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12 U. THE NATIONAL COLLEGE NEWSPAPER

Kathleen Peterson

By Tim Casey

The Minnesota Daily

She completed

her degree on

the 56-year plan

U. of Minnesota, Twin Cities

At a university, graduations are

sometimes commonplace and often

routine. But for Kathleen Peterson,

who started her college career in

1932 at Macalester College in St.

Paul, Minn., a college career has

school to work because (of) the De-

"I went for two years, then quit

taken on a new meaning.

pression," she said.

Bush decides against settling Eastern strike by intervention

WASHINGTON (AP) — Presi-dent Bush on Tuesday virtually ruled out intervening in the Eastern Airlines strike, saying "man-to-man negotiation" is preferable to a gov-

The Battalion

Page 12

ernment-imposed settlement. While he didn't flatly rule out stepping in to end the walkout, Bush said his policy "will hold firm" despite pressure in some congressional larters to force him to act.

Fielding questions for more than 40 minutes in the White House briefing room, he insisted that "there isn't malaise" in his administration because of the drawn-out fight over confirmation of Defense

Secretary-designate John Tower. "A lot is happening," the presi-dent said. "Not all of it good, but a lot is happening.... We're on track." Bush defended his chief of staff, saving John Supupu, the former

saying John Sununu, the former New Hampshire governor, knows his way around Washington and is doing his job well. Bush said he has

"total confidence" in Sununu. Bush noted that Tower has pledged not to drink a drop of liquor if he gets the job and told his nation-ally televised news confreence, "Yow" here 2 5000 "You'll have 25,000 people in the Pentagon making sure that's true."

The president said his backing of Tower against Democratic opposi-tion in the Senate "isn't iron-willed stubbornness; it's a question of fundamental principle here.'

Tuesday's editions of the Los An-geles Times that Nelson would be not be kept as INS commissioner in The president had spare time in

news conference statement to "restate my belief that free collective bargaining is the best means of resolving" the strike.

Wednesday, March 8, 1989

He exhorted Eastern manage-ment, the Machinists union and other unions to conduct "head-onhead, man-to-man negotiation" and said he thought that would be "better and more lasting . . . than an imposed government settlement, which could cause the airline to totally shut

down. On other subjects during the more than 40-minute question-and-

Bush administration will replace

Alan C. Nelson as head of the Immi-

gration and Naturalization Service,

an administration source said Tues-

partment audit that criticized man-

agement and operations of INS, is

searching for someone to take over

the agency, said the source, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The source confirmed a report in

Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, who recently received a de-

day

answer sesion, Bush said he would like to see Palestine Liberation Org nization Chairman Yasser An "speak out" against raids that has been carried out by Palestinian gue rillas, against Israelis in southe Lebanon.

Bush said he hoped these in dents would not jeapordize US talks with PLO representatives h said he thought that Arafat shout "forthrightly condemn any tem that might be perpetrated by the retinings."

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President intends to replace immigration head, source says

onside WASHINGTON (AP) — The 1986 immigration reform law, white ish administration will replace provided for massive amnesty for Dole legal aliens. drainin

INS became embroiled in a num ing it w ber of lawsuits charging that it we improperly making it difficult for legal aliens to obtain legal status us mation der the new law.

The Justice Department aut completed two weeks ago, cited IN for its failure to conduct backgroun checks on many applicants for izenship and found that 23,000 v. able naturalization certificates been lost by the agency's Miami gional office.

> NG BREAK Life And Art SPRING BREA

iends Film critics: Ten stars or two thumbs down? ued From

Self-styled celebrities are either true authorities or blatant advertisements

By Randy Gener Sagebrush

U. of Nevada, Reno

When you browse through the Style section of any newspaper and read the exclamatory critics' quotes in the movie ads, don't they make you feel as if the greatest pictures of the year appear every week?

Film Commentary

Page one has Critic X blurting out: "Sheer pleasure! Don't miss it!" Just below that, Critic Y screams, "Compelling! One of the year's best!" with four huge stars emblazoned across the ad. Then come the conflicting opinions: Critic A says the movie is "remarkable." Critic B launches a slap-dash attack: "silly, crummy, predictable." You are flabbergasted: are these idiot savants watching the same film?

But such is the politics of critical superlatives nowadays. A movie no longer



had to come up with a easy-on-the-mind shorthand. Thus the star-rating system emerged as a form of criticism.

Ultimately, however, the star system is as meaningless as KABC-TV movie reviewer Gary Franklin's 1 to 10 ratings or Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert's "Two thumbs up!" Is there truly a difference between two stars and one-and-a-half stars? If there is, should people go to the

The New York Times was quo ads for Midnight Run, which "instantly forgettable," since a fine performace by Robert De the ads for *Cop*, the line, " thriller!", could be seen. But i really saw Janet Maslin's Na Times piece, that quote was actu headline of the review.

lifted out of context. Vincent

Now 73, Peterson, who "always regretted not finishing school," recently received her English Literature degree in December - 46 years after she started her course work and eight years after return-ing to the U. of Minnesota.

She finished last June with a 3.8 grade point average and went through ceremonies last quarter at the urging of her family

Peterson said she didn't feel out of place at the university because of her age. "I've found that people will be a little nicer to you if you're handicapped or old. I try not to look too decrepit."

At one time, Peterson even attended school with her daughter Mary and her granddaughter Sarah Williams.

sells because it is a movie, work of art or simple entertainment. Movie moguls are more concerned with a set of good reviews from the national critics.

Newspapers and television stations, on the other hand, are simply enchanted when their critics get quoted it's publicity for them too. So they accelerate efforts to "sell" their critics, who then become instant celebrities, whether deserved or not.

No one is disputing that credit should be given when due. But when intelligent film discussions are reduced to impotent puffs, the public is being duped.

National Review Film Critic John Simon once wrote that reviews are inventions of newspapers. Essentially a consumer service group, staff critics were but publicity tools. When some media big-wigs found out only a handful of people read reviews anyway, they

two star movie instead?

Franklin himself isn't satisfied with his system and sometimes exclaims "10 plus!" Does a better film than that become a 10 plus-plus? And when Siskel and Ebert say "two thumbs up," does it mean they were better films than last week's "thumbs up" films?

What if you saw the movie anyway and you're not sure what you think of it. Do "thumbs up" or "six stars" help you make any sense of it? Village Voice film critic David Edelstein got upset over a similar issue: "For several months my name loomed large on a . . . marquee for the Japanese film Tampopo — 'Obscenely pleasurable! Edelstein, Voice.' Then they took me down for two serious critics: 'I liked it Roger.' 'I liked it too, Gene. Let's give it two thumbs up.' Swine.'

Often, the quotes are deliberately

The worst cases occur w seems to pander to publicityp only interested in spreading! name around. Jeffrey Lyons, andra Pereiro

Sneak Previews, is the Mary movie critics. Lyons' critical wing the las appeared in 97 ads last year, the th an MTV vide only by Joel Siegal of ABC with

usic. Pereiro i Lyons is the "critic" who hall Cruise's dopey performance in C the lead role i as a "tour de force," and ravel from his I Vibes, one of the most panned iting auditions, of last year, with "I haven't laup a who coordinat hard all year." To top it all off, a ma Alba, The a spokesman for General Electric

In the end, it's all a debilitation for all and piriting mess. With critics who this Italian for "to ine that focuses mistake the glint of Tinseltowns Chapel Hill and with publicity people for what okey, who is headi said the magazir sponsible advertising" is an un the movies have become a destructed in art in gene us activities ar art

ity. The magaz ations, is bro rose, art and o "differentiate

> s," said Twee epartment. Tar Heel, l Hill

g things i

Described only journal Groening confirmed that some ld Review is about 40 stu characterizations in his strips act bal affairs and came from life experiences. "Ib of most journa Binky on a friend I had in college ose and discus Weil said. "Bu said. "We both had tremendous m as 'Questioni tic difficulties with girls, which orld." The st

us endless frustration.' s for foreign (action. Groening's choice to draw rabbits ennsylvan pretty arbitrary, he said. "But lo learned that a rabbit was the only siness and Br nts who aren't a

f visual and p arts progra "the student is an get hands

said Professor appeal to no ed at arts maio ctive. "We've tri

nominated writer for Fox-TV's In Ullman Show, which features a card Michelle family named the Simpsons.

HELL FOR BEGINNE WILL "LIFE IN HELL" OFFEND ME ? NHAT ARE THE WHAT IS "LIFE IN HELL MAJOR THEMES OF THIS CARTOON ? WORK, DEAT TAKE A GUESS SQUELCHED. IN HELL" EVER ACHIEVE HAPPINESS ? HARACTERS IN "LIFE WIL WHAT A SILLY QUESTION ! BINKY AND THE GANG WILL BE AS HAPPY AS YOU AR

The introductory cartoon to Matt Groening's nihilistic look at Life In Hell.

College favorite Groening achieves success in 'Hell' By John Delavan featuring three pathological r The Maroon and two fez-wearing, gay midgets Loyola U., LA

The primary themes of Matt Groening's cartoon are love, sex, work, death-

and, of course, rabbits. It's a comic strip featuring characters teeming with feelings of alienation and angst, whose mental states are tenuously neurotic at best

Given the premise, Life In Hell has rapidly become one of the most popular alternative comics, featured nationwide in college newspapers and weeklies.

Groening seems to be taking most of his success in stride. He comes across as pleasant and amiable, grateful that success has come on his terms.

"The total enterprise of drawing cartoons is frivolous and absurd," Groening said. "It's like playing."

But why create a rather demented (and often controversial) cartoon al I could draw that most peopled readily identify.' With Groening's success has a series of compilations entitled La Hell, Work Is Hell, School Is Hell Childhood Is Hell.

He is also an Emmy awa n," not just of western, No