

2-20-2001

Independent- Feb. 20, 2001

Carole M. Brown

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Independent

Vol. 17 Issue 12

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, February 20, 2001

FEB 20 2001

ARCHIVES

Labor issues leave many voices unheard

by Iris Giannakis
Staff Writer

What are the inevitable plagues of universities that hire part-time instructors? Sparse pay, exploitation of instructors who are devoted to students and the teaching profession and who work more than their fair share for little in return, and angry students who are shut out of classes because there are not enough instructors to teach them. Part-time teaching labor is becoming a crisis across the nation. To give you an idea, look at the chart below listing the change in the Tenure/Tenure Track Faculty in

the College of Arts and Sciences, over a ten year period, according to the NEIU Catalogs for the 1990/91 and 2000/01 academic years.

Professors at Northeastern fall under three categories: Unit A, which is the Tenure Faculty; Unit B, or full-time faculty, are paid less than the Tenure Faculty. Other professors fall under the part-time category. Too many of our part-time instructors are overworked and underpaid. Beginning part-time instructors in many departments at Northeastern earn \$1200 per course taught. If these instructors were to teach a full load (four courses

per semester for two semesters), their annual salary would be \$9600-before taxes are taken and without any benefits. Northeastern does not provide part-time instructors with phones, offices or computers.

It is difficult for professors to develop strong faculty/student relationships without adequate means of communication.

"It's a reflection not just of the way we value part-time faculty but also of the way we value education, students, and all faculty here at Northeastern," says Tim Barnett.

The College of Arts and Sciences recently passed a motion that any new part-time instructor will not be hired for less than \$2500 per course taught. If these instructors teach a full load for two semesters their annual salary would be \$20,000-before taxes. Still comparatively low, but a significant increase from current standards.

The Provost's office will be hosting an assembly inviting all faculty to discuss the obstacles faced by unit B and part-time instructors. An expert who has studied this

issue nationally will be brought in so that Northeastern can gain insight into how our situation compares with others and how we can collaborate with other institutions or government agencies to make changes. Also, the Union Subcommittee on Unit B will unionize full-time instructors and part-time instructors who have taught five or more classes in the past five years.

"If we cannot afford to hire as many part-timers as we need to staff our courses, we need to prepare letters and petitions for students who are shut out of classes and for faculty and administrators to sign," Barnett states.

Northeastern students had already sent letters and petitions with over 300 signatures to Provost Lopez and President Steinberg and a letter to the *Chicago Tribune*.

"Thousands of students have to attend Northeastern for more than the typical four years because they simply cannot get the classes required for graduation," as quoted in the letters. "We believe the university is overcrowded with students and understaffed by

professors. We propose the following to alleviate this problem: we ask the university to either hire more professors, create more times and days when a class is offered, or increase the number of students able to enroll in a class."

"These letters need to be sent to legislators too," Barnett says. Urge your legislators to address this issue. One easy way to update yourself on labor and other issues that affect higher education is by keeping up with the Illinois Federation of Teachers (IFT) website www.ift-aft.org. This site provides updates on the latest bills being debated by our state representatives and an easy way to reach your representative about educational issues.

"I believe we are already in the middle of a crisis and that ignoring the situation as it stands is the surest way to create an intolerable working environment," Barnett says. "That would be a shame because this is a great place, and I think the vast majority of us—faculty, administration, students, staff—believe that."

The graph below depicts the change in staffing over 10 years.

| Discipline | 1990/91 | 2000/01 | Change | Change |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------|
| Anthropology | 6 | 5 | -1 | -17% |
| Art | 10 | 7 | -3 | -30% |
| Biology | 13 | 10 | -3 | -23% |
| Chemistry | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0% |
| Computer Science | 14 | 11 | -3 | -21% |
| Criminal Justice | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0% |
| Earth Science | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0% |
| Economics | 9 | 7 | -2 | -22% |
| English | 19 | 14 | -5 | -26% |
| Foreign Languages | 14 | 7 | -7 | -50% |
| Geography & Environ. Science | 8 | 5 | -3 | -38% |
| History | 14 | 12 | -2 | -14% |
| Linguistics | 11 | 8 | -3 | -27% |
| Mathematics | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0% |
| Music | 19 | 13 | -6 | -32% |
| Philosophy | 5 | 4 | -1 | -20% |
| Physics | 6 | 2 | -4 | -67% |
| Political Science | 11 | 9 | -2 | -18% |
| Psychology | 14 | 13 | -1 | -7% |
| Social Work | 3 | 4 | +1 | +33% |
| Sociology | 7 | 7 | 0 | 0% |
| Speech / Performing Arts | 12 | 8 | -4 | -33% |
| Total | 228 | 179 | -49 | -21.5% |

Indian Student Association raises \$10G for earthquake victims

by Brian Blaszkowski
News Editor
Zeenat Desai
News Editor

On February 8, 2001, the NEIU Indian Student Association (ISA) hosted a fundraiser for an earthquake of 7.9 magnitude that hit India on January 26 and killed over 50,000 people.

According to the Indian Defense Minister George Fernandez the figure rose to 100,000 as bodies were unearthed from rubble.

The fundraiser, held in Alumni Hall, succeeded in gathering \$10,000. Rushi Raj Patel, President of ISA, commented, "The work the Indian Student Association has done has made me proud."

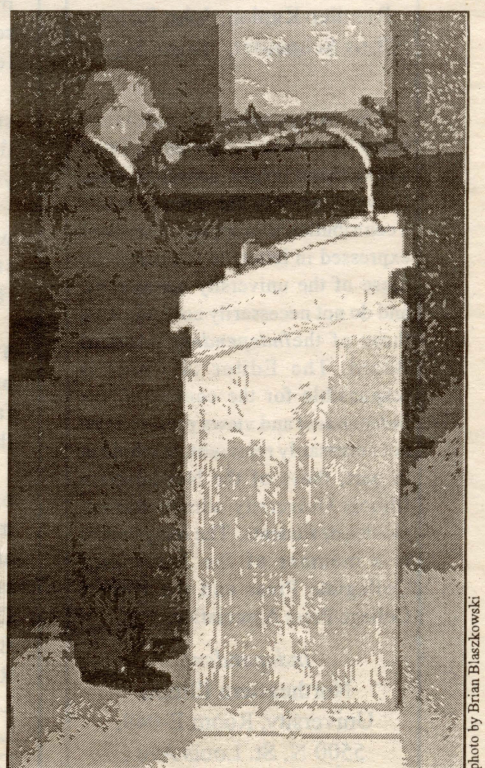
Rohit Joshi, Coordinator of the Learning Center, aided ISA in organizing the fundraiser.

"The students did a very

good job within such short notice. They actually came to me with the idea on Friday, February 2, and the event took place on February 10. So literally they had 3 school days to plan it...this really shows the unity of NEIU students. When we realize that we must help a cause, whether it is in India or any other part of the globe, the students all manage to come together."

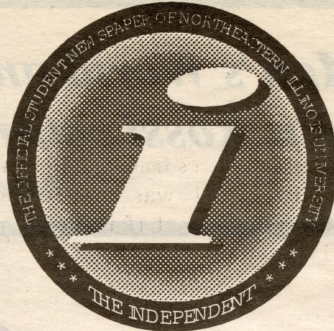
The event started with a prayer by Joshi and was followed by addresses from Provost Estella Lopez and Dean of Academic

see Earthquake page 3



The ISA planned the \$10 thousand fundraiser at the last minute.

photo by Brian Blaszkowski



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AROUND CAMPUS

University Day is right around the corner

University Day 2001: The Great Campus Speak Out! Part Two. Designed with a full day of events and activities for students, faculty and staff, University Day 2001 will be held on Thursday, March 1; this year's theme is *Communication: Making Connections*.

Activities will be ongoing throughout the entire day and will take place throughout the campus. There will be formal sessions consisting of the themes *Getting Connected, Staying Connected, Technically Connected, and Culturally Connected*.

Informal sessions will include a Work-Out Zone, a Hang-Out Zone, and a Chill-Out Zone. A Town Meeting in Alumni Hall at 12:15-2:50 will give you the opportunity to discuss issues concerning NEIU and its various colleges and departments. Connect and Speakout! Your voice will be heard! Visit the website at www.neiu.edu/~uday

Job search listservs created by NEIU Placement Office

Attention Students! The Placement Office and Office of Student Affairs announces the creation of two ListSers to aid in your job search!

Education ListServ: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/neiueducationlistserv> Business and Liberal Arts: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/neiubusinessliberalartsserv> Both feature job openings, job fair notices, on-campus recruiting announcements, Placement Office news, articles of interest, web site links, and much more.

To register, simply do the following: -go to the group address of your choice -under the heading "Join Now!" click the subscribe key-choose your preferred mode of delivery for your listserv -click on the "Join" key -enjoy!

Student symposium slated once again

The Annual Student Research and Creative Activities Symposium features the investigative and creative work of undergraduate and graduate students.

In a full day conference-style presentation held in the Student Union, students share their theses, capstone studies, and creative projects with faculty, administration, and the student body. Students become teachers, and faculty becomes the audience in this community for life-long learners.

Preparing for the Symposium involves challenging oneself to rise to a level of excellence in both understanding, and sharing a topic of interest with peers and professionals. It provides an opportunity for practicing presentation skills that will be used throughout life, and introduces students to the kind of intellectual activity that prevails in graduate programs. The Symposium offers an occasion to contribute to the shared body of knowledge represented by an ethnically, linguistically, and culturally diverse learning community.

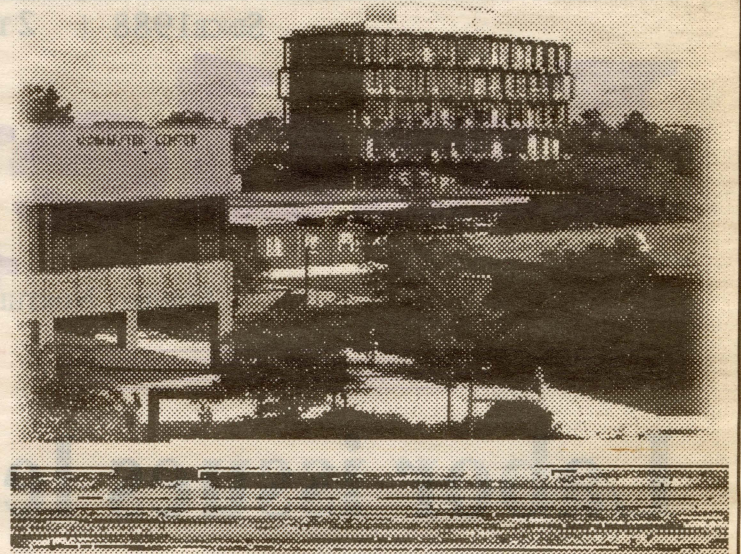
Initiated in 1993, this event has grown to almost one hundred student contributors who work with faculty mentors to present their research or products of creative endeavor over the last nine years. All students are eligible to submit abstracts for this event.

In the past, the creative program featured artists and their work, displayed or performed. The podium presentation required students to speak alone, or with a group before an audience of faculty and peers.

A new feature this year is the addition of poster presentations. The poster presentation, in contrast, offers students the opportunity to display their work in a venue similar to a science fair. The study is designed for visual impact and appeal. It is viewed throughout the day, and discussed by its respective presenter.

If someone has been waiting for their opportunity to share the fruits of their long winter's incubation, this is their chance. Faculty members have proposal forms available now. To participate, complete and return to the committee representative from the appropriate college by March 5.

Committee members include:
Edward Odisho, Education: CLS 3002
Rasoul Razvanian, Business and Management: CLS 0030
Linda Rueckert, Arts and Sciences: SCI 307C
Laura Sanders, Graduate College: SCI 146
Constance Speake, Creative Activities: FA 137
James Sprinkle, Poster Presentations: SCI 352F



Upcoming events

Generativity Club Lecture

Second Parenthood: Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, by Dr. David Farmer on Wednesday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Union, Room 214.

Student Recital

The Music Department presents a Student Recital on Thursday, February 22 at 1:40 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. Stage Center Theatre

Inspecting Carol

The Stage Center Theatre Main Stage presentation is *Inspecting Carol* by Daniel Sullivan and The Seattle Repertory Co.; the Director is William MacIntosh. *A Christmas Carol* meets *The Government Inspector* meets *Noises Off* in this hilarious hit from Seattle. It will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 22-24 in the Stage Center Theatre (Building F). General admission is \$10, seniors and non-NEIU students \$8, children \$6.

Seminar on Sport and Culture

The Chicago Seminar on Sport and Culture Co-sponsored by NEIU and the Newberry Library, the Chicago Seminar on Sport and Culture offers another presentation on the theme, *Intercollegiate Sport in America: College Sports and College Life: A Troubled History* by Murray Sperber, Department of English, Indiana University. The event will be on Friday, February 23, at 4:00 p.m. in the Student Union, Room 003.

Children's Theatre Workshop

The Stage Center Theatre's Children's Theatre Workshop presents *The Golden Goose* by Jay Geller and Suzanne Hannon, directed by CeCe Klinger. Performances are on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, on February 26 through April 27 at 10:30 a.m., Stage Center Theatre. Grades 1-4. Call for reservations.

Guitar Showcase

The NEIU Music Department presents a Guitar Showcase, Brian Torosian, Director. It will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at 1:40 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall.

Brian Torosian, Faculty Artist

Brian Torosian, guitar, and guests perform works by J.K. Mertz and others in a Guitar Chamber Music Concert on Friday, March 9 at 8:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall.

WATCH OUT! Deadline coming

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

March 6
March 27
April 10
April 24

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

If space needs to be reserved please call (773) 442-4577 for information about advertising rates.

Hot tip?



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

Dr. Asad Husain retires after 32 years at NEIU



Dr. Asad Husain, professor of political science, poses with President Salme Steinberg upon his retirement.

by Zeenat Desai
News Writer

Although Dr. Asad Husain, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, will not be returning to NEIU to teach, he has certainly left us many things to remember him by.

With a Ph.D. in international relations from the University of Minnesota and several interesting books to his name, Dr. Husain began teaching at NEIU in 1969, the same year he was appointed to the Consultative Committee of Indian Muslims in the USA and Canada. Before settling down to become a professor, Dr. Husain traveled throughout the world twice as a comparative social scientist.

Even during his early years teaching he maintained ties with the international community, being invited by universities abroad to establish various institutions.

He continued teaching at NEIU until 1999; throughout the years he introduced various political science courses in the curriculum, and also served as Director of the Summer Institute of Islamic Studies at NEIU, all while presiding over the American Islamic College of Liberal Arts.

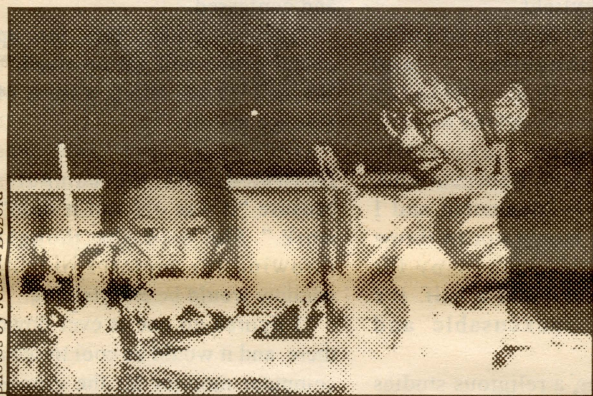
Dr. Husain has been a founding member of the Council for the Parliament of World Religions, and his principles of promoting peace and understanding between various cultures and religions

continue to resonate throughout NEIU, which was host to the second annual Interfaith Program this past November. Dr. Husain had been active in the first annual Interfaith Program of 1999, but was unable to participate in the second due to a stroke that led him to withdraw from teaching halfway through the semester; Dr. Husain was remembered through a special tribute made by Dean of Academic Development Murrell Duster during the second annual Interfaith Program. Dr. Husain has now recovered from the stroke and wishes to thank all of his friends at NEIU who telephoned and visited him in the hospital and home. We wish him a happy and well-deserved retirement.

The Great Photo Shoot-out

The Great Photo Shoot-out is co-sponsored by the Illinois College Press Association and the *Chicago Tribune*. Each one of Illinois' college newspapers was represented by a photographer who participated in a crash course in photojournalism given by *Tribune* photographers. Each photographer was then armed with two rolls of film and given just hours to collect photographs. After selecting the photos at the *Tribune's* photo lab, photographs were judged for journalistic value and composition.

Northeastern was represented by *Independent* photographer Jessica Bezold, who roamed around the cold and rainy Loop for hours in search of any sort of action to catch on film. Although she didn't win the prize, Bezold captured some great photographs. Below are some of the scenes captured by Jessica on her journey.



Judges were particularly looking for expression. Above, Xia Zhao and son share lunch at Water Tower Place.



In the midst of a dreary and freezing mist, a woman carries a bouquet of flowers along Michigan Avenue.

Earthquake

continued from page 1

Development Murrell Duster.

"We are all part of the human race. When part of the globe suffers, we all suffer," Lopez stated. Following Lopez, Mohan Sood, Dean of the Graduate College, spoke of the earthquake and its causes from a geological point of view.

A presentation depicting pictures of damage done to the western state of Gujarat, which received most of the shock, was shown.

Spirited and lively dances from all age categories followed, complete with Indian melodies sung by a member of ISA.

Niranjan Shah, the

Keynote Speaker of the evening, spoke of the technical dimensions of the earthquake by addressing the engineering that lay behind many of the collapsed buildings.

"Whatever we can do is really not enough right now...but many gave access to the internet. What we can do is write to our local newspapers, such as *The Times of India*, and address the editors regarding the engineers and building construction. We need to draw attention to the people back home and the Indian public in general about the composition and safety of their building structures."

The earthquake struck on the India's Republic

see Earthquake page 4

Independent has strong showing at ICPA awards

by Zeenat Desai
News Editor

The *Independent* stole the show with three awards in the Illinois College Press Association (ICPA) Annual Convention.

In the open category for classifieds, the *Independent* received first place; the winning designers of the classifieds section, former Editor-in-Chief Tim Hill (now REV Editor), former Production Editor Carole M. Brown (now Editor-in-Chief), former Business Manager Brian Blaszkowski (now News Editor), and former Editor in Chief Laura R. Hadley (now a staff writer).

Tim Hill also received second place for feature writing in the non-dailies 4,000 plus category, his award-winning story titled *The Willows Remembered*. John Rossi received first place for his column *This Man's World* in the non-dailies 4,000 plus category, most notably for his piece titled *Internet for Dummies*.

Rossi has managed to garner

award-winning spots for three consecutive years now; his first place award was a giant leap from the honorable mention he won in 1998, with a second place following in 1999. This has also been the third consecutive year the *Independent* earned award-winning spots for the classifieds, an area that competes with the likes of the *Daily Northwestern* and the *Daily Illini*. In 1998, The *Independent* won first place in this category, and achieved second place the following year; with this year's first place in classifieds, the *Independent* has managed to pull back up to the top slot.

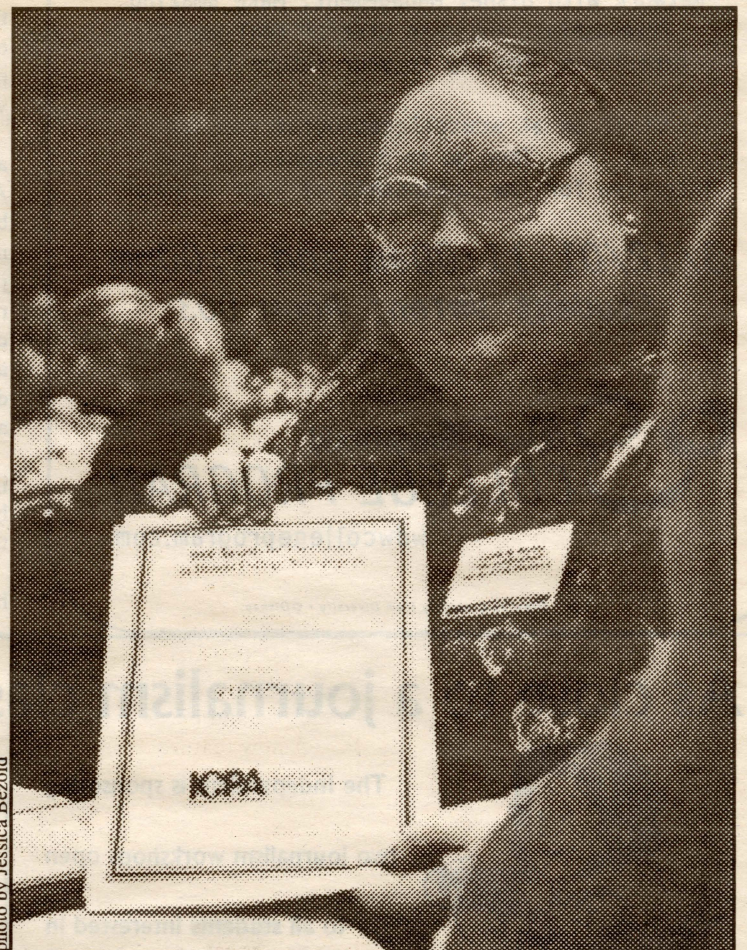
The ICPA Annual Convention served beneficial for many on the *Independent*; the two-day convention consisted of a job fair, lectures and seminars on various topics, including beat reporting, foreign correspondence, photography, and a special session for editors, among others. Co-sponsored by ICPA and the *Chicago Tribune*, the convention aimed to

enhance prospective journalists perceptions of the newsroom and print media.

"I wish more of our people could have won and gotten individual recognition, but I'm happy with the good job we did and look forward to the next year," shared Carole Brown, Editor-in-Chief of the *Independent*. Brown and another section editor had attended a roundtable discussion aimed at problem solving in the newsroom and had come out with a valuable lesson.

"It was good to see that we're not alone when it comes to things going on in the newsroom and campus. Other universities share the same concerns we have," Brown said.

Besides providing an opportunity for different university newspapers to compare notes and share perspectives, the convention also gave photographers a chance to show their stuff. Jessica Bezold, the *Independent* photographer, was the first NEIU photographer to participate



Editor-in-chief Carole Brown proudly accepted the award for the best classified section in the state, an award won 3 times in a row by the *Independent*.

in the ICPA shoot-out competition.

"We are very proud that Jessica participated," Brown said. "The photo theme, 'A Slice of Life Around Chicago,' was very interesting too." Although NEIU walked away

with a total of eight awards in previous years, it has generally maintained a steady winning streak since the number of newspapers participating in each category has increased significantly.

Interviewing for Success

led by **Dr. Allen Shub**

acting dean of the college of business and management

February 22nd
1:40-2:50 p.m.
Student Union 215



presented by the

Business & Management Club



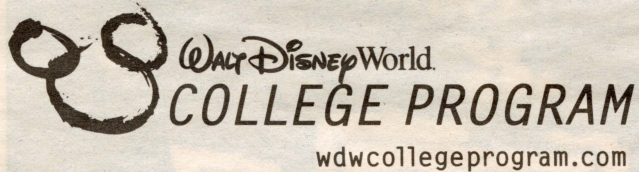
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Visit us at wdwcollegeprogram.com for more info. Then go to a presentation and interview for the internship of your dreams!

3/12/01 11:00am and 2:00pm
Student Union, Room 003



EOE • Drawing Creativity from Diversity • © Disney

Student trustee resigns

by Victor Dula
Opinions Editor

Jemima Noonoo officially resigned as Student Trustee on February 6, two days before the Board held its February meeting. When asked why she resigned before the end of her term, Noonoo stated that it was "due to personal reasons." In clarification, she said, "I have no problems with SGA or the Board of Trustees."

Noonoo, herself elected in a special election late summer/early fall 2000 to replace the resigned Ruben Gerina, served for only two of the five Board of Trustees meetings scheduled to occur during that term she took over.

Some executive members of the Student Government Association expressed dissatisfaction with the

timeliness of her resignation. Student Government President Tom Foley stated during SGA's February 8 meeting, "If we have a special election, this will adversely affect the general election."

If SGA holds a special election to elect a new Student Trustee, that person would only serve for one or two Board meetings, the remainder of Noonoo's term, depending on how soon the election is held. The general election in spring would determine which student would then serve on the Board the following year effective July 1, 2001.

Effie Kalkounos, recently appointed Vice President of SGA, expressed her feelings, "I don't know why she resigned. All of us were left in the dark as to why she quit the job when she was doing just

fine."

President Foley, with the approval of the Student Senate, would later on February 8 serve as the student presence at the meeting of the Board of Trustees without the ability to vote on items up for Board approval. "It's important for the students to have a voice," says Foley. Foley indicated to the Student Senate that he had discussed the arrangement with Board Chair Daniel Goodwin, who approved of the idea.

Students who wish to run for the Student Trustee position can register with Student Activities in the Student Union as of February 19 and begin campaigning Mar. 19. The general election will be held April 5. On this date, the votes from all three campuses will be counted and the new Student Trustee will be chosen.

NYU freshman confesses to computer toss

by Bill Lucia
Washington Square News

(U-WIRE) — A New York University freshman has confessed to throwing a computer monitor out of her ninth floor window two weeks ago, narrowly missing a night watchman next door.

Jennifer Ottomeyer, a College of Arts and Science freshman, said she was intoxicated when she threw the monitor out of her room in the Rubin Residence Hall at 11:15 p.m. on Feb. 1.

"We were all very, very drunk," she said. "I didn't know there was a window down below, or that it was possible for a person to be anywhere in the vicinity."

The monitor smashed through a basement skylight at 39 Fifth Ave. The skylight is over the building's employee bathroom. A night watchman was standing just outside the door of the restroom when the monitor crashed through the skylight, according to the building doorman who wished to remain anonymous.

The doorman noted that the incident could have been serious, had the night watchman been in the bathroom.

"If he was inside he would have been hurt," he said.

The toilet and sink in the bathroom were almost directly under the skylight.

"It's hard to imagine an action more thoughtless and sophomoric than throwing something heavy out the window of your room," University Spokesman John Beckman said. "I grew up in Manhattan and I think I was taught not to throw things out the window by the time I was two and a half. It's egregious, inexcusable and juvenile."

Ottomeyer, a religious studies major, planned to take a leave of absence from NYU for academic reasons. Although she remains in her room, University officials have told her that she would be banned from NYU housing, Ottomeyer said.

"It would be reasonable to say in general that the tossing of materials out the window, particularly heavy electronic components, is a sure path to expulsion from housing," Beckman said. "Moreover, any damage caused by such an episode would be assessed to that individual."

After housing officials determined the computer had been thrown from Ottomeyer's window, they told her that she could either claim responsibility for the incident or face police action.

Ottomeyer opted to avoid the possibility of police intervention and confessed.

"They were like, 'Hey, fess up or the police will get involved,'" she said. "I was taking a leave of absence anyway."

Ottomeyer said she was frustrated with the computer because "it was old and it didn't work." She said she thought throwing the monitor out the window would be entertaining.

"I figured no one is ever down there, and it would be cool to see a computer monitor hit the ground from nine floors up," she said.

Earthquake

continued from page 3

Day, and is said to be the worst earthquake in half a century. The earthquake was so immense that it was also felt in neighboring Pakistan. Aftershocks continue periodically, one carrying a magnitude of 5.6.

The earthquake has spurred a whirl of activity and support from local community organizations, including local humanitarian groups, Mosques, Temples and other places of worship.

Survivors continued to be found days after the quake, motivating rescue workers to continue digging through heaps of rubble. Many miracle stories, some shared by speakers at the fundraiser, have been cited by the press and media; two siblings were found alive after being trapped for two weeks in the rubble, and an unscathed three year old girl was found days later reciting Arabic verses, the sound of her voice prompting workers to dig around the area.

Joshi informed that the funds from the event will be donated to either the Red Cross, the Chief Minister Relief or BAPS, which are "the leading organizations collecting donations."

As close to a journalism class as you're gonna get.....



The Independent is sponsoring two journalism workshops open to all students interested in learning more about the art of newspaper reporting.

brought to you by the Independent



Interviewing

presented by Thomas J. Foley
Tuesday, February 27th
FA-202 1:40 p.m.

Newswriting

presented by Michael Conroy
Monday, March 12th
SU-214 7:15 p.m.

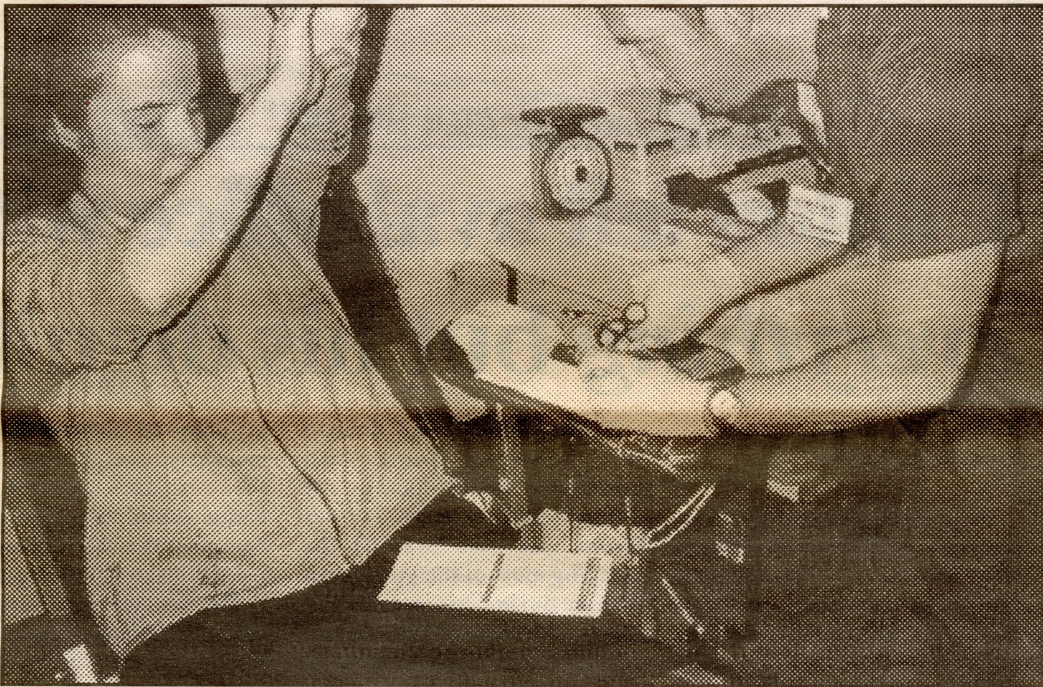
Northeastern students save lives

Lifesource representatives were there early to set up the table for the blood drive, sponsored by NEIU Health Services.

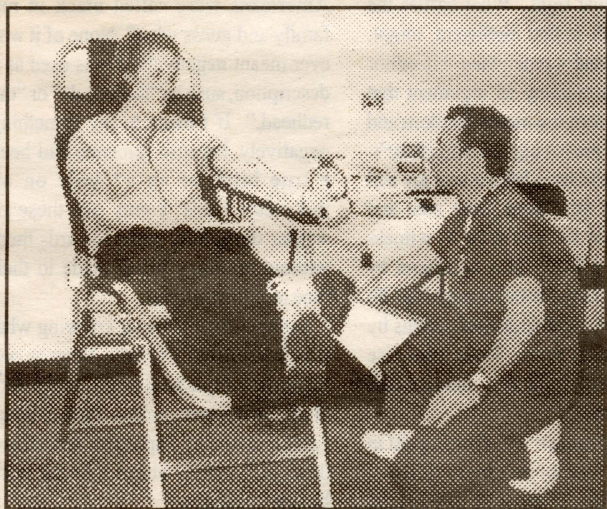
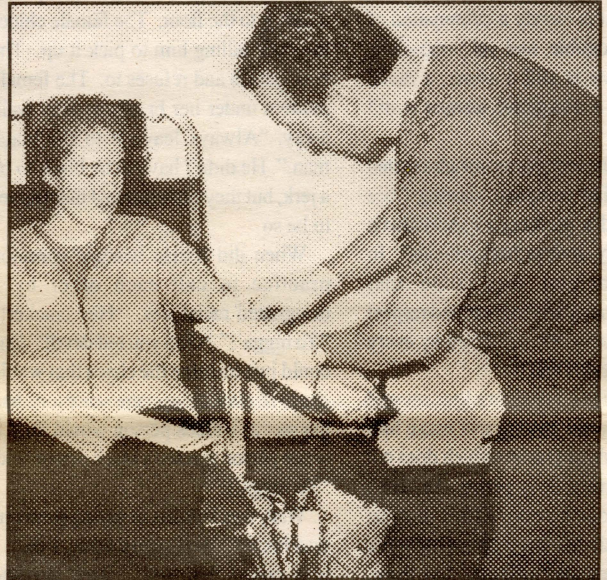
Before giving blood, donors such as student Armando Silva were required to answer health questions with the assistance of Lifesource representative, Mary Claypool.



As the day drew to a close, the blood was packed in coolers and shipped to Lifesource's labs where further screening was performed.

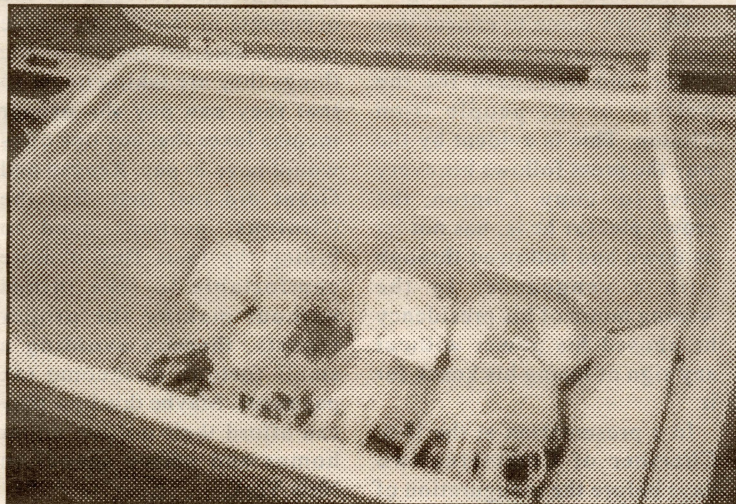


Donors, like student Erin Morrison, sit in reclined chairs as blood is drawn by the gentle staff of Lifesource.



photos by Joanna Frigo and Carole M. Brown

A second cooler-ful of blood bears testament to the generosity of Northeastern students.



Lifesource nurses such as Michael Munn (pictured above) are trained in the art of drawing blood. Donors could hardly feel a thing as blood was being drawn.

Communication: Making Connections

Thursday, March 1

University Day 2001

The Great Campus Speak Out, Part Two

www.neiu.edu/~uday

PERSPECTUS

EDITORIAL

BY CAROLE M. BROWN

A dream deferred?

Racism is an ideology of domination and a set of attitudes, ideas, and social, economic, and political practices by which one or more groups define themselves as superior and other groups as inferior and then systematically deny these groups the dignity, freedoms, opportunities, and rewards that the society has to offer. (B.M. Scott and M.A. Schwartz; *Sociology, Making Sense of the Social World*)

Never, in the time that many of the students at this University have spent here has the term racism been interchangeable with the name *Independent*. Why should this suddenly change? Some might be willing to say that members of the *Independent* have become more vocal in their seemingly "racist" beliefs. Others would simply state that perhaps society is more aware of the issue of racism.

Perhaps it is merely a culmination of all things possible, and yet impossible. A hate crime is still a crime, a racial epithet said in a negative manner is still a negative.

Has anyone seen the recent ads created by the K-Mart company, starring Cece Winans and a plethora of individuals from racially diverse backgrounds? In this commercial they state that individuals need to recognize and respect all that has been accomplished by every race. Why can't that be?

An opinions editor makes several statements in his writing that make him look like a blatant racist (which does not necessarily mean he is, perhaps he hasn't gotten his point across). Other students respond in kind to this piece of literature to which they take offense. Let them. They have that right. What baffles the mind, though, is that intelligent, bright, young men and women take this editor to task by presenting an argument that starts with a scenario more ridiculous and less thought provoking than the editor's.

What would have been a true joy and testament to how great these men and women could be would be to witness them putting this editor to shame by highlighting how wrong he might be. To see them *not* resort to animal actions by trying to kick in doors. To see them rise above this and make their families and ancestors proud.

Sad to say racism will always exist in society. As long as people are different in some way, there will always be something for others to hate. The question that needs to be asked is, is it possible to keep our individuality, embrace the differences, and create a harmonious humanity?

DREAM DEFERRED

by Langston Hughes

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore—
And then run?
Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over—
like a syrupy sweet?
Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.
Or does it explode?

What does Hughes mean by this poem? Knowing Hughes' history; mulatto, homosexual, a poet, it could be said that he was an outsider in all

communities. Yet his poetry encompasses everyone, white/black/yellow/red, and speaks on an intimate level.

How could someone in 1951 express so eloquently what needs to be done, and yet 50 years later, so many people are struggling with the same problems. We can transplant hearts, I guess humankind has not yet learned to use them.

How can people blame "the man" for bringing them down when people are doing it every day to each other, whether they realize it or not. Just walk around this very campus for an example of this.

On the way to an on-campus event, a student cuts through Village Square and notices two friends, one male, one female, walking past the bulletin boards. The male notices a sign, pulls it off the boards, crumples the poster up and tosses it to the floor. The female chides the male telling him to pick it up. The male scoffs and refuses to. The female mutters under her breath as they walk away, "Always leave it to the black man." He didn't have to be black to be a jerk, but they both showed themselves to be so.

When did it also become common practice to call each other by a designated racial slur. "Hey cracker!" "Yo nigga!" "Ooo you red devil!" One could just imagine the chaos that would ensue if, even done in the same tone and manner as a black person would do it, a white person greeted a black person with "Yo nigga!"

Wait, was I wrong in saying someone was black? Well guess what, I did. I was raised that way. Dark skinned Americans were called black in my family and guess what? None of it was ever meant negatively, it was used as a description, such as "the blonde" or "the redhead." If I mean to say something negatively, because someone had been a true bitch or an a**hole on an individual basis, I may use these or similar derogatory terms towards them without reference being made to their race or ethnic origins.

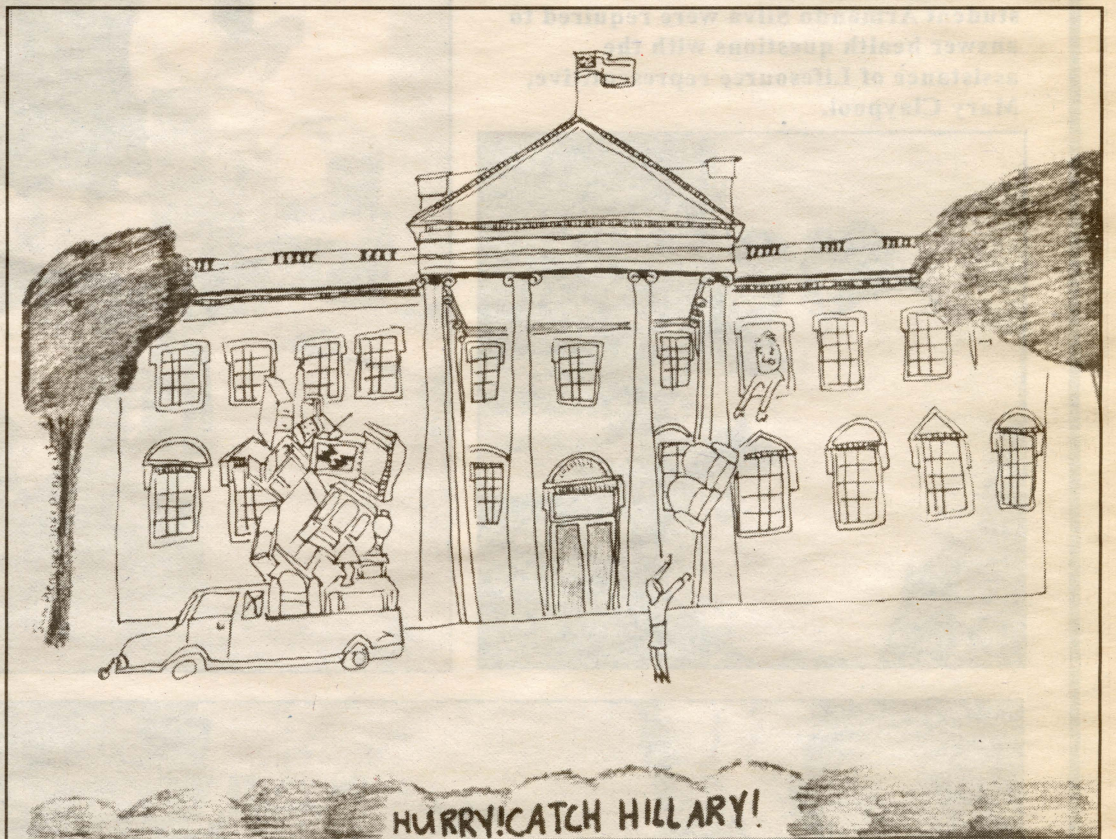
I am so tired of never knowing what to call someone. I refer to them as one thing but people now prefer things like "I am a pure-bred, yellow-tipped, black rooted male of Japanese-American descent." How about "Asian with blonde highlights?"

Has anyone realized that this categorizing of each other actually does not help the situation? It's great to celebrate our differences in race and culture, but everyone should and could celebrate all. I love the swaying rhythms of a great salsa, and the acoustic masterpieces created in a bombazo. People believe I am strange for enjoying these simply because I'm white.

I recently attended a workshop at the African-American-Caribbean Celebration on the profile of the African-American in the media. I was truly interested in the discussion, yet I felt as if I would have been dismissed on the spot if I wanted to comment in the question and answer period because I had fair-skin and red hair. Talk about feeling as if you were sticking out!

I hope that people of many races, will get together and talk. What's the worst that can happen? You get a new friend with a new perspective?

DRAWING BOARD



Clinton left oval office with everything but his dignity

by Scott Plencner
Production Editor

It is always good to be consistent. The most fitting way for Bill Clinton, the impeached president, to leave the oval office is under a cloud of scandal. Anything else would just be disappointing.

We have come to expect this sort of irreverence for the office and disregard for the welfare of the people from Clinton. This is evident by the way the press follows his every move for copy. Clinton, the crowd pleaser he is, has not let us down and followed through with a vengeance. In the waning hours of his presidency he abused his power without any sign of losing his knack for it.

In a presentation at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce two days before the inauguration of George W. Bush, Clinton staffer Bob Nash reported that White House workers were extremely busy emptying the White House of every sign of the former administration. Several moving trucks were loaded with memos, papers, hard drives, and other documents, as is required by law. Nash failed to mention the fact that Clinton was also making off with gifts from foreign leaders to the people of the United States. He also failed to mention the fact that his employees pocketed W keys from every keyboard on White House computers, in what resulted in a cheap practical joke.

It is true that Nancy Reagan left the White House with hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of gifts. Ulysses Grant was also famous for bringing most of the gifts given to him during his presidency home with him to Ohio. While such greed is frowned upon, it is not illegal so long as the occupants of the White House leave a detailed record of the things they are taking home so that they can pay the proper income taxes that any one of us would have to pay. Reagan and Grant did just that. But the Clintons, perhaps used to hiding the facts find it more comfortable to take things without making the proper reports, thereby avoiding a small fortune in income tax payments. Maybe this how they can afford their million dollar homes and office spaces in New York.

Or maybe it is by exchanging pardons with known criminals for millions of dollars in contributions to the "Clinton Library" slush-fund. Clinton's last minute pardons were being sent through just hours before Bush took the oath of office and without consultation with the Justice Department.

Clinton pardoned a California drug dealer whose father made large contributions to the library. Clinton pardoned Chicago Democratic crooks Dan Rostenkowski and Mel Reynolds, the latter accused of sexual offenses (maybe Clinton can relate.) He pardoned Harvey Weinig, a rich Manhattan lawyer who facilitated a

kidnapping scheme and who laundered over \$19 million for the cocaine cartel. His pardonees all have two things in common: they are rich and they helped make Clinton richer.

The most abrasive pardon was that of billionaire fugitive Marc Rich, whose wife Denise worked with the Clinton Library fund. U.S. attorney Mary Jo White is investigating the Rich-Clinton connection, trying to find out whether Denise Rich served as a cover for Marc Rich to funnel large amounts of cash into Hillary Clinton's campaign, the DNC, and the library fund. Clinton, himself, admitted that the Rich pardon was "unusual."

Clinton has blamed the controversy on the Republicans, telling Geraldo Rivera that he 'just wanted to do what past presidents have done, but [that] the Republicans had other ideas for [him].' But the "vast right wing conspiracy" line is not fooling anyone anymore. His own Justice Department has voiced concern over the pardons, as have many leading Democrats and, it is said, privately his wife. Clinton has no one to blame for his undignified exit but himself.

And so on to the Clinton legacy. Perhaps the Clinton Library will have exhibits chronicalling the sex, uncalled-for pardons (let's not forget the FALN fiasco a few years back), lies, impeachment, tax evasion, cronyism, abuse of power, bombing of innocents in Africa, Chinese spying, Whitewater, and on and on and on.

REV

Volume 5, issue 11. February 20, 2001

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

The *Writin' Desk* reminisces about one of the greatest bands you will never hear.

Page 2

Special Event

Poor showing at the auto show

by Lior Alon
REV Editor

Lagging a month behind the mother of all US auto exhibitions, Detroit's North American International Auto Show, Chicago hosted this past week our own local version, imaginatively titled the Chicago Auto Show.

Sadly, and in sharp contrast to past years, 2001's edition had dismal results all around, with very few items to really generate any excitement. As a car fanatic, yours truly typically finds more than enough to write home about, but not this time. The slim pickings, hopefully, do not reflect an ailing automotive industry, even though one will be right in suspecting such a situation, considering last year's rather OK-ish Detroit venue, which was good but not staggeringly so for all its size (considerably larger than the McCormick Place version).

Attendance didn't seem to be much of an issue, as opposed to previous engagements where crowding was a real problem. For the first time ever, my main dilemma in taking pictures wasn't

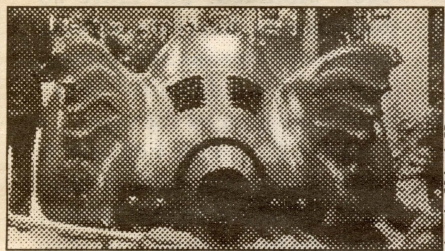


photo by Yolanda Harrell

You know things went awry when the most intriguing car on display was fake.

how to work around folks getting in the way, but what exactly to take a picture of.

A considerable part of the lure associated with major shows of this ilk used to be countless vendors offering anything from chrome plated mufflers to vegetable slicers at incredibly discounted prices. Distressingly even those have gone away and may never return. Accessory and parts booths were on hand, although brutally relegated to a remote part of the hall and selling little noteworthy wares, except for "show priced" wheels (cheap until you realized they didn't include tires with the "bargain").

The auto trade seems to be suffering from a chronic reluctance to expose its true creative colors. Too often vehicles made by totally unrelated manufacturers end up looking quite the identical twins, and most exhibitors still haven't woken up from their money-crazed SUV/minivan delirium, flooding us with a barrage of useless, yuppie-minded wannabe off-roaders that most likely will fall apart if taken off the pavement. Clearly designers and engineers have the capability to craft truly mind-blowing cars, however, it's the bean-counting execs that keep holding them at bay, only signing on platforms that'll rake in the cash regardless of automotive relevance.

Not wanting to be the whiner, this reviewer feels it his duty to inform you of another downward trend affecting everyone's favorite show stoppers: concepts. We're all used to being wowed by out of this world contraptions brought



photo by Yolanda Harrell

Ford forty-nine: they can have it any color they want it as long as it's mean.

to bear by auto makers in a display of technological prowess, yet 2001 failed us again in that department. This year, even the concepts all looked pretty much the same, largely wanting to be an Audi TT of all cars. Additionally, the jaded car lover grows tired of being repeatedly cast as the naïve, impressionable 1939 Worlds Fair goer by car companies. Said jaded enthusiast now demands more than 20 inch rims and lots of shiny wax in order to be awe-struck. In particular, can we please have genuine attempts to innovate and renew past glories?

Of course, there were several key moments. Most Valuable Auto (MVA Award, which I'll soon copyright...) goes to Ford's amazing retro Forty Nine T-Bird. It brought back so many memories and passions to passers-by, one could get a kick from watching folks

transfixed by its sheer gangster/sci-fi beauty.

As a member of a rare breed who like Chevy and Ford equally, it will be no biggie admitting The Blue Oval's domination of the 2001 event. Ford's astonishing F150 Lightning Rod (still conceptual but nearing completion) had a spellbinding effect on attendees with its lowered suspension and rounded curves. Often seen at the track, Lightning pick up trucks embody Ford's ability to reinvigorate even the most traditional automotive genre. Their Mercury brand finally got to show off its upcoming muscle sedan, the Marauder. Based on the venerable Crown Victoria platform, Marauder adds a clean, menacing paint job, 18-

see Auto Show page 2

Movie Preview

Mis-Guy-ded effort

by Lior Alon
REV Editor

Riding an immense wave of hyperbole and publicity, *Snatch*, Guy Ritchie's latest directorial effort, falls rather flat on its face despite having the odds so clearly stacked in its favor.

As the trailers so eloquently revealed, it follows the familiar path of the modern, multi-layered, parallel-plotted caper. Focusing on the industrious endeavors of a few good criminals (and a few less competent ones), all are bent on making some extra dough either by venturing into fixed, unlicensed boxing or hitting the proverbial jackpot via a superbly huge 84-carat diamond.

Over the past six years or so we've been overwhelmed by this ilk of film making, largely pioneered and

inspired by Quentin Tarantino's 1994 classic *Pulp Fiction*. Certainly, pundits and casual movie goers alike seem to generally approve of this genre, but how much of a good thing is bad? After all, it seems the only way to do a crime-action flick these days is to retread in previous ventures' footsteps. For all their attempts at being fresh and innovative, movies such as *Snatch*, *Go*, *Lock Stock and Two Smoking Barrels*, *Way of the Gun*, *From Dusk Till Dawn* and *The Usual Suspects* have lost much of their charm by now. Of course, to that modest list you can easily add an additional half dozen new releases, all adhering to this tried and tested formula, which has come to be in desperate need of revamping.

Ritchie's *Snatch* owes much of its reputation to its director's recent anchorage to Madonna, instantly granting it face value and familiarity.

Not only does it deploy one huge celebrity as an actor (Brad Pitt), but even the backstage dude happens to be a popularly recognizable personality.

All that fluff does not a good film make, though, and *Snatch* lacks features to raise it above the bar. Sure acting, scripting and gag-generation all work perfectly well, alas; as a whole we've just seen this one time too many.

A stylized, interwoven tale of underworld characters and their cynical exploits, *Snatch* showcases considerable prowess through several of its proponents, especially soccer star Vinnie Jones (cast as Bullet Tooth Tony, but really playing as himself if you ask me...), Rade Serbedzija as Boris The Blade (also seen in *M:12*, *The Saint*, *Eyes*



Never stop to ask directions from a guy in a leather beanie hat.

Wide Shut) and Dennis Farina, brilliantly portraying baffled jeweler Cousin Avi (Farina made appearances in numerous venues, but you may remember him most in *Saving Private Ryan* and *Midnight Run*). At any rate,

see *Snatch* page 3

Ravin' like a writing desk:

by Tim Hill Another band bites the dust

It's a popular enough trend by this point for serious music fans to verbally trash the music industry for their erroneous profit-hounding tactics. From exploiting talented musicians (let alone human beings) to insulting pop audiences, there has been no shortage of material from which to criticize the record companies, radio and video stations, concert venues, ticket sellers, and big name record stores that make it next to impossible to "discover" a band that is not only good, but unpenetrated by the throbbing, neon, corporate rape machine.

The latest and most shameful example of how the unforgiving gears of the music industry can crush the next big thing without so much as a shrug for what might have been is in the plight of the career for Lusk. If you've heard of Lusk, you, like me, are lucky. If you haven't heard of this band, which could have been the next Smashing Pumpkins, I don't blame you.

Lusk is difficult to describe. I began listening to their first and only album *Free Mars* a couple months ago, and still, I don't have it completely absorbed. It's so good, I don't even know how good it is yet.

Some of their tunes are just pure audio magic. Imagine a cross among *Wish You Were Here* (the Floyd one), *Sgt. Pepper*, *OK Computer*, *Fantastic Planet* (by Failure), and you're getting warmer. *Free Mars* is twisted and beautiful at the same time, like an art show by Joel Peter Witkin. This band provides melodic and intriguing music that comes from a fusion of British and American, modern and classic rock influences.

Lusk could be called an indie supergroup. The band was begun by Chris Pitman and Paul D'amour, a co-founder of Tool. Other musicians on the album include Brad Laner of Medicine. Medicine was most popularly exposed by their performance in the 1994 film *The Crow* and the tune *Time Baby III* on the soundtrack for the movie. Also featured on *Free Mars* is Greg Edwards of Autolux and Failure acclaim. Failure, by the way, was one of the most innovative and prolific rock bands of the 90's who never got their due credit (see *Magnified* and *Fantastic Planet* for convincing evidence).

Most of the information acquired here was found on unofficial Lusk websites, some info of which was provided by Chris Pitman himself. Here is the tragic story of Lusk:

In January of 1998, the video for the Lusk song *Backworlds* won top choice on the MTV program *12 Angry Viewers*. This was no small feat. For a virtually unknown band to not only be played on MTV but to win best video out of the selection is an Olympian achievement.

In February of '98, Lusk and their art directors Peter Grant and Stephanie Hughes were nominated at the 40th Grammy Award Ceremony for Best Packaging for *Free Mars*. Needless to say, it's not the same as Best New Artist, but a Grammy is a damn Grammy, and as cheesy as it sounds, it IS an honor just to be nominated, especially for a yet unpopularized band.

Lusk got a few shots in the arm, but Fate carried concealed weapons.

During the previous August, Lusk was finishing the first three weeks of a tour. The band was about to take two weeks off before beginning an East Coast tour. Skies were blue for Lusk when co-founder Chris Pitman received a call from Danny Carey of Tool. Volcano Records, home to both Tool and Lusk, made a gross oversight and forgot to renew their option to keep Tool. Are you chomping at the bit like me, music fans? The record company morons simply FORGOT to resign one of the most popular hard rock bands in the world, whom they were blessed to have signed in the first place.

So what happens to a semi-indie label when they take advantage of and lose their number one source of income? Simple. The company folds.

When Volcano realized how negligent they'd been, they shut down and cut all transactions, including royalties and money for bands on their label. Lusk was forced to cancel their tour.

With this blow, Lusk, on the brink of rock stardom, wanted to be dropped from Volcano in order to sign with a different label and get back to work. To their chagrin, Volcano, who cowardly renamed the label Freeworld to save face, would not let Paul D'amour out of his contract.

Lusk did however see one brief pinhole of light. After winning *12 Angry Viewers*, Lusk was contacted by MTV through Volcano to promote the band. See this clearly: The music television station with the most power, money, and clout in the entire industry CALLS YOUR RECORD LABEL so you can pretty much turn into rock stars with regular airplay overnight. This brilliant stroke of luck is just not ordinary in the Biz. When opportunity knocks, you answer the damn door and offer your guest a cool drink.

Volcano never called back, so MTV moved on. Careers crushed into a compact cube with the shrugs of shoulders.

So what's up with Lusk since then? The last thing we know is that it's up to the lawyers in an ownership battle that has already taken place for years. The band members will most likely plummet back to the bottom rung of the greasy corporate ladder, unable to avoid stains of disappointment for having gone so far, only to have the plug pulled by record company scum.

Bleek Outlook

by Lucy Rendler-Kaplan
Staff Writer

Memphis Bleek's sophomore album, entitled *The Understanding*, is touted as packing a gruff, back alley tested vocal glock. Bleek is real street and real gangsta.

Don't get me wrong. I'm hip to rap. I realize that Baja Men aren't REALLY singing about dogs getting out of a locked pound, and I've been known to bust out a few moves for Jay-Z. In fact, the best tracks on Bleek's CD come when Jay-Z is featured, but listening to these hard-to-understand lyrics makes me long for the days of Will Smith singing how Parents Just Don't Understand, or pre-teen group ABC rapping about meeting Ayisha on the playground.

This CD follows Bleek's gold debut album, *Coming of Age*. Jay-Z had taken Bleek under his wing, and taught him to sing about what he knew. Bleek, on his first album, sang about his life



experience growing up in the streets of New York. Not much more than a year later, in *The Understanding*, Bleek has still not advanced to anything more in the way of more complex, original ideas. He limits his lyrics to the usual "broads, Benzes, and battles." Tracks like *We Get Low* and *All Types of S**** (yes, this album DOES come with a Parental Advisory) are almost exactly the same as some of the cuts on his first CD. Though Bleek keeps the tracks pounding with hard beats, his lyrics seem to lack passion. This release sounds like it was rushed to make Bleek some quick cash and remind

his listeners, (yes, there are some out there), that Bleek was still around.

Again, the CD's most essential cuts are highlighted by the obvious chemistry between Bleek and his mentors, Jay-Z and Beanie Sigel. So run out to Tower Records or Best Buy, but do it because Bob Dylan has a new greatest hits CD out, not to buy Bleek.

Music: B Bleek does have some slamming instrumentals, but otherwise there's just the listener slamming their head into their hands wondering why they've still got their Discman on.

Lyrics: D Bleek's lyrics are too hard to understand most times, and we don't really care enough about what he's saying to try to listen any more closely.

Production: B Seldom rising beyond just being okay.

Overall: C- Mediocre release not worthy of your cash, unless you can coax someone into coughing it up for you.

Digesting Hannibal

by Brian Blaszkowski
News Editor

Hannibal, the much anticipated sequel to *Silence of the Lambs* which was written by Thomas Harris, leaves much to be desired. Doctor Lecter's further adventures are skewed and drawn out, with not enough emphasis on Lecter himself. Clarice Starling is played by Julianne Moore, who does an admirable job picking up Jodie Foster's legacy. However, there are far too many characters of large importance,

so each scene doesn't delve into each character enough. The movie lacks the thrilling aspect of its predecessor, and the acting leaves much to be desired. The movie is also unnecessarily gruesome, but only at the end. The rest of the movie is filled with Hollywood propaganda and horrible acting.

As one who has both read and seen the novels and movies, respectively, I can honestly say that the books were infinitely better than the movies, even more so than is usual. As sequels go,

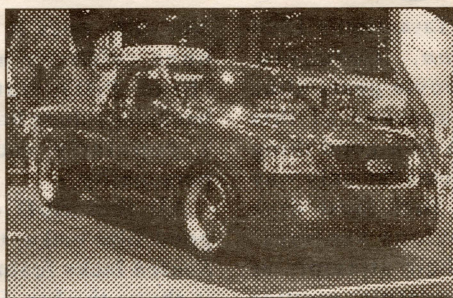
Hannibal is awful. This movie is definitely better left unseen. Even the gruesome portion movie, which I had personally been looking forward to, was horribly done, and left the audience sick to their stomach, but more so because of horrible effects and preposterous storylines. *Hannibal* is a definite "miss" in this season of movies.

Grade: C-, only because it brought back fantastic memories of *Silence of the Lambs*, a masterpiece from a golden age of movies long since dead.

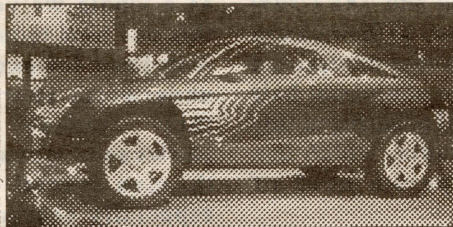
Auto Show

continued from page 1

inch wheels, dual Borla exhaust and a 300+ horsepower 4.6 liter V8.



Mercury Marauder: no AARP stickers for you.



Chevy Borrego: hip professionals by day, in debt over their heads ALL day.

Sadly for GM, they didn't hold a candle to their archrivals, with few memorable models. Chevy's Borrego versatile concept vehicle further elaborates on

last year's Avalanche theme by combining street, all-terrain and cargo applications in a single product. Named after a Southern California State park, the Borrego wants to captivate younger, wealthier audiences with an eye on adventure-based stress relief. It actually seems like it might work if given a shot at production. Speaking of which, kudos must go to GM for finally moving on their Avalanche line of multi-purpose trucks, bringing them to dealers soon apparently without

diluting the impressive concept, revealed last year. This signifies a break from tradition, which usually dictates over-the-top concepts that never make it intact to show rooms, if at all.

Gone are the days of devoting eight-ten hours to strolling the halls. 2001 gave us a lukewarm showing and most folks reported getting bored after a couple. A weak presence by imports and an almost complete lack of supercars (only two Corvettes, two Vipers and few exotics) certainly didn't help.

At least beer was cheap and female presenters as lovely and interesting to bug with car questions as usual. However, these pluses could not rescue a show depicting autos consigned to doing little more than getting from A to B, a hateful notion despised by gear heads everywhere. Here's hoping for next year...

Math and Science disappoints

by Tim Hill
REV Editor

Math and Science is the debut, one-man music project from Brick Red Records newbie John Wolf, a musician with a lot of home recording equipment and too much time on his hands.

Wolf has a distinctly "open-mike" feel to his songs. The way he sings makes you envision his facial expressions gesticulating in a storyteller way. The verses spin the tale as the chorus becomes more and more ironic with development of the plot.

This album is good for when you're in the mood to listen to something that sounds light-hearted and silly, but that has a nerdy wisdom to it (see every *They Might Be Giants* album for clarification).

Essentially simple songs with developed synth sound effects, the self-titled debut from *Math and Science* is like pastels, only audible. These songs are cute, cuddly, and mind-warping. Nevermind the Teletubbies rumors; keep your young ones away from *Math and Science* (and the band by the same name, too).

One track entitled *Soundbite* uses a Police-like guitar/bass riff to float Wolf's angst-on-Prozac vocals. This is the

problem with music from California: even when they're upset, they sound happy. Typically, Wolf's lyrical subject matter discusses chasing after some girl, feelings of rejection as a youth, and the mundanity of day-to-day life. Instead of giving those situations a hug and a kiss, why not punch them in the face? Paraphrasing Charles Bukowski, usually a Californian himself, I prefer artists who scream when they burn, instead of pretending like life is peachy by lying through catchy song.

Eternity is an inexcusably cheesy love song. John Wolf must be a former Sesame Street songwriter.

Cool Me Down is a Ben Folds Five b-side sans the depth and soul.

Don't play this album for any members of AA, lest suffer the consequences and guilt of driving people off the wagon. Six songs into *Math and Science*, every measure you willingly expose your open ears to is like pounding a screwdriver into your own brain with a bowling pin in order to readjust the position of the pencil you jammed in your nostril around track three.

Math and Science is named for, "the only two subjects John Wolf could barely pass in school," according to the promo. Notice that this implies he was even WORSE in his Music and English classes,

and we're supposed to listen to this and sing along.

Of the project, which he wrote and produced all by his lonesome, Wolf says, "*Math and Science* is a marriage of Toys 'R' Us to Radio Shack. The BBC to American sitcoms. It's overachieving low fi."

Gosh, it sounded for a minute like he and I AGREE about this disc. I doubt it though, since I assume Wolf wants you to buy this drink coaster when it hits the stores in early March, which isn't such a bad idea if you're in the market for a cheap lobotomy.

Math and Science
Brick Red Records

Music: D- Obnoxious, redundant pop. Some decent instrumentation, but not enough to float the album.

Lyrics: C- John Wolf has got some decent storytelling skills and rhymes, and so does Mother Goose, but I wouldn't purchase HER c.d.

Production: B- Lacking some bass and a bit too reliant upon synth sounds, but comes across pretty clearly.

Overall: D Why not an F? Hey! A good drink coaster with a mini Frisbee inside is hard to come by.

Recommended *Inspecting*

by Tim Hill
REV Editor

NEIU's Stage Center Theatre presents its third main stage production for the 2000-01 season with Daniel Sullivan and the Seattle Repertory Company's *Inspecting Carol*, a lively comedy about a small theatre company caught in a financial crisis.

The small acting troop realizes they are bankrupt at the time they are rehearsing for their annual production of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. This setting makes for a hysterical backdrop upon which the characters of the acting company invoke their eccentric personalities, including the hot-tempered director Zorah (Katherine Czerwinski), the surly stage manager M.J. (Lucy Rendler-Kaplan), the snobby lead actor Larry (Vincent Villalobos), and the fidgety business manager Kevin (William

Mayer).

Other characters typify classic eccentricities of actors, from outlandish warm-up exercises to fake, attention-getting injuries.

Unless familiar with stage and screen works such as Mel Brooks' *The Producers*, Christopher Guest's *Waiting For Guffman*, or Noel Coward's *Hay Fever*, *Inspecting Carol* may appear confusing at times, as one is watching actors playing actors putting on an adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*, while simultaneously watching actors putting on *Inspecting Carol*. Overall though, the madness of *Inspecting Carol* is sure to entertain.

This delightful and recommended comedy runs at 7:30 p.m. Thursdays through Saturdays, February 22-24, March 1-3 and 8-10 at NEIU's Stage Center Theatre. Admission is \$10.00, senior citizens and students pay \$8.00.

Snatch

continued from page 1

characters are generally well-acted, though mostly one-dimensional (as befits sarcastic, tongue-in-cheek affairs of this sort).

Mr. Pitt himself, far from being the center of attention, does his regular competent thing but offers very little novelty. His knack for accents resurfaces nicely, but all told

he adds nothing to his glorious role in *Fight Club*.

Nowadays a connoisseur is entitled to expect

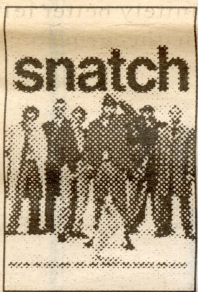
more. After a century of movies we have reached quite lofty heights and deserve surprises, new ideas and even the occasional breakthrough. Needless to say, not all films will attain such degrees of achievement. *Snatch* firmly finds a home in the latter group. It has no glaring faults and even refrains from overt violence and over-the-top gratuity, yet really will have no lasting effect on its viewers, unless they've spent the previous decade colonizing Neptune or something and have no knowledge of 1990's cinema.

Snatch
Directed and written by Guy Ritchie
Produced by Michael Dreyer
Starring Benicio Del Toro, Dennis Farina, Brad Pitt, Rade Serbedzija, Vinnie Jones

FOR: fun while it lasts, no offensive violence and slightly more humane than usually is the case with these movies. Several impressive performances, Brad Pitt's accent.

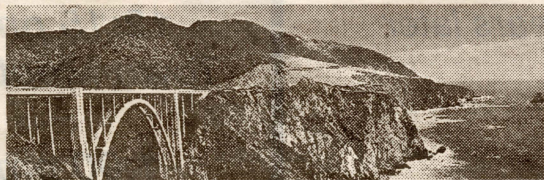
AGAINST: not again! Same old drill, been there, done that. No significant female roles.

OVERALL: C



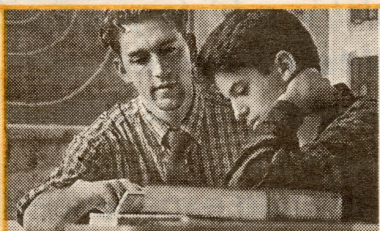
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Thursday, March 1

Communication: Making Connections

The Great Campus Speak Out, Part Two

University Day

www.neiu.edu/~uday

Selected Sessions

A renegade Buddhist speaks on making connections.

Steven Searle

5:40 pm - 6:55 pm

Why are people cynical about what politicians say?

Alderman Margaret Laurino

10:50 pm - 12:05 pm

Holocaust survivors: The final solution, 50 years later

Dr. Susan London

2:50 pm - 4:05 pm

Student Activism

Renny Golden and students

9:25 am - 10:40 am

Gospel Music: A ministry, a history, an original art form

Nash Shaffer

2:00 pm - 2:50 pm

The life of a teacher; sharing experiences from the field

Elaine Koffman

4:15 pm - 5:30 pm

University Day 2001 Schedule

8:30 am - 9:30 am
Continental Breakfast

9:25 am - 12:05 pm
Sessions/Activities

12:15 pm - 1:00 pm
Town Meeting Speakers

1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Focus Groups

2:00 pm - 2:50 pm
Town Meeting Reconvenes

3:00 pm - 6:55 pm
Sessions/Activities

7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
El Centro Town Meeting

Hallmark's sloppy kisses

Teddy bears, roses, and heart-shaped boxes filled with chocolates. Cards covered in hearts, more chocolate, and even more roses. Without a doubt, Valentine's Day is the most ingenious holiday of the year. Preying upon the love sick and the lust filled, V-Day is a death trap for many a boyfriend.

Most women look forward to V-Day. They believe it to be a day of love, good intentions, and love. They count the minutes until their boyfriend will stagger up their driveway, drunk as always, but this time holding some flowers and maybe a card. Then, the circle will be complete. The boyfriend obviously loves the girlfriend. What better way to show your love for someone than by selling out to some soulless corporation and buying into the V-Day propaganda?

Valentine's day is not some real holiday, based in history. Perhaps corporations can brainwash us into thinking so, much the way Christians brainwashed the populace into thinking Jesus was born on December 25 (which, according to real history, was a pagan festival). In reality, V-Day was created by Hallmark and possibly Disney, because there are simply too many shopping days between Christmas and Easter.

Valentine's day is the biggest farce since prohibition. Men are duped into spending money on weeds and nitrate-filled sweets, firmly believing that since the necklace they bought on Christmas didn't yield results, these will ensure their position in bed. Women, the recipients of these "gifts", will believe that their boyfriend really truly loves her, and thus will cry. Everyone gets screwed, except for the boyfriend.

A holiday in which two people can celebrate their love is a very nice idea, even if it did come from that possible pervert Disney. However, instead of succumbing to that mad frenzy of gift buying and chocolate eating, why not celebrate the day you met? Or your anniversary? Why use a day that million of other nitwits use to celebrate their love? It's not special if everyone, everywhere is doing it.

Make your own Valentine's Day, just don't call it that. Use your imagination. Celebrate Ground Hog's Day instead, like one intelligent couple I know. Love and acts of love shouldn't have a time limit and definite date on it. Men shouldn't feel pressured to say "I love you" by or on Valentine's Day, and women shouldn't dump their boyfriends because "I don't want to wait until next Valentine's Day."

In a world of quick problems and cheaper solutions, Valentine's day has robbed us of one of the only traits that distinguishes people from animals: love. Unbiased, from the heart, unsolicited. Love has been bought and auctioned off in the form of cheap cards and shitty candy hearts, seemingly made of chalk, with even shittier phrases on them, such as "U R # 1!" and "I 8 A B!" What better way to show your love than by giving a cavity-inducing piece of chalk with "I (heart) U!"?

How about a little feeling out there, people? Where's the love? It sure as hell isn't here. It's not in some card, or a flower, or in candy. It's in the heart, and in the relationship. Celebrate your love for each other, not some Hallmark-Holiday. What would that prove? "Honey, I have no imagination and my feelings for you only exist because we may have sex. I love you!"

People are really stupid creatures. The mass market eats up Valentine's Day tripe, so corporations forces the rest of us "informed" consumers to swallow mouthful after mouthful of happiness, peace and love, and chalk-flavored candy.

Come on, stand up with me, and shout out, "No more! I will not be a good little consumer! I won't buy crap plastered with hearts! I will express my love in a more meaningful way than by selling out to some non-existent holiday!"

However, since this newspaper came out after V-Day, you probably already sold out. How unfortunate for you.

Well, you can always boycott Easter.



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

Integration has not been achieved

by Jemimah Noonoo
Special Contributor

Whites and blacks holding hands on top of a hill. Out of this picture-perfect ensemble comes a harmonious chorus of "We Shall Overcome." There is nothing wrong with this heartwarming representation of inclusion,—I, for one, would like to see real integration realized in my lifetime. However, more and more people falsely believe that our society has achieved true integration, and have somehow bridged the racial chasms that are direct results of white supremacy, slavery, and degradation of African peoples. Thus, they mistakenly view America as a melting pot, wrongly conclude that racism is over, and assert that "it's not about the color of one's skin, it's about character." Consequently, they distort reality and in their hearts, sing, "Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe, we have overcome today."

This belief is rooted in denial. Though this nation has passed critical civil rights legislation, America is far from being an integrated society. One has only to look at college cafeterias, even on diverse campuses, to see a white table and a black table. In numerous residential areas, whites flee the area when more than a token number of blacks move in. Police brutality and racial profiling, unexperienced by most whites, are living realities for blacks. Cornel West, a Harvard professor and a renowned scholar on the politics of race and equity, begins his public presentations with a telling example. While completing the finishing touches on his book *Race Matters*, he had to go to an abandoned apartment to take his photo shoot. A few minutes before the photographer arrived, police pulled up and asked Dr. West what he was doing. He replied, "I am waiting to do the photo shoot for the cover of my book." One of the cops replied, "And I'm the pope, nigger." This story speaks for itself.

The evidence continues to dismantle the notion of a race-free society. DWB, or Driving While Black, refers to the harassment that black males face when driving. Election 2000, already contentious, aroused even more attention when allegations arose that black males were harassed by state troopers as they tried to cast their votes. Critical studies of the criminal justice system show that blacks tend to get longer prison and jail sentences than whites who are convicted of similar crimes. Politicians, have largely painted poverty as a black problem. A clear example of this lies in former President Ronald Reagan's story about a Chicago woman who "allegedly accumulated eighty names, thirty addresses, twelve Social Security cards, and whose tax-free income alone is 150,000." According to authors Leonard Steinhorn and Barbara Diggs-Brown, Reagan also created another scenario, in which he spoke of a "food stamp recipient buying T-bone steak as you waited at the checkout counter with a pound of hamburger." It is curious that most people continue to associate a colored woman with this stereotype, particularly when U.S. government data reveals that the majority of welfare recipients are white. It is just as disturbing when opponents of affirmative action decry preferential treatment based on skin color, and accuse its supporters of "reverse discrimination." Numerous studies on affirmative action, found in any academic journal, point to white women as those who benefit most from this policy. Again, co-authors Steinhorn and Brown raise provocative issues concerning public perceptions on affirmative action: "...Are white men about to think that their wives and daughters are less competent, capable, or intelligent because they have a little extra help in the job search?" The myths surrounding wealth, poverty, and

opportunity espouse further racial polarization, making King's much desired Promise Land a impossibility.

The above examples do not even touch on the vastness of racism. Still, individuals that embrace the illusion of integration will earnestly argue that some of these incidents are exceptional or isolated. But for the parents of Amadou Diallo, the family of James Byrd, and relatives of Leonard Clark, these incidents cannot be glossed over. Diallo, a West African immigrant, was shot at by New York police 41 times in his own doorway as he tried to pull out identification from his wallet. New York Times reporters discovered that the police were looking for a black man that committed a rape and became "frightened," thinking Diallo was pulling out a weapon. Clark was beaten up by white kids in Bridgeport, Illinois, and James Byrd was dragged to death in Jasper, Texas. True, most people are appalled when they hear about these instances, but how many harbor similar sentiments and don't act on them? That question is too dangerous to answer.

To be a blatant racist seems taboo in contemporary society, especially since America's supposed ideal is one of cultural pluralism. But, racism, overt or covert is still racism, and is perpetuated through institutions that claim to debunk it. The media is a perfect example. Numerous visual representations of black crime are debilitating to real integration. Though society has painted a blackface on crime with broad brushstrokes, causing white women great despair when they have to pass a black male on the street, the truth is striking. Most crimes are perpetrated by people of the same skin color of their victims. Moreover, crime is far from solely being a black issue, as the book *Crime is Not the Problem: Lethal Violence in America* indicates. In this comprehensive analysis, authors Zimhring and Hawkins point out that "white Americans themselves have high rates of violent crimes.....and the U.S. murder rate surpasses that of Europe and Britain, without even counting black homicides. Statistical information unmasks the darkening of crime, as a 1997 Washington Post article indicated that "only about a tenth of one percent of blacks fifteen to thirty-four years old are charged with homicide each year." A society that internalizes myths and rarely seeks truth, American culture is quick to associate black skin with crime, as seen by the ready acceptance of Susan Smith's fictional account of a black man killing her children. Though she finally admitted to killing her kids, the damage was done.

Hollywood seems to never tire of penning "Whites-as-savior scripts." Clear examples of these scripts can be found in almost any civil rights movie. In *By the Color of Our Skin* co-authors Leonard Steinhorn and Barbara Diggs cite specific film examples of this "good whites as moral heroes framework." In the 1988 film *Mississippi Burning*, the story about the 1964 murder of three civil rights workers were transformed into a drama about "white goodness on behalf of powerless, even faceless black victims." The *Long Walk Home*, *Ghosts of Mississippi*, and *A Passion for Justice*, are but a few examples of this growing trend. Film portrayals about apartheid in South Africa, namely *A Dry White Season*, were not immune to this. In this movie that was supposed to speak to black South Africa's fight against apartheid, a socially conscious white journalist emerges as the moral hero. This is not to say that some whites have not ceaselessly worked towards ensuring civil rights. But let us be frank, how many whites actually comment when a racist statement is made? How many whites break away from societal norms and comment when they are given preferential treatment based on their skin color? When things

get testy and uncomfortable, how many whites superficially vindicate themselves from racism by claiming to have black friends that they never invite over for dinner? These troubling questions beg an even deeper inquiry: How many of us, regardless of color, are bold enough to come clean about race?

There are currently two types of integration, both of them illusionary and successful in legitimizing myths. Authors Leonard Steinhorn and Barbara Tave Diggs perceptively call these phenomena "virtual integration and rhetorical integration. Virtual integration is what whites experience when they watch a black sitcom, see more than a token number of blacks as doctors, on TV, look at interracial relationships, point to black celebrities as proof of integration, because television shows it. Movies that show a black president, or a woman president make people feel we are closer to a progressive society. This is a mere fiction when it comes to implementation, and should not be internalized as a truth.

Rhetorical integration is the political use of race. Though both Democrats and Republicans have failed to fully address the needs of American citizens, regardless of color, the Democrats have emerged as the party for blacks. Former President Bill Clinton, one of the most charismatic individuals in the public eye, touted his saxophone, was shown on television attending black churches, and knows every word to the national black anthem, "Lift every voice and sing." George W. Bush, a non-favorite in the black community, appointed Colin Powell and Condoleezza Rice to high positions in his new Republican Administration, and was lauded for diversity by the media. Summer's Republican Convention looked like an ad for Jesse Jackson's Rainbow/Push Coalition, as cameras lingered on the very few blacks that were in the crowd. Because our society depends on integration symbols, and not the real thing, the positive reactions to these occurrences are typical of blacks and whites drunk on the rhetoric of integration.

Clinton's down with black people. He walks our walk.

"Bush isn't racist. He's appointed blacks."

The Republican Party doesn't target the white upper class. They are reaching out to the Black community. "

This statement is alarming, because tokenism or embracing black culture on the surface does not make one a champion of civil rights. The fact that American society clings to such weak symbols are a clear indicator that integration is an illusion, and demonstrates an unwillingness to probe the permanence and depth of our racial divide.

Whites who dismiss blacks as angry or hostile when racial discussion ensue, or assert that "I don't know what the big deal is. I didn't enslave anyone," largely miss the point. No person, black or white, can just magically separate themselves from a socio-political and economic system that was set into stone centuries ago. This realization is painful, for it forces Americans to look deep within themselves, and start asking hard questions. Hiding behind the illusion of integration, placing a false veneer of reconciliation over race, and encouraging back-patting and good feelings without real action greatly undermine any democratic processes. Public discourse must come clean about race, and rid itself of hidden agendas and polemics. This debate must be widened to include Hispanics, Native Americans, and other oppressed peoples. If Americans will start discussing race, I mean really discussing it—not just in Black History Month, but as a domestic practice, we can move towards a more racially honest society.

QUOTABLES

Beer! The cause of and solution to all of life's problems.

Homer Simpson

Clinton made us comfortable with our weaknesses. he and his administration made too many Americans feel comfortable with mediocrity, imperfection, and laziness. Those days are over now.

Rush Limbaugh

George W. Bush is a banal, despicable and corrupt human being.

Michael Moore

This is not the wealthy versus the middle class, which is how the Democrats always shape this debate. The fact is, the wealthy are already paying the lion's share of the nation's tax burden, so when you talk about a tax cut, you are logically talking about them- the people who pay the taxes in the first place.

Rush Limbaugh

Sleep tight, my firends, and don't let the boogyman scare you. It's only a dream..... it's only a dream....

Michael Moore, about President Bush

Play catch?!? The only thing you can catch is herpes.

Edward Albee, *Finding the Sun*

No profession immune to workplace violence

by Chris Vogt
Business Manager

We all see violence everywhere we go, on the streets of Chicago, in the home, and in parking lots. What about in the workplace? That's somewhere else where disaster may strike. It could be from someone off the street, or it could even be one of your co-workers. According to the Wall Street Journal, a survey on workplace stress released last summer by the Marlin Co. of North Haven, Connecticut showed that 42% of office workers said that they had jobs in an office where yelling and verbal abuse happened frequently.

I bring this to everyone's attention to talk about the shooting that took place in Melrose Park on February 5th. According to the Chicago Tribune, William D. Baker, 66 of Carol Stream, strode into the trucking giant's diesel engine plant in Melrose Park and opened fire, killing four workers and wounding four more before taking his own life.

Baker was fired from the plant in 1994, and had a previous record for molesting a 12-year old child in 1997 and

served time for it. The molestation conviction forced him to register as a sex offender. Baker also stole \$195,000 worth of engines and auto parts from the plant in the early 1990's.

I got the chance to interview an anonymous source who said he worked right across the street from the plant at the time of the shooting, but was unaware of its occurrence at the time.

"I didn't hear anything until about lunchtime," he said, "but everybody was down on the floor and everything."

He also told me about another act of workplace violence. He says he used to work at a cabinet shop in unincorporated Arlington Heights, close to Elk Grove Village. A man by the name of "Bill" stole blank checks from the shop, forged them and cashed them. Plus, on June 11, Bill apparently set fire to the shop to cover up from stealing shop equipment such as fax machines, routers, drills, etc. The fire was so big; it took ten different fire trucks from different departments. An investigation revealed that the fire started right around the anonymous interviewer's desk.

According to the source, Bill had a previous record as well involving armed robbery before working at the shop. Plus, drug charges while at the shop. Apparently, Bill skipped bail for those charges, and an arrest warrant was issued after the fire. He is currently serving a prison sentence.

Experts in workplace violence say it has become clear that no profession is immune; law offices, brokerage firms, hospitals and factories have all been the site of bloodshed in recent years. According to the Chicago Tribune, numbers of other forms of violence are anything but low: 395,000 aggravated assaults, 50,000 rapes and sexual assaults, 6 million verbal threats and 16 million acts of violence occur in the workplace each year.

According to the Wall Street Journal, some ways you can tell if a colleague has reached the breaking point are, skipping group lunches, coming to work late, calling in sick frequently, withdrawal, and obsessing. However, don't call the police when you find someone doing all these things; just be prepared for the worst to happen.

Bush way off on abortions

by Shana Stone
Staff Writer

I hope all the aged in Florida are happy now for the mess we are in, a mess that will last for at least the next four years, otherwise known as George W. Bush. Because of half the population's failing eyesight, we now have a president that wants to change all the abortion laws—either making them stricter or reversing them altogether.

Thank you George Bush for the wonder you are about to espouse on the citizens of the United States. Mr. Bush wants to send us back several decades where many women died getting illegal back alley abortions. Who says a woman's choice regarding her body is not her own? Good 'ol Dubya does.

What continues to shock and sicken me is the pro-life stance that every woman who gets pregnant must have the baby no matter what, and abortion is murder. I presume killing abortion doctors isn't murder then?

A woman has every right to decide on what to do with her unborn child. Bush wants to make abortions legal only in cases of incest, rape, and when the mother's life is in jeopardy. Isn't her life in jeopardy if she's only 13? Or if she is in an abusive

relationship? Or if she just plain isn't ready to have the child?

I have always been staunchly pro-choice and it is exactly for that reason that I voted for Al Gore. Unfortunately we are stuck with a president that wants to make the world even more overpopulated and have more teenage and welfare mothers than ever before.

Sure, the baby could always be put up for adoption, but when did women become breeders for infertile couples? Exactly how many so-called pro-lifers would be willing to adopt that unwanted baby? Not very many unfortunately. Amazing how many pro-lifers can talk the talk but can't walk the walk.

Of course, the radical pro-life stance makes sense. Let's kill all the abortion doctors, nurses, and aids, and that way we will save all the unborn babies. We can bomb all the clinics, stalk the workers at Planned Parenthood, and make death threats to them as well. Great idea. Except for one major flaw: if it is wrong to kill the unborn babies, isn't it also wrong to kill those that want to provide the means?

I have never heard a pro-lifer speak that made sense. Since their arguments are

always the same nonsense, such as "if you lay you pay," or "wait until marriage to have sex," or "give the baby up for adoption," pro-life supporters and pro-choice supporters will always be at odds.

What I find somewhat ironic is that many of the same people that are pro-life are also the same people that are very upset about having their tax money go to welfare recipients. Who do they think is on welfare?

Bush limits abortion rights, then taxes will continue to rise to pay for more welfare mothers and their babies.

The bottom line is a woman's body is her own and no one has the right to tell her otherwise. Bush needs to wake up and realize that he can't make a woman have a baby when she isn't ready. If that is what he proposes to do, then women everywhere will no longer have any rights over their own reproductive future.

Please recycle this newspaper.



Thank you!

Women's Studies major abstained

In light of the recent deferment on the vote for a Women's Studies Major by the Board of Trustees, we the undersigned members of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance wish to add our voice to the growing campus demand for the establishment of what we unanimously consider to be a vitally important program.

The establishment of a Women's Studies Major at Northeastern not only satisfies a repeatedly proven demand within the immediate student population, but also benefits the larger community as a whole by producing graduates, both male and female, who are more sensitive to the often corrosive effects of class, race, and gender discrimination, and by being more sensitive are able to function more effectively in the increasingly diverse public work space.

Northeastern Women's Studies program is one of the oldest and most well-established in the state, if not the country. Northeastern is fortunate to be able to boast of an impressive faculty with a strong history of feminist scholarship. Offering a Major would require the addition of only three courses to the existing course offerings within the Women's Studies department, and would be the only program offered by a state school in the Northern Illinois region. This would make us a magnet, attracting some of the most talented and committed students in the area, and would also provide an affordable alternative to the expensive programs offered by the private universities.

We have absolute faith that the Board Of Trustees wishes to act in accordance with the expressed desires of the larger student population. It is your job, it is our job, to make those desires public.

Ellen M Larrimore, Karen Baier, Kari Sullivan,
Liz Stuparitz, Maureen Rubino, D'Arcy Mies, Mollie Dowling,
Robin Matthies, Andrew Mendelsohn, Becca Raven Gilmore,
Evelyn Rodriguez, Eileen Hess, Barry Baker

Last Thursday, the Board of Trustees was given the opportunity to finally establish Women Studies as a major at Northeastern. Considering that the Women Studies Program has the administrative support of President Salme Steinberg, Provost Estella Lopez, and Dean Hoda Mamudi, I was amazed to find out that the board needed to table the issue due to "not enough information." One can only wonder exactly what information the board is missing. Clearly this program has support from the administration, faculty, and many students at Northeastern.

Women Studies curriculum is hardly some new experiment. I can remember students receiving non-traditional majors in Women Studies from Northeastern back in the late 1970's. In fact, I know several women who chose and continue to choose to attend Northeastern over other universities because of Northeastern's Women Studies program. I think it is safe to say that the curriculum has withstood the test of time. Creating a Women Studies Major would allow students who wish to pursue a traditional degree the opportunity for an in-depth academic exploration of the contributions of women to our culture.

Maybe this is the problem: maybe the board does not realize why an in-depth study of women's contributions to our academic theories, our history, our literature, and our philosophies is important. Maybe they need a reminder that as women, we compromise over half the population and that we do consider our contributions important enough to be analyzed and studied. Or maybe they are questioning the fairness of the issue. After all, the university doesn't have a curriculum labeled "Men Studies." This is true, but there is a reason for this. Although academic programs in general are not as blatant or as extreme as they were historically, most general academic subjects are still primarily examined in light of male perspective and experience. Women's perspectives are often reduced to topic sections such as "lookig at gender issues" or a particular chapter within an entire text. We don't need a "Men Studies" curriculum added because that curriculum already exists.

The Women Studies Major fills a necessary gap. We are living in a world where men and women need to learn how to work together as equals. This cannot happen unless the full scope of women's contributions are acknowledged and appreciated. The Women Studies program accomplishes this task by allowing students to focus their attention in this direction. These are clear reasons why the board should vote to establish a Women Studies major at our school. Does the board have enough information now?

Melanie Heifetz

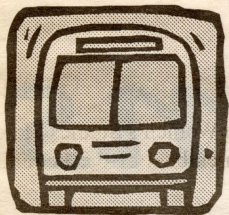
LETTER POLICY

Letters to the Editor must be signed and contain an address and telephone number for verification and must be approximately 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 may be received through mail addressed to:

The Independent
E-049, NEIU
5500 N. St. Louis Av
Chicago, IL 60625

Letters are also accepted through electronic mail, provided they include a telephone number for verification. The address is



The Commuter

Your Independent Guide to Features

Health services there for you

by Shana Stone
Staff Writer

Health Services, newly located in E051 next to the student lounge now has extended hours. The new hours are as follows: Monday-Wednesday: 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m and Thursday and Friday from 7:30 A.M.-4:00 P.M. The health service office employs three full time nurses for students to visit on a walk-in basis only. Appointments may also be made for testing.

A health service fee is included in every NEIU students' tuition, so any student may use the service at no additional cost. Some of the many services that the health office provides are: first aid, emergency care, health brochures, nutritional guidance, free condoms, HIV referrals, and non-prescription drugs. They provide such tests such as visual acuity, blood pressure/hypertension, blood sugar/diabetes, pregnancy, total cholesterol, and TB, a strep throat culture.

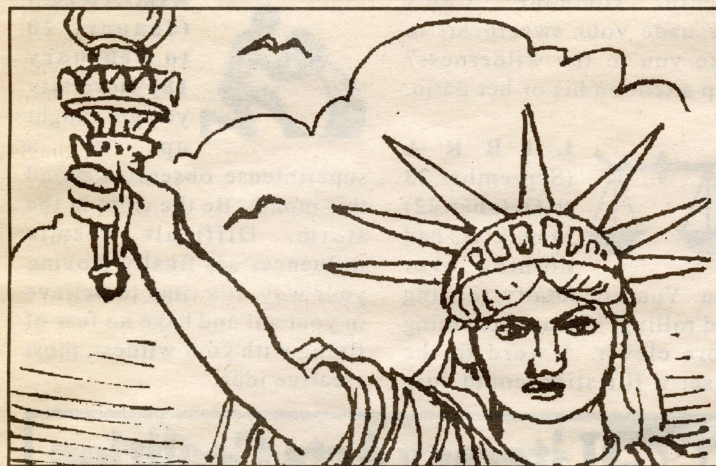
NEIU's student health insurance coverage is automatically added to your tuition bill when one is a

full-time student. The fee is currently \$141. Jessica Lettow, the Director of Health Services wants all NEIU students to know, "Just because you aren't a full time student doesn't mean that you can't be covered by NEIU's health insurance coverage. Any student with less than 12 credit hours is also entitled to the health insurance coverage, you just have to ask the cashier in admissions to tack on the fee and you will be covered."

The health insurance is a PPO and there is a list of available doctors in Health Services office. The insurance coverage includes pap smears, pregnancy, and psychiatry, but will unfortunately not cover pre-existing conditions. The plan excludes the cost of birth control pills.

Lettow also wants to inform students that, "Possibly next year, a nurse practitioner will come in and give gynecological exams and prescribe birth control pills. Hopefully the pill will either be very cheap or completely covered."

Medical questions may be submitted via email to Health-science@neiu.098.edu.



The official title of the Statue of Liberty is Liberty Enlightening The World.

It's coming...

The Great Campus Speak Out

Part 2

www.neiu.edu.com/~uday

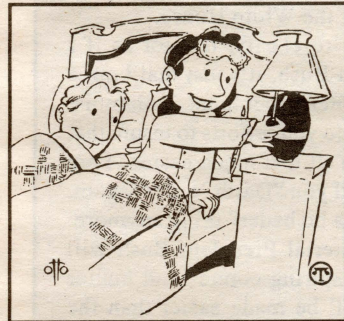
Get a good night's sleep

(NAPSA)-A good night's sleep need no longer be a dream. Here are a few tips from IKEA, the leading home furnishings retailer, that may help open the door to more shut-eye for you.

- Same Time Next Time-Go to sleep and get up at the same time every day, including weekends. This way, your body can establish a regular routine.
- Get Regular-A regular exercise routine will do more than just keep you in shape. People who work out moderately during the day release stress and tension which allows them to sleep better at night.
- Pillows Are More Than Talk-Shop for pillows with your sleep position in mind. Side sleepers need a low, firm pillow for neck support, back sleepers need firmer pillows and stomach sleepers will appreciate medium support.
- A Good Reflection-Bedroom lighting should be relaxing and adaptable. If you enjoy reading in bed, treat yourself to an adjustable reading lamp that fits your decor. Adjustable lamps provide a bookworm with perfect light but won't

disturb a sleep partner.

- Quiet On The Set-Small sounds in your bedroom may be costing you valuable sleep. Try to replace distracting items such as the ticking of a loud clock or bed legs that squeak.
- Wake Up And Smell The Coffee-Save the coffee beans for the morning. Steer clear of



caffeine 4-6 hours before bed. Drink warm milk or chamomile tea instead.

- That's So You-Make sure your bedroom is a true reflection of you-whether a casual, sensual or fun look. Add accents such as duvet covers in soft warm colors or an assortment of stylish bed pillows in different size ranges.
- Choose a Quilt that's right

for you. A bed quilt with down filling will keep you warm. In general, down quilts help maintain a comfortable body temperature in all seasons, but allergy sufferers should opt for synthetic fiber quilts.

- Just Relax-Finally, be sure when you're ready to sleep that your bedroom is conducive to sleep.

In other words, your sleeping environment should be as quiet, dark and relaxing as possible.

Since it's founding in 1943, IKEA has offered a wide range of home furnishings and accessories of good design and function, at prices so low that the majority of the people can afford them. IKEA is recognized as a socially responsible company, and continuously supports initiatives that benefit causes such as children and the environment. Currently, IKEA has 159 stores in 29 countries, including 15 stores in the United States and seven stores in Canada. To visit the IKEA Web site, please go to <http://www.ikea-usa.com>.

Cold virus or allergy attack?

How to tell the difference and find relief for each

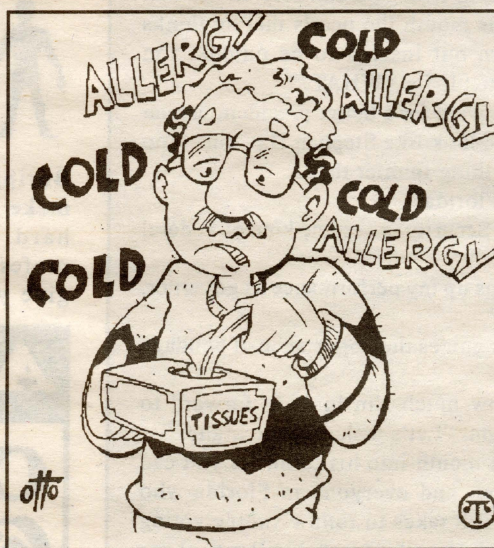
(NAPSA)-Colds and allergies affect millions of Americans every year. At the first sign of symptoms, many people will take just about anything in their medicine cabinet for temporary relief. Distinguishing between cold and allergy symptoms, however, can sometimes be difficult.

What's the difference between the common cold and an allergy? An allergy is a physical reaction triggered by a substance known as an allergen. Some common allergens are pollens, indoor mold spores, dust mites and animal dander. Allergens enter the nose and throat causing an immunological response and immediate physical reaction such as sneezing or a runny nose.

The common cold, on the other hand, is caused by the rhinovirus that generally enters the body through the nose and resides in the nasal passages and cells. It then infects and re-infects the body for a period of several days, eventually overwhelming the body's immune system. Since the symptoms of each often mimic one another, how do you tell the difference between an allergy and a cold? Here are a few tips:

- Itchy eyes and nose-Allergies often cause these symptoms, plus

a constant watery post-nasal drip. Cold viruses do not produce itching symptoms and nasal discharge is usually thick.



- Cold symptoms typically come on gradually-and may be accompanied by a fever-allergy symptoms often hit quickly as seen in "sneeze attacks."
- Allergy symptoms can persist for weeks to months-the typical lifecycle for a cold is 10 to 14 days.

Finding relief for colds and allergies can often be as difficult as distinguishing between the two. Following are a few helpful hints to help you stay healthy during the cold and allergy seasons:

- Manage stress-Rushing around

trying to balance activities can wear you down. Give yourself some time to relax every day.

- Seasonal cleaning-To reduce and prevent allergic reactions, remember to regularly wash bedding and use allergy-proof encasings when possible. Use a vacuum cleaner with a double-bagged high efficiency particulate (HEPA) filter.

• Stock up on remedies that effectively treat each-Two over-the-counter remedies receiving praise from doctors and consumers nationwide are Zicam Cold Remedy and Zicam Allergy Relief.

"The medical community is supporting alternative remedies that are clinically tested to be safe and effective treatments,"

said Dr. Michael Seidman, Henry Ford Hospital. "For example, recent clinical studies have been published in peer-reviewed medical journals on homeopathic remedies such as Zicam cold and allergy products."

By monitoring lifestyle, listening to their bodies, and making healthy choices, consumers nationwide can minimize their cold and allergy risk. This could be the season to start getting well sooner!

For more information about colds and allergies, log on to www.zicam.com.

This Man's World

Hey there, Ralphy boy!

Dear Mr. Ralph Nader,

I have no idea if this letter will reach you. I don't even know if your Chicago headquarters are still open in that storefront that used to be a Starbucks until H&R Block took it over after the Dress Barn to make way for Radioshack. I noticed that your sign is still up, even though the magic marker has begun to fade.

At any rate, this note is meant to personally thank you for your 2000 election campaign effort. Were it not for this valiant attempt to further confuse issues, and snag a large amount of undecided votes from frustrated voters, we might not have George W. as our 43rd president, and Cheney as our VP. So, essentially, I feel we have you to thank for putting a Bush and a Dick in the White House.



JOHN ROSSI

I do wish to clarify, it's not as if I like President Bush, it's just that I am a struggling writer/paper humor columnist in Chicago, and your efforts to insure that

Bush squeaked in have made my job all that much easier. I am so grateful that I promise never to call you "Darth Nader" again, nor will I resort to that "banana nanna bo bader" thing anymore.

I do believe that with all the material President Bush will provide for the next four years to aspiring comics and humor writers such as myself, our jobs will be made easier than the caterers for *Ally McBeal*.

You see there wouldn't have been that many good jokes about Al Gore. Oh, sure, at first your mind goes to the easy ones such as: First person: *What's the difference between President Lincoln and President Gore?* Second person: *I don't know.* First person: *With President Gore the dead guy's seated behind the mahogany box-ha ha.*

See? There isn't that much. How many times could we have compared Al Gore to Charlie McCarthy or Jerry Mahoney before it got old? With Bush, we have so many choices, our column practically writes itself. This allows us much more precious time to do our important "networking" at the local bar. Then when we are at our desks, we can streamline our time for more important tasks, such as looking for grainy pictures of naked women on the internet, and trimming unsightly nose hair. I mean, how can any writer improve on Bush's own material? I'm referring to presidential chestnuts such as these:

"Of course it's a budget-it's got a lot of numbers in it."

"It's your money-you paid for it."

"I know how hard it is to put food on your family."

And of course the prophetic: "I have made good choices in the past, and I have made good choices in the future."

That is the major difference between George W. and Bill Clinton. With Bush we have learned to accept and appreciate the fact that he cannot think on the fly-with Clinton, we appreciate the fact that he constantly thinks with his fly, but at least we KNEW where his mind was. We can rely on the fact that each time Bush opens his mouth the pearls that he thinks are going to issue forth turn out instead to be onions. I'm beginning to think the "W" stands for "WHAT?"

As a humorist you couldn't wish for a better president; a man that easily makes Dan Quayle look like Stephen Hawkins. You simply couldn't make up anything funnier than:

"We don't need a refill in Florida."

"What do they think Social Security is—some kind of Federal program?"

"There's one word that sums up my performance as governor, that word is: to be prepared."

"The Republican Party recognizes the importance of bondage between a mother and child."

And to simply sum up how much I'm looking forward to lampooning this administration: "Let's make the pie higher."

And to think, we're only a month into his term! As you can see, Mr. Nader, we have you- and everyone in Florida who doesn't possess the lick of wit it takes to follow simple voting instructions to thank for this glorious leader that will propel our great nation into the new millennium. With a little luck we might even hobble into the next millennium.

As for Al Gore, don't worry about him; I understand he was last seen in Florida- the site of his "Presidential De-pantsing"—at Disneyworld to be precise. He was observed in his Mickey Mouse tee-shirt and baseball cap with the brim turned backwards, casually strolling with his family over the grounds, periodically asking park attendants if they needed a second in command.

In conclusion, let me say once more, thank you for helping give us the man who will undoubtedly be regarded in the history books as the "Norm Crosby" of presidents. In your own way you have helped to raise the stupidity bar a little higher, and "make the pie higher." Thanks to you "It Takes a Village," will now undoubtedly be replaced by "It Takes a Village Idiot." Thank you for foisting upon the nation the man who will help us to put food on our families, because as you know there is nothing stronger than the bondage between a leader and his nation.

Star Signs

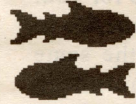
by Iris the Oracle

serious. Your sweetie will share his or her dreams for the future. Listen, but don't spill any of your well-kept secrets.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK: You'll feel stuck at times this year, but persevere. Your reward could be a better job and a better paycheck.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS NEXT WEEK: Need a new love life? Change your surroundings. That may be all you need to feel rejuvenated.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You usually waste energy and fight



battles you can't win but... .Yes! Not only did you survive Valentine's Day, you had a blast! You are yearning for someone from your past. Call a truce and let it go now. Make room for that new Valentine you have your eyes on.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Be willing to take a stand for your beliefs. The stars bring out your sterling qualities, throwing the spotlight on you. Don't be shy. You have plenty of cookie dough left, but that doesn't mean you can't learn stuff. Try something new, like a fun craft or recipe.



TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Usually, this time of the month you are trying a new transit. Use this energy to resolve a family crisis or friendship problems that you are having now. If you don't, angry words will lead to double trouble. Your plans are going awry. Maintain your good sense of humor.



GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Difficult aspects have arrived, but it's smooth sailing. Boring as it sounds, if you make a commitment to work hard this month, your professors and classmates will give you the recognition you



LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Man, Elvis had nothing over you. You are totally rocking and rolling. You are becoming more clever. A word to the wise: a flirtation could turn

CANCER (June 22 to July 22) The jealous stars in your sign are making you fan the flames of disagreement. You're more sensitive than usual. Try to be a little more like Cupid. Make more shots and see what happens. Don't spend too much time in your shell trying to solve the stars problems.



LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your love life is a done deal and already you're bored. Keep your roar in check. Nip your boredom in the bud by enjoy the rest of the month. Make your own kind of fun. Meaning, plan your own weekend and have a serious gab session about love and the meaning of it all.



VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The stars are moving high-tech and Venus has a date with Aries this month. Say bye-bye to self-defeating thoughts. This is the perfect time to pursue that special someone. Can't persuade your sweetheart to take you to the wilderness? Pop a tent on his or her patio.



AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Normally you get caught up in a superintense obsessive mood this month. Be the calm in the storm. Difficult cosmic influences are finally moving your way. It's time to believe in yourself and have no fear of flying with your wildest, most creative idea.



SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Mixed messages



are putting you at odds with your friends. Don't know what to do? Do what American citizens do at the political conventions... take a vote! Your intuition is keeping you out of trouble so far. You'll become everyone's favorite problem solver.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Enchanting Venus and Cupid will



create a little bit of magic for you. Meaning in high volume, maybe more. This magic will give you the confidence to test your abilities. Take a new course, start a romance or just revel in being the fabulous Sagittarian that you are.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) As the most complex zodiac sign of all,



all of those hard earned bucks are busting out of your poor little piggy bank. Confusing cosmic energy is swirling around, so give yourself some serious TLC. Spend those loose bucks and have a grand old time.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Normally you get caught up in a



superintense obsessive mood this month. Be the calm in the storm. Difficult cosmic influences are finally moving your way. It's time to believe in yourself and have no fear of flying with your wildest, most creative idea.

Apocalypse Literary Arts Coalition

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS!

Apocalypse is now accepting submissions for the Spring 2001 literary magazine

DUE MARCH 13th, 2001

Poetry, short prose, essay, etc.

Typed only. No electronic submissions.

Include name, address, phone and/or e-mail.

Send to Apocalypse Editor,
c/o NEIU ROOM E-035
or bring it to E-035



smp

Getting out from under the debt pile

(NAPSA)-If you're like most Americans, you're in debt. And you probably don't realize the extent of it or even how it affects decision making when you apply for a credit card, mortgage, car loan or even a new job.

Consider these statistics:

In the United States, the average balance on a credit card is \$7,000

The average interest rate is 18.9%

Late fees are now \$29, if not received by the stated due date

The average household has 10 credit cards

Almost half the households in the U.S. report having problems

paying their minimums

If you have a credit card balance of \$8,000 and you make the monthly payment at 18 percent interest, it will take you 25 years, 7 months to pay the debt off-and you will pay an extra \$15,432 in interest, making your total \$23,432.

"One of the major reasons consumers get deeper and deeper into debt is because they only make minimum payments on their credit cards," says Laurie Edwards of iPlace.com, one of the nation's premier personal information Web sites. "The irony is that most people shop for the best price. When they pay for that

best-priced item with their credit card and only pay the card's monthly minimums, they wind up paying two to three times the cost of the product they originally purchased-at the 'best price.' "

Edwards advises consumers to shop for the very best credit card deals with long-term low interest rates and pay off as much of the whole balance on their cards as possible.

Financial companies have made it easier for consumers to check and monitor their personal credit so that they can build stronger credit profiles. At iPlace.com, consumers can access their credit report instantly online instead of

having to wait for it to come in the mail.

What's more, other sites offer additional credit tools to build better credit. On Consumerinfo.com, a leading personal finance Web site, consumers can access a credit monitoring service that allows them to see changes to their credit profile, which also helps them protect themselves from identity theft. QSpace.com offers a credit score tool which shows consumers how they are being ranked when being considered for credit cards, mortgages, loans and more. The site also offers a free credit evaluator function.

Edwards advises consumers to build better credit by first accessing their credit report and checking for inaccuracies. Further, she advises consumers to look for problem areas and try to get them resolved. In addition, because companies also look at potential, or unused credit, she advises consumers to cancel cards they aren't using.

When a consumer cancels a card, she says, it is not a negative. It is only when a creditor cancels a card that it becomes a negative. Last, paying off credit card debt as quickly as possible is crucial to keeping consumers free from the burden of debt.

Unlimited calling to other Cingular customers at no additional charge.

Folks, there's a new wireless company in town with 20 million customers nationwide.

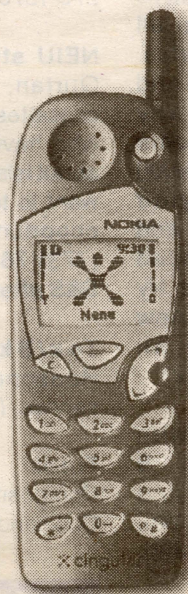
Cingular Wireless is the coming together of 11 companies, including Cellular One.

To kick things off, when you sign up with Cingular Wireless, you'll get **unlimited** calls with other Cingular customers in your home area. So you don't have to worry about your minutes running out. Plus, you can send unlimited text messages. All you have to do is activate a Cingular HomeSM plan with access of \$29.99 or higher. So start gabbing, **unlimited**, with all your buddies. At no additional charge.

It's our way of making it easy for you to express yourself, 24/7.

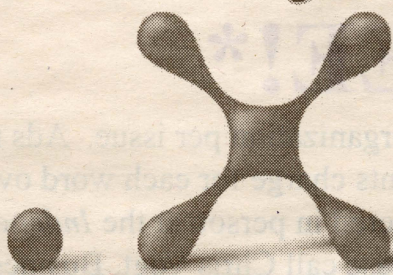
| | \$29 ⁹⁹ | \$39 ⁹⁹ | \$49 ⁹⁹ |
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NEIU student offering free Qurtan, audio and video cassettes and books for those who have interest in learning about Islam and Muslims. If you want to take advantage of this opportunity then call Robert (773) 764-8937, M-F after 4; S&S after 2.

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Tutor writing: ESL, Composition, all subject areas. Call sandy extension 4462

Wanted

Looking for another sister of Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority, Inc. National member

only. Please give me a call at (708) 906-7519. Ask for Sylvia.

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Large one bedroom, hardwood floors, new kitchen, heat included, 2 blocks from NEIU. Available April 1st. (847) 677-7070.

Organizations

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.

Apocalypse Literary Arts Coalition currently seeking student submissions for next magazine due 3/13. Poetry, short prose, essay, etc., typed only, include name, address, phone, e-mail. Send to Apocalypse Editor, c/o NEIU, Room E-035. Non-students also welcome.

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

As-salamu-alaikum, the Muslim Students Association meets every Tuesday and Thursday in Room FA-153 from 1:40 to 4:50p.m. to discuss the solution to social problems through Islamic means and also to plan public activities on campus. Open to questions and comments. Website: <http://neiu.edu/~msa>

The Politics Club, in conjunction with University Day, is hosting 39th ward alderwoman Margaret Laurino on 3/1 starting at 10:50 a.m. at Recital Hall. She will be talking about overcoming the cynicism of her constituents. Please contact M-Frigo@neiu.edu

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance meets alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays in C505 at 1:40. Contact elarrimore@neiu.edu to verify dates or join listserve.

Care about your environment? Let's start a NEIU environmental organization! Contact or leave message for Sarah (773) 561-5131 or [e-mail revo1@chickmail.com](mailto:revo1@chickmail.com)

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

Attractions

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Personals

"A roll is a roll and a toll is a toll and if we don't get no tolls then we don't eat no rolls," says Little John to Robin Hood and his merry men!

Seeking to find Claudia. If you are not playing games and are for real why not come up and say hello? -Joshua

To she who makes my sun shine I send warm and fuzzy love and the utmost of appreciation. XOXO from Charlie Brown.

Erin, stop passing by my room at 3 in the a.m. I may not be fully clothed and even worse may not be fully clothed and MAY BE asleep.

Victor- You have been a very very naughty boy..... don't make me have to hurt you! -love your secret admirer

Sammy Wammy- I have to ask, if April has boom-baddas, then what does May have?

Dios te salve, Maria, llena eres de gracia, el señor esta contigo. Bendita tu eres entre todas las mujeres y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre, Jesus. Santa Maria, madre de Dios, ruega por nosotros pecadores ahora y a la hora de nuestros muertos.

This is an official request for all history profs to be kind when grading.

There are some who call me.... Tim.

Let's go somewhere safe! Where the birds walk real slow.

Happy Birthday, Gary! Thirty-eight spanking! And one for good luck! -Love your friend from Haitia.

Good luck finding your feet!

Yo, yo, yo whaddup?! Da mastah uv awesomness and 'spectin' and all the peeps in mah hood, whaddup, dogg!?! -from the G Mastah Doggy Dogg

Vic, can I borrow a quarter for gas? Huh, huh, huh! -Goff

22 of 9: Does the bus give change? You're fighting the system. Shows the collective would probably be better off without you. -The Office Girls

To the hot Sicilian man: To be or not to be, Barrymore was good, you'll be better, especially in our hearts. -Da' fans.

Oh goody gumdrops! The *Independent* classifieds are FREE!*

Limit one ad per person/organization per issue. Ads must be 20 words or less. There is a 25-cents charge for each word over 20 words. All classified ads must be ordered in person at the *Independent* office. For more information, please call Chris Vogt, Business Manager at 773.442.4585

* This rate applies to members of the NEIU community only. An NEIU identification card must be presented at the time of purchase.

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