

11-21-2000

## Independent- Nov. 21, 2000

Tim Hill

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SINCE 1988 | 3 TIME 1999-2000 ICPA AWARD WINNER | CHICAGO, ILL.

# Independent

Vol. 17 Issue 7

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Tuesday, November 21, 2000

## International Day honored by NEIU community

by Maria Medina  
Staff Writer

Northeastern, the most ethnically diverse university in the Midwest, held its International Day Festival on Thursday, November 9, 2000. The ethnic festivity was brought together by the Foreign Language and Literature Departments, as well as by the many ethnic clubs and student organizations on campus. This event is held every year to recognize and celebrate the diversity of ethnic backgrounds

that Northeastern is composed of.

Beginning at 10 a.m. Thursday, the university students, faculty, and staff had a chance to mingle with one another and learn about each other's ethnic backgrounds by bringing traditional dishes from their culture, performing native dances, and dressing up in native attire representing their culture.

One of the clubs that participated in this cultural event was the Chimexla Student Union. Chimexla stands for CHicano, MEXicano and LATino Student

Union. Unlike the other clubs and student organizations on campus, Chimexla did not perform any type of cultural dance, did not sing a song, or perform artistically for their representation of culture. Instead, they stood on the platform in protest of the struggles that many of the Latin American countries are currently facing. Due to the rules of Northeastern's International Day Festival that Chimexla had exceeded, which are of not engaging in any political issues during the event, Chimexla was asked to leave the platform by Dr. Flora Llacuna, director of the festivity.

The next student organization to perform was the Korean American Student Association. They began with a traditional sword dance, which was performed by Keith Jennings, followed by a modern Korean dance by the president of the student organization and two other female members. The trio sang songs and incorporated dance to the melodies.

Four ladies wearing beautiful costumes representing the Latino Students for Computer Science  
**See International**  
continued on page 3



(Above) Representatives of European cultures from times past align at the festival. (Right) Many celebrated this day in dance.

## One student body against disease

## Peace in faith

by Chris Vogt  
Staff Writer

by Zeenat Desai  
News Editor

Diabetes, breast cancer, heart attack, and strokes; these are just some of the diseases that were covered at the annual Northeastern Health Fair held on November 8 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.. Northeastern has been facilitating this event for the last seven years.

The main focus of this fair is the education of the community and students about dangerous but alarmingly common diseases that directly or familiarly effect people every day. Jessica Lettow, Director of Health Services, has been conducting the Health Fair for two years.

Why would it be important for students to worry about health issues at the young and "indestructible" college age? "Because we have done a good job of teaching students how to prevent diseases such as diabetes, breast cancer, et cetera," Lettow said.

At the fair, one could explore different tables dedicated to different afflictions and their treatments, including information on all sorts of diseases. One could also get a massage and see how well one

washes their hands to prevent manual spreading of germs to vulnerable areas, such as the eyes, nose, and mouth, or to others. Also available were flyers on heart attacks, strokes, breast cancer, diabetes, and other diseases. Experts were on hand to discuss the causes and prevention of these afflictions with Health Fair-goers on every level.

One informative handout in particular available at the fair was a self-care guide for students. The index included common health problems such as acne, asthma, colds, coughs, eating disorders, HIV, and other pressing health concerns.

According to the guide, Dave S. of the University of Michigan says, "Treat your symptoms before they get out of control. Don't feel too proud to get treatment. Know your limits! Remember to follow all of your doctor's instructions and don't be afraid to ask questions."

For colds and flu, the guide says that if you have meningitis, some of the signs are fever, stiff neck (you can't bend your chin forward to touch your chest), nausea or vomiting, sleepiness and/or confusion, headache, and occasionally a purple or red,

bumpy skin rash.

For coughs, coughing clears the lungs and airways. Coughing is only a symptom, not a disease. There are three kinds of coughing: Productive, which brings up mucus or phlegm; Non-productive, which is just a dry cough; and Reflex, which is a cough that comes from a problem elsewhere on the body, like the ear or stomach.

Warning signs of a heart attack are uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing, or pain in the center of the chest that either lasts more than a few minutes, or goes away and comes back. Pain that spreads to the shoulders, neck, or arms may indicate imminent heart attack, as well as chest discomfort with lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, nausea, or shortness of breath.

Another student-oriented affair Health Services is holding later in the Fall semester is the Student Stress Free Zone during finals week, December 12 through 14 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. in Room SU-214. In years past, students at the Stress-Free Zone were able to enjoy a massage, aromatherapy, yoga, and relaxing, New Age music to take their minds off of pressing final exams.

NEIU hosted the second annual Inter-Faith Program, "Many Paths: One Destination: Peace," from November 13th-16th, 2000. The program was aimed to "promote a positive role of understanding and tolerance as a healing and constructive force in life," as said in the Mission Statement.

The four-day program included a variety of panels, including "Campus Dialogue on Religion," which consisted of NEIU students and faculty sharing their insights on their respective faiths. Various other panels were articulated into divisions containing Christianity, Islam, Catholicism, Judaism, Bahai, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. Another panel, entitled "Spiritual Healing: Yoga and Meditation" focused on achieving inner peace through conquering "personal sufferings" of illness, mental stress and depression.

"Lessons to be Learned from Religious Diversity" was a panel in which representatives of Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism, and Jainism discussed the diversity of religious tradition, placing emphasis on understanding and learning from one another in a

city that maintains the greatest religious diversity in the entire world.

The event included "Voices of the Millennium-Jubilee Celebration," an evening of song and dance aimed to "speak to the heart and mind" in Alumni Hall.

Dean Murrell J. Duster, Chair of the Inter-Faith Program, organized the event with a number of faculty members. In the finale of the Program, Duster paid tribute to Dr. Asad Husain, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, who had aided in the first annual Inter-Faith Program but was unable to participate in the second due to a recent stroke that he is now recovering from.

As Ronald Brown, a former graduate student at NEIU commented, "One only has to take a glance at newspapers and news programs to see the painful consequences of religious intolerance," continuing that events such as the Inter-Faith Program were essential in endorsing dialogue within groups. The Program succeeded in promoting an opportunity to learn, respect, tolerate, and understand other religions as a renovating and constructive force in life. The Inter-Faith Program proved to revitalize cross-cultural experiences for many.



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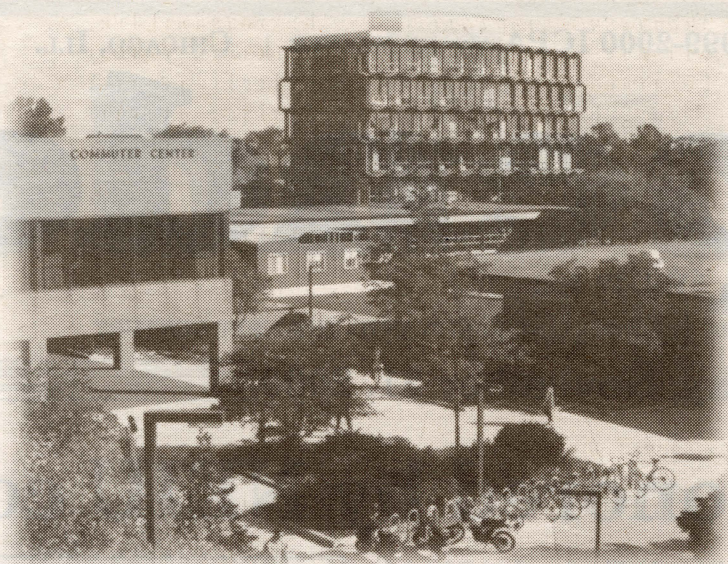
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The Independent is published every two weeks except during finals and semester breaks. Deadline is one (1) week prior to the issue in which a contribution is to appear. The views expressed in letters to the editor are those of the university community,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

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# AROUND CAMPUS



## Solar Energy Day

A new student organization on campus, The Sustainable Land Use Group (S.L.U.G.), invite students and faculty to participate in Solar Energy Day on November 30th.

The event will involve solar energy speakers and an exhibit in the village square. Also, S.L.U.G. urge other clubs with issues related to the subject of energy use to bring their related materials and/or a representative from the club to join them.

If interested, please contact Serenity Wehrenberg ASAP at: [s-wehrenberg@neiu.edu](mailto:s-wehrenberg@neiu.edu)

## Tuesday pursuits

Michael Kelly, Dean of Students, will present NEIU students Jemimah Noonoo and Scott Plencner as part of the Tuesday Talks. Tuesday Talks is a part of the 2000-2001 Faculty/Staff Lecture Series.

Noonoo and Plencner will talk about their participation in the

Pursuit of the Presidency program that took them to a national political convention and will take them to the Presidential Inaugural Ceremony in Washington, D.C. in January 2001.

The event will take place on Tuesday, November 28, 2000 at 1:40 p.m. in Student Union Room-214.

## A leg up to 25 years

Ensemble Espanol Spanish Dance Theater, in residence at NEIU, is hosting a 25th anniversary kick off benefit, with proceeds going to Ensemble Espanol's Scholarship Program.

The event includes a holiday performance of "Flamenco Passion," a Cuadro Flamenco, performed by Ensemble, the All City "JR" Ensemble and the Jones Academic Magnet Choir. Special prizes, Latin dancing by Orquesta Arabu, and refreshments including tapas and wine are on

the agenda for the celebration.

The event will take place at the Chicago Cultural Center, Yates Gallery, 4th floor (entrance- 77 East Randolph Street), on December 8th from 6 p.m.-11 p.m. Admission is \$25.00, and honorary chairs for the event include President of NEIU Salme Steinberg, Governor George Ryan, Mayor Richard Daley, and Consul General of Spain Rodrigo Aguirrer de Carcer. For reservations, call (773) 794-ARTS (press #4).

## Flamenco workshops offered in A-Wing

Flamenco dance workshops for adults and children are being offered by Ensemble Espanol Spanish Dance Theater in the Dance Studio at NEIU (A-Wing). Workshop faculty includes Dame Libby Komaiko, founder and artistic director; Irma Suarez Ruiz, and Jorge Perez, first dancers and choreographers; and Sara Samuels, company dancer.

Beginners classes consist of Flamenco Technique and Repertoire (Sevillanas and Tangos), and will be held on Thursdays from 7 p.m.-8:15 p.m.,

ongoing through December 7th. The fee is \$12 per class, and \$10 for students.

Intermediate classes consist of Flamenco Technique and Repertoire (Alegrias, Buleria and Sevillanas) and will be held on Tuesdays from 7 p.m.-8:15 p.m., ongoing through November 28th, with the same fee rates. Flamenco dance for students, grades 1 through 8, will be held on Saturdays, from 10 a.m.-11 a.m., and are \$10 per class. For more information, call (773) 583-4050, ext. 3015.

# NOVEMBER EVENTS

- November 21
- Chimexla Videos - *Children in Debt* and *Ninos de Esperanza*
- Black Caucus Bake Sale
- November 28
- Chimexla Videos - *Sixth Sun*
- NPB Coffeehouse featuring *Patchouli*
- November 29
- Student Council for Exceptional Children Bake Sale
- November 30
- Chimexla Videos - *Paradise Invaded* and *The Nationalists*



## WATCH OUT! Deadline coming

Deadlines for the Independent are one week prior to the date of publication. The following is a list of remaining publication dates for the Fall 2000 semesters

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

**One issue left  
this semester!  
December 5**

## Hot tip?



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

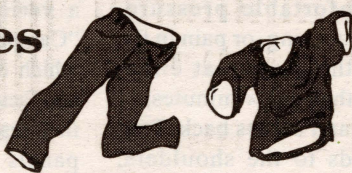
Do you know something we don't? Tip us off about news affecting the NEIU community by calling (773) 794-2812 or e-mail us at [T-Independent@neiu.edu](mailto:T-Independent@neiu.edu)

## ALL UNIVERSITY CHARITY DRIVE

October 31, 2000 - January 12, 2001  
Drop off donations in Village Square



**Needed:**  
Clothing  
Non-Perishable Food  
Toiletries  
Toys



Sponsored by the Student Volunteer Corps, Dean of Students Office, Office of Student Affairs



Co-Sponsored by the Student Activities Office, Alpha Kappa Alpha, Chimexla, The Independent, Sociology Club, Student Council for Exceptional Children, Student Government Association, Sustainable Land Use Group, and the Northeastern Programming Board

# New exciting partner workshop offered

Is your relationship where you want it to be? Do you ever find yourself wishing that there was a greater sense of intimacy between you and your partner? Are you often unable or unwilling to share your feelings with your partner? Are there painful areas of conflict between the two of you that just never seem to get resolved? Do you sometimes even wonder whether your relationship will

work out at all? If you've answered yes to any or all of these questions, the good news is that you are not alone. Many of these difficulties have been present, at some point or another, in most people's relationships. The bad news is that each issue, if not dealt with, can eventually have a negative impact on your relationship. Rarely has there been an opportunity to get help on these issues without feeling isolated—as if you and your partner were the only couple in the world facing these difficulties—until now. Bring your partner and join other couples in an innovative new workshop series, co-led by Vickie Evans and Yehuda Krohn, entitled *Just the Two of Us*. This monthly workshop provides an informative and interactive format, wherein you

can learn vital relational skills (and even practice them) in a safe and friendly atmosphere. The first workshop of the series is entitled *Sharing and Enjoying Meaningful Communication*. It will take place on Monday, December 4, from 5 to 7 p.m. The following is a tentative schedule of the entire series of workshops. Each will take place on Monday evenings from 5 to 7 at the Student Union: Room 218.  
 December 4, 2000: *Sharing and Enjoying Meaningful Communication*  
 January 22, 2001: *Intimacy: Close Up & Personal*  
 March 20, 2001: *Healthy Conflict Resolution*  
 April 23, 2001: *What each partner needs to know about violence in the home.*

Evans and Krohn, both of whom are interns at the NEIU Counseling Office, have training and experience in working with couples, as well as individuals. Aside from their professional skills, each leader is grounded by her/his personal experiences of being in a long-term relationship. Whether you and your partner are already in a long-term relationship or you've just started out, the *Just the Two of Us* workshop series has something special to offer you. To register, call Vickie or Yehuda at the Counseling Office: 773-794-6269. Vickie and

Yehuda would be glad to address any of your questions and/or comments. You can also reach them by e-mail at [y-krohn@neiu.edu](mailto:y-krohn@neiu.edu).

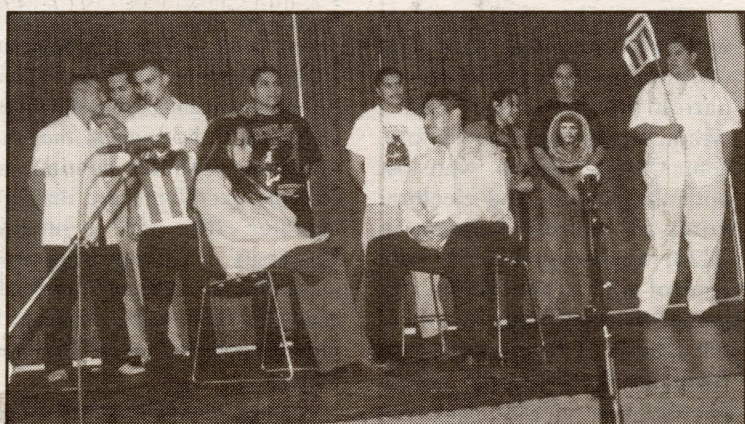
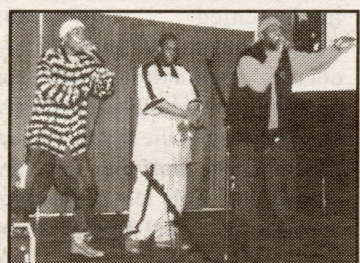
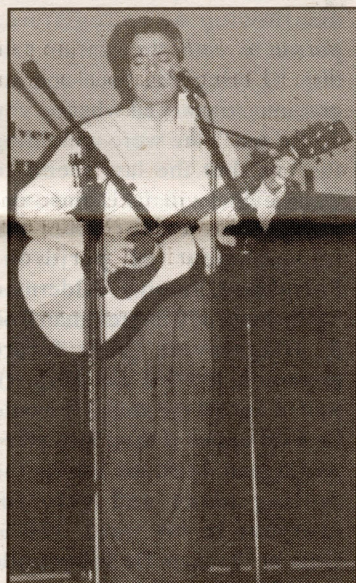


## International continued from page 1

(LSCS) performed a Folkloric Ecuadorian Dance. The International Day Festival was celebrated to bring together the array of cultures represented in the Northeastern community and to learn more about each other. By exchanging food, information, sharing different dances, and performing cultural arts, this event allows people of diverse origins to understand other cultural backgrounds and appreciate the multi-faceted makeup of Northeastern Illinois University.



Further proof that pride in one's culture takes many forms among students and faculty/staff.



Many spectacles of culture and ethnicity were on display upon the International Day platform.



## Islamic Awareness Week a success

by Zeenat Desai  
News Editor

The Muslim Student Association (MSA) held the annual *Islamic Awareness Week* the week of November 6, 2000. The program consisted of a luncheon/lecture, an information booth, an art exhibit, and an ethnic bake sale.

The first day of the program, November 6th, featured a lecture in Alumni Hall with a guest speaker. The lecture, entitled "Allah: The Source of All Contentment and Peace," covered the Islamic principles of God and His direct relation to every individual. After the lecture, the MSA hosted a luncheon that was open to the entire University.

A booth was operated throughout the week by members of the Muslim Student Association. The booth consisted of free pamphlets and books on Islam, as well as informative tapes and videos on various topics pertaining to Islam.

"I thought it was really interesting. All of the material they provided was very informative," said Amin Panjwani, a student at NEIU.

The two-day Art Gallery, located in Student Union 003 (Cafeteria Room), included a spectacle of Islamic artifacts from

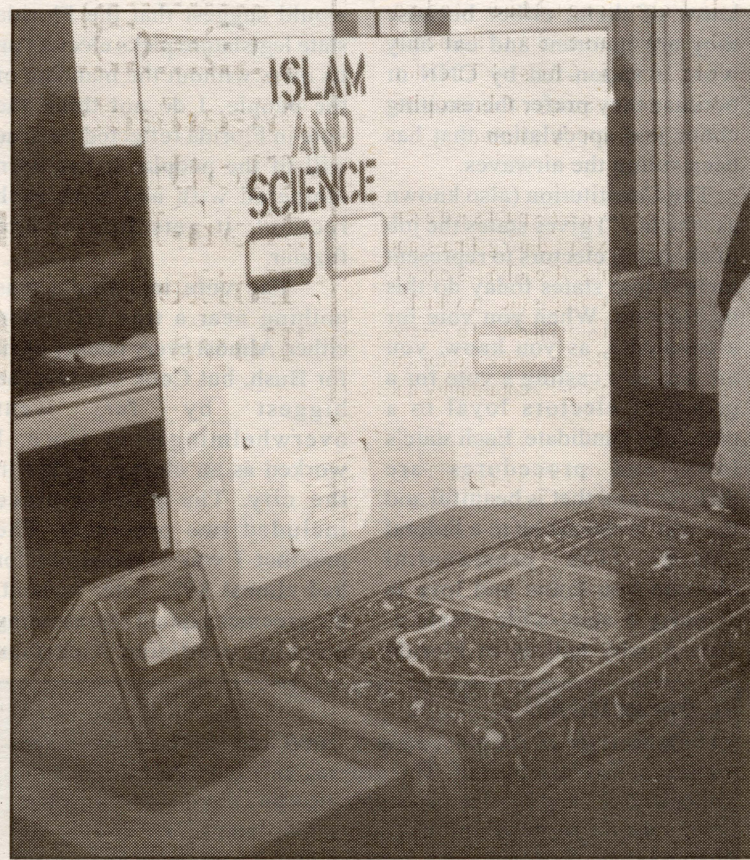
countries all over the world, including Sudan, Spain, India, Pakistan, plus other Middle Eastern and European countries among others. With its festive array of rugs, cultural garments, and portraits, the gallery was a hard sight to miss. Amid all the cultural artifacts existed a display showing the existence of Islam in the field of Science.

"It was very beautiful," student Venoncia Bate commented.

Students and faculty also enjoyed the ethnic bake sale, located in the Village Square, which included snacks and desserts from Muslim countries throughout the world.

The week came to its end with congregational Friday prayer; Friday prayer is administered by the MSA every week in Building A room 118, and the MSA welcomes all to attend or observe. Currently, the MSA meets every Tuesday and Thursday during activity hour in the Fine Arts room 203; meetings are open to all.

The week turned out to be successful for the MSA and very informative for the students and faculty. It allowed an opportunity for various cultures and religions to get to know one another through intermixing at the various events sponsored by the MSA.



Islamic Awareness Week discussed many issues involving their beliefs, including those of scientific theory.

# PERSPECTUS

## The Constitution will prevail

by Scott Plencner  
Staff Writer

It has been absolutely inescapable, and it's hard not to surrender. The news anchors, talking heads, and journalists are whipped up into a frenzy trying to right the wrongs they did on Election Night by accurately covering every last second of the slowest developing news story in history, the recounts in Florida. Their attitude would have us think that the nation is in peril. The experts that they must get from local mental wards keep telling us we are having "a constitutional crisis." For those few of you who still care, there is no crisis. There is no turmoil. Everything is okay, at least, so far. For the most part, the process is under control, so turn off your TV, get off the political roller coaster, and do something productive with your life.

A co-worker of mine came back from a trip to London where the presidential elections dramatically made the front page of every daily (But that's another story.) She said that when people found out she was American, they joked, asking her if we were ready to "rejoin the commonwealth."

Although the news media would probably like there to be a dramatic constitutional crisis and often try to make it look as if we are a confused mess, Queen Elizabeth shouldn't count on the colonies returning to her. The Constitution is pretty clear about what the law is, regarding presidential elections. There is a process and it is intact, although imperfect. The framers thought of just about every possible situation and gave us a general guide with which to work. The words of the law are clear and inarguable, but few people know of them, either because they are ignorant and eat only what is spoon-fed by CNN or because they prefer the exciting chaos and speculation that has been ruling the airwaves.

The Constitution (also known as "the law") gives states the job of choosing electors to represent them. Most states today do this by election. When you vote for a candidate, as you know, you are actually casting a vote for a group of electors loyal to a particular candidate. Each state's laws and procedures are different and that is beautiful and the way it should be in a federal nation. (The presidential election you know and love is actually a state-wide election. This is why ballots in Florida

look little like they do in Illinois.) Basically, the Constitution says each state has to decide who to appoint as electors before, what this year will be, December 18th, and most states have already done so. Florida has a little less than one month to pick out electors. There is no need to rush and no need to run around like madmen unless Florida has not appointed anyone on December 18th.

Even if this does happen, everything will be okay and democracy will remain intact. The Constitution has provided for this. All fifty states do not need to be represented in order for there to be a president. We can do this without Florida. The election of 1864 saw eleven Southern states including Florida fail to appoint electors, but we still had a president and the Constitution remained intact. Three states sat out the election of 1868. If Florida does not send electors, Al Gore will have a majority of the electors appointed on election day (Dec. 18) and so will legally win the election. (Article II, Sec. 1) This could be why he is trying to forstall the certification in Florida and why Bush, the winner by over three hundred votes last time I checked, is trying to hurry it along. If the certification is tied up in court then Gore will win.

The presidency legally will not go to the Speaker of the House if things aren't cleared up and I really am not sure where this talk of Strom Thurmond as president came from. The man with the majority of trunk. Bags of ballots have been discovered. Jesse Jackson is nearby (always a good indicator of fiasco). Chads are being taken off by election judges. Spoiled ballots are being counted. Florida's election process is a mess and I would suggest that the Florida state legislature picks electors on its own, without the mandate of the people. I do not think the vote in Florida reflected the true will of the people. It has been tampered with and with each recount, it gets fuzzier and fuzzier.

The vote in Illinois was nothing near a true reflection either. Almost every county went for Bush, but Cook County, the biggest by far, went overwhelmingly to Gore. I worked as an election judge in the city. The polling place included two precincts. The precinct I was responsible for had almost 80% voter turnout, the precinct captain representing machine politician Alderman

Mell's ward across the room boasted 130% voter turnout.

Everyone in Alderman Mell's ward got to vote at least once. I saw as they filled out affidavits after affidavit to allow people unregistered and one, who was a citizen of Ecuador, to vote in the election. I saw as the judges in Mell's district allowed politicians to electioneer at the polling place, at one point electioneering themselves. I watched Mell's judges help people punch their ballots (and not the sample ballots as mandated by law) in what I thought was a secret election. A precinct captain told me that the city politicians had a lot riding in this election. He excitedly told me that because Mayor Daley's brother would probably be Gore's chief of staff that it might mean federal jobs for a lot of city politicians.

This is the same precinct captain who poured food out for the election judges. When one of them tried to uphold the law by disallowing an unregistered person to vote, the captain told him, "I bring you food and am gracious to you and what do you do for me?" We were upholding the law, but the law seems to mean nothing to the Democratic party (The author cites the impeachment of perjurious President Clinton.) Alderman Mell, uncle of Congressman Rod R. Blagojevich (your future governor, if Mell can help it), pulled out all the stops. It would be a lot easier if they just asked Alderman Mell to sit in the polling place and vote for everyone in his ward. 130%! Only in Chicago. De Tocqueville would have a field day.

Whoever becomes president will have to contend with a lot of criticism from at least half the nation that will label him a tyrant. It has happened before. John Quincy Adams, who lost both the popular and electoral votes to Andrew Jackson in 1824, was never able to take control of his presidency. He gained the presidency by way of the House of Representatives. Benjamin Harrison, who lost the popular vote in 1888, but won the electoral against Grover Cleveland, endured a forgotten four years and, like Adams, was succeeded by the man he defeated.

Presidents who attain the presidency by such questionable elections meet great adversity and move nowhere fast. A President Gore or a President Bush may already find himself in Clinton's place as a lame duck. Whatever the case, boys and girls, rest assured that the Constitution will prevail and will be back intact and complete with the fairness of the electoral college in 2004. Just be sure next time to study the ballot a little more carefully and never to believe Tom Brokaw again.

## Registered Nurses wonder how they'll handle more work

by Iris Giannakis  
Staff Writer

This story may sound familiar to you. A friend you know went to the doctor for her test results and was told that everything was fine. Then she visited the doctor again two months later after being rushed to the hospital. You find out that your friend has had a terminal cancer for some time. You wonder why the nurses didn't catch this sooner. Well, I have a news flash for you: Mistakes like that will continue to happen.

Once again, we hear that the University of Chicago Hospitals are further cutting the already overworked staff trained to assist registered nurses. Officials decided on October 31 that they are eliminating the jobs of 140 nurses' aides. This is a dramatic experiment undertaken by the University of Chicago, as well as other hospitals, to replace highly trained registered nurses with less costly, unlicensed assistants, many whom are high school dropouts. Wait a minute. . . high school dropouts being hired as nurses' assistants? That sounds very scary, unethical, and disgusting. Why should we trust these hooligans to treat us and trust them with what they say? If reality slapped them in the face, they wouldn't know what to do, let alone help you if you were choking to death.

There are no plans to hire more nurses to compensate for the fired aides. The cutbacks are already placing a great burden on existing nurses, as well as, compromising patient safety. According to Hospital spokesman John Easton, "Patient care will be maintained by improved efficiency." To suggest that the remaining staff can continue to provide excellent care through "greater efficiency" is lunacy. University of Chicago registered nurses fear that increased workloads caused by the absence of aides will raise the potential for fatal medical errors.

Nursing, the profession of caring for the sick, injured and the elderly,

is a monumental job for one person to tackle. No matter how well-trained, two hands are not enough. Caring for more than one patient at one time is impossible. Paperwork is neverending and the hours on the clock are not enough for work that never ceases.

That's where the aides come into play. Aides' duties included monitoring patients, answering patients' calls, delivering hot meals and transporting patients. They provide a second pair of eyes and ears for nurses who find themselves overburdened with daily duties. Now that the aides are gone, that's more work on the nurses already overflowing, never-ending plate of work.

Nationally, hospitals are struggling to pay for staffing and to provide patient services. A third of all hospitals have sunk to dangerous levels with staff reductions. If practitioners are concerned about the rate of medical errors, they need to place emphasis and money where it is needed most: retaining and hiring more health-care staff. The one portion of any budget that should never be cut is the medical staff, be it physicians, nurses or their assistants. Instead, savings can be achieved by eliminating two or three of the top administrators' positions. It is likely that this action would have no negative effect on patient care. What's more important: the administrator having a luxurious car to show off to the beggars in the streets, or the commitment to good medicine of paramount importance to patients?

Hospital officials said they have implemented numerous improvements to assure that doctors' medication orders are properly cross-checked by nurses. How can they assure anything when the remaining staff they have are burned out? This leaves the door open for more fatal mistakes to be made. What business do these hospitals have to stay open? Cheaper is not better, not when it's at the patients' expense.

*Non-opinionated details courtesy of the Chicago Tribune*

### QUOTABLES

*We must know that we have been created for greater things, not just to be a number in the world, not just to go for degrees and diplomas, this work and that work. We have been created to love and be loved.*

**Mother Theresa**

*The beauty of a woman is not in a facial mole, but true beauty in a woman is reflected in her soul.*

**Audrey Hepburn regarding "Beauty Tips"**

*I resist anything better than my own diversity,  
And breathe the air and leave plenty after me,  
And am not stuck up, and am in my place.*

**Walt Whitman, from Leaves of Grass**

*I think the American people want a solemn ass for president. And I think I'll go along with them.*

**Calvin Coolidge**

### Correction:

The editorials in the November 7, 2000 issue of the *Independent* were incorrectly placed. The articles entitled "Palestinians are unpeaceful" and "Religious rights just one condition for peace" were meant to be opinions pieces for *Perspectus*, and do not necessarily represent the view of the editorial board of the *Independent*. We apologize for the confusion.

# Lies, lies, all lies

Three weeks ago, I accomplished the biggest farce since the O.J. Simpson trial. I wrote perhaps the most disgusting article ever conceived. The most amazing thing is, you people bought it. You all bought. Hook, line, and sinker. Suckers!

You didn't *really* think I changed my ways, did you? You silly peons all thought I found God. Every single day, since my last article ran, people have come up to me and asked if I meant what I said. I thought I made the sarcasm very clear, but I must have overestimated the intelligence of my readers. Or I just really suck at writing.

Can you imagine someone like me finding *God*? Poppycock! I haven't experienced anything even remotely religious in my entire life. God does not exist in my eyes, nor will He ever. I've walked down this road thousands of times, and I won't again. So, I still don't believe in God.

Three weeks ago, when I sat down to write that fetid pile of crap, (see *From the Bottom of My Heart*, last issue), I became physically ill while I was writing it. Stomach cramps and waves of nausea pervaded my senses as I scribbled down lie after lie. My only concern was seeming too full of crap. I wanted to try to fool people, but I thought that perhaps the poem I included may have tipped off some readers. I was wrong, for once.

*Ode to a Kitten* is a travesty of the literary arts. The co-author and I were laughing our asses off while we wrote that sickeningly sweet garbage. We both agreed that if anything in that article would give away my lies, it was *Ode to a Kitten*.

But, again, my readers were fooled. Not all of them, mind you. About 30% of my couple dozen readers recognized the lies, and laughed them off. But the vast majority swallowed the whole, steaming pile.

Why did I do this, you may ask? For one very simple reason. When I first started writing *Voice of the Campus*, over a year ago, I received letters about my articles every week. Mostly hate mail, which I prefer. It's far more interesting to read about people who hate me, and believe me, there are plenty of them. So, I continued writing, and people continued hating me. Life was good.

Alas, as is the case with all the joy in my life, happiness was temporary. People stopped writing to me. I turned up the controversy in my articles, trying to stimulate people to write again, but nothing. People seemed to be finally accepting me, and I can not allow that.

I considered quitting, since writing to a ghost audience carries little interest to me. Luckily (or unluckily, depending on your point of view), one of my friends convinced me to simply reverse my perspective and try to confuse my audience. So, I did. It seemed to work, too. I still didn't get letters, but I had numerous people coming up to me in the halls and asking me about it. That is an acceptable substitute to getting letters.

I still may quit, though. Writing is losing its appeal for me, and I love writing. So, rather than risk me developing some deep-seeded hatred for writing, I may just quit and try to find a better outlet for my massive rage. Maybe I'll get a radio show, and spout off my juvenile opinions, and pretending to support free speech, but then ridicule and belittle those that disagree with me. If someone tries to tell me what they think, I can simply hang up on them or talk over them.

Wait, looks like Mancow already beat me to it.



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

# Mid-day confessions

by Shana Stone  
Staff Writer

It's very hard for me to admit this, but I feel that it is time. My name is Shana, and I am a talk show addict. Well not really, but I do like to watch them from time to time. Jerry, Jenny, Ricki, Sally Jessy, Maury, and I will even turn on Oprah every once in a while, although she really irks me.

I would have to say that talk shows are the trash of daytime T.V. They are even a step below soaps. I used to be an avid fan of *Day of Our Lives* until I realized that Sammy was just plain sick in the head and everyone was too damn stupid to institutionalize her. Those that watch the show will understand.

Now, back to the trash. All the rage nowadays on talk shows, as far as topics go, are paternity tests, lie-detector tests, cheating spouses, and "from geek to chic." The titles are just as glamorous, like "Honey, watch that booty, for I am a cutie," or "Baby, I am phat, so take that," and it goes on and on from there. As stupid as these shows are, they are still entertaining. For example, you've got to love when Jerry Springer's show features transvestites who, without a doubt, eventually start slapping each other around as wigs go flying, hair is pulled, and security has to practically put them in restraints.

What about the time when the topic was "Sexy women who used to be nuns and are now prostitutes and pregnant and also dance nude and perform magic tricks." That of course was beyond interesting.

Shall we talk about the people on these shows? Are they real people, or possibly paid for their weird and wacky stories? Some of these people make multiple appearances on different shows. There was a couple that was on Montel's show for cheating, then on Ricki's show for implants, and then on Jenny's show for stripping.

I am not saying that all the guests are fake and that they are paid for their fabulous acting abilities, but seriously, can you imagine if these stories were actually true? My, the sheer horror of it all. It's embarrassing how the average person can get on these shows and open their hearts up to millions of people and not be ashamed. They

should get paid. Their lives, if real, are a mess.

But that aside, I can't get enough of the shows. And that's what makes these shows so popular; they are outrageous and they are risqué. Sometimes though, I wish I could slap the heck out of Ricki Lake for being such a damned idiot and trying so hard to put her two cents in about how she used to be fat and blah, blah, blah. Someone should hold up a cue card that says get a clue. She still is fat! And on top of that, massively annoying.

I would have to say that out of all the talk shows on TV today, Montel Williams' show seems to be the most charismatic and sincere. He really cares about his guests and the topics discussed on his show are usually very appealing. He has teens on that want to become pregnant, teen moms wanting paternity tests, people that were disfigured in accidents or from birth, people who are in love with inmates, and the list just goes on. Plus, now that Montel has made it known that he has MS, he now has a cause and he has the audience's sympathy, which for the most part works really well for ratings.

The best shows are the ones where he has a therapist come on and help people work out their problems. Montel's show is very interesting and not all that trashy, but he can't be doing all that well in the ratings because his show isn't on until late at night.

So we have the notorious trash talk shows of TV, and those hosts are known as Jenny Jones and Jerry Springer. But then we have talk shows with substance, such as Oprah and Leeza Gibbons. Leeza has a lot of very interesting and entertaining shows without being trashy like Jerry and Jenny.

Oprah's show is not trash, but she is as fake as fake can be. She is done and should have taken her chance at getting off the air somewhat on top. She is all about the ratings, as all shows are, but she makes it obvious and also makes it obvious that she is more concerned with money than quality programming. Plus, is she ever going to marry Stedman? Will she ever lose that last 50 pounds? Hard to say, but she does have a lot of dieting shows and there is that fabulous book she had written. *Whoop de do!*

How many times has she tried to lose weight and the whole world lived through her struggle with her? Granted, many women can identify with her, but most women don't have a personal trainer at the tips of their fingers, nor do most people have the millions that she has to spend on a personal chef. Be wary of talk show hosts that make it seem like they are one of us, because they aren't. Oprah has her own airplane. She acts like she has all this empathy for her guests, but she doesn't. Oprah wants the viewers to believe that she cares, and it must be working, because she is very popular with many American housewives. Way to go, Oprah.

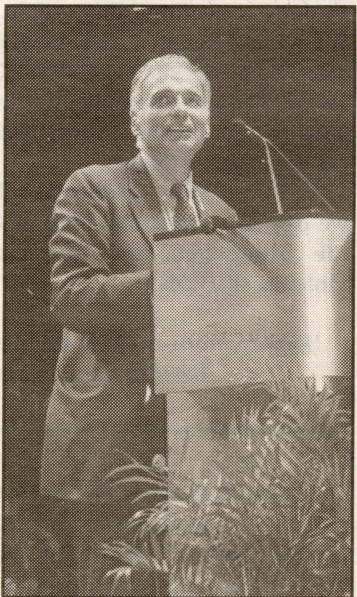
I am not saying that it isn't possible for the talk show hosts to actually care about their guests, but fame and fortune are the basic goals for them in the end. From time to time, I will still watch Jenny or Jerry, and yes, I will be entertained. Then I start to wonder what America is coming to, why we have such trash on TV with sky-high ratings? Lately we have also started seeing a surplus of judge shows. Available to us are Judge Judy, Judge Joe Brown, and then that one who used to be a boxer, and so many others. The way that these shows suck people in is by having a huge power trip and making it well known who's boss. These shows are extremely fun to watch and the stupidity of some of these defendants is always exciting to see. Judge Judy is my favorite to watch because she really knows how to put people in their place and can smell a lie. Judge Judy is very talented in that way. The ratings on her show tend to hit the roof. I guess people like watching someone with all that authority berate the little people.

Well, that is my rundown for the talk shows. If you feel like you have a great acting ability, then feel free to call any one of the talk shows and see if they will pay you to display your gift. If you would rather just watch the people in action, then keep on watching. I know I still watch every once in a while, although it is only when I am truly bored... Yeah right! Anyway, just keep in mind that these shows are just for entertainment value and don't take them all that seriously. Although you never know, someday you may end up a guest.

# Third parties never die, they just fade away

by Thomas J. Croon  
Staff Writer

And when the noble third-party candidates faded away in this election, all their good deeds and



Thank you very much!

votes swayed went right into George Bush's pocket. While good old George "Dubya" Bush and Al Gore resort to name calling and nit picking like school yard kids, one man seems to be the tie breaker: the mighty Third-Party Candidate!

He might not even be aware of what he is doing, nor does it appear that he even cares. What he does not realize, in his own run for the esteemed office of President of the United States (States which always end up divided on election day somehow), that he is perhaps unknowingly standing behind Bush, inducing sweat on the brow of Al Gore. A well-meaning, slightly awkward man, he becomes the center of attention as the race for the White House unfolds, as it continues to now, long after election day.

The third-party candidate is a man that stands between the Republicans and Democrats,

throwing mud both ways until he alone stands in the middle with a sheepish grin. He is a man coddled by both major parties aware of his power to sway undecided votes to whichever candidate he endorses. Yet, he does not falter. He laughs in the face of weary Democrats pleading and begging him to forgo his own campaign in order to pave a smooth road for Al Gore. With a smile, he shrugs off allegations that he knowingly accepts endorsements from the Bush party who are wise enough to realize that any vote for him is one less vote for Gore.

He is unapologetic about his role in narrowing the margin between Bush and Gore in states such as Wisconsin and Minnesota, stealing votes away from Gore's outstretched hands like a thief in the night. Supporters of this man shake their heads in puzzlement over his newfound popularity,

without realizing his power in swaying the election. With as much chance of winning as Alfred E. Newman, he persists.

The attacks from both sides are critical and unrelenting. On Jay Leno Halloween night, Bush donned a Gore mask remarking on how scary it was. Whereas Gore remarked, that what you are voting for on the ballot is prosperity. Sill maniacally, in the dark recesses of the campaign, lurks a man that cared little of both parties, a man who slings mud both ways. A man that subconsciously wants Bush to win creeps closer on election day, a man that surely deserves the credited esteem of Republicans everywhere.

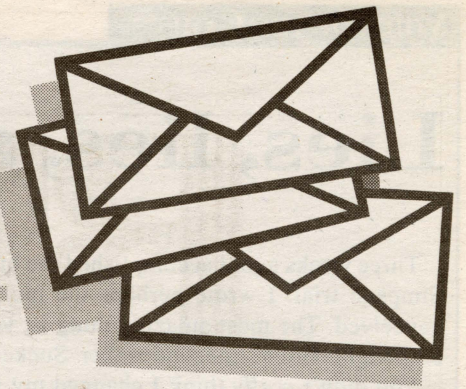
It is not difficult to be somewhere and hear the hushed, muffled praise by Republicans of this man. It is still easier to hear Democrats in frantic worry ponder what this man could possibly be

thinking, as they wring drenched handkerchiefs and discuss Gore's inevitable defeat if trends persist. It is not difficult to hear Democrats conspire ways in which to pursue him to stand behind Gore while Republicans stand laughing through a haze of cigar smoke.

Dear Sir, thank you for creating an interesting campaign where candidates race about like chickens, which have just lost their heads. Thank you for removing Gore from a steady lead he might have if you were not running. Thank you for being the single man in charge of propelling Bush towards the White House. Thank you for your kindness and generosity that you alone have showed the Republican Party in this needed hour. Thank you for your backing. Thank you for being the puppet on the strings of George Bush.

Thank you Sir, thank you.

# Letters to the Editor



Due to the widespread Northeastern community outcry and massive amounts of letters to the editor over recently published *Independent* articles, the editorial board of the *Independent* has decided to print all letters to the editor recently received in full. The editors of the *Independent*, however, do not agree with all ideas expressed in these letters, but out of respect to our readers and their strong opinions, all letters received have been reproduced here unedited and uncensored as for content.

It is the belief of the *Independent* that any well-articulated opinion of the NEIU community, no matter how strong, deserves space in the *Independent*, but again, the ideas expressed in these letters are the opinions of *Independent* readers, and not necessarily of *Independent* staff.

Letter to the Editor  
November 15, 2000

Re: Racist editorial on page 5 of November 7 issue of the *Independent*

We, the undersigned, are appalled at the mean-spirited, bigoted, racist and evil article that the *Independent* chose to run on November 7 (page 5, entitled "Palestinians are unpeaceful"). We are appalled at the sweeping generalization used that claimed that all Palestinians are of the mind-set that they must kill to get what they want. We are also appalled that the *Independent* chose to run such an atrocious article.

You are supposed to be learning how to be professionals, and to exercise at least a small degree of professionalism. This article showed none of that. The author of this article cannot in good conscience support such an untenable position. We feel that the *Independent* should have exercised common sense and pulled the issue from the shelves. But money, I guess, speaks louder than fairness.

Making such a statement does nothing to help this situation, in fact it exacerbates it. How can you expect the two sides to come to terms when you legitimize name-calling by one side or the other?

We recognize fully the right to free speech. However, all rights come with inherent responsibilities. The right to free speech is accompanied by the responsibility to not yell "fire" in a crowded theater, among others. In the case of the newspaper, the paper has the responsibility of administering a public trust, for all of the public, not all of the public with the exception of the Palestinians. In this case, the newspaper disregarded its responsibility to the public by condoning, both tacitly and actively, hate speech. We expect better from a newspaper funded at least in part by our student fees.

If the author truly believes these things about an entire race of people, then he or she is truly ignorant, and has no place working for a publication that should be dedicated to fairness and objectivity. We understand that this was an editorial, but even editorials should be written in such a way that they don't offend people for no good reason.

As an aside, let's take the merest of moments that it takes to refute such an ignorant statement by an obviously feeble-minded writer. On Monday, November 13, there was a Muslim protest down by the UIC Pavilion. Of this group, there were certainly some Palestinians in attendance. Not only didn't anyone get killed, but there were not even any arrests. It seems that all Palestinians are not of this mind-set after all.

One of the considerations we've heard for the editor not pulling this issue off the shelves is the concern that the advertisers expect their ads to run for a certain length of time. How do you think your advertisers would feel if they knew their ads were running in the same issue as an article that could very well enrage a large segment of potential consumers? That might also cause you to lose advertising revenue, and deservedly so. Boycotts of association are not altogether unheard of.

The *Independent* not only owes the Palestinian race an apology, but also owes one to the entire NEIU campus community. Such a blatantly racist, bigoted and prejudiced article has no place in an institution of higher learning. We expect an apology to the entire NEIU community, and we hope you will exercise more discretion in the future.

Tom Foley, SGA President  
Ali Askar, SGA Vice-President  
William Steele, SGA Speaker of the Senate  
Gary Gaspard, SGA IBHE-SAC Rep.

Jemimah Noonoo, Student Trustee  
Samir Mohammed, President of Muslim Student Association  
Ellen Larrimore, President of Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance

John L. Bracich, SGA Senator  
Richard Caragol, SGA Senator  
Djoser Garrison-Quick, SGA Senator

Gabriela Herrera, SGA Senator  
Effie Kalkounos, SGA Senator and member of *Que Ondee Sola*  
Fida Khalil, SGA Senator  
Mynor Lopez, SGA Senator  
Maria E. Luna, SGA Senator  
Jennifer Miller, SGA Senator  
Eddie Nicholson, SGA Senator  
Saul Tafolla Martinez, SGA Senator  
Maya Wojdalski, SGA Senator

The Middle East Organization at NEIU would like to express their disappointment with the two clubs at the International Day event who defiantly ignored the rules and regulations. International Events is supposed to be a day of peace and enjoyment. All are welcome to share in diverse culture, tradition, and ethnic food, however, the event was spoiled due to two clubs. The Israeli club and Chimexla club, who did not oblige by the rules. Politics was a forbidden topic from the International event. Although the Middle East organization requested to speak about the crisis in the Middle East, were denied, and obliged by the rules since Dr. Santana worked hard organizing the event and was doing an excellent job. These two clubs who rudely ignored the rules and spoke of politics regarding the Middle East are asked to apologize publicly regarding this issue. Hopefully in the future these two clubs will mature and act responsibly and respectfully towards their peers.

The Middle East Association is planning several upcoming events and meetings. All are welcome to attend meetings and join the club.

Respectfully,  
The Middle East Association  
MIDEASTNEIU@yahoo.com

Mr. Hill:

I am writing in protest of your publication of an unsigned editorial named "Palestinians are unpeaceful" on November 7. It was thoroughly racist in its tone and blanket statements about Palestinians, such as:

"Palestinians do not know how to settle things peacefully. Palestinians are of the mentality that if they want something they have to kill to get it...the same basic mentality that Hitler had."

I am shocked that:

a. You would publish such garbage. For example, give yourself a test: substitute Black for Palestinian in the piece and ask yourself if you would have published it. Or, for an even stronger shock, substitute Jew for Palestinian.

b. You would publish it unsigned. It actually looks like a statement of the editorial staff of the newspaper. Assuming that is not the case, I am concerned that you do not actually know how to write and produce a newspaper, which is a dangerous thing on a University campus.

Steven Feuerstein  
www.stevenfeuerstein.com

To the *Independent*:

I would like to express my dismay at your editorial "Palestinians are unpeaceful" in the November 7 issue. I find it disturbing that a newspaper on a university campus would publish an article with such racist sentiments as an unsigned editorial.

I assume that placement on your editorial page indicates that it expresses the sentiments of at least some of your editorial staff, and it seems to me that the editors of the newspaper on the most ethnically diverse campus in the midwest should know better than to print inflammatory, racist material as editorial opinion. One might even call it libelous, since it certainly attempts to defame all Palestinian people as a group, saying they are mindless killers.

The statement that "Palestinians are of a mentality that if they want something they have to kill to get it" absolutely breathes ignorance: are you guys really stupid enough to believe that a statement like this could ever be appropriate to print as editorial opinion about any ethnic group, or were you just being unbelievably careless?

I think that the editors responsible for this statement appearing in the last *Independent* should do everyone a favor and resign. They will only continue to embarrass themselves and the university and offend the rest of the campus by continuing in a position for which they are clearly not suited.

Veva Silva

On behalf of the Middle Eastern Association, this article is in response to the editorial titled, "Palestinians are unpeaceful" in the editorial section of the *Independent* dated November 7th 2000. This article degraded Middle Eastern people and our culture, we as educated Arab Americans must consider our source, and to look at the point of view in which this article was composed. A point of view that obviously has no sources, and is unaware and ignorant to the epitomy of the Arab people and the essence of our culture.

This article was obviously reversed to make Palestinians to look like the genocidal race, this is not true. Show us "Mr/Ms. Anonymous," where are our guns and our tanks, now tell me who is doing the killing. How could you compare an established military to refugees, civilians, and children whose only means of protection is a mere rock, we as Palestinians are not the ones with the "mentality" of killers if this was true, we would have our tanks and our military pointed to the Israelis and killing their children.

Which is completely opposite of the current situation.

How could Palestinians have the same mentality as Hitler when he was the one who tried to wipe out an entire race. Which is presently the intention of the Israelis.

Once again, Mr/Ms anonymous, to let the people and you especially know the estimate of Israeli casualties is 20-25 in comparison to the hundreds of Palestinian casualties.

The Arabs do want to live in peace and harmony in their own land PALESTINE, not Israel. Palestinians are civilized people who want to stop all the violence and take this to the table and negotiate a peace accord. The Palestinians cannot do much when they are faced with the violent and deadly measures that the Israelis have taken. Israel is refusing to take their soliders out of the cities of Palestine and discuss peace as mature adults, but we cannot do much when we deal with this amount of ignorance with the exception of very few Israelis that we have encountered.

We must also touch on the fact that in the article it was said that the Palestinians are receiving monetary rewards for injured or dead children. First of all, to Palestinians and Arabs everywhere as our culture teaches us that the human life is priceless and no money can replace a life. In contrary, some Israelis might be able to put a price on a life. We would like to make a point that this is not an economical war, but a Jihad (in Arabic, meaning Holy War).

We as Arab American students realize that we are living in a democracy in which we have our Constitutional rights of free speech in which a person can publish anything he or she wants. In this case, when it evokes racial comments and infringes on the state of mind of the people it regards, we Arab Americans do not feel it is right nor do we think it is humane. That is why we as representatives of the Middle Eastern Association of NEIU, request and deserve a public apology concerning this article. We were disgusted and deeply offended by the statements made. To you Mr/Ms. Anonymous, you need to check your sources and get your facts straight.

As for us Arab Americans, all we can do is hope and pray that the bloodshed and horrific violence shall cease.

Representatives of the Middle Eastern Association

More Letters to the Editor on the issue of the November 7 editorial are continued on page 7.

# REV

Volume 5, issue 7. November 21, 2000

Plug-in and pull-out the *Independent* Guide to Entertainment

## The Rant phasers it out with the Sci-Fi Channel

page 2

## Caviar is a little fishy

page 2

### Movie Review

# Seeing red

by Lior Alon  
REV Editor

And you will, trust me. After realizing the err of your ways (spending cold cash on a flop like this at the box office might one day become a Federal offense), symptoms could definitely include a rush of blood to upper bodily regions induced by anger, frustration and feelings of utter shame.

Much like fellow Martian-minded Hollywood romp *Mission to Mars*, this flick causes considerable harm to NASA's attempts at persuading both public and officials of Mars' centrality to our future in space. Judging by *Red Planet*, the fourth rock from the Sun's main attribute must be an uncanny knack for boring visitors.

It follows a team of scientists, pilots and engineers sent from a dying Earth to scout Mars with hopes of finding out why humanity's terra-forming initiative has gone awry. In a reversal of H.G Wells' *War of the Worlds*, this time humans seek to invade Mars. My advice would be, "Good movies first. THEN space conquest".

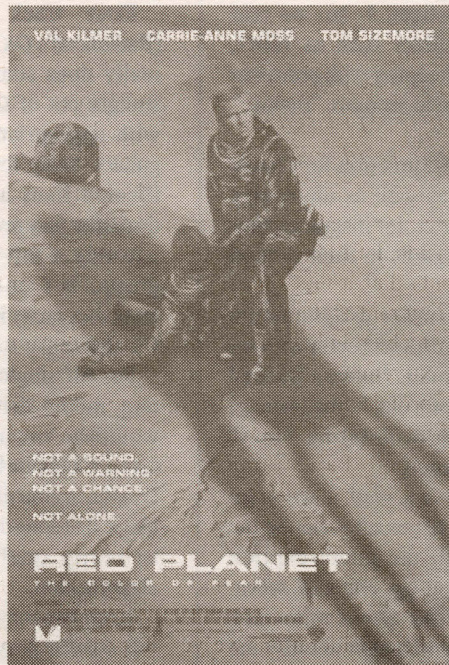
At least we have been mercifully spared the traditionally monotonous boot camp routine. Here they thrust viewers straight into the action, what little of it exists.

Following a massive mishap while preparing to land on Mars (a more worn-out scenario than this, you couldn't ask for), the team finds itself on the surface with little chance of survival or mission completion, led by Commander Bowman (Carrie-Ann Moss, the fabled *Matrix* lady),

mechanic Robby Gallagher (Val Kilmer) and smart-ass physician Burchenal (Tom Sizemore, *True Romance*, *Private Ryan*, etc.). Gradually assessing their dire predicament, the guys have to get to grips with something that has gone horribly wrong with their scheduled objectives. This movie.

*Red Planet* sells short what will eventually become our prime means of survival as a species: going out to the stars in a viable fashion. If the space program wants effective avenues for promotion, failures such as this must be avoided at all costs. Especially when one contemplates the budgets going into making these lame films. We could possibly overlook a weak plot, minimal characters, no pace and a chronic shortage in excitement. Inexcusable, though, are the movie's numerous inconsistencies. Its main dramatic moment arrives when crewmembers discover a breathable atmosphere has evolved on the planet seconds before choking to death. Amid shouts of "Die already!" from an annoyed audience, one cannot avoid thinking how come all those fancy instruments they had back on the ship didn't pick up on such a "minor" detail way in advance. As for the film's blunt product placements, well, we've grown accustomed to those by now. However, *Red Planet* takes this to excess, with space suits looking too much like Jeff Gordon's NASCAR racer for comfort with all those Nokia logos.

*Red Planet* adds insult to injury by trying to sell you on some vague horror movie



If you can't stand the heat, get off of the planet.

notion that never materializes. If you ever saw its preview, you'll remember a scary robot monster which chases these hapless fools around. Well, it does make a showing, but they call it AMEE and apparently you can look under the control panel and see a Made in USA sticker. Not exactly hair-raising.

By now, sci-fi fans and mainstream movie goers alike should have developed a keen sixth sense adept at detecting cinematic calamities of *Red Planet's* ilk from multiplexes away. Presumably this one'll have poor ticket returns. As a person greatly interested in a lively science fiction trade, yours truly feels compelled to keep criticism at a gentlemanly level. As a guy who loves movies and all other things decent, I must warn you to stay the hell away.

**Red Planet**  
Village Roadshow/Warner Bros.

Directed by: Antony Hoffman.  
Written by: Chuck Pfarrer, Jonathan Lemkin.  
Produced by: Bruce Berman, Mark Canton, Andrew Mason et al.  
Starring: Carrie-Ann Moss, Val Kilmer, Tom Sizemore, Terrence Stamp, Benjamin Bratt, Simon Baker.

**FOR:** Largely acceptable effects and costumes. Initial premise of story has much credibility.

**AGAINST:** Later they totally wreck *Red Planet's* plot, while augmenting this with poorly conceived characters and absolutely no memorable content.

**OVERALL:** D Just like real life. Back to the drawing board.

### Game Review

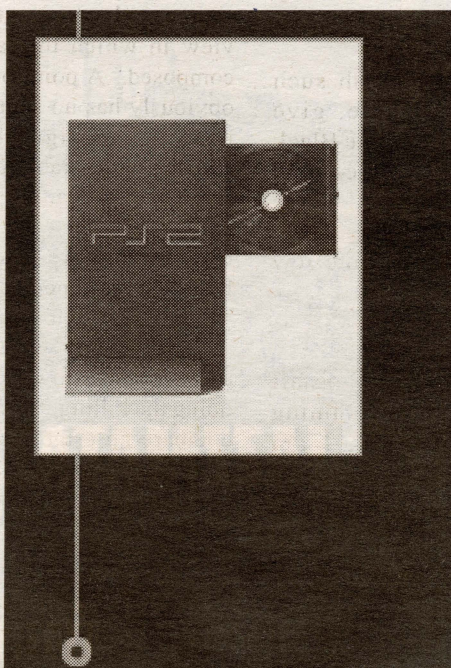
# Second but first

by Lior Alon  
REV Editor

After much of the commotion has finally settled, here we examine Sony's new wonder child out of hype's way. Presented for your enlightenment a brief, but educational, preliminary rundown of the machine's good, and not so good, points

#### PROS

- Finally a console that doesn't look like a toy, but instead goes for a sleek, super-attractive design taken straight from the hi-fi component niche.
- Extremely promising, and surprisingly generous, hardware specification boding well for future developments.
- Considerable potential for expansion via USB, optical ports and cards.
- Could act as a true multimedia hub, as it can be hooked up to most common



Sony's new PS2, just the beginning, or at least what they claim in their ad campaign.

entertainment devices currently out there (at least those made by Sony...).

- Will eventually accept hard drives and other input/output peripherals, broadening its scope.
- Personifies lessons learned from previous console generations in terms of closing gaps with the ever-speeding PC market.
- A really monumental step forward for gamers everywhere as it already shows signs of making many of our game fantasies come true. PS2, along with its upcoming 128-bit brethren from Nintendo, Sega and Microsoft, will have a huge impact on electronic entertainment evolution in the next decade.
- Accepts original Playstation CD's, thus instantly generating a colossal library of excellent titles. Sony also avoided alienating their existing user base, who could've felt as though the company has forsaken them.
- Supports all Playstation-certified

accessories, saving new users money if switching from the older model (you can use PS controllers etc.).

- Plays DVD's.
- Plays regular CD's.
- Will most likely have a long, healthy life span.
- Reeks of quality and optimism, and smells of a fresh start. Glade should actually license it for their next aerosol variety.
- Will soon support broadband internet connections, further augmenting its multi-purpose nature and enabling multiplayer gaming.
- PS2 has greatly upped the ante in the console "wars", eventually to the benefit of consumers.
- Grants owners with immediate bragging rights.
- Has a sexy dark side, yet is irresistibly lovable.

see **Second**  
continued on page 3



# The Rant

by Lior Alon

## Diluted Imaginations

One of the coolest aspects of having cable in the last five years or so, other than an occasional spot of Hot Spice Network, has regularly been the Sci-Fi Channel.

Sure, most subscribers have other priorities, alas science fiction and fantasy devotees have held it close to their hearts almost religiously. This loyalty can be largely traced to the network's exclusive domination of all things futuristic and fantastical. It has no real opposition, even though major movie providers such as HBO, Cinemax and ShowTime enjoy much leeway in keeping with premium channel, limited access standards (allowing them to air more "mature" material).

Here lies the problem. Despite remaining THE junction for classic TV shows (from *Star Trek* to *Swamp Thing*) as well as innovative new productions (seductive, sexually charged *Lexx*, for instance), Sci-Fi suffers from a serious shortcoming with regards to their motion picture broadcasting policy.

Trying to stay faithful to their credo, channel programmers repeatedly put on past blockbuster science fiction and horror movies during peak viewing hours (they call them Scinematic Events). Blessed a policy it may be, but it does contain one hell of a catch: the channel still retains an infuriating ABC-like agenda prohibiting "foul" language, vivid sexual imagery and gross violence.

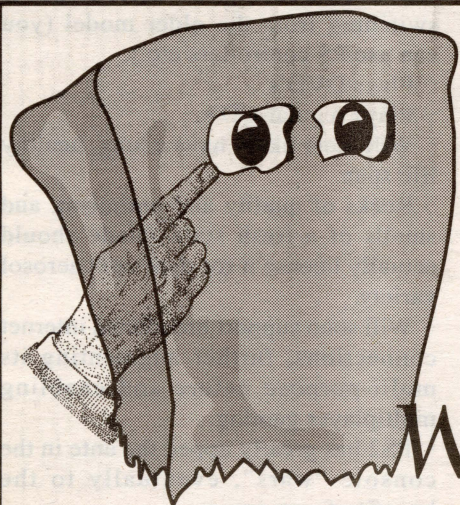
Such a strict set of regulations would go down well if we were Lifetime or Biography groupies, but, do tell, what exactly can be the point of watching *The Terminator* minus all the good, explicit segments? Why would we bother with a soaped-up, watered-down, Prohibition-grade take on Stephen King's *The Stand* milestone miniseries if it was cut down so brutally we can no longer identify the body with any degree of certainty?

Just like sugar-free chocolate, these only serve to tease and anger. Channel authorities must understand butchering hallowed masterpieces achieves nothing but alienating usually mellow, addicted fans. For one, I wouldn't object to paying a premium (most cable customers do so as to get HBO et al) if it meant a steady supply of uncensored, true to its origins, science fiction feed. For all I know they should take out those damn commercials, slap on a \$10 monthly and be done with this whole charade. Until that day comes, Sci-Fi stands as a huge missed opportunity.

Definitely, we won't forget their authentic dedication to the genre and its supporters when they kept running shows long forsaken by mainstream television. And no one can deny their being a uniquely stylish operation with a genuine look and feel. Also, in recent months we have been spoiled by their surprising gift for coming out of leftfield with these amazingly well-produced, expensive features. Coming December 3<sup>rd</sup>, the channel will debut its latest mega-production, another remaking of Frank Herbert's *Dune*. Judging by available trailers, it may surpass David Lynch's awesome film rendition with respect to effects, attention to detail and overall adherence to source material. Not a lot has been said about this (the channel does a poor job of advertising itself beyond its own modest bandwidth), but expect a real stunner.

Even so, I can't take my critical comments back. Science fiction aficionados already know what those guys can do when they try, however, we need proof there exists a willingness to go beyond the observable. Wasn't that the point to begin with?

Like Rutger Hauer said in *Blade Runner*'s closing moments: "All those things... like tears in rain." Without more resolve the channel's distinctions will continue to wash away unnoticed.



## News Tips Wanted

Anything interesting going on on campus that the Independent should know about? Drop us a line at: T-Independent@neiu.edu or neiu\_independent@yahoo.com or just stop by E-049

## CD Reviews

# Nearly Delicious

by Lior Alon  
REV Editor

Wanting to convey a posh British look, Caviar, actually a Chicago band (or so we gather) fool you for a little bit. Looking at their debut, self-titled album, one could easily be persuaded into thinking these guys happen to be lads from Old Blighty. Caviar attempt a sort of Oasis/Stone Roses external veneer, with lots of cocky attitudes all around and this presumably jet-setting chic (note private plane on cover shot) expressed by wearing tons of designer skins.

First track *OK Nightmare* (Radiohead's *OK Computer*, maybe?) really does sound like something straight out of Greater Manchester, with appropriately jangly beatnik guitars. Sadly for Caviar's egos, the illusion lives a short span. Soon thereafter they reveal themselves to be not only a full-blooded American group, but one that, ironically, embodies pretty much every strand of US alternative rock in existence.

For hit single *Tangerine Speedo* they model themselves on fellow would-be eccentrics Bloodhound Gang, Cake (the horror) and The Eels. Despite eventually forcing listeners to like it, that song does suffer from some irritating quality which eludes classification.

Later, two impressive rock numbers roll out the heavy alternative ballad cannons. *The Good Times are Over* and *I Thought I Was Found* both stay with you and beg for repeated listening. Unfortunately for Caviar, these too have more in common with compatriot rockers Semisonic, Filter and Everclear than with cricket and coffee biscuits. What a royal shame.

The English influence resurfaces for *Flawed like a Diamond*, an electro-rocker reminiscent of Blur circa 1994's *Park Life*. It may not lay a claim to the Crown jewels, but all the same proves just how musically nimble Caviar can be in terms of genre

elasticity.

Further down the list, we happen upon their last across-the-pond initiative (for this album, at least). A bona fide heartfelt song that'll roll off your tongue quite easily, *Looked So Hard I Nearly Wrecked My Eyes* brings hope to all who wish for an effective cure to the modern boy band as we know it. Anyone fluent in British pop-rock will instantly recognize it as a Teenage Fanclub (heavyweight Beatles-like songsmiths of epic proportions) dead ringer.

Rounding off the party, best song of the record *I Am the Monument* (typically vain?) guarantees a sizable contingent of listeners will be left wanting more of the same. It doesn't topple any previous music conventions or rock composition standards, but merely manages the rare feat of an intelligent, albeit slightly moldy, rock ditty.

One can't judge Caviar for wanting to be the Gallagher brothers, even if one thinks it to be a hang-up they'd

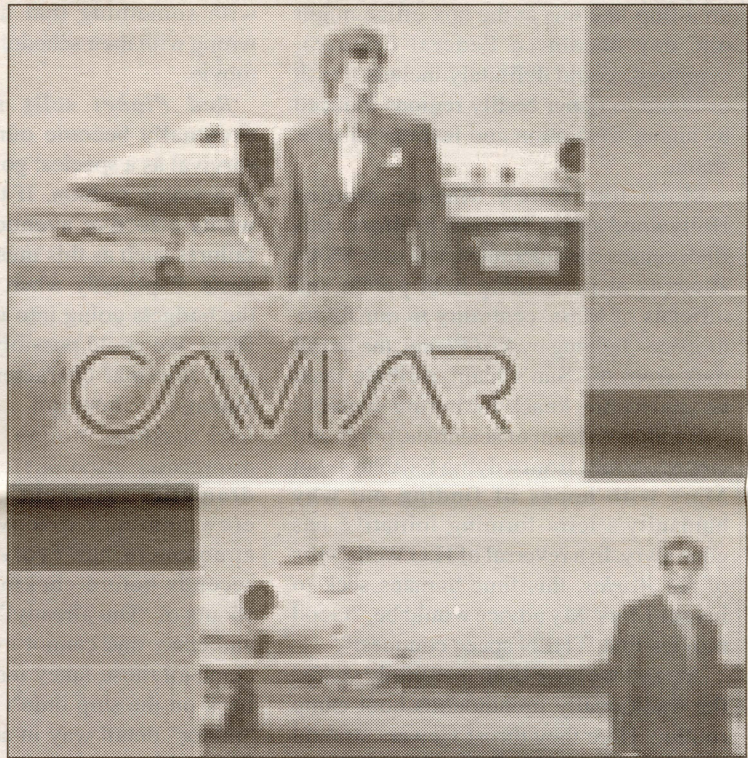
be well advised to get over. You see, on the road to good music, compromises must be made. What a sacrifice. How noble. Can I get a lordship?

Caviar  
Island Def Jam

**MUSIC: B+** Well-rounded, ably executed assortment of alternative sounds from both sides of the Atlantic, officially making this a World Music album. Hahahaha.

**LYRICS: B** Just what you'd expect. Bizarrely, lead singer Blake Smith makes no attempt to sound like London's finest.

**PRODUCTION: B+** Extracts the most of Caviar's dual-faceted artistry. **OVERALL: B** Short of groundbreaking entrepreneurial achievements, Caviar do things generally right. Buy them a pint of ale, will ya laddy?



# Jazz-matazz-hop

by Chris Schneider  
Staff Writer

Guru, frontman of legendary hip-hop duo Gang Starr, hits the scene once again with another release to add to his famed *Jazzmatazz* series, *Streetsoul* being the third release.

Every tune on *Streetsoul* has a special guest, including legends such as Herbie

Hancock, Isaac Hayes, The Roots and Prodigal Son. This at first seemed very unusual and corny because my initial impression was that these might take the spotlight away from Guru. After listening to the album, it becomes clear this does not happen to be the case.

*Lift Your Fist* features The Roots, helping Guru's hip-hop sound

tremendously. A very catchy tune, it excellently blends jazz with hip-hop, not an easy task by all means.

Perhaps the highlight of the entire album comes when Guru and Isaac Hayes team up on *Night Vision*. With Hayes' signature voice in the background, Guru flows over him with precision. Together they work beautifully, and one can see where Guru coined the phrase *Jazzmatazz*.

Guru has taken his talent away from Gang Starr and created a great mix of jazz and hip-hop for this release, combining street sound and soul music.

If you are a beat junkie or have a hip-hop thing going, don't miss out on *Streetsoul*. Jazz fans also need apply, as it may surprise you.

Guru *Jazzmatazz III: Streetsoul*  
Virgin Records

**MUSIC: B** Guru doesn't overdo it using too many samples, reflecting his true talent.

**LYRICS: A** Hip-hop, what else do you need? To have good hip-hop you must have good lyrics, and here Guru shines.

**PRODUCTION: C** nothing spectacular.

**OVERALL: B** Keeps your ears pleading for more. It might induce a liking for his previous releases.



## Second

continued from page 1

### CONS

- Left a bitter taste in many people's mouths after having to go through so much just for getting one.
- With an average initial bill topping \$500, might be too pricey for non-die hard users.
- Comes with a ludicrously short 90-day warranty. Sony claim innocence as this period has been set by "industry standards".
- Package contains no games

and only one controller.

- Many accessories suffer from continued low supply (especially the all-essential memory cards).
- Games will come at a significant cost for some time to come (average \$50).
- Initial line-up of game titles leaves a bit to be desired, despite offering sizeable progress in comparison with everything else out there.
- PS2's increased level of complexity and depth may deter some users who, bizarrely, wish consoles to stay basic tools for merely running games.
- By incorporating certain PC-

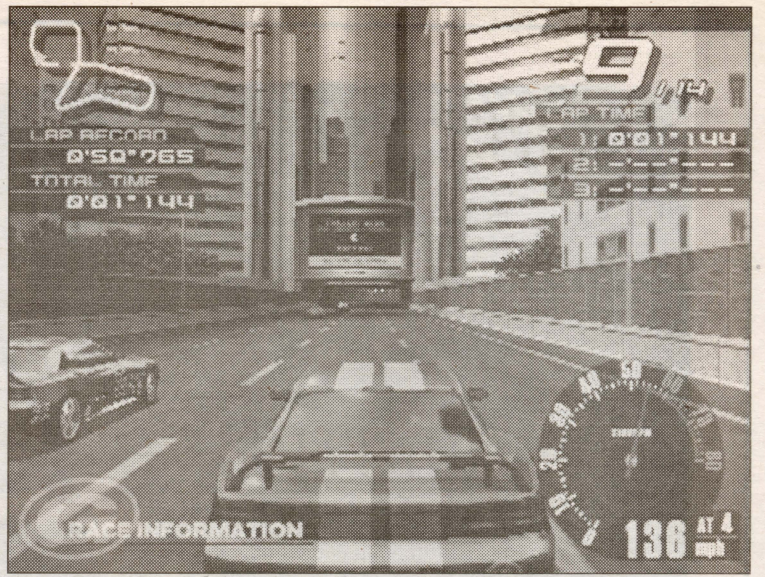
like characteristics, Sony have possibly created a potential for PC-like complications, as well (driver updates, incompatibilities etc.), although that remains within the realm of speculation.

· Will DEFINITELY face stiff competition from Nintendo (GameCube), Microsoft (X-Box) and Sega (a resurgent Dreamcast). Come to think of it, we discovered another PS2 pro: a normal, old-fashioned name!

· Like all consoles, depends on continual flow of third-party software. If it proves difficult to program for, or if Sony mess up the licensing process, this could prove to be an Achilles heel.

· All too often confused with original Playstation. Amazingly, some people can't understand why compatibility can only work backward in a situation like this (think about it).

· Thanks to its innovative, intricate design, PS2 will be first to suffer from component shortages. Older consoles stuck with traditional, scaled-down



Ridge Racer: lack of highway construction and its benefits



Tekken: "I got a new dance and it goes like this...."

architectures, meaning less reliance on custom parts and specialty manufacturers.

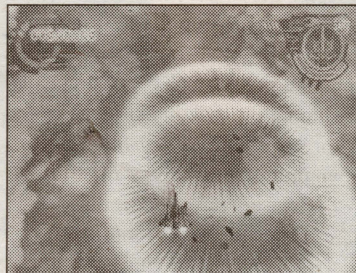
architectures, meaning less reliance on custom parts and specialty manufacturers.

### BOTTOM LINE

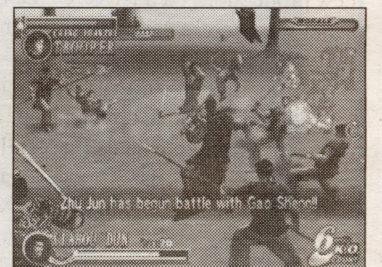
Like anything else in the universe, so does PS2 suffer from certain flaws. When put next to its countless gifts, though, all

pale by comparison. Sony and PS2 have done us proud (particularly those with major stock holdings in credit card companies). An exciting time to be a game freak has descended upon us!

Stay tuned for further developments.....



Dynasty Warriors (right): the most incompetent bunch of back-stabbers ever assembled.



Silpheed (left): even the hoola hops in this place have a bad attitude.



The Independent and REV give thanks to all of our readers.

Happy Turkey Day!



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Dear Editor,

It is plain to see that the spirit of the late Meir Kahane is still alive and well on the editorial board of the Independent. "Palestinians are unpeaceful (sic)" is the most reprehensible piece of racist, anti-Arab trash I have ever seen in any American newspaper. Given the fact that the US press is overwhelmingly pro-Zionist (even more so than the Israeli press, in fact), "Palestinians are unpeaceful" wins out over some pretty stiff competition.

The unnamed author informs us that, "Palestinians do not know how to settle things peacefully." They "are of the mentality that if they want something, they have to kill to get it." Palestinians "are brutal," have a "sick mentality" and a "brutal culture." "Arabs only know how to kill and destroy," the author writes, and are ruining Israel with their "backward thinking and militant actions."

These are the rantings of a fascist, genocidal mentality. Were these statements directed at any other group (the Jews, for example), they would rightly be relegated to the pages of *The Spotlight*, or some similar neo-Nazi publication. That this piece could appear at a time when the Israeli Defense Forces are ruthlessly murdering scores of Palestinians is sickening. To the author: Where, sir (or madam), do you wear your swastika?

The simple fact is that Israel is a vicious, racist, repressive police state at least as bad as apartheid South Africa. Palestine rightfully belongs to the Palestinians, who were forced out in 1948 and have been subjected to unrelenting Israeli state terror ever since. They have been systematically dispossessed, tortured and murdered by the state of Israel for decades. The brutality of the holocaust, which the author evokes, does not justify brutalizing others in turn.

Dennis Fritz

As a student and President of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance on campus, I'm writing to say that the unsigned editorial you published in the *Independent's* last edition concerning the Palestinian/Israeli conflict was extremely racist towards the people of Palestine.

Regardless of who's "side" one is on, is that really the position you as the editor want to espouse, or are you deliberately trying to provoke many of us on campus who are anti-racist and do not appreciate unfair and biased journalism?

Ellen M. Larrimore

A Desi (Day-See) is found almost everywhere on campus. You can see them in the student lounge, near the cafeteria, on the fourth floor of the library and in almost every computer lab found on campus.

So, what exactly is a Desi? A Desi is a slang word used to define a person whose origin is either from India or Pakistan and can speak at least Hindi or Urdu.

In some cases Bengali people (Bangladesh nationals) may be classified as Desis, if they know how to speak either Hindi or Urdu.

Desi is not a bad word. Derived from the word 'Des,' which means 'native country' in both Hindi and Urdu, the word Desi is used to refer to anyone from the native country. It is a word very commonly used in conversation amongst the Indians and Pakistanis residing in America.

Desis on campus share a lot of similar characteristics and behaviors which actually symbolize them as being 'pure Desis.' A pure Desi will always be a Computer Science major, will always have Mathematics as his minor if his gpa is above 3.0, or a geography minor if his gpa is below that. The first place that he is going to apply for a job after graduation is in Motorola.

Desis can further be subdivided into at least four different groups: the Pakistanis (a.k.a. 'Pakis'), the Indians from the state of Gujrat (a.k.a. 'Gujjus'), the Indians from the state of Kerala (a.k.a. 'Malloos'). Although the Malloos speak only Malyalam and English, they are classified as Desis on basis of their Indian origin; and finally the most popular class of Desis called 'ABCD.'

ABCD is the abbreviation for "American Born Confused Desi." This term was coined for the Desi girls, also sometimes called Desans (Day-Suns), who have been bred in America and compared to Desi standards, have been Americanized. Although they share the same origin, and therefore are classified as Desis, they are quite different from the mainstream Desis.

An ABCD on the first look might be mistaken for a Hispanic. She will never have a Computer Science major, because that subject would be too 'desi' for her; she will never hang out with Desis, as that would tarnish her image; and she will always be under the impression that guys stare at her because she is more attractive than the rest. She will always be rich and will never have a Desi boyfriend for the simple fact that Desis can't speak English without that heavy Desi accent. In short, an ABCD is just the Desi version of the "Clueless" girl on campus.

Nowadays, the population of Desis on campus is increasing and almost twice as many Desis are seen around now as compared to last year. Continuing the way the Desi student community on campus is growing, there might come a time when the Computer Science department will have to add ten extra sections to each course that they offer.

Whether he is a Hindu, a Muslim, a Christian, an Indian or Pakistani, the one thing worth mentioning is that there has never been enmity amongst the Desis of our college of any sort. Far away from home, all the Desi students feel a strong bond with each other, oblivious of their religions or nationality, for the one simple fact that they know they are all 'Desis.'

Ahmad A. Millwala

In response to the article in the editorial section of the November 7 issue of the *Independent*, volume 16, entitled "Palestinians are unpeaceful," we would like to address the anonymous writer's use of false and misleading facts. The only thing the paper didn't lack was racism and hatred.

According to the original article, the writer mentioned that Ariel Sharon, head of the Right Wing Likud Party, was given permission from the Palestinian Authority to visit the Temple Mount, which is not under Palestinian Authority. The article failed to mention that he was accompanied by 1,000 military troops that shot at unarmed civilian demonstrators, which can be proven by any reliable source. The question here is why would anyone be accompanied by troops for a religious visit? This is one of the many mistold reports in the article.

Fact: Jews (not just the Israelis) lived peacefully in Arab and Muslim countries for thousands of years until 1948, when the state of Israel was illegally created by the United Nations at the expense of the Palestinians, which subsequently cost 3.5 million Palestinians to seek refuge throughout the neighboring lands. Even the refugees were targeted by the Israelis in southern Lebanon.

Palestinians have suffered unfairly in Israel. Imagine having the army as your local police, one that is annually funded \$3 billion of your tax dollars (wonder why you didn't get financial aid last semester?). For instance, if a Jew in the year 2000 came from Europe or Russia, he has the right to claim land that is occupied by Palestinian families under the statute that it is the land of his ancestors who lived there 2000-3000 years ago. Consequently, over 418 Palestinian villages have been entirely depopulated and destroyed. This might as well be considered genocide- and it's happening this very moment.

The author states that the Palestinians have the same mentality as Hitler, which is a hypocritical statement since the Israelis have the Palestinians in a concentration-like atmosphere under martial law. The Palestinians cannot leave their own villages to go to town or pray in Jerusalem; they need an authorized pass from the army. Ironically, this is supposed to be the most democratic government in the Middle East. It was illegal to raise the Palestinian flag in Palestine, and it is still illegal to speak your mind, express your opinions, and have freedom to practice your religion, because you will be persecuted against, just like what Hitler did to the Jews. We acknowledge that the Jews were victimized by Hitler, but does that give the Israelis the right to victimize the Palestinians in turn? The Israelis are letting history repeat itself, while they say "never again."

With all these atrocities and more against the Palestinians, can anyone blame them for their uprising? Fifty-two years of injustice and living in poverty would make any person demand their rights- and that is just what the Palestinians are doing. The choice has been made for the Palestinians- it is better to die fighting than to live under Israeli brutality.

Youth and Teenagers march the streets to protest against the military occupation, similar to the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. Where are the U.N. and U.S.? The writer claims that the parents of these children are being paid for each injury and death; but regardless of the writer's misleading fact, unarmed children are indeed being killed. Unarmed protestors are met by shooting soldiers and tanks, not a fair fight when the army is suppressing unarmed to lightly armed civilians. The Palestinian struggle is similar to the civil rights movement, and the struggle will continue as long as the Israeli government continues to persecute the Palestinian people.

The solution? Is there any? Some people want peace and some don't on both sides. It was an extremely prejudiced statement made by the writer when he/she said that the Palestinians don't want peace, when in fact Israel has not lived up to its peace commitment on both the Palestinian and the Jordanian side. The Palestinians yearned for peace so badly that in the Oslo Peace Agreement of 1991, they gave up all of their right to a military force in exchange for their land and peace; the Israelis, however, continued to oppress the defenseless Palestinians through excessive military force.

One specific incident that displays this is the massacre at Abraham Mosque, which lies in an area sacred to Muslims, Christians, and Jews. During a prayer congregation in 1996, Right-wing Likud Israeli Barouk, who was a U.S. citizen from New York, went to the mosque and gunned down 33 Palestinians who were kneeling in prayer, and injured numerous others. This is just one of he several incidents that have occurred over the many years after the "Peace" Process.

The problem of Palestine is the occupation of land by a hostile government and the subjugation of the resident population to the brutal authority of the aggressive invaders. We all have to understand and grasp the real problem. We can talk about the negatives from both sides; the situation can be wrong or right in so many perspectives. However, in order to solve the problem or think of a solution, we must all understand the origin of the situation and why the situation escalated. It is very important for the writer of "Palestinians are unpeaceful" not to try to mislead the readers in any way, especially when he/she bases his/her argument without facts or sources. He/She even questions the Palestinians' rights over their land and says that the "mentality" of the Palestinians is to "kill to get what they want"- obviously, the writer has no knowledge of world history. The MSA would like to challenge the writer and anyone else who is in agreement with his/her racist views to a live and peaceful student debate in the Student Union. Contact the MSA at [AXUM06@hotmail.com](mailto:AXUM06@hotmail.com). Declining the invitation will prove that there is no foundation for his/her racist accusations, and if he/she accepts, then we will be happy to sponsor the debate. Thank you.

The Muslim Student Association

During the 1930's and 40's European Jews suffered and died in the millions by the hands of Europeans led by Nazi Germany. In 1948 the United Nations under the leadership of the United States and the European powers offered reparations by giving statehood to "the Jewish people" not in Germany, Poland, or France, but in Palestine. Not all Jewish people then or now believe that statehood on Arab land was a wise or just decision, nor do all Jews support Israeli policy, nor share the views expressed by one Jewish student in *The Independent* (Nov. 7, 2000)

The fear expressed in that article, that the State of Israel faces the threat of being driven into the sea- Palestinians, it claims, want "all of Israel"- is an old one and disregards the obvious historical fact that since 1948 Israeli borders have never been pushed back but have regularly expanded into more and more Arab territory. Israel, as the article acknowledges, has continued to win "additional lands." The state of Israel presently constitutes, in places like the West Bank, Gaza, and Jerusalem, a foreign power maintained through an army of occupation on foreign land. In that respect (though not in all others and not to the same degree) it needs to be considered in the same light as we considered Nazi Germany or Soviet Russia when they occupied neighboring lands and oppressed people not their own.

That some Arabs resort to and support terrorism should come as no surprise and is no indicator of a people's "sick mentality." When you lack a standing army equipped with sophisticated weaponry (as Israel does) you resort to rocks and homemade bombs. The French did it in what we referred to as a resistance movement under the Nazis, as did the Czechs, or Jews from the Warsaw ghetto; so did a friend of mine who blew up power lines in South Africa in the 60's.

If Arabs willingly send teenagers to confront Israeli forces, we have to remember that the draft age in the U.S. is 18, and when our boys die in action we too call them heroes. That even younger Arab teenagers are dying in these confrontations attests not only to the willingness of the Arabs to send the young into battle (no country I know of ever sends its old folks to war), but it also attests to the willingness of the Israelis to fire upon the young with lethal force. There have been ruthless and unjustifiable atrocities committed by both sides, but when the bodies are counted, the deaths of Arabs and Arab civilians is far in excess of anything Israeli citizens have suffered.

Since their emancipation, the Jews of Europe and America have been justly famous for their liberal views, their sense of tolerance, and their fight for justice and equality. Once given statehood, some have shown themselves ready to kick ass like everybody else. It demonstrates once more the evils of state religion and the overwhelming difficulty of resolving conflicts

see Editorial response continued on page 8

# A word-up to the music critics

Dear REV music critics,

Your recent coverage on punk was rather unsettling. Of the many complaints I have, let me first say "shame on you!" for giving exposure to the bands and labels that need it the least. Epitaph and Hellcat, both of which are distributed by super-giant Sony, consistently put out watered-down versions of the real thing. What started out as a vision eventually turned into a stale machine, putting out album after album of primarily California bands who all steal each other's ideas and riffs. This surf dude, radio friendly punk rock has Warp Toured people's minds into thinking it's the real thing.

Don't get me wrong guys, I don't want to trash the bands you like, I just feel you're shortchanging yourself and your readers by only covering corporate punk rock (using the term "punk" loosely, of course).

Secondly, I want to say just because someone dons a multi-colored Mohawk, pins and patches (easily ordered from [www.looklikepunk.com](http://www.looklikepunk.com)) does not necessarily mean they are a punk

band. Relying on chain stores such as Wal-Mart or Best Buy for your punk records should be outlawed! I would much rather put my money in the pockets of a privately owned store. In Chicago, these include the Clubhouse (next to Metro on Clark), Laurie's Planet of Sound (Lincoln between Lawrence and Montrose) and Reckless Records (Belmont and Broadway). These feature used CD's, a thing chain stores would never dare to do as it would prevent record labels from cashing in on the average shopper. There are politics involved with being a smart shopper, which isn't difficult if you pick the right places.

Finally, not only do I scold you for promoting huge bands that don't need your help, I scold you for not covering bands that do! I hate to sound preachy, but major labels (as well as majors in disguise like Epitaph) do not represent the true spirit and meaning of punk rock. What was once a vehicle for rebellion is now a bland acceptance of ideas carried out only in lyrics and distortion pedals, not in the real world. To me, that's a classic case

of talkin' the talk, but not walkin' the walk.

My solution would be to look beyond what the mainstream culture sees as punk rock music. There are plenty of genuine bands who are playing the underground circuit and releasing great records, and it pains me that you are perpetuating a cycle of ignorance to this wonderfully revolutionary style of music.

The sad fact is, most of these bands have broken up. Current top bands in my view include: Avail, Snapcase, Fugazi, Dillinger Four, Boy Sets Fire, Apocalypse Hoboken, Capitalist Casualties and The Donnas.

I really do hope you print this in *The Independent*. It would be a great follow-up to the existing, yet under-informed article on punk music, and maybe persuade people to look beyond the mainstream as their source for info on the genre.

Until then, enjoy the new Green Day record, wankers!

Love,

Dan Agent  
Founding member of Secret Agent

Bill,  
Music columnist for *The Sound Interrupt*

**Lior's reply:** Thanks for the letter Dan, and for obviously not reading our reviews all the way. We DIDN'T enjoy the new Green Day album, and called it a lame sell-out. As for covering major acts, we do so to complement our usual coverage of indie, unknown, and often immensely obscure artists. Remember that we cater to a wide range of readers, and thus cannot ignore major, FM-bound releases all the time. Also, to most people, groups such as Rancid have very little to do with the mainstream. To this top-forty crowd, they are light years from being "huge".

Disregarding people outside of hardcore fans would be elitist and aloof.

Trust me, we will cover "leftfield" punk rock, as we did in the past.

On the subject of private stores, bear in mind they have a mercantile urge driving them as well. Don't give them too much credit (literally), last I remember, they took my capitalist

pig MasterCard just fine. True, large chains conform to mediocrity most times, but don't forget they offer accessibility, convenience and overall decent prices to people who (shock, horror) do not relish trekking all over to find a rare '93 Prong bootleg or something. Choice has to be the answer, that and selection. A tyranny of free-spirited, anti-corporate punk rockers would still be tyranny.

## 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 [T-Independent@neiu.edu](mailto:T-Independent@neiu.edu)

## Editorial response

continued from page 7

over lands religious fanatics on both sides believe to be holy. From biblical to contemporary times, religious claims backed by state power have shown themselves to be one of the greatest causes of bloodshed in the history of humanity.

The United States needs to withdraw its uncritical support of Israeli policy which remains unacceptable by the standards of freedom we claim to support. Of course I am not so naïve as to believe that American policy is indeed dedicated to supporting freedom. Usually it has supported dictatorships whenever it serves our interests. In the middle east our interests are in keeping the region safe for Amoco. Were we to stop driving gas guzzling vans to the corner drug store, air conditioning houses in 70 degree weather, and set up a Manhattan project into alternative energy sources, U.S. boys (and now women too) would not have to fight and die in areas like the middle east. Then Americans of Jewish and Arabic decent might meet together on Devon Ave., enjoy a falafel sandwich together while keeping alive the American tradition of discussing what to do about African-Americans moving into the neighborhood.

Harry White  
English Department

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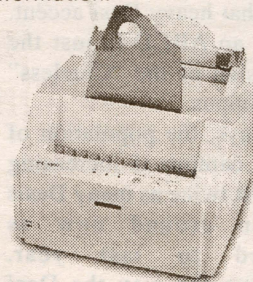
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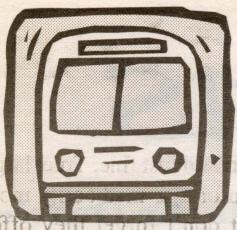
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# The Commuter

Your Independent Guide to Features

## “Hello, you have reached Northeastern Illinois University..”

The new telecommunication system for all Northeastern office phones, fax numbers, and extensions begins January 1, 2001. In the following month, NEIU students and faculty are reminded that changes are already underway.

As of December 22, the voice mail system will be shut down, but by the following day, December 23, the new numbers will be in service and Ameritech recordings will provide the new number (and automatic transfer) for 120 days for all NEIU numbers that had a 794 prefix.

The Telecommunications Department will be open during the holiday break from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Hotline number, extension 5600, can be contacted any time during the holiday break with questions.

On November 13, department heads will receive a final list of phone and fax numbers for their area. The university will provide one ream (500 sheets) of letterhead for each department currently using letterhead. The university will also provide 500 new business cards to all employees currently using cards. Please send a copy of your departmental letterhead and/or individual business cards with your new phone number to the Publications Office, Room C-409, between November 14 and January 12. Reprinting costs for requests received after January 12, 2001 will be charged to departments.

The new phone mail dial in number will be 442-4800, effective January 1, 2001.

From Friday morning to Saturday night, December 22-23, while the voice mail system is shut down for programming changes, all university phone mail messages and greetings will be unaffected by the work performed on the system.

The Telecommunications Department also reminds the Northeastern community to provide new 7-digit telephone numbers to outside callers and inform them of the effective date. Ameritech will provide them with the new numbers for 120 days, however, no such service is available for fax numbers. Departments, organizations, and offices should also remember to update the telephone numbers listed on web pages. On-campus speed dial buttons and lists should be changed before the holiday break. The old numbers will not be in service after December 23.

*Courtesy of the Telecommunications Department and The Northeastern Telecommunicator*

## Departmental Telephone Numbers

Accounting Business Law & Finance 6140	Dean of Students 4610	Planning 4890	Proyecto Pa'Lante 5460
Academic Advising 5470	Department of Leadership 5540	International Programs 4796	Psychology Department 5840
Academic Affairs 5420	Distance Education 5890	Intramural & Recreation 4130	Printing Services 5320
Academic Computing 4390	Earth Science Program 6050	Library 4400	Public Safety 4100
Academic Development 5440	Economic Program 5690	Linguistics Program 5870	Public Safety Emergency 5511
Admissions & Records 4000	English Department 5810	Mail & Receiving Services 5315	Reading Lab 4565
Anthropology Program 5860	English Language Program 5480	Management & Marketing 6120	Records Office 4060
Art Department 4910	Exercise Science Program 4820	Math Department 5760	Registration/Admissions & Records 4040
Assessment & Testing Center 5290	Facilities Management 5230	Media Relations 4240	School & College Relations 4050
Audio Visual Service 5060	Facilities Management (Service Request) 5240	Music Department 5900	Social Work Program 4760
Beck's Bookstore 4990	Finance and Administration 5100	Non-Traditional Programs 6030	Sociology Program 4770
Biology Department 5740	Financial Aid 5000	Payroll 5190	Special Education 5580
Cashier 4700		Personnel 5200	Special Programs 5096
Chemistry Program 5670			Speech & Performing Arts 5950
Child Care 4540			Student Activities 4660
			Student Affairs 4600
			Student Loans 5175
			Student Employment 4695
			Student Senate 4575
			Student Support Services 4595
			Summer Transition Program 5435
			Teacher Education 5380
			Technology Helpdesk 4357
			Telecommunication 4300
			University Fax Machine 4900
			University Box Office 4636
			University Events 4270
			Women's Services 4870
			Women's Studies Program 4550
			WZRD 4578
			<i>If you can't find a telephone number, call ext. 5600</i>
			<i>The list of new office phone extensions will be reproduced in the December 5 issue of the Independent.</i>
Clinical Experience 5350	Food Services 5340	Philosophy Program 5795	
College of Arts and Sciences 5700	Foreign Languages Department 4740	Photo/Graphic Design 4235	
College of Business & Management 6100	Geography Program 5640	Physical Education 5560	
College of Education 5500	Graduate College 6000	Physics Program 5790	
Computer Science Department 4720	Health Services 5800	Placement Office 4680	
Controller Office 5120	Help Office 5495	Political Science Department 5660	
Counseling Office 4650	History Department 5630	President's Office 5400	
Counselor Education 5550	Honors Program 6044	Procurement 5300	
Criminal Justice Program 4795	Independent 4577	Project Success 4980	
	Information Desk 4290		
	Institutional Studies & 4795		

# THIS MAN'S WORLD

## AND THE WEINER IS...

We're not all on the edge of our seats waiting for the election outcome. Some of us have taken the attitude that maybe we're better off not knowing who will eventually be named president. We can wait- hell, considering the two choices we were given in the first place, I wouldn't mind waiting until the next election.

Once and for all, it may allow us to examine this archaic Electoral College system we still use, simply because it has been in place for so long. If you had a burned out light bulb in an antique lamp at home, you wouldn't stop to think about whether you were doing the right thing by throwing the useless bulb out-you'd unscrew it immediately, and replace it with one that worked. That's what most Americans are in favor of doing with the Electoral College, unscrew it, or in this case, screw it, and throw it out.

Isn't it ironic that the state that would trip us up would be Florida? I'm not saying that because Jeb Bush happens to be governor, I'm saying that because I personally have believed for quite some time that the whole state is messed up beyond salvage. For one thing, they have 134 % humidity- you can't think clearly with that! You just keep wondering about how you're going to get rid of the puddles inside your shoes and still look dignified. You have to have aluminum gutters installed in your shorts in this weather. They also have FLYING COCKROACHES! On top of that they have prehistoric reptiles roaming their parks and golf courses capable of eating small pets and children.



JOHN ROSSI

Kids who knock on your door to mow your sun-burnt lawn have to be licensed alligator wranglers. These facts alone make me want to root for the next hurricane that happens by. This is also the state that honors Mickey Mouse like he's some kind of god, simply because the famous cartoon vermin brings in tons of tourists. How many tourists? They don't know—the state can't count that high either.

Also, this is the state where they couldn't figure out on their own what to do when little Elian Gonzalez's dad flew in from Cuba at the U.S. taxpayer's expense to pick up his son. They called out the CIA, the FBI, Janet Reno, the local SWAT team, the I.N.S., the B.P.O.E. (The Benevolent Protectors Of Elian) The Knights Of Columbus, The Knights In White Satin, and the Ugly Prehistoric Reptile Abatement and Rehabilitation Office- all because of one kid who was barely old enough to stop making business in his diapers. Millions of dollars were spent on this issue—the whole time I was yelling at the TV "The kid's dad came to pick him up- LET HIM TAKE THE KID!" (or) "CHANGE THE LIGHT BULB!"

So why is Florida so damn important to the election? Again, it has 25 precious electoral votes. Whichever candidate gets it first yells "Yahtzee" and wins. Gore got Illinois, Pennsylvania—the states with a population over twelve people and buildings with more than two floors. Meanwhile Bush was backed heavily "where the deer and the antelope play," and zip codes begin with EIEIO. This turned out to be most of the rectangular states.

That is why the country's newest fiasco is again concerned with Florida. Some people aren't aware that there is a large number of retired Floridians, or that they are referred to as Floridians and NOT Floridites for that matter. There is a reason that some Palm Beach residents had a tough time with the ballot- they couldn't make heads or tails of the stupid thing. And old people would rather twist in the breeze from the cord on the venetian blinds than ask for help. This would be admitting a sign of weakness or old age; "Mom, Grampa's got his head wedged behind the couch looking for the cord for the cordless phone again..." "Don't help him honey, he'll get out on his own by supper time."

I'm NOT saying we had 19,000 ballots improperly punched because there were 19,000 stupid people voting— clarity was obviously lacking in the ballots. On the other hand, I have seen old people tripped up by cereal boxes, defeated by door knobs, and at least once I have seen them trapped helplessly inside of their car with their keys in hand. If you personally do not know an old, retired person, Mister Rogers has just announced he's retiring from the neighborhood— need I say more? What chance do these people have with a "Butterfly" ballot, a "Moth" ballot, or the highly illegal "Preying Mantis" ballot? Do they even care what the hell a 'Chad' is? Most of them have a hard enough time figuring out how to work the guacamole dip at a party. Ballots for senior citizens should be clear and concise, and in some cases a reminder should be printed on the back that the election judges would appreciate it if voters wore pants to the polling place.

It's clear to me what needs to be done. In the last election, Florida had to throw out 14,000 votes. In this election, Florida threw out 19,000 votes, counted the remainder incorrectly, and reported a shoe-in for Gore. Then they announced they were mistaken, causing the media to release a statement announcing George W. as the 43rd president- wrong once again. Florida then recounted the recount with yet another total. Isn't it clear to everyone by now that Florida can't count? It doesn't matter how many times they do this- they are simply not good at math. We should get Price-Waterhouse or H&R Block in there. "Count 'em again Sam, for all the marbles."

Next election, I say let the alligators vote— when they punch a card it stays punched; and they are completely unbiased as to Republicans or Democrats- they consider both of them equally delicious.

# Star Signs

by Iris the Oracle

**IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK:** You'll learn all about service next year. It'll be good for your self-esteem. Take action on something you feel passionate about. Don't forget to count your pennies.

**IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS NEXT WEEK:** Seek the perfect opportunity this winter and by early spring you will find it. Schedule your vacation soon and go back to a favorite location to reminisce.



**SCORPIO**  
(October 23 to November 21)  
You're playing monopoly in real

life! Figure out how to make more with what you already have. Just move things around a little. Sell this, buy that, and voila! You'll own Boardwalk, Park Place, and a wad of cold cash!



**SAGITTARIUS**  
(November 22 to December 21)  
Don't tell people what you know.

Get the other person to talk. This is not your usual style, but you can do it with practice. You'll have a sizeable advantage if you develop your listening skills.



**CAPRICORN**  
(December 22 to January 19)  
You're struggling with a project that you're

currently working on. See if you can get your friends to help you. The more help you get, the more successful you'll be. That's because you'll be able to do 10 times as much.



**AQUARIUS**  
(January 20 to February 18)  
Your love life looks

marvelous, but you have to drag yourself away from your sweetheart to work on a

group project. Save private time for later. Don't expect an older person to go for your unreasonable request.



**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20)  
Your intuition is working well. Other people are trying to

put two and two together. They argue back and forth about petty details. The odds are good that you'll just know it. How you know is not important.



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19)  
You're ready for a new project. You could launch a

study program- on money. What are you waiting for? Christmas? Even if you have money, getting more won't hurt. Think of the wonderful things you can do for others with more money!



**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20)  
If you're in negotiations with friends, keep it simple. If

money's involved, make sure you have professional help. Somebody else will speak for you better than you can and will cinch a better deal.



**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21)  
Travelling is difficult, and a long



**CANCER** (June 22 to July 22)  
You want to play- with one person in particular. Don't spend more money than you have!

Don't forget to make those important phone calls. If you remember those warnings, the games should be marvelous.



**LEO** (July 23 to August 22)  
You'd like to have a lazy day at home, but you must attend

important meetings. Spend your early quiet time planning so you're prepared. Think of the toughest questions anybody might ask and have the answers ready.



**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22)  
You're learning quickly, but you may also be discovering a few things you wish

you didn't know. Somebody you thought was solid as a rock could have feet of clay. Collect information now but don't draw conclusions yet.



**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22)  
You're smart. Use your brain to

figure out how to get an increase in you pay. Don't agree to do more work; get a better job instead. Or just threaten to do that, ad get a raise in pay where you are.

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# Golden Opportunities

1998-99 ICPA Winner for Best Classified Ad Section in the state

## Help Wanted

**Swim Instructors (WSI certified)** Lifeguard-Pool Attendant Wanted. Immediate opening(s) available for qualified individuals morning, afternoon, evening shift(s). Must have current CPR & First Aid Card. Galter LifeCenter on the Green 5157 N. Francisco Ave. Chicago, IL 60625. Call Walter Pukala for more information: 773-878-9936 x7309, or, stop by and fill out an application.

**www.workforstudents.com Fall Expansion.** \$12.60 base-appt. National company hiring to fill pt/ft positions (10-40 hours) in local office. Must have good people skills but all majors welcome. Scholarships available, conds. exist. Call customer service/sales dept. M-Th, 11-5, 773-866-1608 or apply on-line: [www.workforstudents.com](http://www.workforstudents.com).

## Services

It would help the folks working on campus a great deal if students could make sure every time they move or change their phone number to let the Admissions office know. Many times staff try to contact students, only to find a disconnected phone number or other problem. It would also help to have an answering machine or an active email account. Thanks!

Do you like the beauty of crystal? Receive lovely additions for your collection for free or at greatly reduced prices by hosting a

Princess House showing. Contact Anna at 773-777-4660 for information.

**Repair/Buy your small appliances** from the COLLEGE TECHNICIANS. We repair/sell microwaves, T.V.'s, VCR's, remotes and other electrical equipment with warranties. Also inquire about any of your computer needs. COLLEGE TECHNICIANS at 847-359-3315.

**Complete Auto Repair!** Drop off before class, pick up after class in most. Walking distance to NEIU campus. 10% discount for all NEIU students and staff with ID. OIL CHANGE SPECIAL! \$14.95 for NEIU students and staff. Pete's Auto Clinic Inc., 3426 W. Bryn Mawr, 773-463-4411

## For Sale

**1997 white Pontiac Sunfire SE Coupe.** Completely loaded, low mileage, extended warranty. Call for details: 773-792-2402.

**1988 Lincoln Towncar;** Black leather interior, AM/FM cassette, AC. Good getting-to-school car. 773-545-1995. Leave message.

Like new used cars and vans - reasonable rates. For more information call Mick at 708.795.7718.

## Spring Break

**Springbreak 2001 - Hiring on-campus reps.** Sell trips, earn cash, go free!!! Student Travel Services - America's #1 Student Tour Operator - JAmiaca, Mexico, Bahamas, Europe, Florida. 1-800-648-4849 or [www.gospringbreak.com](http://www.gospringbreak.com)

## Organizations

**Wanted: Feminists** to join a campus group and participate in political actions. Meetings 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday, 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, C-505, 1:40 pm. Contact [elarrimore@neiu.edu](mailto:elarrimore@neiu.edu) or Diane at ext. 3302.

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

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

**Join an award winning team.** Become a part of the student newspaper. Staff meetings are held every Tuesday during activity hour. The *Independent* office is located in E-049, below Beck's Bookstore.

**NEIU Bible Fellowship Club** invites all NEIU students to join them for prayer meetings Tuesdays during Activity Hour in Room CLS 3081. "Our goal is to encourage students to come together and call on the name of the lord."

**Earth Science Club** meets every Tuesday from 1:40 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. in Room S-129. The club will be planning this year's field trip to the Grand Canyon.

**Muslim Students Association** meets every Thursday in Room FA 107 during Activity Hour. Any questions, requests, comments, email us;

[neiu\\_msa@hotmail.com](mailto:neiu_msa@hotmail.com).

**G.L.B.A. (Gay, Lesbian, and Bi-Sexual Alliance)** meets Thursdays, CLS-3109 from 1:40 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. Everyone is invited.

## Personals

TH- Everything will be fine, that's from the guy who has nothing to lose, but everything to gain, including his sanity. You're staying with us or else. -CMB

To V: A rose by any other name is just as prickly. Watch where you step and what you say, not every one of us agrees with what you do. -The Office Girls

To the crackhead, shoplifter, prostitute: I LOVE YOU! Marry me. -Kevin Coyne

To our English Ed. friend- You want to appear fair and watch both sides of the fence, but while letting go warning shots you singed some of our feathers. - Hopefully not fair weather friends

Delineaton is a difficult task, and a sloppy one too, but I will get sloppy if necessary. I enjoy the nights, but not the mornings. Keep it fake. Word is Bond. -The Delineator

To our favorite wizard, DS: Happy Birthday! Hope you got all you wished for.

To the Hot Sicilian Man: Here's to a great role as a French-Greek-Comedia fool. You will be the best we have seen by far, all we need to know is you.

Shocking nights with raucous results. The fish we feed will never be the same. Here's to sleeping with no covers because I gave them all away. God Bless Big Top Croissants. (P.S. Why is everything about Booze!)

To my brown-haired delivery girl- I've seen you before, I see you yet again, but when will you see me? -N.C.

To Brian- We met upstairs once through a mutual friend. I played guitar and had flaming red hair. You asked our friend for one of me for Christmas. This year your wish will be granted. -Michelle

What? What? What did you do? You were born, that's all.

Joanna- Good Luck on your internships, we know you'll land one soon.

Fruit of the spine and work of human glands, this will become for us our spiritual sink, plastered against the porcelain cracked mansion of mind. But I don't crack, no. Spilled though the records may be about the aquisition you gained in the lost annals of pornography and pure

money, I don't mind being your crazy, little whore, as long as you reserve funeral space for daisies spelling out an exclamation point of thoughts transdepressed. And never love an actor; love the act. Like me. -Mr. Gloom

To the sainted guardian of seals, a special novena: that all may be well in hearth and home, especially where newborns are concerned. -Your Faithful Followers

Dear Jane: "Or would you like to be a fish?" -T.H.

My man Archimedes, how was your date Friday? I know you treated her like swine, but since you know no better, what could I expect? Either way, don't forget your prior obligations, like making everyone on campus thank God that they are not you, even in your brightest moment. Past victories: get used to them! -Crabby

L: When will it be that we will hear the click-clack of the tiny claws of little monsters scuttling towards us? Just kidding! (But you better promise to let us know as soon as you tell the father!) -Your buddies still stuck at NEIU

Scott: Soon the brilliance of all that is Republican will dominate the office that was just a conundrum of confused politics. Let us be the light for all. -Carole

Give thanks, eat lots of turkey, stuff yourself, watch football, annoy fellow family members - in all, enjoy the holidays!

Theatre, just a convention for people to hide behind masks, and to hide themselves, but despite all this, a haven in which some of the best friendships are forged.

Tina- Good job, it was a treat working with you again. -C

Where is my mind? Good question. Let me know when you find it.

Lior: I'm going to steal your section, you nicotine starved mutant from beyond the face of any planet Orson Welles bothered to cough about. -TH

To Zeenat Scissorhands; the current business manager awaits the sweet embrace of the ever-loving crypt through which you shall deliver him with a pleasant smile and a handful of rusty, dull shear blades. But thanks for all your work. We can spare a few voices of the campus thanks to you.

Never give up on those you had to leave behind, if fate agrees, they will be back.

The stark, swarming masses of insectual madness abounds, and while it delineates the skull, I don't mind. How's about that, Massuh? Don't you know that God is Pooh Bear?



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