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**MSC Literary Arts Committee Presents Arts Awareness Week**

**Schedule of Events**  
World's Longest Poem: October 16-20 from 10-2 at Rudder Fountain. Come be a part of the world's longest poem by sharing your work.

Spoken Word: Oct. 18 in MSC 203, Oct. 19 in MSC 205, and Oct. 20 in Rudder 601 from 5PM-6PM. \$2 per day or \$5 for all three days. Learn techniques in Spoken Word poetry from a published poet.

LAC

Persons with disabilities please call 849-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.

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**NCAAW!!**  
National Collegiate Alcohol Awareness  
Week--October 16-20



THURSDAY  
Red Ribbon Day  
Pledge to have a safe weekend  
and pick up a wallet card  
listing the signs of alcohol poisoning

0-3 RUDDER FOUNTAIN .. 11 AM TO 3 PM



**WRITER'S BLOCK**

**Gravity**  
Tess Gerritsen  
Published by Pocket Books

With the release of *The Andromeda Strain*, Michael Crichton lured the novel-reading public in a web of fear emanating from the possibility of an invasion by a space-born virus. While this scenario may seem like unrealistic science fiction to the science-savvy public of today, the idea was so intriguing and was displayed in such a realistic fashion that it is still known as a benchmark in the medical-suspense genre.

With *Gravity*, the bar has been raised. *Gravity*, set in the near-future in the completed international space station, is the horrific tale of a space crew trapped in the claustrophobia-inducing confines of a space station with an airborne, highly pathogenic disease.

What makes this novel especially frightening is the realistic manner in which it is told. Gerritsen has undoubtedly done her research. Her list of resources range from the top NASA flight surgeon, to a decompression chamber specialist, to

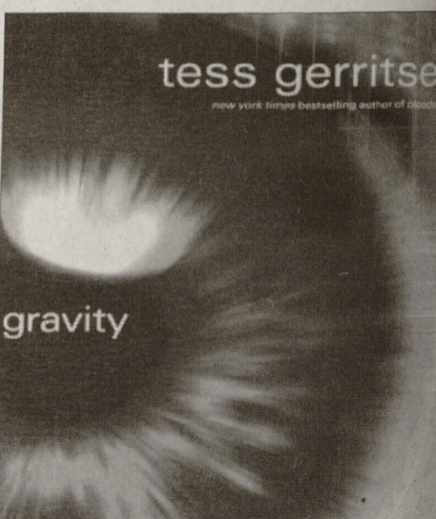
Jim Reuter — the real technician behind the international space station's life-support systems. This technical knowledge, paired with Gerritsen's knack for creating vivid pictures in her readers' minds, pulls this novel from the realm of science fiction into the realm of science possibility.

The only downside to the constant realism employed in the novel is the dialogue that incorporates the slang and technical jargon of NASA and medical personnel. However, Gerritsen included an appendix in the back of the novel for readers who are not rocket scientists, and if the readers pay attention, they just might learn something.

For the romantics, the author manages to incorporate a well-developed love story between a husband (who is stuck on Earth) and a wife (trapped on the space station with the disease) who are going through a divorce.

The movie rights to this book have already been sold to New Line Cinema, so readers who like to read the book before everyone begins to rave about the movie should rush out and grab

this gem of a thriller right now. (Grade: A+) — Stuart Hutson



**Dear Alice... Rejected Letters to Advice Columns from Completely Insane Idiots**  
Steven Ryniak  
Published by Muse World Media



This book is tiny — only the size of a common pocketbook — but it crams in more humor than most stand-up comedians manage in a lifetime.

The book is a parody of letters written to advice columnists from writers who have problems, from using too many steroids to turning into "weresquirrels." The jokes are lewd and the profanity is plentiful, but this is definitely one of the fun-

niest books since Al Franken's first foray into writing. This humor is not nearly so high-brow as Franken's, with much of the humor centering on profanity and slapstick — like "South Park."

One letter is written by a man who describes his problems going through the drive-thru of a fast food restaurant. He describes cursing at the attendant, and beating him unconscious while using expletives after every other word. Expletives actually take the place of proper nouns, to the point that everything is a "f—k." Needless to say, this humor is not for the faint of heart, but for those with the

stomach, it is laugh-out-loud funny. This story is surrounded by tales of weed-wacking squirrels to death and going to the most backwater sky-diving school in the world.

The letters are short, one to two pages at the most, which means this book is easy to pick up and put down for short humor breaks throughout the day. However, it should not be taken to church, as expletive-filled laughter is never looked on kindly by God. (Grade: A) — Jason Bennyhoff

**Eat the Rich (Abridged Student Edition)**  
By P.J. O'Rourke  
Published by Cato Institute

If only economics classes could use this as a textbook. *Eat the Rich* is a humorous examination of what makes some nation's economies successful, and what makes some nations' economies (and people) eat dirt.

Because O'Rourke uses some economic theory, only those who have taken some sort of macroeconomics course will be able to fully appreciate the book's look at economies from around the world. However, enough principles are explained, that even readers who have no clue what the gross national product is will be able to enjoy the general ideas expressed.

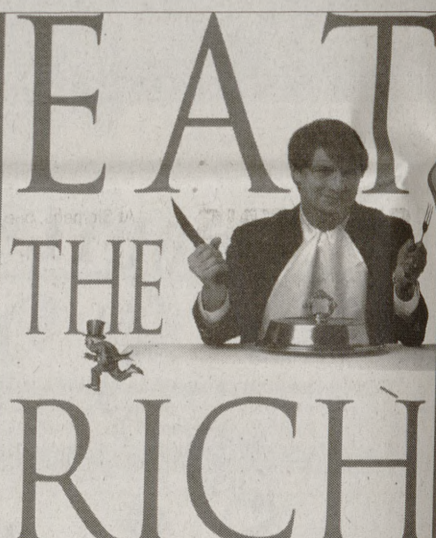
Unfortunately, O'Rourke writes solely from an extremely laissez-faire (capitalist) viewpoint. While capitalism is decidedly the general eco-

omic winner at this point in time, the author's continual slander of socialism (O'Rourke eventually gets to the point where he leaves the category of humor and enters insulting vulgarity) becomes tiring by the third chapter.

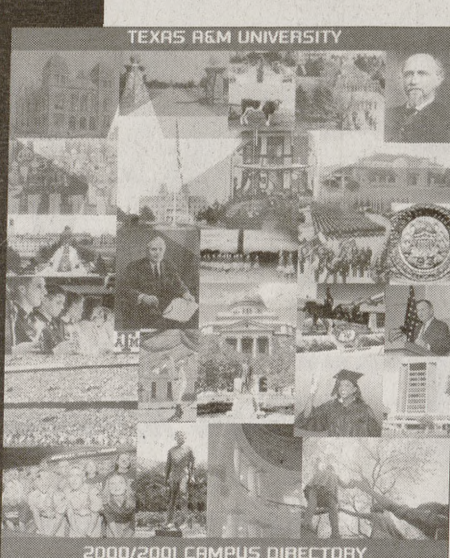
The book also bogs down in irritating successions of platitudes. Lines like "China stinks," and "[economics] is like a tricycle from Santa" are mildly humorous at first, but tire quickly. Considering that every page has at least three or four of these "pearls of wisdom," reading the book can get tedious quickly. Luckily, there are only 48 pages of this.

The book is short enough that any annoying characteristics do not have enough time to get under the reader's skin. The length also makes this the perfect book for a short night of reading before falling asleep to a night of capitalist dreams. (Grade: C) — Stuart Hutson

**EAT THE RICH**



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