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Carole M. Brown

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Independent

Vol. 17 Issue 16

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Tuesday, April 24, 2001

Hacker blamed for election fiasco Unauthorized terminal found, investigation continues

by Victor A. Dula
Opinions Editor

As Walt Sommers, Director of Student Activities, revealed during the April 12 Student Senate meeting, it was a hacker, perhaps more than one, who found his or her way into the online, computerized voting website facilitated for the 2001 Spring Elections.

Mark Kipp, Director of Auxiliary and Support Services, also revealed at that Student Senate Meeting that 128 of the 1008 student ID's swiped were actually ID's from students who voted on the parking referendum on March 27 and 28. Kipp mistakenly counted them with the student ID's swiped for the Spring Elections. This means only 880 students voted on the main campus on April 2, 4, and 5, aside from a few whose ID's could not be read by the machine.

These findings rule out the previous possibility that perhaps there were some program error, tallying mistake, or other accidental cause for the massive discrepancy of 2478 votes cast for approximately 880 student ID's swiped in the card reader.

According to Sommers, votes were cast from a terminal or terminals that were not one of the four official terminals used for the Elections on main campus. "It definitely was a malicious hacker who did this," asserts Sommers.

There were only four computer terminals on the main campus where students could vote on April 2, 4, and 5. In Village Square, each was logged on with a unique IP address to the same voting website. IP addresses are like "license plates," so to speak, assigned to computers when they go online.

"I was told by University Computing that there were at least two and could be as many as four additional IP addresses," says Sommers. These additional IP addresses yielded illegitimate votes, and whoever voted from any of these terminals did so fraudulently. If caught, the hacker faces possible expulsion and, because the Student Trustee is a state position, could face criminal charges.

Walt Sommers, University Computing, and Student Government President Tom

Foley are investigating the matter. "We are in the process of locating those terminals," says Foley. He says that they will check surveillance tapes to try to identify exactly who used the additional terminals to cast illegitimate votes. Foley also indicated, "I've had extensive talks with Public Safety about this issue, and I will contact the State's Attorney's Office."

President-elect Gary Gaspard weighed in on the issue, "It's unfortunate for somebody who thinks he or she is so smart to mess up the election. This person should be prosecuted at any cost."

In a separate interview, Bill Moressi, Acting Director of University Computing, shared data that University Computing Services collected concerning the fraudulently cast votes.

According to Moressi, one additional IP address accounted for exactly 599 illegitimate votes. The user cast these votes on Wednesday, April 4, in room CLS 2108 on computer number 39 between 4:34 p.m. and 5:57 p.m. The Networking and Systems Department obtained this data upon



Terminal 39 in CLS 2108 (above) was the computer used to hack into the SGA election site. Investigators are using computer records to find out who used the incriminating computer.

examination of the University web server's log file, a record of web-based transactions kept on the server.

Moressi speculates that the individuals responsible for gumming up the election somehow found the URL, or web address, from one of the four official voting terminals to log on to the voting site from other locations. Since the

URL was hidden from view on those four terminals, Moressi says, "Anyone who got the URL had to be deliberately looking for it to influence the vote or disrupt the election process."

As Moressi demonstrated on his computer, a hidden URL is not too difficult to retrieve.

Hacker blamed
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Second time's the charm: 2nd Election shows big contrast



President-elect Gary Gaspard, who won both elections, gives the thumbs up a few days after his victory.

by Brian Blaszkowski
News Editor

As a result of the large discrepancy between votes cast and NEIU students who voted in the first election, the SGA election was held again April 14, 16, and 17. This time, instead of electronically counting the votes, the votes were all counted by hand in SU 217. The hand counters were Tom Foley, Walt Sommers, Tony Courier, Maggie Dones, Maja Wojdalski, Anne Marie Lynch, Robyn Kurtz, Flora Llacuna, Michael Kelly, and Cecily Minzi.

The rules of the counting were simple, but long. There were three tables set up, and the votes were arranged into colors, yellow

ballots being the referendum questions, orange ballots being the votes cast on Saturday, and blue ballots from Monday and Tuesday. Three tables were set up, with three or four hand-counters per table. Each vote for a specific candidate was put into piles of ten, and then piled on top of each other lengthwise, then widthwise. After the counter had counted all of his or her ballots, they counted them a second time. If the totals were the same both times, then a post-it note was attached to the top of the pile, with the candidate's name, number of votes, and the initials of the counter. Then, a different counter double-checked.

As there were seven different positions, each with a varying number of candidates and open spots, the counting took a long time. The results, however, have been checked and double checked, and the SGA election is finally over.

The first position to be counted was President, in which Gary

Gaspard beat Kobi Phomsivilai by a total of 525 to 325. A jubilant Gaspard said, "I feel great. I'd like to thank the Lord and my family for their support, as well as my team and my voters. Physically, I was not up for it [the campaign], but spiritually I was there."

Gaspard went on to say, "On the fifth [April 5th, the first election], the students spoke, but something happened, so we did it again. I'm not just the president for those students who voted for me, but for the 11,000+ NEIU students."

When Phomsivilai was asked for his thoughts on the election, he replied, "The second election is clean, and I feel good and relieved."

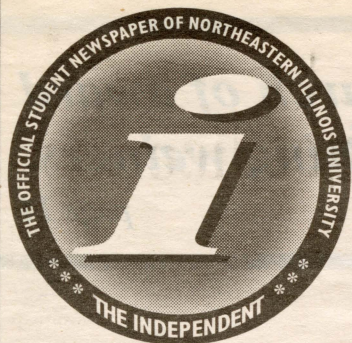
I'm happy that people supported me, and I hope they [the new SGA] do a good job."

Upon reviewing all of the numbers and the amount of votes cast and counted, current President Tom Foley said, "These are real NEIU election results. This is usually the kind of turnout we get."

The next position counted was that of Vice President, and Richard Caragol defeated Vladimir Melendez with totals of 441 and 343, respectively. Caragol commented on the election after witnessing his victory. "I want to thank everyone who voted, and I'd

Second election
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SGA Election Coverage Continues....
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Independent,

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AROUND CAMPUS

Learn to save a life

Learn CPR (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation) for free during the National CPR Weekend.

On Saturday, April 28 classes will be offered at local colleges. Classes begin at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Call (312) 346.4675 ext. 602 to register. Locations include:

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Malcolm X College

1900 W. Van Buren St.

Truman College

1145 W. Wilson

Kennedy-King College

6800 S. Wentworth

Olive Harvey College

10001 S. Woodlawn

Wright College

4300 N. Narragansett.

Harold Washington College

30 E. Lake St.

Events-palooza

April 26

The NEIU String Orchestra, directed by Joseph Glymph, performs at 1:40 p.m. in Recital Hall.

May 8

Teacher Job Fair

The NEIU Placement Office is sponsoring a Chicago and Suburban Teacher Job Fair 2:00-6:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall.

May 10

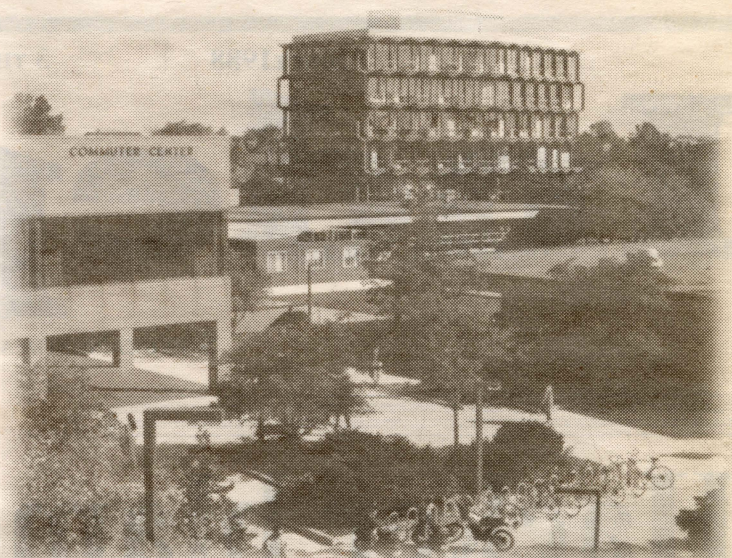
Academic Honors Reception

An Academic Honors Reception, sponsored by the NEIU President's Office, will be held 5:00-9:00 p.m. in the Student Union.

May 20

Commencement Ceremony

The NEIU Commencement Ceremony takes place from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Main Gym in the Physical Education Complex.



A long day's night (of performances)

The Longest Day by Michael Bradley, winner of the 2000-2001 Ronald Williams Playwright Competition, is the final production for this season's Studio Series at the Stage Center Theatre.

Michael Buino directs this hard working cast of students and alumni through the story of a lonely prisoner who faces his final and longest day. After twelve years on death row, a prisoner who may or may not be guilty prepares "to meet his maker." After years of suffering at the hands of a brutish guard, his faith in God crumbling, will he find one last chance at redemption?

The Longest Day runs April 24-27 (Tuesday-Friday) at the Stage Center Theatre. Curtain time is 7:30 p.m. Prices are General Admission for \$4 and anyone with an NEIU I. D. gets in for free. Take some time off from finals, clear your mind, and catch a local show.

Witnessing history

Eyewitness, The Legacy of Death Camp Art, is an Oscar-nominated 2000 Best Documentary Short that documents the life and work of three of the prisoner artists who kept their art activities secret.

The film is a moving tribute to them and an invaluable aid in teaching the history of the Holocaust. The presentation will be held on Wednesday, April 25, at 7:30pm., Alumni Hall. Tickets are free but reservations are required. Call (773) 442-INFO(4636).

Northeastern Illinois University, in accordance with a 1987 statute, insures that all persons providing classroom instruction to students are proficient in oral English. If an instructor's oral proficiency is in doubt, students should contact the department chair to obtain information about the University's procedure for handling complaints.

Stress-Free Zone

Health Services is offering their semi-annual Stress-Free Zone during Finals. The eZone will be hosted May 1-2-3 from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. daily. The location for this year's stress reliever mini-holiday is SU-214.

- Color a picture
- Eat some food
- Have a massage
- Play a game
- Put up your feet
- Watch a video

WATCH OUT!

Deadlines for the Independent are one week prior to the date of publication. Please look forward to our wonderful:

Summer

Program

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) 442-4577 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) 442-4577 or e-mail us at neiu_independent@yahoo.com

Your Cliff Notes Guide to Passover IL bill would let illegal immigrants get licenses

by Lucy Rendler-Kaplan
Staff Writer

NEIU hosted a mock seder in honor of the Jewish celebration of Passover, which began Saturday night at sundown, April 7. The seder, which is the five to six hour dinner for Passover, was led by Justin Michael Kron, from the Chosen People Ministries. Kron gave the viewpoint of those that believe Jesus was Jewish, and therefore, the sacrificial Passover Lamb.

This is an unorthodox viewpoint for the Jewish people. Kron explains, "Jesus is the fulfillment of the Passover. He was referred to as the Passover Lamb." All the different elements of Passover were explained. The Haggadah, a book which tells the story of Passover was read from. "We don't want to leave the telling of the Passover story to chance, so we use a Haggadah," said Kron.

In order to prepare for Passover, Jewish families must remove all yeast products from the home. In orthodox families, the mother of the household will bundle up all

the yeast products and sell the bundle to the neighbor's family for one dollar. After the eight days of Passover, she will buy back all the yeast products, again for one dollar. Kron explained this tradition. "Leaven (yeast) is often referring to sin in our lives. Paul did this in Corinthians. Removal of leaven or yeasts from our hearts. The greater spiritual truth, for us, is that we allow the Messiah to come and cleanse our hearts."

At the Passover dinner, four cups of wine are drank, symbolizing the "cup of sanctification, the cup of judgment, the cup of redemption, and the cup of praise," according to the Haggadah. Affirmation of a covenant God made with Abraham is shown here. Pharoah cursed God's first born sons, the children of Israel. Parsley, another element of the seder symbolizes the green of springtime, and was also used to apply blood to the doorposts of Jewish homes.

Five days before Passover, Jewish men were to take a lamb

and sacrifice it on the fifth day, putting the blood of the lamb on their doors so that God would know they were obedient Jews and "pass over" their house, smiting other first born sons instead. Salt water on the seder plate show the tears Jewish people shed when they were slaves. At the center of the seder plate are three pieces of matzoh, unleavened bread, wrapped in white linen.

It is unleavened bread to show that it is uncontaminated and without sin. Maror (bitter herbs) are eaten at Passover to signify the embittered lives of the Jewish people when the Egyptians "made their lives bitter with hard labor," according to the Haggadah. Charoseth (a sweet mixture of apples, walnuts, and honey) is a symbol of mortar, representing the clay bricks which were made by the Jewish people in Egypt. Finally, the last item on the seder plate is a roasted egg to show the sacrifice, which does not only mean death, but also means life.

The Passover celebration ended on April 14 at sundown.

by Oscar Avila
TMS Campus

SPRINGFIELD, IL.- Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White wants to grant driver's licenses to tens of thousands of illegal immigrants in Illinois, many of whom are already on the roads but not eligible for testing and licensing.

On the heels of the bribes-for-licenses scandal, supporters in the state legislature are promoting the move as a way to make roads safer.

The change would turn on one technicality: eliminating the requirement that applicants provide a Social Security number. Under a bill that will go before the Senate Transportation Committee Wednesday, the state would accept an Internal Revenue Service tax identification number, which illegal immigrants can obtain instead of a Social Security number.

With an estimated 300,000 illegal immigrants living in Illinois, quietly tolerated by authorities and playing a substantial role in the economy, many activists now say it is time to bring them into the state's system for monitoring drivers.

The debate, under way in

several states, shows the split over how to treat illegal immigrants. Policy-makers acknowledge their presence but remain torn over whether to treat them as criminals or de facto members of mainstream society.

In Utah, North Carolina and several other states, undocumented immigrants are already eligible for licenses. Utah reports that thousands have applied using a taxpayer ID number, and North Carolina reports long lines at its license facilities, including immigrants from other states with stricter requirements.

Rafael Vega of Carpentersville wishes he had that option.

He wants to become a legal driver but cannot obtain a license or insurance because he is not a legal resident. For years he has been driving to his factory jobs and around the northwest suburbs, despite never having taken a driving test.

"We're here. That's the reality," Vega said. "We just want to be part of the system. I think that's a good thing for everyone, not just us."

Illegal Immigrants
continued on page 3

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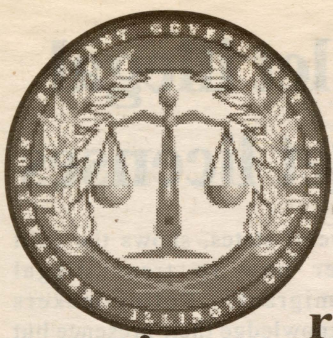
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NEIU Student Government Association

At long last, the **REAL** results are in. The spring 2001 SGA election was one of the most raucous in NEIU history. Below are the messy results, brought to you free of bias and monkey business. Make your own judgement calls before you join the finger pointing (right.)

War of words

The topsy-turvy spring election was one of many tough elections to take place during the Foley administration.



SGA President Tom Foley

GASPARD: "This problem is something President Foley knew about."

FOLEY: "If you're going to make an allegation that I knew about this beforehand, well then, you might as well then go ahead and file charges against me, buddy."

from Senate meeting 4/12/2001

"At this point, I feel the integrity of this election has been compromised."

Tom Foley, *from interview with the Independent 4/8/2001*

See for yourself! Crunch the numbers and see where the discrepancies are

graph completed by Scott Plencner

Second Election Results (victors bolded)						First Election			Change in votes by 2nd election
	Saturday	El Centro	CICS	Main Campus	TOTAL	Saturday	Main Campus	TOTAL	
President									
Gaspard, Gary	46	11	34	434	525	36	1988	2069	-1544**
Phomsilvilai, Kobi	36	2	2	285	325	28	315	347	-22
Other	1	0	4	29	34	1	68	73	
Vice-President									
Caragol, Richard	41	4	23	373	441	33	1318	1378	-937**
Melendez, Vladimir	30	9	8	296	343	24	551	592	-249
Other	12	0	9	79	100	8	501	518	
Speaker									
Haptonstall, Johnny	25	2	3	222	252	29	1222	1256	-1004**
Madix, Lynne M.*	39	10	33	416	498	30	645	718	-302
Other	19	1	4	110	134	6	500	511	
Student Trustee									
Luna, Maria*	51	12	23	363	449	42	473	550	-101
Montano, Roberto	21	1	7	312	341	12	1377	1397	-1056**
Other	11	0	10	73	94	11	517	538	
IBHE-SAC									
Garrison-Quick, Djoser	29	1	23	298	351	23	1431	1478	-1127**
Lopez, Mynor G.*	42	12	11	341	406	32	388	433	-27
Other	12	0	6	109	127	10	550	566	
Senator									
Alverio, Yolianna	5	2	1	18	26	1	15	19	+7
Berlow, Linda R.	8	0	0	33	41	2	30	32	+9
Brand Dowling, Mollie	2	0	0	17	19	2	15	17	+2
Calvario, Richard	1	0	1	22	24	5	36	42	-18
Davis, Annie	7	0	8	64	79	5	73	86	-7
Gilmore, Becca Raven	4	0	0	32	36	2	27	29	+7
Kalkounos, Effie	2	0	1	42	45	4	81	85	-40
Kowalke, Beth	6	0	0	61	67	16	64	80	-13
Larrimore, Ellen	2	0	1	42	45	1	57	59	-14
Nivose, Natasha	7	0	3	53	63	0	1015	1018	-965**
Pierre-Jacques, Judith	3	2	6	38	49	5	20	33	+16
Pulido, Luis M.	3	0	0	35	38	3	27	30	+8
Rivera, Jaime	8	3	0	47	58	5	314	322	-264**
Rodriguez, Evelyn	8	6	1	74	89	5	73	85	+4
Steele, William	3	0	10	27	40	2	29	31	+9
Williams, Sir M. V.	1	0	7	38	46	0	26	33	+13
Write-In	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	3	
Other	13	0	2	88	103	7	475	484	
Nnotheastern Programming Board (NPB)									
Delgado, Ruben T.	8	5	2	104	119	6	1248	1261	-1142**
Herrara, Gaby	26	6	2	245	279	16	221	245	+34
Morales, Francis Xavier	17	2	1	138	158	12	151	166	-8
Steele, William	14	0	27	116	157	14	106	147	+10
Other	18	0	8	145	171	17	645	670	

Victorious candidates are bolded; other generally means that the ballot has been spoiled; El Centro and CICS votes from 1st election have not been included because these elections were not rerun; * indicates an election was overturned by second vote; ** indicates biggest discrepancies

See "SGA, cool your jets" on page 9 in the Opinions Section for another point of view on the elections

Hacker blamed

continued from page 1

and because elections are conducted by secret ballot, there was virtually no monitoring of how people voted once they were assisted to the terminals by election officials. This gave students ample opportunity to find the URL to use later.

It is because the Elections were conducted by secret ballot that it is impossible to associate particular votes with specific IP addresses and, therefore, filter them out leaving only legitimate votes to tally.

For any computerized voting to take place in the future, Moressi stated, "We have to add a more sophisticated security system." He says that there are specialists looking to make the system more

secure. "We didn't do enough to stop students from deliberately disrupting the election."

Public Safety Director Steve Horton states, "We are aware of what's been found out so far," but "We're not ready to point to a specific law that's been broken." He said that the area of computer crime is relatively new and is evolving. When asked if Public Safety is actively investigating the matter, Horton said, "Not at this time."

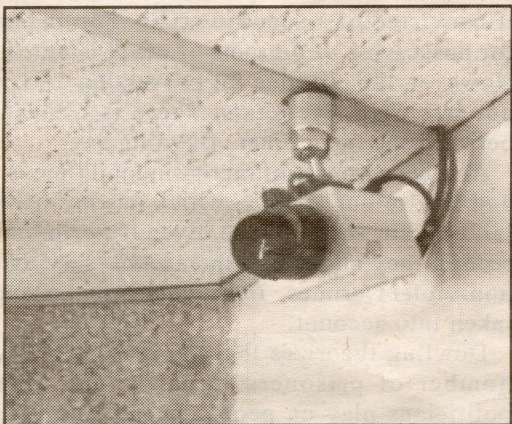


photo by Jessica Bezold

This security camera located in the Atrium may have captured the evidence needed to identify the hacker responsible.

Second election

continued from page 1

like to thank Kobi for running a spirited campaign."

The campaign was indeed spirited, with all the candidates setting up camp in Village Square, working hard to gain those votes. Gaspard and Phomsivilai were out there everyday, passing out flyers and answering questions.

Lynne Madix is the new Speaker, by defeating Johnny Haptonstall 498 to 252. The new IBHE-SAC Representative is Mynor Lopez, who defeated Djoser Garrison-Quick by a small margin, 406 to 351. The new Student Trustee is Maria Luna, who defeated Roberto Montano 449 to 341. Also, there were 4 open slots to serve on the Northeastern Programming Board, so all four candidates won, the candidates being Francisco Xavier Morales, Gaby Herrera, Ruben Delgado, and William Steele.

Voting for senators is a bit more complex. There are ten open spots in the Senate, plus two or three more, due to absences. View the table towards the right for the results of the Senator election.

The referendum questions, for those who do not know, are a trio of questions that students vote upon. This is one of the few easy

ways for an NEIU students to voice their opinion. The first referendum question dealt with night students: "Should there be an on-campus source of warm food available to night students?" This question has been asked by many night students, who are forced to pay fees for services that are not available to them, due to the hours of their classes. 780 NEIU students voted yes, and 33 voted no. The referendum question passed, and soon students may be seeing later hours in the cafeteria or another feasible alternative.

The second question dealt with discounts for NEIU students: "Would you support local businesses that offer discounts for NEIU students?" Again, an overwhelming majority voted yes, with 791 for it and 25 against it.

The third referendum question is probably the most controversial, due to the recent heated debates centering around the topic: "Would you support a pay increase for part-time faculty if it meant only a minimal increase in your tuition?" A closer vote this time, with 507 voting yes and 303 voting no. NEIU students seem to be in favor of a pay increase for part-time teachers.

After a problematic first election and a hurried second election, the results are finally in and a new leadership can take it's place.



photo by Scott Plencner

Losing candidate for president, Kobi Phomsivilai, discusses the results of the second election with other students.

Illegal Immigrants

continued from page 3

Supporters say the bill allows drivers like Vega to learn the rules of the road, obtain insurance and help the state track their driving offenses. The supervising judge of the Chicago Traffic Center and the state chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving also back the bill.

Critics say the bill makes roads less safe because Social Security numbers are necessary to combat fraud and track drivers from state to state. And they say the bill essentially gives the state's approval to illegal immigration.

Authorities in some states scoff at the notion that illegal immigrants, technically on the run from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, will give personal data to state officials.

But few states are more sensitive to the dangers of unlicensed motorists than Illinois. Gov. George Ryan is still answering for deaths caused by commercial drivers who paid bribes to obtain licenses while he was secretary of state. In some cases, bribes bought licenses for undocumented immigrants who could not otherwise get them.

"I think now is the perfect time to move on this issue," said state Sen. Miguel del Valle, a Chicago Democrat and the bill's sponsor. "The secretary of state's office should not be an immigration agency. When it comes to licenses, the main concern should be public safety."

A coalition of immigrant advocates in Chicago's suburbs has identified the license bill as its top legislative priority this year. The bill resonates in the suburbs where immigrants have a greater dependence on cars

because public transportation is scarce. Immigrants in Chicago's suburbs, including an estimated 150,000 here illegally, must drive almost everywhere.

White, who met with immigrant advocates this month, does not know whether the bill will improve safety but endorses it as a way to provide a consistent ID system for all drivers, a spokeswoman said. A White representative plans to testify before the General Assembly in support of the bill.

Like several other states, Illinois would ask applicants for their tax ID number, which the IRS provides to illegal immigrants.

The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators wants to keep the Social Security requirement as the way to track drivers from state to state. The association's board chairman recently told Congress

Illegal Immigrants
continued on page 6

After this summer,
your past will be almost as
interesting as hers is.

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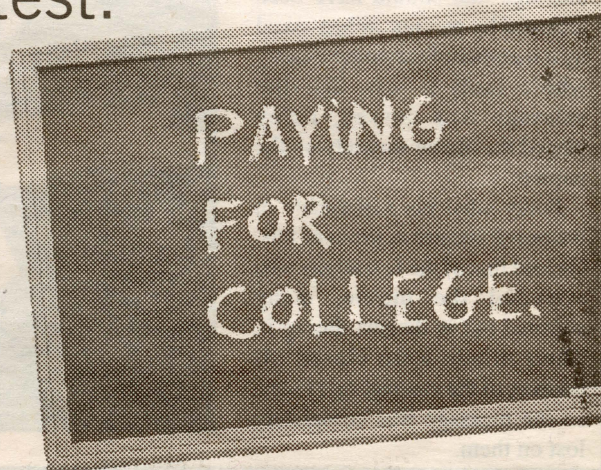
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Exchanging ideas at the student symposium

A bigger, longer, uncut presentation

by Brian Blaszkowski
News Editor

Current SGA president Tom Foley read from his paper entitled *This Paper is Rated "R" by the Motion Picture Association of America: A Narrative Criticism of South Park - Bigger, Longer, and Uncut*, in which he tries to prove that the South Park movie is a parable. Foley points out that there are harsher rating systems put for by the movie industry for a movie containing foul language as opposed to violence or sexual content.

Foley cites a line from a song in the movie entitled "Blame Canada," in which the parents of South Park launch an attack against Canada's foul-mouthed celebrities Terrence and Philip. The line of the song is, "We'd better remember to start a fuss, before somebody thinks of blaming us!" Trey Parker and Matt Stone, creators of South Park, are obviously voicing their disapproval of parents passing the buck, as Foley puts it.

Foley went on to say that we, as a culture, can accept acts of violence, as long as the bad guy gets it in the end. Therefore, we are far more likely to tolerate violence in movies than cursing, especially when parents are able to pass the blame more easily in such instances. It is a trend of American parents to blame everyone but themselves, states Foley.

Foley, who has seen the movie three times in the theatres, said that he noticed numerous minors in the theatre, but very, very few adults. He noticed *adults*, but the adults were not with their children, for the most part. Foley points out that the South Park movie made a strong message, a message that should have been received by parents. When asked by a member of the panel exactly who's fault it was that the message was missed, Foley placed the blame squarely on the parents.

Foley cited his experience in the movie theatre as proof of this. He said that of the few adults who attended the movie, many stormed out in disgust during it. Their minds were closed off because of the cursing, said Foley, so the message was completely lost on them.



photo by Jessica Bezold

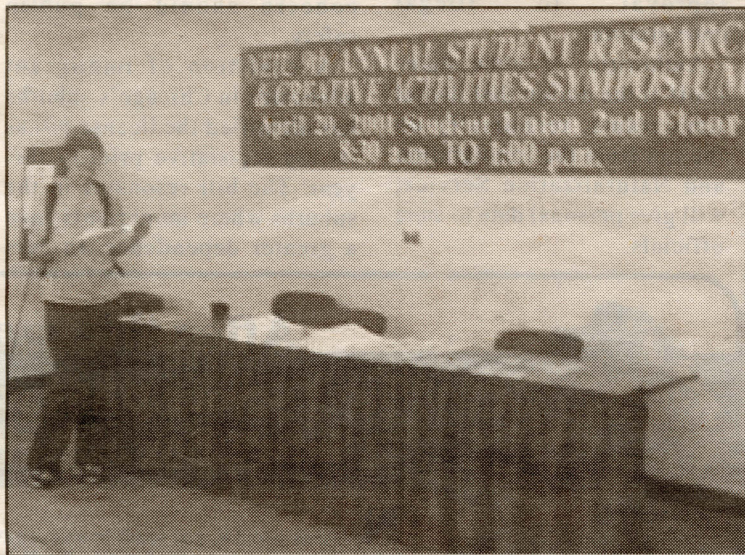


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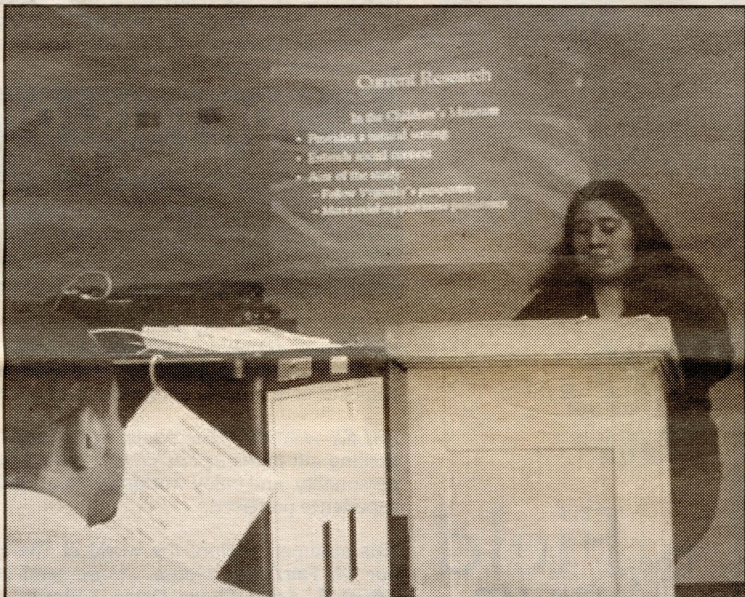


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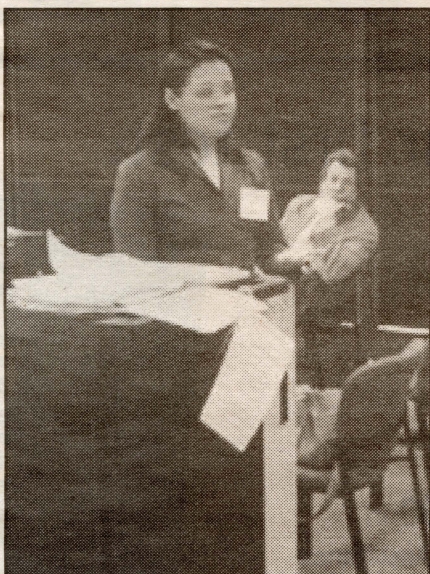


photo by Victor Dula

photo by Scott Plancher

A lecture on crime and punishment

by Brian Blaszkowski
News Editor

Mollie Dowling, of the University of Arizona NSE/Women's Studies, gave a lecture on crime and punishment in America. One of the main concerns raised was the excessive jail times of criminal convicted of non-violent crimes. Two examples of the escalation of jail time were given, the first of which is the mandatory minimum sentencing policy.

She quoted Steven R. Donziger when she said, "90% of federal judges and 75% of state judges think mandatory minimum sentences are unsound." Mandatory minimum sentences are basically a set amount of time one must serve if convicted of a specific crime. For example, the jail time for possession of 5 grams of crack is not less than one year. However, the jail time for possessing 5.01 grams of crack is not less than five years. There is basically no difference between the two crimes, Dowling says.

Another example of increasing jail time is the "three strikes and you're out" policy, which has an increasing amount of jail time for each offense. Even if a criminal has no previous record, they might find themselves serving years of time for non-violent crimes. Individual circumstances are not even taken into account.

Dowling theorizes that the reason for the increase of the number of prisoners is partly due to politicians. The politicians play on people's fears and use the fear to gain votes, Dowling says. Also, money is a large part. Prisons make millions per year for private companies that fund the jail and also for the government. Obviously, it is in the interest of good business that jails remain full.

Another concern raised by Dowling is the issue of racism. She gave statistics indicating that blacks were arrested at a rate of 6 times the arrests of whites. She also said that during the "Drug War," blacks were five times as likely to be arrested as whites, despite the fact that the incidence of drug use was the same for both races.

Dowling suggests restorative programs, designed to help the community instead of punishing the offender. She suggested a sort of "tribal council," with the community, victims, and the criminal working together to come up with a solution to the benefit of all.

Also, Dowling said, education reduces crime. Literacy programs build self confidence and self reliance, she added. The current penal system, she concluded, is designed to create repeat offenders, by creating a one-way street for the poor and disadvantaged to follow, which inevitably ends in jail.

For more on Mollie Dowling's thoughts check out page 9

(Starting from top going down.)
Andrea Cohen presented a project
on the history of Kindergarten.

A student reviews the symposium
schedule in the Student Union.

Students presented on various
topics.

Maria Luna spoke about the
objectification of women in the
media. Her presentation met many
questions.

(left) Audience members debate the
last symposium presentation as the
day's events wind down.

Illegal Immigrants

continued from page 6

that "the public safety benefits of (Social Security number) use are numerous and far outweigh any potential disadvantages."

For now, undocumented immigrants drive in fear.

Carlos Hermosillo of Elgin said he dreads winter because one slip on an icy road could lead to another expensive citation for driving without a license. Hermosillo, 27, has been driving without a license or insurance for six years. Police have cited him twice, and every glimpse of a passing

patrol car "gives me the shivers," he said.

Advocates say the restrictions put on licensed immigrants at risk for racial profiling, which two Aurora patrol officers described for the city's Human Relations Commission last month.

Officer John Saltijeral said colleagues targeted Hispanic drivers so they could write more tickets and boost their job ratings. Saltijeral said Mexicans were considered good targets because they often drove without licenses or insurance. The department is investigating the claims.

Statistics on unlicensed illegal immigrants are hard to come by because police departments don't ask violators about their immigration status. Police are allowed to stop drivers only with probable cause. When they do, anecdotal evidence indicates that Illinois authorities are finding large numbers of drivers, believed to be foreign-born, who cannot produce licenses or insurance.

Patrick E. McGann, supervising judge of the Chicago Traffic Center, said the law forces immigrants to buy fake Social Security cards and other documents. They then obtain

licenses under false names, making it even harder to accurately track their driving status, said McGann, who supports the bill.

Advocates hope to get the powerful insurance industry on board for bills that would give them a bounty of new clients. Without licenses, immigrants cannot obtain insurance.

Skeptics say immigrants won't necessarily apply for insurance even if they are eligible for licenses. In the meantime, issuing licenses also opens the potential for fraud in voting, public benefits and retail transactions, critics argue.

In recent months, legislators in Arizona, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee have considered relaxed requirements.

But many states have been resistant to changing the law.

Charlie Weaver, commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, said his state tries to serve legal immigrants by providing tests in eight languages. He doesn't think undocumented immigrants should be treated the same.

"Driving is a privilege, not a right. These folks have made a choice to be here illegally," Weaver said. "They shouldn't be rewarded for that."

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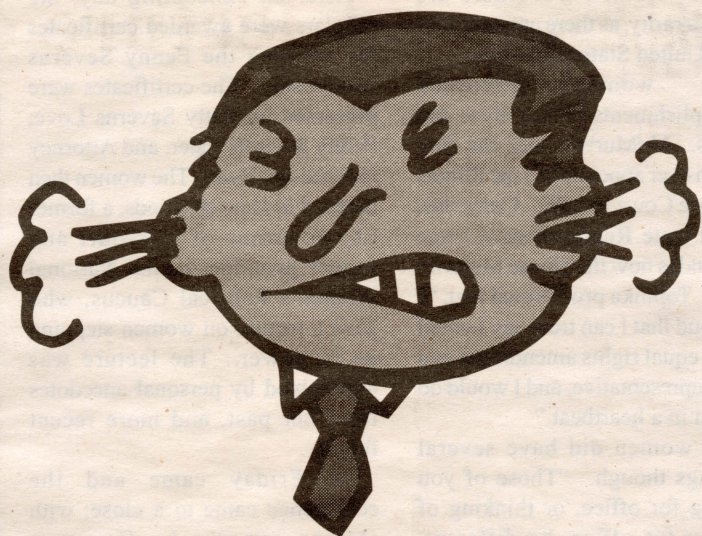
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Ahmed speaks to students

by Zeenat Desai
News Editor

Sabeel Ahmed, a graduate of Northeastern Illinois University, presented a lecture titled "The Compilation and Transmission of the Quran and Bible" on April 12, 2001. Robert Donald Hull, member of the Muslim Student Association, introduced Ahmed, stating, "The presentation will be very beneficial to Muslims and non-Muslims alike."

Ahmed began the presentation with a verse from the Quran and the Islamic greeting of peace. "I start in the name of Allah and welcome you all with the Islamic greeting 'Assalamu Alaikum.' May the peace, blessings, and mercy of Allah be with all of you."

Ahmed began the presentation with a brief synopsis of Islam, mentioning that only about 7% of the U.S. population knows the fundamentals of true Islam. "Despite this, Islam remains the fastest growing religion in the United States and the entire world," Ahmed said.

Following the introduction to Islam, Ahmed launched into his presentation. Ahmed shared that the Islamic faith reveres all of the Prophets beginning with Adam all the way to Mohammed; this lineage includes Abraham, Moses, David, and Jesus among others. "It says

in the Quran that the religion and revelations of these Prophets bore the same essential messages, and were in fact the same. We regard them as a chain of Prophets that were sent with the same word of God," Ahmed informed.

Ahmed went on to explain that Muslims regard the Quran as the ultimate word of God, sent down to humanity 1,400 years ago through Angel Gabriel, who delivered it in revelations to

Prophet Mohammed. Hence, the primary mode of transmission of the Quran was through the oral tradition. "The early companions of the Prophet memorized large portions of the Quran as it was revealed, and used to double check their accuracy with the Prophet Mohammed," Ahmed said. "However, there was a secondary mode of transmission as well—writing. Hence, there were two modes of the transmission of the Quran that ensured its authenticity, which were the oral tradition and writing." Ahmed added that there is no book in the history of the world that has been memorized as thoroughly as the Quran. "Muslims do not need to rely on the written words of the Quran, because they have an oral communication that is generations old that certifies its authenticity," he said. "Historically, a system of checks and

balances has always existed to ensure the Quran is authentic. This is due to the oral tradition. Thousands and millions of people have memorized it throughout centuries, so whenever there was any chance of a word being deleted, added, or altered, it was fixed through this system of checks and balances and the purity of the Quran continued."

Ahmed continued his lecture by comparing similarities and differences between the Bible and Quran, conveying that both had the "Abrahamic connection." He pointed out that although the Bible does not share the oral mode of transmission with the Quran, the secondary written mode of transmission is present. He went on to provide a historical and sociological perspective on the compilations of the Quran and Bible.

Ahmed expressed his respect for all religions and reflected on the Islamic message of peace. "The Quran says that all should work together to establish a just society, that we should not argue and refute each other, but live in peace with one another."

Ahmed has studied Comparative Religions and is acknowledged for his presentations at various Universities. For more information on this topic, contact Sabeel Ahmed at: ChooseIslam@yahoo.com.

Women leaders take Springfield, state, by storm

by Carole M. Brown
Editor in Chief

It's been said that behind every great man there was a great woman, but for one group of empowered women hailing from various locations in Illinois, the emphasis is on women seizing the world of government, without the men.

The 18th Annual Conference for Illinois Women in Government (IWIG) was held April 18-20 at the Springfield Hilton Hotel. The theme for this year was *A Workplace Odyssey*.

IWIG is an organization that promotes woman involvement in all areas of government. According to Illinois Lieutenant Governor Corinne Wood, "Female politicians, I think, bring new ideas to the table because of their background."

IWIG's goal for the conference is, according to the program, "During our annual conference, we intend to educate women, foster professional development and career advancement, expand networking and strengthen relationships. Each participant will walk away from the conference with at least five new ideas to implement."

One of the major programs involved with the conference is the Penny Severns Scholarship Program. Penny Severns was a Illinois State senator, and also a founding member of IWIG. After her death in 1998 due to breast cancer, the IWIG Conference scholarship was renamed in her honor.

The Penney Severns Scholarship helps to bring women in higher education to the annual conference in Springfield, Illinois, at the state capital. The scholarship committee oversees the students travel and lodging expenses, and sets up a mentoring program with the young women and other women in Illinois government and the private sector. The committee plays the host for the students while at the conference. The scholarship also allows these young women to network and meet women of influence in government.

Only six women throughout Illinois are chosen to be scholarship recipients. This year's recipients hail from all three segments of the state. From the Northern portion were Carole Brown-Northeastern Illinois University, Carolyn Lees-DePaul University College of Law, and Agnes Masnik-Northern Illinois University. From the Central part of the state was Gayle Norton-University of Illinois at Springfield. Hailing from Southern Illinois were Jeanie Akamanti and Carolyn Blodgett, both from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.

Before they are chosen each scholar had to go through an application process. The applications were sent out in January and February and the scholars either picked up an application through the mail, online, or were informed about the opportunity through a professor. They then had to answer questions on past work history, education, and any previous scholarships or awards received. Applicants also had to analyze and write an essay on a

political or public policy. The scholars essays dealt with a variety of topics, ranging from better medic-aid dental care for women and children in rural areas to a policy where the government and the media should work together to help disseminate knowledge to the public about government affairs.

The scholars started their journey on Tuesday as they arrived throughout the night in Springfield and checked in, their last night of relaxation before the whirlwind of events officially took place.

On Wednesday, April 18, the scholarship committee and the scholars had a breakfast meeting in the Lieutenant Governor's office in the capital and were even graced by Wood's presence. This is only the second time the lieutenant governor has ever been able to meet with the scholars in person during this meeting. The scholars took the opportunity to introduce themselves and discuss some points they had about public policy. The predominant theme was dental care for people in rural areas and senior citizen public aid recipients, along with issues about the welfare to work program.

The scholars then spoke with Jeanne Blackman, the mentoring coordinator and Nancy DeMarco, the director of Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, on being a woman who has gone through various departments in state government. Ironically, DeMarco only wanted to be a secretary when she grew up, but ended up finding a different way to be a secretary, until it inadvertently led her to her current position.

The scholars were then hooked up with their respective mentors. Akamanti was paired with Carolyn Cochran Koppel, the Chief of Staff for the Department of Children of Family Services. Brown was assigned to Drinda O'Connor, Deputy Administrator for the recently formed Department of Human Services. Blodgett worked with Linda Hawker, the Assistant Secretary of the Senate and got to work with Lisa Madigan, Illinois senator.

Lees sat in with Representative Gwenn Klinger, while Masnik worked with Patti Schuh, the Communications Director of the Senate Majority. And Norton was thrilled to be hooked up with Susan Mogerman, the Director of the Historic Preservation Agency.

All the scholars spent the rest of Wednesday with their respective mentors, learning more about politics and the different Illinois departments. The mentors represented only a sampling of what is available to women who wish to become more involved in Illinois government.

The scholars were then ushered back to the Hilton where the Conference began for all the attendees. There was an opening reception in the Vista rooms. High and overlooking the landscape of Springfield and it's surrounding area, the women were introduced to the scholars and were able to do

**Women leaders
continued on page 8**

Women leaders

continued from page 7

some valuable networking over a buffet and open bar.

The Secretary of the State, Jesse White, gave the opening remarks. Several politicians were on hand for the opening reception, including Senator Jan Schakowsky, state Senator Ricky Hendon, state Representative Kathleen L. Wojcik, among the many attendees. After the announcements and introductions of the scholars to those assembled, the night was capped off with a performance by an Elvis impersonator and some good-natured karaoke.

Wood gave the opening remarks Thursday morning. She was excited at that prospect.

"I get to talk about some of my favorite topics," Wood commented. "Politics, government and women."

Wood was followed by Nancy Chen, Regional Director of the U. S. Department of Labor, who examined issues facing women in the new century while they strive to become and remain equals at home and at work.

Throughout the conference and the workshops, there seemed to be one central theme line: not enough women were getting involved in

their communities and government, not as many as should be. Women comprise the majority of active voters, and hold the majority of the population in Illinois alone. At this point, only 13% of the U. S. Senate are made up of women, and only about 30-35% of Illinois' state legislature is women.

"If we continue to elect women as we have been, it will be the year 2330 before we are proportionally represented," stated Wood.

Congressman John Shimkus from southern Illinois only corroborated the feeling of the conference. "Men need competition. We need competition at the staff level. We need competition at the political level. We even need competition even at the Presidential level," Shimkus said.

At a later panel, which consisted of Dr. Naomi B. Lynn, the current Chancellor of the University of Illinois at Springfield, as moderator, and Illinois Supreme Court Justice Mary Ann McMorrow, House Majority Leader Barbara Flynn Currie, state Senator Kiberly A. Lightfoot, and State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka discussed what it was like to not just break through the glass ceiling, but to shatter it so others may follow.

Lynn started by commenting that,

"I never would have predicted that in the year 2001 that we would still be waiting for a women president, only two women on the Supreme Court and women Governors are a rarity." Women Governors are indeed a rarity, as there are only four in the United States right now.

The women discussed accomplishments in their lives and careers. McMorrow was the first woman ever appointed to the Illinois Supreme Court in 1992. Currie has been a state Representative since 1979 and is now the House Majority leader. Topinka proclaimed that, "I am proud that I can truly say I voted for the equal rights amendment as a state Representative, and I would do it again in a heartbeat."

The women did have several warnings though. "Those of you running for office, or thinking of running for office, be different. That's what they'll remember," McMorrow said. She went on to say, "Campaigning is difficult, especially when not the party candidate."

Although promotion of women in office was the objective, Topinka was serious as she stated, "As we should not vote for dumb men, don't vote for dumb women."

Topinka commented that to be a success, "Become other people's

investment. Make them invest in you." Discussions and networking helped the attendees get the most out of the women who graced their way through the Hilton's doors.

After an exhausting day, the scholars were awarded certificates for winning the Penny Severns Scholarship. The certificates were presented by Patty Severns Love, Penny Severns sister, and Attorney General Jim Ryan. The women then listened to Harriet Woods, a former Lt. Governor of Missouri and former president of the National Women's Political Caucus, who gave a lecture on women stepping up to power. The lecture was highlighted by personal anecdotes from her past, and more recent future.

As Friday came and the conference came to a close, with closing remarks by Governor George Ryan, the women dispersed back to their respective corners of the state hoping to carry out some of the plans they discussed at the conference, and looking forward to lay the groundwork for future women in government.

"Remember this: The rooster may crow, but the hen delivers," Topinka said. She also stated, "When women work we win. When you go forward, take two sisters with you."

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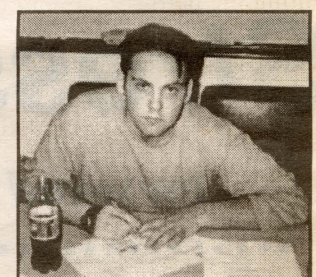
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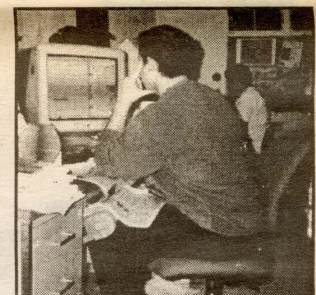
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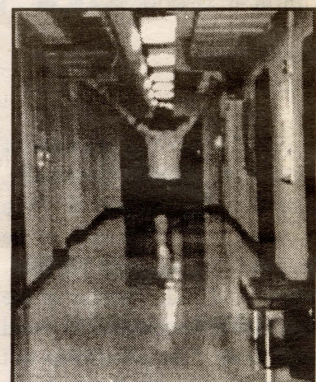
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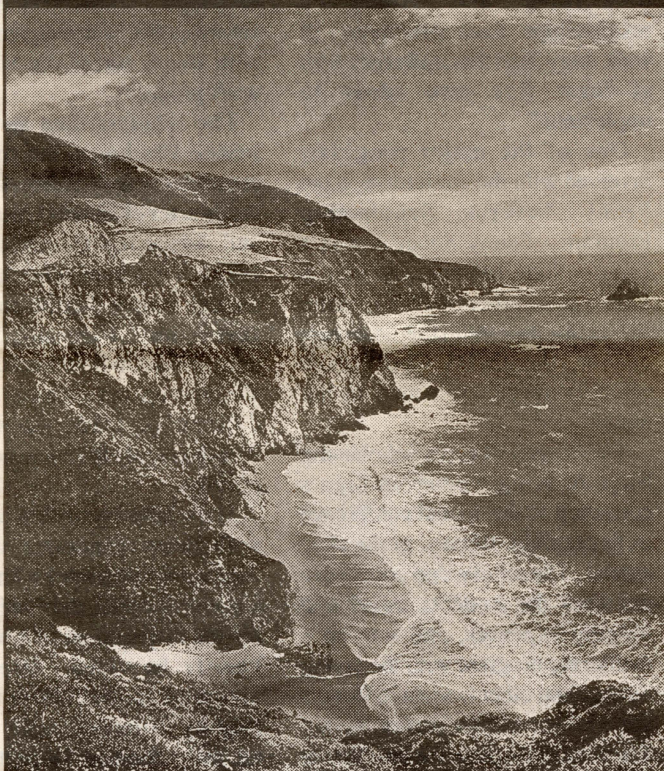
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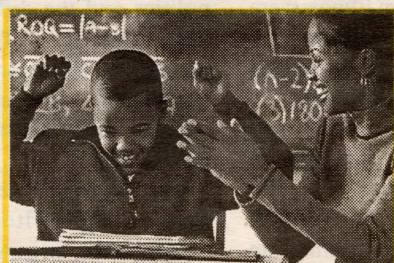
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PERSPECTUS

EDITORIAL

BY VICTOR A. DULA, OPINIONS EDITOR

SGA, cool your jets

SGA is a student-run quasi-governmental body. It functions much like an advocacy group, fighting for student interests in the face of the administration. Whether the issue is parking, student fees, classes, or some other concern, SGA is supposed to be there, fighting the battles that not every student has the time to fight.

I have sat in on a number of meetings, some of which were productive and upbeat. However, the April 12 meeting of the Student Senate cemented an idea I had been unconsciously formulating for some time: SGA is an organization of little power.

SGA exercises such powers that inherently come with any group, but it derives little power from the single fact that it is the SGA other than its ability to appropriate student fees to various organizations and for various organizational events. During this most recent meeting, I witnessed emotions getting the better of too many members, and to me, one member absorbed in his or her emotions is too many.

"Can someone throw a gavel at him," said Senator Djoser Garrison-Quick in reference to Senator Mynor Lopez. This kind of rhetoric is completely counterproductive and serves only to alienate those individuals targeted by such rhetoric. Often when people are alienated, they hold a grudge, and grudges hold back progress. The employment itself of such language serves to discredit SGA as a whole, including members who possess greater self-control.

Some Senators need to buy their own personal copy of Robert's Rules of Order and study it meticulously, because their lack of knowledge on how to conduct parliamentary-style meetings manifested itself in repeated abuses of the point of information. This device is used to obtain information, not dispense opinions or interpretations on matters at hand. Too often I heard senators blurt out "point of information" as a means of immediate gratification for those too impatient to wait their turn to speak in the normal course of discussion.

What disturbed me the most, however, was an overeager group of candidates up for election trying to establish a power base before they even assumed the positions for which they ran. The ringleader, Senator Richard Caragol, who at the time was candidate for Vice-President, attempted to sway the Senate from approving President Tom Foley's Student Supreme Court appointments. "I feel it would be imprudent at this time for the current president to be making appointments as this is a kind of lame-duck session of the Senate," said Caragol.

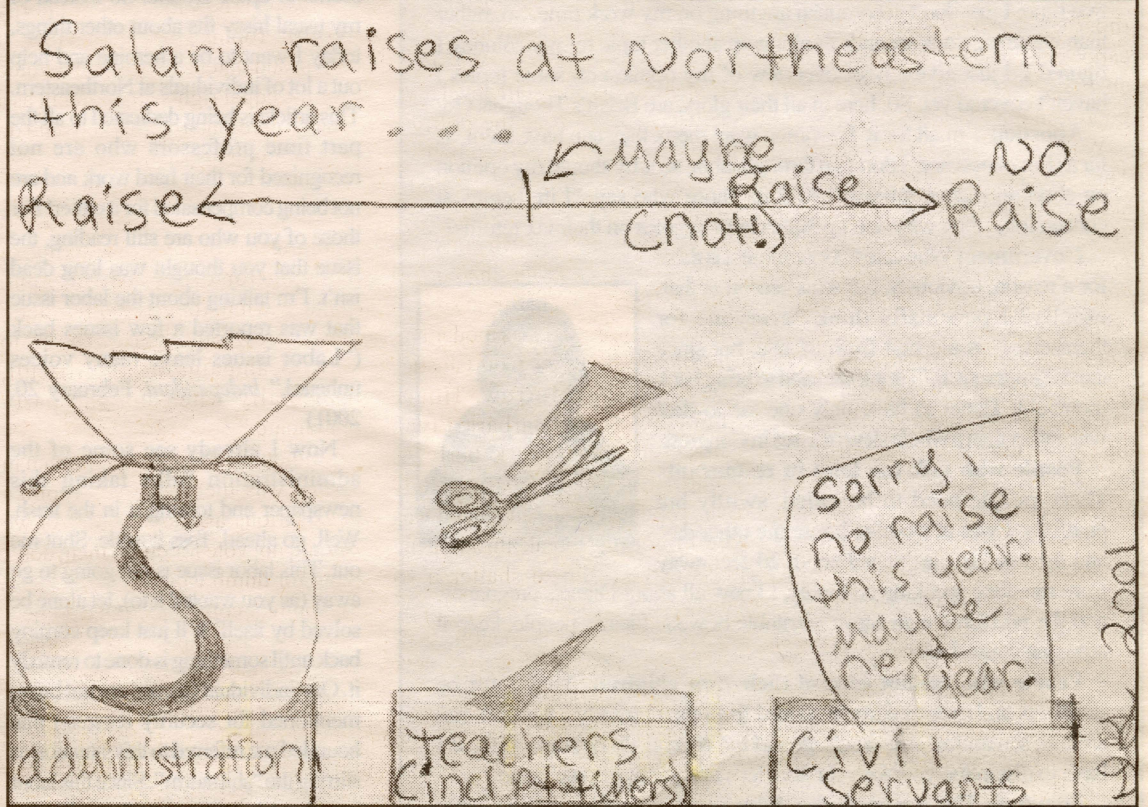
According to Caragol, it was only appropriate that the incoming administration make such decisions because it is so late in the current session. This stands out as a blatant power-grab, for which President Foley responded with, "I would be derelict in my duty constitutionally if I did not make every attempt to deal with a request for judicial review that has been submitted to me. . . . If there is no Supreme Court currently, then I am honor-bound to appoint one." Indeed he is because Foley indicated in that meeting that there is a case that has been pending for, at that time, six weeks, which is too long.

Many of the Senators who were seeking positions in the new administration supported Caragol's power-grab including Gary Gaspard, Lynne Madix, Djoser Garrison-Quick, and Linda Berlow. Senator Jonny Happenstall, who himself sought a position in the new administration, thought differently, "The justices are here, they're willing, they're able. I see no problem with [Foley] doing his job. Just because it's down to the last few weeks doesn't mean he should just give up all his responsibilities before he leaves office." This was perhaps the most coherent flow of logic spoken by a Senator at that meeting.

I am disappointed in SGA because it could be more powerful than it is. I have sat in on a number of Board meetings as well, and when I compare the SGA and the Board of Trustees, I see great contrast. The Board runs its meetings like a well-oiled machine. The Board members speak when they are recognized. They afford each other enough respect to allow each other to articulate an uninterrupted thought. There is a definite atmosphere of power in the Golden Eagles Room where their meetings are held.

The Student Government Association should strive to conduct itself like the NEIU Board of Trustees. While decisions they make can be debated, the manner in which they make them cannot be.

DRAWING BOARD



Staggering lack of rehabilitation for women in prison in Illinois

by Mollie Dowling
Special Contributor

Why is it that approximately 8 out of 10 women in the Cook County Jail right now are African-American? And why is it that the number of women in Illinois state prisons has increased over 240% in the last ten years? The generalized perception in the United States is that in order to be tough on crime, we must lock more individuals up and get them off the streets. The perceived results are safer streets and safer communities. These false notions of who is being locked up have led to the national support of the Prison Industrial Complex, which continually exploits poor minority women and men. Contrasting popular notions of violent criminals being those who are locked up, only 29.4% of women in prison in Illinois were there for committing or being an accomplice in a crime which could be considered violent. This leaves a staggering number of women locked up for non-violent crimes. Commonly, these crimes are related to desperate economic positions and lack of job opportunities.

An enormous amount of children are affected by incarcerated women annually. Nearly 81% of incarcerated women in Illinois are mothers, which affects at least 25,000 children every year. Most of these mothers were their children's primary care taker prior to their incarceration which leads to a number of children displaced in the Department of Child and Family Services. The psychological trauma that results from this severing of parental

relationships can cause a number of emotional and developmental delays. The problem is that many of these mothers commit are directly related to their economic status. Common crimes of poverty include drug-trafficking, fraud, sex-offenses, and theft: all of which reflect their desperation to support their families in the face of a racist and classist capitalistic system that certainly does not offer equal opportunities for everyone. This is not to excuse their crimes, but rather to explain the background of the culture in which they were committed.

It is often assumed that the prison system works to rehabilitate folks back into healthy citizens capable of safely re-entering American society. The reality is the severe lack of programs inside the prison system result in a system that merely punishes rather than attempt to rehabilitate. Only 12% of women in the Illinois prison system receive any kind of substance abuse treatment while nearly 80% of female inmates have a history of drug abuse. Also, the only educational programs within the women's prison system serve less than a third of its inmates, keeping an opportunity for an education completely inaccessible from two-thirds of the women behind bars. Also other services such as parenting classes are less readily available to female prisoners than to male prisoners, which consequently harms more families and children. This disparity of educational opportunities for inmates only causes even fewer options for ex-offenders once they are released, making the chance for them to restart their

lives and assimilate back into the 'outside world' even more difficult.

Some organizations are working within the prisons and jails in Illinois to increase educational opportunities as well as assisting women to make changes in their own lives for the better. Some of these programs include the PACE Institute or Programmed Activities for Correctional Education and the Windows to Freedom library. Both of these programs work within the Cook County Women's Division IV to encourage inmates to develop initiative, learning, empowerment and social responsibility as aids to leaving the criminal mode. These sorts of rare programs are not the nationwide norm but are emerging in an otherwise bleak incarceration system. Other reformative programs that are helpful to inmates include vocational training, drug-treatment, domestic violence and incest recovery, self-help and psychological assistance.

Incarceration rates amongst women of color are rising steadily but in contrast, violent crime rates amongst this same population of women are decreasing steadily. This exemplifies both the racism and the classism of the criminal justice system as well as the Prison Industrial Complex. By not providing programs that can help inmates help themselves, the system is merely perpetuating itself by increasing the risk of recidivism. One inmate stated that prison is like hell but that "you can do the time, or it can do you."

A summary of Brian's brain

I'd like to say I'm hard working, but I'd be lying. I can work hard, I just choose not to most of the time. Why bother? I've found the reward is rarely worth the effort (as my dating record could illustrate if I put it here), so I don't bother doing too much of anything anymore. I don't have more free time; I just don't accomplish anything on my work time. So, rather than waste precious seconds thinking up another topic for my column, I figured I'd just give a brief overview of my opinion on some topics I haven't covered yet. So, here in all their glory, are Brian's Thoughts On:

Abortion I'm all for it. If women want them, they can have them, as far as I'm concerned. I don't go through labor, so why should my opinion on abortion matter, anyway? And for those who say, "Life begins at conception," then why don't people claim zygotes on their tax returns?

Government Who cares? Government is there for a reason, obviously, but what reason is that, exactly? I personally think "everyone for themselves" is the best form of rule, but since that is "impractical," I think we need to bring back monarchy. Better to have only one ass to deal with rather than a whole slew of asses in Congress.

People who talk too loud in restaurants

These people need to be killed, swiftly but painfully. I was at a coffee house the other day, and the two couples seated about 20 feet away from me were speaking so loudly, I knew all about Diane's pregnancy, and the problems with Steve's irritable bowels. Please, people, keep it amongst yourselves.

People who cannot control their own children They must be sterilized, and their children removed from their custody. Their kids run around, screaming and drooling, and the parents do nothing. Well, if I have to discipline your kids for you, let's talk about my stance on:

Spanking This is a good idea. I don't care what other people think, saying it leads to emotional trauma, bed-wetting, killing sprees, or any of that crap. Time-outs? What kind of punishment is that? Ooh, they're making me sit down, ooh. Wow, those parents are tough, but fair. I'm not advocating cutting switches off of trees and whipping your children unconscious, but if they do something totally unacceptable, then a swift smack on the backside will stop the behavior. Think of it in terms of pets. Would you send your dog to the corner, and expect him to learn not to urinate on your shoes? (I know comparing kids and dogs isn't very accurate, since dogs tend to be cleaner and cuter, but bear with me). I say, mix time-outs with spankings, and then your kids will be fine.

Equal Rights For Women Good in theory, horrible in practice. When a company is experiencing tough times and lay-offs are necessary, people should be fired based on how productive they are, not their sex. Women who sue companies that fire them or who claim sexual harassment are brave, obviously, but lots of cases are simply "tit-for-tat" (pardon the pun) and the woman tries to get even. Not all cases, not even most. But, enough that it damages the women's movement and makes them look stupid. If women want to be treated equally, then act equally. Treatment will follow.

Violence in movies/on TV I really get pissed off when people blame movies and TV for their psycho-kids. Yeah, it can't possibly be the role model parents, the parents who are supposed to be teaching their children how to act. Nope, it must be an impartial, inanimate object that's corrupting the youth. How did people who use this argument even figure out how to make kids in the first place? Maybe they saw it on TV. Anyway, people need to take responsibility. If your kid shoots someone, it's not N.Y.P.D. Blue's fault, it's your kids' fault unless the parents beat the kid up, and neglected them. Then, it's a crying shame the kid didn't shoot the parents.

Part time teacher's pay As some of my loyal readers know, this topic is the only time I ever supported anything that was actually decent. Usually, I just support my own ideas while mocking people, but this time I helped a little. And, thankfully, the third referendum question from the recent election passed. The question was "Would you support a pay increase for part-time teachers if it meant a minimal increase in your tuition?" The gods have smiled, and the referendum passed. I was actually proud to be an NEIU student for a split second. But, then I thought of all the people who voted against it. I'd like to address all of them for a moment, if I may.

Shame on all of you. I'm horribly disgusted with each and every person who voted against increasing part-time teacher's pay. What the hell is wrong with you? You can't take a little tuition hike, so teachers can actually afford to work here? What a bunch of selfish nit-wits. Now, before I get a bunch of letters, filled with intelligent comments such as, "You don't know my situation, I can't afford any tuition hike," or "Why should I care about the teachers, they can always go work somewhere better," or other bullshit, let me clear up everything. Firstly, you're right, I don't know your situation, and furthermore, I couldn't care less. I don't care how many kids you're supporting, I don't care how many jobs you're working, and I don't care about anything else you could tell me. All I care about is that fact that you're willing to leech knowledge off of horribly underpaid teachers, then leave college and get a better job. Selfishness at it's best, and everyone who voted "no" to a pay raise for teachers can kiss my ass.

To everyone who voted "yes," good job. I'm actually proud of NEIU for once.

Well, that's all I have to say. To those of you who don't have summer school (lucky bastards), or those of you who are enrolled in summer school and don't have to poster any teachers like I plan to (even luckier bastards), have a good summer. To those who voted "no," get an absolutely devastating case of sunburn.



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

Money for part-time professors must be invisible to the naked eye

By Iris Giannakis
Staff Writer

I've been begged, pleaded and even hounded down by several individuals on campus about something important, about an issue that the administration seems to tiptoe around. So instead of my usual hissy fits about other things, today I want to be a heroine and help out a lot of individuals at Northeastern. This article is being dedicated to all the part time professors who are not recognized for their hard work and are not being compensated for it either! For those of you who are still reading, the issue that you thought was long dead isn't. I'm talking about the labor issue that was reported a few issues back ("Labor issues leave many voices unheard," *Independent*, February 20, 2001)

Now I already see some of the administration folks taking this newspaper and tossing it in the trash. Well, go ahead. Toss it aside. Shut me out. This labor issue is not going to go away (as you wanted it to), let alone be solved by itself. It'll just keep coming back until something is done to remedy it. One individual (names are not being mentioned for security reasons) that hounded me referred to this situation as stirring the "shit storm". Since this labor issue is really a "shit storm", we all better put our raincoats and hiking boots on because some of the things that I will say will anger some people (the administration to be exact). So yes, I'll be stirring the "shit storm" some more.

A lot has happened since the labor issue was first reported in the February 20 issue. For one, a lot of people (particularly professors) are hopping mad about this issue. Two, a nice individual on campus showed me this thing that none of us students knew about (until now). It's called Northeastern's Internal Budget Book. Huge undertaking, I hear some of you say. True, but just wait. Three, I've been doing some dirty digging with my own shovel and discovered some things that are quite shameful and shocking in the process. So yes, I'll share with you what I've discovered and talk more of this Budget Book and why it's so *bloody* interesting. But first, let me refresh your memory about this issue.

The story about the labor issue first hit the front page of the *Independent* on February 20. To sum up the important things, the article stated that part time instructors, who are devoted to students and the teaching profession, are being exploited and not compensated for all the work they have to do. To make things worse, Northeastern does not provide our part time instructors with phones, offices or even a computer.

But that's not all on the labor issue. On March 6 the topic was brought up again in the *Voice of the Campus Column* ("And I thought my job sucked"). To make this summary short and sweet, the author of the column ranted about how unfair it is that "part-time teachers are getting royally screwed." At the end of the long-ranting column, the author posed a nice thought: "Just ask the administration how much *they* make each year."

Now that I refreshed your memory, I want to talk about this Budget Book and rant about my digging discoveries along with it. What's important right now is what I *saw* in this book. To be exact, the title of this book is *Northeastern Illinois University 2000-2001 Internal Budget*. Yes, this book DOES exist. If you don't believe me, you can get off your little arse (after you are done reading this article) and go to the ARCHIVE room, located in the lower

level of the LIBRARY and insist to see this book. From what the individual told me about this book, a new one comes out every year. It's public record and Northeastern is *required* to have this Budget Book available to the *public*, meaning students and whoever else that desires to *see* this book.

If you haven't guess it, this Budget Book is about Northeastern's *financial* budget. Meaning that this book shows how much *money* Northeastern *spends*. To my surprise, Northeastern receives an awful lot of money from the government. How much? According to the Budget Book, Northeastern's total financial budget for this year is \$61,117,400! Damn, I didn't say it on purpose so that your eyeballs fall on the floor. To be really specific, the book shows how much money is given to the different departments. Meaning? Meaning that some of that \$61 million something goes to different departments in academic instruction (i.e. Biology, Anthropology, English, etc.), course and curriculum development (i.e. University Honors Program, Women's Studies Program, etc.), library services, executive management (self-explanatory) and the list goes on! Wait a minute. It gets *better*. As a whopping bonus, it shows how much *EVERYONE* (professors, civil servants, public safety, even the *administration!*) at Northeastern makes.

I don't know if it's obvious, but I'm encouraging you readers to go the archive room and look at that lovely book. Look at it and see how much our professors make. You know, you would think that most of these professors that have a Ph.D. would be making at least \$110,000 and more a year. Well, they are not! Most professors at Northeastern are being paid a lot less than that. Yes, it comes as a shock to some of us because I can see the mouths drop on the floor.

Oh wait. It gets even *better*. Part timers are still being paid jack. They're lucky that they are even getting peanuts to begin with. Once again, they are getting not even \$10,000 gross pay a year. That's like making minimum wage flipping burgers at McDonalds. An insulting comparison I hear, but it's true. And to make things more fun, part timers do not receive any benefits from Northeastern whatsoever. Benefits meaning that they get no little office to call a cubbyhole, no access to a computer, not even so much as a freaking phone. Overall, in terms of being a part timer at Northeastern, the pay is nothing to write home about and forget about having any benefits in the process. If anything, it's very pitiful.

I can hear the pundits asking why doesn't Northeastern pay the part timers more money and give them some benefits so that they can at least be compensated decently for their work. Hold your breath for a minute, because what I'm about to say is something scary. Rumor (mind you, it's just a rumor) has it that Northeastern doesn't have any money to pay their professors. No money? What kind of bull is this that I'm feeding you? Where the hell did those millions of dollars go?

I've been checking out this rumor myself, trying to understand the concept of "no money." I must say that this is really bogus. Why? I'll tell you why. Let me come back to a thought that was mentioned earlier. A thought that the author of *Voice of the Campus* posed. "Just ask the administration how much *they* make each year." Well, I'll TELL you how much they make. I could even tell you how much every single administrator at Northeastern makes. But let me just tell you three administrators salaries so that I can

make a point. If you readers want to know what the rest of the administration makes, like I said earlier and I'll say it again: Go to the archive room and insist to see the *Northeastern Illinois University 2000-2001 Internal Budget* book. I just can't advertise enough about this Budget Book because its really *bloody* interesting.

I can already hear a fuss about stepping in the war zone and code red nonsense. I will not back out, let alone stop ranting about it. Well I'm going in the war zone, so everyone buckle up. Now about those three administrators salaries that I want to mention. The three administrators I'm talking about are President Salme Steinberg, Provost Estela Lopez and Vice President for Student Affairs Melvin Terrell. I find it very interesting that they receive quite a bit of change. Enough to make your piggy bank squeal. Look at the chart below listing the salaries that they received this year and what they've received previous.

Administrator

Salme Steinberg
\$162,228 (2000-2001)
\$154,500 (1999-2000)
\$150,000 (1998-1999)

Estela Lopez
\$108,912 (2000-2001)
\$103,968 (1999-2000)
\$98,088 (1998-1999)

Melvin Terrell
\$107,748 (2000-2001)
\$102,864 (1999-2000)
\$97,044 (1998-1999)

Now talk about a nice little raise in a chunk of change salary each year. Sure, the administrator(s) get a raise while the part-timers get only peanuts. I must mention the fact that not only is the Budget Book in the archives, so is the minutes of any meetings that the NEIU Board of Trustees have. What's in the minutes? Information about issues that the Board is discussing and how they voted on that issue. The following piece of information that I'm about to tell you, can be found in the NEIU Board of Trustees Minutes dated November 16, 2000.

Now get this: The Board of Trustees approved a salary of \$193,000 and housing allowance of \$27,500 for President Steinberg. The reason for such a hike is to "ensure that Northeastern will have a competitive President's salary in line with the other state universities in Illinois." Well how do you like those apples? Northeastern has money to spend on the President's salary, but can't even spare so much as a dollar for part time instructors. It makes me pose a question: Doesn't the administration already ride on a guilt trip? I mean, don't they feel guilty about not doing something to remedy this embarrassing issue.

Those of you who are still with me are probably thinking what does President Steinberg do that she has to have such a substantial salary hike every year? Some people say that she does nothing. Now, that's easy for all of us to say. Really it is. Let's look at the big picture for a moment. President Steinberg runs the place, am I not right? I can just imagine how stressful it must be to keep the university in tip top shape and not to mention all the crazy people that she has to deal with daily. Whether or not if she does more than the teachers, I can't exactly say. What I do know is that President Steinberg does plenty of work and gets compensated for it. The part timers also do a lot of work, but are not being compensated for it at all.

see Part-time woes
continued on page 11

More on smoking from the peanut gallery

Just to clear the air,

In regards to Brian's article speaking of my letter to the *Independent* I would like to say that in no way was I attacking something as grand as peoples First Amendment Rights, I was merely employing my own freedom of speech to question/challenge the paper's methods of acquiring funds. I apologize for coming off as a threat to the Independent, my letter had other intentions, which have obviously been overlooked.

Now I feel compelled to defend my position (as Brian did). I am disgusted by tobacco companies and their practices. They pay wages to their tobacco farmers that aren't even close to being a livable wage, they endanger lives and even promote smoking to children. The advertisement of cigarettes (and yes, the advertisement in the *Independent* is promotional material for cigarette companies, even offering free trial packs) perpetuates the cycle of greed, ill-health and death that tobacco companies spread. And yes, ads such as these do recruit new smokers and while at first smoking is a conscious choice, before long addiction takes over and a person can either go through a painful withdrawal or continue smoking.

I am not drenched in the apathetic mind-frame of most and obviously you're not used to someone questioning you or the paper. I would be willing to assist the Independent in finding other funders (that don't sell products that directly cause cancer or cause bad breath). I would really like to avoid stepping to the childish level Brian did in his article, but there are a few things that I feel compelled to say: You are not the "voice of the campus," regardless of your article/title. Just out of curiosity, what does how hard you work or how little you sleep have to do with who funds the paper? It was a very noble gesture you had, campaigning to get Cigarettes Cheaper in so you and YOUR smoking friends could all know where to get cheaper cigarettes, how about thinking a little bit about the rest of the school and what they would like?

I really like when Brian suggested that people "shut up" and then criticized "anyone who tries to silence what they don't agree with" and goes on to call people who speak out "very insecure and cowardly" I had to chuckle. Spare me, I am nowhere near silencing those darn pig tobacco companies, but I have a mind and a voice and will use it to say what they are doing is wrong and that advertising for them is wrong and taking their money to fund the paper is wrong and I don't want to support the Independent (you receive some school funding, no?) if they promote products/companies such as these.

Once again, this is not an attack on smokers or freedom of speech, but on corporations that are greedy and will sell anything to make a buck. THIS IS MY LAST WORD, unless the Independent would like to do a feature article on tobacco companies and their practices.

P.S. I read that Brian is an advocate for the death penalty in some instances (which I find detestable). Would he say mass murder (in the form of cancer) by cigarette corporations would put them on top of his list of death rowians?

Signed,
Social smoker (can I bum one, yours were cheaper), wannA-be world saver (I can't think of a nobler cause), I could be a bible pusher (agnostic)

Sarah McHugh

Let me preface this letter by stating that I am not a smoker. I do, however, believe in a person's right to infiltrate their lungs with whatever they want. I also own a cellular phone; therefore, this is not a prejudicial missive on my part.

Could NEIU please create a smoke/cell phone antechamber, or some facsimile thereof, AWAY from the main entrances of the fine arts building? I don't know if anyone's noticed or not, but exiting or entering the Student Union is nearly impossible at times with the number of people lined up right against the doors, either smoking or blankly staring as they are locked to their cell phones. Worse, many times I have seen individuals trying to use the handicapped door, but a mob of smokers is blocking that and/or the other three manual doors.

It seems that the only solution to getting rid of the gridlock is to give these folks a space of their own, out of harms way.

name withheld by request

Parking troubles spark heated debate

I read the article in the March 27 *Independent* on the recent meeting for the proposed parking lot. While the article did convey an accurate outline of the meeting, I feel that several key points were missing.

One staff member asked Mr. Jonaitis if the committee had petitioned the legislature to request an exception to the rule mandating funding for the lot be self-sustaining, an option that is allowed in the law. Mr. Jonaitis stated that a petition had not been filed. Why was this option not

explored before proposing doubling the current parking rates?

Also, when several people suggested establishing a sliding scale fee for staff members, Mr. Hazeltine said this was discussed but quickly dismissed because the committee felt that total family income could not be determined. This response was met with resounding disapproval by many in attendance.

Finally, the *Independent*, has quoted Joe Kish on several occasions as stating that one of the goals of the committee is to assure

that parking costs do not exceed \$1 per day. Considering that a Level 2 Permit is currently less than .50 cents per day, this essentially means the committee has no problem with doubling the current rates.

There is undeniably a parking problem for several hours per day. However, to double the fees of students and staff is an unfair and unreasonable solution that the parking committee seems all too willing to enact.

Bob Condren

I felt an obligation to respond to your recent article in the newspaper pertaining to the parking lot woes. That story really needs to be told by a spectator at the open forum that was hosted on March 15th.

Ms. Chrabasz' article failed to be descriptive of the heated and flared feelings that were prevalent in the seats of that assembly. Though the committee presented a thorough explanation of the major issues, the Think Tank presented a solution to the university community which left a bitter taste in the mouths of staff and faculty. The issue of a mandatory parking fee to be extracted from payroll checks did not sit well with a lot of people in the audience, while the proposal focused on discounts for part-time students. This should have been reflected in Ms. Chrabasz' coverage of the event.

Your readers should get the real scoop on what people are feeling and that was an explosive event with moral sensivity being expressed. Next time send your best!

Jane Cigir

Part-time woes

continued from page 10

Now, I should have mentioned a little piece of information about the Budget Book earlier (when I was still going on and on about it), but I'll mention it now. To my digging discovery, in the old Budget Books, it listed in each department how much part timers were getting. To make things more interesting, the pay rate for part timers was significantly MORE than the peanuts that they are making now! And get this: Northeastern hasn't listed how much part timers are getting in each department for the past two years now! Now why is that, do you suppose? To me, it looks like Northeastern is pulling a fast one. Like I said the beginning of this article, the administration tiptoes around the issue.

Alright, the ugly truth is that part timers of Northeastern cannot afford to live on their salaries. Our professors have to teach at five different colleges to make even a modest standard of living. It is a sad state of affairs when a profession that everyone "says" is the most important is given little respect and often inadequate compensation for. You know, there are too many better paying opportunities and the relatively lower salaries for part timers (full timers too) in teaching are often viewed as unattractive. And unfortunately in an effort to improve teaching, some politicians and educational professionals are driving teachers away instead of trying to help them.

Readers, if you're still out there, then listen to me. We need to do something. This whole pitiful salary issue is total bull and it has to end once and for all. This has become a real serious problem that needs all of our attention. I don't want to hear the rumor anymore about how Northeastern doesn't have money to pay their teachers. Where on God's green earth did those millions upon millions of dollars go? Down the drain?

We need to compensate part timers for their hard work. Meaning more money and some benefits to go along with it. We need to do this otherwise there will be no professors.

With Northeastern not paying their professors enough money, this shows that they do not care. The administration really ought to be ashamed of themselves. By right, the administration should not be getting ANY more raises until ALL of our PART TIMERS are paid better. Oops! I hear the pundits crying out, "More money won't make them better teachers!" Maybe not always, BUT it will attract more highly qualified people and it is hoped, to keep the people that we DO have teaching instead of leaving the field. Truth is, as one individual told me, we've lost some full time faculty members over the years and Northeastern hasn't replaced them. Instead they are using part timers in hopes of saving some money! How do you like that?

Then there are the bastards who will argue the fact that the love of children and dedication are far more important than money. True. Good teachers do love children and are dedicated, but they have their own children and college tuitions and mortgages and we should not make them choose one over the other. I am not saying that teachers should be paid tons of money, just more. We are losing the best and brightest to more financially rewarding opportunities. Until we address that and somehow, someway, make teaching more lucrative, the problem will only continue and worsen. As an added bonus the hardships of being a student of the university will be unbearable. It will take us more than the typical four years because we will not get the classes we need to graduate. Imagine our frustration administrators.

Now I hear some of you saying that the money we pay for the tuition is doing down the drain. Oh wait! Another money issue I didn't bring up. Since

I'm at it, I might as well. Northeastern collects about \$1500 from each of us. There are like what? Over 11,000 students. So 11,000 x \$1500 = \$16,500,000 in tuition money that Northeastern receives. That plus the \$61 million something from the government. And Northeastern doesn't have money to pay professors. Bullshit.

What makes a good learning environment should make a good working environment for teachers (including benefits like an office, a computer and a phone); an environment in which teachers can fully utilize their professional skills. The importance of conditions of teachers is really important because those are also the learning condition of students. It is extremely difficult for us students to take our education seriously when we are constantly shut out of classes that we really need and there aren't enough professors to teach us. All of us students hope to get a college degree and have a job that pays well.

You know, rumor has it that UIC isn't far away. Students, maybe we should pack our bags and take our business elsewhere. Some other places are starting to look good to our professors. Tenure professors, you should help out the part timers. They have no representation and they really need it. Administration, looks like you got all your work cut out for yourselves. And as far as the government goes, hopeless. We won't see nothing new with the way things are going with the current horrible ideas about how education should be.

It will be up to the Board of Trustees or whoever runs this place to improve the part time salaries and benefits because the widening gap between teachers on the one hand, and say lawyers and investment bankers on the other, is growing wider and wider, causing intelligent people to consider professions more lucrative than teaching. Teachers are the future. Where would we be without them? Nowhere, that's where.

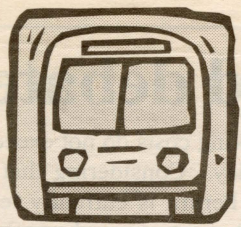
Writer's note: I want to thank all the individuals who've given me their nice testimonial input. And lastly, I want to thank that nice individual for showing me that Budget Book. I'm sure that a lot of students will show up at the archive room and look at the book, now that I mentioned it.

LETTER POLICY

Letters to the Editor must be signed and contain an address and telephone number for verification and must be approximately 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 may be received through mail addressed to:

**The Independent * E-049, NEIU
5500 N. St. Louis Av * Chicago, IL 60625**

Letters are also accepted through electronic mail, provided they include a telephone number for verification. The address is
neiu_independent@yahoo.com



The Commuter

Your Independent Guide to Features

Spring Break in the District

Why do people visit Washington DC? Well, most go to see the famous landmarks and for a hopeful glance at the most powerful man in the free Western world. Well, I on the other hand went to visit my brother, big deal.

Hey, I did see some of the landmarks in Washington. I bet no one here has ever seen the Official Presidential Helicopter flying over them as they were walking to the FDR Memorial. The city has various parts, the Capitol part and the residential/business sections.

1) The Washington Memorial is surrounded by fifty flags for each of the fifty states in the Union.

2) Arlington National Cemetery, was home to Robert E Lee. Now it is a cemetery to the thousands of men and woman who served in the Nation's Wars. The cemetery has the tomb of the Unknown Solider and former President John F Kennedy and wife Jackie Kennedy Onasis

3) The Holocaust Memorial Museum, a sad tribute to those who lost their lives in the Concentration Camps.

4) One of the newer memorials is the Korea War Memorial. The men are onward to fight in the rice paddies.

5) The Vietnam Veterans Memorial bears many names of the people who fought and died during Vietnam. If you know someone who lost their life in the war you can obtain a rubbing or you can set flowers. The memorial starts out with one name and gets bigger as the war goes on, but then it gets smaller as the war draws to a close.

6) The Lincoln memorial, an honor to Abraham Lincoln. The walls of the Lincoln Memorial are filled with the Gettysburg Address and his Second Inaugural address. The memorial over looks the Vietnam and Korean Memorials.

7) The Nation's Capitol, houses both the Senate and the House of Representatives. When you do visit the capitol, go on the off-season when the lines are shorter. During the high season the wait can be as long as three hours.

8) The Library of Congress, Thomas Jefferson started the library with his own collection of books.

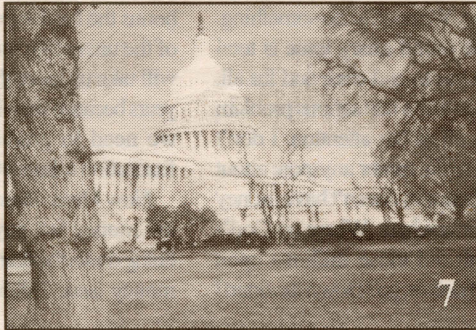
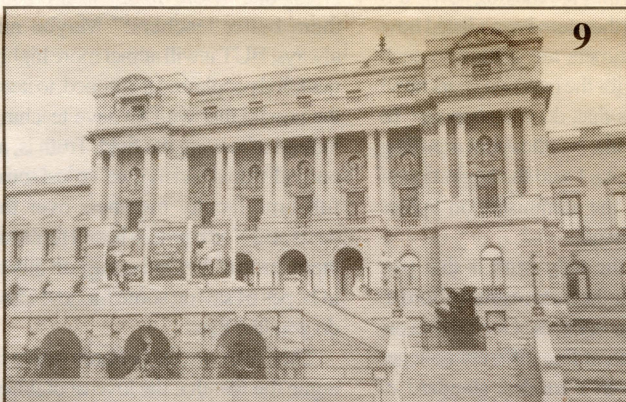
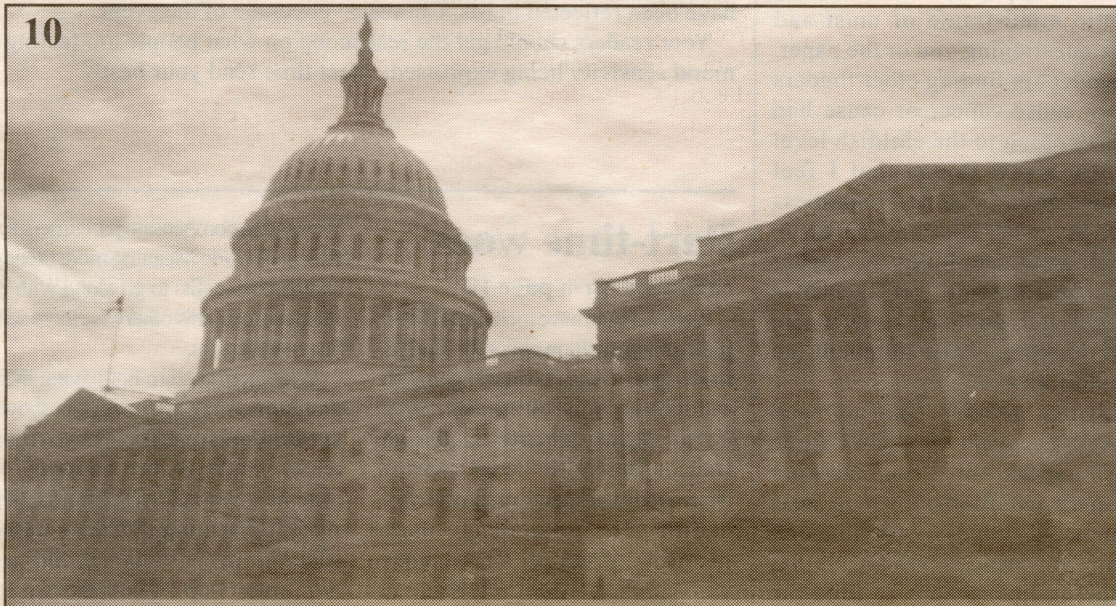
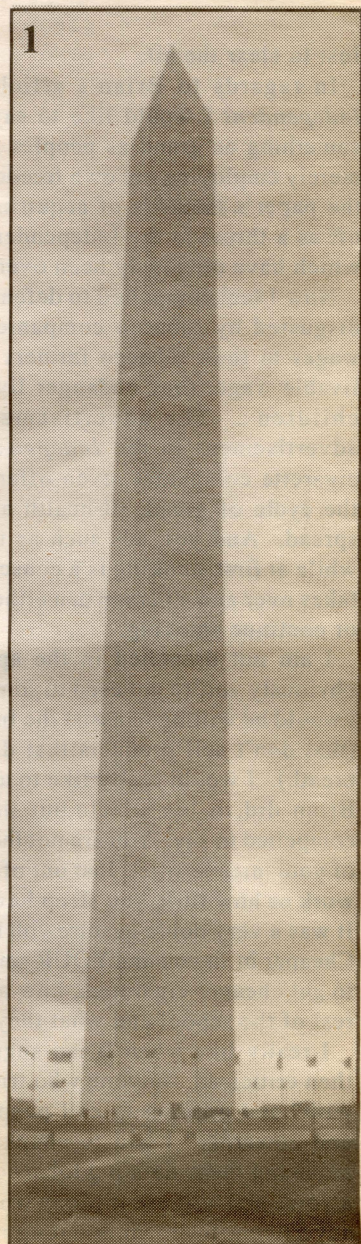
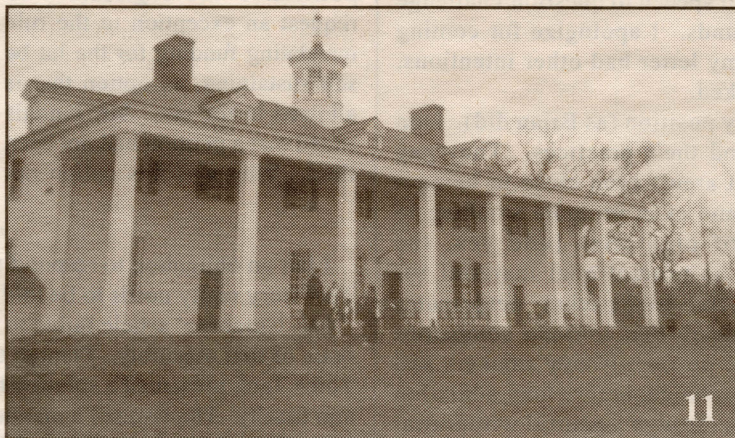
9) The American History Museum, a building that houses Archie Bunker's chair, to the Ruby Slippers from the Wizard of Oz. The current major exhibit is the History of The American President.

10) A closer look of the Dome of the Capitol Building, the dome is called the rotunda. On the very top is Lady Freedom. When the Bastille was stormed the United States got the key.

11) Mount Veron, the home to former President George Washington. He died in 1799 and is buried in the 'new tomb' with his wife Martha Washington.

Well, the city has a lot of things that you will never see, and that is a fact. The whole city is unique, and you have to see it to believe it.

photos and captions by Joanna Frigo



This Man's World

A LAST DEPARTING SHOT AT CLINTON

It's been no secret that immediately following Bill and Hillary's exodus from the plush digs at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, a few things had been discovered missing. I personally think the Clintons already knew there was no way they were



JOHN ROSSI

going to get their security deposit back, so they figured, "why not?"

Not to pat myself on the back here, but not only did I see this coming, if you'll recall, I wrote about it in this very column years ago. I suspected that we should check suitcases for towels, presidential toilet seats, gold-framed photos, German cuckoo clocks, crystal, priceless brick-a-brack, and any other White House memorabilia that could be stuffed into a large steamer trunk—but even I

didn't think we should pat them down for things like antique wing-back chairs, mahogany high-boys, and one-hundred-year-old dining settees. I guess they made away with a vast haul. Many people may have thought that Nixon was a crook, but at least he left the drapes hanging when he resigned.

Now, I know, other presidents have done what the Clintons are accused of pulling; the Reagans made off with hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of gifts, but Ron and Nancy were older, and most old people are kleptomaniacs when it comes to small items like restaurant Sweet and Low packages, bank pens, hotel shampoo, sheets, towels, etc., so essentially, having been at one time an actor (allegedly), Reagan was just acting like he was supposed to.

I know nothing can excuse Clinton's behavior, but look at who we're dealing with. This is the same man that operated a cash only Bed-and-Breakfast out of the Lincoln bedroom while he was in office, and was accused of conspiring to sell American secrets to the Chinese, which is an out and out lie—he never tried to sell secrets to the Chinese. The Chinese just happened to outbid the North Koreans. Big deal, so he considered himself an entrepreneur first and a president second, if you ask most Americans, they will say that they don't have any problems with their president taking on a second job to make ends meet. Look at Gerald Ford, he needed dough so bad that he was willing to squeeze into his old Boy Scout uniform to do commercials. Even Jimmy Carter learned to build houses so that he had a real trade to fall back on in case the political thing went sour.

I'm not the least bit surprised that Clinton brought home a few mementos. Of course, knowing who we were dealing with, I wouldn't have been surprised to find out he hired out Air Force One as an overnight package delivery service, or that he had the White House lawn plowed up to put in a cash sorghum crop.

I'd like to go on record as stating that I now suspect that he's thinking about having a giant garage sale next summer; and what would a good garage sale be without a few "vast right-wing-back chairs"?

Clinton's petty thievery, as it turned out, was not the worst of it. As soon as he took office, Bush was shocked to find child-like scrawls on the walls, phone lines ripped from their jacks, and the "W's" missing from the keyboards of typewriters and computers. George was so angry that he yanked all the "J's" (Clinton's middle initial) off of all of the keyboards as well. In a letter to Dick Cheney, President Bush had this to say: "ust ho does he think he is, esus Christ? Something is rong ith his head, he's acky. I can't ustify that type of uvenile behavior from a man ho as once leader of the free orld. I ust hope the slimy easel comes back to ashington-the ackass! I'll teach him the meaning of the ord ustice."

As far as the missing "W's"—heck, they enjoy a good practical joke in Arkansas as much as they do in Texas, and since there weren't any pigs or sheep to dress up in women's clothing, the computer thing played just as well. In fact, far from a juvenile prank, it almost seems too sophisticated for the likes of Bill Clinton. Clinton seems to me to be too simple-minded for inventive tricks such as yanking a button off of a computer. During the "Monica" thing the best he could do was try to reinvent a new meaning for the word "is." Like many Americans, I expected any day to hear a news story about George W. soiling his shoes on a flaming bag of doggie-doo on the White House doorstep, or being plagued by wacky phone calls inquiring whether or not they have Prince Albert in "the can" at the White House.

So, if you happen to be cruising past the Clinton's this summer, and you spot a garage sale sign, I'd say you owe it to yourself to stop in—no telling what kind of bargains you might find. You might walk away with a lace doily that Mary Lincoln hand-crocheted, or a genuine "Teddy" bear. But if I were you, before leaving, I'd count my change, my fingers, and ask for a receipt, and no matter how much he may beg you, don't under any circumstances pull his finger.

Star Scopes

by Iris the Oracle

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK: One success leads to another, but don't get wasteful or throw your money around. A change with your boss puts more money in your pocket.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS NEXT WEEK: September will be your most powerful, creative month of 2001. Settle down to a nest full of new ideas. The best gift of all comes at Christmas.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
The stars urge you to keep a promise made. You're expressing the needs of desire and romance. You emit personal magnetism, sensuality and sex appeal. Finish what you started. Get that old assignment out of the way now, because a new one is about to come in.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21)
Your date book is about to fill up with fun engagements. But pay the bills, ask for a raise and balance your checkbook first. Shake off preconceived notions of imprint style and stress originality. You will be dealing with creative natives who have your interests at heart.

CANCER (June 22 to July 22)
Remember your resolution concerning personal issues. A cycle will be moving up soon. Questions concerning partnership, career and marriage will be answered. Someone wants to take the lead on a major decision. Don't hand over all the authority. Just go easy on yourself.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
Bored? Volunteer your time. Diversify, experiment, discover. Helping out others totally rocks. Unless you're not paying any attention, the scenario that you're currently in features humor, travel and flirtation. A certain

someone is playing a major role in the scene.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
If everybody would just leave you alone so that you could concentrate, you'd be fine. You'll get your work done fast. Keep track of the bottom line. Make this time a "make-over". That means do and arrange things differently. Focus on a challenge and courage of convictions.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
It may be hard for you to wake up in the morning these days. Favorable lunar aspect coincides with travel, spiritual values and the ability to sense what the future holds. Play and travel if you can. Some people insist you should develop more of your best talents.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
Are you finding a good friend saying "I don't trust you because you hypnotize me into doing anything." You don't need anyone bugging you to take care of business. You know the score and have goals in sight! Use the skills you've learned recently.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
Define boundaries. Don't be led into a trap. Verbal, emotional or otherwise. People really do talk

about you, write about you—you have the answers available. Great possibilities will become available soon. Before that happens, clean up a big mess quickly.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Try a new recipe or a new way to fix up your room. You're all caught up with homework and no one nagging you about chores. Look for the chance to play your winning card. You're a happy camper right now. Looks like some time off for you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
An idea you want to try might not go over big right now. Refuse to be cajoled into thinking and acting in the same manner like everyone else. Make sure your parachute is packed properly. Take advantage of a rate opportunity you have to travel to a distant land.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
People are surprised because you come up with the original material. Don't take the safe way. Stress your originality, daring and pioneering spirit. True love awaits for you, but it seems out of reach. Part of your problem could be the fact that finals are round the corner.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Do not second guess your own power. Admit the fact that you are strong and darn good looking. Avoid a confrontation with an older person. You'll get more powerful over the next few weeks. If you continue to be gentle as well as strong, and you'll win the prize.

DAVID DUCHOVNY ORLANDO JONES SEANN WILLIAM SCOTT JULIANNE MOORE

Have a nice end of the world.

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IN THEATRES EVERYWHERE THIS JUNE



The top dog, Superdawg, towers not only the intersection of Devon and Milwaukee, but also towers over the competition in the processed nitrate/pork industry.

The search for the perfect weiner

by Samantha Plencner
Cartoonist

The quest for the perfect hot dog continues. Each frank, tasty in its own right, has been inspected and digested by a team of experienced hot dog tasters. The closest any place came to reproduce the myth that the perfect Chicago-style hot dog has become is Superdawg at Devon and Milwaukee. There is a formula to hot dogs that people just do not know. This ignorance leaves uninformed people "satisfied" with a mediocre frank.

The first part of true Chicago-style hot dog starts with an all beef Vienna sausage on some plump, toasty buns. No skinny mass-packaged Ballpark hot dogs on generic grocery store buns should be accepted. Next the dog must be layered in *this* order with at least the following: mustard, relish, tomatoes, onions, hot peppers, and celery salt.

Don't get me wrong. This is not all one needs to create the perfect hot dog. The french fries which accompany the hot dog on its journey to one's tummy, really make the difference. Unfortunately no one was capable of producing the perfect pair together.

Not only are fries tangent to the hot dogs one purchases; there is also a relative opportunity cost along with them, which creates a new unanswerable question: where can I find a hot dog with a reasonable price? Since the quest for the perfect hot dog itself has not come to any closure, we might as well settle with the ones that are the best for the money. You Dawg You

in Village Crossing at Touhy and Central, produced a masterpiece hot dog, sauerkraut and all. The only problem of course is the fries and the price, about \$5. There was a tie with who made the best fries. It was between Susie's (Montrose and Elston) and Bob-os (Irving Park and Cumberland.) Susie's took the lead when one hot dog critic discovered a winged insect of some sort in the cheese of the fries at Bob-os. I finished my fries anyway because they were just that good.

To save everyone the calories and nitrate poisoning, I did the dirty work and traveled up and down northern Chicagoland in search for the top dogs:

Superdawg: A- (Devon and Milwaukee) The hot dogs are so huge they come in their own box. The only factor keeping Superdawg from an A+ is the fries. One gets an average of 6 to 7 french fries with each \$3.50 hot dog.

Susie's: A- (Montrose and Elston) The hands of God fried these fries. This place deep fries *absolutely anything* and makes it taste good.

Frank-n-Fries: B+ (Golf and Greenwood) Classic hot dog and lots of good fries. The guy who works there knows your order as you walk in. Very impressive.

Duke's: B (Elston and Central) The best dogs for your money. You can get two hot dogs with fries for only \$2.59.

Wrigleyville Dogs: B- (Clark and Addison) Good hot dogs and fries but its usually really crowded and humid inside. Its great if you just wasted so much money at the Cub's game that money is not a

factor anymore.

Muskies: C (Belmont and Sheffield) Four words: get the cheese fries.

Demon Dogs: C (Fullerton and Ravenswood) Most creative hot dogs. Order the double dogs.

Toot's: D (Montrose and Central) You would expect a place that had done so well in creating the cheddar nuggets to have the capabilities of creating a decent hot dog. It was a disgrace.

King's: F (Milwaukee and Foster) Maybe its just me and my friends but it looks like a hot dog and it smells like a hot dog but it just doesn't taste like one. It tastes like something different every time.

So what I have learned on the quest for the greatest weiner was that anything under \$2 is not really a hot dog and should not be consumed. Also, any place that looks nice and high class inside is not capable of deep frying anything worth eating. My advice is to buy a hot dog from Superdawg and truck it down to Montrose for some Susie's fries.

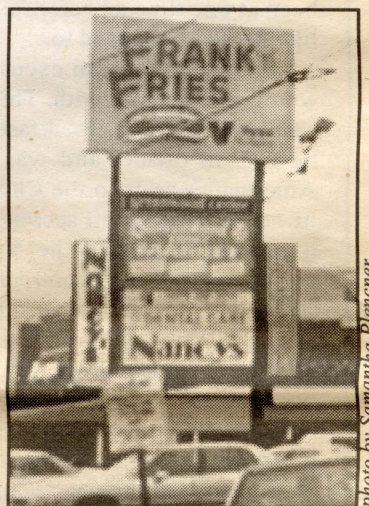


photo by Samantha Plencner

Frank'n'Fries, located in Niles at Milwaukee and Greenwood, has a good dog for your buck.

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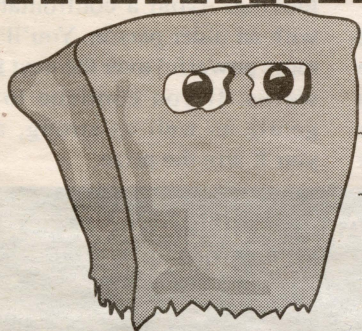
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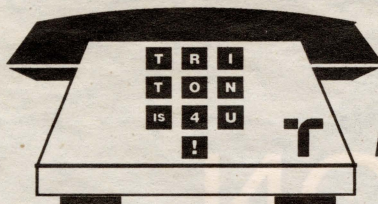
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Prowling for a good book? Here's one

by Brian Blaszkowski
News Editor

Prowlers, by Christopher Golden, goes where few fantasy books have successfully gone before.

Fantasy books, by definition, usually deal with worlds unknown, filled with creatures of dreams and nightmares. Rarely can the shell of our world be used as a backdrop for a fantasy book, and yet retain the mystical element that draws readers like flies to honey, or in many cases of "realistic-fantasy," a steaming pile of dog crap.

Unlike its stinky peers, Prowlers is a sweet treat. Realistic characters caught in an unrealistic situation, much

like the Twilight Zone, make this a good, solid read. The book centers around one Jack Dwyer, a nineteen-year-old living in the family bar with his sister. Without parents for several years, they had to rely on each other and their friends for support. Jack's best friend is Artie, the personification of "surfer dude."

However, when Artie is murdered, Jack's world crashes down. Life without Artie seems unbearable, but Artie hasn't quite left. He appears to Jack from the Ghostlands, a place where dead people stay while they have unfinished business in the realm of the living, ala Ghost.

Artie claims that there are packs of monsters, assuming

the guise of humans, overrunning their city. He charges Jack to stop them. The storyline revolves around Jack's encounters with the beasts, called "prowlers," and his attempts to stop them.

Golden tells a visually sparse tale, but a wonderful one, nonetheless. Jack and his supporting cast tell a believable tale of an unbelievable situation. Centering a fantasy story in "real times" is always risky, but Golden did a fair job. A quick ending and some loose ends rob the book of the glory it could have attained, but a solid effort that is well worth picking up.

GRADE: B-

Have a GREAT Summer!!

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Shital Darji	Margarita A. Mora	Suzana Pulja	Krzysztof Strzalka
Kathy Giannakopoulos	Evelyn C. Onaiwu	Daphna Rashman	Robert Wojdacz
Tracey E. Kutter	Sargon Oshana	Jill E. Reed	

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Cum Laude

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Robert A. Anzelde
Syed Ashfaq
Karen Baier
Whitney N. Beyer
Noreen Marie Blanchard
Manal Y. Bodash
Marketta S. Bracey
Katheleen P. Callahan
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Alexandra Castro-Sanchez-Nieto
Eva M. Cegielski
Jo-Ann C. Chan
Thomas j. Croon
Jennifer L. Czech
Kalinka M. De Oliveira
Olga Diaz
Cornelia Dogaru
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Kerry A. Epstein
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Lorena Torres-Castillo
Alexia Tsilipetros
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Anne M. Von Ebers
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Keith A. Brown
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Wanted

Two position openings available for pharmacy technicians at Osco Drug at 1128 Chicago between Dempster and Main in Evanston. Commitment for 2 weekday or weeknight shifts is required. Ideal job opportunity for part-time or health sciences students who need additional income and would like to learn potentially useful career information. Contact Angie, Julie, or Chirag as soon as possible at (847) 869-3523. Convenient location near Dempster el stop on Purple line!!

Looking for another sister of Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority, Inc. National member only. Please give me a call at (708) 906-7519. Ask for Sylvia.

1 or 2 May graduation tickets urgently needed. Please call 708/488-9038

Interested in providing companionship for an elder? be trained to be a respite care worker and get paid! Call X5846.

Math tutor wanted. Starting Fall 2001. Good GPA. Junior or senior standing. \$7/hour. Flexible hours. Call x4598.

Looking for anyone from Costa Rica. Please contact me if you would like to participate in some Costa Rican events. It's always a lot of fun. Contact Jennifer at munequita_dulce@yahoo.com

I NEED ONE graduation ticket! It's only one, so I know SOMEBODY out there has an extra. E-mail me at j-kelly4@neiu.edu.

Outgoing people please apply! IMPACT Theatre is looking for people to help launch their first show over the summer at Independence Park and possibly one other. Looking at children's/ family theatre. Anyone interested please contact Carole at CM-Brown@excite.com.

Organizations

The Black Heritage Gospel Choir is extending its membership to all Northeastern students. Meet Tues. and Thurs., 1:40-2:50, FA 152. -President Kendra Young On April 24, they will be hosting *Leaders in the Outfield*, a fun softball game for student organizations out at the baseball diamond by the P. E. Building.

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.

Join an award winning team. Become a part of the student newspaper. Staff meetings are held every Tuesday during the activity hour. The *Independent* office is located in E-049, below Beck's Bookstore, between the Student Lounge and the Cafeteria.

As-salamu-alaikum, the Muslim Students Association meets every Tuesday and Thursday in Room FA-153 from 1:40 to 2:50p.m. to learn Islam and its relevance to contemporary society and also to plan public campus activities. Open to anyone. <http://neiu.edu/~msa>

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance meets alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays in C505 at 1:40. Contact elarrimore@neiu.edu to verify dates or join listserve.

Care about your environment? Let's start a NEIU environmental organization! Contact or leave message for Sarah (773) 561-5131 or e-mail revo1@chickmail.com

Looking to enhance your career prospects? APICS offers a variety of programs and materials addressing business management. The award-winning and very active NEIU chapter is seeking members. For more information, contact Dr. Loucopoulos at C-Loucopoulos@neiu.edu or X 6132.

Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance invites any and all NEIU students to attend their meetings, Tuesdays during activity hour, at 1:40 pm. Meetings are held in the Classroom building, room 3005. Or, visit their website: <http://www.neiu.edu/~mvgonval/blba2.html>

Attractions

"Taste the music" with local band NECTARINE KNOCKOUT. The best in originals, covers, and performance. More info at www.go.to/NectarineKnockout!

NEIU bar night! at the Emerald Isle II (near Maplewood (Western) and Peterson) every Thursday flash your NEIU I.D. and receive pint of domestic beer for \$1 and a pint of imported beer minus Guinness, Harp's, and Bass for \$2.

Good deals, cheap prices, nice bargains! The Madonna High School Parents Club is hosting their final annual Flea Market on Saturday, May 12. 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. in the MHS parking lot by Pulaski and Belmont.

100+ family garage sale! Saturday, May 19 is the annual West Walker Garage Sale. A community garage sale with 100-plus families participating. West Walker is bounded by Montrose-Central Park-Irving Park-Pulaski.

Personals

Lawyer wanted to sue capitalist state on behalf of the international proletariat- no experience necessary- must work for personal gratification.

The act of love is believing in the strength of it and complementing its value by applying your uniqueness. Geo.

You're folding the laundry and keeping me sane as usual. Sending you this flower (since summer is here) @---}---- and all my love. -Charlie Brown

Corporal Klinger, when you get your release there will be an X-Man waiting to see you at the movie theatre.

My happy go-lucky delivery girl- I have missed seeing you make your newspaper deliveries, and seeing your pretty face. I tracked you down, but you are not around. Will I ever get to talk to you? -NC

It was good working with everyone and I hope to keep my finger on the pulse of the ship. Thank you, Carole, Vic, Tim, Joanna, Sam, and Jess. Thanks most of all to Mary Jo. I will make sure its easier for you.

Brett...don't listen to Beth...I say

one little thing and she goes and exaggerates the hell out of it...What can I say-J Kelly

Hey Brian, have you dunked Betsy yet? She looks like her hair would be extra absorbant... You hold her head down and I'll flush...-Assoc.

Beware the politicians! Who knows what evil lurks in the heart of these men.

Well done! Good luck to Joey A. - The Brown Family

To the patron saint of blessed seals: The time is nearly here for the mammal to drop, and mother seems to be holding up nicely. (We still think it'll probably be a girl though). Many prayers to a wonderful future.

The cast of *The Longest Day*- You only re-affirm why the SCT is as good as it is. It has been a joy to work with you people, as brief as my cameo is. -Your caring doctor

Burns & Doud: How cuter could it be than to graduate together. It can only get better by... wait a minute... You two are graduating- it can't get any better than this! Many CONGRATULATIONS!! Luv ya, Brownie

To the Hot Sicilian Man: Ahhhh... the time draws nigh when you shan't no longer tread these boards (at least not as a student). We will miss you, and hope you will return every so often (or every other week). You are one we can truly say we are better off having known you. Good luck in teh future! -Your FANS

Aha! The formidable Brian and microbrain Vic. Growl for me tell me you love me! -Her Q-ness and Q2

"This is how we dance in hell!!"

Jo- We tried, but even the greatest plans sometimes become moot. Now we know what to do for sure next time: kidnap the guest of honor! -CMB

May our professors have mercy on our souls as the stranglehold of finals lengthens it's bony fingers around our yoke, adding pressure to our ever busy lives.

True love seems to have it's beginnings at the starngest times or in the most interesting of places. Never deny it. Never let it overpower you. Enjoy it and let it exist in it's own right.

CV, SP - It's been a trying semester, but it looks as if we made it! And still with most of our hair! Thank you for all the work the two of you have done, especially Scott - I will miss our Sundays together. -The Chief

Independent staff: It's been an 'intriguing' semester. Here's to another great year, with another great staff. -The Chief