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A glimpse into an opposite world

Ever since I can remember, I've always had trouble with my penmanship in school. Every six weeks I'd get my report card and every six weeks I'd get a "C" in handwriting with comments about how messy my work was. It just couldn't be helped; I was left handed and I was not going to change. Therefore, my teachers were just going to have to accept the fact. It's not like I wanted my handwriting to be messy. On the contrary, I tried very hard to keep my work neat, but every time I tried to write, my hand just smeared the pencil or ink.

Try to imagine a world where everything is opposite of what you would expect. Imagine you are Alice stepping through the looking glass, finding a world where doorknobs are on the wrong side, handles on can openers are on the wrong side and turn the wrong way and buttons, zippers and snaps are all opposite. Welcome to the world of the left-handed. This is a world where awkwardness and clumsiness seem to abound because the lefty has to accommodate to a world biased toward the right-handed majority. As Lord John Whorfin exclaimed in Buckaroo Banzai, "It's not my damned planet, monkey boy." My sentiments exactly. Right-handed people have no conception of living in a world that is catered against them. The everyday frustration of such a simple task as getting dressed is incomprehensible to the right-handed.

But if you must know, handedness is an inherited trait rather than being learned through practice. It is controlled by the brain which is divided into two hemispheres - the right and left. Whichever hemisphere is dominant, the opposite hand is preferred. So, it goes to say that only left-handed people are in their right minds.

Left-handers make up 10 to 12 percent of the population, with two out of three being males. Most left-handed people are right-brained processors. They like inventing, looking for the main idea and discovering through exploration. They are often rather non-conformists. The rules for conforming are usually laid down by left-brain people who are conformists by nature. Right-brain processors often prefer organizations that have idealistic goals and ones where they can exercise personal initiative. They like flexible rules and are essentially people-oriented. This is why you see most creative thinking people in artistic kinds of jobs like advertising. I guess that means I'm in the right career field.

So, if you are using right-brain people to do predominantly left-brain work such as logic and structured assignments, then you may be wasting wondrous talent as well as producing unhappy employees.

There are, however, some facts about lefties that are not as well known: lefties are three times more likely to commit suicide, they are prone to near-sightedness, language disturbances, phobias, headaches, dyslexia, allergies and arthritis.

But don't despair, lefties, because you have greater control and dexterity of both arms and legs, thus allowing you to excel in sports. Such famous sports lefties are Jimmy Connors and Babe Ruth. Other great lefties are comedians Harpo Marx, Jay Leno, Whoopi Goldberg and television journalists Ted Koppel and Oprah Winfrey.

Nevertheless, it still goes to say that left-handers are few and far between because the majority of people are right-handed and these right-handed people keep having right-handed children. I suggest that the lefties of the world unite to save our wonderful species from dying out.

Melinda Stichweh
Editor
The ancient Greeks and Romans had a word for this type of craft nearly 24 centuries ago. Galleys they were affectionately called. That was the word used by the sea-goers of antiquity to describe huge rowboats that used rudders to steer.

Today fancier terms are used to describe this ancient form of transportation. Words such as sculling and sweep-oar rowing surface are used when speaking about the modern day sport of rowing - a sport that has become more popular in recent years.

The coordination and group effort that was needed to send Romans sailing across the Mediterranean Sea centuries ago is also present in modern rowing. "The goal is to synchronize your movements with the others on the team," said Matthew Brach, a determined competitor for LSU's rowing venture and club vice president. "If one individual is off, it throws the whole team off."

Giving insight into a typical day in the life of the average member of the Tiger "crew," Brach talks about his rigorous schedule. "I wake up at about 4:30 a.m. so I will have time enough to make it to practice," he said. "After I get dressed I head out to Baton Rouge Beach to be there for 5 a.m." At 5:15 the team walks to a nearby house which is temporarily storing the team's training boat. "We then have to carry the boat three blocks back to the beach and set it in the water for practice."

Unlike the old galleys that weighed several tons and could hold more than 1,000 men, LSU's "galley" weighs only 350 pounds. Although this rowboat is light in comparison to the ones of old, carrying it does present a challenge to the 15 or 16 men and women who have to take it to the beach. "We have to walk the farthest to carry our boat to the water than any school in the nation," Brach surmises.

The "brick," as the boat is coined by the team, holds an eight-man crew, called eights, with an extra seat for the coxswain. The coxswain, or "cox" as he is called by the crew, is the stroke counter for the group. "He is the person in charge of keeping the crew in sync and making sure everyone does their job," Brach said. He said LSU has both men and
women coxswains that coach each of the Tigers' four teams - two men and two women crews. "No one disagrees with the cox on the water, it doesn't matter if they're wrong. You can disagree with him all you want on land, but on the water he is the supreme lord." The team has a peculiar practice of assigning female coxswains to coach the male crews and male coxswains to coach the female crews. When asked to explain why the team has this type of arrangement, Brach replied, "I guess people take criticism from the opposite sex more constructively." And he added "although the women might be smaller than the men, some of them get pretty demanding."

Chuckling about the LSU crew's humble beginnings, Brach explains how Tiger rowing came into existence. "Dan Shapparo (another team member and club president) liked rowing in those small boats in Boy Scouts - that's where he began to become fascinated with rowing. As for me, I used to be a swimmer, but my coach used to always tell me that I would make a better rower than a swimmer so I became somewhat interested in rowing." He said Shapparo liked the idea of LSU having a crew, "so we got together a year ago and here we are."

Looking at some of the fundamentals of rowing, the current coach of the crew stepped in to give a few tips. "The emphasis not on being in the boat, but on the other individuals on the team," said Steve Parker, who also acts as the team manager and coordinator of crew activities. "Each person has to focus on the person next to him to synchronize his stroke, because if one person is a little high or low in his stroke the other members of the team have to make up for it."

Although many members on the team are young and not very familiar with rowing, many have been involved in team sports and are acquainted with the rigors of practice. "We have some divers, a few swimmers, someone who was involved in track and a few that participated in gymnastics," Parker said. The 32-year-old graduate student added that dedication on the part of the young athletes has helped the program get off the ground. "The enthusiasm we have from all personnel will help us to become a strong competitor in years to come," he said.

Since the Tiger's success in those future years will depend on team effort, many of the crew's training exercises are geared toward working together for a combined effort. "We have some basic drills we perform to help us work on our technique," Brach said, as he explained how running with rope has helped the team with synchronization. "Every person has one hand on the rope as we all run at the same pace," he said. "It's a good exercise in team movements because if one person had to stop to tie his shoe, everyone has to stop simultaneously with him." Group workouts have also helped team morale, because, as Brach put it, "you can't slack off - there's too much peer pressure."

Aside from the training the team gets while rowing, conditioning is also a key ingredient to a successful crew. "In the beginning we used to run a light two miles a day, but now we just have one mile of intense running before practice," Brach said. He said that the first few weeks of the spring semester the club didn't have a boat, but still had many people out for conditioning. "That exemplifies the dedication and spirit of this team," Brach said. "It's really a great sport and all of the members of the team are good people."

English comedian Thomas Doggett would have been proud of the Tiger crew as they brought a "regatta" to the LSU lakes in April. The regatta, which is rowing jargon for a racing meet, evolved from early boat racing, which was founded by Doggett in the 1700's. Doggett awarded a trophy known as the "Doggett Coat and Badge" to the winner of a race held on the River Thames. The LSU crew soon hopes to bring home it's own "Doggett Coat and Badge," as they will be traveling to different regattas across the country. "The race (LSU's regatta) wasn't very big this year, but next year - look out," Brach said with anticipation.

Brach said the crew has been lucky in many aspects because many people have been willing to help the team in its developmental stages. "The rowing coach from Tulane loaned us a boat to practice with..."
until we can buy our own and a nice couple who live near the (LSU) lakes has allowed us to store our boat at their house." He also said the club has received help with some of its expenses. "A big Louisiana company recently donated the material for us to build a permanent dock," Brach said.

Another plus to the rowing team is how close the LSU lakes are in proximity to the University. "Most universities have to travel off campus - sometimes many miles - to get their training facility. But with us, most team members can walk straight from class to the lake," he said. Brach also said that the closeness of the lakes to the campus helps in getting students to attend regattas and will aid in getting athletes for future Tigers crews. "The publicity we get from having a training facility on campus could help us in recruiting high school rowers onto the team. This, in turn, could help propel us into being a top notch team in the future."

The Tigers currently compete only in eight-man sweep-oar races, but will eventually involve themselves in more difficult competition. "This summer we will try to buy an eights racing boat and will soon be looking to buy a couple of fours (four-man) boats, which are harder to race," Parker said, optimistically. "A decent racing boat will cost about $13,000 after you buy all the accessories... It would be nice to get a top-of-the-line model, but they can run you up to $17,000." Speaking about how the club will pay for the boats, Parker injected, "there's a lot of footwork and fund raisers involved."

Although the LSU crew doesn't have the experience and prestige of Harvard or Yale in the rowing arena or hold racing classics such as the Henley Royal Regatta, time and hard work are their greatest asset. As American philosopher and poet Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, "there is no way to success in our art but to take off your coat, grind paint, and work like a digger on the railroad, all day and everyday."
Eating right may not be as bad as it seems

By Aimee Edmondson

Definitely do not pass the A-1 Sauce. This would be most unnecessary and even a gross taboo with the many people caught up in the resurgence of vegetarianism in the past two decades. The avoidance of a T-bone steak may be just one trait of vegetarianism, but there is no single eating pattern, health experts say.

Obviously vegetarians avoid animal products, but the extent of this can vary. Whether a person is strictly a fruit and root eater or just eats limited amounts of most animal foods, he is part of the population that generally has lower mortality rates than that of non-vegetarians. Studies documented in The Journal of the American Dietetic Association illustrate victories for vegetarianism that have the beef and dairy industries wringing in pain.

There is no single type of vegetarian eating pattern, said Paula Howat, associate professor of Home Economics. Veganism, or total vegetarianism, completely excludes meat, eggs and dairy products. Lactovegetarianism allows for dairy products but avoids meat and eggs. Ovo-lactovegetarianism is simply the avoidance of any meat. This goes for fish and fowl, as well as red meat. Semi-vegetarianism involves eating patterns that allows for fish, poultry and dairy products but excludes red meat.

"Studies of vegetarians versus non-vegetarians show that there are some definite health benefits to the previous. Vegetarians show reduced incidents of chronic disease such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes," said Howat, who has been a semi-vegetarian for 30 years. "Of course this is not just due to diet. Most vegetarians don't smoke, are more physically active and usually don't use drugs or alcohol."

There are several bases for a vegetarian stance besides health reasons.

Vegetarians show reduced incidents of chronic disease such as cancer, heart disease and diabetes

First of all, grains, vegetables and fruits are less expensive than meat. Shoppers may take the more fruitful approach by buying from the produce market. It's just cheaper - plain and simple.

Just as some people just can't bring themselves to eat snails or chocolate covered ants, others can't eat beef or pork. The whole idea of chewing and swallowing flesh makes them squeamish. Probably if we all had to slaughter, skin and gut the animals we consumed, there would be a lot less people eating meat.

People may also abstain for religious reasons. One extreme is the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. This is a time of fasting with no solid food before sunset. And during Bairam, a period of meditation and prayer that concludes Ramadan, Muslims often forego solid food entirely.

According to passages from Daniel A. Dombrowski's research, the idea that it is morally wrong to eat animals was dominant for about 1,000 years among some of the most prominent ancient Greek philosophers like Pythagoras and Empedocles. The idea then died out for almost seventeen hundred years. But, since the 1970s, more and more people have become interested in their diet. Faith in transmigration lead ancient cults to spare animals under the belief that animals would soon become human beings.

St. Thomas Aquinas provides an alternative framework concerning the Christian view of animals. According to Dombrowski, he attempts to provide support for the theological belief that man is dominant over animal. Humans are self-movers, and animals are instruments for the good of man. Also, animals are inferior to man because they aren't rational like men. Aquinas insists that man, the only intellectual creature, holds the highest place in the universe and with the exception of angels, they are closest to the divine likeness. So all others exist for the sake of man.

The Seventh-Day Adventists' faith contains religious food laws and lower mortality rates than the general population, according to the American Dietetic Association. But they don't smoke, drink or ingest

Continued on page 21
Sewing the Blues

By Lennart Larsson

Do you have a pair of well-worn blue jeans lying around the house? Then you have the raw material for "the ultimate in fashion design," says self-taught tailor and designer Fred Vosloh.

Vosloh treats old jeans to a new twist by splitting the outer seam of each pant leg and adding a stripe of a different jeans cloth or leather, and then tapering the bottoms. Other alterations include turning jeans into shorts, or "Phred Juniors," and giving them a new lower seam in various patterns and colors. When he's done, you have a genuine pair of Jeans by Phred.

The fashion created by Vosloh originated in Sweden, where he spent a year as an exchange student in 1984-85.

"Jeans are very expensive in Sweden," Vosloh explains. "A pair of Levi's will cost you over $70. When the kids over there outgrow their jeans, they alter them by sewing insertions down each outer seam. That leads to greater width and comfort, and it prolongs the life of the jeans. Instead of buying new ones, you just make your old ones fit you again."

Vosloh, a 22-year-old LSU student in international trade and finance, quickly learned the skills needed for this process and brought the idea back to the United States. Since then, the activity in his one-man owned and operated firm Jeans by Phred has grown steadily. Vosloh says that even though the original purpose of the alterations was to make the jeans last longer and bring about the original comfort they had, he has gradually moved more into fashion.

"These jeans are really something different," he says. And the demand is there. In 1987, Vosloh altered almost 500 pairs into Jeans by Phred. He also added T-shirts to his line of fashion, advertising his trademark and the Swedish flag with its yellow cross on blue next to the star-spangled banner. "Original from Sweden" the label reads on the back of the shirt.

"I've got over 200 of those T-shirts circulating throughout the South," he says. "Sometimes, people who have the shirts say they saw someone else with a Phred-shirt or Jeans by Phred in another town or state. That's real exciting. I hear reports like those long-distance ones every month or so."

In September of 1988 it was time for "Phase 2." Vosloh undertook an advertising campaign with a professionally designed logo printed on T-shirts, mock turtlenecks and jackets stating "Haute la mode le cuir" (high fashion in leather). Already a familiar name around Baton Rouge, and the LSU student body in particular, Vosloh says business is good.

An area retailer recently picked up on his ideas and has since carried Phred shirts.

Vosloh had mother nature against him as last winter proved to be a mild one, not very well suited for the warm mock turtlenecks that were the top of his line. He then sent the unsold portion of the shirts to one of the coldest climates in the world: northern Sweden. Friends from his time of studying abroad were able to sell the whole inventory and then some.

"They even requested more shirts," Vosloh says, "so naturally I sent them."

Vosloh capitalized on the depre-
elated value of the dollar at the time, turning the surplus of shirts into a profit.

A seasoned traveler, it is not surprising that his trademark is found in different parts of the United States as well as in countries like Austria, Norway and even the Soviet Union. The logo on his Phase 2-line displays some of the cities where Jeans by Phred can be found: Stockholm, Oslo, New York, Vienna and Leningrad.

Last fall, Vosloh's old friend Nicole Bergeron brought him some fashion ideas from the West. Bergeron, an LSU senior, had noticed successful lines of clothing in California. A week later, she and Vosloh were busy formulating a business plan.

The new line will feature women's casual dresswear under the name Jeans by Phred Clothiers, Vosloh says, adding that creating the original Jeans by Phred idea was well worth the effort. He wanted to transfer the customers' recognition of his original brand name to the new company, he says.

"I was able to observe the market and realized that unless I diversified, I might actually have to bury the original business idea," Vosloh says. "The market is the driving force of supply and demand. Where it goes, you go."

Vosloh expects his new item, a women's casual dress pant, to be the most successful project since his business started in 1984.

"When we sat down to brainstorm our ideas aloud, we realized fashion had to be our first priority," he says. "It's similar to the Units version of pants that originated in California, but we think our version is better. It has an inverted pleat running the entire length of the pant. It's stylish in all respects."

Next, Vosloh says comfort and versatility are important. The new line is flexible without being "baggy," he says.

"The pant is somewhat of a one-size-fits-all, but it doesn't look like it," Vosloh says. "Whether it's for casual dressing or dresswear for the nightlife, I think this pant fulfills both extremes."

Vosloh says the entrepreneurship course he took through the finance department helped him in his business. He calls it "the most underrated course at LSU" and encourages anyone with the "just-do-it" desire for their own business to take the course. Vosloh says that because of the economic difficulties in Louisiana, "new business is the only business to be," and taking the entrepreneurship course would get people started, he says.

"Here we have a course taught by arguably this country's foremost figure in the field, Dr. Robert T. Justis, who is the director of the Entrepreneurship Institute here at LSU," Vosloh says. "Yet, students aren't taking advantage of the opportunities existing at their fingertips, right here at LSU."

"It's really interesting how you incorporate the knowledge you've gained in business courses into real world applications," he says.

As for Jeans by Phred, Vosloh says projections for the business are planned in three-month periods.

"Our next garment is still in the planning stage," he says, "although we're leaning toward something to complement our new casual pant. We're being careful not to deviate from our emphasis on style, comfort and versatility. They are the three best selling points of casual wear."

Private enterprise is a natural thing for this industrious young man. A question that could almost pass for his motto is printed on the back of his "Phase 2" line of clothes: "Why follow the crowd, when you can draw one of your own?"
Summertime in the River City
Baton Rouge has lots to offer in the way of summer entertainment

By Barbara Broussard

The figure of Huey Long on the capitol grounds has seen the city of his power go through many changes over the years. At night, the lights streaming down from the capitol observation deck join the spotlights aimed at the steps to set the stage for the wide variety of actors and plays that make up the city of Baton Rouge.

But times have indeed changed. The Baton Rouge of the 1990’s is more than the seat of Louisiana state government, it is a city with a wide variety of things to do and places to visit. Baton Rouge is surrounded by culture and good times.

People sometimes fall into a summer slump because they just can‘t make the time to get away and take a break from their normal routine. Baton Rouge is an area that offers a lot of quick getaways that are just waiting to be enjoyed.

Tourist Attractions

The fact that Baton Rouge does indeed have tourist attractions may be surprising to the weary resident who has never taken the time to tour them.

The Louisiana State Capitol is the tallest in the United States, with its 34 floors rising 450 feet high. This Beaux-Arts architectural piece is situated amidst 27 acres of manicured gardens. The entrance, the hall and the chambers are rich in detail and hold the spirit of Louisiana's colorful political history. Visitors can see three miles in either direction from the observation deck on the twenty-seventh floor.

The Louisiana Governor’s mansion was built according to modified Greek Revival style as a replica of one of Louisiana’s many plantation homes. Free tours of both the capitol and the governor’s mansion are held daily.

The Old State Capital is a Gothic Revival castle which overlooks the Mississippi River from atop a bluff. This “little sham castle” is now open as a museum with no admission fee.

The Former Governor’s mansion is now part of the Louisiana Arts and Sciences Center. Each room of the house is dedicated to the memorabilia of a particular Louisiana governor. There is an admission fee and the mansion is only open on weekends.

The U.S.S. Kidd is a restored World War II destroyer docked at the foot of Government Street in downtown Baton Rouge. She is one of the last ships of her era and earned eight battle stars in World War II and Korea. The ship is open for tours every day and there is an admission fee.

The National Historic Center stands adjacent to the U.S.S. Kidd and houses an extensive collection of ship models and a restored P-40 fighter plane. The Veterans Memorial Wall is also part of the center.

Returning to the Old South

How about taking a trip in time back to the Old South? Does returning to the days of antebellum homes, Southern society, and riverboats sound enticing? The remnants of this white-pillared world are close by.

THE OLD STATE CAPITOL

An historic replica of the Louisiana State Capitol
Louisiana's plantation parade is only a short drive from Baton Rouge, straight down River Road. These plantation homes charge an admission fee and offer daily tours. Some of them also serve as bed and breakfast inns.

Nottoway Plantation is the first stop on this River Road excursion. The "White Castle of Louisiana" is the largest plantation home in the South. This Italian and Greek Revival architectural project includes 64 rooms, 200 windows and 165 doors. It was completed in 1859. The home was originally designed to serve the needs of a 7,000-acre sugar plantation.

The stately structure known as the Houmas House Plantation sits along River Road in Burnside, La. This strip of land was originally held by the Houmas Indians and is only a half-hour's drive from Baton Rouge. Most of the furnishings in this Greek Revival mansion are museum pieces of early Louisiana craftsmanship. Tours are conducted by guides in antebellum attire. Special interest features of the Houmas House include a collection of armoires and a 200-year-old oak tree which is more than 25 feet around.

The San Francisco Plantation House is also located along the Great River Road. This gallery-dorned home was designed in Old Creole style. The house boasts five ceiling frescoes, or decorative ceilings.

Oak Alley Plantation is also situated along River Road at the end of a strikingly beautiful alley of 28 stately oak trees. This beautiful example of Greek Revival architecture was the first of the Great River Road plantations to be fully restored.

Magnolia Mound Plantation is located even closer to home - right down the road from the north gates of LSU. Magnolia Mound is one of Louisiana's oldest wooden structures. This French Creole home is filled with a collection of Federal style furniture dating back to the 1700's. Open-hearth cooking demonstrations are held at special times. Magnolia Mound is closed on Mondays.

You might want to take a riverboat ride after getting into the antebellum spirit.

The Samuel Clemens River boat offers three sightseeing harbor tours daily from Wednesday to Sunday. The tour cost is $5 for adults, $3 for children. Private charters are also available.

The Samuel Clemens also hosts dinner cruises by the light of the silvery moon at a cost of $10 per person. The Tuesday night dinner cruise includes a catfish dinner and the Thursday night cruise includes a barbecue dinner.

A Cultural Connection

What about making a cultural connection? Baton Rouge has many galleries for your viewing pleasure, specialized museums for those who like to ponder the past, and many musical and dramatic productions for those who just want to be entertained.

The LSU Rural Life Museum offers yet another taste of plantation life. This outdoor complex of 19th century buildings includes an overseer's house, a blacksmith shop, an open kettle sugar mill, a plantation commissary and a church.

The LSU Museum of Natural Science and the LSU Museum of Geoscience's Dinotrek exhibit are both found on the LSU campus. The LSU Museum of Natural Science boats a wide variety of birds, reptiles, mammals and amphibians, and seven dioramas. The original Mike the Tiger is also found here.

Dinotrek is a special project of LSU's Museum of Geoscience. Dinotrek features five robot dinosaurs and a touch-table which includes prehistoric bone and eggshell. Dinotrek has a 24-hour hotline which gives information about special events, 388-GEOS. Tickets are available at the LSU Union information desk. Trees laden with Spanish moss (above) and tugboats slowly moving along the Mississippi (right) display the lazy feeling of Louisiana in the summer.
tion desk and admission charges are $3.50 for adults, $2.50 for senior citizens and $1.50 for children. Dinotrek offers guided tours by appointment, birthday parties and wine and cheese parties. Dinotrek is open every day. The Museum of Geoscience also has various other exhibits related in some way to geology, geography and anthropology.

The wide variety of galleries include The Baton Rouge Gallery, Southern Images and Her Mother is the Sun, just to name a few.

The Baton Rouge Gallery has 40 member artists who pay dues and are included in shows there. The exhibits usually run for about three weeks at a time and include one-man shows, small-group shows and large-group shows. The objective of the gallery is to expose people to new kinds of art, not museum-type material. Southern Images is a gallery which concentrates on realistic Louisiana artists from in and around the Baton Rouge area.

Her Mother Is Daybreak, Her Father the Yellow Sky of Sunset is a native American Indian gallery. The gallery features handmade paper sculpture installations based on native Indian mythology and religion. Lithographs, photographs and spirit boxes are available along with Native Indian jewelry, music and literature. There is no admission charge and hours are usually Monday through Friday 10-5. Appointments are welcomed and group tours can also be arranged by calling 387-6745.

The Baton Rouge Little Theatre offers a cultural get-away in the production realm. It is putting on a production of Neil Simon’s Broadway Bound during May and it will run The Music Man during most of July.

The Baton Rouge Symphony will offer a taste of musical culture in their July 4th outdoor concert near the levee. This concert is free and open to the public.

Outdoor Amusements

Outdoor amusements in the Baton Rouge area offer inviting get-aways to those who find the halls of galleries and museums stuffy and dull. Getting back to nature or simply
spending the day in the sun is a tailor-made relaxation tactic for many people.

What about a zoo review?
The Greater Baton Rouge Zoo houses over 890 mammals, birds and reptiles. The Cypress Bayou Railroad and the Zoo Choo, the sidewalk tram, make it easy to relax while touring the facilities. The elephant shows, the elephant rides and the petting zoo are special activities. The zoo is open every day.

Wheels go round and round at the Perkins Road Cycling Complex. The Baton Rouge Velodrome is one of only three such specialized bicycle racing tracks in the south. This unique facility is open to every level, from the novice recreationist to the serious, professional racer. Race season begins in March and goes through November.

Celebration Station is Baton Rouge’s newest fun center. The center offers three adventurous miniature golf courses, three go kart tracks, nine batting cages and a variety of Midway games.

Baton Rouge also has its very own water park. Blue Bayou Water Park boasts three slides, a wave pool, a neighborhood-type diving pool and a children’s pool. The slides have such alluring names as the Serpentine, the Banzai and the Rampage. The park is open through the summer months.

Fun Fair Park is an amusement center featuring rides and games for children of all ages. The park’s eight major rides include a roller coaster, bumper cars, a spider and a tilt-a-whirl. The park also has seven kiddie rides. The pay-one-price admission fee of $7.75 per person is reduced to $4.95 on Tuesdays for family night. Single-ride tickets and ticket books are also available.

Baton Rouge’s nearby rivers offer even more water-based fun. There are several close-by rivers which are great for tubing and canoeing. The amount of necessary expertise varies along with the river conditions. Favorite trails include the Bogue Chitto River, the Bogue Falaya River, the classical Tangipahoa River, the Tickfaw River and the Whiskey Chitto Creek. Some find floating lazily along a calm current in an inner-tube more satisfying, while others prefer the faster pace and increased control of canoeing. Either way you choose, these outdoor excursions are a wonderful way to unwind and escape the hassle of the civilized world. Many rivers also offer nearby equipment rental.

Louisiana is noted for its swamps but have you actually ever been in one? Tours of the swamp area are
conducted daily by experienced, French-speaking guides. Some of the better-known include Annie Miller's Renowned Swamp Tours, McGee's Atchafalaya Basin Tours, and the Whiskey River Basin Boat Tours.

Fairs and Festivals

The opportunity to "laissez les bon temps roulez" can easily be found in the Baton Rouge area. Of course anyone in Louisiana should have some vague idea of the state's year-round party system of fairs and festivals. But we often don't realize that something's probably going on right in our own backyard.

The Baton Rouge Fest-For-All is a community celebration to be held during the last two weeks of May. Over 120 artists will be displaying and selling their crafts at this all-juried show. The festival will also include five stages of music featuring country, rock, gospel and jazz. This free outdoor celebration will also feature a Children's Village during the first weekend and a Block Party with sand volleyball for teenagers during the second weekend.

The Jambalaya Festival will be held in nearby Gonzales June 9-10. This is a festival that boasts music and crafts along with an abundance of Louisiana's unique dish.

The 1990 U.S. National Hot Air Balloon Championship will once again take off from Baton Rouge's very own Airline Highway Park July 20-29. The festival will include exhibits, food, and music. Admission will be charged. Over 150 balloons are involved in the ascensions and competition flights that are launched twice daily.

The summer will fade into the River City Blues Festival which will be held here in Baton Rouge over Labor Day weekend. This celebration of blues music will feature both local and national blues musicians and promises to be a lot of fun for the $3 admission fee.

It is obvious what a diverse city Baton Rouge has become over the years. Tourist attractions, antebellum remnants, cultural experiences and outdoor amusements are here just waiting to be taken advantage of. There is something for everyone. Take the time to see the city. Experience the spirit of Baton Rouge.

Oak Alley (left) is one of the most famous of the beautiful plantation homes in the Baton Rouge area. The State Capitol (upper right) and the surrounding grounds are close by and interesting to visit.
Louisiana on Display

Everyday objects give a unique view of early Louisiana life at the LSU Rural Life Museum

By Lori-Ann Gula

Indians, French, Spanish, Anglo-Americans, Germans, African Negroes and Acadians have settled in Louisiana and made it an area rich in language, culture and heritage. The lifestyles and cultures of these pre-Industrial Louisianians are preserved for modern viewers in the LSU Rural Life Museum.

A long winding road leads you to the Rural Life Museum. It is located on the Burden Research Plantation, a 450-acre agricultural research experiment station owned by LSU. The Museum receives its funding through the Alumni Center.

Three individuals were instrumental in the formation of the Museum: Mr. Steele Burden and Miss Ione Burden, former employees of the University, and Dr. Cecil G. Taylor, chancellor emeritus of the Baton Rouge campus.

The winding road ends in a loop and the first thing you see is a bronze statue, affectionately called "Uncle Jack". The statue was erected in the city of Natchitoches in 1927 in grateful recognition of "the arduous and faithful service" of the black workers of Louisiana and was donated to the Museum in 1974.

As you enter, there are three distinct areas of the Museum - the Barn, the Working Plantation and the Folk Architecture exhibit.

The Barn is a mess - it's hard to tell that the piles of seemingly unused goods is actually a museum. It began as a single-room warehouse and has evolved into a major exhibition center. The collections in the Barn reflect various facets of everyday life in Louisiana before industrialization.

The oldest collection, Indian Artifacts, includes pottery shards from southeastern Louisiana Indian tribes from 100 to 1100 A.D., projectile points from 100 B.C. to 1600 A.D. and an Euchee (Oklahoma) Indian bow, similar to those used by Louisiana tribes.

Other collections include cotton, textiles, vehicles, entertainment, the Civil War and Louisiana History. A voodoo exhibit, part of the Louisiana History collection, recalls ancient religious rituals that were a part of the rich African influence brought to the state by Negroes. It's interesting to compare modern-day products to those of the past.

The Working Plantation consists of nine buildings which re-create the common activities of life on a Louisiana plantation. It's like taking a step back in time - the differences between the buildings shows how different people lived.

The stark interior of a home from north Louisiana (above) gives an idea of the rough life of the settlers. This Acadian home (right) appears just as it did when it was relatively new.
Except for the blacksmith's shop and sugarhouse, all structures are authentic and range in date of origin from the early to late nineteenth century.

The commissary, stile, sick house, overseer’s house, and frame of the blacksmith’s shop were acquired from the Welham Plantation in Convent. The kitchen was removed from the Bagatelle Plantation in Union.

The Folk Architecture buildings, stamped with the culture and the character of the people who built and used them, reflect the various ethnic traits of Louisiana’s diverse settlers.

College Grove Baptist congregation, formed in 1893, was the last congregation served by the country church from near Welham Plantation.

Two marble columns, which flanked the entrance of Hill Memorial Library, LSU’s first library building, were given to the University in 1975 and lie behind the cemetery of iron crosses and bases made by skilled blacksmiths.

The Folk Architecture exhibit also contains a pioneer’s cabin, cornerrib, dogtrot house, Acadian house and shotgun house which date back as far as 1840.

The Rural Life Museum is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except during University holidays.

An admission fee of $2 for adults and $1 for children under 12 is charged.

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LSU's "Twin Tanks" make the grade and score big

Dale Brown may have the "Twin Towers" on his basketball team, but the Tiger track and field team has something to boast about too: the "Twin Tanks." John Nichols and Simon Williams are top national threats in the discus throw and the shot put, but their talents don’t end there. They are also outstanding in their academic environment, balancing their worlds of sports and school with great success.

By Lennart Larsson

Contrary to what many believe, collegiate athletes are not led by a free ride academically to benefit their school in sports. Many are instead highly self-motivated and determined to make the most of their education as well as their athletic careers. John Nichols and Simon Williams are prime examples of this category.

John Nichols: The Art of Discus

Nichols was the 1989 NCAA national discus champion as a sophomore in an event that "generally lends itself to maturity" according to LSU assistant coach Dan Pfaff. With a final throw of 208 feet, one inch, Nichols came from behind to claim the victory and lead the Tigers to the states. "It was hard to make that decision (to come to LSU) at 17, with all that stuff thrown at you from all directions," Nichols said of the attention and the recruiting efforts from several colleges during his successful senior year as a discus thrower at Winnfield. "But I think I came out of it knowing a little better what to believe and who to believe, and who to trust and who not to trust."

Eventually, Nichols wants to get into commercial art of some sort. He considers switching majors to graphic design in order to work for an advertising agency later, but he says trying to get such a position is "real competitive."

Simon Williams: Big British Biology Buff

Williams transferred to LSU from Southern Methodist University where he had earned two All-American honors as a freshman. He recently won the Southeastern Conference indoor shot put competition with a toss of 63 feet, 1 1/4 inches, a school record. His best outdoor mark is 63'9 1/2". In February, he was the Commonwealth Games champion in Auckland, New Zealand.

Originally from London, England, Williams came to the U.S. for a chance to combine athletics with a college education. That combination is usually difficult to carry out at European universities.

"I wanted to avoid being forced to choose between academic and athletic success," Williams said in his distinct British accent. "There are no adequate sporting facilities at the universities at home. I didn’t think it was fair for me to have to make a decision between sports and academics so early. Coming over to the states let me keep my options open and keep me multifaceted." Williams, a sophomore, has won the Jesse Owens Award for the black athlete with the highest grade point average while at LSU. A microbiology major, he sees no problems in combining the power of shotputting (he is six feet, two inches tall and weighs in at 245 lbs) and the precision of his field of study.

"I wanted to get into a medically related field from early on," he said. Williams said he always wanted to make a contribution to the medical field, which he feels has been developing rapidly in the past decade. So far he has found microbiology "really interesting, but really tough."

And if the LSU art program was a reason for Nichols to come here, the same goes for Williams and his major. When looking around for a suitable school after he learned that SMU would go on athletic probation, Williams said he saw in LSU a "successful team on the way up," a good coach in his event (Pfaff), but maybe more importantly, a chance to go into his desired field of study. "The school’s microbiology department is really good," he said.

Dr. Marion Socolofsky, department chair in microbiology, said he was struck by Williams’ British accent when the large Londoner came up to him after class last semester. "He is a delightful person, if that’s what you call a shotputter," Socolofsky said with a laugh. "He has a very engaging personality. We frequently stop and chat, so I keep up with his progress both in school and in track."

 Lives in the Balance

Balancing sports and school can be difficult for any athlete, and the pressures certainly go up when you are competing on a national elite level as Williams and Nichols are used to. However, their coaches say these two athletes set a good example of what you can call a full-time job.

"I’m trying to get everyone to be a little more like a Simon and a John," assistant coach Keith Connor said. "They’re focused."

"They’re here to get their education," head coach Pat Henry said. "Throwing the shot and discus comes second, and they’ll be the first to tell you that."

Henry said that when there’s a conflict between their tests and a meet trip, Williams and Nichols are usually quick to bring it to his attention. "These kind of guys take it serious," he said. "They’re very alike when it comes to that."

"The time’s there to do both (school and sports) but there’s no time to waste," Williams said. "If you just take a breather, chances are that you’ve lost out on something."

"I always equate it with working a full-time job and going to school at the same time. And it’s not like you have the weekends off either."

Williams said he is constantly trying to find the right equilibrium in his life. However, life is not just school and track, he said.

"If I get too much into track, I can really blow school," he said, "but if I get too much into both school and track, I can really blow my social life and my relationship with my girlfriend."

Nichols agreed that balancing school and sports sometimes causes conflict.

"Many times we miss a practice," he said. "And if the LSU arts program was a reason for Nichols to come here, the same goes for Williams and his major. When looking around for a suitable school after he learned that SMU would go on athletic probation, Williams said he saw in LSU a "successful team on the way up," a good coach in his event (Pfaff), but maybe more importantly, a chance to go into his desired field of study. "The school’s microbiology department is really good," he said.

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classes because of traveling to meets,” he said. “We’re not just regular students. It’s hard to focus on school when you travel and compete a lot.”

Even though he sometimes still has to stay up late at night to finish projects in his art classes, Nichols said he has learned to budget his time better than during his freshman year.

“When I first came here, I had no sense of (budgeting time),” he said. “I tried to cram everything in, but I’ve learned with time.”

Nichols said he has been fortunate to have really patient instructors who have gone out of their way to let him make up for assignments that he had missed while traveling with the team.

“They don’t have to do that. It’s not part of their job, but they have really been very considerate,” he said.

Competition or Camaraderie: The Personalities Behind the Power

They may be jacks of the same trade, but their coaches describe Nichols and Williams as having different personalities. However, they share some common characteristics.

“They’re both extremely intuitive, very systematic” in their approach to athletics, Pfaff said, though he admitted that Williams tended to be “a bit more emotional.”

Connor said Williams is “a very good listener, which is good for both track and academics.” He also said the big Briton is a “great person to have conversations with.”

“John (Nichols) is almost a contrast in that respect,” Connor said. “He is quiet and internalized. He has an amazing concentration and ability to focus.”

Henry agreed: “John is a no-nonsense kind of guy. He is very to-the-point and business-like. I think there is very little time in his life for playing around.”

“Simon is more opinionated and expresses himself verbally a little more than John,” Henry said. “But they’re both great competitors.”

“I think they learn a great deal from each other, Pfaff said. “The polemic differences have benefited them - I know they have helped me as a coach.”

And even though they are competitors in the same events, Williams ultimately sees the discus as his best event, which could be a challenge to Nichols. These two gentle giants are more teammates than rivals.

Nichols said he likes having Williams for a training partner because of the international experience he brought with him ("he’s gone to all the places where I would like to go") and because he feels Williams is "a hard worker, an intense competitor, and just an overall nice person."

“He’s a great addition to the team,” Nichols said. “I’m just glad he’s wearing purple and gold.”

“John is a really special individual,” Williams said. “He’s a great example on and off the track. He’s calm, dedicated, and hardworking, and he is an exceptional talent.”

Talent, indeed. The coaches agree that, much like Dale Brown’s “Twin Towers,” this is a type of duo that does not come around very often.

“I feel very fortunate to have coached these guys,” Pfaff said. “I mean, they’re the type of guys that maybe once in your career you get a chance to coach, and they just happen to be here at the same time.”

The “Twin Tanks” in action.

Williams (above left) gets ready with the shot put.

Nichols (below) sends another discus sailing.
caffeine either. This can also include dietary differences such as increased fiber intake and decreased consumption of total fat and cholesterol.

With vegetarianism prominent in their beliefs, many religious groups ate a plethora of peas, corns, flower stalks and herb juice in order to keep soma and psych intact.

“A vegetarian diet is more bulky and filling, so it is challenging, especially for children, to get enough calories necessary for sufficient growth,” Howat said. “The same goes for pregnant women. Anyone can proceed normally with this diet if it is carefully planned.”

A carefully planned diet must include combinations of fruits, vegetables and legumes or beans to provide the body with satisfactory vitamins and nutrition. Howat said that vitamin supplement tablets should be taken only as a last resort because nutrients from food are more easily absorbed into the system. It is possible also to oversupplement with tablets, causing toxic levels of vitamins to incur damage rather than benefits.

If plant proteins are combined correctly, they can easily be substituted for needed animal protein. Howat said the trick to getting sufficient nutrients is eating dark green vegetables like spinach and collard greens along with grains, nuts and seeds. It’s not necessary to eat the combinations at the same meal, just in the course of the same day.

Wonderful combinations are red beans and rice, split pea soup and crackers, a green salad with seeds, and even macaroni and cheese or pizza for ovo-lacto-vegetarians. Pizza is largely made up of grain along with vegetables and some cheese. Howat also recommends a peanut butter sandwich with a glass of fortified soy milk.

Vegan menus call for more fiber and this, of course, is beneficial in preventing colon disease.

“The meat and dairy industry are being made more aware that people are concerned about the amount of fat in their diets,” Howat said. “We now have much leaner beef and pork products than that of 10 years ago. This is due to research and raising leaner animals.”

It’s important to know which cuts are the leanest. The middle of the animal is the fattest because the animal gets little exercise in this area. So avoid the ribs and t-bone. The front of an animal is usually moderately fat, with the hind quarter being the leanist. This would be the round steak, heel of round, eye of round, boneless rump and top round steak.

“Also don’t forget to look at the grade of meat. The higher the grade, the fatter the cut,” Howat said. “Because fat gives the meat its flavor, it’s always served in restaurants.” Prime is the fattest, and choice is moderately fat with select being the leanest. The fattest cuts are most expensive like the t-bone, porter house and untrimmed loin.

“I don’t tell people to not eat meat, just choose the leanest,” Howat said. “I gradually made changes to last the rest of my life. I ate less and less red meat, then finally none at all. It took me years to like it; you just have to train your tastebuds.”

I Don’t Have an Alcohol Problem...

I always stop drinking at a certain point.

Lots of people who wouldn’t think of lying to others, tell themselves some pretty big lies. Especially about alcohol.

That’s unfortunate, because the only way to deal with problem drinking is to be honest with yourself and seek help.

Keep up the lies or face the truth. If you have a problem with alcohol, it’s the most important choice you’ll ever make.
Impressions of Louisiana

By Bazuki Muhammad

I got a phone call from my dad that I had been admitted to the Louisiana State University. I didn't know where Louisiana was. So I picked up an atlas and started from the top of the United States map. I saw Wisconsin, I went to the right; I saw Connecticut, I went to the left; I saw Washington state. I had always wanted to go to the northern part because I thought it was different from Malaysia, where I grew up. Malaysia was a hot, tropical country with lots of beaches and palm trees. I thought I wanted to spend my college life in a different environment. So I went down the map. I didn't see the word 'Louisiana' until I reached the very bottom of the country. Then I saw the equator line. Ooops... this was another hot, tropical place. I was disappointed.

I arrived in the states in January of 1984 and was surprised because it was cold. It was pretty hard to adapt to the new environment, especially with a new language. The thing that I really liked, and what still amazes me is that Americans were very friendly and willing to help, even when I spoke only a couple of English words.

School has been fun. I got used to staying up all night, working on my architecture projects. It got tough when I started my photojournalism career at the Reveille during the summer of 1987. Sometimes I had to stay up all night in the darkroom, then stay up the next night at my drafting desk. And what was worse, I had to wake up before my roommate did, and got home after he was already in bed.

After a couple of years living in Baton Rouge, I started to like Louisiana culture. I traveled around the state a couple of times in the last four years, and the more I travel, the more I love Louisiana. I still remember how I made new friends when they helped me get my car out of the mud in Pecan Island; how I got scared when a four-year-old girl ran from me and cried to her mom because she had never seen an oriental before; how I talked in sign language to an elderly man who spoke only French; and how I spent such wonderful times with several families in small towns along Highway 1.

Sometimes I had to use my camera as a signal that I wanted to take pictures when they didn't understand my Malay accent. I remember the first time I went to the swamp with an old Cajun man, who I called Uncle Joe. He with his Cajun accent, and myself with my Malay accent, created some problems for us to communicate. But with some sign language, eye contact, and smiles, everything went well.

Six years passed by quickly, and this June I'm going to leave the great college life to start my professional career in photojournalism. I know I'm going to miss gumbo, etouffee, crawfish, and Cajun music, but I'm sure I'll be back to visit. And if I decide to live in Malaysia again, I'll make sure that I at least know how
to make gumbo and etoufee before I leave this place.

If I had decided to go to another state, I wouldn't have gotten the experience I have now. Going to architecture school made me realize that it was not what I wanted to do. Without being a chief photographer at the Reveille and photo editor at the Gumbo, I wouldn't have realized that photography is what I enjoy the best. If I hadn't been willing to go through the hassels, I wouldn't have gotten an internship at USA Today; taking newspaper pictures, which is what I'd love to do for the rest of my life.

Thanks a lot Louisiana, the Reveille, and the Gumbo for some great experiences and opportunities. Six years at LSU will be in my heart forever.

April 1980
Bazuki Muhammad (above) learned the art of photography while here at LSU. As he puts it, "Four years ago, I didn't know how to put film in a camera". He seems to have caught on pretty well.
Yo, Uncle Albert!

This is the deal: I've been thinking how other people have like, collections, right? Ya know how some dudes collect Playboyr, Budweiser cans, fridge fuzz - trivial stuff like that? Well the other day my buddy Roger and I were chowing down at the local Burger Bandit when this weird, cheesy guy saunters up to the condiments bin (you know, napkins, straws, ketchup, etc.) and just as I was about to snatch up a few mustard packets, he digs two big fists into the whole sea of packets and stuffs both these terrific size wads into his jacket pockets. So I go "Hey, whattaya doing? Keep yer mangy paws outta there, Mr. Monopolizing Condiment Hog! How bout saving some for the rest of planet earth, you freebie dweeb?" Well, he kinda looked at me all apologetic and stuff and with this fancy schmancy England accent or something says, "I'm sorry my good fellow, but I am currently a tourist in your fine country and have taken the liberty to add to my collection of fine delectables which are scarce and unobtainable in my native land." Well, I just kinda stood there all creeped out and stuff and said, "Yeah, bro, whatever."

Anyway, that's been buggin me ever since. Tell me, uncle Al, what's the deal? Do other folks around here collect strange stuff too? If so, why?

No Name, Just Wondering

Dear No Name,

There are pack rats in this world that horde things I cannot even touch on in print. As far as I'm aware, man knows no bounds in the fine art of collecting. Perhaps Imelda Marcos set the extremes but hey, when you're filthy rich and have no cares, what's a body to do but scope the world for material goods all day? One day you look around and say, "Hey, I've got more than one Fine Rembrandt painting, (or Ming vase, King Tut nose hair, etc.) so I guess I've got a collection going."

Generally, one man's taste is none of another man's business. How much you paid or how you found yourself collecting it is not as important as what keeping it around means to you. Take for example Matt Bailey and his addiction to bottles of hot sauce. Fueled by an intense gastronomic affection for pain, Matt and his roommate chose to venture beyond the local staple, Tobasco, and into the culinary collections of the greatest iron-stomached diners around. Both have sampled and extensively tested each product with the vigor of Consumer Reports professionals. Clad in their white lab coats under sterile conditions, the taste testing commences. In their first semester of collecting, they have rapidly learned to separate the favorites from the flops.

All hot sauces are not created equal. Basically Matt slaps them into four categories - peppery, oniony, garlicky, and vinegary - the most extensive and repulsive ingredient. Matt's personal ratings scale gives four stars for the all time favorite, Tobasco. A close second with three and a half stars is a tie between Chef Hans' La. Hot Sauce and Panola Gourmet Pepper Sauce, which contains sugar, making that oh-so-delicate difference to the palate. Further down on the consumer's choice list, Matt includes Aunt Hallie's Cajun Pepper Sauce which not only lacks the hot effect but reeks of onions. And, the one star rating and proud honor of dead last goes to Melinda, a California import, the most expensive yet worst tasting and smelling of the bunch, similar to empty Taco Bell containers left in your car for a week. Other interesting selections include Buffalo, an awful, unedible blend of vinegar and vinegar, Brennan's New.
Orleans brand, made in Maryland, of course, and everyone's favorite, President's Choice brand.

As we investigated the spicy world of Liquid Fire products, a conspiracy began to unfold. Yes, now the horrible truth can be told...Kids, the condiment companies of this world are basically trying to rip you, the consumer, off. Take a look at Trappey's line of various (vinegary) products. Four brands that we gave a particular interest in were Bull style, La. hot sauce; Mexi Pep style, La. hot sauce; Red Devil style, La. hot sauce; and La. hot sauce style, La. hot sauce. Now, all four of these products are in the same style bottle with the same style cap but have different labels. If we turn these little gems around to the back side to reveal the ingredients, what do you suppose one finds? Here they are ladies and gentlemen, in the order they appear on every Trappy's bottle, those vast ingredients which make such a fuss in the top secret world of hot sauce industries:

- Hot Red Peppers
- Distilled Vinegar
- Salt
- Edible Food Stabilizer
- or Certified Food Color, depending on which brand of Trappey's you choose.

Thank you Trappey's for bothering to alternate between color and stabilizer in order to bring us consumers that delicate difference between Mexi Pep and Red Devil.

Another frown in the face of consumer supporters is Gebharts, (famous for its frozen food line) which offers another delicate balance to the hot sauce world. The ingredients as they appear on the bottle (remember, ingredients must always appear in their order of abundance) are as follows:

- Water
- Vinegar
- Salt
- and Peppers.

Now, with gourmet ingredients such as these, you would expect the flavor to be...well, quite like water with a hint of vinegar then salt, then perhaps if you closed your eyes real tight and thought of jalapenos, peppers. If you check out the front label on this one, you find a picture of a bowl full of the sauce, surrounded by jalapenos and various peppers. This is merely a "serving suggestion." In other words, you had best grab up other sources of hot, spicy material to accompany this red water if you want your nose to run.

In conclusion, for that gastronomical excitement we all desire, don't trust the ads: taste for yourself. In the aisles. While the stock clerks aren't looking. Be quick about it.

Dear Uncle Albert,

I am a senior in High school and, being a normal teen with an active social life which includes dating, extracurricular activities, snacks, MTV and cruising in my cool truck all day, I don't have much time for homework. Last week I had to spend at least three nights at the mall in order to get this mega-fine sales girl to go out with me. Due to all of this, I hardly had a chance to keep up with my studies, especially history class, where my teacher is a tight-ass anyway. So now the crab threatens to flunk me if I don't make an "A" on my oral presentation with visual aids next week, covering the Battle of New Orleans. Now I know you're only a hobby columnist but see what you can do and get back with me, K.O.?

G. "Ookey" Smith
Central High

Dear Ookey (whatever),

You are in luck my good fellow because I just happen to know of someone who can supply you with great pictures and information galore! His name is Ed Russo and he is involved in demonstrations of living history at the Chalmette Battlefield near New Orleans. Here's a little history lesson boys, so pay attention!

Once upon a time, say, before there were cellular phones and subways, the British (i.e., Redcoats, badguys, the Antichrist, etc.) wanted desperately to conquer New Orleans. As they advanced over our Southern terrain towards the Big Easy, they were greeted by swamp, swamp, river and much muck. Any attempts to reach New Orleans via the Mississippi River failed due to a downstream current which kinda put a damper on upstream travel plans for the time being. Docking their long boats at Valley Plantation, they attempted passage by the only section of dry land available, known today as Chalmette.

Being an honorable, sophisticated and highly organized regiment, they bravely marched forth quite smitten, having recently defeated Napoleon and now claiming honor as the most powerful army in the world at that time. Being unorganized, unsure and quite desperate, the American regiment (consisting of trappers, soldiers, farmers, etc.) knew they were up — creek. Not particularly fond of bloodbaths, the New Orleans natives decided to forsake their honor (now that's a surprise) and use methods of warfare unconventional for formal battles of the day. With much vigor, they built a rampart - an earthen mass much like levees of today, and awaited the British attack.

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Now, the Treaty of Ghent which would end the War of 1812 and all this battle business had recently been signed yet not ratified. Communications of the day being slow, (without FAX and all) neither the British nor American fighters knew that the Battle of New Orleans was technically unnecessary by this time. As the British approached the rampart, they were rapidly mowed down by Americans conveniently safeguarded by their little creation. In essence, British forces were unable to penetrate the wall, which incidentally would have been no problem if some lunkhead hadn’t forgot the scaling ladders way back at the longboats. The end result? American casualties, 13; British casualties, somewhere around 132.

An interesting note for inquiring minds - if the British had won that battle, the Treaty of Ghent would have had to be renegotiated. Perhaps that small piece of dry land known today as New Orleans would have been a British colony and we’d all be sipping tea instead of hacking up cheap draft on Bourbon Street every spring.

At Chalmette Battlefield, tourists can witness the recreation of this history in a weekend gala, formally every January. During the year, small scale firing demonstrations are provided for visitors. 1990 marked the 175th anniversary of the battle, calling forth one of the largest groups of participants in the reenactment’s two decade existence. Although no actual killing takes place, you may find entertainment in observing samples of clothing, lifestyle materials of the day, actual weapons, musket firing and early war formation displays. Stop by, say “hi” to Ed Russo and his buddies who will probably be more than happy to swig a modern day Coke with you. P.S. Ookey, an overachiever like yourself should be recognized for outstanding contributions to society. You’ll be glad to know your school will be publishing your letter in its news bulletin this Friday. Best wishes, Kiddo.

Dear Uncle Albert,

I hate golf. I actually hate golf. I quite readily, most aggressively, uninhibitedly, hate golf. I suck at golf. Notwithstanding, I have invested much time, bundles of money and a great percent of my sanity in trying to master the sport. Alas, I am a fairway failure. A Nicklaus never-be. Chip chump. Sandtrap schmuck. O.K.! Get the idea?! Wanna real laugh? Despite my affliction, I can’t stay away from the courses! Maybe it’s the spirit of the green or perhaps the obsession of the profession. I dunno. Maybe I’m doomed. What’s a guy to do?

Putthead

Dear Putthead,

Picture this: A beautiful spring day on the green in Louisiana (despite the frequently damp ground which is basically like standing on a muddy sponge). The birds are chirping, women in white gauze are leaping through the wind and nobody is hurling golf clubs. What they are hurling happens to be - Frisbees. On a golf course? Well, if it’s Disc Golfing we’re talking about, you may have found your place in the world of peaceful, competitive sports.

From the home office at Highland Road Park (way, way down Highland, even past where you believe you’ve completely hidden that marijuana crop) there lies the headquarters of Baton Rouge’s main contact with the outside world of Disc Golfing. Richard Harris, local pro and driving force in this area’s promotion of the sport, raves about the variations the sport allows. “We can
make discs do things a ball can only
dream of doing." Besides the many
more strategic variations than with
conventional golf, you can quickly
get past the awkward mastering of
equipment phase and just play, by
golly! Experience the accelerated,
microwave version of the bliss asso­
ciated with golf-type sports. No
crude, back-twisting, spine-collap­
sing bag of irons to tote! No water­
loving, head cracking, windshield
murdering balls to contend with!
And, no more polyester dress codes!

There are different discs for dif­
ferent shots. A roller disc easily
maneuvers around trees, dead birds,
etc. Beveled edge discs and those
with a tendency to pull to the left or
the right, come in handy the same as
different clubs are called upon to
place different shots. Flexible discs,
broken in by homemade ingenuity
(stomping, beating, buckshot) con­
form to the owner's desire of per­
formance.

In this fiasco of man versus the
natural elements, the terrain con­
sists of beautiful, variously elevated
planes which add to the challenge.
Clusters of burley trees that connive
with the wind, work double time to
play "hide the frisbee."

The eighteen "hole" course offers
more atmosphere than the bald,
unnaturally manicured, conven­
tional plots.

Because it is extremely hard to
get a frisbee into a small hole, new
elements had to be added to this bird
cage with chains draping down as
bars. On their final shot at each
"hole," players aim to entwine their
frisbee in this metallic mass for a par
score. Let is be known that con­
centration and quietness are imperative
if the player is to complete the shot
successfully. Visual or oral distrac­
tions like mooning, noisily slopping
down a chili dog or chain rattling
your favorite Def Leppard tune are
strictly prohibited. Mini marker discs
serve as "tees" and are much easier
to find when you drop them. A
player places his or her foot slightly
behind it and must keep it planted
there until the frisbees' release. Each
player totes a bag containing fifteen
discs on the average, each providing
different flight characteristics. Again,
it's a tad bit lighter than a bag of
irons used in that other self-torture
sport which we won't mention.

Although the equipment is differ­
ent, the concept is the same. Disc
golfing couples challenge with en­
joyment because you don't have to
invest a million dollars for
equipment and goofy attire.
Women and even kids can
play with ease because emer­
gency rooms across the coun­
try report low casualty rates
from frisbee playing. If this
doesn't convince you to
switch, Richard offers free
lessons and Tylenol to those
of you suffering from golf re­
lated brain sprains. Have a
good game!

Dear Uncle Albert,
I was in this Country
and Western bar about a
week ago, minding my own
business, when all of a
sudden another cowboy
walks up to me and asks me
how come I'm wearing such
an ugly hubcap on the
front of my belt. Well, I
kindly explained to him
that I had this red-eyed
bronco buckle custom made
down at Western World Boot
Shop and if he didn't like it,
he could go butt heads
with a Chevy. Well, he
then accused me of dress­ing
up to "play" cowboy,
washing the hat, buckle
and attitude of the real
riders but lacking any
skills whatsoever - that
I should put up or shut
up. Now that kinda hurt
my feelings purdy deep
since I'm a tender kinda
guy and all, so I had to
slug him one and run.
O.K. Albert, whatzit take
to be a real cowboy?

Hank Shank

Dear Hank,

Well partner, (spit) this I'll tell
you: It takes more than sideburns to
be Elvis and if you don't wanna go
the distance, don't expect to be called
Mr. Presley. Becoming an honest to
goodness cowboy will require much
time, training, financial investment
and probably more bruises than a
bushwhacked banana. It is a past
time of dedication. If you want to
reap any rewards from it, be pre­
pared to sink in more hours than
you do dating, more than you do
sleeping, if you're into saddle bronc
riding - the event of the real rough
riders.

Shannon Gonsoulin is
the local expert. Currently
number 1 in the region, 4th in the
nation, he is the sole representative
for this area in the National Intercol-
Although many events make up the rodeo, the toughest one would probably be saddle bronc riding, the favorite sport of chiropractors everywhere. It is an expensive event on the high school, college, and amateur circuits, though. Investing in a saddle and chaps alone easily puts you at the thousand dollar mark. But, guess what. According to Shannon, it is "probably the most overpaid job in the world, time wise." Let's take a look.

In an average collegiate rodeo, winners of a saddle bronc event usually take home around $150. To be successful, contestants endure an 8 second ride. $150 for 8 seconds of work amounts roughly to $1,125 a minute or $67,000 an hour. Top that, ladies of ill repute! Of course these are hypothetical wages but believe it, in the world of rodeo, thars gold in them thar hills! With that in mind, can you imagine the stakes on the pro circuit?

Let's not get ahead of ourselves - before you get the money, you've got to win it. To win it, you've got to be prepared. "A good rider," Shannon suggests, "is an experienced one."

Regular experience is gained by attending as many rodeos as possible, even if it means traveling long distances quite frequently. "But like anything else," Shannon adds, "you've gotta want it bad enough. No other sport offers you the freedom to go where you want, when you want, for as long as you want. You can make a good living if you're consistent."

With the pro circuit setting the examples, amateur rodeos all over this fair country and Canada are a serious business. Basically, a local Rodeo Association supporting an event is in charge of organizing many things. It contacts lessers (the local organization that will rent out a facility), contestants (its pool of members supplied with current newsletters listing dates and locations), and most importantly, stock contractors who supply the bull. In actuality, they supply horses, calves, and all beasts of burden to be ridden for this event. Contractors supplying a stock of animals which have a consistent reputation for bucking and flailing about are usually in high demand. ATTENTION HUMANE SOCIETY: If under any circumstance one of these mighty beasts gets marred with illegally sharpened spurs, hit in the face with a pie, maimed, mangled or mishandled in any way, the Association will fine or sometimes disqualify the guilty contestant.

O.K., so exactly what's so complicated about riding a bucking horse or bull for only 8 seconds? You mean besides that fact that it's almost like falling down the side of a mountain, except you're being judged on control, have rules to follow and aim to avoid disqualification? To begin, as you and horse are released from the chute, both feet (yours) must be locked above the horse's shoulders as he takes that first leap and remain in position until his front feet hit the ground. If not, a judge on each side will kindly blow your chances before you begin. As the ride from hell commences, the difference between a good rider and a "hometown hero," will soon become evident. Other disqualifications occur if either foot leaves the stirrup at any time, you accidentally slap the horse with your free hand, fear of death evokes you to screw the whole experience by grasping desperately with both hands, you are bucked off or if you get trampled into a little wet spot. Although it may not seem fair to some, judging is 50 percent rider, 50 percent animal difficulty taken into consideration, so that it is favorable to acquire an animal with an attitude.

The key to an experienced rider is the ability to think quickly and regain control. If a rider's rear leaves the saddle, there is a crucial moment where recovery must occur or the rider can just about hang it up. Another good tip is to find out about the horse you'll be riding ahead of time. As fate and gamblers would have it, horses are assigned to riders by luck of the draw about a week prior to the event. Ask previous riders or the stock contractor about the horse's nature. Does the animal have family or financial problems that just may send him over the edge soon? You need to know these things.

In essence, it is a sport for which you must invest to reap the best, so costume cowpokes need not apply. See ya'll round.
Dear Uncle Albert,

Y’all are a bunch of idiots! I’ve had it with all the crap in this maniac society! Everywhere you go, somebody’s around to louse up your day. I hate the 9-5 treadmill to hell, extensive fast food lines, phone solicitors, brats that leave their gum on the ground, women drivers and especially advice columnists. What happened to the good ol’ days? I’m planning on quitting my job and moving to a nice, quiet cabin in the mountains somewhere. I’ll raise my own vegetables, some livestock and run naked outside whenever I want. What I was wondering was, are there any types of old fashioned trades I can learn to earn a little cash income on the side, in case I need to go to town for a fifth or something?

Fed Up

Dear Fed Up,

I find it a shame that modern man will lose such a find antisocial character as yourself, but go if you must. Our founding fathers were fairly fond of a trade called “Founding.” Ed Russo (whom you may recall from living history) is extensively trained in the art and provides information to the entrepreneur in search of a lure.

Basically, founding is the art of creating or reproducing objects from a mold using molten metal. Gifts like belt buckles, plaques, keychains, knives, and disco medallions are but a few examples of products you, the master craftsman, can create. The process from beginning to end is involved, yet actually quite simple.

In language that even a child raised on Barbie cereal could understand, here’s how the whole shebang works:

1. Using wood or similar carvable material, cut and design your pattern just as you would like it to appear.

2. The flask is a 2 part “box” in which the top (cope) and bottom (drag) halves precisely fit together when stacked. Place your design in the top half, then tightly pack with a sand and clay mixture. Unbolt and remove the “floor” of this box half.

3. Stack the drag over the inverted cope.

4. Gradually fill with the sand mixture.

5. Pack this whole flask until you’re tired.

6. Carefully separate both halves and with the precision of a jeweler, remove your design.

7. You now have two box halves, one containing the top impression (mold) of your design, the other, the bottom impression.

8. With the shape of a funnel in mind, dig out a small channel (sprue) leading from the impression to the outside of the box. Include a wide mouth at the opening into this you will pour the metal.

9. Restack the box halves.

10. Carefully pour metal in a continuous stream until the entire cavity is filled.


12. Wait some more.

13. Depending on the size of the object, remove from mold after allotted time, then dunk in water to cool completely.

14. Use a cut off wheel to rid your creation of the excess metal from the channel and the rough edges.

15. Beam with pride and rub it in the faces of your untalented peers.

Involving such elements as propane gas tanks, air turbine mixers and a furnace (Ed created his own from a beer keg), the entire process requires skill, concentration, common sense and could basically turn
into a pyromaniac’s wildest fantasy for the impatient craftsman. A bit more complicated than playdough, liquid metal does require some precautions. Keep in mind that the crucible containing the metal will reach temperatures of 2800-3000°F right out of the oven. Set this down on common ground and you’ve got yourself a darn nice fire started.

Even with experienced founders, the rate of defective castings can be high due to many problems:

— failure to make the “funnel” opening wide enough to ensure a smooth and even flow
— not figuring out ahead of time how much metal you’ll need to melt. The heating process can be expensive and it’s always a bummer to run out halfway through the pouring process
— sloppily stacking box halves so that sand shifts and creates defects in the pattern
— overheating the metal which in turn etches out the detail
— you burn yourself and angrily fling the whole mass against the wall, whereupon it ignites, blows up the gas tanks along with half of your block and no one ever appreciates the fine trade you were trying to master.

Ed has made replicas of objects by simply making a cast of the original. Replacing broken pieces such as dresser drawer knobs and clock feet can restore the valve of a marred antique. Edsel grillwork or bumpers might be asking a bit much, but Ed will consider offers. For information on how to get started yourself, give him a yell.

So you see, Mr. Fed Up, there are many precautions one must take if they decide to invest in this trade. I wouldn’t worry though, the bears will probably get you first.

Dear Uncle Albert,

It is yet another day

and as the sun gently ascends to awaken me and fellow brethren to a glorious morn, I can’t help but brood myself back to sleep over why I hate my life. Such a pitiful, menial existence have I. Whilst I develop in years, alas, I only regress in spirit. There are no outlets nor channels by which I may express myself, my creativity. I suppose being labeled at birth with a name that impedes the soul was the first strike against my budding prosperity. From the beginning, my world was confined. How I long to tap into some mainstream of life which appreciates and encourages my inventive streak! By God! To break free of this life would be absolute bliss! I LONG TO LET MY TALENTS RUN AMUCK! Any input would be appreciated.

John Doe

P.S. Please forgive the overbearing tone.

Dear Mr. Doe,

You sad soul, have I got an outlet for you! Do you long to act? To write novels? To interact with others in a totally creative setting? The name of this little ditty is Medieval Role Playing and it’s going on right in our fair city!

Ron Johnson, an active participant, explains that it offers much more than any board game, although Dungeons and Dragons would be a good starter kit for the basic principles and rules applied in this medieval event. The game, which basically requires dice, people and imagination to play is refereed by the Game Master, the creative force behind the game plan. His or her job is to set circumstances and to give vivid images of the scenes characters will enter. Basically he mentally transports them there, feeding the players’ five senses and engulfing them in the mood of their surroundings. A good gamemaster means the difference between an okay game and a real adventure. He needs to be very descriptive, calling frequently upon the creative mind and have a good understanding of a smoothly-run game. Although he must be familiar with the rules, a good gamemaster will consider circumstances and waiver rules in certain situ-
Playing is very similar to writing a novel because players work together to create it one chapter at a time. Plots are introduced and players weave the many patterns that create a vivid collage of living fantasies. Dialogue is improvised as each player concentrates on remaining in character as he participates. The challenge is in being consistent with voice, gestures and attitudes belonging to your character and not yourself. Any knowledge which the player is familiar with but his character has not yet acquired is best forgotten. To inherit different traits such as strength, intelligence, charisma and wisdom, players roll dice and are awarded a numerical value in each category. Characters are then carefully fleshed out from these guidelines and begin to take on personalities. Portraying your character as a real jerk won't make you any friends, but is perfectly legit. You must also appoint a race and to the-cereal-industries traitor? Any knowledge which the player is familiar with but his character has not yet acquired is best forgotten. To inherit different traits such as strength, intelligence, charisma and wisdom, players roll dice and are awarded a numerical value in each category. Characters are then carefully fleshed out from these guidelines and begin to take on personalities. Portraying your character as a real jerk won't make you any friends, but is perfectly legit. You must also appoint a race and

Although the rules of play are extensive, they are an important part of controlling what could easily become unbridled chaos. There are restrictions on combat approaches and rendering damage results. Not just anybody can practice magic and those who do are controlled by limits and specific situations. Characters have "hit points" throughout their lives and can gain or lose them as play continues. When you're out of points, you're out of luck and other players send you to Circle K for more chips and Coke.

The main goal in getting together is to have fun. Where else can you lose yourself in new experiences where other people don't laugh if you're Gomez the Flying Dwarf and you happen to drool a lot? For hints and ideas about starting your own team of medieval groupies, give Ron a call or simply read a hell of a lot of Tolkien.

Well, that's all for this semester kiddies. Uncle Albert is gonna find him a nice nude beach to camp out at for the summer and take in the scenery. You're on your own - Enjoy one or all of these interesting hobbies and try not to get yourself or anyone else killed.

Best Wishes,

Uncle Albert, the hobbiest with a heart.

Compiled by Garilyn Ourso
“You should dance,” Father says. “The room is too small and I’ll knock something over,” I say.

I run through the crepe paper streamers and the floating balloons and at last down a long narrow hallway and into a tiny room where he won’t be permitted to reach me. The room has bunk beds made of black metal, not an oak finish like mine back in Virginia. There is a single curtainless window outside and I can still see the guests wandering in. They look unnaturally, antiseptically clean, and my mother greets them with a smile that has become stale with repetition. The party is my debut as a grown woman returning to the place of her roots and the matlike garnished paper on the room’s walls assume the appearance of yellowing dead vines. By the side of my bed, captured in a black glossed frame, is a diploma for a doctorate in Math. I frown as I think of the years of mental training and violent ambitions replacing what I’ve lost. Sometimes I reawake in this strange body of boredom and frustration and remember the fairy dances and dreams of my youth. I repeatedly compute and analyze the square roots, fractions and coefficients to blank faces in chairs. The patterns of the chalk on the blackboard visages are played in the rays of the sun with an occasional gleam from my marquise engagement ring. The ring is a protective device in the fairy-tale kind of stuff. My adult self hopes that this faucet of magic works like the dreams of an acutely aware eight year old many years ago. I throw myself on the bottom bunk and squinch my eyes until the mattress springs become blurs of an intricate space model in my imagination.

The cement block and the wooden plank made a wonderful balance beam. Millie and I would pivot our toes so much that they looked more like miniature space capsules than the feet of eight year olds. Millie was my best friend, and she was my idol. Her idols were her mother, Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire, in that order. Her mother was like the tiny ballerina in my old wind-up jewelry box; she was delicate and pretty, but she seemed to only exist when the music was playing. She was a student at the University of Georgia and was getting her Master’s degree in dance. Her specialty was belly-dancing. In her full dance uniform she looked like a genie with bells on her finger tips. Millie and I would gather up an assortment of multicolored sheer scarfs and tie them together to try and create the sensual flow of movement, like her mother. At eight years old, we didn’t exactly know what sensuality was, but we wanted it. Millie was limber and coordinated like her mother. The music seemed to carry her, but I treaded through it like I was following a stage direction script.

We would practice in the basement of Millie’s two story house. “Delta Dawn” and “Tie a Yellow Ribbon Around the Old Oak Tree” would blare from the portable record player the size of a suitcase with a speaker across the front. Sometimes our performance would include a baton twirling act in which I would whirl it up in the air and make a one-hundred and eighty degree turn with an effort to catch it upon descent. This was not always successful. Occasionally, Millie’s mother would come into the basement and watch us perform. Sometimes she would become Millie’s partner and I was left with the basement broom. The portable player spun the big booklike albums and the music was lively. Millie’s mom showed us how to jitterbug, to rhumba and samba. Millie would beam during those times and I watched them like a picture, incomplete but lovely while it lasted. They were spinning cheek to cheek, twirling so that their full skirts fanned out and Millie’s mom laughed, whispering, “My little dancing nymph! Push into the air with outstretched arms and grab what you want and avoid the rest. It’s the only thing that keeps you young. All the elements of age descend on you with time, but if you can dance through them, they won’t catch you.” When the music stopped, Millie’s mom climbed up the stairs and disappeared like she was never there. The
mood was lost and Millie put on "Sweet Sugar," a fox trot that can lift the spirits. Millie hung her head and I walked over in a stiff gauzy dress that we use to play in and said, "Excuse me Miss, may I have the pleasure of this dance?" Millie let a hint of a smile escape but I could tell that I was not the escort of her heart's choice.

Before we knew it summer had replaced the cool breeze of spring. The basement had become a place of heated discomfort and our parents enrolled Millie and I in Images Dance Studio. The studio was framed in mirrors with bars for stretches and lunges aligning the walls. Our instructor was Ivan Picoche, renamed by me as "Hagar the Horrible." I had improved with Millie's patient but disciplined coaching in the evenings in the basement, yet, that didn't seem like work. The basement was a place of creation, the studio was a dictatorship. The class started with stretching and routine exercises but then it erupted into various numbers that required quick eye and body coordination. Once I became familiar with the routine, the anxiety wore off, but no sooner than that was accomplished, a new number was introduced. Millie slid in and out of each routine as if she were the choreographer for the class. She was a natural, but it only seemed to make Picoche work her harder.

Picoche would scream, "Millie, straighten that body. We're not pickin' lillies, we're dancing."

Millie had this wonderful gift of shutting people out. She could just exist in her own personalized universe and the rest of us would just encompass the suburb galaxies. This would only infuriate Picoche more, and he would pounce on Millie's few imperfections in a dogmatic manner that I found tactless.

I spoke to Millie after the class sessions about his constant abuse. She looked at me and said, "I imagine I'm a fairy that can activate spells. I live in the mirrors on the walls and you and my mom are the only people who can pass through the tunnel of magic. Anyone else will turn into an ogre and be trapped in the mirrors forever. I think of Picoche as an Ogre and I dance on his face." Millie contorts her face like Ogre Picoche and I roll over and die laughing. The fairy game was our favorite and we would let the air vents in the basement blow life into our scarves and we descend into the world of the dancing nymphs. The stairwell in the basement was the launch path to our power seal, a place about six inches in diameter marked off in silly putty and string with our initials in colored construction paper in the center. We started at the top of the stairs and slid down in our scarves and leotards. If we landed in the magic seal, we recited the spells. I live in the mirrors on the walls and you and my mom are the only people who can pass through the tunnel of magic. Anyone else will turn into an ogre and be trapped in the mirrors forever.

Ithlih of Picoche's tyrannical demeanor, Millie would look at me and say, "I'm not in the studio. I'm with you and my mom in the basement." She looked at me like she sought my understanding; I nodded. While I pretended to understand, much in fact escaped me. I believe that I learned to become a good observer, and perhaps, after all, that is a kind of understanding.

Coming home late from dance class one night, I let the night air caress my aching body. My mom and dad were at my school's P.T.A meeting and had left the front porch light on and a key under the back door mat. I was hunched over, grooping for the key under the mat because I was too sore to get in a crouched position when I heard this low whining sound. My eyes scanned the roof of the garage because my older brother Aaron had told me about some rabid bats that had attacked this little girl in our area. She had to have about fifty shots in her stomach and I hated shots. I didn't see anything. "Is anyone there?" I asked, never thinking that I would indeed be answered.

"Amber, it's me, Millie."

I walked over to find my best friend huddled in the corner of my garage by an old desk my dad was supposed to refinish before I was born. She still had on her leotards from dance class and her eyes didn't look right.

"Millie, get up. You're going to ruin your leotard."

"I don't care about the leotard. I'll never need the leotard again. Fairies don't need leotards to dance. And I'm no longer a dancer in the mirror."

"What are you saying?" I asked.

Millie looked scared, but underneath that childish scared look was another look - stubborn, disdainful.

"Mom's gone. She left without saying good-bye. Just a white folded paper
addressed to her dancing nymph. It said, ‘Dance Millie, dancing is good for you, you’ll stay young. Love, Mom.’

‘Where did she go?’ I asked, like a stammering idiot.

“She went to a place where she could fade away in the music and dancing.” Dad just said, “She wasn’t made to be a wife or mother.”

Millie took a deep breath to fill the gap in her chest and said, “No more dancing, no more fairies, no more mother.”

Millie broke down and cried. It was the first time I had seen her tears. It scared me.

“Maybe she’ll come back,” I said, like willing it would make it happen. I didn’t say it for me. I really didn’t know her mother as a person, just an mage. Millie was the person for both of them.

“Where is your dad?” I asked, as if he too disappeared.

“He’s at home packing. We’re leaving tomorrow morning for Chicago. My grandparents live there. We are staying with them.”

“No, you can’t go to Chicago,” I pleaded, and I too was collapsed under the wooden desk which served as a protector from the outside world. We stayed embraced in the huddle until my parents cam home and ushered us inside with concerned faces. Millie was gone. I was alone. She was alone. In a way she always was.

I awoke from the bunk bed and heard a familiar voice call my name, “Excuse me Miss, may I have this dance?” I awake and Millie’s smile awake with me.
A Bar for Art's Sake

By Lizette Miller

While most people are in business for the sake of money, Onezieme Mouton, affable owner of the Art Bar, is in business for art's sake. Located at 1109 Highland Road, the Art Bar has become a gathering point for LSU artists and musicians.

The origination of the place was accidental. Mouton had spent a brief time traveling around the United States and returned to LSU with aspirations of earning a bachelor's degree in art and eventually moving to some place like New York. While attending school, he became acquainted with many musicians and artists like himself who felt they would eventually have to leave the area in order to support their works. Becoming bored and frustrated with the situation, Mouton realized he had to do something. He felt it was a shame that such great art existed in Baton Rouge without exposure. Efforts to publish an art magazine and unite the artists led to the creation of the Art Bar.

Mouton's father, Lloyd Onezieme Mouton, and many other LSU students contributed a great deal to the Art Bar by putting forth a lot of time and effort to set the place up and make it what it is today, an art gallery, music hall and bar. He created the place with the primary purpose of exposing art. "That's what it's all about," states Mouton in an interview, "getting the art exposed. If it weren't shown in the Art Bar, it probably wouldn't be shown, ever."

In the beginning, the displays were primarily the works of LSU students. Now, gaining more recognition, Mouton has acquired a long list of artists including non-students from out of town and other states who want their works displayed there.

Functioning as an art gallery, the bar has a show each month with a reception afterwards. Mouton claims that most of the works that sell at the shows are priced under $150. What is left unsold remains on display for the remainder of the month.

In the past, curator and friend, David Dubose, had taken the time to seek prospective artists to show their work. No longer invitational, the selection process has become quite simple. People can merely arrive at the bar to show Mouton their art or arrive on a specified day when they can all spread their works out in the back room so Mouton can begin selecting.

The Art Bar attracts not only artists and musicians, but a diverse crowd, especially for the shows. This includes LSU students, working-class people, working college graduates, hippies and senior citizens. In spite of the diversity, the owner notices a common bond in all of these people that keeps bringing them back - the love of art and the originality of the music. At first Mouton didn't have the intention of featuring live original music, but then realized music is also an art and needed exposure. Musicians have adopted the place because unlike many other bars in Baton Rouge, the Art Bar will allow original pieces to be played. Mr. Mouton wants to bring local talent to the attention of the public. People now go there with expectations of experiencing something different, and they get it. Musicians who play from time to time include Ric Rivera, Red Herrin, and Micheal Ward. Any others who seek the opportunity to play need only bring a tape to the bar, or Mouton will listen to a rehearsal elsewhere.

Last month's display consisted of works by some of LSU's most talented artists. Print-making professor, Kimberly Arp, presented a number of his lithographs including "Whole Houses and Wild Dog with Alchemy Bird," and "Whole House

Mouton (opposite top) behind the bar at his unique establishment. Some have said that the Art Bar is the best thing to happen in Baton Rouge in years.
and House with Dingo Dog.” The dog, which represented his own pet in these works, is a familiar element in a variety of his works. LSU graduate painting student David Swain exhibited many paintings including “The Savior” and “They’ve Decided to Wear Their Crown of Thorns.” Another LSU graduate art student, June Hill, displayed a number of her untitled oil paintings focusing on the human form in the nude. Jeff Hirst, LSU print-maker and graduate art student, displays his “mixed media” paintings on wood and his lithograph, “Three Dissonant Sounds Outside the Head.”

Mouton’s dream of exposing the talent of the area to enhance Baton Rouge’s cultural experience is meeting with success. Mouton claims his dream for Baton Rouge will live as long as the artists and musicians are allowed to grow in the area and the public continues to support them.

If any of you talented LSU artists and musicians want the opportunity to show the public what you’ve got, don’t hesitate to pay a visit or call Mouton at the Art Bar. And by gosh, DO IT FOR ART’S SAKE!

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Job hunting for fun and profit

By Kathryn Dennis

Hard and fast, his heart pounds with apprehension and excitement so loud it echoes in his head. Scattered thoughts roam across his mind uncontrolled. His hot, sweaty hands clutch the handsome leather-covered portfolio against his once neatly pressed blue suit. His eyes dart nervously around the room. Everyone else appears calm, cool, and collected. Just before panic sets in, he expands his lungs with a deep breath of fresh air and exhales slowly. Time crawls until he hears his name called. Face to face with the interviewer, he feels his heart race and meets the extended hand. The questions start and the hunt is on.

The first interview is just one experience in what becomes the routine process of the job hunt. For most of the 2,274 LSU seniors graduating in May, the process has or will soon end. Resumes, cover letters, interviews, questions, answers, decisions, more interviews—it all seems to blur. However, for a majority of students the process of finding the right job is far from over.

At the end of the Spring semester, graduating seniors prepare to enter the real-world work force. The summer break may be the best opportunity for students to gain job-related work experiences that will prove invaluable when planning their careers and landing the job they want after graduation.

In the hunt for information, I began with a visit to the Career Planning and Placement Center. The bustling activity struck me. Students searched for their perfect career on a computer system while, in the next expansive room, blue suits waited for the job interviewers to call their name. At the other side of the room, education majors registered for teacher recruitment day. Conversations of future jobs and engagements filled the air as I checked in at the office window for my interview. My name was called and I left a conversation with a hopeful senior who was reviewing company publications. I walked to the office of Mary de la Houssaye. Ms. de la Houssaye is the Assistant Director of the Career Planning and Placement Center. During my interview with her, I learned that the bottom line in the job hunt is job-related work experience.

Grade point average is no longer most important to employers, but second to job-related experience. Employers "don't want a 4.0 who's just a bookworm and has never hit the workplace," de la Houssaye said.

Most large companies, who can afford to be picky, look for people with extra-curricular activities, especially those who held an office. Leading a group of peers shows that a student is not afraid to take on extra responsibility. "If you can do that at this age, then you have the potential to move into, and work, and motivate other people," de la Houssaye said.

Employers also look for people with job-related experience for training costs, then at a student's grade point average for responsibility and extra-curricular activities for management potential.

Job related work experience makes a student more appealing to an employer because less time and money must be spent to train the student as a new employee. Students with job-related experience, whether through cooperative education, internships, or part-time jobs are exposed to the atmosphere and the professionals in their planned career, giving them a more realistic idea of what they can expect in their field.

De la Houssaye said the more students work in their fields, the more excited they are about their major, motivating them to do well in their courses. "If we could get students to get job-related work experience, they would get so much more interested in their major, or they would decide, hey, this is not what I want and go to something else," she said.

Cooperative Education Program

Cooperative education is the best job-related experience and the best
way to make money, because some students are making $2,000 a month.

Catherine Hill, a counselor for the College of Engineering said that students in the program develop an understanding of the work-world and their field, acquire practical knowledge that another student would not normally have and more marketable skills to sell themselves in interviews.

"I am learning things you couldn't learn in class," said Michelle Logan, an LSU accounting major who is working for the International Paper Company in Natchez, Mississippi through the cooperative education program. The program is excellent even if only for interviewing experience, Logan said. She originally started interviewing with co-op companies because she wanted interviewing practice.

The program is not for everyone, however, because participating majors are usually engineering, computer science, QBA and accounting. Students should register for the program during their freshman or sophomore year to participate in the interviews.

Three semesters of co-op work are required with alternating semesters of working and going to school and ending with the last semester at LSU. Summer semesters are included in the program. Although the program adds another year before graduation, the program is very structured and companies provide projects with increasing responsibilities because they know the students are returning.

Most co-op students finish in five years, and 80 percent of those who get co-op jobs are offered jobs at graduation with the firm they worked with.

"You have to be willing to work and be professional. People are very nice here and willing to help, but I have to make many decisions by myself," Logan said. She acts as a supervisor of accounts payable, gaining on-hand experience of corporate accounting.

Firms cannot pick one new employee to give special treatment to, but they can give co-op workers special privileges, introduce them to important executives and visitors, and expose them to the many facets of the firm. Logan has met many people this way, including Mississippi senators. She has made many other contacts, because she calls people all over the country.

"I may have to start again as a peon after graduation, but I will already have many contacts, know the executives, be more familiar with the firm and maybe move up faster," she said. "I have learned to be really independent. I have to do everything myself and I can't always go home when I want to go. I am doing things at work that are so different from the things I do at school. Sometimes I miss school a lot because it is so different here."

She said she sometimes wonders what her friends are doing at LSU, but she has formed some great friendships with other co-op students. "We depend on each other for support," she said.

Logan will work this summer at the International Paper Company's plant in Taipai, Taiwan. She hopes to become an auditor, traveling to the company's hundreds of plants located all over the world.

Internships

Internship programs are another good source for job-related work experience. Many LSU curricula offer credit for internships and some even require them.

Gerald Bower, the associate professor of art (graphic design) and administrator of the Internship program said the School of Art offers an internship to senior and second semester junior graphic design majors. They get three hours credit that can be taken during the summer semester and a maximum of three semesters.

Students take other classes while working eight to ten hours a week at the place of their internship. A variety of places like advertising in-house operations, printing companies, service bureaus and television stations have interns. "After interning somewhere, students know what the field is like. They learn how to work with people, printing companies, corporations, industries, and more," Bower said.

John Barousse, a senior graphic design major said that although the course is not mandatory, students are encouraged to do an internship for at least one semester to gain real-world experience that can't be duplicated in the classroom. He has had internships with Design Services Inc. and Anna Macedo and Co.

"Seeing a job that I had worked on get printed from start to finish was fantastic. Getting design time was an invaluable experience," Barousse said.

Bryan Murphy, creative services supervisor for Design Services Inc. said internships and other job-related work experience can compensate for deficiencies in a student's portfolio when looking for a graphic design job. "You can't substitute practical experience," he said.

Interns also learn the limits of the market and get exposed to the reality of deadline pressures. "If the practical on-the-job exposure comes early enough, students can make intelligent choices in how to manage their careers, like whether they want to work for a large firm," Murphy said. An intern can land a full time job with the company depending on how good and how motivated he is in his work.

Intern experience is also valuable to employers, because workers with previous job-related experience need Continued on page 45
The Pack Rat Epidemic: The

By Paula Dale

It's that time again. This time you're really going to do it. I mean clean house like you've never cleaned before. It's time to toss out those love letters and the cellophane wrapped box of valentines from second grade. It's time to get rid of those 1978 issues of Teenbeat Magazine. The time has come to chunk the cowboy hat from the Urban Cowboy craze. You've got to do away with the bell bottom blue jeans, too. This is the time all Pack Rats face at some point in their lives. You've decided to clean out the closet.

You're finally going to throw out those things you know you'll never use again. Things that just take up needed space. I mean, who needs a box of old tests and term papers from elementary school through college? By getting rid of all the junk you've accumulated over the years, you'll be able to get organized. You may even find room to add some new junk. You could possibly start anew. Cleaning out could be a form of cleansing out, a cleansing of your "old" self into a "new" one. If you've ever felt like changes weren't fulfilling, maybe it wasn't the present that needed it, but that the past needed to be put behind. A lot of people can't do that. Just by digging through the closet, they bring back memories in an instant. By hanging on to items from the past, they're able to relive a moment, if only for a short while.

Lynn Wallander, a Communications major in Baltimore, is a Pack Rat. She keeps just about everything. Her most prized possessions are her photo albums and scrapbooks. Lynn keeps things for sentimental reasons. Napkins, ticket stubs, matches, newspaper articles and postcards are among the things Lynn likes to save. To a lot of people it's just junk, but to Lynn, as well as others, it is absolutely priceless.

Dean Arevalo, a speech-communications major here at LSU, is another student who likes to keep things that have some sort of special meaning. Dean says "you want to keep things because you want to remember things. One day when you're older you'll be glad you saved a lot of this stuff. It's nice to sit down and remember good times."

The "stuff" Dean is referring to is his awards and medals from high school, memory books and old love letters. Dean, a lover of movies and the theater, also saves movie posters. He has accumulated quite a collection. The movie posters are just waiting for their special place on his walls. He says whenever he has his first house he's going to set up a movie room filled with all his posters. It should be a truly warm feeling to be surrounded by the old posters. All the posters will possess some significance and relate to some period in his life.
Incurable Disease Lives On

Other people are fanatics about packing everything they've ever owned and reminders of anything they've ever done. These people have all their old notebooks, old report cards, clothes from the turn of the century and even the birthday card Aunt Sally sent on their 10th birthday. Their attics are sagging, closets bursting, and drawers overflowing. What could possibly make someone hang on to all this stuff? Kirby McHenry, a high school teacher, says she doesn't throw anything away. She says "whenever you throw something away, you always wind up wishing you hadn't. One day you'll want it again." Her sister, Linda Breland is another who tries to keep everything. When Linda got married and moved from Mississippi to Louisiana, she threw away a number of stuffed animals and clothes she had been saving throughout high school and college. Today Linda wishes she had not parted with her old clothes and animals so easily. She still has her old cheerleading sweater, a few dolls, love notes from her present husband and lots of record albums from her high school years. Linda says, "I never really knew why I was hanging on to those albums, but I'm certainly glad I did." One reason Linda has resumed the Pack Rat habit is to save things for her children and grandchildren one day. Linda believes if she had only known then what not to throw away - who could have known that so many old things would be so valuable today?

Take a look around you. How many antique and thrift shops do you see? Despite the modern and Hi-tech styles that have invaded our homes and offices, people are still fascinated with having a piece of the past. It's those "yesteryears" many people long for. After all, one person's trash is another's treasure.

Pick up a fashion magazine and thumb through the pages. Take a walk down Chimes Street. You will see that fashions of today are a reflection of fashions of the past. Some clothes and jewelry worn today are actually the same ones worn years ago by someone else. Pack Rats, whether for sentimental, profit, or entrepreneurial motivations, are a species that never dies.

One man says he has collected baseball cards since he was a little boy. His father was constantly yelling at him to get rid of the cards because he didn't think there was any reason for them. The man was stubborn and hung on them anyway. Today they're worth thousands of dollars. The little boy who liked saving bubble gum cards had no idea it would come to mean lots of money. Now the man has a lucrative business as a result of his Pack Rat obsession.

Okay, you're still in that closet and you've managed to sift your way through all your dusty treasures. You've decided to donate your old clothes to the Salvation Army, have a garage sale for your old knick-knacks, and throw the rest of the stuff in the garbage can.

It's the day after the garage sale. The closet looks peculiar. It's as if it weren't your own. It's a new you; but not for long. This Pack Rat disease is
Incurable. It may take a week, a month, or a year, but eventually the Pack Rat begins the ritual of gathering, saving, and storing things. It's a neverending process. The Pack Rat saves and accumulates only to go through the debate of "Should I throw this away or save it?"

Are you a Pack Rat who has gotten out of hand? Do you need to take control? Is the Pack Rat disease causing you problems? Maybe your roommate, spouse, parents, or boyfriend or girlfriend has told you to do something about this fixation before you drive them crazy! If so, here are a few tips to aid you in your attempt to whip this thing.

First, when cleaning out your closets, drawers, or wherever you stash your goods, do not sit down to reminisce over all the good times and "remember whens." This will only make the task of getting rid of stuff that much harder. You will find yourself using the ole Freudian rationalization defense mechanism. You'll also just waste a lot of time, so don't dwell on the stuff.

Secondly, if you come across something you haven't used over a year, get rid of it. Okay, a year is too steep; two to three years. If you haven't made use of that sombrero Uncle Bill gave you or worn those neon spandex pants in over three years, I seriously doubt they'll be in your next year's wardrobe top ten either.

Thirdly, if you have to stop and deliberate over whether something will ever serve any "meaningful" purpose, throw it out. Spend 10-15 seconds on it. If you take any longer, you'll find a reason to keep it.

Finally, if you come across something that has bad memories attached to it, don't keep it. Who needs reminders of bad times?

Filled with a free spirit and these tips of my own creation, I took to MY closet. I had come to the conclusion that I was getting older, more mature, and life was going to be different! I was going to throw away anything I did not use, wear, eat, drink, need, and anything that wasn't nailed to the floor. By doing so, I would become a more organized "sane" person. An uncluttered closet leads to an uncluttered life. I heard that somewhere, but I don't remember where. Anyway, I was going to begin a NEW me.

I started at 12:00 noon on a Saturday. At 1:00 I was sitting Indian style on the floor reading old newspaper clippings and letters. By 2:45, I had made it to laughing at old clothes I used to wear, clothes since junior high. At 3:30 I was rummaging through boxes filled with everything from old Mardi Gras beads, pom pom from LSU football games, concert programs, napkins from Senior Prom to an old science project made out of those empty toilet paper tubes. By 5:00 I had really worked up an appetite.

Everything was left in the middle of the floor while I ate my shrimp dinner from Popeyes. The time was approximately 6:15 and I was a little tired from all the "work" I'd been at since noon. It was then that my Pack Rat conscience filled my head. I couldn't do it! It was as if I were paralyzed or some force of nature. I gathered everything up, threw it all back into the appropriate boxes, and slammed the closet door shut. It was not done in an organized manner, nor was it a pretty sight. But after all, who ever heard of an organized Pack Rat? I suppose that's part of the fun, the tumbling through all the stuff when it's that time again.

Cleaning out is not such a bad idea. Pack-Ratting isn't such a bad idea either. Don't misunderstand me, I mean you don't want to come home from a date dressed like someone from Saturday Night Fever or have your apartment filled with strobe lights and lava lamps. Keep those items locked in the garage. Besides, a Pack Rat never knows when a trip down memory lane will hit, when strobe lights will come back in fashion, or when a good costume party might come along.

Pack-Ratting is a free art form. In some way or another we are all Pack Rats. Some just hide it a little better than others. Now, I wonder who it was that said an uncluttered closet leads to an uncluttered life? Hmmm?
Continued from page 41

less time to learn and adapt to the workplace and can handle more responsibility sooner.

Glenn Sumners, associate professor of accounting and director of the internal auditing program said the Department of Accounting offers an internship in its internal auditing program. The internship, which is restricted to the summer semester, is not required but 80 percent of the students in the program do one.

Interns in this department work 40 hours a week for ten weeks at companies in major cities across the United States. They do entry-level work and are treated like a new hire. "Internships give the company a chance to look at the intern and get a feel for what they would be getting if he worked for them," Sumners said.

Fifty to 75 percent of the students are offered a job at the company with which they intern. 47 percent go to work for the company after graduation. After almost three months, interns can decide if they want to do internal auditing, if they like the company they worked for and if they like the location.

Karen Gauppe-Woznick, LSU Union Marketing and Advertising Director, has worked with 40-50 interns in the last nine years. "Internships are an opportunity to implement things learned in the classroom," she said. Advertising internships teach students to deal with the reality of the business world. Students gain "hands-on" experience writing ads and copy, working with clients and doing media billing.

Jim Garand, a professor of political science aid the department of political science offers internship opportunities through an independent study program but next year will have a structured internship program.

### Part-time Jobs

As a 1987 LSU graduate in graphic design, Brian Murphy said his part-time jobs with Baton Rouge Business Report and Design Services Inc. helped "give him an edge" in getting his current job. "I didn't have to be introduced to printers, paper salesmen, and other vendors I work with because I was already familiar with them through my previous jobs."

Murphy said his jobs took away from his school work and his grades fell slightly, but his experience proved to be more important.

And Brynn Williams, a senior advertising major, said "I think I will get the job because of my two years of job experience" just prior to an interview for a summer internship with an advertising agency in Biloxi, Mississippi. She worked for the Sun-Herald Newspaper in classified and retail sales and currently interns at LSU Union Publicity.

Williams said sales is the best foot in the door to advertising, but getting a job related to the desired career shows employers the student has initiative. "Don't shoot for a top-level job. Just getting a job, any job related to your future career will be helpful in getting a job you want after graduation," Williams said.

Job-related experience is a worthwhile investment and with all the opportunities available, it would be a shame to miss the chance to help your career while you're still in school.

### Interview Checklist

- Walk in confidently with a positive attitude and smile.
- Give a firm handshake and look the Interviewer in the eye.
- Have upright posture.
- Speak enthusiastically and distinctly. Use good grammar, choice vocabulary and the "jargon" of your occupation.
- Be courteous.
- Show pride in your accomplishments and abilities.
- Give positive responses about yourself.
- Give examples of your productivity in past experiences.
- Ask for the job.
- Respond to salary by giving range, not specific amount.
- Be assertive, but not abrasive.
- Be confident, but not cocky.
- At all times be honest.
- Show appreciation for the interview.
- Know when the interviewer will contact you to let you know the results of the interview.
- Make note of any request for additional information needed such as transcripts, portfolio and/or references or letters of recommendation, and send them that same day.
- Get name, title, and address of interviewer and send letter of thanks for the interview.
- Follow up.

This information was provided by the Career Planning and Placement Center. For more information, students should register for one or more of the many workshops offered by the center. Workshops cover a variety of topics: the job search, resume writing, cover letter writing, interviewing, choosing the right job, college teaching and administration, graduate school information, summer jobs, and government job information. Foreign student workshops are also offered.
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