Please Eavesdrop.

Then tell us about it! submit your overheard quote to: theniagaradixeyahoo.com

Girl 1: Awwwww... it’s a bunny! 
Girl 2: Ribbit. Ribbit. 

“I can puke in a house, I can puke with a mouse. I can puke here or there, I can puke anywhere.”
- Apartment SA, Feb. 5, 2007

Some Valentine’s Day quotes:
“Gravitation is not responsible for love. It is an active word,” said campus minister Dr. Taylor that focuses on community organizing around the city’s needs.

“Love is much nicer to be in than out of.” 
- Albert Einstein

“With little resources, Murphy helped create one of the greatest computer networks in the world.”

Rev. John T. Maher

Spiritual week invigorates Vincentian community

Adrienne West
Staff Writer

Vincentian Spiritual Renewal Week was held Jan. 25-30 and was sponsored by the Office of Campus Ministry, including the invaluable presence of Vincentians Fr. Aidan Rooney C.M. Dr. Jack Timlin C.M., Sr. Mary Frate D.C., and Sr. Pat Eavicz D.C. It was celebrated during what is widely recognized as Vincentian Heritage Week, which served as host to an annual week of activities, focused exclusively on St. Vincent de Paul and our Vincentian heritage as a university. Niagara University sponsored a variety of activities, including educational seminars, worship services and social events based on the teachings of St. Vincent de Paul.

This year’s theme was “Exterme Vincent: Building the Righteous Community” and the events were scheduled around Jan. 25 in light of Fr. DePaull and our Vincentian Congregation of the Mission. The series of Vincentian Heritage-based events are an annual tradition, but this year’s efforts were boosted in light of Niagara’s 150th year.

“Terrorism [by the Taliban] was a huge success,” said Sr. Nata Gotto. “We tend to think of success by how many people came, but I don’t see it that way. I think that huge success means that people who came seemed to be touched in their hearts. It’s priceless, and I think it was wonderful.”

V incentian Spiritual Renewal Week kicked off on Thursday, Jan. 25, with a Mass by Fr. Aidan Rooney, which included a new addition to the celebration with the award of the Caritas Medal to Dr. David Taylor. Taylor is an assistant professor of criminal justice at Niagara who embodies Vincentian values through his work with various community-based services programs in Niagara Falls, including ReNU Niagara, a Community Outreach Partnership Center program coordinated by Taylor that focuses on community organizing around the city’s needs.

Dr. Taylor was honored because he embodies the spirit of St. Vincent DePaul in his service to the community. “Spirituality is an active word,” said campus minister Fr. John Maher, “it’s about action as well as reflection, which is why we honored Dr. Taylor.”

The presentations and seminars were held throughout the week for students, faculty, and staff. “Each session focused on one of the 10 Principles of Catholic Social Teaching from a Vincentian perspective,” said Campus Minister, Jerod Sikorsky. Fr. Aidan Rooney, a former minister at Niagara, constructed and outlined these themes of principles that were central to the events.

“Vincentian Spiritual Week focused on all different aspect of the university and the people who play different roles,” said Sikorsky. He highlighted the student leadership luncheon for social justice held on Jan. 26 as being a major event, “I thought this to be engaging because we got a cross-section of students leaders from NUSGA and other student clubs… and the conversation really centered on the ten principles.”

One of the principles outlined, for example, was ecological responsibility. Issues related to that responsibility and Vincentian values, such as the importance of recycling and caring for our environment, reflect the idea that certain deeds are required of us as opposed to what we think is nice. Also, discussions arose as to the responsibility of students to choose clothing and products made by individuals making a living wage, rather than what is cheapest.
What’s old is now new again—rewrapped

By Anees Kashmiri

Ten years ago the top selling toy was Tickle Me Elmo. This stuffed muppet giggle and wobbled when squeezed and that is about it. It retailed at $29. Consideration of inflation, that would be roughly $37 in 2006. Needless to say, today’s children have their sights set higher—and do they? I must admit, this top toy test of mine is not 100 percent accurate. Each year, the title of top toy comes from multiple associations and corporations. Marketing, social trends, category and age appropriateness factor into toy awards and my little experiment fails to account for them. There are no doubt cooler toys on the market today than there were 10 years ago; however, they may not be the most popular.

Believe it or not, there are just as many old toys on the market as there are new ones. Amazon.com’s number one selling toy as of February 2007 is T.M.X. Elmo, a.k.a. Tickle Me Elmo 10 years later. Runners up include Shutterfly’s Rubik’s Cube, Tamagotchi by Bandai, Scrabble and LEGO®s (new editions of course). Beanies babies, yoyos, Pogs—now these are what I call toys. Ah, what sweet memories I have of Pog collecting, Chia pet growing and impressing my life-sized Barbie as I watched “Pete and Pete.”

What is it about specific toys that lend themselves to marketing decade after decade? Polly Pocket, for example was first distributed by Mattel in the early 90s. I must say, Miss Pocket certainly took my 5-year-old self by storm—an itty bitty girl in an itty bitty house with itty bitty rooms? Revolutionary I tell you! But it has gotten even better. Reminiscent of Polly Pocket are Mattel’s Pixel Chix. They have itty bitty houses with itty bitty rooms but the itty bitty girl and the itty bitty things she does are digitized. Polly Pocket is probably one of the less pertinent examples I could have chosen. Power ranger, Barney, Transformers, American Girl dolls—they are all alive and well.

And the phenomenon extends beyond toys and into music, clothes and hair. The funny thing is that each generation thinks that their toys, TV shows, clothes and hairstyles belong to them and them alone. Our dolls—they are all alive and well. Perhaps that’s what life is—a constant re-claiming, re-adapting and re-selling of the fundamental principles that preceded us. A humbling revelation, isn’t it? Whether you buy it or not, consider the possibility that almost nothing in life is new and that day’s society is both the product of the one before it and the determinant of that which comes next.

The Index is now online! Visit our link through the Campus Activities website or at www.niagara.edu/cao/TheNiagaraIndex.htm

The Index welcomes cartoons of any type from the NU community.

We are especially looking for those that pertain to life on our campus. Send your submissions to TheNiagaraIndex@yahoo.com.

The Niagara Index 1870-2007

Volume 77, Issue 8

February 12, 2007

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Printed by Printing Productions, Inc.

Submissions are accepted from all members of the Niagara University community.
The deadline for the next issue of the Index: Tuesday, Feb. 6 to print Monday, Feb. 12.
No submissions can be accepted after this date.

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All submissions to the Index (i.e. letters to the editor, articles, reviews, etc.) must be received electronically, either through e-mail or on disk, single-spaced and without tabs. Decisions to print submissions will be based upon legality, appropriateness to subject and date, and adherence to university policies. The Index reserves the right to edit submissions for length, spacing and libel. Please provide name and contact information with all submissions for verification.
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For advertising information, call or e-mail editor or advertising.
Venezuela

President Hugo Chavez

The rising price of oil over the past few years due to his success at persuading oil producers to lower their production for more profits.

His personal attacks on President Bush are increasingly insulting. He has called President Bush a “pendejo” or dumb ass as well as a devil. He frequently uses his weekly talk show, “Alí Presidente,” as a platform to hurl his insults. On one particular show, he called Bush a donkey and a drunken in response to the White House’s statement that Chavez is a “demagogue who uses Venezuela’s oil wealth to destabi- lize democracy in the region.”

However, not all of Chavez’s relations with the U.S. have been bad. Chavez struck a deal with Massachusetts in November 2005 to provide discounted heating oil to lower class residents. Moreover, in September 2006 he promised to increase oil discounts to Harlem residents. Chavez also offered aid in the form of food and oil to Hurricane Katrina vic- tims. However, the aid was turned down.

Chavez was reelected in late 2006 with a 63% majority. He began a complete overhaul on his cabinet. On Jan. 31, 2007, an en- abling act was passed giving Chavez the power to create laws without the approval of his congress. He promises to use this new power to create a socialist state and to bring Venezuela’s oil companies under government control. The thought of unchecked power may be frightening to some but it is a valid law under the Venezuelan con- stitution.

With such an outspoken enemy of the United States having virtually unlimited power, what affect will this have on citizens? According to Dr. Gina Ponce de Leon, Chair of the Latin American Studies Department, not much at all.

“Chavez’s ideas are socialist,” she says, “so he really wants to give more money to his people, which is a good thing.” According to BBC, about 60 percent of households in Venezuela are considered poor.

“He’s planning to take taxes from companies that are taking the petroleum. I think that’s mainly going to affect the petroleum companies. For regular people, I don’t think it’s going to have any affect,” says Ponce de Leon.

Still the implications for oil companies may not be great. Record setting profits were achieved last year. Even though Chavez is a notorious op- ponent of the United States’ policies, who is to say he will use his new powers to do anything but help his own people.

For more information on Venezuela visit: http://www.geographia.com/venezuela/index.htm

WINTER PARKING ADVISORY TO THE NIAGARA UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

From NOVEMBER 15, 2006 - MARCH 15, 2007, the snow removal policy will in effect. No vehicles may be parked overnight from midnight to 7:00 AM in the Gallagher, Main, Power Authority and Penrose lots, with one exception --- the Penrose 24-hour parking area. As always, no parking is permitted on roadways.

On those days when snow must be plowed from the other lots (i.e., Butler, DePaul, Kiernan, Timon/O’Shea, Facility Services, University Drive, Eagle Circle, the Penrose 24-hour parking area), flashing blue lights at Perrobe Hall, Facility Services and Eagle Circle will indicate that vehicles must be removed by 5:30 p.m. from these areas. Temporary parking is available in PENROSE (except the 24-hour parking area) and POWER VISTA C while vehicles are being plowed. Do not park on roadways.

Anyone needing a ride from a distant lot may contact Campus Safety by calling ext. 8111 or using a blue light phone to arrange an escort.

Vehicle owners away from campus overnight are expected to make ar- rangements with friends to move their cars to the appropriate lots. Lack of familiarity or failure to comply with snow regulations can result in vehicles being ticketed and/or towed at the owner’s expense. Cars towed to an on-cam- pus site are subject to being towed off campus after 72 hours.

In the event that snow falls outside of the snow removal policy period, these procedures also will be in effect. The full policy applies throughout the campus; copies may be picked up at the Campus Safety Office. Your active cooperation is appreciated.

John F. Barker, Director of Campus Safety

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Feb. 17

Concert for St. Vincent
Niagara University
Theater-at-the-church
415 Plain St., Lewiston

March 1 - 11

“As You Like It”
Niagara University
Leary Theatre
March 2, 3, 10, 8 p.m.
March 4, 11, 2 p.m.

Tickets for any performance can be purchased through the NU Theatre Box Office at 286-6022, in person at the Dwyer Arena Box Office or through www.tickemaster.com.
Murphy draws attention to Africa

Continued from page 1

anti-Apartheid movement. Murphy interacted with many of the African National Congress (ANC), an organization of South African expatriates who were fighting the government both politically and militarily. Some of the members of this underground organization became very instrumental to the ANC’s success.

“We built it up into having two correspondents in nine nations while I had a small staff in Harare. Actually, our chief copy-editor, Barry Gilder, was a bagman who secretly supplied cash for ANC operations.”

Barry Gilder would become deputy director general of South Africa’s National Intelligence Agency following the end of Apartheid.

With little resources, Murphy helped create one of the first computer networks in the South African region from scratch to coordinate with his correspondents.

“All we really had was a laptop while our engineer friends helped by using off the shelf software that we pieced together to get some form of communication going. We also had to train many of our African journalists the basics of computers to make the workable.”

An end to the Apartheid era

As the 1980s drew to a close, so did the regime in South Africa. According to Murphy, those involved within the anti-Apartheid movement knew that the long imprisoned resistance leader, Nelson Mandela, was about to be released, and the anticipation reached epic heights. Rather than seeing Mandela’s freedom in person, he and his crew witnessed the event via satellite.

“Barry and I booked a room at this hotel that was only the one that apparently had satellite television. So there was the two of us in this cramped room with what had to be 20 others and ANC members.”

A doctorate and a direction

As “things cooled down” around southern Africa, Murphy returned to the west, and got a position in the United States with the Institute for Global Communications (IGC). He served as co-editor to PeaceNet Headlines which, along with other organizations under the IGC umbrella, was dedicated to providing Internet exposure to nonprofit social justice entities. It was around this time that Murphy was awarded his Ph.D. in communications from the University of Massachusetts Amherst.

Shortly before 2000, Murphy was approached by Dr. James Witterhols from Niagara University to join the communications department. Murphy agreed and the two spent a great amount of time on changing the curriculums to focus more on media being a tool to address various forms of social injustices in the world. Many courses, most notably Communicating for Social Justice, reflect the themes that have been persistent in Murphy’s career.

Murphy is still involved with investigative journalism as he is an African and Mil-
FIU’s University Graduate School offers more than 120 degree programs at the master’s and doctoral levels ranging from creative writing, business and education to the sciences, engineering and health professions. FIU ranks among the top 20 best values in public higher education in the country, according to Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine 2006 survey.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching ranks FIU as a Research University in the High Research Activity category in their prestigious classification system. FIU is among the youngest universities ever to be awarded a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the nation’s oldest and most distinguished academic honor society.

Visit gradschool.fiu.edu to see what some of our students say about FIU’s graduate programs.
Major Importance: Psychosurgery

Diana Starski
Staff Writer

Have you ever been interested in studying the human mind and how and why humans behave the way they do? If you want your career to improve the lives of others, you may want to think about the psychology field. Dr. Timothy Osberg, professor of psychology, says, “According to a CNN and Money Magazine poll, psychology is in the top ten of all careers.”

Psychology is a field in which there is a lot of educational mobility. “Two-thirds of Niagara’s undergraduates go on to graduate school,” says Osberg. Students majoring in psychology have many options to choose from once they get their bachelor’s degrees. Many, according to Osberg, go on to grad school for psychology or law; some students even go to medical school.

Once you are in the field, professionals with a bachelor’s in psychology can do many different things such as conducting research, teaching, counseling or going on to clinical practice.

Within the field of clinical psychology, there are still more options. Clinical psychologists may work for the government, a hospital or in private practice. Psychologists could also decide to go into the field of gerontology, which is the study of the elderly. An interesting avenue one area for psychology in the medical field is helping to increase jobs and ensure an increase in the population’s overall health.

The importance of mental health is beginning to equal that of physical health these days. The expansion of psychology is also helping to increase jobs and ensure an increase in the population’s overall health.

If students are interested and want to become involved in the psychology field, NU offers a psychology club, Psi Chi, which helps to promote the interest of psychology. Also, the psychology department runs the club, Active Minds, which is a national organization that helps to promote mental health issues on campuses across the country. Their main goal is to inform college students that many adults, including themselves, may have some sort of diagnosable disorder and there is no shame in trying to get help.

For questions about psychology and the major feel free to stop by Dr. Osberg’s office in Depaul, room 135, call x8524 or email him at tobsey@niagara.edu.

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Rivalries are brutal. Rivalries are bitter. They are the life blood of college sports and their intensity only grows with time. The men’s basketball rivalry between Niagara and Canisius is just now reaching its pinnacle with their rivalry being 102 years old. Recently, the ebb and flow of this age-old rivalry seems to be leaning toward Niagara.

As of the win Feb. 4, Niagara has won its last eight meetings with Canisius. This past meeting was no less bitter; the clash between student sections was obvious as soon as the first whistle blew. The most intense situations between long-time rivals occur when the games are close and that is the best time for students and fans to take action by cheering loud to help swing momentum toward their chosen team. Niagara games, complete with N-Zone participants, are no different. But as I was standing, hooting and hollering deep within the fervor of the N-Zone, I realized how quickly rivalries can amplify.

Canisius’ supporting students went right for the throat, metaphorically of course, with chants such as “Guilty,” “Who wears purple?” and “Hit a home run,” directly referring to the pre-season fiasco between Niagara’s men’s basketball and baseball teams. I am surprised that nothing got out of hand. Though I suppose victory or at least winning at the time, soothes the memories of the past.

Did Canisius’ student section take their chants, those allegedly supporting their own team, too far? Perhaps, though Niagara participated in similar taunting. Cheers of “We can’t hear you,” “What is a Griff?” or “I love my Moneyball” and “You can’t dunk,” could be heard bellowing across the court from the N-Zone throughout most of the game.

Overall, I’d say that Niagara’s heckling of Canisius was far more decent than the cheap shots that roared from the somewhat mediocre collection of students that Canisius managed to assemble. Granted, there were lapses in judgment – no one likes a bad call, and the refs ought to know it. Perhaps, I should remove myself from my biased support of Niagara sports and look at it from an outsider’s point of view.

Clearly, throughout the second half of the classic Niagara-Canisius clash, the more experienced N-Zone reiterated their favorite cheer of the afternoon, “Wilson” in reference to forward, Darnell Wilson. After Canisius’ leading scorer for the game missed four free throws and a dunk, he was ragged on by the student section, the rest of the gymnasium sitting on the bench. It was clear to the N-Zone that their chant worked to upset a player at the time, had it kept a competitive match.

Perhaps this chant was a little too effective towards the best player on the Canisius’ team, creating an atmosphere where students begin to lose grasp of the fine line heckling shares with Canisius.

Rivalries are brutal and, at times, merciless and unforgiving. The.one N-Zone shares with Canisius is healthy and alive with a passion unlike any other. Most cheers and leers shared between student sections are only from two schools burling with competitive spirit and are mostly taken in stride with a light heart. However, I find it unacceptable to let this excitement create an atmosphere where students begin to lose grasp of the fine line heckling walks. Yelling remarks about one’s past and teasing a player about a few shots (that are insignificant in the long run) approach that fine line. I just hope that neither school dares to cross it.

Super Bowl ads - a mediocre bust?

The biggest advertising event of the year is the Super Bowl, where companies pay top dollar, about $2-3 million for a 30-second ad. Is it hot in here? Somehow this year’s advertising was tepid indeed, with not one ad that would define the Super Bowl as a premier event. But is it a mediocr учебника, false advertising or just a bad taste in the mouth?

The Chicago Bears and the Indianapolis Colts battled it out in the pouring rain on Feb. 5 in Miami, Florida. Although the Bears got off to a fast start, the Colts ultimately took the victory 29-16. It is a shame, those with no vested interest in the game or in either team turned into CBS for the highly anticipated Super Bowl commercials extravaganza. Over the decades, this precious commercial time, in between plays of football’s biggest event, has evolved into an annual marketing event. It is not your ordinary car commercial, it still leaves the links to get to the 2007 Super Bowl.


3. Bad light - The sheer idiocy of picking up a hitchhiker on the side of the road with beer and an ax as he conveniently declares is a “can opener,” deserves a commercial. Plain and simple. Too bad persons with chainsaws don’t get their canulary campaign.

4. Fedex - Don’t take it literally. Or, in this case, do.

5. Chevy - Is it hot in here? Somehow this catches your attention. Whether it is because of the dancing men or because it still makes this list. Amazingly enough, this commercial was created by a University of Wisconsin student, Katie Crab, who partipated in a advertising contest.

On the left is a sports.aol.com featured poll. If you’d like to place a vote of your own just visit the website and place a vote yourself.

Sports: agra, “We can hear you...”

Among the funniest were:

1. Budweiser - Rock, paper, scissors, shoot. Let’s not live in denial, anyone gets ting hit with a rock, especially over beer, is amusing.

2. Doritos - Live the Flavor. Although it is a little far-fetched, it gets the point across.

3. Bud Light - The sheer idiocy of picking up a hitchhiker on the side of the road with beer and an ax as he conveniently declares is a “can opener,” deserves a commercial. Plain and simple. Too bad persons with chainsaws don’t get their canulary campaign.


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Or, if you’d like to view or re-view these commercials, visit www.cms and folllow the links to get to the 2007 Super Bowl ads. 2007 Super Bowl ad reviews are also featured on such sites as www.humor.about.com and www.cnn.com.

Check them out and enjoy the post-game hype!

Upcoming sport schedules

Men’s Basketball
Jan. 14 - at Rider - Win - 80-79
Jan. 18 - at Marist - Loss - 91-86
Jan. 26 - at Marist - Win - 83-75
Jan. 28 - at Fairfield - Loss - 56-68
Feb. 2 - Manhattan - Win - 81-70
Feb. 4 - Canisius - Win - 79-61

Women’s Basketball
Jan. 19 - Loyola - Loss - 91-53
Jan. 22 - Canisius - Loss - 62-59
Jan. 26 - at Fairfield - Loss - 70-81
Jan. 28 - at Marist - Loss - 59-80
Feb. 1 - Siena - Win - 72-68
Feb. 3 - Loyola - Loss - 55-65

Women’s Hockey
Jan. 19 - Quinnipiac - Win - 5-2
Jan 20 - Quinnipiac - Win - 3-2
Jan. 26 - Wayne St. - Win - 4-2
Jan. 27 - Wayne St. - Win - 4-3
Feb. 1 - Robert Morris - Loss - 1-7
Feb. 3 - Robert Morris - Loss, 2-5

Women’s Volleyball
Jan. 26 - at Quinnipiac - Win - 5-0
Jan. 27 - at Yale - Loss - 0-1
Feb. 2 - Mercyhurst - Loss - 1-3
Feb. 3 - Mercyhurst - Loss - 2-7

Men’s Tennis
Jan. 27 - Robert Morris - Win, 7-0
Jan. 28 - at Duquesne - Loss - 3-4
Feb. 2 - at Cleveland St. - Loss - 3-4

Women’s Tennis
Jan. 27 - at Robert Morris - Win, 7-0
Feb. 3 - at Cleveland St. - Loss - 1-6

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Check them out and enjoy the post-game hype!
That day is rapidly approaching, the one where the flowers, candy and butterflies. Valentine's Day this year.

There are many different stories that attempt to explain the origin of this holiday. Valentine was a priest who served in Rome. Emperor Claudius II declared that single men made better warriors than those with lovers or families. Thus, outlawed marriage for young men. Valentine refused to accept it and defied the emperor. He continued to perform marriage ceremonies in secret for young lovers. Claudius discovered his actions and condemned him to death. Perhaps Valentine's Day originated as a day to commemorate this martyr.

Another story is that Valentine received the first Valentine's Day greeting. It is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl who had visited him during his confinement in prison. Before his death he wrote her a letter that he appropriately signed, “From your Valentine,” an expression still used today.

The accuracy of these stories is impossible to prove but at the very least, Valentine was heroic, romantic and a popular figure in France and England.

Not everyone enjoys this holiday of love, especially those who are involuntarily single. But students in relationships find it hard to not participate in the festivities. Ben Norris, a student at NU said, “Spending time with the people you love and care about is the most enjoyable part of Valentine’s Day.” Kaitlyn Barker agreed and added that she likes, “spending it with the people I love...and chocolate.”

If gifts are a pressing problem for you, there are many options available to you. Something classic like flowers or candy will melt any heart. On the other hand, something original or wacky can be surprising and endearing. A-team group “Be my Valentine” cards anyone? Not to mention, crafts are a breeze and things from the heart will always hold special meaning to you and the receiver.

Some easy and fast, however semi-pricy ideas are candles, perfume/cologne or jewelry for example. What matters most to you and the receiver.

To you and the receiver.

The Secret Garden Restaurant is tucked away overlooking a lovely garden and a full-frontal view of the falls. Its inclusion makes a nice quiet place to dine with your valentine in a foreign country. For more information visit, http://www.secretgardenrestaurant.net.

There are just a few of the restaurants around the area. Look into these options as well as others and you won’t regret your night out.

Valentine’s Day is a simple holiday, but nonetheless a fulfilling one. Erica Hoskins states bluntly but surely, “I like the love,” and the love is all around this year. So make this holiday count, for the benefit of friends, lovers and family. What Mahatma Gandhi says is true, “Where there is love, there is life.” Here’s to hoping everyone has a great Valentine’s Day this year!