall of 1997 semester. However, Dean Michael Carl contends that there has been a steady demand for more available classes within the College of Education.

In a move that Carl calls a "good neighbor policy," Northside Learning Center is alleviating the strain by allowing Northeastern the use of desperately needed

classroom space.

"We were afraid we were going to have to cancel classes. NEIU and Northside have had a continuing partnership for many years," explains Carl. "They were able to help us out."

"In regards to the College of Ed, we have been trying to better meet the needs of students with more classroom space. I want to make sure we have an increase in classes. When it became apparent that that was going to be a problem, Northside said they would have

rooms available and were able to work out an agreement with us."

The agreement, which was first tested in the spring of 1998, continues into the fall, with no cash exchange between the two institutions.

"Northside wouldn't charge us for heat, or air after their facilities close at four," explains Provost Estella Lopez. "We would only have to pay for their engineer because he has to stay after hours."

"We are able to open and schedule more courses during morning and

evening hours, the premium hours," explains Carl. "There's always a demand to open more courses during these hours."

Carl explains Northside is one of many organizations that are rooted in NEIU's surrounding communities who participate in the twenty-first century communities agreement. These communities participate in various exchanges and agreements between schools and business organizations. Ultimately, states Carl, these exchanges hope to increase support in education and security in youth entering the twenty-first century.

A visual tour of the Center for Inner City Studies

Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) established the Center for Inner City (CICS) in 1996 as an outreach center to serve the educational needs of Chicago's inner-city communities. Located at 700 Oakwood Boulevard in a historical building on Chicago's South Side, this campus offers academic programs leading up to a bachelor's and master's degree in Inner City Studies.

As a campus of NEIU, the Center and its programs are evaluated according to the university mission of excellence, access, and diversity. NEIU supports the academic programs and the community outreach by



Artwork from the lobby.

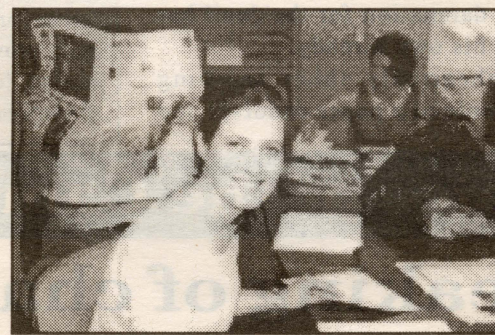


Entrance way to CICS. The building was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright.

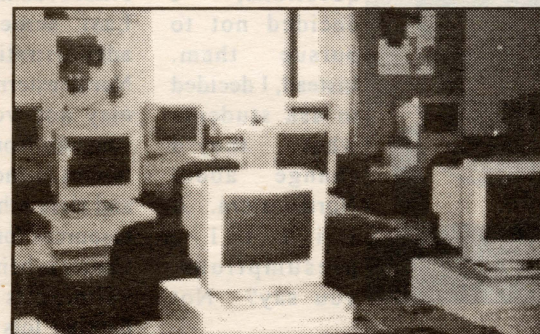
an annual state appropriation that amount to \$1,207,089 in the current 1997-98 fiscal year budget.

As of the Fall 1997 semester, there were 73 undergraduates and 33 graduate students enrolled in the degree programs in Inner City Studies Education (ICSE).

NEIU is fully committed to the enhancement of the educational outreach and the community outreach programs of CICS, consistent with the NEIU mission. The Center is strategically located to serve a full range of educational services and needs through quality academic programs, including service courses in general education, pre-university support, and literacy programs along with other services.

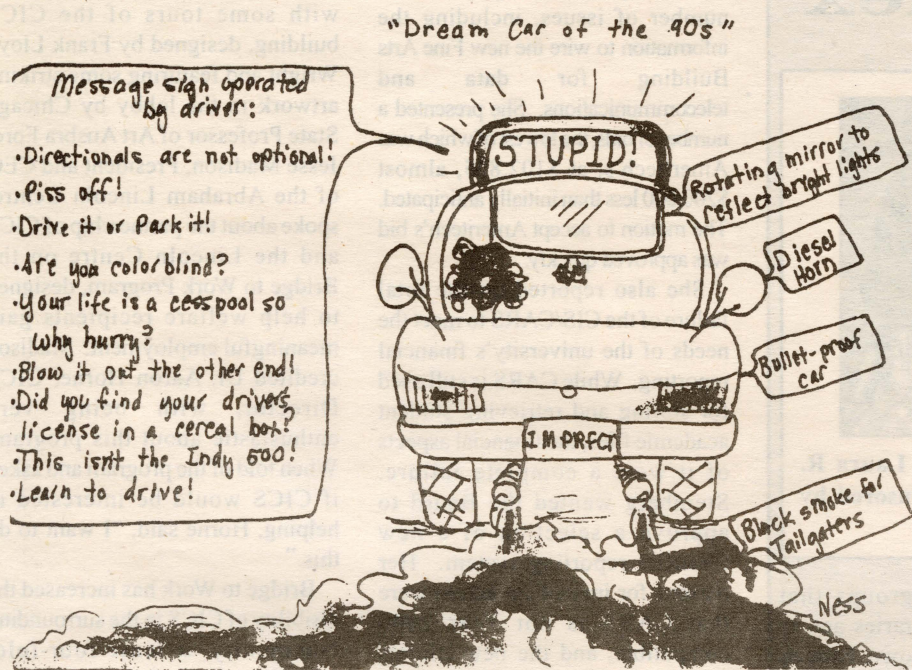


Last fall there were over 100 students at CICS.



State of the art computer facilities.

Another Perspective



Editorial

Thou shalt not tailgate

Driving in warm weather in Chicago is akin to swimming in shark-infested waters, i.e., an experience to be avoided by sane folk, if at all possible. Far too often, some colossal moron cuts you off for no reason, or drives at half the posted speed limit. At any rate, here are the Five Cardinal Sins of Driving. Transgressors beware! Do you know whom you victimize?!

Tailgating! This despicable practice is growing more and more en vogue since the advent of the seat belt and the air bag. Appropriate punishment for the transgressor: Look in your rear-view mirror to make sure there are no little kids, dogs, or other possible innocents in the offending vehicle, then lock 'em up! That's right, slam on your brakes! Then sue the S.O.B. Maybe buying you a new car, along with a severe case of whiplash and a broken nose will teach the fool to respect your space.

Changing lanes without signaling! Ever been tooling along at a respectable speed, and some goof in the lane next to yours decides he/she just *has* to get in front of you *right now*? They speed up, pass without signaling into your lane, then resume their previous plodding speed. This is actually *two* Sins, which leads me to...

Traveling too slowly for conditions! Why is it that the *nicer* the weather, the slower the fools drive? Did I miss something? Oh, sure, when it rains or snows or earthquakes, you can count on the doof in the purple Camaro in the next lane to careen down the slippery road with his bald tires at approximately a zillion miles an hour, but when a sunny July day is evident, this same macho a-hole is just *sure* to drive 20 in a 35 zone. Unless, of course, you *dare* to (legally) pass him. Then his hormones kick in, he feels offended that you don't stay behind him where you belong, and he guns past you at 50, then resumes his stately crawl. Appropriate punishment? Politely follow him to his destination and park your car. Wait until you feel the odds are good, leave your car running, and let the air out of his tires. If you can leave a note explaining your actions, so much the better.

Refusing to yield to pedestrians! Let's face it: Some ignoramuses take stop signs as suggestions not to be heeded. The fact that some parent and their three year old are crossing the street means nothing to them. They squeeze up to the white line, slow to 10 mph or so, and gun it. The fact that the aforementioned parent has to yank their aforementioned three-year-old out of the way, dislocating the poor kid's arm, means nothing to them. Hey! They're in a *hurry*, dammit. Appropriate punishment: Write down their license plate and car model, and if you run across their car again, (say in the University parking lot) puncture two or more of their tires. Leave a note explaining what kind of scum they are, and make sure to include appropriate ancestral remarks. (*Yeah, that's right weasel, it was me. Come down to the office, assuming you haven't flunked out of school, and let's see how you talk with a foot...I digress.*)

Turning left at a light without proper indication of your intentions! Ever been at a long light in the left lane, behind another (supposed) driver, and when the light turns green said motorist moves out into the intersection, brakes abruptly, then flips on his turn signal? This pea-brain is far too stupid to be allowed to procreate, but our society prohibits vasectomization without prior permission, so you're probably better served just gritting your teeth and dealing with it. After all, you're going straight, right? Too inconvenient to bother with. (footnote: I once saw a guy pull this stunt immediately in front of a police cruiser. Watching the cops pull him over and give him a ticket is one of my most treasured memories.)

There are actually several more big-time sins in driving, but I think you get the idea. Keep in mind that there are some exceptions to these sins. I'm inclined to give obvious rookie drivers a break on all of them except tailgating, and there are extraordinary circumstances and conditions that change the rules. It's only a sin if it's with intent or at least a certain callousness. In either case, the best course of action would be to prevent such people from obtaining licenses, but some obtuse, small-minded left-wing simp would argue that insensitive, dangerous hot-rodding, pedestrian killing doofi deserve a license as much as the rest of us. He'd be wrong, of course, but what do I know? After all, I've only had to suffer through the hazardous driving of callous fools for years.

ERIK SURBAUGH

Letters to the Editor

Homosexuals will pay for their sins

How many queers do you have working on your innocent school newspaper? Probably enough to appease all the fucking gays in your readership. Take a look at your front page article on the Stage Center Theatre. The Theatre is a hotbed of homosexuality. I am surprised that we do not have men having sex with men on stage. How appropriate that would be. May God have mercy on the soul of anyone who gets involved in that pit of vipers.

The *Independent* continues to work its evil in administrating to these pansy-asses and by parading their like across your pages you help make more gays each day. All of your souls belong in eternal damnation for the devil has made you his own already.

I wholeheartedly abhor anything your shit-hole of a paper endorses and

pray that the wrath of God will strike down the beast of Booty LaRoux. Anyone whom touches the *Independent* or enters the Stage Center Theatre have condemned themselves, and I hope they enjoy it in hell!

MICHAEL J. RICHARDS

Letter Policy

Letters to the Editor must be signed and contain an address and daytime telephone number for verification and no more than 250 words in length. Letters are subject to editing for style and space at the editor's discretion. The Editor reserves the right to omit any work received.

Letters are accepted through electronic mail, provided they include a telephone number for verification. The address is uindep@uxa.ecn.bgu.edu

Voice of the Campus

Speaking of change: some voices from the campus

If you could change anything about yourself, what would it be? Would you change your looks, your attitudes, or your habits? Because these are somewhat personal questions, I decided not to pursue them. Instead, I decided to ask students what they'd change about Northeastern. A little presumptuous, you say? Not really.



TRACY SOMODI

Making changes is what being a college student is all about. The college years are a time to save the whales and make world peace, along with learning how the world works. In college, many programs and schedules go on behind closed doors

without students knowing about them. If problems arise that we as students want to fix, we need to work together as a student body to make changes. Northeastern also needs to work together with students to change our school to suit our desires and needs. After all, our tuition helps keep this school running, so what we say matters. Last semester I learned how the administration system and programs of Northeastern work. Although the system may not work all the time for all the students, Northeastern has its benefits. The tuition is cheap compared to other private and state schools, and students get a lot of resources for their money. The Commuter Center is being remodeled, a new Fine Arts building is going to be built, and the parking lots are going to be made bigger and better. Even the computer labs will soon be remodeled with new software. Apparently, things are changing for the better.

With the theme of change in mind, I decided that instead of hearing my voice, I

and the rest of the campus should hear yours.

"I would change the schedule of classes. There should be more sections of classes because every time you go to register the classes you want are always closed, and you end up taking classes that you didn't plan to take," said Ludwig Lopez.

"When I first started in 1991 the biggest problem was that the administration had an agenda and the students had an agenda, which clashed. With direction the student's goals were met. When I came back, the change was that many students had good intentions to achieve their goals, but there is no strong direction," said Leenger Vargas.

"I wish they could replace all the old computers that have Windows 3.1 on them with Windows NT. The computer labs will soon be going NT so it's a wish coming true," said Manal Bodakh.

"I wish they would offer a variety of classes because if you look in the timetable lots of the time classes you want are not

offered," said Anderson Lee.

Other students have similar ideas. A few want free parking on Sundays because they have to pay \$15 to park in Lot A. Students want newer computers with newer software. They want the computer labs to stay open later than 5 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, especially around finals. Everyone said the sections of classes were either not offered or closed meaning more classes should be offered and more sections should be open. For example, many of the fall semester science classes are only offered at night.

As students we need to work together to change what we don't like. If you have a concern go to Student Government. Their main purpose is to help students solve their concerns about Northeastern, but without our voice they don't know what to fix. You can write an article for the school newspaper stating your concerns so everyone knows what needs to be changed. Students can even join a club so your opinion can be voiced. After all, change is good.

Making way for *The Nerd* at the Stage Center

by Laura R. Hadley
Staff Writer

How far would you go to make a friend feel appreciated? What if that friend was someone who saved your life at one time?

The answers to these questions are explored in *The Nerd* by Larry Shue, now being presented as part of the Stage Center Theatre's Summer Stock schedule.

It's November 4 and it's Willum Cubbert's birthday. The last thing he wants is a huge celebration. But, nonetheless, very few of us get what we want for our birthday. And in Willum's case, he gets a visit from the man who once saved his life, only to appear and put it into jeopardy again.

The stars of *The Nerd* worked hard for this show and turned in very believable performances. Most impressive was the nerd himself (Rick Steadman, played by Matt Stevens), a bumbling, short-pants wearing, stereotypical idiot who is unable to see the damage he causes. Stevens pulls off the part with quick wit and great timing. It is easy to see in him parts of nerds in our own life.

Mary Theresa Archbold (Tansy) and Kendall Kelley (Willum) play the "romantic leads" in this production and work together well to give us a relationship feel. They are able to make the audience believe how they feel about their situation, which makes the comedy bits more entertaining. Their best friend, Axel (Guy Sullivan) is played in such a way that even as a "classic curmudgeon," he is a lot of fun to watch.

The only other characters to appear on stage are members of the Waldgrave family (Pat Parks as Clelia, John Waldron as Warnock and young Zach Gray as Thor). They are quite a dysfunctional group, and every host's nightmare. Yet these actors pull it off with style. The only exception is Gray's screams in the show. It sounded more like an obnoxious child running around than a little kid scared to death.

Costuming in this show was basic



Cast members from *The Nerd* including (L-R) Kendall Kelly, Mary Theresa Archbold, and Matt Stevens are performing weekends in July at the Stage Center Theatre.

and, as usual, wonderful. It was modern and casual, yet made it clear where in the social chain each of the characters stood. Also, half of the believability in the character of the nerd stemmed from his outrageously stereotypical costuming.

The set was also basic yet, despite the size of the stage and the theatre, didn't overwhelm the audience. It was spacious and very up to date, with a 60's feel.

The lighting for this show is the only major problem that I could see. It could easily be marked as opening night jitters for those in the booth, but I found it distracting to see only half the lights go down at a time right before the beginning of the show and after the intermission. The audience seemed to have some problem with it also because they had difficulty

sensing that it was time to stop talking and prepare to observe the actors.

Another problem with the lighting was the look of the apartment lighting. It is all done in such a way that it looks like the room is lit by fluorescent lights. I found this distracting because in most cases, living space has softer, more relaxing lighting. Here, the choice was unrealistic. It made it difficult to determine the time of day or the season.

All in all I found *The Nerd* to be entertaining. It definitely fulfills expectations of theatre goers familiar with the Summer Stock productions at Northeastern. Shows run for two more weekends; July 16-18 and 23-25. Tickets and information can be obtained by calling the Stage Center Box Office at 773/794-6652.

In the mix: professionals and students combine talents

by Laura R. Hadley
Staff Writer



Students like Michael Buino (left) get a chance to work with alumni and professionals, (L-R) Tina Haglund, Pete Piane, Dan Torbica, and Eddy Patay, in the 1996 Stage Center Summer Stock Production of *Seven Keys to Baldpate*.

Although the Stage Center Summer Stock performances have always been an opportunity for professional actors and actresses to work alongside the Northeastern students, there seems to be an even larger percentage of professionals on stage this year than in the past.

The current production, *The Nerd*, is the first Summer Stock production in which there are no students in the cast. Everyone on stage is a professional and is making their Stage Center debut. *The Independent* took a moment to talk with three of the cast members and the show's director to see what their impressions of the Stage Center were.

Mary Theresa Archbold (Tansy McGinnis) was pleased with the whole production. A native of Long Island, New York, she works as waitress during the day and, in addition to being an actress, is a dancer with the Disney company. "This was a great space to work in," she told us. "The people were great too. It was a lot of fun."

Kendall Kelley (Willum Cubbert) had a more personal opinion when it came to rating the theatre. "The small space makes me feel like I'm coming

home. It's just like the college theatre in Detroit where I graduated. It's a small, intimate space."

Matt Stevens (Rick Steadman), a recent arrival to Chicago from the East Coast, agrees about the intimate space. "It's a great space. You're up close and it's easier to watch each other and the audience."

The director of *The Nerd*, Daniel Wirth, is also making his debut at the Stage Center. When asked about his experience, he told us that he felt it went well. "It had a great look to it and the performances were excellent. It was great working with so many professionals."

The experience, he feels, is a great one for the theatre students of Northeastern, on many levels. "I feel that it's important to have a summer program in university theatre," he comments. "It's a great opportunity for the students to work with the professionals."

Wirth has only one complaint. "The biggest impediment to the show was the lack of support. It was hard to hold on to the students who were part of the crew. There was a lack of commitment on their part. That's something that we need to address."

Jolene's lament

by Lior Alon
Staff Writer

Although by no means veterans, North Carolina's Jolene have already released one critically acclaimed album two years back and have now come up with the follow up release, a work of substantial quality, ambiance and content.

The indie brigade will be most pleased to realize Jolene's resemblance to some of alternative's most held in high regard stalwarts, namely Buffalo Tom and the venerable Afghan Whigs.

The word "Gloaming" brings to mind dusky images filled with sorrow, down-trodden feelings and a healthy touch of sepia tones, and granted, Jolene live up to the stereotype by a) delivering a record's worth of lamenting, sad, melody driven songs, and b) slapping exactly such sepia-toned photos all over the thing.

Well, artistic depressions aside, this should be counted as a massive

success, for *In The Gloaming* stands up well to close scrutiny, and even more so when put aside some of its rather dismal contemporaries.

The band's engine remains many-folded: an ear trained to fine tune heart-felt (but at the same time cynical) harmonies, an eye keen on aesthetic drama, chilling wordplay and, naturally, a killer steel guitar. If the name Nick Cave suddenly seems relevant, do not be alarmed.

John Crooke leads Jolene to this apex of creativity. He does all the lead vocals and apparently does justice by his front man niche. No wonder. This album truly has everything an indie fan can possibly wish for in terms of music, instrumentation, layered brilliance and sheer stylized pose. Jolene shine with sparkling guitar play (never sinking into redundant acrobatics)



coupled with the kind of air not very suitable to a July review. Good point this: Sire should put a warning sticker akin to the Explicit Lyrics one saying something about how this CD should be listened to only if it rains outside while play goes on.

People who actually care about what the man says behind the breath-taking music can look forward to a treat. Well, not a sweet see **Jolene** page 6

This ain't your parents swing!

by Madeline Kidd
Staff Writer

As the saying goes, everything old is new again.

After the resurgence of the psychedelic era, guys with long hair and classic rock full of 15 minute drum solos, the rebirth of swing is a breath of fresh air. The mere mention of the swing era conjures up sharply dressed, clean cut, rosy cheeked young adults out for a night of good, old fashioned fun.

Rewind to the dawn of the twentieth century, the southern United States. New Orleans in particular, gave birth to a new type of music, jazz. Jazz music, rooted in the musical traditions of African Americans, is identifiable by its use of brass and a tradition of improvisational and call-and-response patterns. Entering the 1920's, it became the fashion for larger and larger group of jazz musicians to play together. Eventually these groups came to be termed the "Big Band Era" and led into the 1930's and early 1940's, the age of swing.

The swing style of jazz music was popularized and developed by musicians Duke Ellington and Fletcher Henderson. Their big bands and others performed at social clubs such as New York's Cotton Club, where Ellington directed his orchestra for over 50 years, and led to the dance craze of swing. Swing dancing, like swing music, is strongly based upon improvisational techniques and took American youth by storm. Swing legend Artie Shaw said of this dance form "that's what people did in the evening, they went out and they danced. It was a polite form of sex," according to *Downbeat* magazine's July 1994 Anniversary Issue.

So, now swing is experiencing its second coming, especially in Chicago. Even better, it is easy to learn. Unlike some more structured dance styles, swing is made up of a few basic moves and a lot of imagination, and a partner is required. Swing lessons are available for reasonable prices at dance studios all over the city and suburbs and are advertised in the classifieds of papers like *The Reader*. When calling studios for lesson information, be sure to inquire whether registration is couples only and what the dress code is. If less formal instruction sounds a little better, try Liquid, located at 1997 N. Clybourn, features free swing instruction on Thursday and Sunday evenings at Liquid's "House of Swing."



Doors open at 6 p.m., lessons begin at 7:30. At 9 p.m., the learning is applied during the Big Swing that lasts all night. Saturday night also features the Big Swing at 9 p.m., but there are no lessons. Liquid bring some of the best live swing bands to their establishment on Saturday and Sunday night. The cover is \$5 before 10 p.m. and \$10 after, no hats or gym shoes are allowed in the bar. Call (773) 528-3400 for any other information.

Once the dancing techniques are perfected, why not show off? Try Olive and see how the true swingers live. Cigar friendly (of course) Olive, at 115 N. Northbranch, features live swing bands and late night dining. Olive is open from 7 p.m. until 2 a.m. Tuesday through Friday and 7 p.m. until 3 a.m. on Saturday. Reservations are encouraged and a jacket is required. Olive can be reached at (312) 280-7997.

So, why swing? Twenty-six year old Chicago swinger Sarah Statton claims, "I love to dance, but I hate the Chicago 'techno' club scene. Swing is more about charm and humor than sweat and grinding" Statton recommends Liquid, but prefers do-it-yourself swing parties. Roll back the

rugs, pop in some favorite swing CD's, perfect that martini recipe and you've got your very own swing club.

This 21 year old swinger, Jamie DiCampo, says that fashion is very important part of the swing scene as well. He warns guys against tights pants and slippers or uncomfortable shoes and reminds girls to "keep their skirts full... they need to really swing!" So, cats, stay on the latest of the latest, grab your dame and swing, baby, swing!

Sibling harmony

by Lior Alon
Staff Writer

People such as myself have always suffered from what must be known as Moderate Country Fan Syndrome. Meaning, if one finds country music quite pleasing yet cannot classify oneself as an avid, full-on country buff then trouble ensues.

Such a moderate fan will find that abuse will spring forth both from country fanatics (for not being truly dedicated to "The Cause") and from country-haters (apparently for the horrendous crime of enjoying the style on occasion). Yes, the universe is divided into two camps whenever country gets on the agenda, and pity the soul caught in the interim. Sadly, The Thompson Brothers embody the fabulous interim.

The Thompsons provide our case study with a superior example of modern country's ability to shepherd the traditionalist as well as the mainly non-country listener. Not to be confused with the new-romantic outfit with a similar name we all enjoyed to the hilt some 15 years back, these Thompsons may not be twins but simple, old fashioned and utterly natural brothers. Eschewing all grandiose claims, the band proceeds to share with us pundits their brand of down-to-earth, honest and totally refreshing country.

Loving them can't be easier, even for hardened alternative devotees as none of the corny elements so associated with regular country music can be evidenced in this body of work. In fact, their style really does border on the alternative to such an extent that the two supposedly opposing pigeonholes seem to mesh quite well. This comes across as the young trio's most magnificent achievement. They won't flinch and give up their country charm, while bringing enough refreshing additions of

Getting into the swing...

Sound as good as you look, know the lingo

- A hot plate- a good recording
- Barrellhouse- when everyone swings out for themselves
- Balloon lungs- a brass man with plenty of wind
- Break it down- get hot and go to town
- Barn- a ballroom with good acoustics
- Freak lips- a pair of kissers that wear like feather
- Gate- a greeting between musicians
- Gutbucket- low-down swing music
- Hot man- one who can swing
- Pops- greeting between musicians
- Platter- a record
- Swing out- to embellish a melody in rhythm, to lay it in the groove
- Starvation jaunt- a series of one night performances on percentage
- Take the acid- the ability to take the rough spots, to "roll with the punches"
- That correct feeling- a jig quality necessary to get in the groove
- Boogie man- swing critic
- Cats- folks who did swing music

"The Slangage of Swing"
By Carl Cons
Downbeat, November 1935

Jolene

continued from page 5

one ala Spice Girls, but rather a deliciously bitter pill of gargantuan proportions. Jolene have a lot on their minds, so expect to hear from them in days to come as 14 medium-length tracks surely cannot possibly suffice. Listing the album's strong-songs will be an exercise in futility, as all 14 will make the hit list. However, some smart alec over at Sire made sure *Pensacola* made the opening slot. The effects? Shockingly good.

As was said about those blue guys from Briar St., if you don't enjoy Jolene you must be dead, which must rank as another conundrum, for Jolene seem to draw from life's darker environs, embracing a touch of gloom and doom as they go along.

All the tracks on display here made sense and made for unfiltered audio bliss. There are words to describe such lofty height, but in our society superlatives generally get frowned upon. And speaking of tracks, the time has come for you to make some to your local CD/vinyl

emporium and get your own slice of happy misery.

MUSIC: A Prime indie guitar built on the firmest melodic foundations. Minimalist while remaining comprehensive, to the point yet totally comprehensive, Jolene's many inner contradiction will spellbind all comers.

LYRICS: A Again, Jolene indeed have a story to tell and make no qualms about it. John Croke comes up trumps as their master conduit.

PRODUCTION: A Other than clapping thunderstorm samples and one of those soothing rainfall mantra CD's playing in the background Jolene showcase winter's dark excellence with flying colors. Everything was impeccably put into place and the band work together in fine unison.

OVERALL: A Brilliant second album from Jolene leaving the dreaded second-release syndrome in the dust by being actually better than its predecessor. Proof of sorrow's positive qualities, Jolene will make the listener ache while smiling and wanting more.

the thompson brothers band



blame it on the dog

their own to warrant less accustomed buyers' affection and praise.

Blame It On The Dog's greatest strength lies in its originators' harmonic, instrumental and even (surprising for a Nashville product) lyrical prowess. The boys, having found their way to Nashville's viciously over packed gigging circuit, come out with

all guns blazing to provide an album filled to the brim with pleasant surprises and acutely addictive gems. The 11 tracks showcase all that was made possible by these former Massachusetts lads (all also former high school runners) as they go by one by one; foot-stomper after fully awake love ballad.

The Thompsons give us a glimpse into the world of next-generation country. A generation devoid of all that became stale and overly regimented. It seems likely now that an innovative strain of the genre can become a feasible reality, thus gathering with its momentum all infidels, disbelievers and other mocking birds.

The opening song, *Life's Too Short*, should be reason enough for all the hype. So can be said of others: *A Million Miles Away*, *Broken For Good*, and the Steve Early cameo appearance, *Pick Up The Tempo*. Great fun.

Everybody appreciates enjoying both worlds. Lovers of good music therefore will assuredly take to the band's ability to forge an artistic blend supported by the strong points of such an array of musical styles.

An exuberantly uplifting mix of

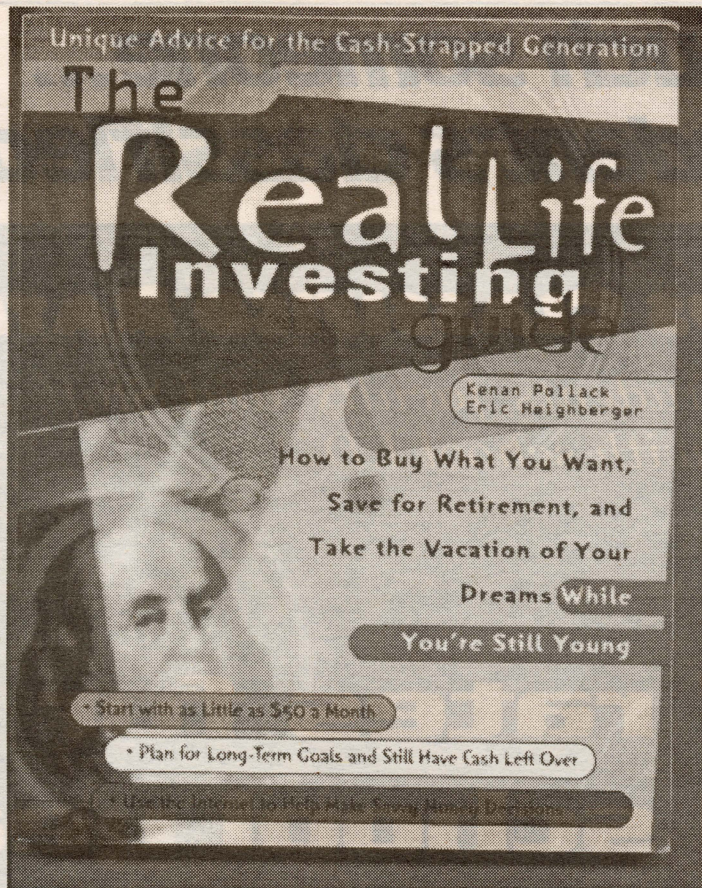
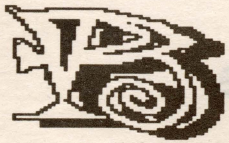
good melodies, touchy-feely lyrics (without overdoing) and sad optimism (what a concept) good for all occasions, seasons and other events.

MUSIC: B+ Driven by energies stemming from both the alt rock realm and Garth Brooks' little kingdom of country folk pop, The Thompsons' have crafted a worthy creation. Highly enjoyable, despite its obvious inability to actually turn the music world on its proverbial head.

LYRICS: B As can be expected, normally disheartened while attempting to attain a degree of girl-leaves-boy-vice-versa optimism. Not on a par with their musical attributes yet way more than simply adequate.

PRODUCTION: B+ With everything coming across sounding bold and crystal clear, there seems to be very little in the way of any major flaws or deficiencies. The trio do it all and do it well to boot.

OVERALL: B+ Unexpectedly pleasant country-alternative combo serving as another means of illuminating the possibilities hidden within the scope of a presumably aging medium.



Investing tips for Generation X

by Kristin Mesikapp
Features Editor

With the realization that Social Security would not be around when they are older, Kenan Pollack and Eric Heighberger set out to save and invest for their futures. With the knowledge they gathered, they wrote a book entitled *The Real Life Investing Guide*.

Gearred toward "the cash-strapped generation" as Pollack and Heighberger put it, *The Real Life Investing Guide* uses metaphors younger people can understand. The authors teach helpful hints and strategies to saving and investing money.

The guide is also packed with statistics you never knew you wanted to know, such as, how many Crayola crayons one uses before the age of 10. It also has interesting statistics about money and our generations perceptions. According to the book, for instance, today's youth have more faith in the existence of UFO's than social security being around when they retire.

Even if you never thought of saving for your retirement in your 20's, *The Real Life Investing Guide* gives you tips why you should and has real life stories from people who are saving and investing.

The Real Life Investing Guide does not just teach about IRA's and 401K's. It teaches everything from why saving accounts don't work to where and how to invest your money. The book explains different savings and investment options as well as terms such as liquidity, compounding, and

prospectus in a way that younger people can understand.

The book has an expert corner. For instance, did you know that it is more beneficial for you to pay off your debt before starting to save? I'm sure you were thinking this, but why? Let's say you are earning 10% in interest in your savings account. You are still losing money by paying nearly double that in finance charges.

In order to purchase stocks, you need a broker. The book describes the differences between the two major types of brokers and gives the telephone numbers and web sites of some of the most popular ones. In chapter three, *From mosh pits to mutual funds*, it explains the benefits as well as how to get started and what you need to know about mutual funds. The book teaches short term saving verses investing depending on what your long term goals are.

The book is set up in a way that you do not need to read it from cover to cover. If you are just interested in reading about stocks and bonds, you can skip to chapter two without being lost. The book not only explains the benefits of a particular means of investing, but also the disadvantages. When you jump into something, you'll have the knowledge you need so you won't be doing it blindly.

You still have to do some research because the book would be quickly outdated if it gave you stock tips. This book does not tell you everything, but it gives you the resources as well as the terminology so you can find the dollar-cost averaging, no-load mutual fund that is right for you.

THIS MAN'S WORLD

AN INVESTMENT PROGRAM THAT CAN'T FAIL

I once worked with someone who would run out to a sports collectable shop every day at lunch. When he arrived back at work, he'd proudly show everyone his new acquisition. He'd hold out a rare 1963 baseball card encased in a special plastic sleeve depicting some rookie no one's ever heard of who retired 20 years ago. He would proudly state that he'd paid \$1200 for the card and display it as if he were holding Abe Lincoln's ticket stub from the Ford Theater.

It wasn't the fact that he'd paid \$1200 for a baseball card that intrigued me, it was the fact that he paid \$1200 for a baseball card and somehow seemed *happy* about it. I didn't realize at the time that in actuality he was making an investment in future security. As long as he kept frequenting that little shop and buying those \$1200 baseball cards, the man that owned the shop would be assured of having plenty of security in his future.

This revelation came to me recently when I received a telephone call from a broker who supplies his clients with information about small companies that will soon go "public" and become gigantic major corporations like Microsoft, Lockheed, IBM and Starbucks. Up until that call, I dabbled

in stocks and futures in my own small way. Without actually knowing what I was doing I was still able to receive some large dividends on my holdings. As a result, my aluminum stock has multiplied tremendously. I started with nothing, and just a few months later I have filled the barrel in the garage half full with beer cans. I'm sure that when the market reaches its full potential and it's time to sell my holdings (that's the secret to these high yield investments), I may have enough in profits to buy a *full* six-pack.

I have also done very well with my investment portfolio of rare match books, some of which are now worth as much as two dollars. Currently I am considering diversifying and going into the growing field of humorous refrigerator magnets.

The broker explained that stock in many new companies on the fast track today could have been picked up for a "song" previous to their going public. They always talk about the "song" but they never mention what "song" they're talking about. *Up A Lazy River* sticks in my mind for some reason. I must admit that he is right about knowing just the right time to get in on "the ground floor" another term they bandy about. Getting in on the ground floor simply means you buy into the company while they still have less money than you do.

For example, today Viagra is selling for about \$10 a pill, so therefore their shares have sky-rocketed. If I had invested in the pharmaceutical company when they began this research, my bank account would have swelled like... well you get the idea.

Buy low, sell high. That's how they get rich. It's really like going to Las Vegas in a way. If the little ball rolls into the red slot, you make money, if it lands in the black—the house does. The one difference in stocks and futures is that *you* make the choices, not the little ball. To fully understand this concept, let's listen in on a typical conversation between an investor and his broker:

Investor: Hi Sam, this is Buck. What looks good today?

Broker: My secretary; she just got her upper lip waxed on her lunch hour. (Sound of one broker laughing) Actually Buck, I have a new management strategy that's sure to turn your marketing fiduciary acquisitions into a highly lucrative, fully liquid, yet gaseous prospectus which stays fully Pro Forma, Provolone, and yet still has the potential to remain Anti-pasta, all without unnecessary risk to terra-firma and Uma Thurman. In this manner you, and other investors like you, can incorporate your investment dollars into an enormous conglomerate with tremendous developmental potential for maximum saturation in a growth market which has not yet matured into the full expansion horizons of the speculative outreaches of its capabilities in the mainstream. This in turn provides even small investors an avenue where they can maximize their gluteus for a few fish and a handful of shekels. Is this of interest to you?

Investor: Yes, I was thinking my sister might be highly interested. Where did you say your secretary got her upper lip waxed?

Of course this is not a typical conversation, sometimes by the time the broker is finished speaking, the investor needs to be woken up. As soon as the investor expresses interest in the prospectus, a contract is mailed out. This can be anywhere from two concise pages to more material than Kenneth Starr's collected on Bill and Monica. Read this contract carefully, because once you have signed it, you may be agreeing to purchase *anything* your broker feels may be a good investment for you, including the 1975 Pinto he's had in the garage since his brother-in-law was extradited.

If you invest wisely, you may be able to prepare for your retirement and not have to rely on the \$17 a month Social Security has wisely salted away for you. Choose well and you and your spouse can enjoy life well into your golden years, which means you won't have to worry about the high cost of a large buttered popcorn with extra yellow grease when you go to see *Lethal Weapon XVII*.

I won't have a thing to worry about; aluminum is on a steady climb and I just finished another beer.



JOHN ROSSI

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