

LIFE AND ART

COLUMN

Over the hill at age 21?

By Sharon Gurfield
■ The Daily Targum
Rutgers U.

Old age is knocking at the door, lurking behind every corner. It's there, waiting to get me. A recent incident prompted the realization that I, a few days from my 21st birthday, might be over the hill.

I had accepted a job as a substitute teacher in my old grammar school. It was then that I noticed I had sprouted two gray hairs. I quickly yanked them out, unfazed.

I made it to the school at exactly 8:30 a.m., signed in and took my place on the other side of the desk. Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed two little kids peeking through the window. Donning the coveted safety patrol belts, the two were pointing at me, laughing. I checked my shirt to see if maybe my bra strap was hanging out and checked my backside for a "kick me" sign. It appeared that all was normal. The bell finally rang and a pack of kids filed into the room, staring, laughing and plotting their next move.

I think my lack of experience was evident, even to those little fifth-graders. "How old are you?" one of the little deviants asked before I could pick up the chalk to write my name. "Can we go outside?" another one inquired, raising his eyebrows devilishly. "Are you married?" "Do you have a boyfriend?" "What kind of car do you drive?" "Do you like New Kids on the Block?" A barrage of questions hit me in the face, leaving me stunned and dizzy. Sensing my insecurity, the little demons proceeded to climb on their desks, run around the room, and yes, throw paper airplanes at one another.

Then it came, like a voice from heaven: "Sit Down In Your Seats Or Get DETENTION!" The room was silent. All eyes, including my own, were riveted on the teacher from next door. While her name escapes me, her voice still rings in my ears like fingers screeching down a chalkboard. Slowly rising from my seat where I had promptly plopped myself, I mouthed a meek "thank you" and waved her off.

Throughout the day, I found myself saying things like, "Boys and girls, if you are not in your

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LIFESTYLES

Free to good home

Michigan State U. student acts as a "pet broker" in trying to find campus homes for stray animals.

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MOONLIGHTING

Siren sounders

Two Kansas State U. students work as emergency medical technicians ... when they're not in school, that is.

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THE ARTS

Singing out against racism

To promote awareness of racism, a student and professor team up to produce a full-scale musical.

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People get into the strangest things

Contests call for students to swim in squishy edibles

By Katie Good
■ The Auburn Plainsman
Auburn U.

In addition to immersing themselves in biology, English and other subjects, students across the nation are getting into stranger things — food.

Literally.

Students at different schools are participating in contests that require them to slosh around in dumpsters full of food and look for hidden objects amid the goo. Prizes are awarded to those who find the "treasure."

Watch it wiggle . . .

Some might call Auburn U. students crazy for participating in the school's annual Jell-O Splash, but students are actually *finding* their marbles, not losing them.

The object of the Jell-O Splash is to pull marbles out of a large tub filled with orange gelatin. The catch is that students have to use their toes to get them.

"(Students) can use their hands, but I'm encouraging people to pull them out with their feet. It's more fun that way," said Julie Johnston, publicity director for the school's eighth annual Splash into Spring festival.

"I do it every year," senior Derick Sutton said. "People always walk by and say it's gross, but I think it's fun."

Sutton encouraged his friend, senior Stephen Craft, to try his luck.

"It seems to add to my tan," Craft said, while admiring his legs covered in orange Jell-O.



RANDY BARDY, THE DAILY IOWAN, U. OF IOWA

Students Paul Carlson, Tim Clyne and Scott Lackmann horse around in the oats at U. of Iowa's "Oatmeal Odyssey."

Sowing their oats . . .

"Oatmeal Odyssey" provided a twist to the usual fare offered at the U. of Iowa's Riverfest '90 festival. For the event, Quaker Oats donated 50 50-pound sacks of oatmeal, which was cooked and mixed into a dumpster. For a dollar, people could swim around and find hidden golf balls redeemable for prizes.

Dripping from head to toe with oatmeal, freshman Richard McLain said that the swim in the sticky breakfast food was definitely worth it.

"A lot of people were urging me on, so I had to do it," said McLain, who was the second person of the day to be bold enough to jump into the oatmeal.

Few people usually participate in the Oatmeal Odyssey because it is so messy, said Eve Pellettiere, a Recreation Committee member for the festival. "I am glad that someone did it because a lot of people looked at the dumpster really funny."

Doin' the mashed potato . . .

A new style of Olympics was brought to Emporia State U. last spring — the Potato Olympics.

Events in the Potato Olympics included a potato treasure hunt, potato track relays, potato head decorating, french fry eating, and the messier mashed potato

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Mannequins, pantyhose among collector's loot

By Christine Paugh
■ Sunflower
Wichita State U.

Traci Furan loves it when department stores go out of business. When Henry's and Dillards each closed a store in Wichita, Kan., Furan went on the shopping warpath.

But she wasn't there to buy clothes or home furnishings. Furan went to buy mannequins.

"I don't buy a lot of clothes, I buy mannequins," said the Wichita State U. art history sophomore. In addition to half and whole mannequins, her collection includes

"various hands and one weird-shaped head. I also have one with a really long neck that they must have shown scarves on. All of them are female."

Aside from mannequins, Furan also collects two other out-of-the-ordinary things — pantyhose and "Wizard of Oz" memorabilia.

"The first time I saw 'The Wizard of Oz' movie was before I could talk — around 3 years old," Furan said. "I loved it so



ROM KROENING, SUNFLOWER, WICHITA STATE U.

Wichita State U. sophomore Traci Furan poses with a few of her collectibles.

much my mom started buying me things."

Furan's Oz collection includes coloring books, cardboard cutouts, jigsaw puzzles, records, porcelain figurines, doll figures and several books by author L. Frank Baum, who wrote the original story and a host of sequels.

She started her other collection, pantyhose, at age 14 when she went to England for the first time. Furan said she was fascinated by the unique designs and styles there.

"I have one pair that is metallic blue with derogatory sayings on them, and a white pair with black cartoons on them that is about going shopping, and

then some plaid and gingham ones," she said.

Her favorite pair has "big, swirly flowers, in really bright oranges, reds and greens," Furan said. "People always say my legs look tattooed."

Furan admits that when people hear of her collections, they sometimes perceive her hobbies as being a little strange.

"But it's cool," she said. "My friends just kind of accept it for the simple fact that it's a part of me and always will be."