Getting to know Paula Wolff

by Jackie Moore

Governors State University is the only upper division university in Illinois, annually serving over 9,000 undergraduate, transfer students, returning students, and those seeking master's degrees in the Chicago area. The university, which has grown by over 22 percent in the past six years, emphasizes teaching and couples liberal arts with career preparation curricula taught by a faculty with among the highest proportion of doctorates of any public Illinois university. Heading this institution and directing its multi-faceted operations is President Paula Wolff.

A small frame woman with confidence in her voice and courage in her words, Wolff displays a boldness that allows other to trust her judgment and follow her directives. Five to six meetings per day is average for her normal work day. "This job is just as challenging now, as it was the day I started," said Wolff.

Before coming to GSU, Wolff served as Director of Policy and Planning for Governor James R. Thompson between 1977 and 1991. She directed development and implementation of policy for all areas of state government, serving as liaison to 57 state agencies and chairing six subcabinets.

In 1990 to 1991, Wolff directed Governor Jim Edgar's Transition Team as she had done for Governor Thompson before. Prior to her appointment as GSU president, when was a Visiting Fellow in the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. She also established a not-for-profit collaborative serving four pilot sites in the Chicago public schools.

She oversees a $46 million budget. According to Wolff, GSU is offering a new grant program made available to students taking fewer than six credit hours. "Currently neither federal nor state financial aid is available to students taking fewer than six credit hours," stated Wolff, "no matter how poor they are."

The university is trying to recruit undergraduate students, who are financially eligible, according to federal guidelines. The grant program is still relatively new and many students are unaware of the financial assistance available to them. Wolff wants to alert the students to the grant program.

Since taking her position six years ago, Wolff has made some noticeable improvements in the university concerning minorities and other programs. She partially assessed the success of the goals made during her term as president. According to a Three-Year Self Evaluation, minority enrollment and awarded degrees increased 60 percent between 1993 and 1998 and 20 administrators were hired, 50 percent that are female and 35 percent that are minorities.

Tranquility and peace in the year 1999

by Ying Liang, Library Staff

When I was very young, I had a chance to be told many legend stories. Most of the twelve animals in the legend were told of immortal gods or devils. The rabbit, however, is held clear night and day. His strength was for a pill that would take him into the immortal Queen Mother of the West asked the day I was six years old. She was thus destined to a life of loneliness, but she at least had her rabbit for company. Legend also says that the rabbit made herbal medicine under a sweet-scented osmanthus tree on the moon. Some of China's old pharmacies hung a rabbit figure on their doors to signify that their medicines were efficacious.

The white rabbit with its thick, downy hair, long ears, and pink eyes is seen as kind and an adorable creature. It is loved by children, who enjoys stories about little rabbits. The rabbit counterparts are the fox, wolf, and bear.

We think that people are also animals. That is why they are so close to other kinds of animals in terms of the earth as a whole. In today's complex and, at time, difficult world, the childlike rabbit seems to embody a more innocent time.

Many Chinese people believe that persons born in the Year of the Rabbit are kind and refined in manner and prefer a peaceful, quiet, and comfortable life. Timid and cautious, they do most things slowly and carefully.
Innovator Staff

Editor-in-chief
Cindy Kansoer-Schneider

Copy Editor
John Borgman

Contributing Writers
Jackie Moore
Ying Liang, library staff
Paul Stovall
Pachina Crook

Literary Supplement
Bruce Weaver, Editor

Contributing Writers
Ericle Howell

Arts & Entertainment
Karen Piejko, Editor

Contributing Writers
Ann Pace
Charles Bogle

Polygon Puzzle
Dennis Lee Thom

Faculty Advisor
Walter Perkins, Esq.

The Innovator reserves the right to edit contributions to this publication.

The opinions of the contributors do not necessarily reflect that of the Innovator staff.

Thank you to all individuals who contributed to this issue of the Innovator and its supplements.

President Paula Wolff sorting out donated clothing at the Christmas party for the Ford Heights residents

Paula Wolff continued from front page

The report revealed that seven new programs have been added in the last six years that added 12 tenured track positions and 10 lecturer positions for these programs. Wolff stated, "While the evaluation is of me, nothing I can do can be separated from the work of many others here." She was referring to the GSU staff she depends on and who deliver superior work performances.

In the report, Wolff stated that the most significant structural change of the university over the last three years is the creation of the Board of Trustees. The Board serves as advisors and counselors to the President on matters of substantial importance for the university. "There are, indeed, significant issues which would be inappropriate for me to discuss with members of the university," said Wolff. Wolff now teaches Public Policy at GSU at least once per year. She stated that her teaching allows the students to get to know her better and in return she gets to know more about the students attending the university.

Wolff has a bachelors degree from Smith College, graduating magna cum laude as a Phi Beta Kappa member, a masters degree and a doctorate degree from the University of Chicago in political science. She is chairperson of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois, chairperson of the University of Chicago Hospitals Board, a trustee of the University of Chicago, and the member of numerous other boards. She is also involved in many civic activities; most recently, she assisted with the Christmas party for the residents of Ford Heights.

Though Wolff has a hectic schedule, she still maintains time for an open-door policy to speak to students; the hours allocated for students are posted on the Wall of Truth.

"Tackle the Tower"

The American Lung Association is rising to the top once again in their 11th annual "Tackle The Tower." The event is a unique race experience that supports the fight in lung disease and will be held at the Oakbrook Terrace Tower on Saturday, March 6, 1999 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

In order to "Tackle The Tower" participants must climb 31 floors, 62 flights of stairs, and 680 steps. Participants can choose to master the tower competitively or non-competitively and can sign up as individuals or teams. Prizes will be awarded to the fastest competitive climbers.

David Brown, coordinator of the event, remarks "This year's "Tackle The Tower: is going to be a lot of fun with the events we've got panned. I urge everybody to step up for healthy lungs." He also mentions that if participants register before February 26, they will enjoy a reduced entry fee. However, competitive participants must register by March 3.

The American Lung Association in Wheaton services northeastern Illinois in the fight to battle lung diseases. This organization educates school children on asthma, strengthens lung disease research, fights for the improvement of air quality and provides smoking prevention programs for the community. The American Lung Association is the oldest health agency in the country.

If you are up for the challenge, call the American Lung Association at (630) 260-9600. Information can also be obtained by visiting the American Lung Association's website at www.lungusa.org/local/special/local16_tower.html.

Parson in Peace

Tranquility and Peace continued from the front page

know how to keep secrets, and treat others politely. But they are not easily tricked. The rabbit is also regarded as a symbol of longevity.

The Year of the Rabbit is thought to be of tranquility, peace, and good fortune for all.
Ignored and alone
by Cindy Kanso-Schneider

I often wonder if we are too occupied with our projects, activities, and problems or if it is a selfishness that has permeated society that allows people to ignore someone in trouble. Someone once told me that the general public will read about people in trouble, but unless there is a problem in the part of the world that they are living in, little— if any—action is taken. If something does not directly affect a person then it does not seem real. I can accept that premise, but what about the person in need of aid that is face-to-face with you, shivering in the cold and desperately asking for help? Yet, I watched at least a dozen people look through a man who pleaded for assistance. As he approached me, my fear was for my safety, but that he would, at the very least, freeze.

I gathered from his stream of words that he had run out of gas and had walked with his wife and daughter to the nearest gas station. The attendant told him that in addition to the gas price, he would have to pay the deposit. When I encountered him, not only did he not have the money for both the gas and the deposit, but he now did not know where his wife was since she wandered off in hopes of securing assistance. He assured me that he was a responsible person and that, if given instructions, he would return the money. His major concern was to find his wife. She was very certain that her assessment of the man in the gas station would not have changed her empathy. Yet, when we find ourselves in the same situation for, perhaps, the same reason, we cannot comprehend the lack of concern for us. This is the mind-set that made that man alone in a city teeming with people.

“What’s going on?”

During the 1970’s, the late, great Marvin Gaye penned a song entitled, "What's going on." It was a huge hit that aroused the social consciousness of many individuals during that era. At that time, there were many social issues impacting many people. The Civil Rights movement had peaked and waned... and the Vietnam War still held tenterhooks... that was then. There are still wars and battles being waged today. Although we are engaged in different kinds of warfare, our battle today includes the ongoing struggle to combat the political and social inequalities that are facing the residents of the State of Illinois. As the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee Representative (IBHEASC), I want to inform GSU students, staff, and faculty of current issues pertinent to quality education. Recently, two surveys were conducted in the University of Illinois at Chicago (UC). The surveys questioned 454 adults, chosen randomly along with forty opinion leaders to address issues of importance to residents of Illinois. The objectives of this survey include: Improving the quality of life for citizens. Providing educational resources and funding to underrepresented groups and J. Enhancing the climate of Business and Industry. The Illinois Board of Higher Education’s “Citizen’s Agenda” has been designed to address issues of Higher Education and serves as a blue print for the twenty-first century. Some of the issues addressed by the survey were as follows: Is there a need to increase educational opportunities for citizens of Illinois? Is there a need to extend access to higher education? Is there a need to assure that the cost of a college education is indeed affordable? Should we consider increasing the success rate for members of underrepresented groups? Is there a need to improve the quality of education? Is there a need to improve responsiveness to students, the overall community, and the State? Should Higher Education focus on increasing the aggregate number of college graduates in the State of Illinois? Although the survey approval ratings were high, several areas of contention were revealed. Specifically, two out of five opinion leaders thought that current educational policies only did a fair job of preparing young learners for positive citizenship activities. Improving statewide economic growth and ingraining ethical values in students was also deficient. Moreover, other areas of improvement included that the quality of teaching is undervalued. Math and Science programs are in need of improvement, students are unable to afford the high cost of education, state-sponsored tax breaks (for students) has increased efficiency without program duplication, and evidence that critical concerns has become one of the most public priorities since the November 3rd elections. Since the average adult student at GSU is 34 years of age, the mission of GSU is clearly cutting edge for providing an environment conducive to adult learners.

There is another opinion, however, concerning to college will greatly impact the number of college graduates in Illinois. Still, GSU is faced with the challenge to increase its quality of services and to provide outreach to the community. Kudos to President Wolff, Provost Barruzzo, and the administrative staff. Be Valiant! Forward... into the Fray! In conclusion, I challenge the GSU Community to provide me with your issues and concerns... it is crucial that I am provided with your questions, needs and insights that reflect what is important to us all. Be sure to contact me. My office is located in the Division Of Student Life, Room #42163. Additionally, you can reach me at extension 7654, or email me at: PL-Stevall@gvsu.edu

Peace... out!
Paul Stevall

A new English professor is welcomed by Pachina Crook

He is young man with a vision and wants to educate students through poetry & life experiences. Todd Rohman is one the many new professors on the campus of Governors State University. He has a lot of new ideas to make learning fun and exciting. When asked who influenced him to pursue teaching. Todd said, he had many teachers who made an impact on him. But, early in high school Mr. Gates, his English teacher taught him that the subject could be interesting and exciting as open to dry and boring. And also in high school Rohman discovered poetry.

Rohman is very passionate about teaching and wants to pass this passion on to his students. He wants to expose them to the fact that learning just doesn’t only occur in the classroom. He took his students to see poet laureate Derrick Walcott to show them that people are writing about their culture and experiences while making a difference.

When asked why he loves to teach, Rohman laughed then said, “I love to teach a wide range of life and work experiences in one room to discuss cultural, gender, or race issues.”

He says he chose GSU because “it is known for its innovation with the distance learning. Another major draw was the average age of the student body is 34. GSU students know why they are here and are trying real world ways to apply their education.” He most recently at the University of Miami. “Another thing I like about GSU is that it is a small university and I like to have as much contact with my students as possible.”

One thing Rohman would change about GSU is there should be a forum for students to display their creative works. A literary journal is in the initial stages of development. He is working with students to get it off the ground. Everyone wants to change the world. One thing Rohman said he might change “Since here in the U.S. we have access to a lot of technology, I feel equal access to information to other countries around the world is necessary.”

Rohman’s hobbies are photography, poetry, and he describes himself as a technology freak. He teaches Modern Grammar, Poetry Writing, and American Literature. He invites everyone to take his poetry class, he says it is fun and challenging. Rohman is a dedicated educator at GSU, and someone you should know.

Our apologies to Paul Stevall.

Due to equipment failure, it was impossible to layout his article properly. It is hoped that the article is legible. We hope to have the equipment running in the near future.

Again, our sincerest apologies.
With the recent advent of databases, numerous publications have been produced which simply spew out moves in international Informant style. There is little in the way of verbal explanations to explain concepts. This is a reason why so many new magazines are having success by going deeper into games.

One such young magazine is Chess Mail, edited by Tim Harding. It is a correspondence chess magazine that has its own web site (chessmail.com). He seeks interesting games. Postal chess lends itself to deep combinations, as the following game will show. We don’t have the space to annotate it as deeply as Harding does, so check out his magazine. It is a Maroczy Bind, a difficult position for Black because of White’s advantage in space. It involves David Eisen of the U.S. vs. David Kilgour of Scotland. Eisen-Kilgour, 1990


Not so obvious. You need White’s 31st move to understand the depth of the sacrifice.

29... Kh7

The rook cannot be taken. As Eisen points out, 29 ... Nfx5 30. Qf4+ loses the queen immediately after any retreat other than 30 ... Kh7 and 30 ... Kg7 loses to 31. Nf1.

30. Rf3 Qf7 31. Ng6, Black resigns.

Eisen notes that Black studied the position for two weeks before resigning.

-Pete Tamburro

---

POLYGON PUZZLE

by Dennis Lee Thom

Hello everyone. The Polygon Puzzles have returned. Before reading today’s puzzles, please see if you can think of a common six-letter word with any four or five consecutive letters, left to right, which also spell a word. The word also appears in this paragraph. For any questions about the puzzles, visit room A2121.

1. If we needed one word to complete the phrase ‘supply and _’, it could be demand. Find a word that starts with a ‘d’ to complete each phrase.

Wine and _; Cease and _; Bound and _; Black and _; Hill and _; Fife and _; Stand and _; and finally Sturm and _.

2. There are five tacks of five coins each. In four of the stacks all the coins are real and all weigh the same. One tack has all counterfeit coins, each of which weighs one gram more than a real coin. Each real coin weighs one ounce. If you have a scale that weighs by grams, what is the minimum number of weighings it will take you to find the counterfeit stack?

A. 1 B. 5 C. 10 D. 25

---

ANSWERS

---

The world is bigger. Read, write, learn, and there are only words in words. Question, definition, and question, definition.
University of New Orleans

24th Annual
INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL

Participants can earn up to ten semester hours of credit, selecting from over 50 courses offered in a wide variety of subject areas. Courses focus primarily on the cultural, historical, social, political, business, and economic issues of U.S./European relations. All instruction is in English, and course work is complimented by field trips and European guest lectures which are integral parts of the academic program.

TWO SUMMER STUDY/TRAVEL EXPERIENCES:

INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA

PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Interested students should contact the University of New Orleans' Division of International Education:

THE INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL
P.O. Box 1315
New Orleans, LA 70148
Phone: (504) 280-7116
FAX: 9504) 280-7317
Email: iclpmc@uno.edu

Enrollment is limited, so interested students should apply as soon as possible.

Services Available

TYING/EDITING SERVICE

Resumes, Papers, Applications, Scripts, Dissertations, Proposals, Books, Biographies, Graphic Arts, Media Kits.

One Day Service Available.
(773) 538-3934

Ad Space Available

Free FOR SALE ads to students. Limit of 20 words. Copy of valid student ID must accompany request.

LOST & FOUND ads will be published free to the entire GSU community. Please type or print ad clearly. Submit to Innovator, room A 2134, Innovator.

OAK RIDGE INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND EDUCATION

New Opportunities Announced for Students Interested in Global Change Research

Summer Undergraduate Research Experience will be initiated in June, 1999
Graduate Research Environmental Fellowships will begin in June, 1999
Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science is a four-year undergraduate and graduate program for students. This project is dedicated to increasing the number of African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hispanic-Latino students enrolled in master's and doctoral degree programs in atmospheric and related sciences.

U.S. Geological Survey Earth Sciences Internship Program Accepting Applications

The U.S. Department of the Interior sponsors this program. Stipend levels range from $19,960 per year with two years of college to $39,925 per year with completion of the doctorate degree. Eligibility is limited to individuals who have been full-time students or have graduated from accredited U.S. colleges and universities within the past year.

Internship opportunities become available on a continual basis and are routinely posted on the following Web address: http://www.orau.gov/oris/edu/ugrad/usgs1.htm. Application material are accepted throughout the year and kept on file to be considered for future projects.
Will We Pass?
by Ercole Bowell

Will we pass this way again?
To enjoy the sights and sensations
Of oft pleasurable experiences?
We cannot go back, though we
Want so much to do.
Father Time's hand is ever marching
Toward the demise of '97,
An intrepid Voyager on Final Approach
To the Gate of '98.

Nay, my fellow Travelers, we cannot go
Back, for forward and onward our Compass
Commands; an eerie sojourn into a renewal
Of Spirit and mystery, for what is in store,
We know not. Godspeed!

A Friend
by Ercole Howell

Friend, you departed from your sheltered abode in darkness.
Your destination is unknown but to the Creator of all life.
Friend, you brought light and joy to our home, for a short while...
For every one of us is here but for an instant, a fraction of a speck
of dust amongst the Quadrillions upon quadrillions within the vast Universe.
Gone from sight in less than a quadrillionth of a second, ever flying
into the vacuous Unknown darkness toward an Infinite light.
Friend, thank you for sharing time with me, for I am grateful for God's gift.
It is time to bid farewell. Godspeed!

TRIO OF TRIOLETS
by Bruce Weaver

I
Sing low!—Sing high!
Sing near—Sing far!
Let thy music touch the sky!
Sing low!—Sing high!
Music transcends the lie, Truth
is its shining star
Sing Low!—Sing high!
Sing near—Sing far!

II
Build towers of stone!
Build mortar of brick!
Monuments for you alone.
Build towers of stone!
Gilded light is constantly shown
To make poor minions sick!
Build towers of stone!
Build mortar of brick!

The Wind
by Bruce Weaver

The farthest thing
I can remember back to is a mighty gush of wind.
A wind was swirling around and around me as I
was falling like lightning. I was being drawn into
one of those whiskey barrels you ride on at
amusement parks—only this dark, black whiskey barrel
had no bottom to it, and it looked like I
was falling into a glass pit.
The wind got stronger and fiercer. It
seemed to sting my head, my eyes, my hair, my toes,
my whole body. It's like the biting wind of
winter that cuts up your face; tiny, little knives
tingling their way into your flesh.
Then I stopped falling. I was sitting on the floor of my mother's
kitchen. I didn't stop to think of how I got there or anything like that.
I got to my feet and raced up the stairs to see mom
and dad. But as I raced up the stairs I
started feeling strange.

I reached for the doorknob again and my hand
seemed to pass right through it. I tried
again and the same thing happened. I started to get
scared.

It's my brother Ted's room. Little Ted is lying
on the bed, and he's crying.

Copyright © 1999

III
Die great!—Die proud!
Die loved—Die Bowed.
Love will not last to a phantom shroud
Die great!—Die proud!
Shout thy demise very loud
As they memory remains ploughed
Die great!—Die proud!
Die loved!—Die bowed!

The Literary Supplement

Reflections

A Friend
by Ercole Howell

Friend, you departed from your sheltered abode in darkness.
Your destination is unknown but to the Creator of all life.
Friend, you brought light and joy to our home, for a short while...
For every one of us is here but for an instant, a fraction of a speck
of dust amongst the Quadrillions upon quadrillions within the vast Universe.
Gone from sight in less than a quadrillionth of a second, ever flying
into the vacuous Unknown darkness toward an Infinite light.
Friend, thank you for sharing time with me, for I am grateful for God's gift.
It is time to bid farewell. Godspeed!
Thursday  

February 4, 1999

WIND  
continued from page 7  
down his face.  
He doesn’t say anything, but I hear  
his voice saying, “Dave, please  
come back.” I try to tell Ted I’m right  
by him but no sound comes out  
of my mouth. I’d give anything to say,  
“I’m here Ted, I’m here... what’s  
wrong?” I go up to him and that  
swirling wind follows me. I  
can hear it  
howl around and through the window.  
As I  
get close to my brother, I seem  
to walk right through his bed!  
Doesn’t Ted hear that wind?  
It’s  
loud enough to start those tornado  
sirens screeching down our street. It’s  
so strange, so weird ... Ted doesn’t  
say one  
word, but I hear what he’s  
thinking. It’s as if you turned on  
your radio and you could only hear  
what was on the station while  
everybody else was deaf.  
I hear Ted’s thoughts,  
“I  
want you  
Dave... come back.” And try as I  
might, I can only think, “I’m here  
Ted, I’m here. I wish I could talk  
to you.” No sound comes from my  
lips. I can only watch and feel. I  
feel like crying. I draw my hand to  
my face and feel no tears.  
Where is that howling wind  
coming from? Is it raining outside? It  
is raining! I look out Ted’s window.  
It’s a huge storm; the tornado  
siren starts to make those screeching  
noses down our street.  
I notice the splatter of water  
droplets lying on the window pane,  
and I see the lash of wind as it hits  
the shutters causing the clacking  
noise.  
I watch the rain beat against the  
window pane and a thought strikes  
me. “If I can feel what Ted is saying,  
why can’t I feel the rain on my  
face?” I look at my hands. Both of  
‘em arc dry—not a drop! I can’t  
feel raindrops yet I see the rain  
outside lashing against the window  
pane.  
I’ll never know what made me look  
at Ted’s bid mirror in his room.  
It’s a big mirror that hangs right next  
to his cassette player. Even  
though I was standing right in front  
of that mirror, I couldn’t see  
my reflection.

LADIES OF THE PACK  
Saturday, Feb. 13, 8:00 p.m.

Corky Siegel’s Chamber Blues  
Saturday, Apr. 17, 8:00 p.m.

The Duttons  
Sunday, Apr. 18, 3:00 p.m.

Bobby Caldwell  
Saturday, Apr. 24, 8:00 p.m.

The King & I  
Sunday, May 9, 5:00 p.m.

Call the Box Office at 708.235.2222  
Group Sales phone 708.534.4121  
Website www.govst.edu/center
Neil Sedaka: A 40th Anniversary Tribute

By Karen Piejko, Arts & Entertainment editor

1998 marked the 40th anniversary of the release of Neil Sedaka's first two record albums. In 1958, Sedaka had been singing and writing songs since early childhood and entered the American music scene with two major albums, "Neil Sedaka & The Tokens" and "Neil Sedaka, The Tokens & Coins." Although the selections on these albums will never compare to the latter achievements of this superstar, they represent Sedaka's noteworthy pre-RCA era and invigorating humble commercial beginnings.

Sedaka has written thousands of songs, was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, had a #1 song ("Bad Blood," with Elton John), earned #1 records for "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do" and "Laughter In The Rain," earned platinum albums in America and England, won a Grammy Award for "Love Will Keep Us Together," is second only to Elvis Presley as the highest selling RCA-Victor recording artist, and holds the distinction of having his songs make the UK and US music charts.

Sedaka appeared live in concert at The Rosemont Theatre in Chicago, in a musical extravaganza that was sponsored by Oldies 104.3 WJMK-FM, Chicago.

The Neil Sedaka Story

Neil Sedaka was a child prodigy, with beautiful music rooted deep within him. A gifted pianist, it was his family's hope that he would become a classical musician. Although he received classical training and would always retain those skills, Sedaka realized early on that he was more than just a classical musician. The multifaceted Sedaka consisted of a vast complex variety of musical styles just waiting to burst onto the music scene. The courageous and determined young musician was confident that he could take the music world by storm, if he was only given half a chance.

Sedaka struck up a friendship and songwriting partnership with his neighbor, Howard Greenfield. The two collaborated and eventually wrote some of the best known songs of the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s. Sedaka and Greenfield became members of the infamous Brill Building 'Brat Pack,' of the late 1950s and early 1960s. Although Sedaka enjoyed tremendous songwriting successes, most notably the #1 hit, "Stupid Cupid," for Connie Francis in 1958, he had a gifted voice and an innate desire to use it.

As a member of The Tokens, he was constantly the center of attention. His unmistakable voice made him the "star" of the group. Sedaka was destined to become a soloist. Sedaka went on to become an international star.

"While I Dream" was a musical gem boasting regional success, but it was "The Diary," with Sedaka's crisp swooning vocals that would melt the competition to pieces. Soon after, "Oh Carol," a song written for Sedaka's childhood friend, Carol Klein (who would later become the infamous Carole King), hit the top of the US and the UK charts. Sedaka had a knack for writing and singing fun songs. "Happy Birthday Sweet Sixteen" would become a hit that would remain a top radio request all the way through the 1990s.

"Calendar Girl," 1960, became a monster hit and has retained its popularity through the 1990's along with several variations used in television commercial jingles. In 1962, "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do," transformed itself into a #1 hit with Sedaka's patented "Comma Comma Down Doo Bee Doo Down Down" lyrics. The arrangement and Sedaka's fascinating nonsense backgrounds "Doo-Doo-She-Down-Down" made "Next Door To An Angel" a fun Doo Wop influenced hit.

Sedaka toured the world and all the major television shows. The singer became a favorite guest on programs such as "Dick Clark's American Bandstand" and the "Ed Sullivan Show." After the British invasion of 1964, he performed less frequently in the US, but thrived at international destinations such as Australia, Japan, and England. His musical handiwork continued to grace US stages as he wrote for Tom Jones, Elvis Presley, The Fifth Dimension, Tony Christie and Andy Williams.

The 1970s would mark a major turning point for Sedaka. The music scene was just right for the return of a smiling Sedaka and his songs. He blew away the competition with the #1 rhythm & blues influenced hit, "Laughter In The Rain," and proved himself to be an invigorating R&B singer. The singer demonstrated the elaborate depth of his versatility and established himself in a new genre of music when he teamed up with Elton John on "Bad Blood."

The hard core, jagged edge song, became a #1 smash hit. Listeners were baffled: could this colorful, flamboyant, hard rock hit really be from the same boy that used to sing about sunshine, puppy dogs, clovens and rainbows? Fortunately, Sedaka had proven that a true musician can be a superior performer in an unlimited number of diverse styles.

Sedaka insisted on making history. The singer re-recorded his #1 1962 hit, "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do," and had another charted hit with it, making him the first singer to have a charted Top Ten hit, with the same song, in two

Inside: Piejko's tribute to Sedaka with album reviews, book review, web site, and more.
Neil Sedaka & The Tokens, 1958

Guest Star Records

Sedaka is in perfect form on his very first album. The best track, "While I Dream," is a song that I strongly suggest he re-record. This piece emanates with late 50s rock hop splendor, spiced with a drain, love recordin in the 1990s. His smooth and mellow vocals become beautifully haunting at the refrain, while the emotionally expressive musical score magically evokes smiles and happy tears.


Crown Records

Headlining this album is "While I Dream," a song that would eventually result in Sedaka leaving The Tokens to move on to bigger and better things. After the break up of Sedaka & The Tokens.

Neil Sedaka: Tuneweaver

The debut of "Blinded By Your Love," is "a sure fire hit!" It's pitched and harmonious, Rod Stewart and Motown stamped with Sedaka's inimitable style. The increasing popularity of modern "World Music" prompted Sedaka to write and sing an impressive R&B rendition of "Laughing In The Rain," alternating vocals with her dad. On this particular recording, her voice was almost better than her dad's! Hey Dad, let Dara do an album of her own!

Neil Sedaka: The Singer & His Songs

Everyone and their brother has an import album, so why not Sedaka? It's a remarkably cool album at that! Neil Sedaka: The Singer & His Songs is finely crafted British import CD, featuring new up tempo versions of classic hits by one of Americas Grammy award winning singer/songwriter.

Did he forget the vocals and outstanding production techniques make this a must-have album. Highlights include the Doo Wop influenced "Rainy Day Bells" and the modern Broadway-inspired melodies of "Clown Time." Sedaka updates his earlier work giving it a modern, new millennium flair, without detracting from the original songs.

Neil Sedaka: Steppin' Out

"Steppin' Out" is a superior example of what a finely crafted album should be. "Here We Are Falling In Love Again" is a scintillating new song with a dance club beat and "Good Times, Good Music, Good Friends" boasts a fascinating arrangement. In spite its rock-n-roll elements, the acoustic piano segments sound like they are straight out of the hit musical play "Ragtime."

This album contains one of the greatest songs about music ever written. Simply titled, "Sing Me," it pays tribute to the song in all of us.

Neil Sedaka: Superbird

"Superbed" takes on a mystical flight of its own as it twists, turns and catapults the listener into a tranquil, mystical state of reality. This album affords Sedaka the opportunity to share his tremendous gift for serious song writing.

Mild religious references add to the beauty of the songs, resulting in an inspirational, sentimental listening experience. While the lyrics are emotionally moving, the instrumental parts keep the songs lively, upbeat and fresh.

The Many Sides of Neil Sedaka

"The Many Sides of Neil Sedaka" provides a refreshingly diverse array of music. "The Same Old Fool" is an example of traditional country music, with Sedaka's signature smooth pop vocal flair. The lyrics contain the story telling elements of classic country, while the music is reminiscent of the Grand Ole Opry with just enough rock-n-roll to give it an upbeat, contemporary sound.

"The Answer To My Prayer," is a beautiful tune with a mild Latin beat that emanates from a smooth, jazzy, Sinatra influenced sound. Sedaka demonstrates his knack for humor with "No Vacancy," a cute, bouncy tune about searching for an apartment on dish washers pay.

While many artists enjoy singing a variety of styles such as country, rhythm and blues, rock and jazz, Sedaka has mastered it all. His dedication and love for diverse musical styles, is clearly evident in "The Many Sides of Neil Sedaka.

Neil Sedaka: The Hungry Years

"Lonely Night (Angel Face)," "Bad Blood" "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do," "Your Favorite Entertainers," "Crazy, baby" and "Baby Blue" are musical masterpieces. Sedaka demonstrates true versatility as a musician by blasting you out of this world with the rough, tough, flamboyant "Bad Blood" and lulling you into a tranquil state of reality with the soft, sweet, soulful sounds of "Lonely Night Angel Face."

Neil Sedaka Sings His Greatest Hits

This greatest hits album does not need reviewing with certified #1 gold and platinum hits in the United States. These songs have an intriguing, innocent, fun-loving sound that appeals to listeners.

Laughter In The Rain, My Own Story

A Book By Neil Sedaka

Behind Neil Sedaka, there is a story, laden with wonders, crying out in tragedy, bursting with triumphs and spiced with the trials and tribulations of marriage. It is a story that only Sedaka can tell. Neither I, nor any other writer, could ever duplicate the genuine emotion and feeling that emanates from his pen.

Sedaka is a unique blend of parents, constant struggle to the tips of the struggle to remain there for five decades. Beneath the sunny smile, radiant personality and outstanding lyrics lies a fragile, emotional, and delightfully folk flavored, emotionally expressive musical score magically evokes smiles and happy tears.

Neil Sedaka's autobiography reveals some of the most intimate childhood, breaking into show business, the pressures, his interesting relationship with his mother, the punk and rockabilly influence, the soft, sweet, soulful sounds of "Lonely Night Angel Face."

Sedaka: Steppin' Out

"Steppin' Out" is a superior example of what a finely crafted album should be. "Here We Are Falling In Love Again" is a scintillating new song with a dance club beat and "Good Times, Good Music, Good Friends" boasts a fascinating arrangement. In spite its rock-n-roll elements, the acoustic piano segments sound like they are straight out of the hit musical play "Ragtime."

This album contains one of the greatest songs about music ever written. Simply titled, "Sing Me," it pays tribute to the song in all of us.

Neil Sedaka: Superbird

"Superbed" takes on a mystical flight of its own as it twists, turns and catapults the listener into a tranquil, mystical state of reality. This album affords Sedaka the opportunity to share his tremendous gift for serious song writing.

Mild religious references add to the beauty of the songs, resulting in an inspirational, sentimental listening experience. While the lyrics are emotionally moving, the instrumental parts keep the songs lively, upbeat and fresh.

The Many Sides of Neil Sedaka

"The Many Sides of Neil Sedaka" provides a refreshingly diverse array of music. "The Same Old Fool" is an example of traditional country music, with Sedaka's signature smooth pop vocal flair. The lyrics contain the story telling elements of classic country, while the music is reminiscent of the Grand Ole Opry with just enough rock-n-roll to give it an upbeat, contemporary sound.

"The Answer To My Prayer," is a beautiful tune with a mild Latin beat that emanates from a smooth, jazzy, Sinatra influenced sound. Sedaka demonstrates his knack for humor with "No Vacancy," a cute, bouncy tune about searching for an apartment on dish washers pay.

While many artists enjoy singing a variety of styles such as country, rhythm and blues, rock and jazz, Sedaka has mastered it all. His dedication and love for diverse musical styles, is clearly evident in "The Many Sides of Neil Sedaka.

Neil Sedaka: The Hungry Years

"Lonely Night (Angel Face)," "Bad Blood" "Breaking Up Is Hard To Do," "Your Favorite Entertainers," "Crazy, baby" and "Baby Blue" are musical masterpieces. Sedaka demonstrates true versatility as a musician by blasting you out of this world with the rough, tough, flamboyant "Bad Blood" and lulling you into a tranquil state of reality with the soft, sweet, soulful sounds of "Lonely Night Angel Face."

Neil Sedaka Sings His Greatest Hits

This greatest hits album does not need reviewing with certified #1 gold and platinum hits in the United States. These songs have an intriguing, innocent, fun-loving sound that appeals to listeners.
Talent comes suggest they go back to drama school I have ever seen. Usually when the best ones to show emotion for large audiences. The film is edited and over ever since telling stories there is a lot of bottles lying around. On the old Cagney And Lacey cop series, Lacy loses her father and goes into an alcoholic slump that is not only depressant reality, but also with compassion. Lacy stumbles through speech, cannot remember time and tries to fix it. In the backyard in an immaculate kitchen table doesn't show one beer bottle on the table. (This is the apartment of an alcoholic?) Given the style (if you can call it that) of a taciturn Addair, I looked in vain for other characters in the film. There might be another possibility here. I tried to ask myself through the showing of this movie. Why is Andrew Mitchell so reluctant to tell all the light is coming from the apartment of an alcoholic?)

Judging from this soap opera and the credits, Steven wants to be associated with the idea that he had some influence. The film is laughable bordering on no-talent malady, except his films are all bad; Tradition, except his films are all bad; Addair is sick with "swell-head" (I've never produced a movie before (except for the home­ movie crowd in the 50s). he drops it on the floor. he drops it on the phone. he drops it on the table. We don't know because the film only includes shots of Cynthia telling Andrew to get a job (how many men love that in a woman?). Cynthia cradles her head in her hands (sister of Andrew? Cynthia is a victim of the soap opera hokum. Boy loses Boy, Brother's girl tells boy go back to drama school. I think everyone will either leave the theatre, or their television sets murmuring "without a doubt, GSU graduates mindless idiots when it comes to the field of mass communications."

There is no doubt after seeing this sickening, uninteresting palaver, Steven Addair's hero must be Ed Wood. It will be remembered by most movie aficionados that Ed Wood Jr. is the name of the movie producer who did films so bad that they were good.

Addair continues the Ed Wood tradition, except his films are all bad; I'm sure any lame-brain Communications graduate student in communications for the other characters in the movie. It's better with his creation, there is no hope for recovery. I do not know who Mr. Smith teaches film, but he didn't learn this in Filmmaking 101? If the institution didn't teach him this, doesn't he have enough sense to study movies?

Luckily, our Orson Welles doesn't do well on showing Cynthia for very long, after a sheet of the muddy Michigan water (designed to show the audience where this movie really being shot). Cynthia is talking to her mother concerning the mysterious death of her husband. Andy's sister, Linda (we never hear her name on the screen) is talking to Andy just how they mixed-up his life has become. This may be nit-picking, but since Andrew is a writer, wouldn't he use more colorful adjectives than four-letter words and gutter language to communicate with his sister? This way the brother and sister talk to each other, I thought they grew up with African-American parents on the dock-side of New York in the Bronx section of Manhattan. I found admirable quality in this film is the music. Frank O'Connor's Irish folk music seems to give us a glimpse of a character in Andrew Mitchell. It does a nice job of interviewing the feeling of loneliness and longing when a person loses a loved one. Since the soundtrack sounded like it was recorded in an airplane raid on Iraq, the music seemed to lift the plot beyond nothing, and give it an insight that should've been reserved for Addair. Yet, even if Bernard Herrmann had written the musical score for this film, that is no reason for Addair to sit back and let this excrement get across the cutting-room floor..

We don't know why Addair went on to state "I made a lot of mistakes in making this movie." No kidding? Addair might've started a new innovative way of dressing as for a second film. The clothes the movie will be seen as a schlock. Since Addair is putting down his creation, there is no use to buy the video cassette he so generously provided for sale at the end of the presentation. Whoadday to go, Steve? You really learned a lot about marketing mass media?

Oh the movie does have an ending. Cynthia comes to Andrew from above, and tells him to get on with his life. Although we cannot be sure how Cynthia was shot in a studio, and then poorly superimposed on the shot of Steve looking blankly off into the shoreline, we are supposed to ignore those little, tiny mistakes. We are supposed to be moved by a no-character girl telling a no-character man, to proceed with his no-nothing novel and lead a no-nothing life. I could've learned much as watching the President Clinton-Monica Lewinsky impeachment trial. This film is clearly an embarrassment to not only GSU, but also the GSU faculty and students. For a graduate student in communications to turn out something this bad clearly reflects on the quality of instruction at the university. Perhaps it is not the professors' fault; maybe Addair will do better with his next film. Some students in communication will call up the Innovator office and say, "it was only his first film." I am aware of that. I am also aware that the Sesame Street Filmmaking Contest for young filmmakers had more talented movies submitted from fifth and sixth graders to equal and surpass a movie which should've had something, but had nothing. I've even seen better student films in a high school setting!

The next time we see Vi's Basement Productions logo on a film, that should be clear warning to us all: Time to dust off the shelves of our home video library and view Plan 9 From Outer Space. At least we'll have a laugh thinking that a film can't possibly be as bad as an Ed Wood direction. We'll forget that Vi's Basement Productions has achieved the impossible, and we'll need to forget that we ever were associated with GSU.

"Pleasantville" is aptly named by Ann Pace

Pleasantville is about a couple of 1990s teenagers, Dave and Jennifer who get zapped into a 1950s TV family series like "Father Knows Best." Then they become Bud and Mary. The children, to the surprise of Betty and George Parker. The Parker family live on a quiet street, in a white house with a white picket fence around it, in the town of Pleasantville.

Of course, the combination is a misfire from day one. Pleasantville wants to remain as it always was and David and Jennifer want to be the way they always were. So, the fun begins when the two of them somehow starts to get turned upside down. Pleasantville is a New Cinema. Time Warner Company film, produced by Jon Kilik, Robert Deegen, Steven Soderberg, and Gary Ross. Under the direction of its writer Gary Ross, who also wrote "Big" and "Dave," the movie revolts on the beach telling old adjectives but old ideas but heads with new ones. I haven't seen a cast so very right for each other in this year. We all know Steven Spielberg and Debra Zane did a great job casting the film.

The cast did an excellent job of acting. Great performances by the actors and actresses Tobe Magbery, Joan Allen, William May, and Don Knotts. Flawless and pricelessness performances by the two newcomers, Steve! You third of the movie producer who did films so bad that they were good.

Addair continues the Ed Wood tradition, except his films are all bad; I'm sure any lame-brain Communications graduate student in communications for the other characters in the movie. It's better with his creation, there is no hope for recovery. I do not know who Mr. Smith teaches film, but he didn't learn this in Filmmaking 101? If the institution didn't teach him this, doesn't he have enough sense to study movies?

Luckily, our Orson Welles doesn't do well on showing Cynthia for very long, after a sheet of the muddy Michigan water (designed to show the audience where this movie really being shot). Cynthia is talking to her mother concerning the mysterious death of her husband. Andy's sister, Linda (we never hear her name on the screen) is talking to Andy just how they mixed-up his life has become. This may be nit-picking, but since Andrew is a writer, wouldn't he use more colorful adjectives than four-letter words and gutter language to communicate with his sister? This way the brother and sister talk to each other, I thought they grew up with African-American parents on the dock-side of New York in the Bronx section of Manhattan. I found admirable quality in this film is the music. Frank O'Connor's Irish folk music seems to give us a glimpse of a character in Andrew Mitchell. It does a nice job of interviewing the feeling of loneliness and longing when a person loses a loved one. Since the soundtrack sounded like it was recorded in an airplane raid on Iraq, the music seemed to lift the plot beyond nothing, and give it an insight that should've been reserved for Addair. Yet, even if Bernard Herrmann had written the musical score for this film, that is no reason for Addair to sit back and let this excrement get across the cutting-room floor..

We don't know why Addair went on to state "I made a lot of mistakes in making this movie." No kidding? Addair might've started a new innovative way of dressing as for a second film. The clothes the movie will be seen as a schlock. Since Addair is putting down his creation, there is no use to buy the video cassette he so generously provided for sale at the end of the presentation. Whoadday to go, Steve? You really learned a lot about marketing mass media?

Oh the movie does have an ending. Cynthia comes to Andrew from above, and tells him to get on with his life. Although we cannot be sure how Cynthia was shot in a studio, and then poorly superimposed on the shot of Steve looking blankly off into the shoreline, we are supposed to ignore those little, tiny mistakes. We are supposed to be moved by a no-character girl telling a no-character man, to proceed with his no-nothing novel and lead a no-nothing life. I could've learned much as watching the President Clinton-Monica Lewinsky impeachment trial. This film is clearly an embarrassment to not only GSU, but also the GSU faculty and students. For a graduate student in communications to turn out something this bad clearly reflects on the quality of instruction at the university. Perhaps it is not the professors' fault; maybe Addair will do better with his next film. Some students in communication will call up the Innovator office and say, "it was only his first film." I am aware of that. I am also aware that the Sesame Street Filmmaking Contest for young filmmakers had more talented movies submitted from fifth and sixth graders to equal and surpass a movie which should've had something, but had nothing. I've even seen better student films in a high school setting!

The next time we see Vi's Basement Productions logo on a film, that should be clear warning to us all: Time to dust off the shelves of our home video library and view Plan 9 From Outer Space. At least we'll have a laugh thinking that a film can't possibly be as bad as an Ed Wood direction. We'll forget that Vi's Basement Productions has achieved the impossible, and we'll need to forget that we ever were associated with GSU.

Writers Wanted

The Innovator is in need of writers interested in reporting for Arts & Entertainment. If you would like to write music, concerts, theatre, movies, and events, contact the Innovator at extension 437.

You don't have to be Siskel and Ebert to write for the Innovator.

Requirements

A desire to write Curiosity A sense of humor Energy

The Innovator is in need of writers interested in reporting for Arts & Entertainment. If you would like to write music, concerts, theatre, movies, and events, contact the Innovator at extension 437.

You don't have to be Siskel and Ebert to write for the Innovator.

Requirements

A desire to write Curiosity A sense of humor Energy
**The 1999 African American Read-In Chain**

**Program Description**

- **Background**
  At its November 1989 meeting, the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) accepted the Issues Committee's recommendation that the Black Caucus sponsor a nation-wide Read-In on the first Sunday of February at 4:00 p.m. EST. At the request of educators, Monday was designated for educational institutions. Jerrie Cobb Scott, an active member of NCTE and the Black Caucus, brought the idea to the Committee. It was envisioned that following a decade of rigorous campaigning for participants, the African American Read-Ins would become a traditional part of Black History Month celebrations. The commitment for nation-wide promotion extends from 1990 to the year 2000. As is the practice with "chain" letters, persons receiving Read-In packets share the information with others, thereby creating a "chain" of readers whose numbers would grow to well over a million by the year 2000. In 1990, the National Council of Teachers of English joined in the sponsorship of the African American Read-In Chain. The campaign has also been endorsed and supported by the International Reading Association.

- **Resources**
  Numerous resources already exist to support this event: professional and community organizations, churches, schools, businesses, and public officials who are involved in literacy enhancement programs; language/literacy educators whose contacts are far reaching; authors and friends of authors committed to broadening the public's exposure to the voices of African Americans; publishers, bookstores, libraries and the media with their ongoing literary promotion activities. By pooling these resources, we create a chain of Read-Ins, unified by the focus on:
  - reading works authored by novice and professional African American writers;
  - scheduling the Read-Ins so that all will be reading on the same dates and at the same time;
  - encouraging participation by all ethnic groups.

- **Strategy**
  Individuals participating in the Read-Ins are, of course, the most important link in the "Chain." They are invited to participate by Read-In Hosts. Hosting a Read-In can be as simple as gathering with family and friends to share books, or as elaborate as arranging large audiences to hear professional writers and readers. Read-In Coordinators may serve as hosts, but they also invite others to host Read-Ins, soliciting VIP Endorsements and Proclamations by City, County, State Governments, School Superintendents, and College Presidents, circulate press releases, and serve as contact persons for the media. Organizations wishing to serve as Read-In Coordinators are expected to serve as contact persons, receive the report cards, and submit a summary report, copies of artifacts, report cards, and mailing list to the National

**Director or Coordinator.** Organizational members usually volunteer to assist with the coordinating tasks.

- **Action**
  Read-In packets containing materials for use are distributed widely, a distribution list that grows as report cards are submitted each year. Each recipient of a packet is asked to create a structure for hosting and coordinating Read-Ins in ways that best suit their resources and interests. It is of grave importance that hosts and coordinators return the Read-In Report Cards by the end of February. The Report Cards provide a mechanism for determining our growth rates in terms of participants, types of participating groups, and frequently read books.

- **All efforts are valued as contributions to a significant history making event.**

**Making Literacy a Traditional Part of Black History Month**

**The 1999 African American Read-In Chain**

Monday, February 8
6 to 8 p.m.
Sherman Music Hall

Anyone interested in participating in this historical event, contact:
Professor Rashidah Jaami' Muhammad
English department
ext. 6974

---

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY**

**PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT**

WHEREAS, 1999 celebrates the tenth annual African-American Read-In Chain, and

WHEREAS, this worthwhile activity is sponsored by the International Reading Association and the Black Caucus of the National Council of Teachers of English to bring public notice to the Importance of reading and of African American writers' contributions to the American literacy tradition, and

WHEREAS, nearly two million readers of every ethnic group, representing 49 states, Canada and the Caribbean, have participated in previous Read-Ins, and

WHEREAS, faculty, staff, and students are urged to make the Read-In a part of Governors State University's African American History Month observances,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paula Wolff, president of Governors State University, do hereby proclaim Monday, February 8, 1999, as

**AFRICAN-AMERICAN READ-IN CHAIN DAY**

on the university campus and urge all to support this worthwhile effort.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of Governors State University to be affixed on this second day of February 1998

Paula Wolff, President

---

**Thursday**
**February 4, 1999**
**Innovator 12**