

IN PLAY



MUSIC

No narcolepsy here
I Need Sleep create Day-Glo
dance rock **page 4**

+ plus
Rock 'complex' **page 5**
So scientific **page 5**

THEATER

You do the work
'Dependent Study' makes the
audience interpret **page 8**

+ plus
Actors' studio **page 9**
Dolphin-tastic **page 9**



FILM

Shock value
Hollywood's banking on taboo
topics, but is it art? **page 6**

+ plus
Latifah reigns **page 6**
'Hustle' up **page 7**

URBAN LIFE

Clothes, toys, people
Photographers chronicle lives
of Chinese workers **page 10**

+ plus
Strip show **page 11**
'Blue' crush **page 11**



DANIEL
crowder

DO IT



Just do it?

Before the weight of the other body on yours, before lips fitting perfectly into each other, before even the first hug or conversation, there's interest in one another. The best possibility is that the interest is mutual, but sometimes that's not the case. Many, afraid of an unshared affinity, aren't motivated to find out or are fearful that they're alone in their sentiments.

Maybe you two kind of know each other through friends who introduced you, or from a discussion section or a quick conversation at a party. Maybe it just happens that you two live next to each other and cross each other's paths a few times a week. Whatever it is, it's hot, and you're really into it, and so is your potential partner. Or so you hope, but you're not sure.

Without knowing how to segue to anything outside the status quo, you maintain your posture — putting yourself out there would be too risky. Enter booze, or something that is not self-found motivation, and you make an attempt to forge forward in your path. It's either rejected, well-received or received out of sheer desperation — which still counts.

But why is it that many Northwestern students, and people our age in general, fear rejection such that the appropriate time to act is usually not the most coherent? This is by no means a call to reconsider any lifestyle other than one peppered with self-doubt. Personally, I need a lot of motivation to even consider whether or not to pursue someone, and not because I'm painfully particular, but because it blows to be rejected by someone. And I don't want to deal with that feeling — especially within the greater social context of a party or bar gathering.

I'll be honest, I usually have to have a verbal affirmation of someone's interest. How embarrassing — I know. While in this mood, I spoke with a friend of mine who's a bit of a maneater. She told me that her rejections aren't based on personal critiques of admirers, but on not fitting her meticulously specific mold. She reminded me that there are so many people whose interests are so varied that attempting to fit a specific person's wants is largely counterproductive. Friends I've spoken with have shared their fears that trying to become close with another person who doesn't share your interest is embarrassingly frustrating. One friend shared her thoughts: "The politics of dating, of who makes the first move and who seems more interested than the other is so petty and frustrating, and still we all do it. It's usually such a waste of time that, by the point we overcome it, the opportunity has passed by."

I'd love to tell everyone who's confused about their crush to just go for it, that all of your time spent worrying was in vain, but I can't. I can say, however, that short of erotomania or other complete misreads of another person's gestures, there's probably at least a chance of something. Of course, if there isn't, that's not indicative of anything in the future, so why punish a decent opportunity with past disappointment? ▶

Weinberg junior Daniel Crowder is the **PLAY** sex columnist. He can be reached at d-crowder@northwestern.edu.

When we're 64

Dolphin director gives veteran show new feel

Communication senior Josh Penzell wasn't cast in The Dolphin Show three years in a row. Karma recently led Penzell back to Northwestern's largest student-run show as director of the company's production of *On the Town*. Penzell, who directed last spring's musical *She Loves Me*, sat down with **PLAY** to discuss why old musicals are good musicals and why it's okay to mix business with pleasure.

PLAY: Explain the Dolphin Show's history and significance.

Josh Penzell: I'm actually not the best historian of the Dolphin Show and I probably should be. This is the 64th year and it's the largest student-directed, student-produced musical in the country. It's an institution of Northwestern.

PLAY: What is your prior history with the Dolphin Show?

JP: I heard about it freshman year, auditioned for it but didn't get in.

PLAY: How does it feel to be rejected year after year and then come to, essentially, one of the most powerful, if not the most powerful, position in the show?

JP: I won't lie and say it doesn't feel good, but as a director I also understand why you wouldn't want to call people back who aren't right for the roles. It's disappointing not to get called back, obviously, but I guess it also, in a weird way, helped me to get to the point I am now. I felt directing might be something I'm more inclined to do.

PLAY: Why did you petition to direct in the first place?

JP: There's something nice about it. When you get out to direct in the real world, a lot of times you don't have the opportunity to work in such huge venues. I thought it would be a great venue and a way to improve myself as a director and a wonderful experience to have and a chance to work on a show I would never be able to do again.

PLAY: So you chose the Dolphin Show above everything?

JP: I petitioned for everything but I (preferred) the Dolphin Show. It offered me the most opportunity to expand myself as a director.

PLAY: Who was responsible for choosing the show *On the Town*?

JP: The producers and I sat

down soon after I was selected as the director and we talked about possible shows and I threw out a whole bunch. Then they basically said, "If there was one show you'd want to do, what would it be?" So I said, "I'd really love to do *On the Town*."

PLAY: But why *On the Town*?

JP: I'm kind of a musical theater buff and I collect musical theater CDs and it was one of the first I got, actually. I popped it in and kind of fell in love with it. It just opened me to other types of musical theater. I listen to musical theater like anyone else would (listen to) Britney Spears or Beyoncé. *On the Town* was always on repeat.

PLAY: What do you think the show has to offer Northwestern? You personally care for it, but I'm sure you can get the argument that it is disliked by many as well.

JP: It's impossible to please everyone. I thought this was a nice show to do to explore some of the older styles of musicals. I think it's just fun. It's energetic. It makes the audience use their imagination.

PLAY: Were there challenges along the way?

JP: There are always challenges, especially working in such a huge space with so many actors and on such a large project. It's such an old show to adapt to modern theater. That was a challenge. But in the end, the challenge will make the show better.

PLAY: Did you receive any negativity for casting your girlfriend (Margot Rubin) in the show?

JP: Sure. I'm sure there were rumors. I'm sure people would talk. However, I was not the only one in that (casting) room. Vindication will come ... in the sense that if people are upset and feel it was an unfair decision, when they see the show hopefully they will realize that I cast it completely on talent and completely on the person who was right for the role.

—Shari Weiss

on the web



www.you-are-beautiful.com

I happened to open a mailbox in Wrigleyville this week and saw a sticker inside the drawer that said, "You are beautiful." After a little smile, I made a date with my friend google and came across you-are-beautiful.com. The site chronicles a 2-year-old artistic movement based in Chicago that seeks to "use the medium of advertising and commercialization to spread a positive message." Be sure to check out the "Installations" section for creative displays of the phrase "you are beautiful" on everything from El stations to chain-link fences. Stickers are free and available on the site upon request.

—Jess Cohen

KIM
Jeffries

BECAUSE I CAN



Denial about the future is reverse senioritis

Senior year is causing an identity crisis. I'm technically still a student, but I'm also cramming in extracurricular activities and spastically applying for jobs.

For instance, I spent hours this week putting the final touches on the materials I'm sending to various publications, begging — albeit articulately — for employment. And as I write this, I have two English papers due in as many days, neither of which is considerably off the ground. (Here's to hoping my professors don't read this.) After spending weeks at home for winter break and stumbling to answer family friends' inquiries as to what my plans are for next year, I realized just how close I am to entering the real world.

And then I went into a tailspin, dragging friends to on-campus events, diving into my school work and watching copious amounts of *My So-Called Life* with my best friend, wishing I could relive the days when Angela Chase was my idol. (Although, when

Claire Danes snootily shot down any serious reflection on her *MSCL* role during an interview with a *Washington Post* writer while promoting *Shop Girl*, my heart broke just a little.) Anything to avoid thinking about my uncertain future.

My friends seem to have a better grasp on impending reality than I do. One of my roommates is in California for a medical school interview, another friend is on her way to Philly for a job interview at a financial company and still another already has a sweet job lined up with a starting salary just shy of the six-figure mark. He's looking to buy a condo in Seattle. I'm staying put on campus and thinking about maybe starting to sort of look at cheap apartments on the North Side.

Even with the pressure of the rest of my life weighing on my shoulders, I'm in denial over the fact that my last summer vacation is over and that six months from now my friends will most likely be scattered across the country instead of within a

three-block radius. And I'm sure in denial about the paper proposal I have due in 12 hours that I've only vaguely thought about in the back of my head.

I have a friend who found a quote from somewhere saying, "Senioritis: We'd find a cure, but we just don't give a crap." Or something along those lines. At first I thought this was clever, but when I thought it through (yes, I actually thought about this seemingly asinine statement — the things we do to procrastinate) I realized I have the opposite of senioritis: I've had my heart set on being a Northwestern student since I was 17 and I'm not ready to give that up yet.

So I'm hoping that within the next six months I'll shake this reversion to worshipping Angela Chase and find myself a job. Or at least not fail my English classes because my papers were afterthoughts to a magazine column. ▶

Medill senior Kim Jeffries is the **PLAY** editor. She can be reached at k-jeffries@northwestern.edu.