

SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION  
OF  
STUDENT FINANCIAL AID ADMINISTRATORS

Issue No. 1

February, 1997

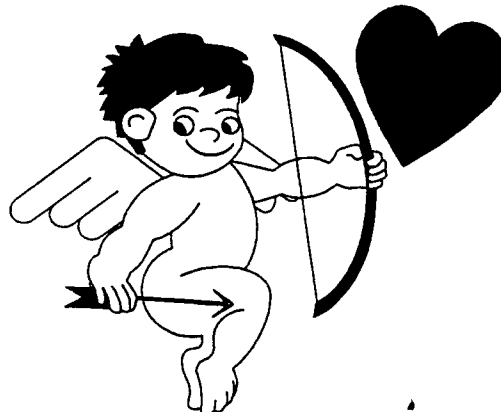
NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT  
By Brenda Schmitt

"It is impossible to enjoy idling thoroughly unless one has plenty of work to do." - Jerome K. Jerome.

That quote, this time of the year, leads me to believe that all of US should be able to enjoy an idle moment; if we weren't all sooooo busy! I hope that 1997 is off to a good start for each and every one of you. It certainly will go down in history as the Spring Registration that got off to a cold, windy, and un-believable snowy beginning!

As I look forward to my year as your President, I am both overwhelmed and excited at the thought of all that is facing our Association in 1997. I am also thankful for the enthusiastic individuals that will be serving on our Executive Council, all of the SDASF AA members that keep our Association strong, and all of the individuals and corporations that support SDASF AA in a variety of ways. That will make my job easier!

On a personal note, "Thank you" for the opportunity to serve as your SDASF AA President. With your help, I am confident that SDASF AA will continue to serve our State, RMAF AA and NAF AA as a leader in the Financial Aid Profession.



## 1997 SDASFAA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

PRESIDENT: Brenda Schmitt - Presentation College  
\* Conference Committee  
\* Recognition Committee

PRESIDENT-ELECT: Ken Kocer - Mount Marty College  
\* Counselors Workshop  
\* Awareness Committee

PAST PRESIDENT: Rosie Jamison - Dakota State University  
\* Committee of Record

SECRETARY: Colleen Clifford - University of South Dakota  
\* Student Diversity

TREASURER: Deb Henriksen - Dakota Wesleyan University  
\* Member Information

COUNCIL MEMBER: Glen Poppinga - Kilian Community College  
\* Review Committee

COUNCIL MEMBER: Cheryl Schunneman - National College  
\* Education Committee

COUNCIL MEMBER: \* Rich Coplan - Lake Area Technical Institute  
\* Financial Aid Information Night

COUNCIL MEMBER: \* Brenda Murtha - Augustana College  
\* Education Committee

ASSOCIATE MEMBER: \* Donna Johnson - First Bank  
\* Member Information Committee

## SDASF AA HAPPENINGS

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SDASF AA Executive Council met in early December to plan our year, set our goals and objectives for 1997. I hope that all of you will think seriously about how you can be an important part of the Leadership of our Association. It's a wonderful opportunity to experience. In the very near future, your President-Elect will be asking for interested individuals to come forward to serve. Don't hesitate to contact Ken if you have an interest in up-coming positions for 1998.

The following positions will be open for next year:

President-Elect	(3 year commitment)
Secretary	(1 year commitment)
Council Member	(2 year commitment)
Council Member	(2 year commitment)

I have included the Minutes from the Executive Council Meeting with my Newsletter. Please feel free to send any comments or questions my way for items that you feel would be beneficial to have the Executive Council discuss at our next meeting.

One agenda item for the Council was to set goals and objectives for the year. I'd like to share those with you. We thought that one of the most important things that we need to do is promote our Association and encourage members to share in the Leadership roles of the Executive Council and the Committees. We need to share "why" we volunteer and the benefits that we reap as professionals.

The Council also made a decision to submit our Early Awareness Project for consideration for NASFAA's State Award. Donna Johnson and her Awareness Committee will be working on the application and informational sheet. Thank you, Donna and members of the Committee.

Another important area that we want to stay focused on is SDASF AA's Reauthorization Committee and possibly the implementation of a Reauthorization Task Force.

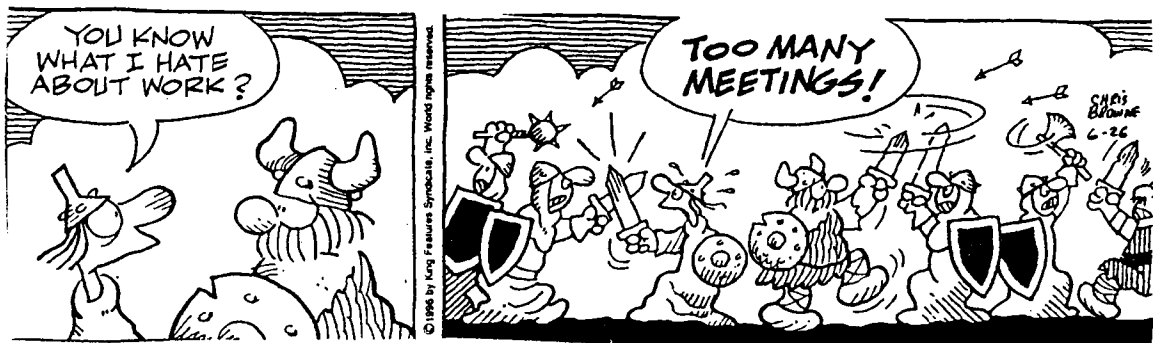
I think that our goal is always to keep each other informed and "a-float" in the world of Financial Aid and that will always be our most important goal!

Financial Aid Awareness Month gave us a chance to "spread the word" about our profession. We were seen and heard through radio, t.v., and print. A special thanks to Donna Johnson and the Awareness Committee, Renee Leach for putting together the mailings to the stations, counselors and agencies; and to all of our talented SDASFAA people who shined on the airwaves! Donna will put together a report as to the participation and coverage and I will include that in my next Newsletter.

Financial Aid Call-In Night was held this year at the campus of National College in Rapid City on Monday, January 27th. Donna will be putting together a report of the SDASFAA members that worked the phone banks and a breakdown of the types of calls that they received. I did hear from Donna that the group answered eight-two phone calls and half of those that did call in, heard the event advertised on t.v.

Our Early Awareness Project touched third graders in twenty of our grade schools in South Dakota. 1,045 students were being targeted to receive clock banks and brochures with surveys for their parents to complete. Those surveys will be gathered and tallied during parent-teacher conferences and the results will be reported on by Donna Johnson as Chair of the Awareness Committee. I will put that information in my next Newsletter as well. Thanks to the creative individuals that designed the cases, created the brochure, and were "graduates" in the classroom. I talked about this project on our local radio station and one of my husband's deputies (who is the father of a fourth grader) went into a panic...we got his attention! I have included a copy of the Early Awareness Brochure so that all of you will be aware of what is being distributed and talked about to the third graders and their parents.

SDASFAA Directories will be distributed in Mitchell when we gather for the Department of Education Federal Update. If you are not planning to attend, your Directory will be mailed to you shortly after that meeting. Thanks to Lisa Isakson for Chairing the Member Information Committee and getting the Directory updated and distributed. And thanks to Student Loan Finance Corporation for picking up the postage for those Directories that need to be mailed out.



The Department of Education's Federal Update Training will be held in Mitchell, February 26th and 27th. Deb Tarpley will be our Trainer and then Deb will also join us at our Spring Meeting in Rapid City in March to add additional information or answers to follow-up questions from the training. **LEAVE YOUR BINDERS AT HOME!** Donna Johnson and First Bank will be furnishing binders for our training materials - Thanks, First Bank!

A Support Staff Workshop will be held this year, in Aberdeen, sometime in October. If you remember, we asked you and your support staff to complete a survey as to when and where and what topics would be of interest for this year's workshop. Carolyn Halgerson and the Education Committee will be working on this project. Please be prepared to share your time and expertise as needed.

SDASFAA Committees for 1997 are in place. Thank you to all that volunteered and to those that I took the liberty of "volunteering"! As a reminder to the Committee Chairs, if you have not yet asked a member of your Committee to serve as co-chair, please do so as soon as possible. As the co-chair, that person will then be responsible for chairing that committee for the next year and selecting their own co-chair, and so on. I think that this process will allow for more continuity from year to year and will give each year's president-elect a base to build on for the next year. Please contact me once you have designated your co-chair and I will make that note to pass on to Ken for next year's committees.

List Serve Information will be coming to us from Education Assistance Corporation. The Executive Council felt that this service would be beneficial to our Association. It would act as a clearinghouse of information for SDASFAA members, could reduce mailings and enable us to share financial aid business and issues with each other.

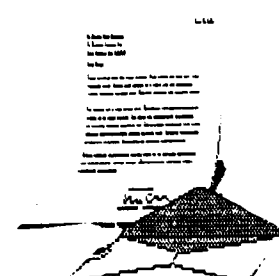
Nellie Mae Grant. I'm pleased to share some very exciting news with you! Donna Johnson received word in January that the "Nellie Mae Recognizing Early Awareness Project (REAP) Review Committee has given SDASFAA's Awareness Committee a \$1,000.00 grant for our project this year!

The 1997 High School Counselor Workshop will return to an RDTN presentation. Ken, as your President-Elect will start planning for this event in the Spring. Please be thinking of what you can do to help.

A FAIN Survey was distributed to High School Counselors, along with their FAIN Video. Sharon Kienow, Renee Leach, and I put our heads together to come up with a survey to use as a tool for this year's project. I'll be forwarding the surveys that have been returned to me to Sharon as Chair of the FAIN Committee. That Committee will then review the comments and suggestions and begin work on SDASFAA's 1997 FAIN Video. The survey asked if the Counselor utilized the video, rated it from 1-5, what improvements could be made, what other materials were distributed, etc. When the video was used, it was rated anywhere from 3-5, with five being highest. Most felt that the beginning was information that Counselors should have already talked to their students about prior to the time when they would be seeing the video. They suggested that more time be spent on actually completing the FASFA and describing the types of awards that students may receive. I am looking forward to this year's video! Sharon, please let us know how we can help you and your Committee with the project.

SDASFAA's 1997 Spring Conference is just around the corner! With over fifty inches of snow on the ground and continual freezing temperatures in Aberdeen this Winter, I am really looking forward to being in Rapid City in the near future! The Conference Committee is hard at work planning an exciting conference for March 24th through the 26th. I hope that all of you are making plans to go "diggin' for gold" with us in Rapid City! I have included a tentative program, and registration and reservation information with this Newsletter. Please pay close attention to the dates that you need to respond by for both room reservations and registration for the Spring Conference.

The NASFAA Awards Committee is inviting nominations for the Association's 1997 Awards. Recipients will be announced in July at the National Conference in Philadelphia. The Leadership Award is presented to individuals, who need not be financial aid administrators, who have made outstanding contributions to the Financial Aid Profession at the regional and state levels over a sustained period of time (seven years or more). The nomination form must be received in the NASFAA office by March 1, 1997. Please contact me if you have individuals that you would like to have nominated.





The 1997 NASFAA State Award applications are also being solicited. The purpose of the award is to recognize individual state associations of student financial aid administrators for outstanding projects that contribute to the Financial Aid Profession. The Executive Council has asked Donna Johnson and the Awareness Committee to submit SDASFAA's Early Awareness Project for consideration in the category of "Service to Students, Parents, or Families." The deadline for submission is March 1, 1997. Keep your fingers crossed!

Senator Tom Daschle's Staff has shared the name and telephone number of the education point person for the Senator's office with me. Her name is Grace Reef and she can be reached at 1-800-424-9094.

Dale Oberlander needs our thoughts and prayers. Dale's home was destroyed by fire, smoke and water damage recently. He lost everything and is now trying to re-group and go forward.

Bob and Judi Walker sent Rosie and SDASFAA Members a note of thanks for the cards and thoughts that came their way when Bob's mother passed away.

Thank you, Rosie! I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Rosie, on behalf of all of SDASFAA; for your leadership as our President for 1996. I look forward to working with you this year and will be drawing on your expertise and experience to help me through my year. My goal is to continue what you and others before you have started and to do my part to keep SDASFAA strong and active in the Financial Aid Profession.

A Note From Donna Johnson, First Bank: FINANCIAL AID AWARENESS WEEK/MONTH WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!! A quotation by Henry Ford came to mind as we wrapped up our Financial Aid Awareness Month... "Teamwork -- Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success"! A big THANKS goes out to everyone who helped make the Financial Aid Awareness Week/Month a huge success. No matter what you did...whether it was participating in a radio or t.v. program, contacting your newspapers, talking about it at a FAIN or encouraging the counselors to do so, securing the Governor's Proclamation, sending letters, helping with the call-in night, providing the facilities (thanks, National College!!), etc...your involvement as a part of the "SDASFAA team" was important. We only received 82 calls during our Call-in Night which was down from prior years, but we still created an awareness for families who may have not taken advantage of the call-in. We're open to suggestions for next year, so please don't hesitate to provide your input.

Grant Uecker faxed me information that he wanted to share with our membership and I have included that message with my Newsletter. Grant serves on the RMASFAA Federal Issues Committee and assures me that he will do his best to keep us on track and up-to-date with the issues and the "hot topics" that affect SDASFAA. Thanks, Grant, for your willingness to serve on the Committee and giving us a comfort level where Federal Issues are concerned!

Jay Larsen has forwarded information to me concerning reauthorization issues. I have included a copy of that fax with this Newsletter. Please note the last paragraph concerning the survey that will be distributed at the Spring Conference. The results of the survey and other reauthorization information will be discussed during the reauthorization update session. Thanks, Jay and Clark for keeping us informed!

1996 SDASFAA AWARDS. Enclosed with this Newsletter, you will find a recommendation form from Rosie Jamison, SDASFAA Past-President, for the "Outstanding Service Award" and the "Douglas Steckler Professional Development Award". We will recognize the recipients of these two awards at our Spring Conference. Please submit your recommendations and supporting information to Rosie at your earliest convenience. Please remember, only SDASFAA Members are able to submit a recommendation.

Thanks, Rosie! We will be looking forward to the recognition of our members!

Deadline date for submitting items for future Newsletters this year will be:

March	31
May	31
July	31
September	30
November	30

Until next time, remember what Helen Keller taught us... "Life is either a daring adventure or nothing at all!"

Brenda



TO; ALL SDASFAA MEMBERS  
FROM; GRANT G. UECKER  
RE; RMAFSA FEDERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE  
DATE; JANUARY 30, 1997

WHILE ATTENDING THE RMAFSA CONFERENCE IN OMAHA, I WAS ASKED TO BE ON THE RMAFSA FEDERAL ISSUES COMMITTEE. I ACCEPTED! LISTED BELOW ARE THE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FOR OUR NOT-SO-BEAUTIFUL-STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA RIGHT NOW. PLEASE CONTACT THEM IF YOU HAVE ISSUES ON EDUCATION FUNDING OR ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO KNOW YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT. ALSO, I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "HOT TOPIC" DISSEMINATION IN SOUTH DAKOTA. AS I LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS TOPIC, I WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH YOU. HOPE TO SEE MANY OF YOU IN MITCHELL IN A FEW WEEKS! HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

GGU

### HOW TO CONTACT YOUR LAWMAKERS

SEN. TOM DASCHLE	202-224-2321
U.S. SENATE	800-424-9094
509 SENATE HART OFFICE BLDG	FAX 202-224-2047
WASHINGTON, DC 20510	E-MAIL tom_daschle@daschle.senate.gov

GRACE REED HANDLES EDUCATIONAL ISSUES FOR THIS OFFICE

TIM JOHNSON	202-224-5842
U.S. SENATE	800-537-0025
528 SENATE HART OFFICE BLDG	FAX 202-228-0368
WASHINGTON, DC 20510	NO E-MAIL ADDRESS YET

SARAH DAHLIN HANDLES EDUCATIONAL ISSUES FOR THIS OFFICE

JOHN THUNE	202-225-2801
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	800-755-5646
506 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BLDG	FAX # 202-225-5823
WASHINGTON, DC 20515	NO E-MAIL ADDRESS YET

NO ONE DESIGNATED FOR EDUCATIONAL ISSUES



# South Dakota State University

Student Financial Aid

Box 2261, Administration 10E  
SDSU  
Brookings, SD 57007-0198  
Phone 605-688-4695  
FAX 605-688-8384

January 31, 1997

To : Brenda Schmitt FAX 605-229-8430

From : Jay Larsen

Subj : Newsletter information

Reauthorization report - Jay Larsen

The South Dakota Members of Congress education legislative assistants have noted there probably will be delays in working on the Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. They expressed the efforts are now going to education bills as proposed by senators and representatives. In the near-term, the efforts will be working toward reconciling the various bills for consensus.

As appropriate, please respond to the education bills.

The addresses for the education legislative assistants as of January 30, 1997 are:

Grace Reef for Senator Tom Daschle  
phone 202-224-2321  
Fax 202-224-2047  
E-mail grace\_reef@daschle.senate.gov

Sarah Dahlin for Senator Tim Johnson  
phone 202-224-5842  
Fax 202-228-0368  
no E-mail address yet

Jafar Karim for Representative John Thune  
phone 202-225-2801  
Fax 202-225-5823  
E-Mail jafar.karim@mail.house.gov

Reauthorization and education bills will be discussed at the SDASFAA spring meeting. A survey will be at the registration table for members to complete on March 24th. The results and other related information will be discussed during the March 26 reauthorization session.

# Older students becoming more common on U.S. campuses

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of American college students over age 40 has more than tripled over the past two decades, rising from 477,000 in 1970 to 1.6 million in 1993, according to a new study.

People over 40 made up 36 percent of the U.S. population in 1970 but 40 percent in 1995, according to the study released Wednesday, which relied on Census figures.

"By sheer numbers, the baby boomers are revolutionizing our educational worlds, as they've been doing all along," said Ted Freeman, president of the Education Resources Institute, which co-sponsored the study.

But demographic shifts cannot ex-

plain the entire boom in older students, said Jamie Merisotis, president of the Institute for Higher Education Policy, the other co-sponsor.

"People over the age of 40 are going back to college to be retrained," he said. "Lifelong learning is becoming a reality for Americans."

Two-thirds of the older students are women, and some have returned to school after a divorce or after their children get older, giving them time to develop a career, he said.

Others are just looking for a career change or are trying to keep up with an increasingly competitive marketplace.

Others findings:

- Students 40 and over make up 10 percent of undergraduates, 22 percent of graduate students and 6 percent of students in medical, law or other professional programs.

- Most 40-plus students — 79 percent — are part-time. More than half of the part-time students attend two-year public schools.

- Most older undergraduates are white (82 percent) and married (59 percent).

- 57 percent of 40-plus undergraduates work at least 30 hours per week, compared to 25 percent of students aged 18 to 24. Older students work an average of 38 hours per week.



*"Now that I can afford it,  
I'm back in college."*



American News Photo by Dick Carlson

**Money for the mind:** High school senior Sara Healy is investigating all kinds of ideas on how to get the money she'll need for college.

## Plan for college costs

**S**ara Healy, a senior at Central High School in Aberdeen, has her mind on the high teens and low 20s these days. She's not thinking about temperatures, or age. She's thinking about college costs, which she expects to hover somewhere around \$20,000 a year.

"I would guess that's what it's going to be for the ones I've applied to," she said. For a private university, she's right on target. Experts say it's costing about \$80,000 these days to attend a private college for four years, including tuition, room and board. For a public university, the figure is about \$36,000.

Here are some ways Healy and her parents, Reed and Deanna Healy of Aberdeen, plan to attack the bills.

■ **Aid:** Sara said she is looking into scholarships and other avenues of financial aid.

■ **Savings:** Her parents will be helping some. Deanna said parents with toddlers should start planning for college costs now.

"Start saving when they are young," she said. "If we think it's expensive now, it's going to be a lot more by the time little children get there."

■ **Jobs:** Sara plans to work to help pay for college. That's been a big help for her brother, Chad, who attends North Dakota State University in Fargo, N.D.

"His summer jobs have been very helpful," Deanna said.

■ **Choice:** Encouraging children to consider colleges that provide a quality education in a reasonable price range also helps, Deanna said.

A Gallup and Richardson poll reports that more than 80 percent of parents surveyed said college is either indispensable or very valuable to their children's economic and personal well-being. But about 22 percent of the parents said they have saved nothing at all for their children's college education.

Reporter Russ Keen

# Winter costs!

## *But what an investment*

**O**ne of the snowbanks in my driveway recently refused to budge, and in doing so, soundly defeated the mechanical battering ram I like to call a pickup truck.

The old Ford eventually made it through the snowdrift, but not before the hard-packed monster took its toll.

I've been driving long enough to know that snapping sounds are bad. So are clunking sounds and violent vibrations when the vehicle moves even slightly.

The inspection revealed two shiny pieces of metal underneath the truck, near the driver's side front tire. The ends of these pieces were shiny because they had, not too long ago, been connected. The two pieces I was looking at were originally one. I can only assume the piece was intended to remain intact for the mechanism to operate.

As I wrote the check for the new whatsit under the front end of the pickup, I couldn't help but think about the cost of living in this area.

**Maybe we should look at the cost of making it through winter as an investment. The bills we pay now give us the right to live here through those 30 glorious days of summer that come between the floods and the humidity.**

Heating bills, car repairs, extra food, winter clothing — it all adds up. And those are just some of the things we need to get along when the snow flies. Recreation costs, if there is time for it between shoveling snow and begging your neighbors for some help, pile up on top of day-to-day expenses like snowflakes in a north wind.

Winter costs! There's no doubt about it.

But that's the trade off, I guess. Maybe we should look at the cost of making it through winter as an investment. The bills we pay now give us the right to live here through those 30 glorious days of summer that come between the floods and the humidity — those few days when the mosquito count is down and the really bad thunderstorms have yet to arrive.

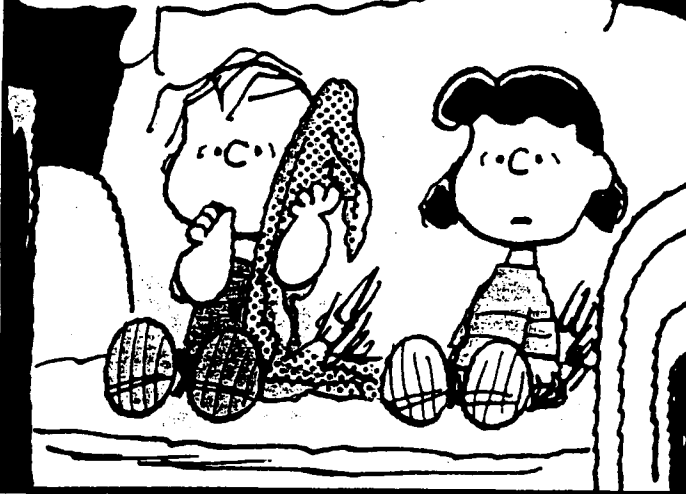
It is those days that I look forward to. That's the time of year there's really nothing bad to say about South Dakota. But we pay for that, don't we?

Our snowplows break, our vehicles wear out and sometimes our cattle even die because of the cold and the blowing snow.

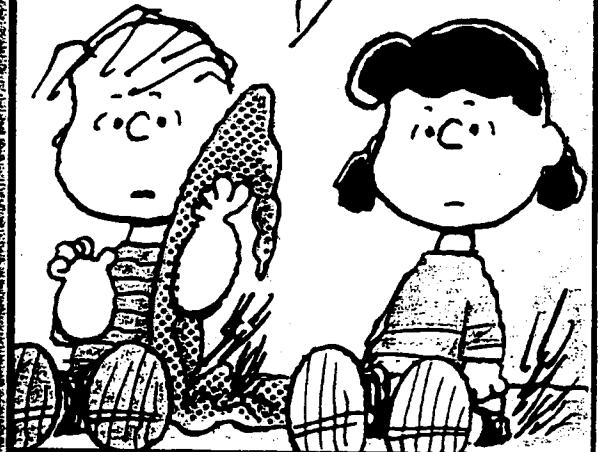
But when summer comes, we enjoy it. We drink in the long days and warm winds like we are dying of thirst. And maybe we are. But somehow we seem to make it. We do the work, we pay the price and before long summer comes back around again. And as we sit around the barbecue, we remind each other of the investment made in such a summer day by repeating the phrase that makes us most proud to live here: "Twenty below keeps out the riffraff."

I THINK THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW..

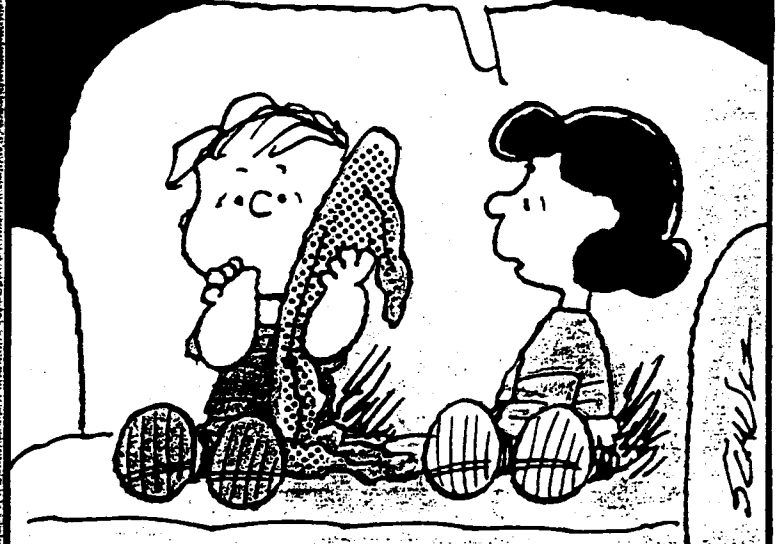
WHAT'S THAT ?



THE WORLD DOES NOT REVOLVE AROUND YOU!



YOU'RE KIDDING!



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