

# DOLLARS AND SENSE

## COLUMN

### GRE ... Ughh! It's pointless

By Bess Franzosa  
■ The New Hampshire  
U. of New Hampshire

While most of you were either sleeping off a mean hangover or stumbling into a cafe for a breakfast special, I was engaging in an exciting, enriching experience one Saturday last fall semester — the almighty Graduate Record Examination.

That 8 a.m. I was sitting at a desk, furiously filling in dots with a #2 pencil. As I sat there, trying to figure out trivialities, I began to question the point of the exam. There isn't one.

Educators and administrators alike admit that the GRE and SAT are not good measures of intelligence, and are biased against women and minorities. Here's a hypothetical:

Study the words that precede the word "clothes."

- 1) We sell summer clothes.
- 2) We sell baby clothes.
- 3) We sell running clothes.

Which sentence can be substituted for number 1?

- a) We sell women's clothes.
- b) We sell work clothes.
- c) We sell hiking clothes.
- d) We sell men's clothes.

Where did this question come from? What does it mean? What is the answer? What is the point? I'm not sure I want to know.

The verbal section of the exam was a joke. When was the last time a professor asked you to take out a palimpsest? When something breaks in your house do you say "I'll go call the factotum?"

I plan to study broadcast journalism, so my English skills are important, but when will I ever use words like lexicographer? If Connie Chung used those words no one would understand.

Why does a school care about my math ability. As long as I can pay my tuition without bouncing the check, why should they care that I've forgotten how to multiply fractions?

I think you get the point. Now if you'll excuse me, I need to go study my GRE book so that I won't blow the exam next time.

I hope I'll be able to ameliorate my vocabulary by then.

## REVIEW

### Getting in as a grad

'Beyond the Ivy Wall' whips up a recipe for admission to grad school for students who may have spent a bit too much of their college career partying.

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## ENTREPRENEUR

### College — The game

Student at Rutgers U. have created and manufactured a game that features attributes from their campus.

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# Students applaud semester at sea

By Dana DiFillippo  
■ The Daily Collegian  
Pennsylvania State U.

In China, there is a saying that people are not truly Chinese until they climb the Great Wall.

Thanks to the U. of Pittsburgh's Semester at Sea program, which allows accredited universities across the country to participate, U. of Pennsylvania senior Wai-Li Wong became the first in six generations of his family to return to his homeland to be "truly Chinese."

The program has been sponsored by

UP for 25 years, and now students from more than 600 universities and colleges study for one semester aboard a "floating campus." They receive hands-on experience in the 13 countries at which the ship docks, said Yvonne Duiker, a Penn State representative of the program.

"It's the most amazing thing you'll ever do," said Penn student Angela Sorrentino, who went on the trip last semester. Sorrentino said the program taught her a lot about life and herself.

Although the ports sometimes vary because of political problems, Duiker said the program's itinerary seldom

changes significantly. Some countries at which the S.S. Universe has anchored in past semesters include Japan, India, Turkey, the Soviet Union, Spain and Hong Kong.

C.Y. Tung, a Hong Kong ship magnate, donated the ship in 1971 to establish a program to promote world peace through international education, she said.

Students spend about half the trip on land and half at sea and all students are required to take a daily core course called International Studies where they learn things such as the customs and currency

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## Phone makes study of languages reality

By Kelly Cane  
■ Michigan Tech Lode  
Michigan Technological U.

A telephone-assisted foreign language program started at Michigan Technological U. last winter quarter to teach languages important to technology students.

The program was designed to provide cost-effective foreign language instruction in languages critical to science, technology and commerce.

Developed in the early 1980s at Ohio State U., the program may be ideal for institutions that cannot afford to hire a large number of new faculty.

"This program seems very well suited for Michigan Tech," said Steven Loughrin-Sacco, assistant professor of humanities at MTU. "Not only because it is cost-effective, but also because of the need to broaden the education of science and technology students."

According to Loughrin-Sacco, MTU students have suffered because only literary languages are taught. He said a base in other languages would better prepare students for international internship programs, as well as work in industries with ties in Asia, the Middle East, and the Soviet Union.

Under the program, OSU provides students with language expertise via telephone, while an MTU professor provides regular supervision.

Students proceed through a manual, listen to tapes and spend time speaking with their professor at OSU using a toll-free telephone number. The OSU professor grades and tests students' work, answers questions and provides conversation practice.

## Class clown



LISA DEJONG, STATE NEWS, MICHIGAN STATE U.

"Our first goal is to have fun," said a student in A.J. Fast's class on clowning at Michigan State U. Fast teaches students to juggle, spin plates, ride unicycles, walk on stilts and create animal balloons.

# Student finds condom, shorts sales just ducky

By Gary Houchens  
■ College Heights Herald  
Western Kentucky U.

If you look under the beds of most college students, you may find dirty socks, tennis shoes or candy wrappers. But underneath Brian Nash's bed you'll find dozens of unopened condoms.

That doesn't mean Nash, a sophomore at Western Kentucky U., is promiscuous. He is a licensed salesman of Rubber Ducky and Sneaky Pete brand condoms.

"When I came down here (to WKU) last year, nobody sold condoms on campus and that didn't make sense to me, because there are plenty of times when they're needed," said Nash.

Both brands of condoms are distributed by the Finley Company of Tuscon, Ariz. Nash pays all postage and sells all items at least \$2 cheaper than the com-

'Be safe boxers'... If you want to both look cool and promote safe sex, West Virginia U. student Jim Denny has the shorts for you. Denny has been selling the "Be Safe Boxers" from the Kiwi Surf line. The boxers feature wild patterns, a condom pocket and a condom. Females have bought more than males, especially around the Christmas season, Denny said. The 100 percent cotton boxers sell for \$8; the rayon \$10. ■ Shannon Wells, *The Daily Atheneum*, West Virginia U.

pany recommends.

Nash said he got the idea from a friend who was selling them at Indiana State U. Nash said he started his business this semester selling mostly to friends and makes about one sale a week, but hopes he can gain new customers through

advertising.

He said he plans to increase the number of fliers distributed and buy newspaper advertisements soon.

All of the condoms Nash sells come with instructions. "A lot of people laugh at that," Nash said. "But in many cases, instructions are needed."

He stressed that he isn't trying to offend anyone. "There are a lot of religious groups out there that think this kind of stuff is absolutely deplorable," he said. "but they have to realize that people are going to have sex."

Nash sells a variety of items besides condoms, including five varieties of T-shirts, which cost \$12 each, depicting Rubber Ducky, the cartoon trademark of the condom. He also sells Rubber Ducky sweatshirts, night-shirts, mugs, sun visors and keychains.

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