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Student Leader of the
Year Gus Gramas
display their awards at
the Student Leadership
Awards Ceremony.
(Photo by Steve Ratz.)



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THE NORTHEASTERN

n d e p e n d e n t

Volume 2
Issue 17
June 27, 1989

Northeastern Illinois University

Senate, Fees slated for changes

Student Affairs faces restructuring

by Micheal Jankowski

The Department of Student Affairs is undergoing a reorganization process under the leadership of Vice-President Melvin C. Terrell.

Upon taking office on Sept. 1, 1988, Terrell began an assessment of the department which entailed consultations with faculty and campus groups and visiting other universities to develop a reorganization plan. He also hopes his experience as a graduate faculty member will help promote a new spirit of cooperation among his department and others, such as Student Senate, which are responsible for meeting student needs in services and programs. The broad scope of his agenda will take effect July 1, with a continuing focus on reform to be anticipated in the future.

"When I first met with you, I indicated that I would be a vice-president of goodwill," Terrell stated in a June 5 speech before the Student Senate. His speech was meant, in part, to address one of his top reorganization goals: a better working relationship with the Senate. He would like, with better communication and interaction, to influence the Senate to work with him to "move forward into the 21st century" to serve a changing Northeastern.

He has challenged the Senate to take an increased role in becoming more responsive to the student body. In his June 5 speech, he proposed an increase in the comparatively low number of services that the Senate offers students; he dared them to go beyond scheduled meetings to become "an integral part of Northeastern," and he advised them to post and keep office hours in order to be accessible to the student body. Terrell would also like to eliminate what he calls the "self-limiting we-they attitude" of the Senate and would like to see the elimination of the "rumor mill" through increased communication.

"If you hear about a change in policy, call me and ask me," he said in his speech. "Student Senate cannot and should not be at the center of uninformed, ill-informed and misinformed people."



Dr. Melvin C. Terrell (Photo courtesy University Relations)

With his recommendations, the Senate has approved the inclusion of faculty and administrators on the Fees and Allocations Committee and is about to approve of changes in the charter review process. Terrell hopes these changes will make these processes more meaningful for all students.

In general, Terrell would like to influence the Senate to be more innovative and creative in its policies to be up-to-date with the dynamics of the changing university scene. "I want to inspire you to be a great student senator," he told the group. "Unlike others, I want you to experiment, question, push and grow."

Among the many other changes planned by Terrell is the creation of a new Dean of Students office, to be occupied by Kip Hassell. The vice-

president is confident that Hassell will do an effective job as advocate for new student programs. Also planned is a new Minority Mentorship program scheduled to begin in the fall. This pilot program will pair incoming minority students with university faculty in order to encourage better relationships and reduce the difficulties in adjusting to college life. Moreover, Terrell plans on increasing his office's visibility, particularly in visits with students and student leaders.

Ongoing areas of concern for Terrell include the Office of Student Activities, which receives student activity fees and coordinates over 60 student organizations, and the Commuter Center, which he says continues to play a central part in the experience of many students.

Terrell doesn't foresee any serious problems with carrying out his plans. His various consultations with people brought in from "outside," along with his relationships with President Lamb and the Student Senate, leave him encouraged that he will be able to implement the necessary reforms. He says

that in terms of obtaining the necessary financial resources, Lamb and the Senate have been very supportive of Student Affairs. In several meetings with Student Senate president Phil Trocchio, Terrell states that many important agenda items have been discussed. One example of Senate financial support has been its approval of expenditures for Terrell's move to bring in temporary consultants to assess the operations of the Commuter Center Activities Board.

Terrell would like to convey his message of cooperation not only to the Senate but to all incoming students at Northeastern. "I want them to know that Student Affairs will be there to help facilitate their social, cultural and educational development at Northeastern. We have a staff that is genuinely interested in serving student needs."

Opinion

Chancellor makes plea for higher education

Dear Editor:

The Illinois Senate faces a decision this month that will have a lasting impact on all those in this state who rely on public higher education.

We are at the point where the funding our institutions so desperately need can no longer wait until "next year."

The Madigan/Rock tax increase proposal would generate \$106 million more for higher education than Governor Thompson's proposed FY90 budget. The Governor's effort to put Illinois education on the road to recovery is to be applauded, but that additional \$106 million is critical for dozens of vitally needed programs and services at Illinois universities and community colleges.

In the Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities (B.O.G.) System, passage of the Madigan/Rock plan would mean an additional \$700,000 for our efforts to advance minority student achievement by developing programs to attract and retain minority students. In a system that enrolls nearly 40 percent of the state's minor-

ity public university students, that is not just a desirable goal, it is a top priority.

Under the Madigan/Rock plan, there would be funding to offer or expand 14 high demand academic programs at B.O.G. universities. They include computer science, gerontology and three degree programs in accounting, management and elementary education at our undergraduate center in the Quad Cities, where interest is so high that it is becoming difficult to accommodate student demand.

The B.O.G. universities and their 45,000 students know all too well what losing course offerings means to the academic experience. Our three commuter campuses in the Chicago area alone dropped 498 course offerings this past academic year due to the inability to fund faculty positions to teach the classes. When you serve an adult clientele who often pursue classes at night, dropping courses can mean denying access to some students. The Madigan/Rock proposal would allow for restoring many of those course offerings.

We have underinvested in education in Illinois for several years. It is time to reverse the trend. We urge the Illinois Senate to listen to what an apparent majority of their constituents are saying and make the wise choice this month. The Madigan/Rock proposal would cost the average family an additional \$2 a week. That's not too much to pay when so much is at stake.

Sincerely,

Thomas D. Layzell

Chancellor

Board of Governors of State Colleges and Universities

The independent agrees wholeheartedly with Mr. Layzell's sentiments and strongly urges the Illinois Senate to listen to the voices of reason and of need by passing the Madigan/Rock proposal.
The Editor

B.O.G. Rep-elect thanks campaign supporters

Dear Editor:

I would like to graciously thank all the students who voted and elected me their next Board of Governors (B.O.G.) Student Representative for 1989-90. Special thanks go to Julius Jackson, Javier (Javie) Nogueras, Aurelio Junior Huertas and John Bowles, who designed campaign literature, posted it throughout the university and pounded the floors for and with me vigorously this past May 30-31, from 9 a.m.-7 p.m. I could not have asked for a greater team than all of you.

As B.O.G. Student Representative, I plan to be an energetic and untiring voice on issues concerning students during the next year. I also plan to let students know what's happening at B.O.G. meetings by giving reports to the Student Senate and by submitting reports to the *independent* for publication.

I welcome and encourage all students to stop by my office (it's above Beck's Bookstore and next to the offices of the Commuter Center Activities Board) to discuss your various student-related concerns with me. I look forward to seeing you.

Sincerely and appreciatively,

Edna Hunt

B.O.G. Student Representative-Elect

The independent wishes you the best of luck in your new position. You have some large shoes to fill, but we are confident that you will do so throughout the coming year.

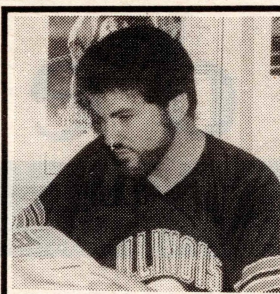
The Editor

The Northeastern Independent

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



Don Price's Mental Floss

Local children's television was anything but kid stuff

We have seen the institution of an unfortunate social phenomenon: the generic childhood.

Once upon a time, growing up in Chicago was something special, filled with special people and special characters. For those of you too young to remember, let me tell you about some of them.

There was the cast of Bozo's Circus, the noon-time children's show. Bob Bell, the venerable actor who portrayed Bozo, played his role just as much for adults as he did for kids, constantly ad-libbing lines and exuding a sense of amazement that he could actually be paid for having so much fun. Ned Locke (Ringmaster Ned) was the ever-jovial voice of reason in the chaotic atmosphere. Magician Marshall Brodine (Whizzo the Wizard) provided an appropriate sense of wonder. And long before Cookie came aboard, Ray Rayner (Oliver O. Oliver) was the perfect foil for Bell's Bozo. More about Rayner in a moment.

There was Garfield Goose, the King of the United States, along with Macintosh Mouse, Romburg Rabbit, Beauregard Burnsides III and the never-seen Mrs. McGillicuddy. Their human caretaker was everyone's favorite father figure, Frazier Thomas (also seen as the host of Family Classics on Sunday afternoons). Occasionally substituting for Thomas was that cantankerous sheriff, Andy Starr.

Garfield Goose was the show that brought us The Funny Company, Journey to the Beginning of Time, Suzy Snowflake and Hardrock, Coco and Joe. It proved that children's programming could be exciting and entertaining without being too violent or too bland.

But my own favorite, and the show I miss most, is Ray Rayner and Friends. Rayner genuinely loved kids, and it showed every moment he was on camera. He brought us Cuddly Duddly and Chelveston the Duck; he showed us Cubs highlights from the day before; he made sure that we knew what to wear outside to school each day; he showed us the first practical use of Post-It notes, with his jumpsuit covered with notes reminding him of what he needed to do next; he gave us interesting Do-It-Yourself projects (which never seemed to turn out quite right when he tried them live). In short, he treated us like we were worth his time; he made us feel special.

Sadly, they're all gone. Bell retired, to be replaced by a pale reflection of Bozo (much as The Bozo Show is a pale reflection of Bozo's Circus); Thomas and Locke died a few years back; Rayner retired and moved to Arizona.

What do we find in their place? Hours and hours of mindless cartoons, ranging from rampant violence to saccharine cuteness. There's no human element involved in any of them. What's even worse, the same mindless cartoons are being broadcast in New York, in Philadelphia and in Los Angeles. Everything's the same everywhere; video homogeneity is the norm. The result is a generic childhood.

There are a lot of things that make Chicago a special place to live. Unfortunately, local television is no longer one of them - at least not for a kid growing up here. And for that kid inside me who did grow up here, that hurts.

Features

West reflects on his past, future

by Mike Solarte

There are certain names associated with certain jobs. For instance, in politics, the name George Bush is obviously associated with the presidency. In sports, the name Wayne Gretzky is virtually synonymous with pro hockey. To many at UNI, the name George West was the university administration.

West was a man who went all out to enable students to go their own extra yard. A former employee of UNI, he has since moved on to the U.S. Department of Education as an Institution Review Specialist.

West, now 42, served Northeastern's student body for almost 15 years. After graduating from Hyde Park High School, he went into the military, where he served for four years in the Air Force. After his military service, he attended Loop Community College (now known as Harold Washington Community College) for nine months before transferring to UNI in January of 1971.

In December of his senior year, West began working in the financial aid office, where he was to provide his years of service to UNI. He graduated in August of 1974 with a double economics and history major.

"While I worked in the financial aid office, I also held other jobs," West explained. I worked at the Woodlawn Boys Club, the Better Boys Foundation and even a brokerage firm. I worked a lot, but I wanted to get my degree."

Now settling into his new job, West is "dabbling into the big financial aid picture." His job consists of two primary responsibilities: traveling to schools to evaluate financial aid processes to ensure compliance with federal regulations and offering advice in a technical context on the administration of aid programs. "I am learning an enormous amount about the financial aid differences from school to school. UNI is a traditional four-year university, while other schools have different methods of participating in the financial aid process," West noted.

While West was a UNI employee, four university presidents served their terms: Jerome Sachs, James Mullens, Ronald Williams and Gordon Lamb. "The four presidents were all very warm and receptive individuals," West recalled. He remembers them each in a different way: "Jerome Sachs was a very laid-back individual. He was very personable, and in touch with the entire UNI community. I didn't have much contact with James Mullins, yet he was also very nice. Gordon Lamb is also a very warm, receptive, laid-back and personable man.

"The most important influence, from an administrative perspective, was Ron Williams. He was tops for me because I served the longest under him. He helped me 'grow up' as an administrator. His laid-back attitude and the atmosphere he provided made the office a nice place to work. The atmosphere was very conducive for me to grow."

Even the new job cannot take the place of what West enjoys most: seeing students from the start to the finish of their college careers. "I miss seeing those

students who come in fresh and eager to learn. In 14 years I've seen a lot of students come and go, yet even though the names change, the people are still the same. The most gratifying thing to me is seeing those students come in fresh and then seeing them receive their degree at graduation.

"It is one thing to say goodbye to a student at the ceremony, but when, after the ceremony, that same student introduces you to his/her parents and says, 'This is the guy that got me here to graduate,' it makes me feel good inside.

"Even more gratifying is seeing the students outside of UNI - seeing them in the workforce. Those students never forget you," West stated.

What is life after UNI like for West? His spare time involves a lot of reading, in order to become fully acquainted with his new job. "I'm very excited about the job, yet it involves so much

reading and getting used to things," he said. "I still do get out and play some basketball, racquetball and tennis. It isn't all work."

After his stint at the Department of Education, West has set some lofty goals for himself. I plan to, or at least would like to, attain my Ph.D. in Public Policy Analysis and then I will become the president of a university."

In the eyes of many, George West has performed a tremendous service for the students of Northeastern. He himself feels that students should try to do a service for themselves. "It frustrates me to see students go without any help. Institutions pay people to offer and provide assistance. Unfortunately, some students wait until it's almost too late. If I could say one thing to students, it would be to take advantage of the help provided. Also, don't be afraid to challenge. Challenge yourself, professors, institutional policies - anything which could lead to enabling you to reach your goals."



George West (photo courtesy University Relations)

Chimexcla hosts 15th annual Family Night celebration

by Magdalena Salazar

On Friday, June 9, the Chimexcla (Chicano, Mexicano, Latino-Americano) Club held its 15th annual Noche de la Familia (Family Night) in the cafeteria.

The dinner, which lasted from 6 p.m.-10:30 p.m., featured performances from such internationally-known groups as the Mariachi Band, the Mexican Folkloric Dance Company, Northeastern's own Ensemble Espanol and Raíces del Andes (a Brazilian band), as well as a dance performance

by children from the Carol Robertson Center for Learning and various plays and poetry readings.

According to Chimexcla Club officer Maria Paredes, the purpose of the event - attended by approximately 150 people and featured foods such as tacos, burritos, enchiladas and Pina Coladas - was to "thank parents and friends for being supportive of their Latino-American students during this past school year at Northeastern and give them a good time.

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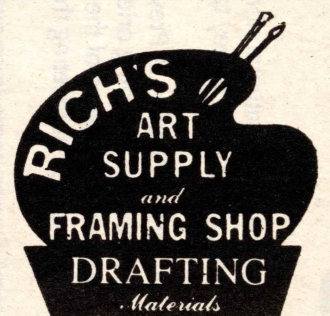
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Drug survey yields surprises

by Donna Zobott

Northeastern students are at the national norm in drug usage, according to a drug assessment survey taken in summer and fall of 1988.

The survey was given by the Partners In Prevention (PIP) program to all entering freshmen attending orientation and to randomly selected classes representative of the UNI population to help plan programs aimed at meeting the needs of the students.

Most of the "at norm" figures came from questions asking whether or not the students had tried a particular drug. When compared with a national survey taken by freshmen in 1985, some of the results included:

HAVING TRIED MARIJUANA:

54.4% - UNI freshmen

54.2% - national survey

HAVING TRIED COCAINE:

20.0% - UNI freshmen

17.3% - national survey

HAVING TRIED HEROIN:

2.0% - UNI freshmen

1.2% - national survey

commuter campus."

Now that the results of the drug survey are in, it can be seen that Northeastern, even as a commuter school, does meet the average in drug usage. This seems true also in the case of alcohol, although this is difficult to judge. When students were asked if they had drunk five or more beers in one day, Northeastern's 35.1 percent (non-freshmen) and 26.7 percent compared to 38.1 percent in the national survey, which asked the same question, but over a two-week period.

The two surveys cannot be accurately compared on this particular question, since they cover different lengths of time. The significance of results on such a question will not be determined until the assessment is performed again, with the wording of questions altered to coincide with the national survey.

Like any new project, the initial PIP assessment has had its share of trial and error, and has been modified for the second year. It has, however, accomplished a great deal of what it was designed to accomplish. It has helped plan programs which students need, such as providing units on prevention in the classroom, workshops for adult children of alcoholics and special training of faculty advisors. The program has also trained students to do prevention work on campus and in the community. On campus, this includes students working in the University Relations Office and on the independent staff.

Dr. Ron Glick, professor of sociology and coordinator of evaluation and training for PIP, adds: "We will be expanding programming related to stress management and peer influence on heavy drinking and weekend parties. We will continue to emphasize programming addressing the needs of adult children of substance abusers."

Such programs are aimed at being informative for students, especially by dispelling myths and misconceptions about drug usage. As the results of the recent assessment indicate, these myths - such as Northeastern having less drug usage because it is a commuter school - still prevail.

Such a close comparison was unexpected before any assessment results were collected. "Because I attended SIU for my freshman year and then transferred to UNI, I have a basis for comparison of "a party school" with a commuter campus," said Aline Faloona, PIP site coordinator. "I definitely expected UNI students to show lower usage when compared with students nationally."

Junior Edwin Reyes agreed. "I would expect the results to be lower than the national norm due to the fact that we are a

Speaker meets with campus leaders

Student Senate president Phil Trocchio, Flora Llacuna of the Center for Student Development, and Dr. Corinne Warsawsky listen to Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan (D-Chicago) explain how his proposed tax increase would affect Northeastern. The group was at the State Capitol to offer Madigan their help in getting the surcharge passed. Under the proposal, UNI would receive \$2.1 million over what the governor's budget provides for next year. (See related story on page 2.)

THE NORTHEASTERN Independent

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Running for fun & fitness

Suzanne Laird (left), coordinator of the Human Performance Laboratory graduate training program and Kathryn Nawrocki (right), coordinator of the university's Community Health Enhancement Program (CHEP), lead the way in the recent Employee Fitness Day Fun Run/Walk, sponsored by CHEP. In celebration of National Employee Fitness Day, university administrators, faculty, staff and students participated in either a run or walk of one, two or three miles through the North Park Village Nature Center.

New tax would benefit UNI, says Lamb

President Gordon Lamb recently discussed the potential benefits of the surcharge plan (HB490) proposed by Illinois House Speaker Michael J. Madigan. The plan, if passed, would make additional revenues available for Illinois public education and, accordingly, would help support new and ongoing program efforts at Northeastern and other state-supported universities.

Said Lamb, "At Northeastern, these programs will allow us to intensify our efforts to help the Chicago schools meet the needs of the children of Chicago, while expanding our programs of service to the citizens of surrounding north and northwest suburbs."

Lamb further stated that the proposed funding increase would enable Northeastern to improve or expand services in all four IBHE priority areas. Specifically these funds would have an impact on the following:

Instructional Improvement of High-Demand, High Quality Programs

- Meeting demands for courses in accounting, economics, finance, educational foundations, and other high-demand areas.

- Expansion of class offerings in the northwest suburbs in a joint venture with Governors State University.

- Offering the university's nationally-acclaimed master's degree in Exercise Science and Cardiac Rehabilitation during day as well as evening hours.

- Funding a newly-approved master's degree in Gerontology in response to the growing needs of an aging population.

Instructional Improvement in Elementary and Secondary Schools

- Implementing key components of Project PRIME (Project for the Reform and Improvement of Metropolitan Education) geared to dropout prevention and college preparation of minority students, in conjunction with \$2 million in external grants to the Chicago Teachers' Center.

- Implementation of a high school feedback program to monitor student progress during the first year of college.

Minority Access and Retention

- Expansion of support and academic services at the college level for underprepared minorities.

- Expansion of retention activities at the university's southside facility, the Center for Inner City Studies.

- Continuation and expansion of an early warning program to identify and work with students at risk.

Economic Development

- Operation of the Business Services Bureau.

- Expansion of the Human Performance Laboratory's corporate health care cost-containment program.

Added Lamb, "The intent of the surcharge plan represents an understanding of the plight of higher education and the increasing tuition burden placed upon our students."