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Independent- Jun. 26, 2001

Scott Plencner

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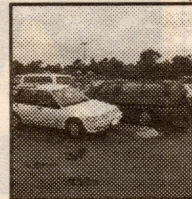
**Students bring
color to the
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Turn down the A/C!

The California Energy Crisis page 4



**More parking,
fewer classes!?**

Voice of the Campus page 5

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Independent

Vol. 17 Issue 18

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

JUN 27 2001

Tuesday, June 26, 2001

ARCHIVES

Bickering through another heated meeting

by Scott Plencner
Chief Editor

"Everybody wants to play kingmaker," said interim speaker John Bracich as he sat in the cafeteria, winding down after the three hour long SGA meeting of June 20, 2001. The meeting was the latest in a fiery series that took on its current form, according to President Gary Gaspard, after the January, 2001, meeting during which then President Tom Foley announced his decision to appoint Effie Kalkounos as vice-president, a decision that met with objections from several senators. The June 20th meeting was framed by nearly the same plot as the January meeting, but with a different cast.

The most vocal opponent to the Kalkounos decision and newly elected vice-president, Richard Caragol, was forced to resign prematurely due to what was cited as "personal reasons" in the minutes. The vacant seat left Speaker Lynne Madix in charge of running the meeting, usually the job of the vice-president.

With the looming question of the vacant seat of vice-president hanging over their heads, the SGA proceeded with usual business, taking thirty minutes to agree to table the minutes prepared by Madix after the previous meeting, the first for the new SGA. Upon Madix's request for approval of the minutes, Senator Linda Berlow raised her hand in objection to what she called "editorializing" in the document, citing several examples in which Madix lauds senators for their "excellent work." Madix interrupted the objection telling Berlow, "We should not have personal vendettas." The two proceeded to argue for several minutes, as Director of Student Activities Walt Sommers and President Gaspard tried to restore order. Berlow accused Madix of "grandstanding," and said that

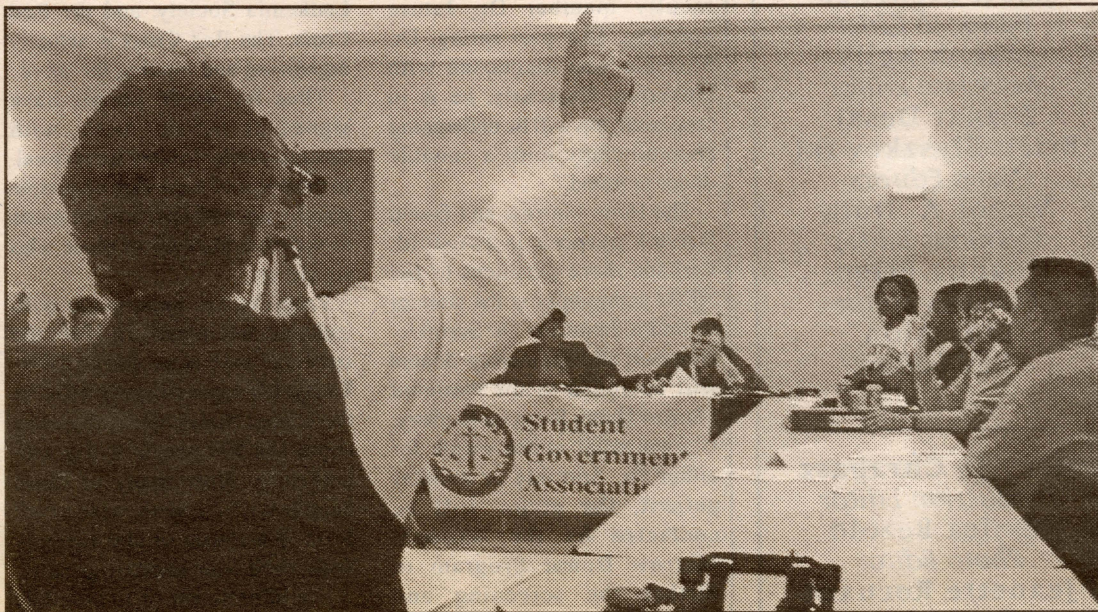
"[the SGA] doesn't need this nonsense." Madix interrupted calling on Sommers to mediate, adding that, "Only you [Sommers] can handle her at this point. I'm not getting into a cat fight." The majority of senators with the support of President Gaspard finally pushed to postpone the issue of the minutes so that the meeting could proceed.

After a few announcements, former senator Kendra Young emerged from the audience and asked to address the senate about her qualifications and interest in filling the seat of the vice-president, with the approval of the president. Armed with copies of a letter to President Gaspard, which he claims he did not see before the meeting, Young explained that she was "the leader [for which the] organization is searching."

President Gaspard then addressed the SGA, explaining that more order is needed. "We need more patience," he said. He explained that such a lack of order causes problems in working with the students and administration. "Next thing you know we'll need two hundred hours to graduate." The president's address ended as he asked the senators to give whomever the new vice-president will be "a warm welcome."

When it was her turn to speak, Lynne Madix said, "Things are not going the way I thought they would." She promised to nominate someone to fill the vacant seat, and promised not to seek it herself, something which met with some surprise by the senators, many of whom indicated that they felt Madix had wanted the seat for a long time. A short time later, Madix "nominated" Senator John Haptonstall as her choice for vice-president, something President Gaspard feels the senator knew nothing about before the meeting.

Meeting
continued on page 3



Student Senator Linda Berlow raises her hand in objection to the minutes presented to the SGA by Speaker Lynne Madix.

photos by Scott Plencner

Graduation ceremony nears chaos

The completion of a Bachelor's Degree is a very important event in most people's lives, and so is the commencement ceremony during which the degree is formally awarded. Each college or university plans their ceremony differently.

Marquette University has a large ceremony in the Milwaukee Auditorium with speeches, but the graduates do not march individually up to the front to receive their diploma due to the large number of graduates. That honor is left for smaller ceremonies put together by each department which involve more speeches, and the actual awarding of diplomas.

Northeastern, however, holds its ceremonies in the main gymnasium, seating graduates in folding chairs on the floor and their families in the bleachers. Each graduate receives four tickets.

According to reports, this year enough graduates chose to walk (and chose to use their four tickets) that the bleacher seating in the gymnasium became wholly inadequate. As

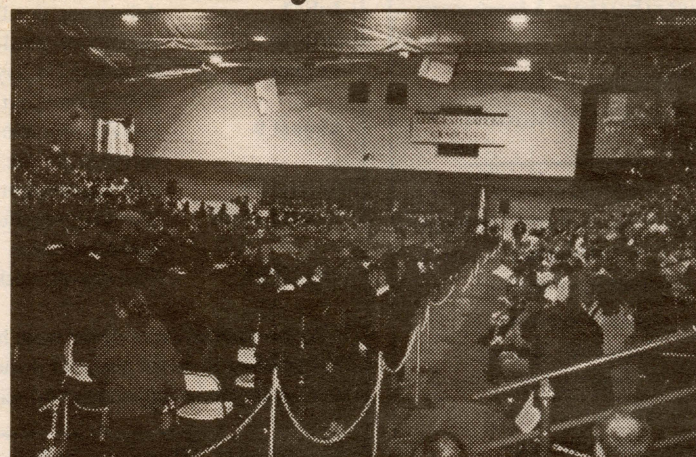


photo courtesy of Maria Castro

Graduates and a slew of guests crammed into Northeastern's tiny gymnasium for spring commencement ceremonies.

fire codes dictate limits to the amount of people who can be in any particular portion of a public building, ushers were forced to close the doors. This prevented a number of guests from entering and tempers flared.

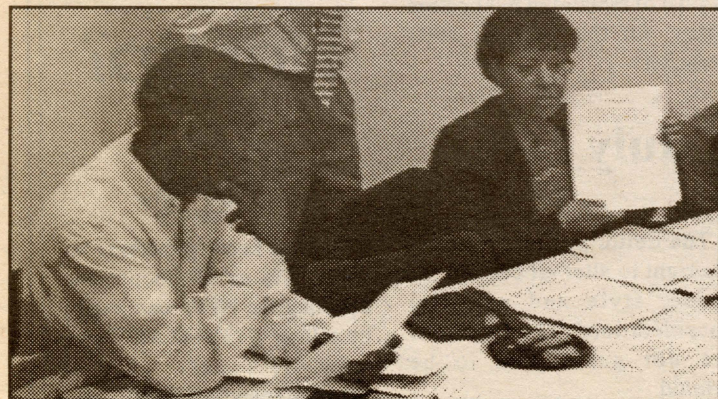
Some guests were moved into the rear portion of the gymnasium (which has a dividing wall in the middle) and were able to view the ceremonies on monitors.

The SGA has made aware of the problem by several students, one whose relatives traveled all the way from Mexico to view the

ceremony. This student was given a free copy of a videotape of the event after the SGA contacted the Director of University Events who offered his apologies.

Questions, though, abound. Why did University Events allow for more tickets than it could handle? How will the families of graduates be compensated? What actions are being taken to make sure that this will not happen again?

Stay with the Independent as we fully investigate the chaotic ceremony and its aftermath.



President Gary Gaspard and Speaker Lynne Madix were at odds over the situation of the vice-presidency vacancy.

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!

bite-sized but essential news

gripes, moans, and common sense

features to entertain and enlighten

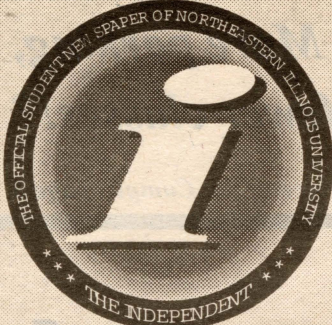
the bulletin board you can bring with you

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AROUND CAMPUS

Searching for a donor for ailing professor

Approximately 380,000 people will be diagnosed with either acute or chronic leukemia this year. Of these 380,000, about 21,000 will die. Bone marrow transplants have the potential to save some of these lives, and NEIU is attempting to do its part to aid these patients.

On June 27, from 12 noon until 5:30 at night, NEIU will be hosting a Bone Marrow and Blood Drive, on behalf of NEIU faculty member Dr. James Sprinkle. This past spring, Dr. Sprinkle was diagnosed with leukemia. Currently, he is in remission, but will be undergoing chemotherapy until a suitable donor is found.

The Bone Marrow and Blood Drive's purpose is two-fold. Perhaps more pertinent to the NEIU community is the attempt to find a donor for Dr. Sprinkle. However, all bone marrow donors will be added to the National Marrow Donor Program Registry. If a potential match exists for either Dr. Sprinkle or another patient, the donor will be contacted by the National Marrow Donor Program to further the screening and donation process. This would be the second purpose, which is to

increase the number of people in the marrow bank.

On June 27, those who signed up for bone marrow screening will give a vial of blood, which will be sent for tests. In order to donate blood marrow, 9 markers out of 10 must match. This screening process will take more than a day to complete.

The blood drive portion has a number of off-campus supporters, such as the Marrow Foundation, Leukemia Society, and the Red Cross. The Red Cross is actually organizing and running the drive.

Thus far, 40-50 people have signed up for the drive, with enough available slots for 66 total. In the event of more than 66 people signing up, attempts will be made to accommodate all of those who signed up.

Progress has been made with leukemia treatments. In 1960, the survival rate was about 14%. Today, it's approximately 44%. In the United States alone, there are about 144,000 people living with leukemia. How many of these people will be alive next year? With donations to the marrow bank, their odds improve greatly.

For information or to schedule an appointment, call the Biology Department at (773) 442-5740.



Upcoming Events

May 24-July 12, Thursdays during activity hour (1:40 pm-2:40 P.M.)

"Dealing With It": Students of color student group.

6th floor of the beehive building in the counseling office
Students meet and discuss their experiences of university life. Talk ranges from challenges and motivations to fears and frustrations. Support and be supported by students with similar experiences!

For more information, call Vickie Evans, 773.442.4556

Wednesday, June 27th, 12-5:30 P.M. -- Bone Marrow and Blood Drive

On Wednesday, June 27th, there will be a blood and bone marrow drive at 12:00pm-5:30 P.M.. The location is the Cafeteria meeting room, SU003. To schedule an appointment or for more information, contact the Biology Main Office at 773.442.5740, or contact via email at M-Riedinger@neiu.edu or TM-Pennekamp@neiu.edu. Walk-ins and donations are welcomed!

Thursday, June 28, 5:30-7 P.M. -- I.M.A.G.E.

I.M.A.G.E. (I'M A GREAT PARENT...MOST OF THE TIME) is a unique group experience in which parents can share their knowledge and experiences, celebrate their successes, and contemplate future areas for growth. The topic for upcoming meeting is "Communicating the limits we set." The upcoming meeting will be held Thursday, June 28th from 5:30 to 7 P.M. at the Counseling Office, on the 6th Floor of Building C (Beehive building). To register or obtain more information, call Yehuda Krohn at the Counseling office 773.442.4650

July 19th-22nd -- Flamenco Passion

For only four performances, Ensemble Espanol will be performing at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd in Skokie. The performances are 8 P.M. Thursday, July 19th, Friday, July 20th, Saturday, July 21st and 3 P.M. Sunday, July 22nd. Tickets are \$15, \$17, \$25, and \$30. On Thursday, July 19th there will be an Opening Night Gala, costing \$75, which includes Gold Tier seats, a pre-concert reception, a silent auction, and more. Call 847-673-6300 for information and tickets.

Math Class Got you Worried? Get Some Free Help from The Math Lab!

The Math Lab, located on the fourth floor of the library, has tutors available to help NEIU students with their problems. In addition, there are computer tutorials and videotape tutorials available for your use. Having trouble getting to the lab? Try the Math Lab Online at www.neiu.edu/~mathlab.

The Math Lab is open Mondays through Fridays with extended evening hours just recently established. Current hours are located on the Math Lab website listed above. Questions? Call extension 5769.

Upcoming Deadlines

June 25-27	Advance registration by TTRS
July 2	Admission deadline for the fall semester
July 16	Admission deadline for students-at-large
August 1	Graduate College accepts applications for December 2001 graduation
August 9	Last day to make initial tuition payment and to confirm schedule for the fall semester
August 20	Late registration by TTRS
August 23-24	Mandatory professional development days for all student teachers
August 27	First day of weekday classes for the fall semester

If your organization or department has any deadlines you would like the Independent to make students aware of please e-mail the Independent (neiu_independent@yahoo.com) with the subject heading "deadline."

A note from the editor's desk...

First I would like to congratulate our newest staff member Danica Cho on a job well done on her first assignment. I would also like to welcome back former staff member Tom Foley, who left us last year to serve as SGA president. I can promise him that things will be much calmer now.

We, at the Independent, are making several changes so that we can bring our readers a better paper next year, one filled with photographs, entertaining features, and relevant information. If you feel you can help us as a staff member, please feel free to contact us. Staff members are compensated for their work and learn valuable professional skills in a hands-on manner.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to history professor Dr. Joseph Morton who is retiring at the end of this semester. You will be sorely missed by the many students and former students I've talked to. I'm glad I was able to have the opportunity that my teachers had: to be in your class. Good luck with your book.

Scott Plencner, editor



"My ideas have been published!"

SPEAK UP!

join the Independent

for more details see our ad in the classifieds on page 8
call us at (773) 442-4577 or e-mail us

WATCH OUT! Deadline coming

Deadlines for the Independent are one week prior to the date of publication. The following is a list of remaining publication dates for the Summer 2001 semester:

July 24th

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

CTA drivers compete at Comiskey Park lot



Victoria Panico-Chrabasz, Joe Mitria, and Gail Romanek work in the volunteer registration tent at the Rodeo.



The Kens confer: Ken Chrabasz and Ken Czachowski discuss a driver's score at Judgement Stop.

By Mary Jo Chrabasz
Production Editor

Every year for two days in June and one day in July the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) takes over the parking lots of Comiskey Park for their annual Bus Rodeo & Bus Maintenance Rodeo Competition.

Hundreds of CTA drivers maintain their record throughout the year for the opportunity to compete. On the first two days of the Rodeo, a Saturday and Sunday in June, approximately two hundred or more drivers negotiate a bus through an obstacle course which includes such obstacles as right hand turn, left hand reverse, and passenger stop, among others.

The top thirty drivers are invited back on a Saturday in July to drive through a slightly modified course, vying for the top spot.

The "Winning Circle 30," as these top drivers are referred to, all receive incentive gifts, including a Winning Circle 30 jacket, and all are invited to an awards banquet in August (this year, August 17th) where the top drivers are announced.

The first place driver receives a trip for two to the International Bus Rodeo competition, which this year will be held in Philadelphia (and was held in Chicago in 1997).

The top driver also receives multiple incentive gifts such as a championship ring or watch, a trophy and a savings bond. The second, third, fourth, and fifth place drivers also receive trophies and savings bonds.

The Rodeo could not be possible without volunteers, and each year a troop of volunteers consisting of retired CTA employees, current employees, and their families gather to help the Rodeo competition run smoothly.

Volunteers judge the drivers at each obstacle and from onboard the bus, keep track of the drivers who are scheduled to compete, and run the Kid Zone, an area for children of drivers and volunteers.

In addition to the Rodeo competition, there is an antique car showcase, of cars owned by CTA employees and retirees, on the first day and a similar motorcycle showcase on the second day. Children and volunteers can ride the Mini-Bus, a small motorized train designed to look like a group of miniature CTA busses. Additionally, a few older busses that were in service back in the 1960's are brought out of storage for drivers and volunteers to view. According to participants, the Rodeo proved an enjoyable event for CTA employees, retirees and family.

Extension 4100 by Officer Gene Salecker

1 April - Traffic Accident

Vehicle backing out of parking space struck another vehicle in the K-lot. Damage was minimal. No injuries.

1 April - Trouble Alarm/Smoke

NEIU police and Chicago Fire Dept. responded to a smoke alarm in the Fine Arts Building. The alarm was triggered by fumes from the kiln room.

3 April - Lost Articles

Individual misplaced purse in Fine Arts Building. NEIU police located the purse and returned it to the individual.

5 April - Found Property

A purse was found in the Library. Attempt to notify owner was unsuccessful. Property unclaimed at this time.

6 April - Trouble Alarm/Smoke

NEIU police and Chicago Fire Dept responded to a smoke alarm in the Fine Arts Building. The alarm was triggered by a faulty exhaust return fan.

7 April - Theft - Under \$300

Hubcaps were taken from a car parked in the F-lot.

8 April - Theft - Under \$300

Two stand-up easels were reported missing after a job fair.

9 April - Theft - Over \$300

Hubcaps were taken from a car parked in the D-lot.

12 April - Theft - Under \$300

A book bag containing two non-school books was taken from the Library. The book bag had been left unattended for over one hour.

14 April - Station Information

A parent called from out-of-state to inquire about the well being of a student. The parent had been incorrectly informed that the student was in trouble. NEIU police located the student, found that nothing was amiss, and had student contact the parent.

15 April - Traffic Accident

Two vehicles collided in the K-lot. Damage was minimal. No injuries.

15 April - Station Information

A student filed a complaint with NEIU police concerning the unwanted attentions of another student.

16 April - Criminal Damage to State Property

Graffiti was found in a stairwell of the Fine Arts Building.

19 April - Lost Articles

Individual misplaced passport someplace on campus.

20 April - Motor Vehicle Offense - Hit and Run

A vehicle parked in the K-lot was damaged by an unknown vehicle.

23 April - Traffic Accident

Two NEIU Facilities

Maintenance vehicles were involved in a minor accident. No injuries.

27 April - Theft - Under \$300

A scanner was reported missing from the Classroom Building.

27 April - Disorderly Conduct - Telephone Harassment

NEIU employee received three harassing telephone calls.

27 April - Found Property

A cellular phone was turned in to NEIU police after being found in the G-lot. Property unclaimed at this time.

28 April - Traffic Accident

Two vehicles scratched bumpers in the F-lot. No injuries.

28 April - Disturbance/Fight

Several non-students were involved in an altercation in the A-wing. No charges were filed.

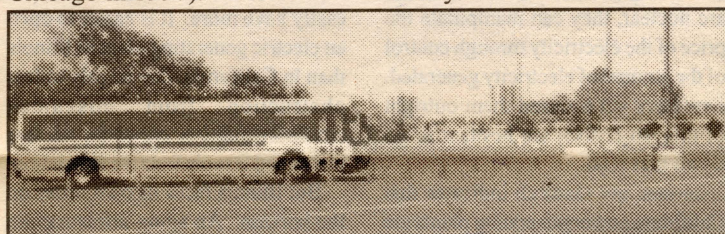
28 April - Found Property

A book bag and contents were found in the PE Building. Attempt to notify owner was unsuccessful. Property unclaimed at this time.

29 April - Medical Assist

Victim suffered shortness of breath. First aid rendered by Health Services and Chicago Fire Department ambulance. Victim taken to Swedish Covenant Hospital.

For jump starts, auto lockouts, and all emergencies, please contact Public Safety at extension 4100.



A driver pulls out of the Left-Hand Reverse obstacle.



These busses served on Chicago streets in the 1960's.



The Mini-Bus makes a stop by the CTA's emergency truck.

Meeting

continued from page 1

As tempers flared, Sommers stepped in to remind the SGA that the president has the sole right to appoint someone to the vacated seat and that, according to the SGA Constitution, no consent was required of the Senate. "In a democracy," he said, "there is democracy and you went too far." As Madix fidgeted in her seat, Sommers chided Gaspard's lack of initiative. "Gary should have been more forceful."

Speaker Madix rose and said, "It is unfair to jump over people who have merit." Upon this Gaspard rose and tried to call the

meeting to order. Madix continued, ignoring the president, "It is unfair to the senators to just rush someone in. If he wants to rush it, he has to deal with the consequences, but it is not a power thing." Madix compared the action to the "mistakes" of the last administration. "We will not have a dictatorship now." Gary rose when Lynne's speech ended saying, "This is a very difficult moment. I do not like it when people step out of line."

Senator M.V. Williams tried to clear up the situation and put it to rest. "I don't know why we are discussing an appointment that hasn't been made yet." With that, the conversation ended and the fallout began. After Madix

apologized "for the tenseness." She said, "I'm operating in a hostile environment and I don't think it's fair."

Speaker Madix refused to comment on the situation or to explain why she felt Gaspard was rushing to a decision. "I don't know for sure," said Gaspard after the meeting, "but it appears that when she saw Kendra passing out the letter, I think Lynne thought that I was behind Kendra." President Gaspard denies having come to any decision regarding the recently vacated seat and indicated to the Independent that he is entertaining applications from many candidates, including Young, former vice-president Caragol, and Haptonstall, who

approached Gaspard about the seat after the meeting. "The speaker was just a bit hyper," he said.

Kendra Young was unsure after the meeting whether her decision to approach the Senate was a wise one. "I'm not sure whether this hindered my chances," said Young, "but I felt it was an opportunity for leadership that I couldn't pass up." President Gaspard, though, is clearly troubled by Young's decision to go over his head and speak to the SGA. "It was unfortunate," he said Saturday. "I did not expect that of Kendra and am disappointed." Gaspard plans to make an official announcement at the July 11th meeting.



Kendra Young declares her interest in the Vice-Presidency.

PERSPECTUS

Could what happened in California happen here?

by Thomas J. Foley
Staff Writer

Everyone's talking about this energy crisis in California, but if you ask, half the people don't seem to know what it's all about. I didn't. I have had an abiding interest in industry and power, but no more than a simple fascination with the complexities involved.

First off, there IS a power crisis in California. Actually there are two power crises in California, and they are connected. They were both started when the California legislature voted unanimously to de-regulate the state electric utility in 1996. This allowed the utility, which was considered a government-regulated monopoly, to sell their electric generating plants to unregulated private companies. It even provided incentives for this. The utility was also required to transfer operational control of the transmission lines and the power grids to a private non-profit organization. They retained ownership and control of the distribution system, though. Since private companies now own the generating plants, only two of which are nuclear, they can manipulate the price of the electricity through control of the amount of electricity generated. Few have yet accused them outright of this, so I, also, am hesitant to go down that road.

In fact, my research indicates that California power generating plants are running near or at the maximum generating capacity that their plants are capable of safely generating. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, California has only two nuclear power plants, a two-reactor unit in San Onofre (located in San Diego) and another two-reactor unit in Diablo Canyon (located in San Luis Obispo County, about mid-way between L.A. and San Francisco). All four reactors are operating at an average of approximately 93% of their safe generating capacity.

The rolling blackouts and the fact that California hasn't built any new nuclear reactors since 1985 indicates that the demand for electricity far exceeds the supply. This is the first crisis. Add in the fact that California has made opening new power generating plants difficult and costly through various legislation and the situation becomes exacerbated.

I'm no economist, but I think I know what happens when the demand far exceeds the supply; prices go up, way up.

This is the second, and chronic, crisis. The state legislature voted to de-regulate the industry in 1996 as a solution to out-of-control energy costs. Instead, things went the other way in California. Of course, it's hard to blame them for this move. Other states have done it and been successful at it. According to President Bush's National Energy Policy, which was released on May 17, 2001, Pennsylvania and Texas have de-regulated and seen dramatic consumer savings. The report cites the reason for this as larger electricity reserves in these states. Pennsylvania has a surplus, and so has actually been selling electricity to California, while

Texas imports very little electricity from out-of-state. California, on the other hand, imports 25%.

Many people here look at California, with its 330% electricity price increase and the rolling blackouts and ask themselves, "Could it happen here?" While Illinois currently plans to de-regulate the electric utility here, I do not believe that it will not, for a number of reasons.

First, Illinois sits on an abundant supply of bituminous coal, the primary fuel used to generate electricity in the country (coal-burning plants contribute 51% of the country's electricity; nuclear plants contribute just 19%), so there is no need to import the raw materials. Second, Illinois is a much smaller state with a much smaller population (California makes up 25% of the G.N.P. of the U.S.; Illinois ranks sixth among the states), which makes it easier to keep up with the increasing demand of an ever-increasing population with more and more electronic gadgets at their disposal. And finally, Illinois currently has six nuclear plants running, and could easily have more. It is easier to open an electric generating plant in Illinois than in California, due largely to less obstruction from misguided environmentalists opposing nuclear plants and less obstructive legislation.

But Illinois faces its own crises on the horizon. An aging infrastructure that is prone to breakdowns can interrupt service after even a mild rainstorm. Our substations are also inadequate for handling the amount of electricity that flows through them. I have taken a boat trip along the old I-M Canal route where the "substation that Thomas Edison inspected" is one of the attractions. I have also seen ComEd crews hosing down transformers that apparently are a threat to burst into flames. That cannot be good. But it's still better than California.

But the problem of where to get our electricity from is one that every state will face one day soon. Our population is reaching such a size that it is becoming dangerous to the planet to keep using coal and oil and natural gas as fuel for electricity. All of these fuel types emit "greenhouse gases," gases that contribute to the phenomenon known as global warming. The answer to this problem lies partly in President Bush's national energy policy.

In Chapter Five, *Energy for a New Century: Increasing Domestic Energy Supplies*, it is recommended that "the President support the expansion of nuclear energy in the United States as a major component of our national energy policy." It is also recommended that the United States offer incentives to developing better, more advanced technology regarding "fuel conditioning methods that reduce waste streams and enhance proliferation resistance." As one of only two fuels that are used to generate electricity that do not emit greenhouse gases, nuclear energy must be vigorously pursued as an alternative to these other, dirtier methods.

Another part of the answer is to put more money and incentives into research on superconductors, with an eye toward replacing our antiquated power infrastructure. Superconductors, once they are feasible will be more efficient and longer lasting than our current infrastructure, and easier to repair.

The answer that California is pursuing, however, I feel will lead to more power woes for them. They are proposing instituting one of two different forms of rate controls on electricity rates. The first, the \$150 Hard Cap, would limit everyone's electric bill to a maximum of \$150. The second, the Cost-Plus-\$25 plan, would limit everyone's electric bill to whatever the cost of it was that they used plus \$25. The U. S. Department of Energy has issued a statement that these plans would serve only to cause the shutting down of more electricity

generating plants and to increase the number of hours of the rolling blackouts.

What California needs to do is to find a way to increase the supply of electricity. That is the only thing that can keep the prices down. Price caps will cause more of these independent power plant owners to close up shop and move away. Provide incentives for increasing the state's nuclear power capacity. Somehow find a way to get more plants up and running. Also, offer a line of credit to those who can't afford it.

And finally, it is clear that the control and ownership should be wrested from these private companies and given to those who will assuredly act in the consumer's best interest, namely the consumers themselves. Think about it. Each household that uses electricity gets one share of the utility. The stock does not increase

or decrease in value.

Instead, it confers voting rights for the higher offices at the utility. Each year, the consumers elect their electrical officers. Ones that do a shoddy job won't last. Ones that bring power to all who request it and don't charge outrageously high prices will get re-elected. I know this might sound a little like communism, but the utilities are not your average company. They are a public trust, in one sense, and the glue that holds our society together in another sense.

So there you have it: California is not going to solve its problems soon; the same thing has very little chance of happening here; our population is burgeoning to such an extent that it will soon make the planet uninhabitable to us; and the ownership of the utilities ought to be held by those who stand to benefit the most from it

Pay for your own baby

by Victor A. Dula
Opinions Editor

I have a special message to all of you working women, career moms, and anyone else who thinks your right to have children supercedes my right keep the dollars for which I work hard. You may do whatever you want with your life.

I read an article called "What will dubya do?" by Elizabeth Kolbert in a recent issue of *Working Woman*. I was pleasantly surprised by some conservative elements in it, but the article finally managed to disappoint.

Now I love children, I really do, and it seems every two-bit liberal politician loves them too, judging at face value their infinite number of proposals to spend mine and other taxpayer money on their behalf. One such expenditure to which I know many in the left seek to feed more tax revenue is socialized child-care. The left is fond of socialized anything, so why should child-care be an exception?

In the article, Kolbert states how "high-quality child care is a concern for all working mothers" and, "Sadly, it is widely acknowledged that few children receive that kind of care." Also, according to Kolbert, "Researchers from the National Institute for Child Health recently estimated that only 9% of child-care settings for children under 3 meet the standards considered high in terms of quality caregiving.

I question what "child care" means here; does it mean strictly the services provided by third parties, that is, day-care, or does it include stay-at-home care, that is, parenting? Then I question "high-quality"; by whose standards is quality judged in the child-care arena? I imagine "high-quality" is intimately related to an attitude of "only the best for my kids." If this is the case, I must remind these mothers that in a society of limited resources, not everyone can have the best, whether it's child-care, food, transportation, or any other valued commodity.

These terms need clarification so I

can then question how Kolbert concluded that it's a concern for *all* working mothers. There have to be some working mothers out there who are not concerned, because they know their children are getting the quality care they deserve, just as putting food on the table is not a concern for many people, because they have enough money to buy it.

After that, I question exactly who widely acknowledges that few children get that kind of care, whatever that is, and how Kolbert can make such an assessment. She didn't cite any polling data. I think she refers to the data from the National Institute for Child Health, but if this is the case, I question if this institute is an organization large enough that whatever they acknowledge constitutes wide acknowledgement.

Then I question where the National Institute for Child Health came from, why we are supposed to trust their assessment and statistics, what exactly those methods of estimation were, and if "settings" at all includes the home as a place for child-care.

The line of thinking proponents use to defend the stealing of even more of my money to pay for the care of other people's kids is the payoff in future tax revenue. By "allowing" mothers to work by providing government-subsidized financial assistance for child-care, they generate more tax dollars than if, instead of working, they took care of their children at home without government assistance.

I see it differently, with better logic. Those working mothers made a choice. They chose to have children. Their choice to have children should not impact my wallet at all. So what working women should do is not have kids if they can't afford to care for them, plain and simple. I will have to pay for my own kids when I have them; I don't need to pay for yours.

What will happen if this idea becomes widespread and mainstream, like many socialized items have already and especially if the federal government forces its involvement, will be the removal of yet another

incentive to live one's life responsibly.

For example, an average 17 year old girl who, because of her age, is already not predisposed to thinking about the long-term consequences of her actions, will be even less so if in the back of her mind she's reassured that socialized child-care will be at her disposal for "unexpected" pregnancies. If that average teenaged girl has a child, it will produce financial hardships she will have great difficulty facing on her own. In short, socialized child-care, encourages people to make stupid decisions they wouldn't make otherwise.

Thinking about this issue that "tends to unite women across political and labor management divisions," as Kolbert puts it, I believe I can explain one reason why women in general support socialist child-care initiatives. I think this is an emotional knee-jerk issue that lacks the scrutiny it should be getting and preys upon the natural maternal and probably to some degree paternal instincts in males to protect the young.

When I think further about it, it makes too much sense. All I ever hear from elected officials and those seeking elected office are how their policies and programs will or are benefiting children and how their opponents' initiatives will adversely affect "our most precious resource. After all, who among us wants to hurt our nation's children?

I don't get it. When did we as a people come to expect the government to "help" us with every possible facet of our lives? I don't understand why the American people are falling the way of socialized Europe. I don't understand why government is at all involved in the raising and caring for our children

If proponents of socialized child-care succeed in falsely framing the debate as a choice between either hurting or helping the precious children, they will succeed in implementing another burden upon the already overburdened taxpayers, and in the end, those children will have been done a great disservice.

We don't need more seven year seniors

It's almost time to select your classes for the fall term. It's time to dust off those class schedules, exercise those dialing fingers, and prepare yourself to hear that lousy electronic voice that tells you "this class will not be added to your schedule. This section is closed..."

You simply got to love Northeastern. Ever since I've enrolled here (about 3 years ago, I'm still a sophomore), people have been complaining about how there simply aren't enough classes available. I believe I've even touched that subject during one of my many ramblings. Well, one of the bad things about writing an opinions column (aside from dealing with the opinions editor) is running out of topics. As Voice of the Campus, I try to make my column's topic something that everyone can identify with. Usually, I fail. But this time is different.

NEIU has received several large sums of money from random organizations. Let's pretend they received 10 million dollars. After we subtract 5 million (well, we don't want both of the high-ranking officials to starve), we're left with 5 million, I think. (It's been awhile since I've been able to get into a math class, so I might be wrong.)

Anyway, we now have 5 million left. Now, here's the funny part: instead of spending the money to construct more classrooms, or hire more teachers, or do something that might result in more students getting more classes, NEIU decision makers decide to make a bigger parking lot.

Well, that's not too bad, *parking* sucks here, too. So, at least one problem is solved, right?

You'd think so. But, actually, all NEIU did was create something I'd like to call the "Never-ending Spiral of Crap." What "NSC" actually means is, that since we now have a bigger parking lot, NEIU won't think twice about accepting a hell of a lot more freshmen. Well, these freshmen will, of course, need classes. How many classes got added to the fall term? Two?

Some of the less intelligent of you out there might be wondering, "Well, what does this mean for me?" I'll dumb it down a bit. It means, all these incoming freshmen will need classes. So, they will get into classes. Classes have a maximum amount of students it can have, so some will be left out. Instead of solving the most important problem, NEIU just made it worse. Fantastic.

Obviously, these "decision-makers," or more accurately, "Never-ending Spiral of Crap"-makers, will not help us get more classes. So, it's up to us, the students, to get more classes. As soon as I work up the motivation, I'm going to start a large-scale petition. I'll be wandering the NEIU campus, preying upon the solitary, and trying to shame you into signing.

Of course, what I'm doing may be a waste of time, but someone has to do something. I don't want to waste seven or more years of my life trying to graduate from NEIU, averaging 2 or less classes per semester, especially since many insurance policies require you to be a full-time student.

Let this final message be one to whomever can get us more classes: we are in a college. We need classes. Currently, there are not enough classes to fulfill this need. So, do something. For the love of Christ, do something! Rest assured, I'll be making this petition sometime soon, and since I can only get two classes, I'll have lots of free time, free time to incite the rabble around NEIU into some form of action, even if it is simply signing a piece of paper. Something needs to get done, or we'll have to do it ourselves.

I'm willing to teach a class. You, of course, won't learn anything practical, but how would that be different than 70% of the classes in the schedule now?



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

QUOTABLES

Africa is a nation that suffers from incredible disease.

George W. Bush, to reporters in Sweden

This is a time for civic rebellion, Jefferson style.

Ralph Nader, criticizing "autocratic America"

There are sound reasons to maintain a system of smaller, independent jurisdictions--it is called competition and, yes, governments must, for the sake of the citizenry, be allowed to compete.

Ron Paul, U.S. Rep. (R-TX) in a speech before the House

Those so-called government investigators are either on the payroll of those oil companies or they are smoking dope.

James Traficant, U.S. Rep. (D-OH) in a speech before the House

It is impossible to effectively patrol 9 miles of fence.

Pierre Vivoni, head of Puerto Rico's police after 30 protesters including the wife of Jesse Jackson entered the bombing range on the island of Vieques

This is a race I may not win, but I've lost other races before....

Geraldine Ferraro, former Democratic veep candidate who announced on the TODAY show that she is battling blood cancer

Turn down the air and save some energy

Remember those dog days of summer when you could look up the street and see an ever so slight haze emulating from the asphalt? It was a sure sign that if you went outdoors you would get hit with a blast of air comparable to opening the door of your oven on Thanksgiving Day to take out the turkey.

Days like that are happening along our western coast and California residents are appealing to politicians for relief from the "blackouts" occurring and from the steepest utility rate hikes in history because of an energy crunch. They cry for federal intervention of price caps to prevent price-gouging by power companies. Our president believes caps would neither reduce demand nor increase supply. He further believes it would worsen California's situation by discouraging investment in new power plants and favors conservation.

A U.S. Energy Dept. reports shows that the state of California is number one in our country for conservation in energy. So what are the residents of California going to do?

We can relate to the experience of blackouts right here in Chicago, just a summer or two ago Mayor Daley was livid at utility companies for the poor response to the needs of this modern and technological city. Can we say then an energy crisis has a rippling effect and Americans across the country could soon experience or have experienced some form of interruption of our vital resources?

Conservation will help and we need to contribute. Our sciences have taught us we are all connected and have knowledge about environmental benefits, if we only applied ourselves. We could start right here at Northeastern Illinois University. Let us ponder on the heat and air conditioning that gives us a comfortable habitat to work and study in.

I do not understand why air conditioning has to run at full capacity, even when it is only sixty degrees outside. Just go into the cafeteria area, after hours. My turtle-neck sweater can not keep me focused on my homework because it is so cold. The Village Square area or even the Library is not much better. I like cool air on one of those hot summer days like most people but can't we give thought to the energy consumption and to those folks living in a real nightmare on the west coast. Lets dial up.

Jane Cigir

Where do all the hotties go in the winter?

[Response to last issue's Voice of the Campus, entitled "Fair Weather Females."]

During the cold winter months of fall and winter, I usually huddle against the cold like everyone else on campus, trying to light my cigarette against the wind, checking out who's who and where. I agree there are a nice bunch of people at NEIU, and during these cold months they're all hiding themselves, layered against the frigid air. And I wonder where the hell did all the hot guys go?

Being a woman, this is no mystery (as it would seem to be for the men wondering where all the cute women went). And as it isn't a mystery, I won't bother answering my own question.

However, I would like to point out that these layered guys of winter are equally an unobtainable fantasy for the female senses as we are for you men. For there are women out there, just like men, who check out the guys with as much candor and relentless judge-on-first-sight- whether-we'd-like-to-sleep-with-you-ness. Not to say I'm desperately searching the campus for the one I want to take home with me. In fact, I'm married and have a beautiful son (who I hope will grow up to be just as hot as his dad), but that does not stop me from looking around the campus and enjoying that instantaneous thought at the sight of a hot guy- "damn, what would he be like in bed". And the fact of the matter is, winter disguises the men just as much as the women. And it sure doesn't help that it's still a wee bit chilly out IN JUNE.

Would someone do something about the weather, so I can see a hottie or two in a nice tight t-shirt before I have to go home from school and clean my house, feed my son, put him down for a nap, write out the bills, make dinner.....

Kris Verdoia

Love them or not, our kids are the future

[Response to Opinion from last issue, entitled "You may love your kids, but I don't have to."]

The general consensus today on CNN's Talkback Live was that parents are the only ones responsible for educating children about guns and preventing violence in schools. Gun control is not the only such issue, since in school, kids are just supposed to learn about English, math, history....etc.

This would all be fine and dandy, except for one thing, most parents work full time, not exactly because they want to, but because they *have to*. Moms and dads have to jam a full day of quality time in the 2-3 hours they have with their kids before bed. Is this enough time? NO. And cliché as it may sound, these kids are the future, even if they're not yours.

After reading the statements you wrote, it was quite obvious that you don't have any kids, nor do you have a clue about what it takes to raise them. Raising a child is the most difficult task anyone will ever take on, and comparing it to a single person being close with their niece or nephew is absurd.

Life before my daughter was much more simple. After work I would go out with friends for a drink or go out to eat. At home I would get some of my stuff done, watch tv...did I really need more spare time? No, not really. My friends without children complain that they and their husbands just sit around and watch tv at night after work.

My point is that people with children would cherish any spare time they could have to spend with them. Suggesting that they could just use this time to watch porn just shows your single life mentality and your cluelessness.

Some companies are starting to realize all of this and giving their employees with children extra flex-time. So? How exactly would someone else's work schedule affect you? If someone else got a tax break because of children, would it somehow imply that you were getting screwed? No, kids just cost a lot. You need to stop focusing on "someone else" and stop whining.

You're right about one thing, nobody forces people to have children, I think they're just following a pretty normal path of forming a family, and until you have one of your own you just don't know.

Jacqueline Gutiérrez

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.

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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

Next stop: Features! Watch the doors as they close.

The newest and best at the E3 Convention

by Lior Alon
REV Editor

Nestled in what has to be the cleanest, neatest, most tranquil major downtown area in America, the LA Convention Center has once again played host to the annual Electronic Entertainment Expo. In its seventh incarnation, E3 rose to prominence among a cadre of international expositions, drawing some 62,000 visitors (all professionals and trade



The scene outside the massive E3 trade Convention in Los Angeles.

persons, as E3 is closed to the general public), 450 exhibitors from over 100 countries, and huge media attention.

Gamers visiting E3 definitely have to succumb to the ancient "kid in a candy store" syndrome. Not only were all the latest, most breathtaking products on display, but furthermore, clear trends in the industry were observable that made everyone jittery with excitement at the thought of things to come. Additionally, making the recipe even sweeter, E3 benefits from being completely devoted to electronic gaming, unlike Las Vegas' Consumer Electronics Show, which bundles a huge myriad industries under one roof, stealing gamers' thunder to a large extent. Choosing L.A. as its host city has endowed E3 patrons with the enviable ability to enjoy the city's many alluring attractions after a hard day's "work" roaming the halls with hockey-puck sized eyes. And anyone who hasn't been to California in a while was re-awakened to how easy it is to strike up a conversation with West Coasters and to enjoy their relatively clean speech (keeping in mind Chicagoans average two F or S words out of every five spoken).

Taking up enough real estate to impress Donald Trump, E3 showcased a major step forward in gaming technology. Sure, every year products come along that leave a significant impression on all segments of the industry, but 2001 was so much more. There were moments when this reporter had to stand back and ashamedly cover teary eyes, moved to such emotional responses by the sheer power of finally seeing promised levels of technical brilliance. Ladies and gentlemen, we have reached that point in time. We are now on the threshold of having games almost indistinguishable from reality. E3 unveiled products with graphics of revolutionary proportions. More so, developers have hit the artificial intelligence nail on its head, now giving us worthy opponents to play with/against, ending an era of mediocre computer opposition,

further assisting in maintaining excellent suspension of disbelief.

Needless to say, E3 2001 belonged to the three major console makers and their next-generation platforms. On that note, let us first denounce Sega for making another huge mistake. In a year when they are at a low point, weak and defeated (having discontinued yet ANOTHER console, the Dreamcast), they had the gall to close off their booth, allowing only invitees and VIP's to get in. What?! Such a cocky, anti-social attitude has no place in a trade show. After all, everybody there had some relevance to Sega's products, making it in the company's best interest to make sure as many visitors as possible had a chance to check out their prospective enterprises. Still,

they went the way of the snob, not even posting any explanation as to why a decision of this sort was made. Their loss. Everyone thus spent more quality time with Sega's former arch-rivals Sony, Nintendo and Microsoft.

Sony Computer Entertainment, enjoying their triumphant PS2 year, put up an elaborate display, letting loose with several products everyone was itching to get their hands on. Namely, these included advanced horror-survival epic *Devil May Cry*, *Resident Evil* and the recent *Onimusha*. Additional magnets on Sony's roster were the convincing Navy Seals simulator, *SOCOM*, which had a line of gamers waiting to get a taste of the action, spurred onward by a team of live drill sergeants, on hand to scare everyone into submission. *Dark Cloud*, their much-vaunted first PS2 role-player was a tad on the disappointing side, sadly.

Very worthy of note was Sony's



The lobby was packed with industry insiders.

undying dedication to the venerable PSOne: several high-profile games were shown for the first time, suggesting the corporation still believes in the platform's viability, indicating their reluctance to abandon it in favor of more lucrative markets. *Syphon Filter 3*, tri-quel to 989 Studios' original *Syphon Filter* action classic, seems to be squeezing every ounce of power from the old workhorse, giving users of the 32-bit console more than enough to wait for. As an added bonus, Sony had the most informative, entertaining and navigable booth in all of E3.

Nintendo, gearing up for

GameCube's upcoming November release, shared with attendees a complete line up of titles slated to ship on release day. Although GameCube has a slight technical edge over its competitors in terms of in-game graphics, Nintendo's catalog leaves much to be desired, at least from a mature gamer perspective. Granted, they most likely will continue to dominate the younger markets with plenty of Mario franchises, but from what was evident stand little likelihood of challenging Sony's control over the older demographic. Unlike Sony, Nintendo wasn't making a point about remaining faithful to its aged N64 machine, concentrating instead on very impressive GameCube hardware. Their initiative to release GQ as a relatively affordable machine (\$199 on release) was also good news, although it reaffirmed the company's aim to assert itself as utter ruler of kiddieland. A couple of GQ titles did pay homage to gamers who dare be more than twelve years old, namely Lucasarts' *Star Wars Rogue Leader* and action-horror affair *Eternal Darkness*.

Microsoft's stand was, clearly, mostly about Xbox (now said to cost \$299 on its 11/8 release date). The machine provided several frills, but what hooked most was its surprisingly adept controller, an item at first many feared would be grossly oversized and unwieldy. This very controller proved highly useful when yours truly spent quite the while playing Electronic Arts' *Cel Damage*, hideously addictive first person shooter *Unreal Championship* and Konami's singularly fun to pick up *Airforce Delta Storm*, a rare chopper arcade game with an actually working balance of action, simulation and ease of use. Xbox also garnered immense votes of confidence by securing exclusives with two games everyone's been holding many a breath for. Tecmo's *Dead or Alive 3* fighting game, previously also destined to appear on PS2, and Bungie's multiplayer, superlative tactical action opus *Halo*.

Fortunately, though, 2001 wasn't entirely obsessed with the usual posse of suspects, containing a fair bit of up comers and refreshing trends, such as the growing dominance of arising markets. Traditionally, gaming industries found their homes in either North America, Japan or Europe. Luckily, other areas of the globe have made a more significant appearance than before. Most admirable was the Korean section of the show, apparently set up by a host of small software houses and teams from that country which have decided to align themselves together in a bid to generate some much needed notoriety.

These included eSofnet (*Dragon Raja Online*, *Blood Aria*), World Cyber Games, DelphEye, Battletop.com, Korea Game World, and Wizard Soft (makers of *Arcturus* and *Forgotten Saga 2*). Although a distinct lack of console-content was observed (almost all titles were PC only), Korean game developers definitely have a lot to bring to the fore, and will most likely grow in

prominence over coming years, particularly with regards to online gaming. Additional non-Japanese Asian markets had an increased volume of display. Hong Kong's still-noticeable hardware-manufacturing abilities and Taiwan's ever-growing pool of development houses were also about the halls.

Midway, America's last great arcade machine hope, was also in attendance, parading a few major releases, all dominated by a towering PS2 eminence.

Legion: Legend of Excalibur melds role playing with action and very impressive movies. Of worthier note was the company's eagerly anticipated remake of their 1980's arcade/home gem, *Spy Hunter*. New 128-bit console versions will feature excellent 3D racing graphics with attention to details large and small, intense driving and fighting gameplay, easy to pick up controls, as well as loyalty to the original's fine legacy.

Fox Interactive, now working with Electronic Arts, was probably among the busier exhibitors, swinging a hefty variety of titles steeped in genre diversity. Most entertaining was *The Simpsons: Road Rage*, taking advantage of Fox TV's licensing. It has all your usual Springfield favorites running their familiar friends/foes around town, including recognizable locations and actual show voice talent. Fox had on display several first person shooters, a few based on the same graphics engine (such as *Die Hard: Nakatomi Plaza* and *Aliens Vs. Predator 2* for the PC). *Aliens: Colonial Marines* at first seemed to be a dream come true (finally paying homage to the movie's best element: those hard as nails marines), but apparently someone in "the company" decided it would be better off looking more like *Starship Troopers*, thus losing faithfulness value.

Hailing all the way from Lyon, France, Widescreen Games boasted the nearly complete *Dune Generations*, a tribute to Frank Herbert's timeless classic. Managing director Olivier Masclef described it as more a version of the book than anything else, indicating the team's desire to refrain from associations with either David Lynch's 1984 movie or Westwood's 1992 PC game: "We really tried to remain faithful to the book, we're fans ourselves." A definite potential hit, *Dune Generations* should be on any sci-fi lover's must list, and will be released by Cryo/Dreamcatcher.

Earth's largest third-party software house, Electronic Arts, positioned itself cleverly right at the entryway to E3's immense South Hall. Their display was overtaken by a prominent video screen showing off demos for near-future products. Especially mind-boggling was WWII shooter *Medal of Honor* for PS2, featuring an intro movie nearly identical in quality, appearance, style and direction to *Saving Private Ryan*'s D-Day opening scenes.

Rockstar Games' *Grand Theft Auto 3* packed 'em in throughout the show. Arousing my curiosity, I soon discovered why: it allows for full freedom in a 3D, real-time city where one can go about blowing innocent



photos by Lior Alon

The up and coming Korean companies made a splash.

by-standers and passersby with wanton disrespect for all human values, using a wide range of weapons. Look, I'm a hardcore gamer whom it takes a lot to annoy, but this game is DISGUSTINGLY SICK!

Another harbinger of tomorrow's strikingly realistic graphics, Activision's *Soldier of Fortune II* took tactical squad, first person drama to the next level, with amazing object modeling (such as forests with tens of thousands of individually rendered leaves) and character portrayals like never seen before (animated facial expressions).

On the comic/superhero front Activision reigned supreme. Both *Superman* (tied to the new movie) and *X Men Mutant Academy* relied on their infamous licenses, while *Bloody Roar 3* (fighting game featuring characters capable of morphing into wild beasts) finally received a well overdue 128-bit treatment.

Another software giant, Sierra, had quite the showing, proudly advertising Blizzard Entertainment's heralded *Warcraft III*, which will probably become a best seller like all their previous efforts. Also from Sierra, *Empire Earth*, a real time strategy tour de force resembling *Age of Empires*, only so much more open-ended, elaborate, impressive and educational. Taking place across eras of history (from 500K BC to AD2500), it includes a record breaking 150 units per side, and was patiently promoted by programmer Keith Patella, who did it more good than an entire armada of over-paid ad execs ever could.

Readying its ominously horrific *Silent Hill 2* (sequel to the arguable king of all horror games), Konami basked in glorious adoration stemming from appreciation of its designers' sheer brilliance. The aforementioned title has attained visualizations of pristine detail-including infallible renderings of tattoos and skin textures so real you'll rub your eyes silly upon witnessing them for the first time.

And so ended another gratifying gaming feast. Crowds gathered outside the halls to ponder on events of days past. You see, California's smoking regulations have "cleverly" traded easily-aired indoor smoke with impossible to clean up sidewalk litter personified by endless mounds of cigarette butts, placed there by said pondering crowds. Which leads us to thinking about all the goodness revealed at E3 this year: certainly much to digest. And after packs of discussion with amiable Californians one ultimate conclusion cannot be escaped: It's good to be a gamer!

NEIU art students bring color to the Emerson House

by Danica Cho
Staff Writer

Strolling past the Emerson House on 645 W. Wood, one can't help being immediately drawn to the hustle-and-bustle of mural painters spreading a beautiful plethora of colors onto its walls. These dedicated Northeastern art students stand in the searing heat of the summer sun, their brows furrowed in concentration as they carefully mix and lay each color and line. A garden hose of cool water offers momentarily relief.

The summer painting class at Northeastern, headed by Art Department Professor Santiago Vaca, is currently doing a six-week

happening as a gift and interacting with people," says Professor Vaca. Once a mural is completed, students often revisit the site to relish their accomplishments and show their family and friends. "There's a [sense of] pride in that process, of giving to the community and also giving to yourself," says Vaca. That pride extends to the school as well. "People come out and ask 'What's happening? We like this, where are you from?' and you talk to them.... 'We're from Northeastern,' so the name of the university gets moved around...we're doing something in the community and that's valuable for the school."

Northeastern can also boast of Rosie Tyree, who helped develop an arts and craft program as an intern at Emerson House.

The project began with a tour of the house and collaboration with its director, Eduardo "Eddie" Anguiano. Then came two and a half weeks of brainstorming, researching information and images at the campus library, combining sketches, and discussing slides. The group decided on a bright, warm color scheme and, because of the neighborhood's predominantly Latino community, incorporated Aztec

imagery. The project's themes reflect the goals and services offered by the Emerson House. The mural is adorned with images of children and their families, athletic and educational activities, and symbols of hope and unity. As a social worker, Director Anguiano values art as a means of self-expression and as an avenue to help people increase self-esteem through creative accomplishments.

The project has also taught students valuable lessons other than the painting process, such as the impact of socioeconomic changes in this particular

neighborhood. Real estate moguls are buying out land to transform once-affordable housing for hardworking migrant families into expensive lofts, condos and houses catering to high-income clientele. Local residents are being uprooted, making social services like those offered by Emerson House less viable. It's a sprouting pattern that continues to concern residents in many other areas of the city.

Northeastern art student Jennifer Pichla enrolled in Professor Vaca's mural painting class because she felt it would be a good experience to interact with the environment and the community. The group adopted a young, aspiring painter still in elementary school. Shy and quiet, Brandon Starcevic had been watching the college students paint all morning, aching to dip a brush and spread some vibrant colors onto the mural walls himself. Finally granted the chance, watching Brandon fervently paint was like watching a firecracker lighting into a ball of fire.

"I'm glad that Northeastern chose their site at Emerson House to do a great mural for us. It brings life to the neighborhood, it brings color to the neighborhood, and it's something that we're very proud of," says Anguiano. "People can walk down the street and look at our murals and see something really creative."

The Emerson House welcomes volunteers year-round. If you'd like to provide any variety of skills or services, please contact Director Eddie Anguiano at (312) 1.351 (fax (312) 421-1332 or e-mail eddie.anguiano@emersonhouse.org).



photos by Danica Cho

Students work hard at their mural for the Emerson



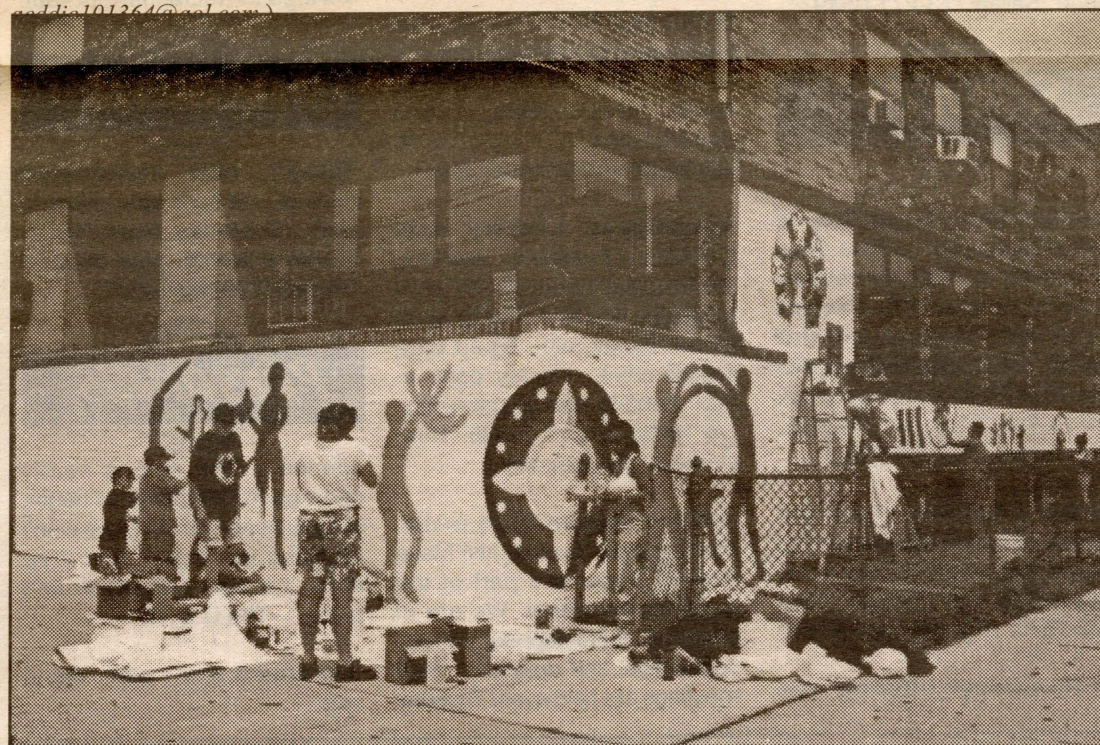
(From left to right) Jill Marega, Brandon Starcevic, Andi Taglia, and Kamelia Hristeva carefully fill in figure outline.



Pamela Deogracias fills color into part of the mural outside the Emerson House building.

mural painting project at the Emerson House. Founded in 1910, the haven can be compared to Jane Addams' Hull House. Community residents are assisted in emergency situations such as food, rent, utility or clothing shortages. Programs are also offered in adult education and employment skills, as well as youth and child development. Approximately 6,000 residents a year benefit from its services.

The goal of the mural project is to get Northeastern students involved with the community. "It's really rewarding to the students to see this project



Students work on various parts of the mural at the corner of Wood and Erie streets.

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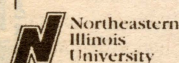
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Golden Opportunities

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For Sale

Cigarettes Cheaper! Where you find everyday low prices: Marlboro, Virginia Slims, Parliament, Camel, Winston, Salem, Newport, and Kool- \$3.15 a pack, \$31.49 a carton! We have everyday low prices on all other brands and generics. We will not be undersold and will meet and beat any competitor's price. Come see us at 5240 N. Pulaski (Next to jewel at Mayfair Common Mall at Foster and Pulaski). Also, for a limited time only, come in and try one free pack of our new brands! Prices do not include tax. Prices subject to change at locations.

20 gallon fish tank with Whisper filter and 9 cartridges, air pump, and water siphon for \$30. Will separate. Call 847-998-0360.

Computers for sale. Top notch equipment, not junk. Desktops, notebooks, all accessories. IBM, Dell, Toshiba, Compaq, all starting at \$100. E-mail for further info. ADL68@aol.com

For Sale: 1 vintage sleeper couch (hip!) & 2 old school bikes (very hip!) Must go, make an offer! Sarah 773-271-0549

Services

Complete Auto Repair! Drop off before class, pick up after class in most cases. Walking distance to NEIU campus. 10% discount for all NEIU students and staff with ID. OIL CHANGE SPECIAL! \$14.95 for NEIU students and staff. Pete's Auto Clinic Inc., 3426 W. Bryn Mawr, (773) 463-4411

Guitar Lessons. Learn the basics of guitar technique and theory. Acoustic and electric. 1st lesson free. Call Damien. (773) 279-1570. 15 years experience.

NEIU student offering free

Qurtan, audio and video cassettes and books for those who have interest in learning about Islam and Muslims. If you want to take advantage of this opportunity then call Robert (773) 764-8937, M-F after 4; S&S after 2.

Tax/Bkkgng/Planning. Reasonable rates. Prompt service. (708) 343-4435

Tutor writing: ESL, Composition, all subject areas. Call sandy extension 4462

Wanted

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.

Organizations

The Black Heritage Gospel Choir is extending its membership to all Northeastern students. Come join us in singing songs of praise. Tues. and Thurs., 1:40-2:50, FA 152. -President Kendra Young

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

Apocalypse Literary Arts Coalition currently seeking student submissions for next magazine due 3/13. Poetry, short prose, essay, etc., typed only, include name, address, phone, e-mail. Send to Apocalypse Editor, c/o NEIU, Room E-035. Non-students also welcome.

Join the Independent's award-winning staff. Be famous! Make money! Become a part of the student newspaper. We are in search of photographers, writers, cartoonists, and reporters. Staff meetings are held every Tuesday

during the activity hour. The *Independent* office is located in E-049, below Beck's Bookstore. Call 442-4577 or e-mail the chief editor.

As-salamu-alaikum, the Muslim Students Association meets every Tuesday and Thursday in Room FA-153 from 1:40 to 4:50p.m. to discuss the solution to social problems through Islamic means and also to plan public activities on campus. Open to questions and comments. Website: <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

Attractions

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

For Rent

Totally new remodeled (House, 1st floor apt.) Next to park, 2 blocks from NEIU. \$1000 a month, plus deposit/Heated (773) 604-4337.

Personals

Joanna -- The time is nearly upon us for all things to begin, but you need not worry, we won't let Brian go "oops," and if he does, he ain't leaving in one piece. ~The D & AD

"I'm armed and I can't stand up!"

To my angel- I will be praying for you while on your adventure and am already looking forward to your return. Sending true love. and a flower @--}--- ~Charlie Brown~

V-boy-- Justice may be blind yet you feel you can help her cross the street. Don't get too rambunctious and destroy the morals of this old lady. She only needs to be trusted but still do your job. ~The Office Girls

Dungeonmaster: When shall thy next move be playeth? Thou mightest have thy a new victim when thou next useth your skills. Squire Lenora MacKenzie is awaiting her training from thy all-mighty master.

One word is all I need: laser-scalpel.

Herr Vogt, Ich liebe dich, von ganzem Herzen. Ich Hoffnung der fuhlen ist gegenseitig. Ich Hoffnung sie kann mieten deutsch nebst mich diese Fall so wir können anlegen mehr zeit zusammen. Ich vermissen sie sehr viel diese Sommer. Ich bereven der stundenlang es gibt abgesehenvon. Liebe, Fraulein Chrabasz

Sammy Wammy, what's with the late nights and the late mornings?

Dios te salve Maria llena eres de gracia, el senor esta contigo.

Brian, formidable Brian, we couldn't have asked for a better evil immie. The sparring will be great, well just see whose head you get to take. ~The Independent Immies

Hey laddie girl -- Things are a-changin', but you will perservere. Pay much attention to your training and the future will be bright and long. Remain a survivor. As to all the women I've loved before, you are indeed the most psychotic. Forever, Fitz.

Happy Anniversary, Mom and Dad! ~Your first son.

OPS to crew: The summertime stardates are barren and devoid of life but your valiant search for those teeny tiny life-forms has not been in vain. Kudos to our Science Officer, Medical Officer, Counselor, and most especially the new Captain for making this bridge shift a breeze. Drinks in Ten Forward are on me!

in order to create interest in joining the
Independent as a WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER, or REPORTER we bring to you this

celebrity testimonial

from the legendary clipart model and
founding member of the Rat Pack,
Mr. Excitement, himself,

JOE CLIPART



"Listen, kids, before I made it big modeling for clipart in the '50's, I was just a college newspaper reporter just like the good folks down at the Independent. I'm not so sure I would have made it to the big time, playing Carnegie with Sammy, Dean, and Frankie if I had not chosen that path so long ago. Let me tell you as your elder, kids, that joining this paper will make you one cool cat. Look at me! If a poor kid from the Windy City such as myself can do it, so can you!"

Make money! Learn valuable professional skills!

See your name, opinions, and photos in print!

join the Independent

Call us at (773) 442-4577, e-mail us at neiu_independent@yahoo.com. Stop by our office at E-049 by the Student Lounge, or come to our meetings in the fall to find out more! See our classified ad on the back cover of the paper.

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Cafe

An online forum where students, staff and faculty exchange ideas and information

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- * VOICE CHAT ROOMS
- * INSTANT MESSAGING
- * SHARE PHOTOS
- * USER-FRIENDLY



Graphic Design by NEIU_senior@yahoo.com

Oh goody gumdrops!

The Independent classifieds are FREE!*

Limit one ad per person/organization per issue. Ads must be 20 words or less. There is a 25-cents charge for each word over 20 words. All classified ads must be ordered in person at the *Independent* office. For more information, please call Chris Vogt, Business Manager at 773.442.4585

* This rate applies to members of the NEIU community only. An NEIU identification card must be presented at the time of purchase.



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AD AS IT IS TO READ:
