

Gabrenya-Wang News

January 2006

Gonzo Journalism for Y'all

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GW News Staff in Transition



Publication Lag Explained

We didn't forget that you're still alive, *GW News* has not lost its mission to promote gonzo journalism (obviously), and the CIA has not rendered us to a Gulag in Eastern Europe. In our previously published issue, 2002, we presented evidence that Rumsfeld had tailed us across Europe, but then he and his boys set their sights on a greater folly, allowing us to return home to face their detritus.

What happened? We would like to blame it on some difficult labor problems (the staff escaped to college, etc.). But the real reason *GW News* wasn't published for several years, its offices were not remodeled, and its grounds are in disrepair is that editor Bill poured so much time into the antiwar movement of 2003 and its successor political movements.

It's a Free Country, Right?

Does the NSA know that you're the recipient of this lefty rag? Probably. If you received this missive by email, don't ever send a password by cleartext email again. If you browse our web site, quit using that online porn site and never Google "plastique." If you have a credit card, be careful what you buy. Otherwise, don't worry, you're an American and it's a free country.

Will and Anna, now young adults, are busily setting the stages for their futures. Will graduated from the University of Florida with a dual degree in Computer Engineering and Digital Art, as Anna continues her Biology program, also at UF.

Will: Web Designer

Will (né Bill III), 23, graduated in December 2004. He found a unifying theme in his major's complex and often frustrating duality by creating a music video for his senior engineering design project. You can see how his team's 9 months of work brought to fruition a 4 minute video, titled *Honestly*, at his portfolio web site, www.wkg3.com. You might also enjoy his "demo reel"—a summary of his work to date—on his site. His video *The Great Mankind* was awarded Best Social Statement of 2002 by the *GW News* film department.

Will enjoyed a deserved respite from his engineering and art studies in an extended backpacking sojourn through Germany and surrounding countries after his Junior year. Will's medium-term plan is to serve as a European stringer for *GW News*.

Eschewing the software development side of his degree, Will works at the Orlando branch of a British web design company, Lightmaker (www.lightmaker.com). His company produces complex web sites for medium to large companies (IBM, Disney) using Flash animation with database back-ends, if that makes any sense to you. He freelances building web sites for small companies.



An American in Paris, 2004



Anna: Biosinica

Anna, 21, will someday complete a degree in Biology with minors in Chinese language and Asian studies. Anna's Year of Living Freely brought her to Beijing for language study and extended travel through much of China, from Shanghai on the eastern coast to the north-western border with Pakistan.



In Gansu Province - Anna overdressed, with a Buddhist Tibetan prayer pole.

Anna studied for a semester at the Beijing Language and Culture University (北京語言大學) and a semester at Peking University (北京大學), building on two years of Chinese at UF. She speaks Chinese! She studied alongside students from throughout the world, and together they investigated the Beijing expat scene in great depth. The *GW News* editors and staff visited her in Beijing for Christmas 2004 (so cold...). Happily, she did not acquire a Beijing accent, so we allowed her to rejoin the staff in August 2005.

Anna is grappling with the dilemma of how to combine her interests in Biology with her language skills and travel obsession. Suggestions are welcome.

Apples

As the *GW News* staffers enter young adulthood, we see ever more clearly that the editors' qualities have gotten themselves shuffled seemingly randomly into the staffers. Will the staffers litigate?

Editorial Changes

Abandoned by the staff, the *GW News* office is oppressively quiet, and the company cafeteria serves up some pitiful grub. Staff dog Ada is of little help, only occasionally waking to sniff around for NSA bugs and chase Cheney's Haliburton boys out of the back yard.



Editors with Chairman 毛 at Tiananmen, Beijing

Yue-Eng's day job, at defense contractor Harris Corporation, has taken her through several interesting projects since the previous issue of *GW News*, none of which involved programming ICBMs, she claims. Briefly:

- National Archiving and Records Agency (NARA): A proposal to develop a web-based system to support NARA's extensive, complicated efforts to archive the universe
- U.S. Census: Harris developed a system to produce detailed maps from which census data can be collected. Vans drive through cities and the countryside recording structures on digital maps. If you mouse-over a structure on these maps, the residents' census data are displayed. And you thought you had privacy...
- National Geospatial Intelligence Agency: A project to produce web-based methods to access military imagery and information. 'nough said (This is her current project)

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Yue-Eng is pleased, sometimes, that she has passed her love of travel along to her children, and she hopes to follow their examples as much as possible to the extent that time allows.

Bill continues as chair of the undergraduate program at Florida Tech, now growing rapidly in size and complexity. His research on Chinese-focused cross-cultural psychology projects continues, but he has developed research programs in two new areas: cybersex and the culture wars. The former is primarily a theoretical project aimed at understanding cross-cultural differences in new forms of sexuality. The latter is motivated by the rise of the Christian political fundamentalists, and seeks to understand the psychological processes involved in Americans' ideological polarization. (Somehow, it's all about sex.)

Bill is entering his 11th year as editor of the *Cross-Cultural Psychology Bulletin*, a print publication of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (www.iaccp.org/bulletin). He used his new skills (read: obsession) with web application programming to develop IACCP's new web site (www.iaccp.org) and the SCPA site (below). Bill continues to develop complex strategies for avoiding day-to-day reality.

In 2003, following the initiation of the Cheney-Rumsfeld-Wolfowitz Iraq project, Bill helped found the Space Coast Progressive Alliance (www.SpaceCoastProgressiveAlliance.org) and has served as its webmaster and communications committee chair since. SCPA has gradually begun to have some impact on local county and city politics, and it is for this reason that you should take a closer look at the Patriot Act before you send Bill email.

A Gonzo Theory of Old Fogies

Parents assume that they socialize their kids from birth to early adulthood, but in fact the socialization runs in both directions. At each of their children's developmental stages, parents encounter and are influenced by a progressively older strata of American youth culture, learning about lifestyles, fashions, pop culture, and technology. Perhaps it is when this wellspring of cultural material is severed that parents enter the

GWN Directors Emeritus

Movin' & Groovin'

Emeritus directors of *GW News*, Bill Sr. and Rose, continue their high-octane retirement in Naples, Florida. They moved into a newly-built house in the same subdivision two years ago and have remodeled parts of the house once or twice since, installing wood flooring and crown moulding on their own and painting all surfaces at least twice. Bill is chair of the parish volunteer group while Rose is active in the church women's group. In a few months they will join the flight of middle class people out of Naples, as housing and maintenance costs, traffic, and overall density escalates in southwest Florida, making the area look more and more like (ugh!) Miami.

Rose celebrated her 80th birthday this year. The family held a huge! surprise! party for her, attended by 75 local friends and out-of-town relatives. *GW News* editor Bill and his brother Mark produced a retrospective film for the occasion; see: gabrenya.net.

As this issue goes to press, the *GW News* staff and Mark's family (Wendy, daughter Alison and son Matt) have just returned from Christmas together at a Holiday Inn in Georgetown, D.C. *GW News* highly recommends the new Holocaust Memorial museum, but was unimpressed with the new Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian.



Staff Meeting - *GW News* staff gathered for a business meeting in Naples on Thanksgiving, 2005 (missing: Ada)

developmental stage accurately termed "old fogies." Of course, if an old guy were to spend a career teaching undergraduate students, might he become permanently stranded at a mental age of 18?