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Independent- Jan. 23, 1989

Don Price

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Candidates look ahead to election

by Kirk Liljewall

Phil Trocchio and Ed Zamora are two students who care about the future of Northeastern. They are, respectively, running for the positions of President and Secretary in the upcoming Student Senate elections. They have definite ideas for improving Northeastern and share many important views.

Phil has approximately two years in the Student Senate, which he feels has been an excellent position in which to learn the inner workings of government. Ed Zamora has completed two terms in the Senate, and feels that he is qualified for the position of Secretary. Phil has seen, firsthand, some of the conflicts that have arisen between Student Government and the administration, and one of the first things that he would like to do is to break down the barriers of communication that exist between students and administration.

Phil and Ed both have taken a stand

that they will not yield to administrative pressure to press issues that have a direct influence on the students. Phil explained, "About a year ago, I attended a Board of Governors' meeting. They [the administration], wanted us to write our Congressmen stating that we were in favor of a tuition increase for higher education. What they did was push it on us, and we felt that this was not in the students' best interests. It helps to foster that mentality of 'us and them.' We can't function effectively without feedback from the administration. This is something I would like to change."

On a note of optimism, Phil cites the recent successes with the Homecoming Committee as an example of how "red tape" can be overcome when Student Government and administration work together. Also, Phil cited the present Fees and Allocations Committee, of which he is a member, as a good example of how well a committee can operate when everyone is working together. Phil cited

the excellent work of Tom Gouliamos and Gina Katsules, and their combined efforts, which caused Walter Williams, Director of Student Affairs, to remark that this was one of the best Fees Committees in recent memory.

To increase school spirit and promote active participation in school functions at Northeastern, Phil and Ed feel that a spirit of "coming together" is what is needed. They both have some ideas about certain activities of interest to students to be held in the cafeteria. Some of these include ping-pong, electronic darts, and free-throw basketball. All of these are designed to help people get together through an activity and ideally, get to know one another. A plan to hold intramural sports events in the new Physical Education building, possibly involving the student clubs, has also been considered by Phil.

Both candidates favor the decision to try to put Northeastern into an NCAA sports program. They believe that money

spent on Division II status and recruitment would be made up for in the long run by increased enrollment and an increasing prestige and status for Northeastern. Ed Zamora pointed out that along with the proposed changes in the sports program, academic changes have been improved and that this will continue to improve. Ed stated, "Now, Northeastern is getting a new name. Instead of 'Northeasy', it's becoming a school that people want to attend, instead of a 'pit stop' to bring your grade point average up, so you can attend a better school later on."

Phil stated that he would like to be instrumental in bringing the Student Senate together into a real working body for all students. He summed up his position by saying, "I would like to draw everyone together and have an 'open door' policy. If anyone has a problem, they can feel free to come up and say, 'I need help', no matter how big or small the problem may be."

THE NORTHEASTERN

n d e p e n d e n t

Volume 2 • Issue 8 • January 23, 1989

Northeastern Illinois University

Small controversy provides big picture for university operations

by Don Price

Over the past six years, a conflict between environmental interests and administrative necessities has been brewing over the construction of the new Physical Education building. The partial destruction of a nearby grove of swamp oak trees caused by this construction has been perceived as another example of an unfeeling bureaucracy in action. In reality, the situation provides insight concerning the inherent difficulties in balancing the needs and priorities of various interest groups.

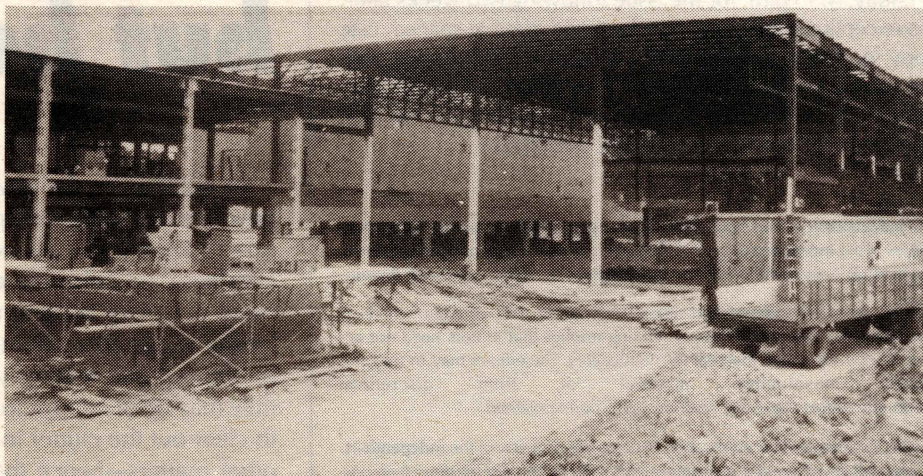
The story begins in 1982, when designs for the building were completed. Dr. Robert Betz, of the Biology Department, and Dr. Herbert Lamp, former chairman of that department, participated in an ad hoc building committee and pointed out that the current design called for cutting down several extremely old swamp oak trees. Known as pre-settlement trees, these oaks represent the original forestation of northeastern Illinois prior to urban development of Chicago and its environs.

According to Betz, "We made recommendations to save some of the oaks, and probably did save a couple. Not much more could have been done at that time. They probably should have asked someone from Biology about the trees in advance."

University Architect Gary Bryan recalls the planning process a little differently. "Originally, the design called for leaving the residential school buildings intact. The three cottages were later torn down, and when the new design reflected this, we found that any major design changes involved engineering problems and exorbitant costs, so we left things alone. No matter what, some trees were going to have to come down."

Two weeks after the design was finalized for contractors to bid on, funds for the building were frozen by Gov. Jim Thompson. Construction was delayed until 1985, when the state legislature ended the freeze.

In 1986, the city of Chicago threw UNI a curve by refusing to allow a water main running along St. Louis Avenue to be tied into the building's planned plumbing system at its southeast corner. To provide a backup system to operate in case of emergency, it is considered desirable to "loop" water mains around a building. Since the southeast connection was impossible, the existing pipe directly north of the building was repaired, and new mains were laid around the building's west and south sides. Plans were also drawn for an additional main to be laid on the building's east side—paralleling the St. Louis Avenue main and cutting almost directly through the oak grove.



Construction of the new P.E. building has hurt the nearby grove of oak trees and caused debate between students, faculty and staff. (independent file)

By this time, it became apparent that additional funding from the legislature would be necessary to complete the building as planned. The legislature agreed, but stipulated that all critical construction (i.e., minimum construction necessary to open the building for operation) had to be completed to whatever point existing funds would allow. Additional money would then be allocated to cover the remaining construction.

This situation forced a delay in construction of the remaining east-side water main. Authorization for new funding came late in 1987, and after other projects were completed, construction of the main was ordered during the summer of 1988. Four weeks ago, the main was built.

Pete Fortsas, a technical assistant in the Biology Department and member of the Landscaping Committee, discovered the trenches being dug a few days before Christmas and was horrified to see the path cut through the trees. He made inquiries about the situation, and soon Don Bichsel, vice-president of Development and Public Affairs, Bryan and President Gordon Lamb were out at the site to assess the matter.

(continued on page 3)

Editorials

Letters

Old building offends neighbor

To the Editor:

What a dirty shame it is to have Northeastern's newest structure, the PE building, sitting right next to the oldest building, which is a boarded-up mess which belongs in a slum area. It used to be some sort of residential school a long time ago—after which it became a hangout for suicidal teenagers. How long does it take to get rid of this eyesore? If demolition is not the solution, then perhaps your art department could wrap the whole thing up with some colorful material as the artist Christo does on his jobs. Or maybe some enterprising art students could paint a few murals with appropriate motifs on the sides. Anything would be better than that building's present appearance.

A NEIGHBORHOOD OBSERVER

The Northeastern independent Volume Two • Number Eight

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Letters to the Editor
should be typed
and
no more than 250 words.

Students must expect rising insurance costs

The 1600 Northeastern students who use the school Blue Cross/Blue Shield insurance may have noticed an increase on their bill this past semester. In fact, the current fee for the Fall trimester of \$89.30 is almost twice that of last fall's price of \$45.

Phyllis Sheain, director of the Health Services Department, said that higher-than-anticipated use of the insurance, the inclusion of maternity benefits (due to Federal regulations) and rising medical costs all have contributed to the rise in student fees.

One might assume that students attending other universities which offer similar policies would also be paying similar fees; however, that's not the case. Chicago State University students are presently paying \$61 per term, approximately 30% less.

Why are UNI students so much more expensive to insure? Sheain adds that possibly the median age of insurance-buying students here is higher than that of most other schools. The logic behind this reasoning is that as people get older their health care needs increase and, thus, so do their doctor bills.

So the best way to reverse this trend in rising insurance costs is to kick our older classmates out of school, right? No, not really. A more sensible approach would be for the school to choose a different, less expensive insurance policy.

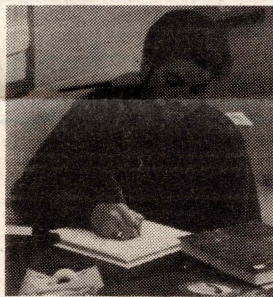
David Hale, member of the Board of Governors in

Springfield, who among other things is responsible for selecting insurance policies for Northeastern and its sister schools (Governors State, Chicago State, Eastern Illinois and Western Illinois) says, "The insurance companies are chosen out of 30 or so others (such as Marsh and McLennan, Alexander & Alexander and Arthur Gallagher & Co., every three years on the basis of lowest price with the most benefits." Since this policy has just started its second year of employment, relief from the skyrocketing costs can only come in another two years, if it comes at all.

Are those students in need of school coverage therefore at the whim of increasing medical expenses? Not necessarily. It might be worthwhile to contest such issues as men having to pay for prenatal care. A case could also possibly be made that, in light of the tremendous cost increases, the insurance companies themselves offer reasonably low rates to win their three-year contract, from whence they can increase prices.

Although there are reasons to complain, surprisingly few students do. Possibly they fear that the school might drop the insurance policy completely, leaving them to pay the higher cost of private insurance.

Sheain, however, reports that while the school is not required by law to offer health coverage, it is very unlikely that it would be dropped altogether, no matter how many grievances are voiced.



Mental Floss by Don Price

It's not just what we say, but how we say it

In addition to the new look of the independent, new features will be cropping up from time to time, one of which you are now perusing: an honest-to-goodness, no-holds-barred, first-person column. Instead of simply becoming a regular spleen-venting, I hope to use this column as a forum for both well-publicized and relatively obscure issues, as long as they may be of interest to readers. This will also serve to clear out the clutter in my brain, leaving room for other matters—hence the column's title.

Having touched upon the new look for this newspaper, I thought I would explain just what you should expect to read on this (or any) editorial page, both as a reader and possibly future writer. Today's session of Journalism 101 is now in session, class.

An editorial is an opinion piece, usually without an author's name, which reflects the majority opinion of the paper's editorial board. Editorials must be based on factual information, although as in any good research paper, these facts may be organized in such a way as to advance a particular point of view.

A commentary is also an opinion piece, but one which bears its author's name. This indicates that the opinions stated in the article are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the majority opinion of the editorial board. Any such article, whether written by a staff member or anyone else, will usually be labeled as a commentary.

There is a little-known format for writing an editorial criticizing someone or something: you first identify the object of criticism, then list your facts explaining why you feel criticism is necessary, and then list possible solutions or suggestions for improvement. It is on this last point that many critical editorials fumble the ball, hacking away at some subject and simply walking away, letting the pieces fall where they may.

In the future, if you don't see this format being followed in the independent, you have every right to protest. We owe you our thoughts on how things can be made better, not merely why we think things are rotten.

And here's a notion which may surprise you: we at the independent do not view ourselves as having an adversarial role toward the administration of this university. It is true that we serve as "watchdog," and when we feel that administrative policies or decisions should be called to task, we'll do so—with vigor. However, we'll also try to call attention to the positive things going on at UNI (and yes, there are a few; to start, the university let you in, didn't it?).

I hope that today's mini-journalism seminar will help you get more out of your newspaper reading—or writing, if you're so inclined. Questions, comments, criticisms, Pulitzer Prizes, proposals of marriage, etc., are always welcome.

Controversy (cont. from page 1)

Bichsel and Fortsas agreed that an expert's opinion should be sought, and Fortsas contacted Dr. Thomas Green at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle. Green came out to observe the damage with Fortsas, and later made another visit to discuss his findings with Bichsel. According to Bichsel, "Green was very displeased with what he saw. He felt that based on his observations, due to the building construction, the recent drought and the trenching, there could be up to a 50 percent mortality rate for the oaks."

As Bryan explained further, "Our original plan was written with the trees in mind; we tried to dig the trench with as little damage as possible."

Professor Bill Howenstine, of the Geography and Environmental Studies Department, also appraised the digging. "Even though I'm not an engineer, it looked to me as if the trench could have been dug closer to the building [away from the trees]. It would have involved tearing up some sidewalks, but we're talking about two-year-old sidewalks as compared to 200-year-old trees."

Bryan maintains that "there were additional cost and engineering problems besides simply tearing up sidewalks. We chose the routing which would cause, if not the least damage, then the next lowest amount."

The hiring of Green as a consultant was approved at a recent president's meeting. Specific plans of action, including a complete tree inventory, were to be discussed at a meeting between Bichsel and Green on Tuesday, Jan. 17. Details on the results of this meeting will be reported in the next issue of the *independent*.

Bichsel is optimistic about the future of the oaks. "Professor Howenstine has recently submitted a plan developed by one of his classes for preserving the trees. Also, Dr. Green tells me that these are the hardiest of oak trees. In any case, for the first time, we'll have a complete plan for the future."

Student Senate petitions available

Petitions for students interested in running for Student Senator are available in the Student Activities Office (E-221, ext. 3868); the Student Senate Office (E-210, ext. 3860) and the Board of Governors Office (E-207, ext. 3886).

Completed petitions must be returned to the Student Activities Office by 5 on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 1989.

The Winter 1989 Student Senator election takes place on Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 21-22. Students may cast ballots in the Village Square area or at one of Northeastern's satellite campuses. The top twelve vote-getters will serve for one year beginning Monday, March 6.

Candidates in the Jan. 24-25 Student Senate Officers Election

President

John Clark Finley
Phil Trocchio

Vice-President

Julius Jackson
Eugenia "Gina" Katsules

Treasurer

Mark "Lucky" Clover
John Garcia Souchet


Secretary

Evelyn Woodson
Ed Zamara



Guests enjoy the 1988 Madrigal Dinner in Alumni Hall on Dec. 13.

(photo by Steve Boom)



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Latest Zappa album continues legend

by Patrick Sanchez

Does politics belong in music? This question (which paraphrases the title of Frank Zappa's 1986 video release, *Does Humor Belong in Music?*), is once again answered with a powerful yes by the late 1988 release of Zappa's new live album, *Broadway the Hardway*.

Musicians like Sting, U2, and Frank Zappa have targeted their political pet peeves with relentlessly vivid attempts for the past several years. Sting and U2 have demonstrated their strong dedication to human rights by their membership and participation in Amnesty International events and in philosophy by the lyrics to their songs in albums such as *Nothing Like the Sun* and *The Unforgettable Fire*. Roger Waters, former bassist and founding member of *Pink Floyd*, has consistently attacked the military and economic tyrannies of various governments of the world—beginning with the infamous *Dark Side of the Moon* album and achieving a nightmarish intensity of realization in the watershed albums *The Final Cut* and *Radio KAOS*.

Ever since his first commercial album (*Freak Out* [1966]), Zappa has dealt with political themes in a smattering of his compositions; the bulk of his attention, however, was focused on creating musical documentaries of various elements of human behavior which were ripe for judgment based on the audience's value systems. Drug abuse, peer pressure, materialism, sexual deviations and other related subjects all received solid blows under the gun of his unusually percep-

tive songs. A gradual erratic shift toward a heavier political concentration has been evident beginning with the 1979 release of *Joe's Garage* which dealt heavily with the subject of censorship and other laws abridging the First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and expression.

The new album continues this trend and exposes the alarming movement towards the erosion of the separation of church and state. Consequently, there are two compositions which deal exclusively with the two religious leaders (Pat Robertson and Jesse Jackson), who made unsuccessful presidential bids this past year.

The individual tunes of this unfortunate two-pronged movement are also examined closely; expanding on the prescient themes introduced in his 1981 album release, *You Are What You Is*, Zappa takes aim at TV evangelists with hilarious results in the song, *Jesus Thinks You're A Jerk*. The line "Did he really choose Tammy to do his work?" from this song capsulates the feelings behind this song.

The album opens relatively weakly with two silly songs. *Elvis Has Just Left The Building* attempts to poke fun at the large pool of Elvis fanatics throughout the world but comes off more as a King-bashing exercise. *Planet of the Baritone Women* is an uneventful song about women executives who feel they must lose their femininity to compete in the corporate workplace.

The next composition, *Any Kind of*

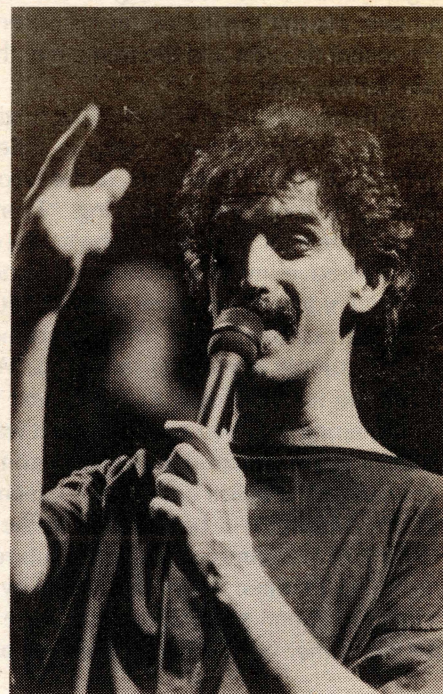
Pain, is a song which appears to be directed toward the Vanna Whites of the world but is actually casting shame on the society mechanisms and members which allow this sort of fame to occur.

Overpowering in itself, and never to be overlooked on any Zappa album, is the music itself. Longtime fans will no doubt find satisfaction in the beautifully melodic guitar solo in *Any Kind of Pain* and the unbelievable horn arrangements in *Jesus Thinks You're A Jerk*. Fans of the newest band configuration will enjoy the tightness with which the band performs on tunes such as *Rhyming Man*. Ike Willis of *Thingfish* fame is back handling most of the vocalizing chores.

Of course, the musical styles are as diverse as can be imagined with the album moving from country & western songs and blues-influenced rock all the way to a rap song, *Promiscuous*, about Surgeon General C. Everett Koop's remarks on AIDS in a speech broadcast by C-SPAN.

Potential buyers of the album should be advised that Zappa traditionally treats his subjects in a very graphic and detailed manner, and this album is no exception. There are those who would accuse Zappa of making his attacks as offensive or boorish as his targets. However, Zappa is simply practicing communication techniques used by any good prosecuting attorney.

Some fans have likened Zappa's approach to fighting fire with fire. A more accurate description would be to say that he is trying to prevent further fires by



Frank Zappa (photo by Sergio Albonico)

showing how dangerous and destructive past fires have been. Who can forget the horrifying scene from *Any Downers* (*You Are What You Is*), where a glamour girl dies of a cocaine overdose after being egged on by her friends to do an "extra hit." At her funeral, the same friends desperately look for "downers" as if her death wasn't enough in itself.

The ability to produce these lasting images is an integral part of Zappa's genius.

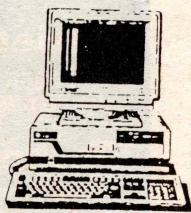
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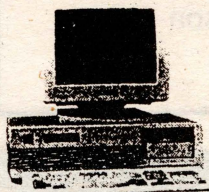
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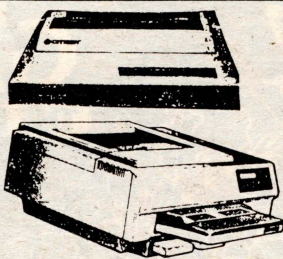
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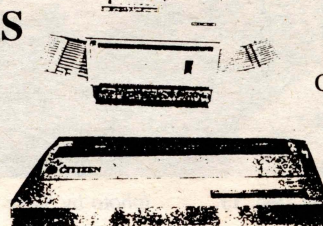
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The Lane Tech Choir entertained Northeastern students on Dec. 2. (photo by James Rogers)

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0232

If one or more of these things describes you, then you're probably obnoxious. But come and see us anyway because we're starting a humor magazine. We are of a very agreeable sort and we would be more than interested in your funny article, idea, comic strip, drawing, photograph, etc., etc., etc. Or maybe you would like to get involved in the publishing process, like layout, pasting, cutting, glueing, adhesion, and sticky stuff on the back of stuff. Or maybe you'd just like to come down and hang around with a bunch of people who think they are very funny. Any way you look at it, you should be there on Tuesday, Jan. 31 (next Tuesday, stupid) at 12:30 in cls 2106. If you're a night guy (or woman) then there'll be a meeting the next day, Wednesday, Feb. 1 from 6:30 to 7:30 in cls 2106. You can stop by after your 5:40 class or before your 7:00. If none of these times are convenient, then call ext. 3811 and leave a message for the humor guy. See you there.

Winter 1989
SKILL-BUILDING
MODULES PROGRAM

Sponsored by The Center for Student Development
Northeastern Illinois University

A series of career awareness and personal growth workshops
free to students, staff and faculty

Date	Time	Room	Topic	Presenter	Office/ Phone
Jan. 24	12:30-1:30pm	CC-214	Taking Reading Notes	S. Leibman	2-046/x3119
Jan. 24	12:30-1:50pm	CC-217	Preparing to Interview	*CD&P Staff	B-117/x3119
Jan. 24	6:00-7:00pm	B-117	Job Search Work-shop	*CD&P Staff	B-117/x3119
Jan. 25	6:00-7:00pm	B-117	SIGI Plus Orientation	*CD&P Staff	B-117/x3119
Jan. 26	12:30-1:50pm	CC-217	Job Search Strategies for Information Science Majors	S. Weiner	B-117/x3119
Jan. 30	6:00-7:00pm	B-117	Interview Work-shop	*CD&P Staff	B-117/x3119
Jan. 30	7:00-8:00pm	Lib. 3rd Fl.	Library Basics	E. Gawrych	Lib./x4599
Jan. 31	9:00-5:00pm	CC-214	Interview Practice with Corporate Recruiter (sign-up ahead of time in B-117)	C. Murphy Mass. Mutual Ins.	B-117/x3119
Jan. 31	12:30-1:30pm	CC-216	Taking Objectives Tests	S. Lieberman	2-046/2682
Feb. 2	12:30-2:00pm	Golden Eagles	Careers in Accounting: Public and Private	*CD&P Staff	B-117/x3119

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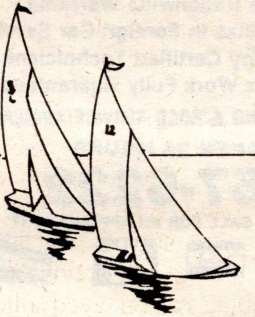
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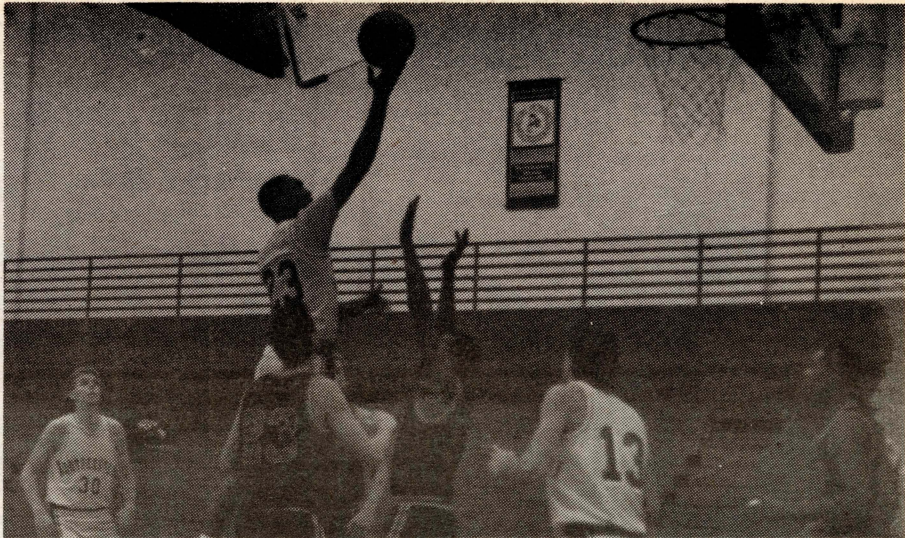
0111

0215

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Tony Davis (23) takes a shot during the Dec. 14 game against McKendree. (photo by Mike Solarte)

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
INTRAMURAL SCHEDULE — WINTER 1989

Activity	Application Deadline	* Managers' Meeting	Start Date	Days	Time	Areas
Men's Basketball	Jan. 27	Jan. 31	Feb. 7	T/R	12:45 PM	Aux. Gym
Men's Basketball	Jan. 27	Jan. 31	Feb. 7	T	7:00 PM	Aux. Gym
Women's Basketball	Jan. 27	Jan. 31	Feb. 7	T/R	12:45 PM	Aux. Gym
Women's Basketball	Jan. 27	Jan. 31	Feb. 7	T	7:00 PM	Aux. Gym
Men's Racquetball	Jan. 27		Jan. 31	T/R	12:45 PM	Courts
Men's Racquetball	Jan. 27		Jan. 31	T/R	5:00 PM	Courts
Women's Racquetball	Jan. 27		Jan. 31	T/R	12:45 PM	Courts
Women's Racquetball	Jan. 27		Jan. 31	T/R	5:00 PM	Courts
Men's Table Tennis	Jan. 27		Jan. 31	T/R	12:45 PM	Lobby
Men's Table Tennis	Jan. 27		Jan. 31	M/W	7:00 PM	Lobby
Women's Table Tennis	Jan. 27		Jan. 31	T/R	12:45 PM	Lobby
Women's Table Tennis	Jan. 27		Jan. 31	M/W	7:45 PM	Lobby
Co-Rec Volleyball	Feb. 3	Feb. 7	Feb. 14	T/R	12:45 PM	Gym 1
Co-Rec Volleyball	Feb. 3	Feb. 7	Feb. 14	W	7:00 PM	Gym 1
Co-Rec Volleyball	Feb. 24	FEB. 28	Mar. 7	T/R	5:00 PM	Courts

* Managers' meetings will be held at 1 PM in room 2140. All captains/managers must attend this meeting or his/her team will be disqualified from league play.

Applications and rules can be picked up at the Intramural/Recreation Office (P.E. Building 1110).

If time permits, there will be a tournament at the end of each season. League play will determine the seeding in the tournament and the winner of the tournament will be the winner of the league.

T-SHIRTS WILL BE GIVEN AS AWARDS FOR LEAGUE CHAMPIONS.

No Intramural Play During Homecoming Week — February 20-24. (See Special Events Schedule for Activities.)

*Sign up as soon as possible as entries are taken on a first come first serve basis for day and time preference for leagues.

0115

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56 (2)

0220

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0119



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0234

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0222

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0221

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Kings Island

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY RECREATION SCHEDULE — January 9 — April 15

Racquetball

Mon, Wed 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Tue, Thur 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Weight Room

Mon, Wed 2 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Tue, Thur 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
7 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri 2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Wallyball (Racquetball CT # 1)

Mon, Wed 10 a.m. - 9 a.m.
Tue, Thur 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Fri 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Running Track

*Mon, Thur 8 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
*Fri 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
*(TRACK WILL BE CLOSED FROM 9 a.m.-10 a.m. for MAINTENANCE)

Basketball

Mon 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (#1)
Tue, Thur 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. (#4 & #5)
7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (#5)
Wed 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (#5)
Sat 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. (#4 & #5)

Volleyball

Tue, Thur 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. (#1)
6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (#1)
Wed 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (#1)

Table Tennis

Mon, Thur 8 a.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Fri 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sat 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Badminton

Wed 7 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. (#4)

Aerobics

Tue, Thur 12:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. (#3)

Classifieds

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Sigma Delta Tau UNI English Honors Society

First Annual Poetry Reading

January 25, 1989

7 pm — 9 pm

Room: CC 217

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Second Floor Commuter Center

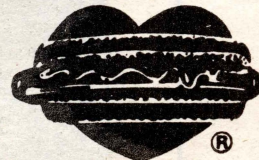
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THE NORTHEASTERN

n d e p e n d e n t

Volume 2
Issue 8
January 23, 1989

Northeastern Illinois University

Memo

To: Our readers

From: The *independent* staff

Date: January 23, 1989

Re: This year's *independent*

This year the *independent* is undergoing changes and improvements designed to bring the students, faculty and staff of Northeastern, a newspaper they can have pride in. The *independent* staff hopes to produce a newspaper which is informative, entertaining, thorough and accurate.

One of the most striking changes will be the shift in our philosophy from that of a club which happens to publish a newspaper to that of a fully-functioning newspaper operation. Even though UNI does not have a journalism department, we believe that enough talented and self-motivated individuals are available on campus to publish a quality newspaper. While understanding that publication of the *independent* is primarily a volunteer effort, we will strive to maintain the rigorous editorial, legal and ethical standards established within the journalistic discipline.

More attention will be focused on news stories. We realize that many events in the area are of interest to students, faculty and staff, and as much coverage as possible will be given to these subjects.

We will attempt to increase the amount of sports coverage as well as the variety of sports covered. There will also be more emphasis placed on "preview" stories, rather than coverage of past events. In these ways, the sports section will be made more thorough and up-to-date.

On the subject of sections, we are standardizing our format, so that news, features, editorials and sports are all readily identifiable and accessible. The Job and Career Guide will be continued, and special sections or inserts may be offered throughout the year.

First and foremost, the *independent* will be a human-

interest publication, focusing on people instead of things. Almost every person on campus has some interest or is involved in some activity that would make an interesting story.

Above all, our attitude is one of expectation. We hope to accomplish a great deal this year: comprehensive coverage of the subjects you want to read about and presentation of these subjects in a way which we hope will keep your interest. With the changes we have initiated, we think we have a good head-start.

As a volunteer operation, we are always in need of people to help make the *independent* what it is. If you have a particular talent in writing, artwork, photography or graphic design, or are simply interested in learning some aspect of the newspaper business, we welcome you.

If we are to make the *independent* the best newspaper it can be, we also need your participation as a reader—in the form of letters [please—type all letters and limit them to 250 words or less], questions, constructive criticism, stories of all kinds and guest editorials. You must tell us what you think of our efforts if we are to improve. If our changes produce a better paper, let us know. If, on the other hand, there is something that you feel is missing from the paper, please inform us. At any time, feel free to challenge an article or an entire issue. We need your feedback, and the door to our office (E-409) is always open for you.

With your cooperation, we feel that we can meet or even exceed our goals for success. Help us make the *independent* the quality newspaper it should be.

Let's all have a great year!