

9-26-2000

Independent- Sep. 26, 2000

Tim Hill

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Campus reads
into illiteracy**
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**Playstation 2
reviewed**
inside REV

**Board of Trustees
welcomes new
Student Trustee**
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Independent

Vol. 16 Issue 3

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Tuesday, September 26, 2000

Democratic Convention leads student on journey of discovery

Editorial by Jemimah Noonoo
Special Contributor

When I first became aware that I would be attending the Democratic national Convention held in August of 2000, I must admit that my intentions were far from political. Rather, I was fascinated at the prospect of being in Los Angeles, walking down Rodeo Drive wearing cat-shaped sun glasses, from-flattering tops, and capri pants. Once arriving in the City of Angels, however, it became increasingly clear that my experience as a conventioner would require far more than sheer observation and extended trips to the glamorized malls of Malibu, Hollywood, and Beverly Hills. Indeed, my full participation was required, else I would and could not receive the essential academic, social, and life lessons rendered by such an event.

Allow me to digress from the subject matter at hand and offer my readers some brief background. I was able to attend the Democratic Convention through the Washington Center, a non-profit organization that offers academic seminars and internships for college students across the country. The program's participants were housed at the University of Southern California, over 135 colleges and universities were represented.

Because we arrived a week before the convention, the first week consisted of purely academic activities, i.e. lectures by media insiders, political analysts, and other esteemed scholars. It is here where they may have suggested that we do not exhibit fanatic behavior if we spotted celebrities at the convention, but those instructions slipped my mind! Besides, who knew that I would later run into ABC journalists Cokie Roberts and Peter Jennings, talk show host Jerry Springer, actor Alec Baldwin, and other Hollywood figures? This introductory week also boasted bus tours of Hollywood, a Teen People party, a luxurious media fund-raiser, and a star-studded party at Universal Studios.

Resolving to leave a mark on Los Angeles forever, I allowed myself to be interviewed for the L.A. Times and participated in an ad hoc interview for a new television show entitled *Women are from Mars, Men are from Venus*. Upon completing the interview, I was told that my clip would be used to premiere on the first episode scheduled for 10 a.m., October 2nd on NBC-5.

Though the lecturers imparted invaluable information during our seminars, it is the students which left a lasting impression on me. In all fairness, some of my colleagues were phenomenal. They were working for causes brighter than the glimmer of their own candles, using their intelligence and notable analytical abilities to address the hard questions no one likes to ask, and struggling to find new and innovative ways to move ahead in the world, even if it meant destabilizing and undermining the tricky intersections of race, class, and gender in the process.

Unfortunately, not all members of my peer group echoed these strong sentiments. Within the first few minutes of the initial academic seminars, I was introduced to an intellectual competition that shocked me. Many of the students felt they were intellectually superior, and they promoted themselves at all costs. Moreover, I realized I was up against something both real and imaginary. The paradoxical nature of it all



Conventioner Jemimah Noonoo horrified me.

Unsurprisingly, as I raised my hand to pose a question to presidential nominee Al Gore, my heart began to beat vehemently, and my hands became very sweaty. But then, clearer than ever, I was clued in on a magnificent secret, and consequently, was able to address Gore with eloquence, clarity, and ease. At that moment in time, a unique thread bound all of us, and it surpassed any of the petty differences that had divided us before. We were all students, staring in admiration at the potential president of the United States. Thus, in judging me, my capabilities, and my legitimacy as a scholar, these young people judged themselves. With that in mind, I became

see Convention,
page 5

"I will do it all."

Published author and NEIU grad student
inspires newcomers at Freshman Friday

by Victor A. Dula
Opinions Editor
by Joseph Kelly
Associate Editor

Nathaniel Henry, Northeastern graduate student and author of the autobiography *Never Anything Too Easy*, spoke before an audience of approximately 100 freshman

Author Nathaniel J. Henry



photo from the autobiography *Never Anything Too Easy*

assembled in the P.E. building's main gymnasium on Freshman Friday, September 15th.

In his motivational speech, Henry described his accounts of overcoming insurmountable odds of surviving the trials of growing through the horrors of the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and foster care systems.

After greeting his audience, Henry asked for a serious moment in which all present would close their eyes and reach deep into their thoughts. He asked the audience to envision themselves as five-year-old children, homeless, and in the care of DCFS as a ward of the court. Henry challenged them to imagine living without a mother, father, or siblings for thirteen years. He then asked the participants what they would do in that situation.

This life, it turns out, is the one that Nathaniel Henry lived through, survived, and come out of successfully. His parents both died at an early age; his mother was claimed by encephalitis and his

father passed after slipping into a coma.

Henry went on to describe the horrors of being locked in the "care" of DCFS, an institutional life wrought with beatings and rape committed by both the staff and those supposed to be in care thereof. Nathaniel Henry's strongest motivation came from the drive to prove false all of the discouragement and rejection issued him by so many throughout his life. With this drive came strength in athletics as well as academics, allowing him to further his education.

According to Nate, as he calls himself and which is an acronym for his book and philosophy on life, success with a background like his could be maintaining a job at Jewel or Dominick's. Nate believes that just keeping one's sanity in the environment which he successfully outlived and outshined is a remarkable achievement in itself.

Having closed his introduction painting a graphic portrait of his see Henry,
page 5

Steinberg delivers Many turn out to applaud annual State of the University address

by Zeenat Desai
News Editor

In her annual Presidential speech, President Salme Steinberg drew upon many significant accomplishments pertaining to NEIU. Some of the main aspects she referred to included renewal and renovation at NEIU, building for the future, serving the contemporary student in terms of learning and achievement, establishing connections within the urban matrix internationally and globally, and integrating education with the cultural medley of Chicago and the nation.

"The heart and core is in our committed, dedicated, and talented faculty," Steinberg said of Northeastern. Steinberg had placed emphasis on the high quality of teacher education, teaching culture, student-centered learning, and building partnerships amongst all members of the NEIU community. Steinberg conveyed that she feels strongly on education practices that center on strengthening University faculty teaching effectiveness. "...[I]f we are a community of learners, we ought to see what impact the new pedagogy have on us," she stated.

Steinberg also spoke of the university's main objective this year: planning for a new

education building on campus, which Steinberg feels will "build on our history as a successful teacher training institution since 1867." Steinberg informed that the planning takes into account the recent growth of federal, state and private grants that have recognized the NEIU School of Education's achievements.

Steinberg also addressed the changing physical environment at NEIU, pointing out that construction "brings strain and anxiety, of course," but that changes like new elevators, landscaping, and the redesigned courtyard (former sight of the willow trees) are necessary for the University community. Steinberg stated, "Along with improved and new spaces, we will deepen our commitment to offering more extensive opportunities to our students." Steinberg added that the University is now analyzing spaces that "will be home to a doctoral degree program in educational leadership."

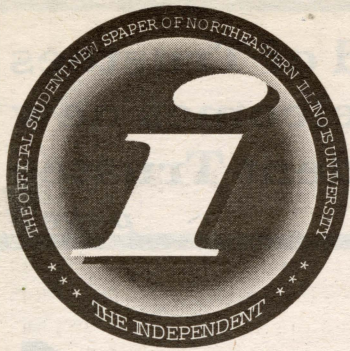
Steinberg feels that collaborating with other universities here and abroad will help "strengthen and sustain" the global commitment to NEIU students, which is a combination of "academic values, choices, and opportunities that students will experience in learning and achievement."

Near the end of her speech, Steinberg said her main concern for NEIU is an



NEIU President Salme Steinberg

awareness among the administration of conditions within the NEIU community. "I want my colleagues to know what is going on throughout this University in order to be effective interpreters of who we are and what our accomplishments are— not only to perspective students and current students, but to all of our different colleagues externally," Steinberg declared. "It is only then, I believe, that we will witness the full flowering of our 21st century urban University."



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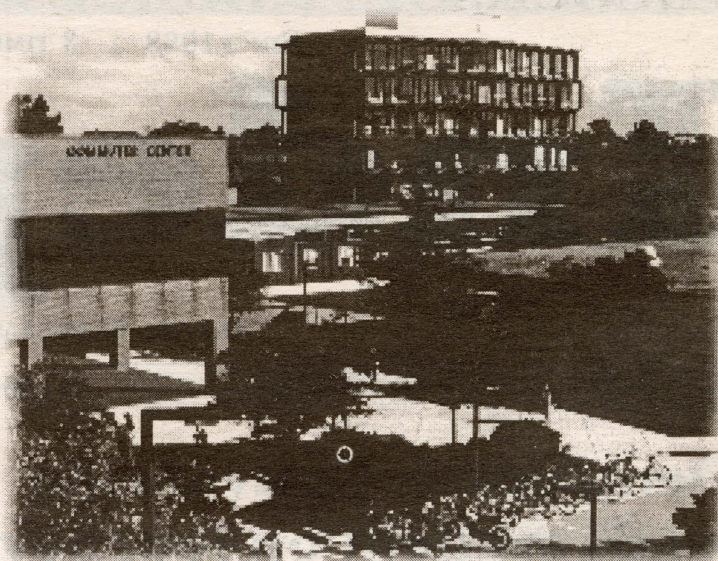
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AROUND CAMPUS

Mostly Music at Northeastern

The NEIU Jewel Box Series and the Department of Music and Dance Program are sponsoring concerts featuring Vermeer String Quartet, who will perform Schoenberg's *Verklarte Nacht* and Beethoven's *Opus 130 "Grosse Fugue"*, on February 16th, and the 1999 Fischeff Grand Prize winner, Corigliano String Quartet, who will perform the music of Oscar winning composer John Corigliano,

Mendelssohn and Janacek, on March 16th. Both performances will feature a pre-concert discussion and a workshop for students. Brian Torosian, guitarist and professor at NEIU, joined by flutist Hideko Amano and soprano Diane Ragains, will perform baroque, romantic, and folk music on December 10th. Concerts are \$25 dollars and are Fridays at 8:00 p.m. with pre-concert events at 7:00 p.m.



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA Sorority

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority presents "Understanding Campus Life: Bridging the Gap between High School and College" on Wednesday, September 27th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Student Union. This forum is designed to assist freshmen in adapting to college life and balancing it with their personal life. The forum is open to all

students. Upper classmen are encouraged to come and share their college experiences. Please register at skewee08@hotmail.com. Also, the ladies of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will have their Fall semester Formal Rush on Friday, October 6th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Student Union. Ladies that are interested in learning more about the organization are encouraged to attend,

Alumni Affairs salutes the graduates

August and December 2000 graduates will have the opportunity to order their class rings, take graduation photos, register for prizes, obtain information brochures,

pick up Commencement Tickets, and much more on Wednesday, November 15th, from noon to 7:00 p.m. in the Village Square. For more information call the Alumni Office x2892.

Student Activities events

Student Activities is hosting an NPB Literary/Music Slam from September 25th - 28th. The Student Leadership Conference will also be held from September 25th - 28th. On

September 28th, NPB Coffeehouse will feature "Acoustic Warriors." Also, stay tuned for the Black Heritage Gospel Choir's "Back to School Jam" on September 29th.

Polish American Heritage Celebration

The Office of Alumni Affairs and the Council of Educators in Polonia invite you to the Polish-American Heritage Celebration on Friday, October 6th, 2000, from 7:00 p.m.-9:45 p.m. in Alumni Hall. The

celebration will feature performances by Composer/Concert Pianist Jaroslaw Golembiowski and The Little Polonia of St. Hyacinth Dancers. Free admissions and refreshments!

GOT (WRITING) TALENT?

The Stage Center Theatre is looking for original scripts that have not been produced by a professional organization and that have not been published, for the *Ronald Williams Playwright Award*.

The Playwriting Competition was created in 1984 and was reintroduced to the university last year. Submission deadline is **December 1, 2000**.

Scripts must be submitted to:

Northeastern Illinois University
Stage Center Theatre
Attn: Anna Antaramian
5500 N. St. Louis
Chicago, IL 60625

The script may be a full length or a long one-act play. The entry should be an original work and should not have been previously produced or published. Staged readings and not-for-profit productions will not disqualify a script.

A playwright may submit more than one entry. For more information contact Anna Antaramian at (773) 794-6147

SGA Fall 2000 Elections

October 11 & 12
Village Square
9 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Registration Form
and Election Packets
available in the
Student Activities
Office, SU-207**

WATCH OUT! Deadline coming

Deadlines for the Independent are one week prior to the date of publication. The following is a list of remaining publication dates for the Fall 2000 semesters

October 10
October 24
November 7
November 21
December 5

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

Trustees meet once again Wilcockson, Noonoo added to roster

by Zeenat Desai
News Editor

Among the expenditures and information items discussed by the Board of Trustees on September 21st, the main highlights were presentations made by students Scott Plencner and Jemimah Noonoo and an address by Joseph Kish of Facilities and Management on the new education building.

Plencner and Noonoo shared personal accounts of their experiences at the Democratic and Republican National Conventions. The two students had been competitively selected for the trip through the Washington Center for Internships. Plencner revealed that as a history major, the trip was very beneficial to him and helped him gain valuable insights on the aspects that are not shown to the public. For Noonoo, one of the key significances of the Convention was that women played as massive a role as did men. Both Plencner and Noonoo conveyed that they felt proud to be NEIU students and that the experience helped them realize that NEIU is a "unique" institution.

Kish presented a model of the anticipated education building before the Board.

Kish informed that the location of the building, which will be directly south of the WTTW structure, had been selected among ten other plausible sites. The model comprised of three-stories, with the contours and resourcefulness of a "contemporary 21st century building," as President Steinberg acknowledged. Kish stated that the building will be viewable past the perimeters of the WTTW structure.

Mark Wilcockson, the new Vice President for Finance and Administration, was designated Board of Trustees Treasurer. Noonoo was also officially inaugurated as Student Trustee of the Board.

The expenditure recommendation for Information Commons Student Computer Lab was approved. The project involves upgrading 73 computers and related equipment with costs totaling \$133,406.51 in local funds. The Board approved the expenditure for administrative software applications, which totals \$200,000 in state funds. The Summary of State Appropriated Internal Budget by Function was also approved. The University's Internal Budget proved "consistent and controlled," according to Chair Dan Goodwin.

Special election held One Student Trustee gone as another Student Trustee begins

by Carole M. Brown
Production Editor

The first student trustee voted in for the 2000-2001 school year never officially served and the second student trustee voted in is a newbie to the Northeastern political arena.

Ruben Gerena, who never got ot officially sit on the Board of Trustees, resigned from th eposition in mid-summer, prompting the Student Government Association (SGA) to move quickly on facilitating a special election to fill the vacancy. Chairman of the Election Committee, SGA Vice-President Ali Askar, immediately set upon the task of creating the neccessities for a special election; registration forms, regulations, and getting the word out.

SGA crunched time so there would not be a vacancy for the September 21 Board meeting, the first of this school and fiscal year. SGA slated the special election to be held September 12 & 13 in Village Square on the Main Campus and earlier. Elections were also held at the Center for Inner City Studies (CICS) on September 12 and at El Centro de Recursos (El Centro) on September 13.

Voting proceeded rather smoothly, despite and interruption mid-afternoon on September 13 when the fire alarm in the E-Building was set off and the premises had to be vacated. Voting resumed soon after the all clear was given.

Late Wednesday night, September 13, the Election Committee of SGA convened in SU-218 and proceeded to count the ballots. The numbers from El Centro and CICS were low. The votes from El Centro did not even hit double digits. ONLY 18 votes were cast at CICS, with the most ballots, eight, being spoiled ballots, so they cold not be counted. Other than that, SGA Senator Linda Berlow had a lead at CICS with four of the ten remaining votes.

When it came to the Main Campus, though, the tide had changed and the race was on between two people newer to politics at NEIU, SGA Senator Effie Kalkounos and Jemimah Noonoo. Speculation by pollwatchers during voting was that it would be a tight race between Kalkounos and Noonoo, but watching as the vote was counted, it appeared that even Noonoo did not realize how well she had done.

In total, 556 votes, 96-percent of all votes, were cast on the Main Campus. Whomever won the Main CAMPus, would have won the election. Maureen Rubino, received 32 votes, 37 overall, while Berlow won 52 votes, 57 overall. Kalkounos was announced first. Kalkounos had 145 votes, 148 overall, and Noonoo received 322 votes, 325 overall.

Receiving 56-percent, Noonoo was declared the unofficial winner of the special election. The Election Committee held a meeting September 13 after finishing the count in SU-218 and Speaker Bill Steele made a motion to approve the results of the special election for Student Trustee. With a second from Senator Jermont Montgomery, the resolution then passed 3-0-0.

The next day, September 14, the SGA held a special meeting to ratify the Election Committee report, listing the results of the special election. The Report was passed 9-0-0. With the SGA's ratification of the report, Noonoo's term as Student Trustee began.

Editor's Note: As of this printing a request has been made by SGA Senator Yahale Yaded for judicial review of the elction.

EXTENSION 200

- Officer James R. Murray**
Public Safety

1 September
Theft
Lap top computer left unattended in atrium. Loss of \$1300.

2 September
Disturbance
Soccer team and spectators began fighting after soccer game ended. Peace restored only after NEIU Police requested assistance from Chicago Police Department. No arrests were made.

5 September
Criminal Damage to State Property
Graffiti reported in men's washroom, first floor, Fine Arts Building.

6 September
Accident/Non-Injury
Two vehicles collided in H-Parking Lot, no injuries reported. Damage amount approximately \$750.
- 7 September**
Lost Article
Victim reported that he lost his wallet and university keys.

8 September
Theft
Victim left purse on top of car and when returned to car purse was gone. Cell phone was inside purse.

9 September
Trouble Alarm/ Smoke Reports
While closing the library, officers and engineers detected smoke and found a copier paper jam.

Medical Assist
During a soccer match, two players collided and a head injury was reported. Relative transported the injured player to Swedish Covenant Hospital.

14 September
Medical Assist
Man complaining of chest pains taken by ambulance to Swedish Covenant Hospital.

Theft
Pager left unattended in A-Wing and reported stolen.

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



(top) Student Activities secretary Laura Savage, SGA President Tom Foley and Election Committee Chairman Ali Aksar oversee the elections. (above right) A student places her vote. (right) Askar with the election results the night of the tabulating. (below) Three of the candidates anxiously awaiting the results. From left to right, SGA Senator Linda Berlow, Jemimah Noonoo, a pollwatcher for Noonoo, and SGA Senator Effie Kalkounos.



TALLY			
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS			
FALL 2000			
SPECIAL ELECTION			
CANDIDATE	EL CENTRO	CICS	MAIN CAMPUS
BERLOW, Linda	4	52	57
KALKOUNOS, Effie	2	145	148
RUBINO, Maureen	3	32	37
NOONOO, Jemimah	1	322	325
SPOILED	0	8	8
TOTAL	6	556	560



photos by Carole Brown and Jessica Bezold

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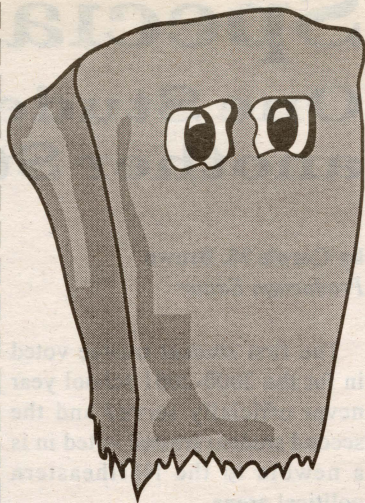
10/23/00

TIME: 2:00pm

LOCATION: Student Union 003

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wdwcollegeprogram.com

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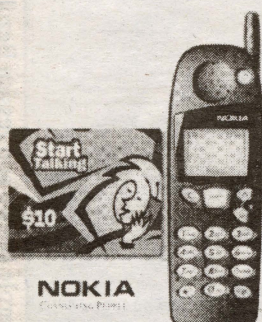
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your phone safely while driving.

Convention

continued from page 1

convinced that their snobbishness and constant exaggerations of intelligence were really facades for insecurities that haunt us all.

The Sunday before the Democratic Convention, I attended its antithesis, the Shadow Convention, which highlights included Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader, Bill Maher of *Politically Incorrect*, and esteemed socialist Dr. Cornell West. As I sat and ate dinner with Dr. West, we discussed his earlier book *Race Matters* and the significance of race, particularly in connection with the forthcoming election. As I asserted that the Republicans had put on a show during their convention and had showcased people of color in order to promote an "illusion of inclusion," Dr. West raised poignant issues about both parties' platforms and fully explained his position as a progressive socialist, and the urgency of a stronger left. A Harvard professor, Dr. West asked me about my ambitions and goals, and I told him the mixed messages I had received about fulfilling my dream as a broadcast journalist. Sharing with him that I did not have the Eurocentric look of many black female television figures, he countered with an affirming "Thank God!" and urged me to have yet another dessert (thus I have a bone to pick with Dr. West when he visits Northeastern later this semester, as my capri pants fit tighter the next morning!)

Before I knew it, it was time for the Democratic Convention. Placed with an internship at the Democratic News Service, I could not wait to go to the Staples Center. Upon my arrival, my eagerness cooled as I realized that chores like fetching water bottles and running

off copies were in my job description. Furthermore, I received a floor pass that placed me so far up in the balcony that all I could see was the backs of speakers' heads. Disillusioned, I returned to the university's dorm to watch Hillary Clinton speak.

I will never forget Jesse Jackson's manifesto that night, "Stay out the Bushes!"

Wednesday, through the help of my suitemates, I was asked to intern for the Secret Service. As a backstage messenger, I was responsible for ushering in the talent and escorting them on and off stage. It is through this job that I met Stevie Wonder, the Angel City Chorale, New Directions Choir, and other performers. Granted, all of the performers were exceptional, but the New Directions Choir left an invaluable impact on me. The New Directions Choir is an a cappella group that was formed at New Directions, a West Los Angeles program for homeless veterans. As I sat and talked with these men (and even tried to harmonize until sharp looks from my co-workers reached an all-time high), I became moved by their plights to assimilate back into a society which had dispossessed them, and was impressed with the goal of the program. The program helps veterans help themselves: stabilizing the residents and assisting them in meeting individual objectives. After listening to these men, their stories, and their gentle suggestions that I stay on key, I knew that this is what real democracy was all about. These men had to be addressed somehow in the Democratic party's platform, for if it failed them, it failed itself.

So on August 17th, as I cheered loudly in the Staples Center, seated with delegates and media representatives, I knew that I cheered for something bigger than presidential nominee Al Gore. I was

cheering for a newfound optimism, and what I believed would one day lie ahead.

I realized that the efforts to perfect our world were far too great to put on the shoulders, no matter how broad, of one man. Armed with this epiphany, I concluded my participation at the Democratic National Convention with a politics

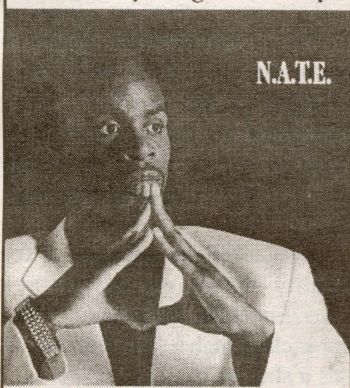
of my own: one fueled by affirmation and love. My new ethic centers around inclusion, calls for active involvement, and seeks to address the apathy, disillusionment, and cynicism that abounds not only in relation to government, but in our society as a whole. As a 20-year-old Junior in college, NEIU's Student Trustee, and a young

African-American woman who fervently believes that every individual has innate worth, I know that our democracy must be believed in; it is the only way it can work. And perhaps, just perhaps, the brilliance of American democracy lies in this paradox- it is that which one can shrink from and marvel at all at once.

Henry

continued from page 1

Never Anything Too Easy



AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY NATHANIEL J. HENRY

once very difficult life, Henry turned his focus towards the audience and their lives. He launched a pre-emptive strike at some of the obstacles that freshmen would most certainly face in their college careers. Henry asked that they repeat after him, "If school is hard, if professors happen to be hard, if family is so hard, I will do it all."

Among statements that Nate had the audience repeat after him, one resounding credo had freshmen declaring, "It ain't over until I win!"

Having grown in the environment that he did, Henry is quoted as saying realistically, "Any day there's no chalk outline around you, it's a great day."

Describing his book, Henry declared that it was written from the heart, not to make money, and that

it relates to everyone. He told everyone to be happy, and reflecting his belief about riches not coming from money, Henry said "Some are already rich, they just don't know it."

In efforts to motivate the crowd of freshmen, Henry assured them, "I promise if you nourish your goals, they will happen for you." Putting his fist to his heart, Nate said, "Achievements, advances, start in here... Life is hard, so do it hard."

Henry is working towards a Master's in speech/communications in addition to his other degrees, including a bachelor's in speech/communication and another in psychology.

Nate hopes he left those who attended his speech on Freshman Friday with a sense of power and control over their own destinies, saying, "Nate represents you if you're scared and by yourself."

Henry also told the Independent that many film production companies, including Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks and Spike Lee's 40 Acres and a Mule production labels, have been contacting him, highly interested in adapting *Never Anything Too Easy* into a major motion picture. Henry, however, has decided to work with a Chicago film company to turn his story into a film.

Nathaniel Henry was scheduled to sign copies of his book *Never Anything Too Easy* at Northeastern's Beck's Bookstore on September 25. Henry will also be doing a book-signing at Barnes and Noble in Downers Grove on October 3.



合氣道



NORTH SHORE aikido

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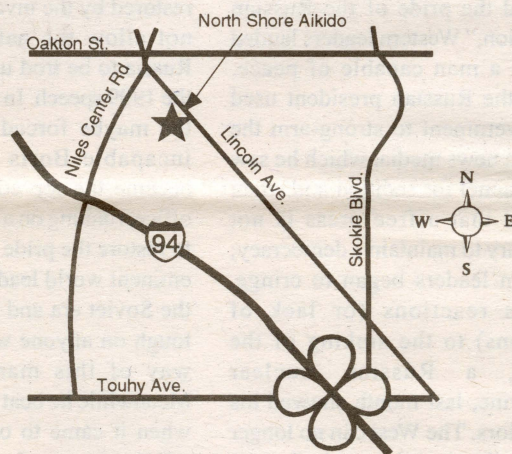
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PERSPECTUS

EDITORIAL BY SCOTT M. PLENCNER, STAFF WRITER

Russian Democracy Crumbling under Putin

Russia had been ruled by an iron fist for hundreds of years. The country's experiment with socialism found the Russian people under the grips of totalitarian dictators, who acted often in reverse of socialist theories. It seems that the nation's recent attempt at democracy is equally doomed thanks to rampant organized crime and KGB agent turned president, Vladimir Putin. Putin, like many of the Soviet-era leaders he worked for as a KGB agent, is a man who holds to values and ideologies so long as they suit his needs.

When he took office at the beginning of the year, Yeltsin's handpicked successor was publicly lauded by Western leaders including President Clinton. The West grew more and more anxious about Putin as details of the Russian president's biography was made public. Despite the bloody occupation of Chechnya called for by Putin while prime minister to, in Putin's own words, "defend the pride of the Russian federation," Western leaders lauded him as a man capable of peace. When the Russian president used the government to strong-arm the Russian news media, which he saw as a channel for sedition and when he said that a free press is not necessary to maintain a democracy, Western leaders began to cringe. Putin's reactions (or lack of reactions) to the sinking of the Kursk, a Russian nuclear submarine, last month showed his true colors. The West can no longer ignore what is going on in Russia, still very much a nuclear power. Putin, despite his rhetoric, is a totalitarian who lives in a world where people are merely numbers and democracy in Eastern Europe will not survive long with Putin as president.

Putin, who worked in the KGB as a spy in Germany for the Soviet Union, seemed a faithful communist. In 1989 as he watched the communist regime in East Germany crumble, he lamented in letters to his superiors in the USSR. When he returned to Russia, he found his own nation in peril. Hardliner communists had taken over the government, Gorbachev was nowhere to be seen, and Yeltsin's democracy movement had gained steam with a Russian populace sick of economic troubles brought about by the public-owned companies that mark a socialist government. In the uneasy months that followed Yeltsin had institutionalized a democratic system for Russia. It seemed as if Putin's career was over.

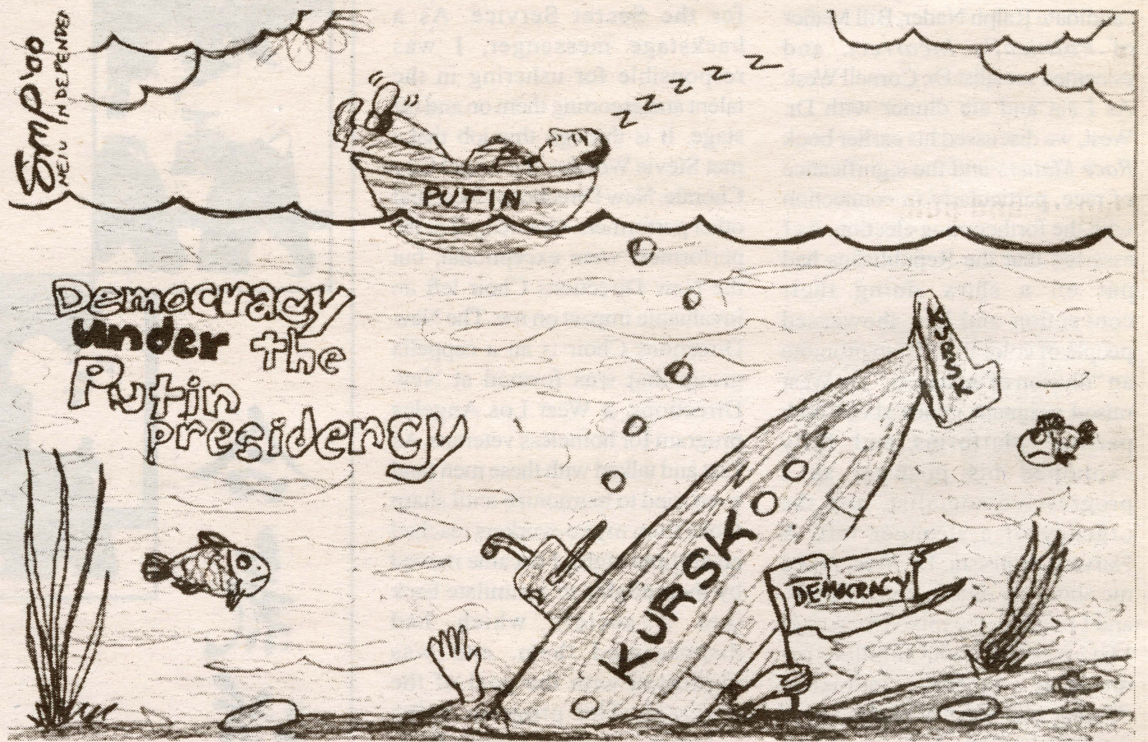
However, Putin, a man with no clear ideology of his own, found his way into the ruling class of the new democratic Russia, working behind the scenes, in St. Petersburg's mafia-connected political machine as deputy mayor. In 1996, he was sent by a political patron to Moscow where he worked within Yeltsin's inner-circle, known as "the family."

He was known as the "gray cardinal" by the few Russians who knew him, he was the silent bearer of true power in the crime-ridden and corrupt Russia of which Yeltsin was so unsure. He wore and still wears a poker face, wherever he goes. Everything about his demeanor is unclear and this could be why, at first, the hopeful West was so optimistic about the new face in the Kremlin.

Putin gained the fame he so despises through his war in Chechnya. When Chechen rebels stole their way into neighboring Dagestan (a Russian state) to spark rioting there, Putin, as head of Yeltsin's Security Council, ordered the army to expel the rebels. His blaming of the Chechens for terrorism all over Russia, justified his invasion of independent Chechnya, who humiliated the Russian army in its 1996 war for independence. He told the Kremlin that Russian honor was to be restored by the invasion. "We shall not allow the national pride of Russia to be trod upon," he said in the 1999 speech. In early 2000, with the maybe forced resignation of incapable Boris Yeltsin, Putin became the top contender for the office, running on a ticket promising to restore the pride of Russia as the eminent world leader it was during the Soviet era and promising to be tough on anyone who stood in the way of this manifest destiny. Meanwhile he beat around the bush when it came to organized crime, offering heaps of words and, so far, little real action.

Was it this pride that accounts for the Kremlin's delayed reaction to the Kursk disaster or was it something else? On August 12 the Russian fleet command lost contact with the Kursk, a nuclear submarine involved in training missions in the Barents Sea, just north of Norway. By the 13th the Russian military had confirmed that the submarine had sunk to the frozen seabed. The story of Putin's officials changed by day by day from here on out, perhaps in an effort to offer hope to the families of Kursk sailors. If this is the case, that Putin acted with the intention to ease the suffering of family members, why then did he reject offers from the United States and Norway of aid in a rescue mission? For one week, Russian officials threw out conflicting stories, and Putin tried to make it look like Russia was on top of the situation. There were several blundered attempts by the Russian government to rescue the stranded sailors without foreign aid. One day Putin's officials blamed storms, the next poor underwater visibility. Meanwhile Putin refused help from foreigners stating that Russia "had everything it needed to perform the rescue mission." But it was clear to the world that they did not and the conflicting stories and mountains of excuses made a strong case for conspiracy theorists, who felt there

DRAWING BOARD



were secrets hidden aboard the nuclear submarine that Putin did not want revealed to the West. The Russians, in fact, made physical contact with the Kursk on several occasions, but news out of the Kremlin always carried with it an excuse as to why the hatch could not be opened.

In two days, Norwegian divers were able to penetrate the hatch, which they reported was horribly damaged by Russian "rescue" attempts and found the crew of one hundred eighteen Russian sailors dead. It took a small team of divers two days to do what the entire Russian military force could not pull off in one week. This seemed more than luck and the family members of the Kursk dead, in a public hall meeting addressed government officials with complaints and questions about the failed rescue. One woman was shown on TV crying out for the death of her son, while a government-employed doctor rushed up behind her and stuck a syringe in her back. The woman was silent, within seconds collapsing under the spell of a sedative contained in the syringe. There is no freedom of speech in a Putin democracy, and without this democracy will not flourish.

Although Russian deputy prime minister Ila Keblenov denies an organized system of disinformation regarding the case, the Russian people and the West is cynical. Keblenov admits that decisions were made "in the heat of the moment and without enough analysis." After a long struggle to convince Putin's government to return to them their dead, the Kursk families are finally getting their wish. The submarine, however, will remain deep underwater. Putin, despite the wishes of investigators, refuses to extract from the icy depths the damaged submarine. Is he hiding something?

The real scene of the crime, however was not underwater, it was at that public hall meeting when the woman was sedated for speaking her mind. The picture showed to the West the sad state of Russian democracy under their shady president.

Reality bites

by Joanna Frigo
Distribution Manager

There has been a new boom in pop culture. It is what MTV is credited with beginning nine years ago.

Reality TV or "Voyeur TV" started well before MTV, however. It goes back to the early 1900's when the Lumier Brothers had that important first camera and taught people how to use it. Over time, documenting people and events on film became a form of reality film before television was introduced.

In the early part of the 1990's, MTV piloted a show that continues to run strong after nine years, *The Real World*. It has been a staple of the MTV programming since, and now the show is going into its tenth year with renewal for a few more years.

Like many popular shows, *The Real World* has a spin-off in another popular MTV show, *Road Rules*. *Road Rules* is a traveling adventure show that places 5-7 people in a mobile home. The premise is that a group of multi-backgrounded young adults go on missions that can result in handsome rewards. Does this remind you of a certain summer series?

It seems that *Survivor* is a mix of the two MTV shows, and it is rumored that Romana of *Survivor* is hosting as Ms. Big for a new MTV show, *The Real World/Road Rules Challenge*, featuring a mix of the past cast members from the two MTV shows.

We also see a show that is similar to *The Real World* airing on CBS, namely *Big Brother*. *Big Brother* places 10 people in a secured house for three months. Their lives are taped 24/7. The house is set up with cameras positioned in different parts of the house, even in the bathroom! This is rather freaky because the housemates have no contact with the outside world. Shows like *The Real World* and *Road Rules* allow contact and venture outside the "set."

Viewers of *Big Brother* vote a person out every two weeks. The show will be over on September 30, 2000, and we will find out who wins the half million. Is this not worth the trouble? Is it right? People will do anything to be on TV.

With all that we know, I have to ask; is Reality/Voyeur TV too much of a good thing and is it totally real? *The Real World* must go through about 200,000 hours of film and not even half of that is shown on TV. The same goes with all other reality shows, because the editors, producers, and directors edit the shows to create what we see on TV. What we see is a kind of a soap opera, but with no script.

If you saw the two hour finale of *Survivor*, you saw the drama of Susan's speech to Kelly and Richard. Last year we saw *The Real World*'s Ruthie and her roommates reaction to her drinking problem. This is high drama, and the viewers love high drama.

To counter the success of the Reality shows, we saw on Fox *American High*, the story of white, upper class, high school students. Is this a slice of real high school life? How many students in high school go to an upper-class, suburban one? The show's producers should have compared and contrasted two different high schools. Many schools are not like the one shown in the series.

Also, is it me, or when we saw Richard from *Survivor* on the MTV Video Music Awards, did you wonder why he would be on a show that normally reserves its precious seating space for musicians and actors?

CBS and MTV belong to the same company and that is why they have the magic touch with Reality Shows. These television shows may attempt to be different from each other but they all boil down to the same basic concept; people watch in private the lives of those who have given up their own privacy for the entertainment of others.

Or perhaps just for money and a chance to be on TV.

REV

Volume 5, issue 3. September 26, 2000

**Communications,
Shamunications.**
Disgruntled Rant-ings inside.
Page 2

**Barenaked Ladies
go Maroon**
Page 3

Plug-in and pull-out the *Independent* Guide to Entertainment

Gamer Review

Gamer's Delight-The Second Coming

by Lior Alon
REV Editor

WHAT: Sony's successor to their world-devouring video game console. Since 1994 the PlayStation has revolutionized video gaming, taking the field to several new extremes both technically and economically (Every sixth U.S. household has one). PlayStation 2, coming out October 26 in the U.S., improves immensely upon its prequel. Featuring a 128-bit processor clocked at 294Mhz and going by the eerie Emotion Engine moniker, the PS2 will add several graphic effects, mostly 3D, resolutions upwards of 640x400 and 3D sound to the arsenal employed by Sony's legions of hardcore third-party programmers. Main selling points: the new platform will support old PS titles and will even improve their speed and color depth. Best of all, it doubles as a full-fledged DVD player, giving you more for your money.

WHEN: Supposedly Oct. 26, yet if you didn't place an order by late July your chances of getting one before Xmas rival those of you winning the Big Game next Tuesday. Over a million were sold in Japan when it went on sale (in one day, mind you). Retailers have already reported outselling their allotted upon-release stock.

WHERE: Only a handful of on-line stores currently take orders but none promise prompt supply, and most actually talk of early next year as a realistic date for all of us who neglected to pay up six months ago. Electronics Boutique remains the largest single supplier. Bricks and mortar stores such as Best Buy and Wal-Mart have yet to accommodate the new product.

WHY: Non-devoted gamers steer clear. The PS2 will NOT be the catchy party-favor its predecessor was. It will be hardcore in most respects. True gamers will relish the breakthrough technology and mind-boggling

games, while casual bandwagon-hoppers will undoubtedly find coughing up \$50 per game rather annoying. Yep, no more \$19.99 titles. Other reasons include the huge library of older titles (just as a backup measure), the attractive DVD feature, and Sony's history with the original PS (over six years of success in a field known for its one-hit wonders). Needless to say, if you have a Sega Dreamcast you'll soon be looking to place a "for sale" ad in The *Independent's* classified section.

WHY NOT: Many will be put off by the hype and attempts to create hysteria among the buying public. Others will surely think \$299 for just the system and one controller pushes the rip-off envelope a bit too much. After all, add a second controller (\$40) and three games (\$150) and you'll be looking at a whopping \$500 plus change after tax. Folks counting on renting their pleasures need look elsewhere—don't expect Blockbuster to carry PS2 titles in the imminent future.

TOP GAMES: *Dead or Alive* by Tecmo (amazing beat em up with unparalleled graphics), *Star Wars Episode I- Straighter* by Lucasarts (you guessed it!), *Swing Away Gold* by T&E Software (a comical spoof of sport), and *Dynasty Warriors 2* by KOEI (remake of an arcade classic using jaw-dropping graphics and effects).

SPECS: CPU: U128-bit RISC chip running

at 300 MHz

RAM: 32MB DRAM

Graphics Processor: 150 MHz, 4MB integrated VRAM

Sound: SPU2, 2MB RAM (AC3, Dolby

Digital, DTS support)

Drive: 4X DVD, 24X CD read speeds

(PlayStation, DVD, audio CD support)

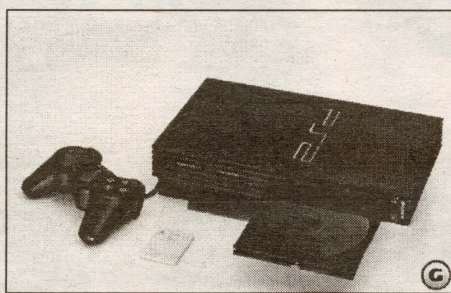
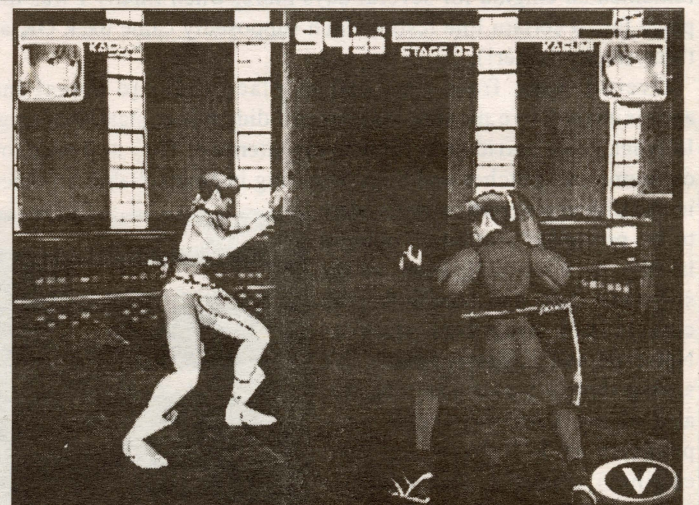
Dimensions: 178mm by 301mm by 78mm

(12 inches by 7 inches by 3 inches) Weight:

2.1 kg (4 lbs 10 oz)



Just an example of what it could be like at stores on October 26 when Playstation 2 is released. A swipe and chop here, with a jab and kick there, and the new system can be had.



"That last bit of Dreamcast stuck between my teeth has been driving me nuts for days!"

Pheromone Phriday a Phreshmen blast

by Tim Hill
Editor in Chief

Freshman Friday took a turn for the weird outside the P.E. Building. With the sweet carnal scent of free bratwursts wafting about the campus, gladiators of distorted pop mischief donned chain mail electric guitars, unbuttoned musical tubes of shiny ore, words of organic wisdom and visceral brokenness, and souls pure and white but for the haunting dirty hum of rock 'n' roll, more the color of black when it burns. This was WZRD' Pheromone Phriday, and what a phat phantasmagoria of sights and sounds it was.

The concert began with LMT Trio, featuring

Dan Tobiaski of Secret Agent Bill renown on guitar and turntables. Tobiaski entertained reggae ax strums and solos, heavily influenced by wah that cried all the way home while his stage partner traded off saxophone and clarinet licks with busy, jazzy vibratos. Percussion was supplied by Little Box, an electronic drum track. "I'm the T. That's the M. Here's the L," said Tobiaski, holding up Little Box and introducing the trio.

The next group was Northeastern's own University Jazz Combo. Each member of the quintet exhibited skills quite honed, each taking

see Phriday
continued on page 2



Two of the University Jazz Combo start swingin' at the WZRD concert.

photo by Tim Hill

The Rant

by Lior Alon

Communication Breakdown

DSL REPORTS

Yes, yes, I know we promised a story giving you a response from the record companies about Napster. Quite frankly, that can wait a bit. I gotta get this thing off my chest soon or I'll explode (ask anyone who was within a thousand feet of me in the last two weeks and they'll tell you).

See, we'll talk about promises. Promises and keeping them surely beat Napster for social merit, right? Well, maybe they're one and the same, but still, let us discuss promises for a minute or two. We hate it when people make them empty, and we generally would like to keep the ones we make, even though we all too often don't. Why does that happen? Why do promises go unfulfilled?

The cause of my banter this time, the culprit at the core of my frustration, the bane of my intellectual existence and the scourge of my sanity since about mid-July has been the promise of new technology. Not any new technology, but what buzzword lovers like to term as high speed internet.

For over six months now, we have been bombarded with constant ad campaigns from every billboard, bus and radio station beckoning us with cheap, available and revolutionary internet connections through cable or DSL (direct server link) modems. These hip new methods of communication claim to have overthrown the old dial-up net thanks to their eye-popping speeds. Death to the world wide wait they say, no more choke points! It all sounds fine, but eye-popping? I don't know about eyes, but if you sign up for any of this, be prepared to pop at least a couple of veins.

The first wave was AT&T's cable internet (MediaOne Express). They said it was available in my neighborhood but when the techs showed up, no connection was established due to "poor wiring," or so they said. Two weeks later, I was still sitting around the house waiting for no-show appointments and phantom phone calls from customer disservice. Finally I got a hold of one decent fellow who was honest enough to admit my area actually wasn't rigged for service. He gave me one month of free cable TV service. Great. Why did I spend all this time sitting around the house waiting, missing out on work, etc.? No one knew, no one cared.

Second wave: my current Ameritech DSL account. They too neglected to show up for the first appointment we made. A week of phone calls averaging 45 minutes on hold brought no results. One day, a gruff rep paid me a call, letting me know my order was put on hold. Why? It remained an enigma for several days more, when finally I was told my place failed certain line tests (which supposedly came back OK almost three weeks earlier!).

Overall, time from first call to place order to actual install—approximately two months. And when I did, at last, start receiving DSL Internet, some horrid facts came to my attention: They still need to work out numerous glitches and bugs, resulting in poor reliability (especially in the Chicago region, servers seem to be prone to "sporadic" outages lasting days on end); some of the software they use conflicts with classic net programs such as Netscape and Explorer (that's like saying there's a cool new, efficient and cheap fuel out there, only problem is it'll blow up your engine!). Finally, those frantic speeds they keep talking of turn out to be rather lukewarm, and at times about as fast as a CTA ride down State St. two days before Christmas.

Most computers will need extensive tweaking to fully benefit from any advantages. And please remember you will largely be on your own. Customer support will go on saying they understand your frustration, they will go over the same configurations so many times to no avail you'll know them by heart, but they will get no results for you. My experiences with the brave new world of information superhighways has been akin to ramming a formidable brick wall head-on. To me, this epitomizes an ugly corporate mindset bent on getting as many customers suckered in even though the infrastructure and know-how necessary to provide the very service being charged for do not exist.

Therefore, they must clean up their act. Don't release a service so new the customer will ALWAYS be the first one to happen upon problems in perfect guinea pig fashion. Even though when DSL does work right it totally rocks, a long way needs to be traversed still before we reach the Promised Land of lightning-fast downloads.

I will not disconnect my service even though it amounts to a class act waiting to happen. I want to believe in new things. I completely see the need for such technologies, as well as the need to support them. But shall we skip the deceit?

Here's to promises dutifully kept.

Phriday

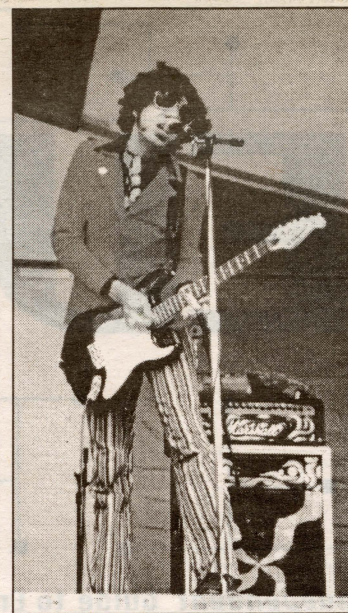
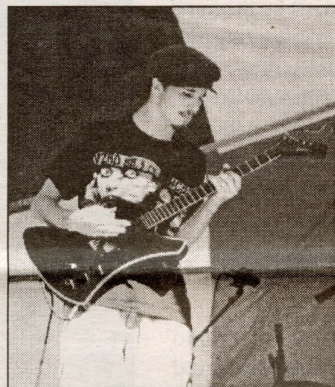
continued from page 1

a turn from the phrase to solo, wrapping the audience in deep blue ribbons of jazz.

Following the University Jazz Combo, Phenomers got a taste of psychedelic, experimental acid rock in the Unshown. This trio brought a Velvet Undergroundesque air to the Friday concert, particularly in the style of the group's female drummer. Like V.U.'s Mo Tucker, this grrrl displayed such an off-beatnik drumming style that I couldn't help but be reminded of Animal from the Muppets' Dr. Teeth band.

Her drum kit appeared pieced together: brown and retro-looking. She used a Pearl snare, obviously the newest addition to her kit, and cymbals that looked like they may have once been wheels on a death cart pushed through the muddy back-alleys of London during the Plague. The drummer had skill, however. She displayed unique technique when one could concentrate on it, and not on the also percussive style of the Unshown's guitar player.

The guitar-playing lead singer wore big green-rimmed sunglasses, a red felt coat, striped pants, and sang often through gritted teeth as if in much pain and discomfort. He went on to look like a curly brunette Beck, if Beck were to climb out of a clown car in the circus. He



donned sideburns that looked like boomerangs. Naturally, all fashions eventually come back.

The Unshown front man had a definitely novel approach to singing and guitar-playing. Most of the singing was more like a cross between whispering and screaming, as if from burns. His electric guitar was put through much fuzz distortion, abused theirin, and banged upon like a broken school-bell, percussion-like, and scratchy. For the second to last song, he either rubbed the strings with a wand, or not at all, instead banging the poor instrument for noise.

It was a little early in the day for acid when the Unshown took the stage. And a little cold. The drummer drank a Beck's while I nursed quickly cooling coffee. I remember thinking early in their performance that I can't see why anybody would

Dan Tobiaski (left) of LMT Trio cries "wah" and lets slip the chords of roar. The Unshown (above) played the guitar like a drum. (right) The hosts of Pheromone Phriday, Little Johnny Pineapple and Kitty "King Kong" Kaplooy.

want to play music like theirs. I would hurt too much. By the end of the Unshown's performance however, I felt that the trio had truly martyred themselves to an experiment that proved quite inspiring. Watching them, ideas flew so freely through the mind that paper could not capture them quick enough, let alone in full.

Amidst the bands at Pheromone Phriday, a break from music was taken for the spoken word stylings of Brown Eyes of Sunshine Poetics. Reverend Lee of the verse-speakers opened with a poem entitled *Round the Corner to Eternity*, an epic exploring existence from the glands to the mind and heart, all of which Lee had memorized and delivered sparkingly.

The only thing I resented about Pheromone Phriday was being handed a WZRD sticker and then being told, "Look on the back. You'll see colors!" Not that it would have amused me much if there were, but let me assure WZRD that if there were supposed to be colors on the backs of the stickers, I mistakenly got a defective one and would kindly like to exchange it for one that works.



On and on went Pheromone Phriday, deep into the chilly unknowns and unshowns of the night, continuing in alleys and basements, roof-tops and bed-tops, seen by eyes: in front of them, behind them, within them and without them. Certainly not everyone who could have stayed at school for the event did, but those who were there suffered only the relief of tension to a newly-freed mind.

photos by Tim Hill

DENZEL WASHINGTON

History
is written by the winners.

REMEMBER THE TITANS

JERRY BRUCKHEIMER PRODUCTION
WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH JERRY BRUCKHEIMER FILMS DENZEL WASHINGTON REMEMBER THE TITANS TECHNICAL BLACK PRODUCTION BOAZ YAKIN WITH WILL PATTON
DONALD FAISON NICOLE ARI PARKER MUSIC BY TREVOR RABIN COSTUME DESIGNER JODY RUSKIN HOWELL EDITOR MICHAEL TRONICK A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER DEBORAH EVANS DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PHILIPPE ROUSSELOT A.C.E.
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MIKE STENSON MICHAEL FLYNN PRODUCED BY GREGORY ALLEN HOWARD PRODUCED BY JERRY BRUCKHEIMER CHAD OMAN
DIRECTED BY BOAZ YAKIN
TECHNICAL BLACK FILMS PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED SOME MATERIAL MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN
For rating reasons, go to www.filmratings.com
disney.com/titans

OPENS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU!

Artificial Intelligence

by Lior Alon
REV Editor

Reviewers never want to hurt anybody's feelings. Their criticism is meant to guide, not discourage. Writers always tend to focus on constructive comments rather than the mere roasting of any given artist. Alas, sometimes we must make exceptions. Some releases just bring out the sadistic, anti-social demon in even the tamest of journalists.

I-5 counts as such an exception. Apparently standing for "International 5" (and not "Incompetent 5" as some listeners quickly hasten to conclude), this totally manufactured, prefab pop outfit tries to do what the erstwhile Spice Girls did three and half years ago. However, they have lost their window of opportunity big time, more like hitting a solid wall right next to them.

I-5 brings back memories of the mid eighties, when super-producers would sit down at their mixers and come up with production-line, low-grade pop such as Kylie Minogue and various other Australian travesties. Same here. This time around, though the sonic criminals responsible for the ensuing fiasco have further sinned against our collective wits. Why? Don't forget the five ladies have been selected intently from five different countries to give the act a universal flavor. Other than the simple fact that bulk bleached rice has a more engrossing and authentic taste, why does each member look like a stereotypical representation of her respective origin? Remember those books they gave you when you were four? The ones showing kids from all over the world? You know, the American kid was a cowboy, the Mexican dude always wore a sombrero, and there was never a Russian child in sight (Cold War days). The same offensive mindset guided the creation of I-5.

Nothing in this album, its music, sleeve or even website suggests an attempt to truly intrigue, innovate or create. I'm sure each girl by herself has lots of character and

potential, but together they fell prey to a vile conspiracy against good music everywhere. Wanting to cash in on the N-Sync/Christina/Westlife blah blah hysteria, I-5's puppet masters have created an abomination in their rush to make money.

Opening with the moronically titled *Ladidi Ladida*, the self-named CD holds no promise whatsoever. It continues with *Distracted*, a superficial ditty about talking on the cell, waiting at the ATM and other *Clueless*-like activities which assumes I-5's target audience will be distracted enough to actually buy this. Other "highlights" include the Latin-wannabe *Scream Shout*. A poorly conceived song at any rate, it mocks the rich backdrop of quality Latin music that exists in our culture.

All the tracks share a common thread of repetitive, formulaic synthesizers, samplers and pointless lyrics (what a sad state of affairs when they name a song *Sweet 'N' Sassy*). The only virtue shining through the fog of disgrace are the girls' voices. They never get individual credit for who sings what, but frankly they all share this burden more or less equally. Given their impressive vocal traits and very good looks, they will all probably move on to better things.

As can you, dear reader, assuming you will evade this completely artificial and wholly unnatural concoction.

I-5
Giant Records

MUSIC: F Proof positive that a plot to topple pop music and its enjoyment indeed exists.
LYRICS: F Parental Guidance-Warning: Explicitly Dumb Lyrics
PRODUCTION: B Why must they always spend so much money on these things? Well, it does sound good from a technical, sound-quality perspective. But nothing more.
OVERALL: F This won't get a chance to grow on you. That's what stores have refunds for.

The REV Ticker

Don't forget to check out these exciting upcoming events:

Performing Arts Chicago (PAC): especially for Halloween, the PAC will host Fulcrum Point, a contemporary chamber ensemble, who will perform *I Married A Monster!*, featuring their innovative musical style. It will be followed by a screening of *Bride of Frankenstein* and other suitably ghoulish activities.
Date: October 28th, 2pm. Location: Simpson Theatre, Field Museum.
Admission: \$10 with student I.D.
Contact: (773) PAC-LINE (773-7225463)
Coming costumed highly recommended!

Mexican Fine Arts Center Museum: Starting Sept 22nd and going all the way to December 10th, the museum will be signifying Mexico's immensely intriguing Day of the Dead with a series of exhibits, lectures and teacher workshops titled *Dia de muertos, Puerta a la eternidad*. Location: 1852 W. 19th St.
Contact: (312) 738-1503.
36th Chicago International Film Festival: A celebration of more underground-minded, yet wholly entertaining cinema from all over the globe.
Date: October 5th-19th. Contact: (312) 332-FILM.

Chicago International Children's Films Festival: 17th year for this event, this year bringing together 180 films originating from almost as many countries, as well as age-oriented workshops and other activities.
Date: October 12th-22nd. Location: Facets Multimedia, 1517 W. Fullerton Av. and General Cinemas, 2600 N. Western Av.
Cost: \$6 per ticket.
Contact: (773)281-9075.

CD Review

Transcontinental Ride

by Lior Alon
REV Editor

Although Zap Mama's fourth full length release, A Ma Zone, has been out for almost a year in limited distribution, it has only become widely available this summer thanks to the band's first international hit, Iko Iko, being put on the M:I2 soundtrack. While that song tells a lot about the group's more Western aspects with its catchy rhythms and pop-like sensibilities, so much more remains to be learned.

Essentially a one woman show (centered around lead singer and almost sole writer Marie Daulne), Zap Mama combines influences from West Africa, France and the U.S with remarkably honest and exciting results. Born in Zaire but raised in Belgium, Daulne has been the subject of an extensive musical upbringing that has granted her the tools to generate, as well as intimately understand her chosen materials.

Zap Mama have made a decision to go easier on the cultural message this time. The CD has a lot of energy, atmosphere and uniquely ethnic elements, yet at the same time doesn't come across as in-your-face

or missionary. Daulne and her five female co-conspirators liberally delve into Pygmy chants, African music, French hip-hop and American acid jazz. Effectively melding these diverse, intercontinental influences with almost no glitches, Zap Mama deserve our undivided attention.

Best song on the disc has to be number eight, Comment Ca Va. It at once has English, French and African lyrics combined, and all work magnificently. The track furthermore demonstrates the band's mastery of drum 'n' bass composition.

To best illustrate their love of African themes, W'Happy Mama has the most distinct use of Pygmy chanting and instrumentation. However, they also wanted to implement European ideas upon which most members were educated and hold dear. Working nearly all the time, the concept falters only occasionally. Cut number ten, My Own Zero, presents a completely European scheme, but despite an outstanding melody loses points for sounding too much like Bjork to be distinct.

Guests on the album include Philadelphia's The Roots and

African pop star Manu Dibango. They contribute to the eclectic nature of A Ma Zone, together with Daulne working to arrange music that challenges conventional pop standards but also attracts listeners' ears with addictive panache.

Zap Mama prove ethnic, or world, music and accessible pop don't have to be mutually exclusive.

Zap Mama
A Ma Zone
Luaka Bop/Narada Productions

MUSIC: B Coming from the label that gave us Cornershop, Zap Mama champion true, largely unpretentious multi-cultural music of numerous facets, layers and ingredients.

LYRICS: A Lines like "One thousand and one nights need two thousand and one days" deserve all the praise they can get.

PRODUCTION: A Exquisitely adept, especially considering how many varied styles were brought to bear.

OVERALL: B Interesting and unique without feeling like an experiment. If you listen to stuff like I-5, though, you won't get it.

From Platinum to Maroon

by Chris Schneider
Staff Writer

The Barenaked Ladies follow up the success of their quadruple platinum-selling album *Stunt* with the release of *Maroon*. You may recall their single *One Week* which hit number one on the Billboard charts a couple years back. The Barenaked Ladies, a Canadian band, began as a duo in 1988. With extensive touring and a loyal fan base, they have progressed to quite an impressive act.

The first single from *Maroon* is titled *Pinch Me*. I must say that this is the catchiest song on the album, though they could have chosen any song from *Maroon* to release as a single. *Pinch Me* is about a sunny, carefree day with no worries on your mind: something most of us only dream about. It put a smile on my face when I heard it, definitely a good tune for those days you are not feeling

up to par.

After a couple of jammin' songs, the Barenaked Ladies switch it up to a slow one called *Conventioneers*. *Conventioneers* may persuade you to scoop up your significant other and dance the night away or perhaps to have a candlelight dinner outside on a cool September night.

Baby Seat contains a very inspiring message about not "living your life in a baby seat," but standing up and taking charge of your life.

Sell Sell Sell is a tasteful impression of the theater, a song about acting on Broadway. The Barenaked Ladies make it apparent that their music is not merely an act. I suggest that you buy, buy, buy a copy of *Maroon* (but do it soon because the early released versions of *Maroon* contain a hidden bonus track which will be removed from later releases of the album)

Maroon overall is very impressive. Having never had

the Barenaked Ladies exposed to me, I must say I have certainly been missing out on some great music. Definitely get this album. It is fantastic, and works well as background music for those all-night study sessions. I liked every song on *Maroon*, a very rare thing for me and a sure sign of a good album.

Barenaked Ladies
Maroon
Reprise

Music: A Every song is catchy and well-written.
Lyrics: B Most of the lyrics are cool except I do not like the fact that many lines end with rhyme. It gets to be too much at times.
Production: A Produced by Don Was, *Maroon* is an excellent album. Let's just say production was keen, check it out for yourself.
Overall: A Trade your green for *Maroon*. You will not be disappointed.

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A message to the illiterate

I know, they can't read. That's why I'm writing to them. Ironic, isn't it? Anyway, this is a two-part article. First, I'll tackle a real life issue, then I'll give my much valued opinion.

J.K. Rowling's controversial series, the *Harry Potter* books, are getting more heat from the public. This time, Florida residents registered their dislike of the much heralded series to a local library. The library had issued numerous gift certificates for purchase of the book, *Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire*. Their reasoning was, "This is a popular book, it's a good book, kids will get discounts on it, and kids will read more." Good plan, but they didn't count on intervention from narrow-minded morons, such as Florida residents.

Parents and teachers alike cried foul, as they continued their campaign to ban Harry Potter on the grounds that it teaches witchcraft to youngsters. Now, I personally have read all four of the Harry Potter books, and I found them to be fantastic. Well written and interesting, these easy to read books should be on the personal library of every literate child in the country. Parents and teachers often complain that kids nowadays don't read enough, but when a book comes along that kids want to read, they try to ban it.

Aside from being an affront to freedom of speech and press, these idiots are ruining a perfectly good thing. Kids today do not read enough. As I was, today's youth are brought up on TV and video games, and it's making them slow and dull. I too was slow and dull, bored in school, counting the seconds until I could rush home and glue my face to the TV. Then, I discovered a genre of literature that fit me like a glove: Fantasy.

Fantasy provides me with a very necessary escape from my normal, dismal life. TV provided rapid images, edited and formatted to fit the American attention span. Books, however, allow you to go at your own pace. You can read 500 pages a day, or 5 pages a day. The book is a doorway to another world, and your key is your brain.

Sadly, many of today's youth decide that books are stupid, and thus surround themselves with computers, DVDs, satellite dishes, video games. Best Buy's wet dream has officially come true, and the youth of America dwindle into the never ending spiral of sloth. Parents today have a more difficult job of keeping their kids occupied than parents of the past. A couple generations ago, parents could send their children off to romp in some forest preserve, and no harm would come of it.

Today, however, thieves and murderers abound. Parents are frightened for their kids safety, and with good reason. With limited options, parents choose to allow their kids to sit in front of a computer, or a TV all day, while the child's brain slowly stews into a quagmire of advertisements and pop culture pseudo-wisdom. I say, instead of using the TV as a baby sitter, use a book. Take your kid to a library, let him wander, and get him the books he brings back. Of course, use discretion. No 6 year old should be reading Stephen King.

While discretion should be used, Rowling's masterpiece being charged with witchcraft is ludicrous. Under the Fantasy genre, it's obvious that it is a fictitious work, and should not be taken seriously. It isn't meant to teach children how to ride broomsticks and spread mayhem throughout the lands. It's meant to transport children to a magical world, full of bizarre and fantastic happenings.

If this book is banned in certain states, it sends a message that all you need to get your way is a silver tongue and the ability to reach many stupid people. It makes me want to find some idiots and try to ban hypocrisy, what with these Florida residents bitching that their kids don't read enough, then banning the one book they want to read.

Have a heart, get a clue, and stop facilitating your child's mental degeneration into the melting pot of hypocrites and brainless followers. Get him a book, sit him near a window, and watch while he enters a magical world. Denying your child access to this world, in my eyes, is tantamount to creative genocide.

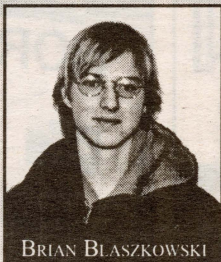
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Letters to the Editor must be signed and contain an address and daytime telephone number for verification and no more than 250 words in length.

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



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

Knight given the boot: Fair or unfair?

by Chris Vogt
Staff Writer

Bobby Knight has certainly left his mark on the athletic world since he began his coaching career 29 years ago at Indiana University. Winning three NCAA titles, eleven Big Ten titles, induction into the Hall of Fame, and having an overall record of 763-289 are highlights of Coach Knight's impressive career. This legacy ended after Knight was fired just 117 games shy of passing fellow Hall of Fame coach Dean Smith.

University of Indiana President Myles Brand fired Knight for "a pattern of unacceptable behavior." Apparently, Brand said that Knight was repeatedly violating a zero-tolerance conduct policy established last May. But how did all of this begin?

According to the recent September 11 Chicago Tribune, in Knight was charged with aggravated assault in Puerto Rico in July of 1979. In March 1985, Knight drew a one-game suspension for throwing a chair across the court during a February

game.

On March 23 of this year, Brand appointed two trustees to look into accusations that Knight grabbed former Hoosier player Neil Reed by the throat during a 1997 practice.

On May 15, Brand imposed sanctions against Knight. He suspended the coach for three games and fined him \$30,000. Then on the Thursday before he was fired, Knight grabbed a 19-year-old student. Knight admitted to the encounter, but says that he was trying to teach him some manners. That incident

MAIL BAG

LETTERS FROM INDEPENDENT READERS

To the editor:

Animal dissection, which first entered classrooms in the 20's, is still being used at NEIU. It places a disproportionate importance on memorizing the location of one animal's organs. Also, it causes unnecessary suffering and death to

animals, risks to human health, and the deterioration of social values that results from teaching students to accept the destruction of other creatures.

In the year 2000, there are more sophisticated ways to teach biology through the use of CD Roms and

videodiscs. We as students are entitled to an education compatible with our moral values. It is time our school eliminated dissection and adopted modern non-animal methods to teach biology.

Ellen M Larrimore

QUOTABLES

The road to hell is paved with works-in-progress.

Philip Roth

If you smile at me, I would understand, 'cause that is something everybody everywhere does in the same language.
Crosby, Stills, and Nash, *Wooden Ships*

I can not be a man with wishing, therefore I will die a woman with grieving.

William Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing*

But it ain't whatcha write, it's the way atcha write it.

Jack Kerouac

People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed and redeemed. Never throw out anybody.

Audrey Hepburn

Ninety-eight percent of the adults in this country are decent, hard-working, honest Americans. It's the other lousy two percent that get all the publicity. But then- we elected them.

Lili Tomlin

A modern artist is one who throws paint on a canvas, wipes it off with a cloth, and sells the cloth.

Anonymous

Weaseling out of things is important to learn.

Homer Simpson

The only difference between me and a mad man is that I'm not crazy.

Salvador Dali

I don't want to hear anybody talking about rich or not rich when I'm around. If people aren't nice I don't care how rich they are. I live in the best street in the world because my husband and children live there.

Thornton Wilder, *The Happy Journey*

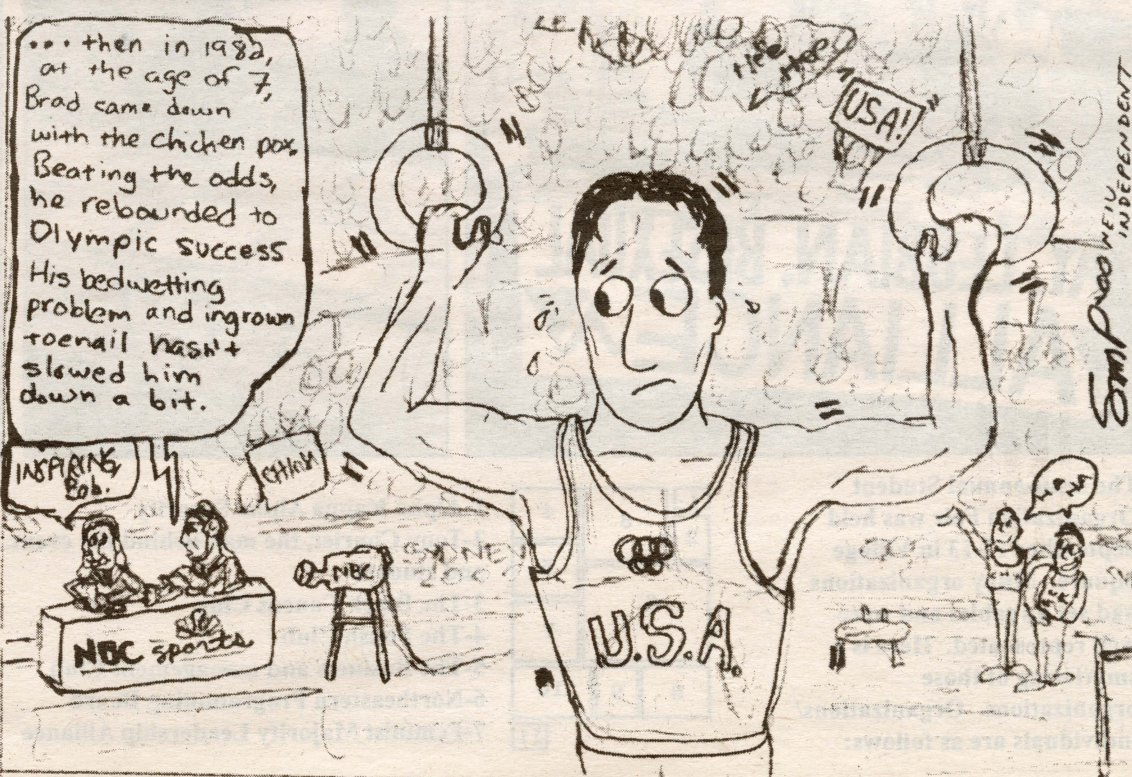
Colleges are like old-age homes, except for the fact that more people die in colleges.

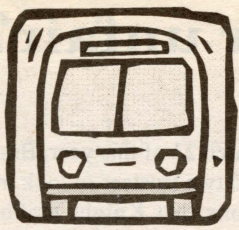
Bob Dylan

I gave up on new poetry myself thirty years ago, when most of it began to read like coded messages passing between lonely aliens in a hostile world.

Russell Baker

DRAWING BOARD

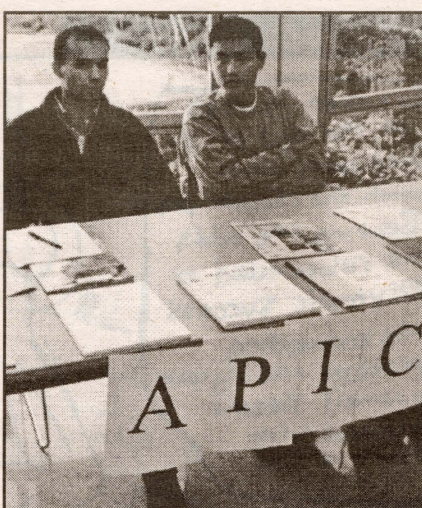
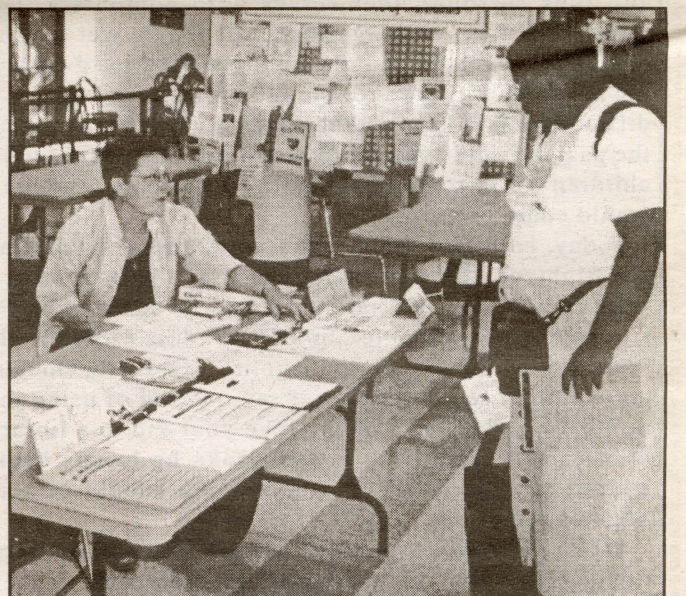
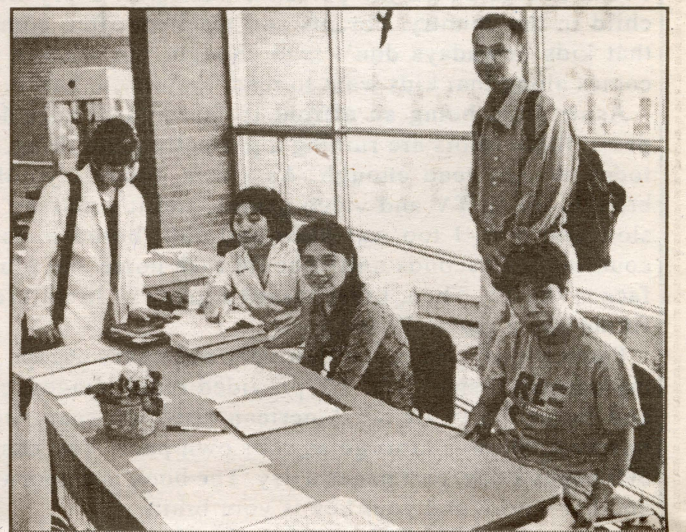
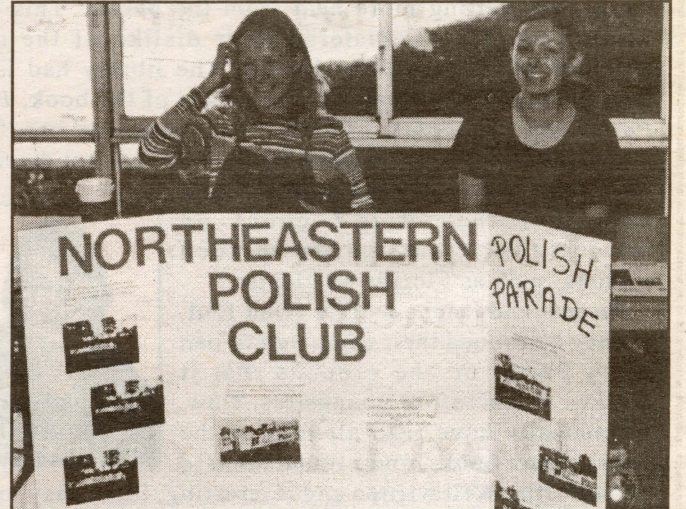
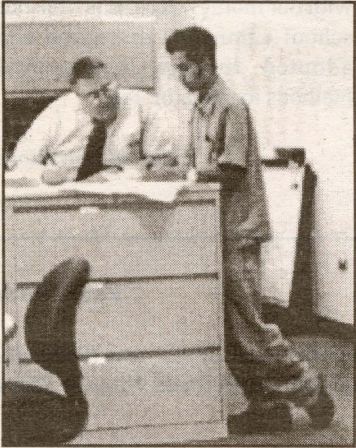




The Commuter

Your Independent Guide to Features

Many faces and facets of NEIU



The semi-annual Student Organization Fair was held September 12-13 in Village Square. Many organizations had set up tables and were well represented. Here is a smattering of those organizations. Organizations/individuals are as follows:

1	3	4
2		5
	6	7
8	9	10
		11

- 1-Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
- 2-Tony Courier, the man behind the event, and student
- 3-The Black Caucus Club
- 4-The Polish Club
- 5-The Business and management Club
- 6-Northeastern Programming Board
- 7-Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance

- 8-Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alliance
- 9-American Production & Inventory Control (APICS)
- 10-Korean American Student Association
- 11-The Independent



All photos taken by Jessica Bezold and Carole Brown.

LOOKING FOR NEWS OF THE **Strange & Weird**

**"Squirrelly" office
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**The *Independent* is
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Archimedes



**Crabby
...will be back
next issue
with a special
column.**

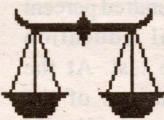
**If you have a question for
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Chicago * IL * 60625**

(**Star Signs**)

by Iris the Oracle

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK: This year is full of new projects, friends and romantic possibilities. Strike the iron while it's hot!

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS NEXT WEEK: The stars caution that you protect yourself. January and October will be your memorable months next year.



**LIBRA (September
23 to October 22)**

Be ready for a variety of sensations and experiences that are coming your way. Your attraction to a good friend is physical as well as mental. Know it and protect yourself in emotional clinches.

the facts, analyze them, arrive at your own conclusions.



**AQUARIUS
(January 20 to
February 18)**

What was started as a project months ago now could be completed if you are persistent. Don't be talked out of it by someone who knows little or nothing about what is going on. If you do, you'll regret it.



**SCORPIO
(October 23 to
November 21)**

Go slow. Attention revolves around family and where you live. You will be given an investment offer that you can't refuse. Music will be rocking your life. Be attentive to one who seeks your counseling.



**PISCES (February 19
to March 20)**

Push aside any preconceived notions you have about the world around you. You will encounter bright people who are definitely out of your league. Be open-minded, but don't be naïve. A friend of yours will help make your life exciting.



**SAGITTARIUS
(November 22 to
December 21)**

All the facts are not in. You will hear something that will change the problems happening now. Avoid becoming a victim of self-deception. If you don't know what to do, do nothing. You'll be glad that you waited.



**ARIES (March 21 to
April 19)**

It might be best for you to stay put right now. A good friend of yours, for whatever reason, wants to deceive you. Avoid getting involved in an interfamily dispute or a wild goose chase.



**CAPRICORN
(December 22 to
January 19)**

You are making a remarkable comeback. You are given responsibility of putting across a big transaction in your life. You are hearing numerous rumors at NEIU. Get



**TAURUS (April
20 to May 20)**

You are finally leaving your friends influence behind



**GEMINI (May 21
to June 21)**

Lie down and play the waiting game. This may not be as easy as it seems. Numerical cycle of number 1 means initiative, action, style. If you jump the gun, it could cost you something very dearly.



**CANCER (June 22
to July 22)**

Your kind of day. In a generous mood. If you really want to be generous, you could help a family member or try new recipes. You should also express love to one who has lacked confidence lately.



**LEO (July 23 to
August 22)**

It is perfectly all right for you to diversify, change things around you, plan social get-togethers. Warning: Popularity rating on the rise. People will confide unwanted information, and problems will arise. Be wary. You might be surprised with what it really is.



**VIRGO (August 23 to
September 22)**

An enemy from your past will make a sudden appearance in your life. That enemy appears to be confused and has a concerning motive. Be pleasant, but be careful. You don't want to make the same mistake twice.

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Education advisement meetings leave many flat

by Scott M. Plencner
Staff Writer

On consecutive Fridays, September 8th and 15th, Northeastern's College of Education held two five hour long mass advisement meetings for prospective applicants. Most students who attended are already enrolled in education foundations courses and are looking forward to their professional training. News of the required meetings was disseminated by word of mouth a week before the first meeting.

Education students, who for years complained of contradicting advice from their different advisors, saw this as an opportunity to straighten out such items as qualifications for the admission to the college, state academic requirements, and certification testing. "These orientation meetings held recently are something that are long overdue," SGA President, Tom Foley, commented in a statement released to the *Independent*. "They [advisors] need to come to these meetings with deadlines, strategies, and constructive answers to the legitimate concerns of the students."

Many students were concerned with the presentation of requirements they knew nothing about before the meeting, and while thankful the discrepancies were discovered now instead of during graduation time, most were left with one or two more semesters needed to appease the state and the college's admission review board. There have always been changes in the requirements for teachers, due to constant legislation in Springfield. The Reading 301 course was made mandatory by the university

because adjacent states require this course for certification. A general education course in economics was also added for future history teachers.

The College's student teaching placement department had a word regarding deadlines for applications for placement. At one point, Dr. Bersk, coordinator of the placement office, addressing the crowd of students told the students, "Do not mess with us." She laid out the consequences for students who failed to comply with the strict deadlines and procedure necessary to gain a student teaching position, stressing all the while that Northeastern's good relationships with area schools must be maintained.

The College of Education, afraid of cuts in funding due to the historically low passing rate NEIU has had in the Illinois Test of Basic Skills, made a passing grade on the test mandatory for all new applicants. This test is taken by the state to be sure teachers are properly educated and can adequately read, write, and understand basic mathematical concepts. The test is set at an eighth grade level and NEIU's eighty percent passing rate proved an embarrassment to the university, renowned for its strong education department. When the state threatened cuts in funding during the

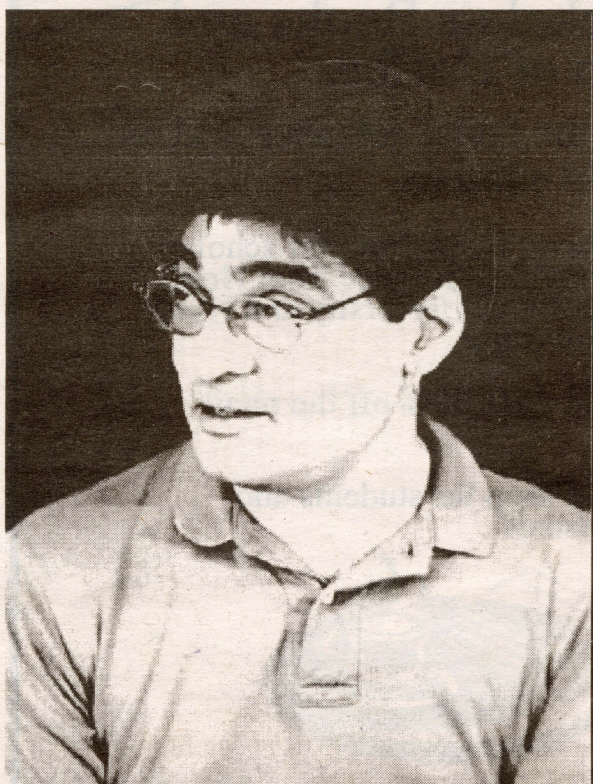
summer if this rate did not increase, college administrators scrambled to find a solution. The college reformed the admissions requirements adding a passing grade on the test, so that they can report to the state that one hundred percent of NEIU's official education students passed the test. At the meeting, representatives of the admissions board methodically reviewed procedure for taking standardized tests and took writing samples from prospective education

students. On the 15th, a few students walked out during these explanations. The premature exits increased after the writing samples were taken and the room very quickly emptied without official dismissal. Many students, afraid to be directly quoted, were left angered by what they considered patronizing.

"If you miss the Basic Skills test due to some unfortunate circumstance, your whole academic future is placed on hold for one or

two semesters," Foley commented, adding that the test is only offered four times a year and that the admission board only meets twice a semester. "The rules," Foley said, "are never so inflexible that they achieve greater importance than the people they are supposed to serve." The SGA president promises to address the mounting grievances of education students. Foley called for a "frank and open dialogue" regarding the advising problems plaguing the College of Education.

This Man's World and..



JOHN ROSSI

**will return
next issue.**

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Services

IMPACT Theatre is looking for energetic, fun-loving and committed individuals who would like to help us get started. Help create history! Contact us at CM-Brown@mailexcite.com

Organizations

Wanted: Feminists to join a student-run campus group and participate in political actions. Meetings 2nd Tuesday, 4th Thursday, C-505, 1:40 pm.

The Black Heritage Gospel Choir is extending its

membership to all Northeastern students. Come join us in singing songs of praise. Tues. and Thurs., 1:40-2:50, FA 152. -President Kendra Young

WZRD 88.3 FM's "Thursday Nite Live" seeks bands/musicians. All styles considered. No promises. Must have demo. Send descriptions to secretagentbill@hotmail.com.

Personals

Hey N.E. Whovians! Are YOU going to Chicago T.A.R.D.I.S. 2000? I am! <http://home.earthlink.net/chicagotardis/>

"Divide" If you like loud, heavy, soft, fast, slow, poop-in-your-pants METAL, then visit dividemusic.com. E-mail the band for a free cd.

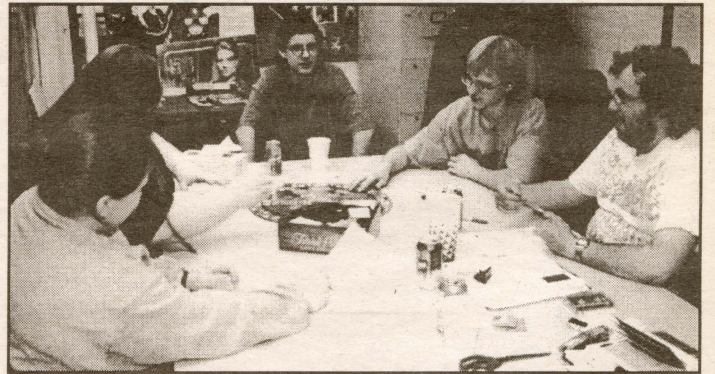
Please pick up a copy of your official student newspaper in bin located around school. Please recycle them after you have read them.

Don't forget to celebrate *Drop a Squash On To Your Neighbor's Porch Night* on October 1. It's sure to be smashing fun!

Michael - Once more I say Happy Birthday to an increasingly older man. What's the age this year? - Love, CMB

"All's well that ends well. I meant

It's not just fun and games...



...but it's more fun than you think!

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well. Oh well." - Mr. Gloom

V-Man: It's been a wonderful year and now you have a special day coming up. What surprises might be awaiting on the anniversary of your glorious birth? We'll see. - The Office Girls

Finally, the tsunami of strange influences has ebbed and subsided from yet another weekend spent churning in the bowels of utmost depravity. Bridges were gapped, crossed, burned, and rebuilt between poles at constant odds. Nevertheless, all mistakes made and pleasures stolen, we still woke up with a guilty smile on our dirty faces, didn't we. - Brother Tierre Wordsmith F.S.C.

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Limit one ad per person/organization per issue. Ads must be 20 words or less. There is a 25-cents charge for each word over 20 words. All classified ads must be ordered in person at the *Independent* office. For more information, please call Brian Blaszkowski, Business Manager at 773.794.2812

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