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Independent- May 25, 1999

Laura R. Hadley

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Independent

Vol. 15 Issue 21

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY FOR OVER A DECADE

Tuesday, May 25, 1999

Mr. Rogers on the
world wide web

Page 6

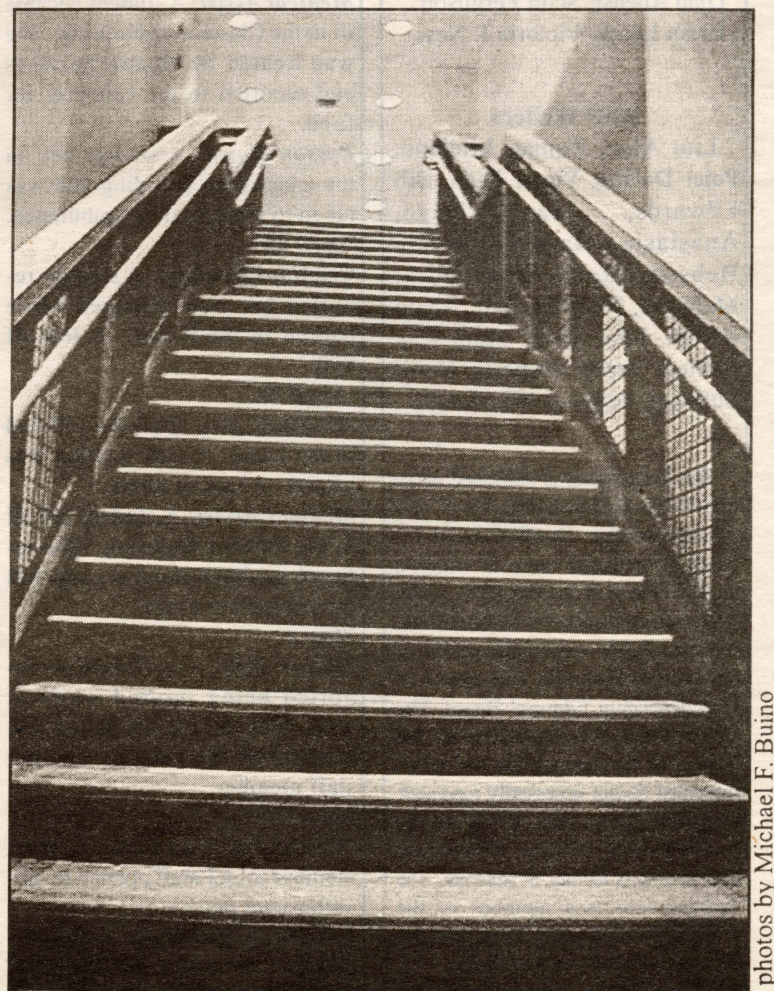
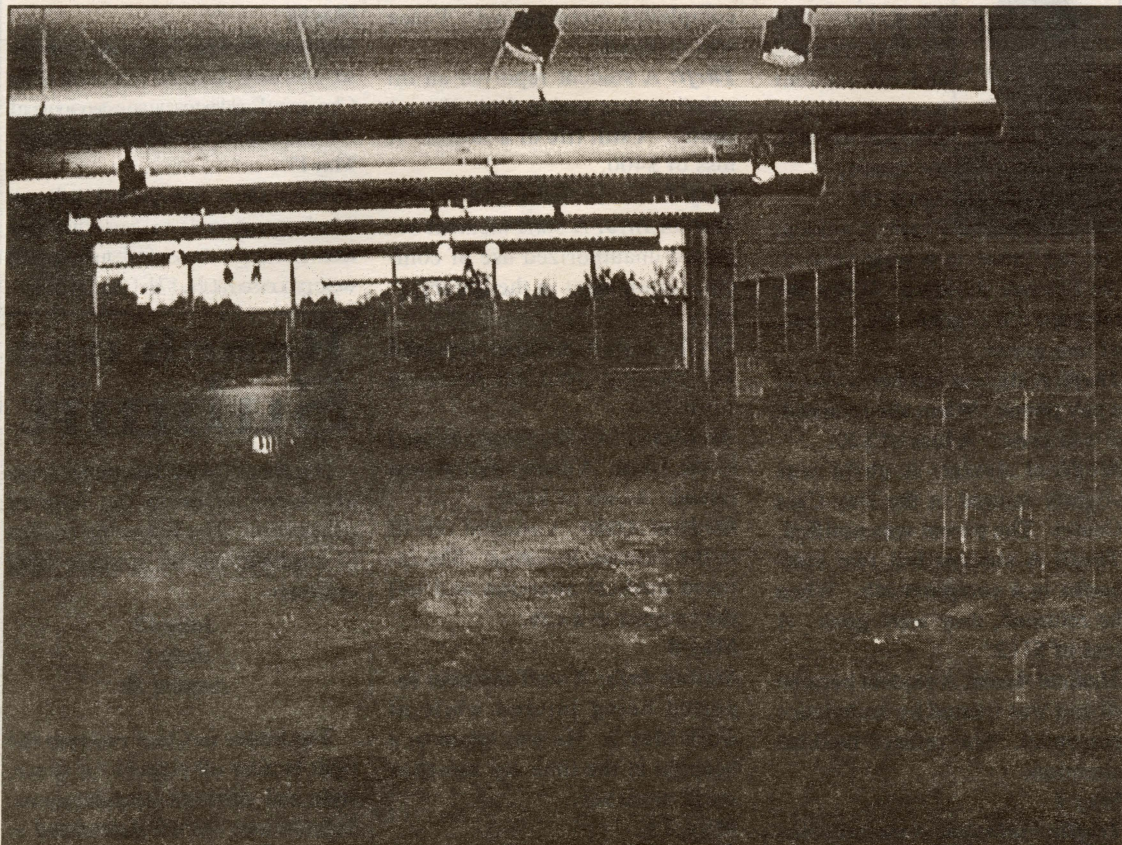
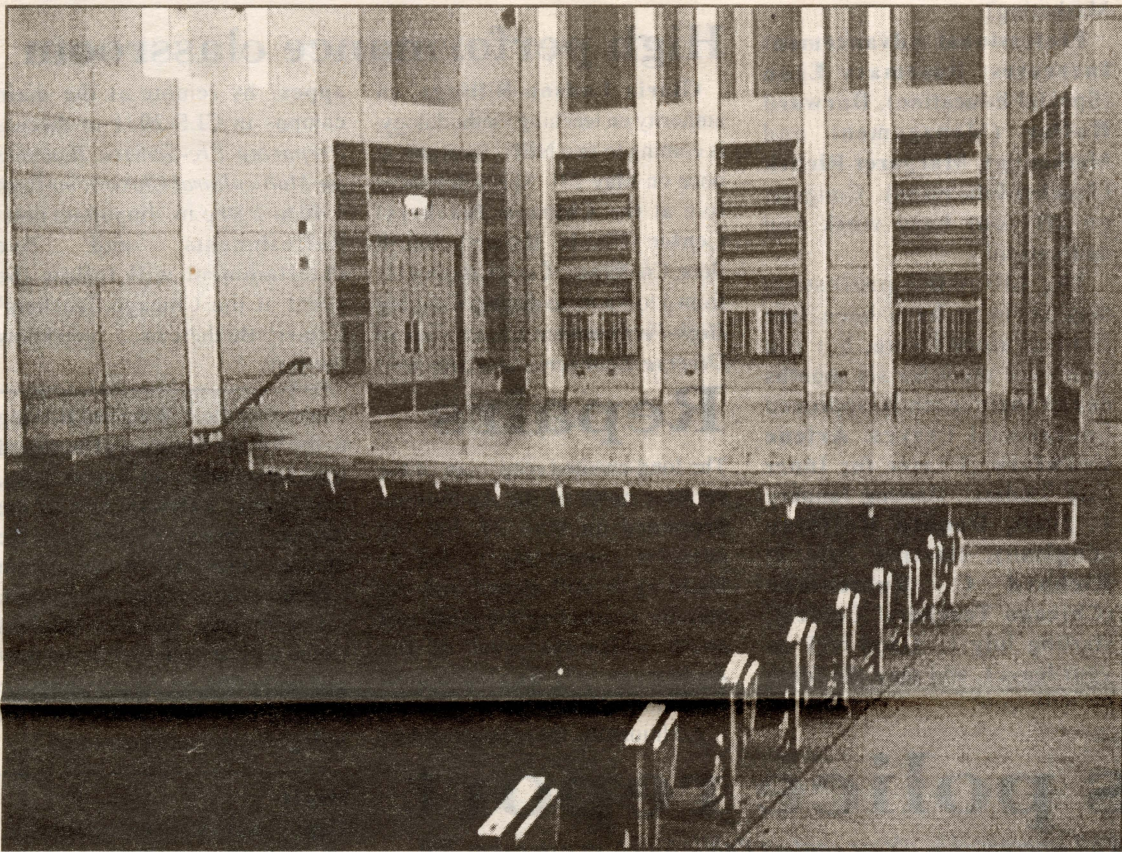
Pictures of a changing
neighborhood

Page 5

Faculty members
tenured

Page 2

Fine Arts Building opens



by Tracy Somodi
STAFF WRITER

After numerous years of delay, two years of design, and two years of construction, Northeastern Illinois University now has a two-story, 110,000 square foot facility that houses the departments of Music, Art, and Speech & Performing Arts under one roof.

The cost of this project for the school was \$15 million, and a team led by VOA Associates, Inc. and the George Sollitt Construction Co. designed the building. The new

building will be named the Fine Arts Center and will be abbreviated FA. The new building, auditorium, and Building F will officially be known as the Fine Arts Complex.

The Fine Arts Center is open to all that want to tour the new building. The natural light that beams into the building is a reminder of this new step for the university, and the double-height central corridor focuses on the varied activities of the new center. The building has a two-story lobby at its north end, which is an

extension of the existing lobby. It connects the Auditorium, Recital Hall, and Main Art Gallery. Sound transmission between classrooms has been greatly diminished through a number of special techniques.

Energy is conserved and light is provided on a need basis in the building by use of perimeter artificial lighting controlled by a new HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, & Air Conditioning) system. This system is computer controlled and maximizes energy while satisfying
see Fine Arts, page 3

The Fine Arts Building contains a new recital hall (above, left) and two floors of classrooms and specialized rooms for the Art, Music and Dance departments. The offices of the Speech and Performing Arts Department are also housed in the new building. The first classes will be held in the building this summer.

photos by Michael F. Buino



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AROUND CAMPUS

compiled by Thomas J. Foley, News Editor

Nine faculty tenured

Dr. Michael T. Kelly has accepted the position of **Dean of Students** starting July 1. Kelly comes to us from the University of Illinois at Chicago where he has served as the Director of Judicial Affairs and as Assistant Dean of Student Affairs since 1990. Make sure you all throw him a "howdy-ho" when you see him.

The following promotions among the faculty of NEIU go into effect September 1:

Awards of Tenure: Lee Beaty (Counselor Education), Rodney Higginbotham (Speech and Performing Arts), Nancy Matthews (Criminal Justice, Social Work and Sociology), Anna Mitina (Mathematics), Melanie Riedinger (Biology), Susan Rosa (History), Timothy Scherman (English), David Yasutake (Special Education).

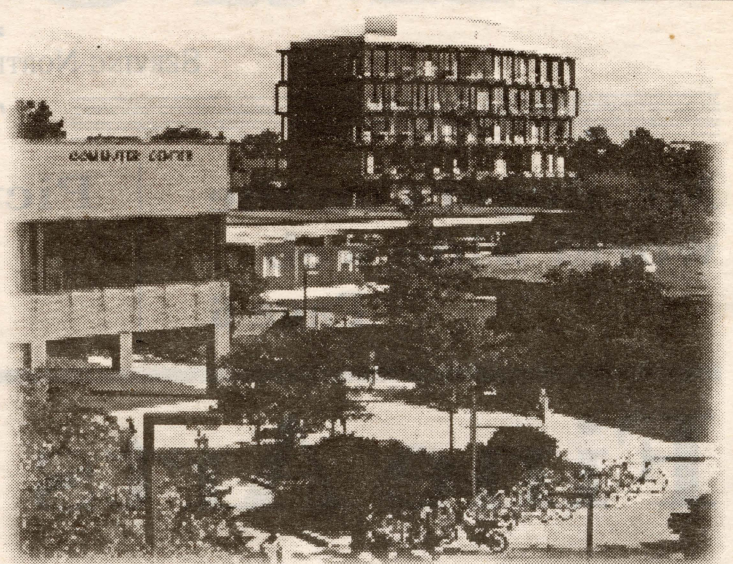
Associate Professor: Bradley Baker (Library), Tomasz Bielecki (Mathematics), Mei-Whei Chen (Counselor Education), Rodney Higginbotham (Speech and Performing Arts), Nancy Matthews (Criminal Justice, Social Work and Sociology), Anna Mitina (Mathematics), Melanie Riedinger (Biology), Susan Rosa (History), Timothy Scherman (English), Anita

Thomas (Counselor Education).

Professor; Shelley Bannister (Criminal Justice, Social Work and Sociology), Joyce Jennings (Teacher Education), Linda Keel (Counselor Education), Maria Korkatsch-Groszko (Teacher Education), Jane Peller (Criminal Justice, Social Work and Sociology), Laura Sanders (Chemistry, Earth Science and Physics), Barbara Scott (Criminal Justice, Social Work and Sociology), Peter Stonebraker (Management and Marketing).

Professional Advancement Increases; Rosemary Egan (Special Education), Durward Hofler (Management and Marketing), Margaret Richek (Teacher Education). Congrats on all your hard work and dedication!

The following professors may seem to have been like fixtures around here, but you won't see them for six months due to their recently approved Educational Leaves: Arlene Crawford (Center for Inner City Studies), starting January 1, 2000; Donald Hoffman (English), starting July 1; Richard C. Rutschman (Chicago Teachers' Center), starting July 1. Good luck on your leaves, and may the force be with you!



High performance classroom

Gloria Ladson-Billings, an authority on teaching methodology, is coming to two NEIU locations at once on May 27! She will appear live at the **Chicago Teachers' Center** (770 N. Halsted, fourth floor, Conference Center, room 411) from 4 to 6 p.m. to discuss *Creating High-Performance Classrooms of Diverse Learners*, and she will

appear by remote at the main campus in CLS-2031 to discuss *Preparing Pre-Service Teachers for Multicultural Classrooms* from 1:40 to 2:50 p.m. Important note: Refreshments and live entertainment will follow the event at the Chicago Teachers' Center! Be there or you know the rest.

Repairs

The long-awaited reopening of the corridor north of the Auditorium happened on May 24, but the corridor connecting to the F-Building is still closed and the corridor connecting the north and south walkways west of the Auditorium will be closed until sometime in July.

Additionally, the cross-corridors

connecting the A-Wing and B-Wing to the Village Square will be closed from June 1 until mid-August. Also, the outside walkway east of the former Commuter Center (now the Student Union) will be closed from sometime in June until mid-August.

Fortunately, the new Student Union will be open so that you may access the Village Square from the B-Wing and other areas south of Village Square and vice versa.

Campus police report

For jump starts, auto lockouts, and all emergencies, please contact Public Safety at extension 200

Medical Assist: A student became ill in the P.E. Building. He was treated by Health Services and left the building.

April 22

Medical Assist: A student became ill in the Classroom Building. She was treated by Health Services and escorted to the cafeteria for food.

Person Down: A student fell in the Classroom Building and was taken to a hospital by ambulance.

April 23

Criminal Damage: A student reported his auto damaged while parked in the F-Lot. A loss of \$50.

April 28

Accident: Two students collided in the J-Lot. A state citation was issued. A loss of \$600.

Medical Assist: A student fell ill in the Science Building. She refused medical attention and left the campus in a cab.

May 8

Station Info: A staff member reported being injured while at work May 7. He was taken to a hospital at the time by another staff member.

May 12

Disorderly Conduct: A staff member found mail opened by unauthorized person(s).

Criminal Damage: A faculty member reported da A loss of \$150.

April 28

Loud Noise Complaints: A faculty member took the school ID of a student because of a loud ra-



OFFICER PAPROCKI

dio complaint in the K-Lot. The ID was returned and the student warned of possible sanctions in the future.

April 29

Theft: A student left her purse in a washroom in the Science Building. When she returned it was gone. No estimate of loss given.

Theft: A student left her wallet at a pay phone. When she returned, it was gone. A loss of \$20.

Medical Assist: A child was slightly injured in the Day Care Center. The parent was notified.

Theft: A student left two textbooks in a computer lab. When he returned, they were gone. A loss of \$112.

Medical Assist: A student became ill and was treated by ambulance personnel. She refused medical attention.

May 1

Traffic Violation: A motorcyclist was issued several tickets on the access road for traffic violations.

Public Complaints: A student was escorted from the library after complaints from students and a staff member.

May 2

Station Info: A faculty member reported damage to a state vehicle while on an out-of-state trip. A loss of \$500.

May 3

Station Info: Two truck drivers became involved in a verbal al-

tercation in a loading dock. No complaints were signed. Peace was restored.

Theft: A student reported an oil painting was stolen from the art center. A still life of a flower. A loss of \$400.

May 4

Station Info: A staff member reported unauthorized use of computer equipment in the library.

May 5

Theft: A staff member reported \$25 missing from her purse on April 28.

Accident: Two students collided in the J-Lot. A state citation was issued. A loss of \$600.

Medical Assist: A student fell ill in the Science Building. She refused medical attention and left the campus in a cab.

May 8

Station Info: A staff member reported being injured while at work May 7. He was taken to a hospital at the time by another staff member.

May 12

Disorderly Conduct: A staff member found mail opened by unauthorized person(s).

Criminal Damage: A faculty member reported damage to an auto parked in the A-Lot. A loss of \$100.

May 13

Service to Other Agency: An NEIU police officer observed a school bus and an auto collide on Bryn Mawr. Ten students were taken to hospitals.

May 14

Theft: A wallet was reported stolen from an office in the Classroom Building. A loss of \$30.

May 16

Suspicious Persons: Four youths were observed scaling down the moat wall of the Classroom Building using an extension cord. All were warned and released as juveniles.

May 17

Service to Other Agency: NEIU police arrested six gang members in front of the Classroom Building because of a disturbance. All were processed at the 17th District CPD.

Reach out Submit

Deadlines for the Independent are one week prior to the date of publication. The following is a list of deadlines for the summer 1999 semester.

June 17

July 1

August 20

The Editor in Chief reserves the right to alter all content for space, style and editorial considerations. Submissions are not guaranteed to be printed.

If space needs to be reserved please call (773) 794-2812 for information about advertising rates.

Hot tip?

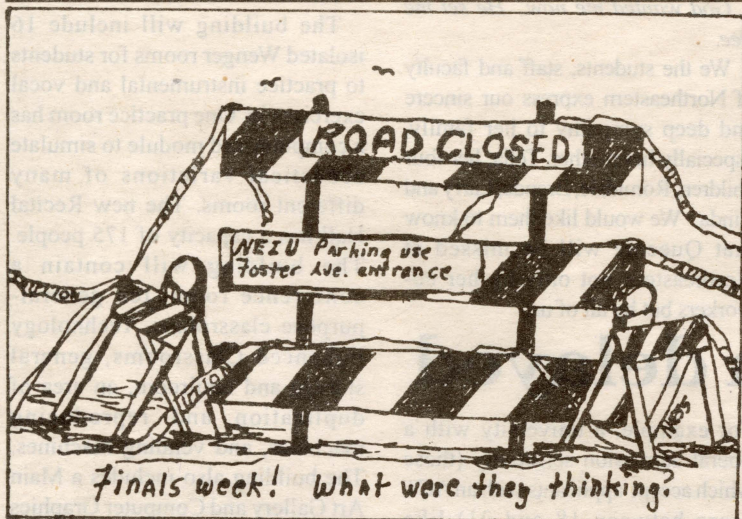


Do you know something we don't? Tip us off about news affecting the NEIU community by calling (773) 794-2812 or e-mail us at T-Independent@neiu.edu

: 3

Perspectus

DRAWING BOARD



MAIL BAG LETTERS FROM INDEPENDENT READERS

Public Safety Officer levels accusations of deterioration and misconduct in department

Today is my last day of employment with the University. When I accepted my position as a police officer, I envisioned that I would someday retire from Northeastern. While here, I took advantage of one of the benefits, tuition waiver for employees, and also planned that my two sons would have the opportunity of attending school here.

In the past five years, I have witnessed the deterioration of a viable, working police unit, I have witnessed the incompetent and unfit being rewarded, and I have seen and felt the attitude of non-respect that seems to permeate this school. Because I could see no change being made and because things seem to be going from bad to worse within Public Safety, I had no choice but to look, and find, employment elsewhere. Not only will my salary double but, hopefully, I will be working in an environment where personal liberties are respected.

The latest indication that the university has a bent outlook on what is good and what should be recognized and acknowledged is the letter from Santos Rivera announcing the appointment of Randy Smith as the new acting Lieutenant.

Randy Smith is being rewarded for his 15 years of service in Public Safety - his 15 years of displaying open contempt and hatred for the white race, his 15 years of misconduct for which he has been reprimanded and suspended from duty, his 15 years of refusing to identify offenders who are his friends, his 15 years of threatening and intimidating co-workers who disagree with him.

This glorification of a man who, throughout his employment history, has shown his disdain for rules and regulations and decency is the final insult to the university community.

There exists two extensive reports which cost the university thousands of dollars which clearly identify Randy Smith as a person who should not be a police officer, who should be prosecuted for criminal activity, and who does not belong in any position of authority. These reports exist and the university has made every effort to keep the university community from knowing the truth contained in them.

The law prevails and as much as the university attempted to quash these reports, they are available and people are aware of what they contain. Are you going to allow the university community to be slapped in its face again? Most educational facilities are working hard to enhance the safety of those under their care - is the Northeastern Administration so unfeeling and so uncaring of their employees that you will allow this man to be rewarded with a position of authority and control?

Today is my last day and I thank God that I've had the opportunity to leave and I pray to God that nothing serious happens on campus. Northeastern has lost seven good police officers because of what you have allowed to happen in Public Safety - there are a few left but probably not for long. I ask that you join my prayers that nothing serious happens - because, ultimately, the responsibility will be yours.

-- P.O. HOPETON ROWE

Editor's Note: *The author refers to two reports that allegedly "identify Randy Smith as a person who should not be a police officer." The Independent has read and reviewed these reports (Quest and Ross), which detail interviews with people who allege misconduct by Smith. The reports recommend that these charges be investigated.*

EDITORIAL

Fingerprinting kids useless, invades privacy

(U-WIRE) COLUMBUS, Ohio — Kidnapping was the crime of the 1980s. Since most of us were children of the '80s, I don't need to lecture you about that, but I can remember a time where one could not go into a store without seeing a carton of milk with a lost child's face plastered on the side. Those little inserts that come with advertising which list a kidnapped child's information and the television show *America's Most Wanted*, are by-products of that hysteria.

I certainly am not mocking the sorrow of kidnapping, it is just that the interest in the subject has waned over the years. Today's interest is school shootings and perhaps that too will pass fad-like into history, replaced by something else appallingly strange.

The school shootings of today have caused people to search desperately for solutions. That search usually finds terribly ineffective but idealistic ways of solving the problem in question.

The weird solution to the kidnapping phenomenon was fingerprinting.

I can remember seeing the little stands as a child, perhaps in first or second grade, set up in front of grocery stores or in libraries by some organization. The idea was to take the identifying characteristics of a child, fingerprint them, and then if the child is kidnapped or becomes lost, the fingerprints would be key

in finding them again.

I consider myself a well-read person, but I sincerely have never seen a single newspaper article that says that a child has been found because of their fingerprints. It doesn't take long to figure out why: Fingerprints would only prove that someone had been somewhere. Since dusting is a targeted process, you really wouldn't be able to make a trail out of them and most likely you won't be able to find them in the first place. It simply is not what fingerprinting is for.

Thankfully, it seems like people have figured this out or no one is interested in fingerprinting children anymore.

But that still leaves one question unanswered; where are the fingerprints now? Well, I can tell you where I don't want them to be but I suspect that is exactly where they are. The big push was to have law enforcement — either local or national — to hold the fingerprints on record.

And the funny part is that this is nonsensical. Why should law enforcement need to have the fingerprints? Assuming that there is justification for fingerprinting, let the parents keep them and should the unfortunate occur, the parents could then give the fingerprints to the police.

That, however, did not appear to be a consideration. Send them to Virginia and they will be in good hands with the FBI. Maybe this did

not happen and they are still maintained in some dusty warehouse somewhere or perhaps they were destroyed because they were completely useless. However, someone should be asking these questions because there are some privacy implications should the fingerprints still exist.

For instance, some states like Colorado, Texas and Georgia require fingerprints in order to obtain a driver's license. What is stopping their public safety departments from taking the database of driver's fingerprints and cross checking them with the childhood fingerprint database?

Driver's license fingerprinting, which is equally if not more asinine, will hopefully prove to be a fad too. Its usefulness in fraud reduction is non-existent and if mounting opposition in Georgia shows, public concern over the practice is much higher than the Bureau of Motor Vehicles administrators would like to admit.

And that is just the tip of the iceberg. If my informal evidence proves correct, there are a lot of people my age who have undergone the procedure; the sheer numbers may be the most frightening part.

Perhaps it just shows the madness of the crowd in a troublesome time. But it definitely shows how privacy is sometimes sacrificed for no good reason at all. We should all be worried about that.

QUOTABLES

On one issue at least, men and women agree - they both distrust women.

H.L. Mencken

The White House is the finest jail in the world.

Harry S. Truman (1949)

Women are made to be loved, not understood.

Oscar Wilde

If you want to please only the critics, don't play too loud, too soft, too fast, too slow.

Arturo Toscanini

A sporting chance

Here is my response to Rostkowski's response on Gutierrez's March Division I letter to the editor:

Whether NEIU should discuss Division I athletics is really not the issue, but they should discuss some form of organized sports. Few people love Northeastern more than me, yet I think it is a shame and an embarrassment for NEIU to not be participating in sports. A university education is not designed to find you a job. That is what trade schools do. Attending a university makes you a

better person. If it makes you employable in the process, so much the better. Not only do sports programs allow students to share in a common rallying point (see, McDunn's letter to the *Independent*, November, 1997), it also makes people more physically fit, teaches people about fair play and teamwork. As an aside, Kelbel may wish to peruse that last statement, as well.

On Mr. Rostkowski's point about NEIU being "a university, not a glorified playground," he needs to

check his facts. Most universities have some sort of organized sports. Even the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, home of some of the brightest minds in the Midwest, if not the country, participate in NCAA sports. While Community Colleges may have fewer classes or majors than NEIU, they probably have less than UCLA too, but both schools have football teams. If UIC can have a basketball team and not cut classes, Northeastern can too!

--JAMES McDUNN

LETTER POLICY

Letters to the Editor must be signed and contain an address and daytime telephone number for verification and no more than 250 words in length.

Letters are subject to editing for style and space at the editor's discretion. The Editor reserves the right to omit any work received.

Letters are accepted through electronic mail, provided they include a telephone number for verification. The address is T-Independent@neiu.edu

Changing the face of a neighborhood

Chicago's inner city communities are so often viewed as "troubled" that the richness of and the subtle changes in these neighborhoods can be largely overlooked.

One artist, Camilo Jose Vergara, has spent the last 20 years documenting "the monumental urban transformation" taking place in neighborhoods and buildings of several American cities, including Chicago. Forty of his photographs are displayed in the exhibition, *Vergara's Chicago*, opening June 5, at the Chicago Historical Society, Clark Street at North Avenue.

Vergara has photographed in New York's South Bronx, Los Angeles, Camden, Newark, Detroit, and Gary, as well as Chicago, to create *The New American Ghetto Archive*, a massive collection of 9,000 slides and negatives, that, Vergara says, aims to "publicize and preserve the memory of these environments - the poorest and most segregated American communities."

In Chicago, Vergara has photographed the West Side - especially West Madison Street - the near North Side, and the South Side's 61st Street, Englewood, and South Riverdale. He also has photographed the suburbs of Ford Heights and Robbins.

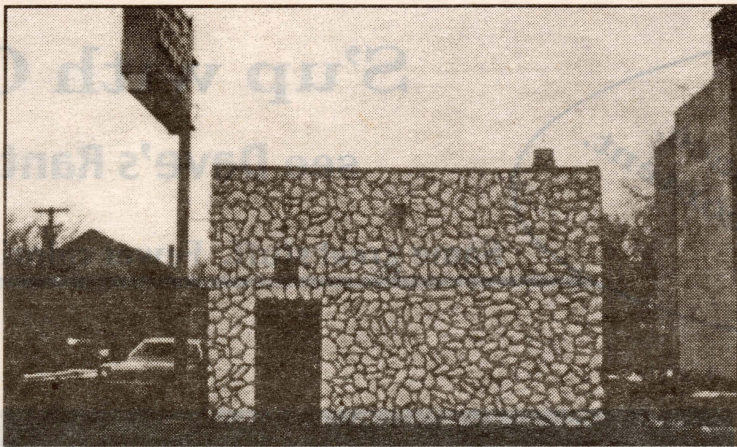
"Vergara's streetscapes, people, and buildings, often showing sites as they change over time, will serve as a permanent record for historians and other researchers," says Chicago Historical Society (CHS) President Douglas Greenberg, in announcing the exhibition and CHS' recent acquisition of several hundred of Vergara's original color prints.

"His images present jarring evidence of dislocation, loss and disinvestment in these communities. Simultaneously, however, they provide moving evidence of the resilience of the residents and others to these corrosive forces of social change," Greenberg continues.

Beauty, decay, change, struggle and hope are all evident in Vergara's cityscape images, according to exhibition developer Laura Kamedulski. "His images illustrate the complexity and challenges of living in an urban environment, yet his photographs present 'urbaness' in a manner that is human and comprehensible, rather than unfathomable," she comments.

The exhibition includes sweeping views of various urban landscapes; the reuse, restoration and abandonment of commercial structures; the architecture and design of the changing facades of storefront churches; creative expression in the form of murals and commercial artwork; and many examples of Vergara's time-lapse approach, which captures changes in sites he revisits every few years.

Vergara's work has attracted much interest, and has been exhibited at the National Building Museum, the State University of New York, and the Chicago Architectural Foundation. Substantial amounts of his work also have been acquired by institutions such as the New York Public Library and the Getty Research Center. As a student of sociology, Vergara has augmented his visual record with a book titled *The New American Ghetto*, which will be available at the Chicago Historical Society gift shop. Selected images from the exhibition also will be mounted on CHS' web site, at www.chicago.history.org.



Documenting the subtle changes in urban life using this small commercial building at 5134 West Madison Street. First a barbeque shop in 1982, the building also housed a fish market (1989), a produce market (later in 1989), and a barbeque shop again (St. Rest), by 1994.

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REV^{lite}

Low in space.
High in content.

S'up with Oprah?

see Dave's Rant, page 7

Same great stuff. Fewer calories for Summer.

PBS updates Mr. Rogers' on-line Neighborhood

by Dave Grzelak
REV Editor

So, do you wanna feel really old? REALLY OLD? Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood, one of the stalwarts of the Public Broadcasting System, is in its 31st year of broadcasting. Concurrently, PBS on-line has updated the Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood website—yes, it's Fred Rogers in all his sweated glory, on-line.

The updated website debuted on May 4 at www.pbs.org/rogers. PBS's philosophy for the site update was to "ensure consistency with the television program's child development philosophy." The series star, Fred Rogers, has some thoughts on his net-neighborhood. "One of the computer's strengths is its possibility for interactivity encouraging imaginative play. We (Rogers and PBS) hope children and parents will find their visit to our 'computer neighborhood' a really good time together," Rogers said.

There are four main links on the brilliantly colored Mr. Rogers website.

Mister Rogers' House

Here kids (and adults) can participate in four different activities. *Build a Neighborhood* lets kids drag and drop items to create their own neighborhood scenes. In *Picture Picture*, there are

three different video tours that show how people make things. After the videos, kids can arrange the provided still photos that help identify the beginning, middle, and end of each process. *Neighborhood Postcards* provides electronic postcards of favorite Mr. Rogers' characters for kids to send. *The Traffic Light Game* is a fun way for kids and their friends/parents to demonstrate their coordination through a clapping activity.

Neighborhood of Make-Believe

This part of the site offers kids the opportunity to learn more about their favorite Mr. Rogers characters and to become part of the story. *A Neighborhood Story* lets kids tell their own stories through arranging picture panels featuring their favorite characters. *How Do You Feel?* features series character Lady Elaine's museum exhibit that allows kids to create a face that shows how they feel, sort of an exercise in Mr. Potatoheadism. Included in this portion of the site are pages for each of the several puppet characters including King Friday and the gang. You can listen to audio greetings from the characters, color the pages, or read the bio information of each character.

For Neighbors of All Ages

This segment of the site is as adults only as the Mr. Rogers website gets. Older kids and adults



photo courtesy of PBS

You can find out all you want about PBS television legend Fred Rogers and his show, *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*, at the recently updated website www.pbs.org/rogers.

can indulge in Mr. Rogers trivia in *Did You Know?*. *Remember When* features a timeline of the life and career of Fred Rogers and includes rare photos and video clips, some from Rogers' personal collection. In *Thoughts For All Ages*, the show topics are related to problems that

adults face in their daily lives. A majority of the observations made by Rogers in this section are taken from the numerous graduation ceremonies at which Rogers has spoken.

Tour Guide

This part of the site offers a website map as well as tips for navigating the

website for kids. It also includes information on how to teach kids to surf the Internet effectively.

With the upgrade of the Mr. Rogers website, it is now a beautiful day in the network neighborhood. Won't you be Fred Rogers' on-line neighbor?

Lights, camera, Arts camp!

Two camps stress filmmaking and the Arts

TERRA MUSEUM of AMERICAN ART



by Dave Grzelak
REV Editor

There's nothing like memories of summer camp—writing scripts,

filming your own movies, making relief prints from your own collages and drawings. Two Chicago Arts camps can help kids

develop their interests in the Arts while keeping them out of the neighborhood convenience stores for awhile.

The Terra Museum of American Art offers four weekly camps (9 a.m. to 12 p.m. weekdays) for kids aged 7-10. From July 12-16, kids will use collage, drawing, painting, and poetry to help discover the art of self-portraiture. An application of these skills on July 19-23 features kids learning how to make relief prints from these collages and drawings. The third week involves children investigating animals in stories and actual animals and creating sculptures of these animals. In the final week (August 2-6), kids will

create their own three-dimensional place setting using collage, painting, and sculpture techniques. For more information, call the Education Department at (312) 654-2255.

For future filmmakers, the competitive **Facets' Media Arts Camp** gives kids 7-13 the opportunity to develop their skills in film critique as well as receiving video production skills.

It's competitive, because children interested in the camp must be recommended by their teachers and reflect "enthusiasm and interest" for filmmaking on their camp applications.

If the child is selected, they will take part in a five-day film camp from June 21 through June 25. They will view international films exclusively aimed toward kids, and screen clips from film classics such as Hitchcock's *North by Northwest*. Afterward, there will be discussions on film technique, film

vocabulary, and concepts like point-of-view, which can be applied to other fields beside filmmaking. Kids also will learn film-rating and practice writing actual reviews before learning production skills.

In the production part of the camp, campers will be able to choose from one of three hands-on production seminars that include scriptwriting and storyboarding, acting, and videography. The last day of camp, "production day," they will create an actual video based on a story developed in camp and will contribute to the video in the group they choose. Another part of "production day" includes the campers developing, scripting and shooting a public service announcement and a newscast production. In addition, one of the final activities is children discussing the role of advertising and commercial media in their lives.

The 1999 Facets' Media Arts Camp will take place at the Communication Arts Center at the Disney Magnet School, 4130 N. Marine Drive. For more information, call (773) 281-9075.

Dave's Rant

School's in for Oprah

Chicago's *Beloved* treasure, Oprah Winfrey, is taking on her greatest challenge yet—education. She is teaching a 10-week class at a local college. No, I'm not making this up. If I did, people would probably laugh at me, more than usual.

What would Oprah's classroom be like? Hmmm, I feel a vision, or I mean a dialogue that will produce a vision...I mean, oh never mind.

As Oprah handed out the syllabi to the thirty students in her class, one student, Shanice, looked a bit dazed after reading the syllabus.

"Um, Professor Winfrey, I don't understand a thing on this syllabus. There's no books, no assigned readings, and no grading scale," she said. Oprah had finished passing out the syllabi and moved to the front of the classroom. She then answered the bewildered Shanice.

"Girlfriend, let me tell you something," Oprah said. But she was interrupted by a loud knock at the brown metal classroom door. She opened it, and her television crew streamed in—directors, camerapersons, key grips, assistant assistant to the assistant of the assistant producer's assistant. The crew scouted out their classroom location. Shanice's classmates were all abuzz about what was happening. Shanice was aghast.

Oprah continued answering Shanice. "Where was I? Oh, yes. Shanice, girl, you've got to trust me. I will revolutionize education." Oprah turned to her make-up director. "Roz, help everyone out here," Oprah said. Suddenly, another stream entered the room. This time, make-up artists sprinted through the door and hurriedly began pancaking every face in the classroom. Most in the class reveled in the moment. Shanice smacked away the hand of her personal stylist, stood up, and shouted at the top of her lungs, "WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON HERE! WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE LEARNING ABOUT QUANTUM PHYSICS!" Oprah shook her head in disbelief. She slowly walked up to Shanice amidst the madness and put her hand on Shanice's shoulder.

"Shanice, what's wrong," Oprah said.

Shanice didn't care that a multi-million dollar hand was on her person. She looked Oprah straight in the eye and said, "O.k. Here's s'up Miss Harpo Production, Book of the Month Clubbin', with your Stegman, Stickman, or whatever the name of your tired-ass boyfriend is, what the hell do you know about physics, besides balancing your big-ass checkbook?"

Oprah took a step back. "Sorry, gotta go," she said. She sprinted to the front of the classroom and...this is Dave, writer of Dave's Rant. There's a sudden ringing in my ears. Before my eyes I see...aaargh! George Lucas! He's entering my bra-a-a-ain. Hello my people. This is George Lucas. See *Star Wars, Episode I—the Phantom Menace*. You must see *Star Wars, Episode I—the Phantom Menace* and blindly buy all Star Wars related merchandise. Well, try to see what Star Wars brand merchandise you're buying, unless of course you really are blind, in which case you can't read these words, unless someone is reading this to you, or this newspaper has braille transcriptions. Eat only at establishments that sell the pre-molded plastic Star Wars merchandise. Currently, we are working on a line of foods for *Star Wars, Episode 2—the Gruesome Grimace*. And in addition, we are currently in negotiation with McCorp. and the WWF for the rights to a cage match between the original purple people eater Grimace in a tag team death match with Jabba the Hut, with special guest corner managers Barney the Dinosaur and Dino of the Flintstones. In addition, uh, oh, can't hold on...Dave rejecting my spirit.

Aah, dammit George Lucas! Whew. Now, *gasp* back to the Oprah story in progress.

"I love you, Oprah," Shanice said with tears in her eyes.

"I know," Oprah said, gazing into Camera 1. Applause, and fade to black.

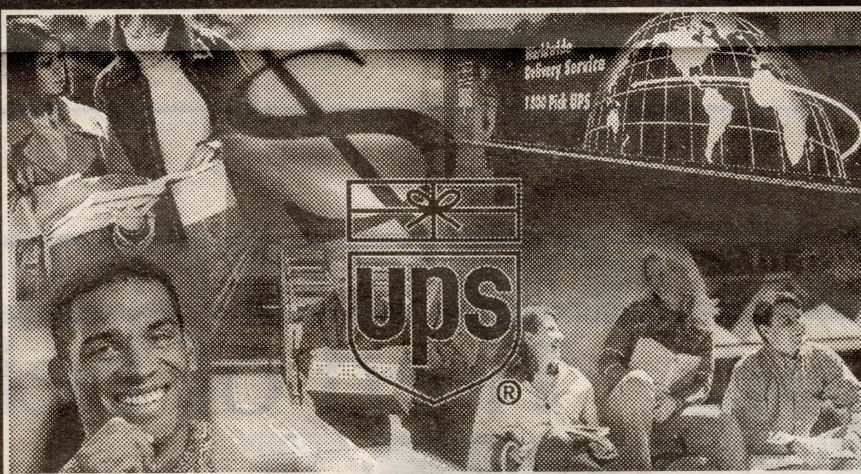
No, it's not Grant Park during mosquito season



photo by Graydon Wood, 1997

A photo exhibit by Graciela Iturbide, *Images of the Spirit*, explores the "workaday life and seasonal celebrations of communities throughout Mexico. The exhibit runs through August 29 at the Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum, . For more details, call (312) 738-1503.

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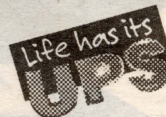
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