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Independent- Apr. 9, 2002

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Chicago River
finally arrives

feature on page 13

Continuing coverage as the SGA
elections swing into full force

story on page 5

Find out just what your
fellow students are thinking
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY
perspectus on page 9

SINCE 1988 | REPEAT 2001-2002 ICPA AWARD WINNER | CHICAGO, IL.

APR 11 2002

ARCHIVES

Independent

Vol. 18 Issue 16

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

Two rival parties form and prepare to battle current SGA administration

by Scott Plencner
Associate Editor

The Gary Gaspard administration has seen its fair share of controversy over the past year. His fight for re-election, one year after the botched spring election by computer that brought Gaspard to the presidency amidst a cloud of controversy, is proving no different.

Gaspard has managed to steer through not only the spring election of 2001, in which a hacker was blamed for stuffing electronic ballot boxes with an inordinate number of votes for Gaspard ally Natasha Nivose, but also several heated and uncontrollable SGA meetings, threats of sexual harassment charges from impeached Speaker Lynne Madix, late fall elections, and charges of financial mismanagement, abuse of power, and nepotism from a vocal minority in the Senate. With his administration and its tumultuous history on the line,

Gaspard is playing it safe this election and sticking to the issues.

The rise of opposition

Despite his mild-mannered approach to the 2002 election, the blanket of controversy that has surrounded his administration has not let up. Two vocal and powerful organizations have risen up in the past month to vie for SGA seats and to capture the presidency, both launching intense campaigns calling into question the history of Gaspard and his Vision Party after a year in office.

The Student Action League (SAL) was the first party to form as the spring election approached. Formation followed many months of thought led by SAL campaign coordinator Jacob Heiss, the Honors Program student that SAL veep candidate Georgia Logothetis calls SAL's "resident genius;" and Lukasz Dobrzynski, another active Honors student and SAL

presidential candidate known most recently for organizing the European Union conference last month.

Pulido takes it to the voters

SAL gathered strength early gaining the support of many opposed to Gaspard for various reasons, but recently a second party has emerged to challenge Gaspard made up primarily of former Gaspard appointees and eventual opponents in the SGA Senate. The four person Leadership party, led by veep candidate Luis Pulido, has launched a furious campaign in recent days to wrest control of the SGA from Gaspard, whom Pulido referred to as "dictator" in a heated March 7th meeting. During that meeting Gaspard threatened to call in the police to maintain order over Senators furious with an election reform package that sought to loosen the authority of faculty in SGA elections. Pulido's motion to table the reforms was met with resistance on the part of Kendra

Young and Gaspard who rose to defend the measures that would see a lessened role for Walt Sommers (Director of Student Activities), toward whom Gaspard previously has admitted suspicion.

Pulido and Mynor Lopez, who described the March

meeting as "out of order" make up the base of the Leadership ticket.

Since that meeting Pulido has continued to oppose Gaspard vehemently in the SGA as his party blasts Gaspard and the SGA in its advertising on the campaign trail. One advertisement tells voters that its time to "get the A.S.S. out of SGA," A.S.S. standing for arrogance, selfishness and superiority complex. Gaspard stated that he hopes the Election Committee would review the negative advertising as a poorly veiled attempt at name-calling and reprimand the Leadership party for it.

Gaspard, however, stated that he does not feel betrayed by the party made up primarily of former allies and appointees. "It's only politics," he said. "I'm sorry about it, but they are my children. The door will always be open if they want to come back."

Raising the value of our degrees

However, the 2002 campaign seems more a war of personality than that of simple politics. Every party stands reasonably close on the issues. The lists of SAL and Vision Party (VP) initiatives share many congruencies. Both parties have stated a desire to make the NEIU diploma a more valuable

document for students. The VP's slogan "your education is our priority" is something Gaspard believes in as much as SAL's

With his
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the issues.

ticket, which aims to "increase the name recognition and prestige of NEIU as a means of raising the value of our degrees."

Gaspard, responding to many complaints from the very Honors Students that SAL feels makes up its main constituency, wants to see a scale other than the classic four point GPA put into effect, so that a GPA, in Gaspard's own words, "might look nice on a resume. It's psychological." SAL hopes to raise the value of NEIU degrees mainly through non-academic initiatives, including the funding of high-profile events like the Euro conference organized by Dobrzynski.

Transportation

The VP and SAL also agree that transportation is a major issue at NEIU, one of Illinois' largest commuter schools. The perennial U-Pass issue has been addressed by both SAL candidates and the VP. Gaspard claims to have been working hard on the issue in U-Pass meetings and with an administration reluctant to add what would end up as a \$100 mandatory fee to everyone's tuition bills. SAL promises to bring about the U-Pass without the mandatory fee.

Gaspard also has mentioned re-routing the CTA's Foster bus and creating a shuttle van service. He has researched similar programs at other

Music Department seeks replacement of professor

by Lisa St. Martin
Senior Staff Member

In an effort to stop replacement of visiting music professor Dr. Yulia Lipmanovich, a group of 17 loyal students petitioned and organized a meeting to raise questions about the current search-in-progress. Meeting with the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Charles Pastors, and members of the NEIU Music department on Monday, April 1

"I find it hard to believe that my teaching at NEIU will end in three weeks. I have other offers but I really wanted to stay. I think it is really sad."

Dr. Mandrell, Music Dept. Chair, said it was confidential. According to Lipmanovich, Dr. Pastors said NEIU is trying to find the best teacher for the students, and told the students,

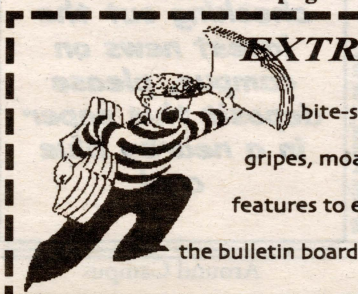
"You're not choosing, we are choosing." Lipmanovich and students were then referred to Margo Smith, Affirmative Action Officer and Coordinator of Legal Affairs. This referral resulted in a vague reference to Lipmanovich's lack of credentials. Students who hoped to continue their studies with

Lipmanovich this summer and beyond don't understand their unceremonious treatment and their teacher's boot out the door. A bureaucratic chain of events leaves many questioning the system, considering Lipmanovich's

background. With a B.A. in performance from Juilliard, M.A. from Tel Aviv University, and a Ph.D. from Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Lipmanovich has performed in Carnegie Hall, and won several international competitions. Besides her extensive touring and performance record, she has 20 years of teaching experience.

Lipmanovich said when she signed on in Fall 2001, Mandrell expressed hope that she would stay on. Yet, late in the academic year she discovered that a candidate replacement search was initiated without her knowledge, nor with any complaints. Finding her position available through a job posting, Lipmanovich asked Dr.

see Lipmanovich
continued on page 3



bite-sized but essential news

gripes, moans, and common sense

features to entertain and enlighten

the bulletin board you can bring with you

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!

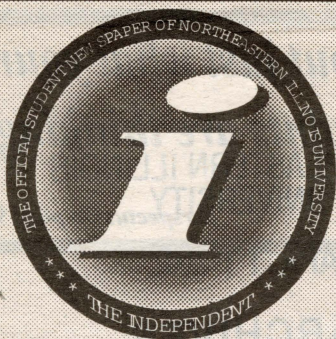
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9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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The Independent is published every two weeks except during finals and semester breaks. Deadline is one (1) week prior to the issue in which a contribution is to appear. The views expressed in letters to the editor are those of the university community, and do not necessarily coincide with those of the Independent Editorial Board. The Editor in Chief is responsible for the content of the Independent and views presented do not necessarily represent, in whole or in part, those of the Northeastern Illinois University administration, faculty, or students. The Independent is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and the Illinois College Press Association.

The Independent,
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Chicago, Illinois 60625

AROUND CAMPUS

As the eagle flies

May Day

Direct Action Network is sponsoring *Carnival Against Capitalism* a weekend full of actions, workshops, art, street party and passion for justice April 26-28 and May 1. Contact Chicago Direct Action Network at directaction@onebox.com (773) 377-5001 ext. 3175 for further information.

April Computer Literacy Workshops

An open lab session will be held Friday, April 19 from 1:30-3:30 p.m. in CLS-4066. Come work on online tutorials, review workshop handouts, or bring a project you are working on.

Student Awards Ceremony

On Tuesday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall the University will honor students who have distinguished themselves during this academic year. Students nominated by academic departments or the University will recognize award areas during the Students Awards Ceremony. A reception will be held after the ceremony; at which time people will have an opportunity to meet student honoree's and their families and guests.

Author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

NEIU presents award

winning author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni Thursday April 18, 2002 at 1:30 p.m. in SU-214 and again at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall. Divakaruni has been published in over 50 magazines, including *Atlantic Monthly* and the *New Yorker* and her writing has been included in over 30 anthologies. Her recent novel *The Vine of Desire* was published in February. The event is free and open to the public.

On-line Schedule of Classes

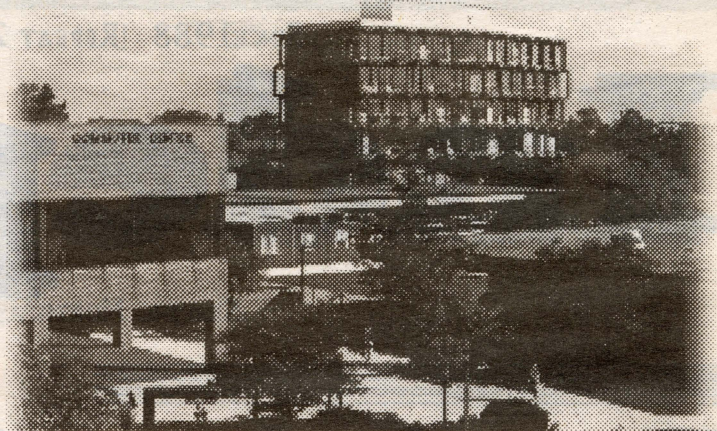
A Schedule of Summer School classes is now on the web. Students, faculty and staff may view the Schedule of Classes by going to www.neiu.edu and clicking on the Admissions and Records icon. On the next page, click on the Schedule of Classes icon. When the Fall 2002 Schedule of Classes has been finalized, it will be added to the web. Addendum schedules will also be posted for each semester.

Black History Quiz

NEIU presents *Know Your Heritage Quiz* Tuesday April 16 from 1:40 - 4:00 p.m. in CLS-101. Come and watch the CICS team face off against the Main Campus team in a much-awaited rematch.

Illinois State Police Testing

Friday, April 19, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. in SU-003.



Mark the calendars

Classical Concerts in April

NEIU Percussion Ensemble Concert

Wednesday, April 10, 7:30pm

Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, 5500 North St. Louis Avenue, Chicago

Free admission-free parking in Lot F (Level 2)

Call 773-442-Info

NEIU's Annual Spring Concert

Wednesday, April 24, 7:30p.m.

North side College Preparatory High School, 5501 N. Kedzie Avenue, Chicago

Free Admission

Call 773-442-Info

A Renaissance Concert, Micheal Melton Conductor

Friday, April 26, 7:30P.M.

Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, 550 North St. Louis Avenue, Chicago

Free admission-free parking in Lot F (level 2)

Call 773-442-Info

NEIU Faculty Concert

Monday, April 29, 7:30p.m.

Fine Arts Center Recital Hall, 5500 North St. Louis Avenue, Chicago

Call 773-442-Info

"All That Jazz"-April Concerts

NEIU Jazz Ensembles, directed by Mayo Tiana w/Special Guest Artist

Bob Ojeda

Thursday, April 11 7:30p.m.

North Side College Preparatory High School, 5501 N. Kedzie Chicago

Free admission

Call 773-442-Info

NEIU's Annual Spring Concert

Wednesday, April 24, 7:30p.m, Chicago

Free admission

Call 773-442-Info

This issue of the Independent is in memory of

Mary E. Brown

September 11, 1948 - March 18, 2002

She was a firm supporter of the Independent, journalism, and people's rights, especially their right to know. She will be greatly missed by everyone

WATCH OUT! Deadline coming

Deadlines for the Independent are one week prior to the date of publication. The following is a list of publication dates for the Spring/Summer 2002 semesters:

**April
23rd
May
21st
June
18th**

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

Please recycle this newspaper.



Thank you!

When done matching your opinion with our writers and checking out the latest news on campus, please deposit this paper in a nearby blue can!

by John Prusko, Jr. 08.10.97

Students remain tolerant in spite of growing conflict

by S. Fatima Quadri
Staff Member

"He was only a young boy, with dreams and aspirations," sighs Zainab Patel as she reminisces about a boy in her village back home that was killed in the Hindu-Muslim conflict that has escalated over the past months. A morbid feeling has cast into the homes of the families whose loved ones are trapped in a web of vengeance and hate.

The state of Gujarat has a history of Hindu-Muslim disputes, this time the origins of the riot came from the city of Baroch. It began

Hindus.

This occurrence marked the air with brutal hatred; infuriated mobs burned, raped, and looted their own neighbors. Nearly 2,000 people have died, the vast majority of them Muslims, once again leaving the people with skin-deep wounds and destruction. "The police watched them as they burned people alive," grieves Zainab Patel, "we have no trust in the police, most of them are Hindu."

Although, the aggression has reached its worst in years, most students at Northeastern avert from allowing the conflict to enter into their own social spheres. "I have

"The police watched them as they burned people alive," grieves Zainab Patel.

when angry Hindu mobs took offense to the slaughtering of cows, on the Day of Eid-ul-Adha (the day Muslims commemorate Abraham's sacrifice of Ishmael) and attacked Muslim shops and homes in late February. Hindus revere the cow as symbol of purity and sanctity.

The situation was only to get worse when a Muslim girl was raped and hacked on a train carrying Hindu believers headed towards the construction area of a Hindu Temple where a Mosque once stood. In rage, the Muslims lit fire to the compartment, which spread throughout the train killing an estimated 58 people, mostly

many Muslim friends, and I don't see why that should change," explains Urvish Patel. "The Indian media is what instigates revenge, if people didn't know, they wouldn't retaliate."

Jagrut Patel nods her head in agreement. "Tensions have grown on Devon Avenue for the same reason, but I just don't understand why they can't get along. I am a Hindu and I have the same blood as a Muslim, so what makes us so different?"

Fortunately, the younger generations adopt a tolerant ideology. "We don't need more Hindu-Muslim riots," asserts Zainab Patel, "certainly not in Chicago."

Lipmanovich

continued from page 1

Mach, head of the Music Dept.'s search subcommittee why they were looking for candidates. "She said, 'How did you know?' . . . and said that they were looking for someone with better credentials," said Lipmanovich.

Referred to NEIU by retired music alumni, Dr. Harold Berlinger, Lipmanovich quickly built up a list of piano students from four to 24, reviving the pedagogy (teaching method) classes, and ensemble. She also engaged in an impressive series of recitals and performances at NEIU as well as other Chicago university locations.

According to Lipmanovich, piano students from DePaul, Roosevelt and Univ. of Illinois Urbana-Champaign have contacted her about transferring and auditions. "I have students coming to study with me, why didn't they tell me directly? Why won't they let me sit in on [performance] juries? Why aren't they considering me?" said Lipmanovich. "The other candidates I have seen aren't more qualified. I am not just concerned with my status as a professor, but with my students' professional

future."

Many students agree that Lipmanovich should at least be considered qualified as a candidate. The apparent lack of faculty support for Lipmanovich, and the rumors circulating throughout the department have created confusion for current students in connection with auditions for scholarships. A student (who asked to remain anonymous) told *The Independent* that faculty members have left Lipmanovich out of communications, resulting in discrepancies of audition requirements and information. Several students also commented on the lack of attendance at their convocations, adding to a feeling of department apathy and petty politics.

A senior student mentioned she was looking forward to graduating from the Music Dept. on a more timely basis through the additional courses made available by Lipmanovich. She said now her plans will have to change, and added, "The students have become the victims of this situation. Dr. Lipmanovich has brought in a higher quality of student since I started studying with her, providing me with more stimulating challenges at Northeastern that weren't there

before."

"I could have assigned my pedagogy students with specific students for this summer," said Lipmanovich. "It was my understanding that if I had enough students sign-up for summer in January, I would continue teaching. Now, they say that that was not true—that summer is only for the tenure track. I was also looking forward to having my students play at different locales in the city."

Teaching piano calls for an unusually close relationship with the teacher, compared to many subjects. Lipmanovich spent the first semester assessing her students' abilities and creating individualized programs of study. "In the second semester the students are ready to be challenged and I help them to bring up their standards. They learn to work on their own. Their growth in independence also comes about through the work of the ensemble," said Lipmanovich. "I was required to teach 20 hours a week, and I was working up to 32 hours a week. The extra hours, of course, have been without pay. I am flattered that my students have recognized my efforts and have gathered together in my support."

A dual citizen of the U.S. and Israel, Lipmanovich was looking forward to recruiting both locally and internationally. "It is ironic to me that I was asked to speak on 'University Day' about the future of the arts in the college curriculum. Given the facts, I felt I had to call Dr. Steinberg and decline the discussion. The president was unaware that I was even leaving," said Lipmanovich. "I find it hard to believe that my teaching at NEIU will end in three weeks. I have other offers but I really wanted to stay. I think it is really sad."

A majority of her students continue to hope that they can make a difference by voicing their opinion. What do you think? Do you think students should have a say? Write your response to *The Independent*, neiu_independent@yahoo.com

Lipmanovich is scheduled to perform at NEIU in a Chamber Music Recital with special guest artist, Albert Igonnikov, 7:30 p.m. on April 29, in Recital Hall, at the Fine Arts Center.

Students petition to retain Dr. Lipmanovich as a faculty member and teacher



PHOTO COURTESY OF DR. YULIA LIPMANOVICH

read...



The Independent's 2002 ICPA Award Winning SGA Coverage

Follow the election results with the Independent.

Pick up our next issue on April 23

Extension 4100 Watch out for sticky fingers in the PE Building, never contain cannabis while trespassing

by Officer Gene Eric Salecker

5 February – Theft From Motor Vehicle

Victim reported the theft of a video camera from a vehicle parked in the D-Lot. Further investigation revealed that the victim's girlfriend had entered the vehicle and taken the camera without his knowledge.

6 February – Suspicious Person

A homeless individual was reported in the Science Building after hours. A search of the building was negative.

6 February – Station Information

Grounds crew personnel reported damage to a number of university bushes by the contracted snow removal crew.

6 February – Station Information

An NEIU instructor reported that a student attempted to remove a test from a classroom in the Science Building. The student was stopped and the matter was referred to student due process.

6 February – Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts

A victim reported the theft of two hubcaps from her vehicle in the J-Lot. NEIU police obtained a photograph of the suspected offender and set-up a photo line-up. A witness failed to appear to look at the photos.

6 February – Motor Vehicle Offense – Hit and Run

An NEIU student reported that her vehicle had been damaged while parked in the F-Lot. A witness left a note with a license number. NEIU police ran a license plate check and identified the suspected offender. The victim will pursue the matter through her insurance company.

6 February – Medical Assist

An epileptic victim has a seizure in the E-Building. Victim was assisted by NEIU police and Chicago Fire Department paramedics. Victim was transported to Swedish Covenant Hospital by the paramedics.

11 February – Criminal Damage – Vandalism

An NEIU instructor reported vandalism to his personal bicycle while it was parked outside of the A-Wing.

The victim informed NEIU police that his bicycle has been vandalized on three previous occasions.

13 February – Deception – Fraud

A lost purse belonging to an NEIU student was turned in to NEIU police. During routine inventory it was noticed that the student had two Illinois drivers licenses, each with a different birth date. The student was contacted and admitted during questioning that a fellow student made the fraudulent license on a computer.

13 February – Theft – Under \$300

An NEIU student reported the theft of a parking permit from her unlocked vehicle in the H-Lot.

14 February – Medical Assist

An epileptic and asthmatic victim had a seizure in the Classroom Building. Victim was assisted by NEIU police and Chicago Fire Department paramedics. Victim refused transport to the hospital.

18 February – Found Property

A wallet was found in the Library. NEIU police were unable to contact the owner and the property was

inventoried.

21 February – Medical Assist

A diabetic victim had a seizure in the Science Building. Victim was treated by NEIU Health Services and Chicago Fire Department paramedics. Victim refused to be taken to the hospital.

21 February – Theft – Under \$300

An NEIU employee reported the theft of a personal shoulder bag containing a cell phone, check book, and personal keys from the H-Building.

21 February – Medical Assist

A diabetic victim had a mild seizure during a theater performance in the F-Wing. Victim was assisted by NEIU police but refused further medical attention.

23 February – Traffic Accident – Property Damage

Offender was driving too fast for conditions and ran into a light pole in the L-Lot. The pole was severed from the support and the vehicle had to be removed by a tow truck. One traffic ticket was issued.

26 February – Station Information

An NEIU student reported that she had accidentally broken a window pane in the E-Building. NEIU engineers boarded up the window.

26 February – Medical Assist

An NEIU student felt ill while attending class in the Classroom Building. Victim was treated by NEIU Health Services and Chicago Fire Department paramedics. Victim refused to be taken to the hospital.

28 February – Medical Assist

An NEIU student reported to NEIU Health Services complaining of felling ill. The Chicago Fire Department paramedics responded and transported the victim to St. Frances Hospital in Evanston.

As the warm weather approaches and final exams draw near, certain types of criminal activities increase. Be sure to raise the windows and lock the doors of your parked vehicle. Place any unused textbooks and backpacks in the trunk of your car, out of sight of prying eyes. Don't make expensive textbooks an easy gift to a would-be thief.

Candidate Statements

President (vote for one):

DOBRZYNSKI, Lukasz

One of my goals as President will be to increase the visibility of NEIU. The greater the reputation of our university in the community, the greater the value of our degrees. To achieve this, we need a better, stronger-than-ever SGA, one that fosters positive, productive relationships between the students, faculty, staff, and administration. I have a lot of energy, and if you vote for me, I will ensure that action is taken to improve our university.

I am a business and management junior at my third year at NEIU, working hard as a University Honors student and University Ambassador to promote and improve NEIU's image outside of school. In spring 2001, I represented NEIU at international conference in Warsaw-Krakow, Poland presenting my research paper on NATO.

□ This year I have organized an international conference at NEIU, entitled "Europa," on the challenges and opportunities of the European Union enlargement process. Eight representatives from five different Consulates General in Chicago, a group of students from University of Warsaw, Poland, and students from other Chicago universities all participated in this event. □

GASPARD, Gary

Dear Constituent:

Casting a vote is not a privilege but a right!

We have made great strides in my first term; I look forward to building on my accomplishments in the next year. My proven track record demonstrates that I have fought hard for you in all academic, social and economic levels. Below is a partial list of applicable accomplishments that my allies and I have achieved under my leadership in Student Government. We have:

- Helped to open two additional classes toward graduation in the College of Education: EDUC FUND 305 & 306

- Eliminated the separate hangtag charge from the parking fees, which saved NEIU students approximately \$230,000 this semester

- Negotiated an arrangement for the Daily Planner and saved us \$16,000 this year

- Empowered student organizations to operate freely by granting their entire requested funds

My tenure as President has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. I really enjoy serving the student body. I have treated my position as a career and have never regretted that decision. While in this election, I count on you to re-elect me as your next President, I urge your support for the outstanding of progressive candidates in the Vision Party. We cannot do it with your vote!

As President, in tirelessly working for you, I will continue to make fair and independent decisions. My experience and proven record can assure you that I will listen to your concerns. With honesty, integrity and fairness for all, I will carry the presidency.

Vote Visionary!

Gary Gaspard for President!

CRUZ, Jason

Lets make the upcoming year a year in which we work as one to improve our lives and make this school a better place.

There are several goals I wish to accomplish as your President. In order to build student morale and school spirit, I will push to reinstate the school athletic program. To allow for more flexible scheduling, my administration will strive to increase the amount of classes offered in the evenings and on weekends. We will develop a proposal to begin on-line courses, a program to allow all students access to an education. In addition, my administration will work day and night to add more Level Two parking spaces.

During the past year, there has been a noticeable lack of communication between the students and the current administration. The only reason I see is the current administration's desire to run our Government in a *Tyrannical Dictatorship*. There is no place for this type of behavior in our school.

TINEEKA REED Speaker, your voice will be heard, and we will make it one of the Executive Board's main goals to find out all the problems we are faced with, and how we can solve them. I urge you to *take back YOUR Government* and elect a new President, Vice President and Speaker. As we all know, the Government is for the people and by the people, and without your influence, change will not occur and your Student Government will continue on its mundane path.

Vote for JASON CRUZ, LUIS PULIDO and

TINEEKA REED, and our Government will once again bring credit to you and our school

MARTINEZ, Juan

Vice President (vote for one):

LOGOTHETIS, Georgia

I walk through the campus and see that our university is overflowing with uniqueness, achievement, and ambition. It is time to let others know how great we truly are. If elected, I will work to ensure that NEIU's reputation accurately reflects the brilliance of its students. I will reach out to student organizations, encouraging them to sponsor activities that promote involvement and unity. I will also work diligently on behalf of students to address the high cost of textbooks, enhance academic advisement, and promote inter-university events.

As a member of the Student Action League, I am dedicated to transforming the SGA into an organization that directly affects and improves the lives of students. We can no longer allow power struggles and mismanagement to take precedence over the interest of the student body.

SGA has been passive for too long. It is time to make it active again. After all, it is the *Student* Government Association, and you deserve the best. If you want real change, an SGA which is so in tune with the needs of students that it is pro-active and decisive in action, then elect me, Georgia Logothetis, to the position of Vice-President.

PULIDO, Luis

YOUNG, Kendra

Dear Friends,

Vote Visionary!

As Student Government Vice-President, I know what it takes to be an advocate for students. For the last three years, I have been tirelessly representing you to the administration. As a Senator for two terms, President and Treasurer of the "Black Heritage Gospel Choir" for one, I have learned that experience counts when leading an organization.

My involvement and experiences have allowed me to hone my leadership skills and develop a passion for getting results. My tenure in Student Government proves it!

During my first term, the Senate has accomplished many things: the Goodwin scholarship award for senators, securing public phones on campus, etc. I have helped many sororities receive a charter. As the Finance Committee Chair, I have ensured that all organizations that request funding are approved 100%.

As a student who is majoring in Education, it is my priority to ensure that all student academic needs are properly met. Last semester, I played an active role in the opening of two major Education classes.

As your next Vice-President, I will continue to establish an environment that will make students feel comfortable with exposing others to their culture. I support the diversity that makes Northeastern a unique institution. I will fight for your rights, especially those who are underrepresented, regardless of age, race, gender, and nationality. As Vice-President, I will represent you and make sure that your experience at Northeastern is gratifying.

Vote Kendra Young for Vice-President and all other outstanding candidates in the Vision Party!!!

Speaker (vote for one):

LOPEZ, Mynor

Students of Northeastern Illinois University; I'm running for the position of Speaker of the Senate and for the position of Illinois Board of Higher Education - Student Advisory Committee Representative.

I have been in Student Government over the three past years, as your current Representative. I'm asking you the student of Northeastern Illinois University for you support to let me be your voice and your vote in Student Government and at the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Also, I would like to introduce Jason Cruz for President, Luis Pulido for Vice-President. Students get strong votes from our party.

AVRAHAM, Caleb G.

Dear Students,

Hello, my name is Caleb Avraham and I am running for Speaker of the Senate. As your Speaker I will uphold order and strict adherence to our constitution during Senate meetings. I will work in conjunction with, and in opposition to the Senate and the rest of SGA. I believe it is imperative that the students of our university have a well trained and well-experienced student body government, as well as one that services you- the student. I have served as a member of our SGW in two different positions, as a Senator and as a Justice. These two positions, which involve constitutional knowledge, have prepared me well for the Speaker position.

During election week vote for someone with experience and integrity. Vote for someone who firmly believes in the importance of teamwork and being a team player. Vote for Caleb Avraham. And remember: THIS SCHOOL BELONGS TO YOU!

NIVOSE, Natasha

Dear Friends,

Vote Visionary!

I am pleased to present myself to you, Natasha Nivose the Speaker of the Senate. My role as Speaker allows me to work closely with both the President Gaspard and Vice-President Young. This past year, my experiences have been gratifying. I was provided the opportunity to explore leadership in a broader view. I feel prepared to serve you for one more year.

As Speaker, I was able to handle the Senate business in accordance with the Robert Rules of Order. It is the parliamentary procedure that we adopt to conduct our meetings. It has been my duty to keep accurate records of our Senate business.

This year I assisted Vice-President Young in preparing our delegation for the Model Illinois Government Simulation that was held in Springfield, Illinois.

I have the endorsement of Vice-President Young and President Gaspard who says, "Speaker Nivose has been an exceptional ally in my term for what is fair for students. There is no better person who could serve as the Speaker of the Senate than Natasha."

My solid record provides you with my leadership experience to represent you. In our first term, we have accomplished more student-oriented objectives than any other previous administration. My experience in SGA makes me the best qualified candidate for the Speaker position. For an effective voice on campus, elect the following visionary candidates: Gaspard for President, Young for Vice-President, Elmahdi for Student Trustee, Daniels for IBHE-SAC and the eleven visionary senators.

Vote Visionary!

Natasha Nivose for Speaker

REED, Tineeka

Trustee (vote for one):

ELMAHDI, Elsadig

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Vote Visionary!

My name is Elsadig Elmahdi. I am majoring in Political Science and minoring in Economics. As an active student, I have been a cheerleader for various organizations on campus. Currently I am a member of these two great organizations: the Muslim Student Association and Student Government, in which I serve as a Senator and the Charter and Rules Committee Chair (CRC). The committee deals with the SGA constitution, by-laws and charters of all student organizations to approve or deny their charters.

Last year as CRC Chair, with the concurrence of SGA executives, I have helped all student organizations to operate freely in accordance to our Charter Policy. Our records indicate that we have made greater accomplishments in the government for the benefit of all students than in years before. Under the guidance of President Gary Gaspard, I was able to enhance my leadership skills, awareness and involvement. I know that this year, Student Government has been more visible on and off campus. My goal is to continue to work hard and see the fruit of my labor.

As your Student Trustee, I will serve the position with honor, respect, and justice for all. As your advocate in the Board of Trustees, I will use my influence to keep our tuition affordable, open a computer lab in the PE Building, and providing more meeting rooms for student organizations.

I urge your utmost support for the Student Vision Party candidates.

Vote Visionary!

Elsadig Elmahdi for Student Trustee

WILLIAMS, Sir M. V.

IBHE (vote for one):

LOPEZ, Mynor

DANIELS, Andrea

Dear Colleagues,

Vote Visionary!

My name is Andrea Daniels. I am a senior who is double majoring in Secondary Ed./Accounting. I am currently a Senator in Student Government. As an advocate for NEIU students, I have learned how to comprise in the best interest of students. I am now a candidate for the Illinois Board of Higher Education- Student Advisory Committee position. The IBHE-SAC Rep. is the University student delegate to the state of Illinois. As your representative, I will utilize my skills acquired as a Senator to be an affective advocate for students at Northeastern Illinois University.

As a student who will be representing you, it is my duty to promote awareness of the pending and standing laws affecting the Illinois State colleges and universities. I want to share your questions, suggestions and concerns with the Illinois State Administrators. I will negotiate the issues and policies that

The ballot, and the running mates stands at your fingertips

directly and indirectly affect NEIU students. Northeastern is a commuter university consisting of full and part-time students. We also have several non-traditional programs that cater to returning adults and students with special needs. Collaborating with the SGA President and the University administrators, I will create strategies to better our institution. As a Student Government officer, I will continue to build upon the legacy that the current President, Gary Gaspard, began: adding more academic classes to the semester schedules, maintaining fairness for all student organizations, and creating a positive environment on campus.

Student Vision Party needs your support!

Vote Andrea Daniels for IBHE-SAC Representative!

Senator (vote for one):

PAGAN, Eric

Greetings Colleagues,

My name is Eric Pagan and I am a freshman. I am planning to major in Accounting with a minor in music and I am also I am a member of the Black Heritage Gospel Choir. Since I've joined the Choir, I have learned a lot about working with a group.

Sports are a passion of mine and goal is to be able to help people. I have always fought for the rights of individuals. I do not see myself a champion of some sort. I just feel compelled to be the voice of those who do not have one. One way that I can help students is to join the government. For instance, several years ago we had a basketball team here on campus. Unfortunately, it no longer exists. I hear students concerns about this daily. Northeastern recognizes the need for an athletic program so that more students can get involved as well as lift the pride of students. I am committed to fulfilling the need to re-integrate sportsmanship back into the University.

My priority is to reintegrate our membership in the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). I have the endorsement of the current President Gary Gaspard. I have joined the Student Vision Party because it is a team of individuals who stand for integrity and fairness. This set of the progressive students and I lobby for what is right for all students. I am committed to assisting the administration in their efforts to make a positive change.

Vote Visionary!

Eric Pagan for Senator

BERLOW, Linda R.

My name is SGA Senator Linda R. Berlow. As Senator for three years, I am the most senior senator. During my tenure, I served as the Chair of the Environment Committee. I was Chair of the Fall Election Committee. I am on the Search and Screen Committee for Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. I worked with the Administration to plant more trees on campus and promoted recycling through marketing efforts.

"To the best of her ability, Linda has demonstrated courage and dedication in Student Government. As a Senator and the Environment Committee Chair, Linda presented two excellent programs about Jens Jensen who was a distinguished landscape architect [Mayor Richard M. Daley's North Park Village involvement]" —Gary Gaspard, SGA President.

I support all of the candidates in my Student Vision Party.

Gary brings the highest standards of leadership, honesty, devotion, innovation and dedication to Student Government. He acts on student requests for help including having assisted Administration in opening two more, EDFN 305 and 306, courses in the College of Education. He works for bettering communication between Students with Staff, Faculty, and Administration.

Experienced SGA Vice President Kendra Young works closely with SGA President Gary Gaspard.

SGA Speaker Natacha Nivose is an exceptional ally in what is fair for students.

Student Trustee candidate Elsadig Elmadi brings sincerity and knowledge to this position.

IBHE-SAC candidate Andrea Daniels has much interest in this position.

Vote for me for a proven record of accomplishment to continue.

HOANG, Hien Duc

SMITH, Tyence

NARANJO, Leticia

Vote Leticia Naranjo for Senator,

As an active student at Northeastern, I'd be honored to become your Senator in the Student Government. I believe that we all should be a part of an organization here that represents our leadership, dignity, and integrity. Becoming your Senator will allow me to assure that all Sororities and Fraternities bring in a new student life of sociability. I will help provide the free expression and philanthropy that we all share. Our organizations have strongly encouraged education as the key to success.

I'm pleased to have the endorsement of President Gaspard who says, "Leticia believes in strengthening student organizations on and off campus to enhance student activism and support all new chapters for Sororities and Fraternities on campus. We need Leticia in the Senate. Vote Leticia Naranjo for Senator. She will empower your student organizations." His kind message makes it clear. Voting for me will represent our unity and enhance our power to accomplish our mission. I will make certain that our organizations get an equal opportunity and the respect they deserve to operate their functions.

Being a member of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc. on campus, it helps me identify the fine policy that is set for student organizations in our charters. We, NEIU students, shall exercise our rights to get the most out of our organizations and help each other to become positive leaders for tomorrow.

I urge your strong support for the Vision Party candidates. Re-elect President Gaspard and his allies.

Vote Visionary!

Leticia Naranjo for Senator

STOJKOVIC, Laura

BANDY-LOWE, Cherelle

DAVIS, Marlon

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Marlon Davis. I have served as a Senator in Student Government for two semesters. I am pleased to announce my candidacy as a Student Government Senator. This year, I was one of the most active Senators in the SGA. My experience in the Senate has been overwhelming due to the exposure provided by the current SGA president, Gary Gaspard. As a freshmen at Northeastern, I was new to the university environment, students, and administration. My membership in the government has allowed me to become familiar with the campus policies, academic requirements, and issues affecting students.

I joined Student Government to improve the quality of campus life for students, increase student activities, and bring back the sports program. I would also like to continue seeing organizations visible and active on campus. This year, we provided funding for all student organization events.

I am a part of the Student Vision Party! This party was created for You. This year's election is important. In order to ensure that your voice is heard and your request are granted, I ask you to strongly support the Party that worked for you.

Vote for the Student Vision Party candidates: Gary Gaspard President, Kendra Young Vice-President, Senate Speaker Natacha Nivose, Student Trustee Elsadig Elmahdi, IBHE-SAC Rep. Andrea Daniels.

Vote Visionary!

Marlon Davis for Senator

SALAZAR, Olga

One of my priorities includes the belief that all students should have opportunities of being able to receive scholastic awards to continue their education. I am someone who cares about education not only for me but also for others. I know that without education, it is impossible for one to fulfill his/her dream. Education is the key to success! For that I believe money should be distributed properly among students in order to continue his/her education. My priority is to collaborate with the administration to help find scholastic awards for my students who would like to continue his/her study and have no money for it.

"A vote for Olga is a vote for collaboration with the administration to bring scholastic awards for all the students who are in need of it." Within the quote from President Gaspard, I have the confidence that we will work well together.

I have invested many hours involved in helping out my community. As an intern for the Honorable Congressman Luis V. Gutierrez, I have been able to help many people. I understand that it may be hard for some to attend here for three years and I am able to comprehend the needs of the students. While in Student Government I will have a great opportunity to expand my political horizons. As a political science major, I want to be involved in the government and the democratic process.

NIVOSE, Yardley

DULA, Victor A.

I have been observing the Student Government Association at Northeastern for several years. I have seen administrations, both good and bad, occupy positions of power to the benefit and detriment, respectively, of NEIU's students. Whether you, the students, are aware of Student Government's activities or not makes a difference in the quality of leadership elected to serve you.

In my campaigning efforts, I have talked with numerous students about Student Government, and often they respond with, "What's SGA?" This widespread apathy anchored to the institution of government must change, and it must begin here with the government that is supposed to be the most accessible, the Student Government Association at NEIU.

It is my personal plea to you, the students, to attend student government meetings, get involved in the political process, and educate yourselves about this most fundamental aspect of our lives.

"Oh, please! This is Student Government. How important to my life can it possibly be?" you may be asking yourself. It all starts when apathy gives way to active concern and participation, and what better way to start than with your Student Government.

I am running for a Senatorial position in the Student Government Association because I see and wish to reverse the damage that apathy has wreaked on what is supposed to be our representative body designed to voice the concerns of students and generate a positive campus experience. This is why the Student Action League's candidates are the best. We know what needs to be done, and we will do it. Vote for the Student Action League, and for more information before you make your decision, jump online, and go to www.neiu-sal.org.

PARKS, Angela

MOHEMADTALHA, Anarwala

MILLER, Brian

Fellow Peers:

My name is Brian Miller and I want to serve you as a Senator in the Student Government Association. Northeastern has diversity that no other university has. This is the perfect opportunity for all of us to learn about one another. I am committed to making certain that our University's environment promotes positive interchanging of culture. It would be a grave mistake if we do not unite and make the variety found here at Northeastern count for something.

Speaking of counting, I will work to make sure that all student organizations know that they are valuable and that their concerns matter. Adding more classes, scholarships, internships and educational travel matter to all students. My goal is to make sure that everyone knows that they are welcome to benefit from these things.

We have already moved into the fourth stage of mankind: Information Technology Age. Northeastern has the resources necessary to equip every student with the tools needed to become a part of the "provide" and not suffer from the digital divide. I could not bear the thought of one of us becoming obsolete because of our inability to fully utilize technology. I have started a student organization with the purpose of addressing these issues. It is a student chapter of the Chicago Computing Society (CCS). Fortunately, I have found a group of like-minded individuals who are as concerned as I am. The Student Vision Party advocates for all things that are important to students. For this reason, I, along with the rest of the visionaries am counting on your vote.

Sincerely,

Brian Miller

PIPER, Patricia

DESAI, Kirankumar P.

MILLWALA, Ahmad

DABULSKIS, Bryan

NARRANJO, Lehua

As a student here at Northeastern Illinois University I will be honored to become a Senator for our campus. I believe that we all should be a part of an organization here on campus to represent our leadership, dignity, and integrity. Every student organization program has developed and been recognized as representing our diverse culture. All of our organizations have strongly encouraged education as the key to success.

Voting for me as your Senator to represent our unity will enhance our power to accomplish our mission. I will make certain that our organizations get the equal opportunity to get the respect they deserve to operate their functions. I will also make sure that all organizations have more than two fundraisers on and off campus to develop the funds they need. As a Senator I will strongly encourage our staff and administration to value and gain trust in our organizations to help promote our pride.

Being involved as a member of Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority Inc., here on campus has helped me identify and be aware of most of the conflicts that we have on campus. For example getting a table in time for Open House, when we can and cannot do fundraisers, etc. As part of an organization I have done fundraisers on campus and also community services. We as students of Northeastern Illinois University have every right to get most of our organizations to help better others as well as ourselves.

N. P. B. (vote for one):

Herrera, Gaby

Magee, Michael

DANIELS, Andrea

PARKS, Angela

MILLER, Brian

Parties

continued from page 1

colleges and feels NEIU could benefit from a line that would link NEIU's various campuses throughout the city. The plan, in its early stages, might involve SGA's purchasing a van or two with the administration taking on the burden of paying for insurance, fuel, and drivers. Gaspard has also promised to continue his fight for students in the parking lots where he claims students are getting less tickets than last year due to efforts on his part and where he claims he helped save students \$233,000 in fees that would have paid for parking placards, through the SGA-sponsored parking forum held under his administration.

Return of the blue and gold?

Both SAL and VP also have concerned themselves with re-establishing NEIU in the realm of sports and the NCAA. Gaspard feels there is a need to compromise on the issue with the Board of Trustees, fearing more mandatory fees. "We need sports to bring in young students and to make NEIU a more complete learning environment," Gaspard said in defense of NEIU participation in inter-collegiate sports. "But such a move would be an investment and we would need a winning team." SAL Speaker candidate Caleb Avraham had similar goals, but did not feel a bold move into NCAA was necessarily the next step.

SAL, money, and Gaspard

The SGA was set up to manage an amount of money that stood last year at about \$330,000 in student fees. SAL's campaign focuses less on the issues above and more on the very reason that SGA exists. SAL coordinator Jacob Heiss has charged Gaspard and Kendra Young with mismanagement of those fees.

From the cost of refreshments served at SGA meetings (SAL maintains that \$100 is spent each meeting, the VP says only \$50 is spent) to the recent \$2000 student-fee-paid trip to a leadership conference in Boston for Young and Gaspard (in which Young cast the controversial deciding vote), Heiss stands firm in his opinion that SGA spends wastefully. Aside from "restoring respectful, efficient organization," Heiss says that SAL hopes to "[redirect] wastefully-spent monies from SGA officers back to the students."

Heiss accuses Pulido and Leadership presidential candidate Jason Cruz of being "unable to stop these motions despite their positions in the Senate and supposed 'experience.'" Heiss further claims that Cruz, a member of the SGA's Finance Committee was marked absent for every single committee meeting.

Gaspard stands by the decisions made by the SGA during his tenure as president and proudly boasts that every club that has asked for money has gotten what they asked for and more. Even SAL presidential candidate Dobrzynski benefitted from this policy, according to Gaspard. "When Luke [Dobrzynski] came to us for

Student Action League endorsements bring up many unanswered questions

by Scott Plencner
Associate Editor

The website of the Student Action League (SAL), one of two major organizations formed to defeat Gaspard's Vision Party in this week's election, lists eight student organizations which have "officially" endorsed SAL candidates. The reported endorsements of at least two of these organizations is bringing many questions to the forefront as the campaign comes to a full boil.

The endorsement list is comprised of a hodge podge of organizations that SAL admits make strange bed-fellows, including FMA, Hillel, the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, NEPSA, and the Marketing and Politics clubs.

SAL reports of an official endorsement from the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) came as a surprise not only to SAL opponents, but also to the members of the FMLA.

While FMLA president Ellen Larrimore said that she personally feels the SAL ticket is a strong one, she was surprised to see FMLA

published as an official endorser of SAL. "We have made no official endorsements," she stated in a phone interview Saturday, "although we do plan to meet with SAL people at our meeting on Tuesday."

In a statement on the same day, SAL veep candidate Georgia Logothetis said that Larrimore "has given us [SAL] her full support *on behalf* of the FMLA." She further added that SAL intended to include an FMLA member in their ticket as a Senatorial candidate, but that these plans fell through as registration deadlines came and went last month.

SAL campaign coordinator and webmaster Jacob Heiss claims that he did not personally talk to FMLA, but received word from other candidates that the well-known feminist organization had made the decision to "officially support" SAL.

Vision party organizer and incumbent presidential candidate Gary Gaspard urged his SAL opponent Lukasz Dobrzynski to "prove the endorsement." Gaspard said in a recent interview, "I have many friends in the FMLA, and I know they are not going to support it [the endorsement]." He pointed out,

what he felt, was a good history between himself and the FMLA, citing the SGA's funding of the FMLA-sponsored Holly Near concert a few months ago. "I know what FMLA stands for, and I'm not sure they would stand for SAL," said Gaspard.

"They jumped the gun," said Larrimore in response to the news. She looks forward to speaking with SAL representatives on Tuesday.

Gaspard also had issue with the official endorsement reported by SAL's website of NEIU's Honors Program. "The Honors Program is not a student organization," he stated. If the program, an arm of the university, actually made the endorsement, it would prove a bold and revolutionary move on the part of program coordinator Kathy Kardaras. In no other SGA election in recent history has the university, or any department of the college, made an official endorsement of a candidate or group of candidates.

Kardaras had not responded as of press time to confirm the report, but SAL coordinator Jacob Heiss stood by the report of the Honors Program endorsement. "We received the

endorsement of the Honors Program for a number of reasons," he said, "but mainly because in Kathy's opinion, we have the best candidates for the job." Heiss went on to point out that every SAL candidate happens to be a current participant in the Honors Program.

Heiss maintains that "the election rules do not prohibit any department, program, or faculty member from supporting any candidate." He cited section V.6 of the SGA Election packet which leaves campaigning in the class up to the discretion of the instructor and told the *Independent* that a number of professors support SAL. "In the absence of any rule stating otherwise, Kathy agreed to extend the Program's official endorsement to us as well," Heiss concluded.

Gaspard, meanwhile, said he would look into the matter and admitted that he has little time to keep up on the doings of his opponents.

The campaign website Saturday also falsely reported the impeachments of President Gaspard and Vice-President Young.

As of Sunday night, SAL changed all the discrepancies on their website.

Gaspard answers questions about recent appointment

by Scott Plencner
Associate Editor

President Gary Gaspard, in an interview Saturday, addressed opponents' questions about the removal of current senatorial candidate Ahmad Millwala and the re-appointment of Duene Otero to the vacated seat.

Otero was initially appointed by Gaspard earlier this spring to fill a vacant seat and, according to the president, was a very involved and active senator. Otero, though, resigned his post for personal reasons, despite the advice of several fellow senators and Gaspard-allies who urged Otero to reconsider his decision. Otero resigned and left his Senate seat vacant, a seat that was up for re-election this spring.

Meanwhile, Senator Ahmad Millwala was growing weary of funding for his Euro program he asked for \$18,000," said Gaspard, "we gave him \$21,000 and he took it and he didn't complain."

The election so far

As of press time and after one day of voting, Gaspard reportedly leads Dobrzynski and Cruz with 79 votes. Unlike last year's election, which ended in a fiasco, this year's election will be performed on paper ballots only. The votes are counted each day after voting concludes in the presence of several witnesses.

Whatever the outcome, this election already stands out as one dominated by parties, hard-fought campaigns, and the sort of controversy Gaspard, Pulido, and Heiss have never seemed afraid to trudge through.

what he called the "this side of the table versus that side of the table" politics of the Gaspard administration. "I lost all my initial motivation that I had in the fall when I first ran for senator after I witnessed the dirty politics of the SGA," commented Millwala.

Millwala soon, according to Gaspard and the records kept by Speaker Nivose, missed enough meetings to be officially removed from the SGA, whose constitution forces removal if three meetings are missed in a row or throughout the course of one semester, or five during a term.

According to Millwala, Gaspard informed him that he was "no longer a member of the Senate." Gaspard refused to acknowledge that he removed Millwala. "Nobody has the power to remove," explained Gaspard. "It's an automatic vacancy." As of yet, Millwala has been unable to confirm whether he missed enough meetings to be automatically removed and despite his unclear attendance record he hopes to win a second Senate seat this spring with the Student Action League (SAL) opposition party. "This time I believe that with a new executive board things are going to be different," says Millwala of his renewed interest in serving as a Senator, "and that would encourage me to participate actively."

Otero officially was re-appointed by President Gaspard in March, filling Millwala's vacated seat, but questions were raised by the then forming SAL and SAL candidate Victor Dula, who feared Otero resigned simply to avoid running for office, something Otero has never done.

"We did nothing illegal," responded Gaspard to the allegations. the president has stated

that he doesn't quite know where the controversy came from and accused SAL of "disagreeing with everything that has my name on it" and dismissed the already minor allegations as a simple attempt to gain some attention.

"Otero would have had no problem getting elected," said Gaspard. "I do not understand the

controversy. If it was an executive member of the SGA, I could see it, but it is a Senate seat."

Gaspard also claimed no hard feelings for Millwala, whom Gaspard claimed he motivated into running for office. "If Millwala came to talk to me about it," said the president, "he would have been instantly given his seat back."



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Ad Council

Candidates speak out on topics

by John L. Bracich
Senior Staff Member

It's election time again at North Eastern; stakes are high as all the executive positions are open for the running. Thirty people running, one must wonder where they stand on the issues facing everyone at NEIU. Students should care, or at the very least give the appearance of caring who is elected into the Student Government Association. SGA controls a the flow of a large amount of money, allocating to the various clubs and organizations that populate our august campuses. Over the past year, SGA has been home to a lot of controversy and excitement. When the elections are over, whoever wins, will be in a position of considerable influence. It behooves the populace at large to know who exactly will be wielding such influence.

Recently, several of the candidates running for office were interviewed. Candidates from the New Vision party refused to take part in the interviews. Other candidates could not be contacted in time to take part in the interview.

The candidates who participated in the interview were asked three simple but pertinent questions. The first question was how the tough the candidate thought the competition in his given position and between the parties would be. Following this was an inquiry on what the candidate wished to accomplish if elected into the Student Government Association. Lastly, the question of what was the biggest issue on campus was given to the candidate. Each candidate was given as much time he/she needed to answer the question.

Lukasz Dobrzynski, Student Action League candidate for President of the SGA.

1) *How tough do you think the competition is?*

LD: What surprised me was that they (New Vision Party) campaigned very late. If the students paid more attention to the issues, Gary wouldn't do so well. We don't know how well he'll do, we'll see how the campaign goes. We have a very strong diverse ticket.

2) *What do you want to accomplish with the Student*

Government Association, if elected?

LD: The major issue is to make SGA stronger, more visible. Over the past year, the SGA has not made a connection with the students. We need a united Student Government Association. There is a lot of arguing going on in SGA; they get nothing done and waste time – just all talking and no action. If elected, we will make the government stronger, and will use it's strength to improve the image for North Eastern. Build a better image of NEIU outside.

3) *What do you think is the biggest issue on campus now?*

LD: I think the biggest issue is the lack of student involvement. I want to encourage the student body to be more active and involved in everyday campus life. The greater the number of students involved in a variety of activities, the greater the impact they will have on our university.

Georgia Logothetis, Student Action League candidate for Vice Presidency of the SGA

1) *How tough do you think the competition is?*

GL: I think Louis is a worthy opponent. I'm not worried about the competition from the New Vision Party, because I know North Eastern students are intelligent enough to see through the façade of their (New Vision Party) campaign; and realize that Kendra Young is unqualified for the position. Overall, I know we have run a clean organized campaign that will Student Action League in office.

2) *What do you want to accomplish with the Student Government Association, if elected?*

GL: My main objective is to make SGA work for the students again. Student government has been to wrapped up in internal bickering and conflict to accomplish anything over the past year. If I'm elected, I will work to establish a student book exchange because I believe students' need an alternative to the monopoly that exists now on campus. I also want SGA to reach out to student organizations and encourage them to use the funds that are allocated to SGA for the enhancement of campus life. As it stands, only a handful of the student groups use all the funds, a statistic that needs to be changed.

Basically, I want SGA to work for the students and not the senators and executives of SGA.

3) *What do you think is the biggest issue on campus now?*

GL: I believe that North Eastern students are in dire need of competent committed representation. Students have approached me with complaints and suggestions, which prove to me that NEIU student body was not apathetic – they actually care about the quality of their education and what goes around campus. Moreover, I know that if the students had a proper forum for addressing the issues of faculty competence, parking, textbooks, and advisement, we could really enhance our university.

Tineeka Reed, Leadership for the Future candidate for SGA Speaker

1) *How tough do you think the competition is?*

TR: Very, very, we have a lot of people.

2) *What do you want to accomplish with the Student Government Association, if elected?*

TR: Diversify more than already is. I also want the speakers position to be more noticeable.

3) *What do you think is the biggest issue on campus now?*

TR: Tie between the parking situation and the need for more classes.

Caleb Avrahan, Student Action League candidate for SGA Speaker

1) *How tough do you think the competition is?*

CA: I think that competition overall is tough. For the speaker, I'm running are tough.

2) *What do you want to accomplish with the Student Government Association, if elected?*

CA: Establish order and uphold the constitution at senate meetings.

3) *What do you think is the biggest issue on campus now?*

CA: Parking of course, always has been. Along with U-pass, name

recognition (for the school) with the rest of the academic community.

Mynor Lopez, Leadership for the Future candidate for IBHE-SAC Representative.

1) *How tough do you think the competition is?*

ML: It's very strong.

2) *What do you want to accomplish with the Student Government Association, if elected?*

ML: I would like to make new organizations. Increase support for Latino organizations. See more Latino leadership.

3) *What do you think is the biggest issue on campus now?*

ML: Student fees, because class fees are going too high. We're not getting enough grants.

Victor A. Dula, Student Action League candidate for SGA Senate.

1) *How tough do you think the competition is?*

VD: If the question is are there more competent senate candidates than I, I would say very few, if any.

2) *What do you want to accomplish with the Student Government Association, if elected?*

VD: My goals are very narrow and focused. I want to first of all, do my best to make sure student activity fees are not wasted in SGA; that includes such wasteful spending as catered food for meetings and unnecessary trips for executive officers. My other main goal is to help strengthen of if necessary replace SGA's current constitution to prevent further abuses of power in office.

3) *What do you think is the biggest issue on campus now?*

VD: I think the biggest issue on campus, whether students are aware of it or not, is SGA itself. Students need to know what SGA is doing, so that at the very least they can make their concerns known to their peers who can make a difference. The current problems in SGA are a direct result of student disassociation and non involvement for; for SGA to get better, this must change.

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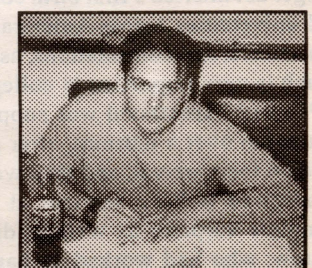
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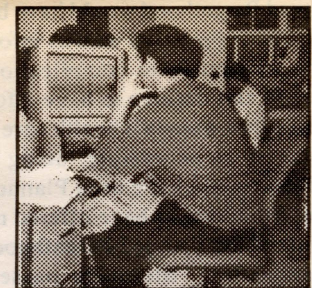
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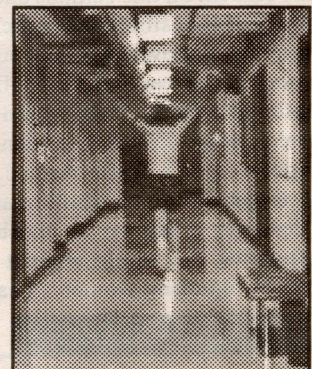
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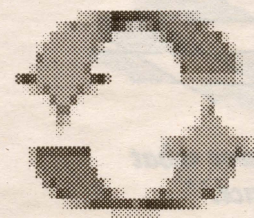
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PERSPECTUS

OPINION

BY SHANA STONE *OPINIONS EDITOR*

Planned Parenthood controversy not over

Several months ago, I reported on a story that Planned Parenthood would be arriving at our school. Unfortunately, because of the closed mindedness of individuals such as Salme Steinberg; school president, and the board members, Planned Parenthood is now a thing of the past.

It was decided last month, in March that Planned Parenthood would not be welcomed at our highly esteemed institution. Wondering why they are not arriving? Well I am too, and so is Jessica Lettow, director of health services, who had been planning their arrival.

Planned Parenthood, which was founded in 1916, by Margaret Sanger as America's first birth control clinic, is now in many colleges and universities across America. They offer birth control options, pap smears, and consultations, as well as being extremely affordable, which is very important to college-aged students.

Planned Parenthood was supposed to be a go at our school, but confusion over a morning after pill called Plan B, seemed to put a hold on their arrival, and then word came down that they would not be allowed to have services at NEIU at all. News of this was a complete surprise as well as disappointment to many, including Lettow, who had worked so hard for Planned Parenthood to be a reality in our university's health services.

Salme Steinberg as well as the board members never explained to Lettow their reasons as to why Planned Parenthood would not be allowed, and never even asked Lettow any questions as to what Plan B is or as to what alternatives could be made.

When speaking with Lettow last month about Plan B, I had asked her if she could have Planned Parenthood offer their services, but not offer Plan B. Her response was that sure she could do that, but why should she have to. Plan B is not the abortion pill, and all colleges in Illinois offer it, so why shouldn't we? We are not a religious university and even De Paul and Loyola offer Plan B.

Obviously Steinberg and the board are completely in the dark about women's health needs, and sexual health is critical for all women. Planned Parenthood would have been offering pap smears, affordable birth control pills, as well as inform students on STD's. Women are more susceptible to complications from STD's than men are, and we need and deserve to have affordable care. Steinberg should not believe that women's health care is a privilege, but it is our right. It would be so accessible, being at our school, and many female students would have used Planned Parenthood's services.

For Steinberg to have offered no explanation to Lettow as to why she nixed the Planned Parenthood arrival is not only selfish but also irresponsible. Steinberg passed on a great service for women students, and she has the nerve to decline comment to me as well as declining comment to Lettow. Steinberg has made a very big mistake as well as making a bad name for herself. She has insulted every female student on this campus and every woman student should hold Steinberg responsible for her lack of common sense.

Currently, Lettow is working on getting another service for women to come to our campus, and offer the same services as Planned Parenthood would. They would offer pap smears as well as birth control options. Lettow has been wonderful in her efforts in finding the right women's health service. Lettow has been relentless in her quest to get affordable health care for women at Northeastern and she deserves a big pat on the back. As for Steinberg, who has disappointed the whole student body, she should be ashamed of herself for ignoring women's health needs.

DRAWING BOARD



"Unfortunately, you have what we call 'no insurance.'"

QUOTABLES

I gave up on new poetry myself 30 years ago, when most of it began to read like coded messages passing between lonely aliens in a hostile world.

Russell Baker

Politics is the gentle art of getting votes from the poor and campaign funds from the rich by promising to protect each other from the other.

Oscar Ameringer

Elections are held to delude the populace into believing that they are participating in government.

Gerald Lieberman

Being in politics is like being a football coach. You have to be smart enough to understand the game and stupid enough to think it's important.

Eugene McCarthy

A conservative is a man who thinks and sits, mostly sits.

Woodrow Wilson

It is inexcusable for scientists to torture animals; let them make their experiments on journalists and politicians.

Henrik Ibsen

The study of people who do not need to be studied by people who do.

E.S. Turner on "sociology."

The marvels of modern technology include the development of a soda can which, when discarded, will last forever – and a \$7,000 dollar car which, when properly cared for, will rust in two or three years.

Paul Harwitz.

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups – alcohol, caffeine, sugar, and fat.

Alex Levine

The immature poet imitates; the mature poet plagiarizes.

T.S. Eliot

OPINION

BY SEAN RILEY, *STAFF MEMBER*

Life just going to the dogs

On Jan. 26, 2001, Diane Whipple was attacked and killed by a pair of 120-pound dogs as she was entering her sixth floor apartment in Pacific Heights, San Francisco. The owners of the dogs, Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller, both defense attorneys, lived on the same floor as Whipple. As authorities investigated whether or not Knoller and Noel should face criminal charges they discovered a bizarre world that got people of San Francisco riled up.

It turns out that Knoller and Noel were taking care of the dogs for two inmates at Pelican Bay State Penitentiary, also in California. The inmates, Paul "Cornfed" Schneider and Dale Bretches are described as members of the Aryan Brotherhood white supremacist gang involved in a scheme to breed and sell vicious dogs. Apparently Knoller and Noel met "Cornfed" through a criminal trial a few years before and hit it off.

Knoller and Noel keep these dogs in their apartment in San Francisco. The dogs, Presa Canarios, are from the Canary Islands in Spain where they were outlawed in the 30's because they were too vicious. Those involved in dog fighting circles know Presa Canarios to be bigger, stronger, and more mean than Pitbulls.

Prior to Whipple's death, neighbors filed almost 30 complaints against the dogs. It's amazing enough that they were

allowed to keep these dogs in a sixth floor apartment but even more so after 30 complaints.

Perhaps what makes this story so strange is what happened after Whipple was killed; Knoller and Noel adopted Schneider. Yup, they ADOPTED him. I guess you can adopt adults in California. The reasoning behind this adoption is still unclear and to make matters even more bizarre investigators found naked pictures of Knoller in the recently adopted inmates cell. I guess Freud was on to something.

Knoller and Noels reaction to Whipple's death has been described as callous and "cold-hearted." Knoller wrote to his recently adopted son Schneider in jail to explain the incident and said if the neighbors didn't like his dogs they'd have to move out. In their trial one of their defenses was that the reason they were being prosecuted was to please the gay population of San Francisco (Whipple was gay). Throughout the trial they showed no remorse and their lawyer apparently was quite the spectacle; she actually got down on all fours and barked, kicked the jury box, and screamed "way too much."

When on March 21, 2002 a jury in California convicted the two lawyers, one for second-degree murder and the other for manslaughter of Diane Whipple most people felt justice was done. It was a precedent setting

case in California, no one had been convicted of a murder their dog committed prior to this case. For many, this ruling was long overdue.

I won't go so far as to say that there are either 'dog lovers' or 'dog haters' in the world but I think do think that there are those who like dogs around, and those who don't. Generally I prefer no dogs, but if it's a bouncy puppy or Golden retrievers I'm usually fine. However I find Rotweillers and Pitbulls too strong and psychologically deranged for me to be comfortable when they are around.

They say that a dog's temperament depends on how it was raised but after I was bit in the face last year by a pit-bull whose owner assured she 'never' bit I've grown wary of that tale. What I want to know is, who is responsible for my bleeding nose and scared mind? Does the owner buy me a new lunch when I'm sitting in the park and their dog kicks dirt all over my food? Who is going to give me clean clothes when their 'cute' doggie jumps on me and gets slobber all over my nice slacks? If I push the dog away softly it will come back, if I push the dog very hard I could be yelled at.

This may seem trivial to some but for those who don't like being attacked, either friendly or unfriendly, by 'mans best friend' we looking at 'man' to take responsibility of his dogs.

REV's back..... but for how long?
Read it while you can!

REV

extremely local entertainment ~ pull-out section

Comin' on home

by Mike Cahill
Special Contributor

While it has been my mission in my two previous articles to alert everyone to albums that should be given a chance from bands that many have not ever heard of, it is also my duty to remind the faithful readers of the *Independent* of albums that they may have forgotten. That is why my album this week is Bob Dylan's *Bringing It All Back Home*.

In the glorious history of rock music and as well as folk music, few artists have touched the landscape like Dylan has. His influence in music was almost immediate upon his arrival, and it still exists today. Bands still cover his songs. Bands have lyrical freedom because Dylan gave it to them some 40 years ago. No one in music is as respected or admired by their peers as Bob Dylan is. To understand why *Bringing It All Back Home* is such an amazing record, it's important to know where it came from.

Bringing It All Back Home was Dylan's fourth album. It has to be one of the most important records of the 1960's, or any decade for that matter. When Dylan first came to New York in 1961, not yet 20 years old, he was in the midst of a folk uprising. Folk music, which had existed for years, was becoming a more significant part of the musical landscape. Things were swelling for the folk scene, and Dylan was just a kid, hoping to get involved.

New York was the Mecca of folk music. The Village, which was put on the map by Kerouac and the Beat Generation, was its temple. Dylan began there, playing coffee house shows, blowing the public away. It was later that year that Dylan would sign a five year deal to Columbia records.

Dylan's first three albums were brilliant. They were rough around the edges, but they were some of folk music's finest work to date. His songs were mature and confident. He had ideas, and he knew how to connect them with his audience. Songs of social protest, of government double talk, and of racism were the backbone of his message. With Dylan's first two albums, he had not only become a folk god, but he had somehow managed to become the voice for an entire generation. Business was really picking up for Bob.

By Dylan's third album, *Another Side of Bob Dylan*, Dylan had begun to grow weary of his political protest. He was jaded by the idea that an entire culture had begun to look to him for the answers and direction of their own political angst. While Dylan's words have never been short of amazing and have always been important to him, it was the music as a whole that he cared about, not just a message. On *Another Side of Bob Dylan* he begins to lay hints to his audience that he was changing direction. In "My Back Pages" he states "But I was so much

see Bob
continued on page 2



Movie reviews for the average Joe

by Brian Blaszkowski
Chief Editor

Let me first bid a nice "howdy-do" to you all, and introduce myself. I'm going to help all you average Joes and Janes find movies that don't completely suck. At eight bucks a pop, we can't have people wandering into movies, simply hoping for the best. No, that just doesn't make sense. So, here's the deal. I'll see the movies, I'll tell you if they were any good or not! Sound good? It better, because that's what's happening.

I saw two movies recently, *Resident Evil* and *Blade 2*. Before I jump into the reviews, let me clarify a thing or two. I don't do research. I'm not going to tell you the actors names, or how many awards they won, or any of that crap. I'll go straight into the movie plot and the action, and how well it worked. If I happen to know the names of actors in it, then I might mention them. Secondly, if you haven't seen these movies and don't want them spoiled, go read something else. Thirdly and most importantly, if you don't like swearing, leave. This is for the average person, and the average person won't hesitate to swear every now and then. OK, now that *that's* out of the way, let's start in alphabetical order with *Blade 2*.

This is a sequel to *Blade*, obviously. A little background on the series: Wesley Snipes plays Blade, a vampire hunter. Apparently, a vampire got hold of his mother while she was pregnant with baby Blade, thus creating a bad-ass half-vampire half-human type person. The result? From a line delivered by some actor/vampire in the first *Blade* movie, Blade the character has "All of their [vampire's] strengths, and none of their weaknesses."

In short, he can go pick daisies in the middle

of a blazing hot summer day, and not be affected. Garlic doesn't bug him, neither do crosses or stuff like that. A stake in the heart will still probably kill him, but hey, if I ram a spike of wood in *your* chest, let's see *you* walk it off.

Only problem is he needs to drink blood. Some old guy that he befriends (in a "mentor" kinda way) creates a drug and makes Blade take it regularly, like vitamins. Except, the drug suppresses his urge to feed off of humans.

OK, enough background. here's the deal: the first one was *way* better. That's usually the case with sequels anyway, so no surprise there. The unfortunate aspect of this is that the makers of the second *Blade* seemed to think that adding a plot would be a good thing. To put it bluntly, they fucked up a good thing: the first *Blade* was action packed and rife with witty pseudo-put downs, like any good action flick should be. There was obviously a chain of events that could loosely be termed a "plot," but it wasn't stuffed down your throat. It was there, if you wanted to check it out, fine. If not, then there was still the violence and blood to see.

In *Blade 2*, however, they emphasize the plot. To a degree of idiocy. The plot isn't overly complicated, but it seems damn near like rocket science when you realize that this is a movie about *vampires*. Plenty of twists and turns, lots of sub-plots and double dealings, and a little sappy love thrown in create a thick stew of crap. The violence is still good, but the plot is just everywhere. Can't run or hide from it, and embracing it is a mistake. Bottom line, turn the volume off unless someone's fighting.

Blade 2 grade: B-. The action is really cool, the plot gets in the way of enjoying the movie. Kinda

like a porn movie. Skip the dialogue and get to the good stuff!

Now, we come to *Resident Evil*. A movie based off a video game. If memories of that wretched *Super Mario Bros.* movie sneaks into your mind, tell it to get the hell out, because this was a good, solid movie. First off, it stars that chick from that Bruce Willis flick, *The Fifth Element*. I don't know her name, but damn, I wish I knew her number. She takes ass-kicking to new degrees of sensuality. I'm seeing this movie again just to watch *her*, and not concentrate on the actual plot.

I wish I could give you background on the movie, but I really can't. never played the game. All I know is there's some engineered virus that turns people into zombies. But, luckily, that's all I needed to know. The movie starts off quick, and confusing. But, eventually, all things get explained. The chick from the Willis movie (I'll call her Melanie, since I like that name and it's easier than writing "that chick from the Willis movie" over and over) and another character apparently live in a house, but they don't remember anything. the house is a cover for "the Hive," which is some secret lab that US government employees work in. They do all sorts of things, but the big one is genetic experiments and biological warfare research. Obviously, the shit hit the fan pretty hard, and now a clean-up crew is heading down to find

Bob

continued from page 1

older then/ I'm younger than that now." This was Bob's way of telling everyone that he had grown tired of being a leader, that he was only 24, that he wanted a change. Dylan wanted the ability to be young and free with his music. To change when he wanted, however he wanted.

Then came *Bringing It All Back Home*. The album was the start of a whole new era for Dylan. Music would be more up-tempo, it would be electric, it would be his way, and only his way, forever. The album opens with "Subterranean Homesick Blues," the stream of consciousness explosion in an altogether rockin' track. This seemed to be Dylan freeing himself from the chains that once bound him. It was all the things he wished he could've wrote. It was nothing of importance, just brilliant and lacking a political view. Spanning only 2:21, it's was an alarming way to kick off the album. This was also the first single released, sending a shock to his legions of fans that he had arrived once again, and had brought a different Bob with him.

Next came "She Belongs To Me." This track made a lot of sense to put next. It was tame in comparison to "Subterranean," which undoubtedly shocked a lot of Dylan's followers. In "She Belongs To Me" he begins with "She's got everything she needs/She an artist/She don't look back." This was most certainly a message to his followers to let them know that he had changed, and there were to be no apologies or regrets for doing it.

Dylan's next song was "Maggie's Farm." Dylan fans had had a chance to become acquainted with it months earlier when he debuted it at The Newport Folk Festival (although it reportedly was played like shit), much to the dismay of his fans who booed his attempt to go electric. "Maggie's Farm" can be seen as a lot of things. One thought was that it was a new wave Dylan protest song, while other still seemed to feel that it was once again a message to fan's saying that he would be doing music with his own rules and limitations, not those rules and limitations dictated by the wants and needs of his fans.

Perhaps the best part of the album are the eighth, ninth, and tenth tracks. "Mr. Tambourine Man" was the eighth, a stunningly beautifully weird song about drugs or anything else you can imagine him to talk about. This was for his folk fans, a throw back of sorts to the Dylan they're used to.

out who fucked what up.

It's eventually discovered that Lemanie and some other guy (lucky bastard) were working for the Hive, basically pretending to be husband and wife to cover up the fact that the house is just some big conspiracy. When the virus got released somehow (go see it and find out how), the house released some amnesia gas as a precaution, and went into full lockdown as a fail safe, so the virus doesn't get loose.

With this interesting and completely unbelievable plot, the movie goes into a suspense/horror motif, with some good old-fashioned ass-kicking to spice things up. very exciting and cool, a must-see for any guy. Ladies might want to take a pass, unless you like this sort of thing.

Resident Evil grade—A-. The minus is because Melanie is so damn cute, and always stays so damn clothed. Except towards the end, but that's more of a tease. A pleasant tease, but a tease nonetheless.

That's it for now, but I'm looking to check out *Panic Room*, *Signs*, *Spiderman*, and *Jason X* in the near future. If this review wasn't as informative as you'd like, well, can't please everyone.

Until next time.

"Gates of Eden" follows and is done with great vision and maturity. Here Dylan plays with the idea of Eden, playing to its advantages and limitations. He speaks of it as a safety zone for the justification of the wrong doings of everyone: "There are no sins inside the gates of Eden." It's about the traps of our own inflated sense of self: "Leaving men wholly and totally free/to do anything they wish to do but die." His voice is strong and intense. This folk song is one of Dylan's all-time great, but forgotten, masterpieces.

Now maybe Dylan's best moment on this record, or arguably any other record, might be "It's Alright, Ma(I'm Only Bleeding)." This eight minute folk epic is filled with colorful imagery, and strong messages. Most believe this song to be yet another Dylan song about his idea to change his musical direction. Masked as a letter to ma, Dylan plays with the many thoughts and feelings he's having about the backlash of going electric, and the hurt he feels about it. "So don't fear/if you hear/ a foreign sound/ to your ear/ it's alright, ma/I'm only sighing." In this Dylan justifies himself and the ability to do it regardless of fan backlash. "Sometimes, even the President of the United States must have to stand naked." In the end you realize that this sort of angry towards his going electric will give him strength, and will not keep him from making the music he wants.

Bringing It All Back Home is amazing in Dylan's ability to slowly ease his audience into his new sound. Dylan still fills a large portion of the album his folk music, and sprinkles the electric in accordingly. This album was just the beginning of many things for Bob and the world of music. It wouldn't be long after *Bringing It All Back Home* that dealing would make "Like a Rolling Stone" a change the face of the length and meaning of a single on the radio. Soon after he would gives us rock's first double album. And of course he would constantly set the standard for reinventing yourself.

It would have been impossible for Dylan to give up folk completely. No matter what Dylan does, there will always be two certainties. One is that a Dylan album will always have a laid back folk-like number, and that regardless of what Dylan does on a rock song, it will always be a little folk rock.

Bringing It All Back Home didn't just change the landscape for Bob, it changed the landscape for music in general. Bob made it okay to change. Bob made it okay to be an artist and to never look back.



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poetry from Brian

Some talk of you and me

So you never really needed _____
And I always kinda thought I needed quite a bit.
As the conversation dribbled onward with crab claws
scuttling—
I think we would have been better off
As a pair of squirrels chasing each other up and down tress
Instead of this transgression between thorny branches
Far flung, high above the grounded rose bushes of—
We left a lot behind to get here, cozy clouds billowing
Where are we now?
Are you sure it was all that bad before?
Down there, back then, maybe if we—
I really never expected any kind of answer when
With a slight nod and smile I volunteered up my confession,
“I think we need to talk about this, I—
I’ve been meaning to say this for a while now, I—
I’ve really come to feel very strongly for—“
Nothing at all
Did creep back out at me from the dark night of your—
Silence prevailing on the other side of the line
So I bit it off with a light to the butt-end of my day
I always rather figured that a blind eye would be turned
You can’t afford to watch my dreams again
Up there on a higher limb with all the unapproachable—
Subject of conversation that we’ll probably never have
Fly as wounded birds in the salty fluids of my misdirected
Mind — Full of all the uneasy glances and coffee
Stirring up the sugar from the milky cream in my blood—
I just don’t know if this is all I really wanted
And you’re not sure if this is anything you ever wanted.
I always rather hoped it would end with a bang—
I rather always think it will end with a whimper.



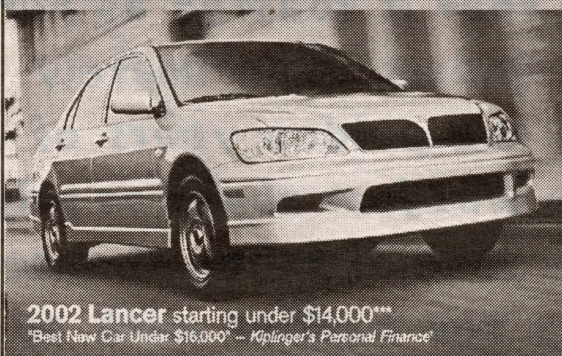
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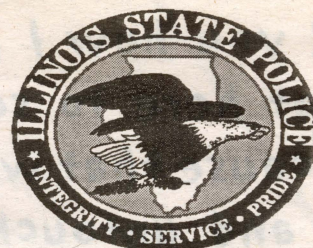
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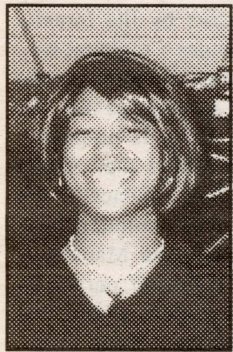
Chasing Eden

And...

my hot smoky world of melted wax, burnt cigar butts, and creepy-crawly spiders plump with wine that is toasted as pure mother's milk of nighttime wonderment that youth knows as intimately as a bed partner but which we've all left behind as the golden years of foggy memory back when it didn't matter and the sun was just about as bright as it ever would be again and the moon was a salty slice of green cheese to be placed upon a cracker and nibbled while having tea parties with all the other dolls and toys of "Wonderland come back!" and I'd ask you not to laugh at my clumsy movements of disjointed flow with discordant notes that really were there to represent life and our times together underneath the tree of stars when no one was looking and we could slip off our masks and make love with our eyes that then didn't know how to close doors to the soul or say goodbye and hang up the phone-tic spellings are all gibberish sounds but I was dancing to them anyway and yes I was dancing with my uncoordinated movements as I'm prone to do when... but maybe it was an intonation of the most desperate sort of divination in hopes of summoning up a picture of you as I pranced alone between the licks of candle flame when everything was still lit up and did I tell you how I paint the most beautiful pictures of you and I when you're not here to see them but I can't put them into words or down on paper because that would take away their essential element of being lighter than air and untouched by this world that's done us wrong and do you remember what it was like before when we would have been calling it love already and not worrying about what could happen because it was not scary on the playground when I could push you on the swings with your hair blowing back like great wings that would carry you up into the stars where you belong and the only place that was really safe and we would laugh and I would explore the skin on your back with gentle hesitant fingers looking for the place between the bones where you had those wings and tickling your fancy with silly words of a day long past but I asked your pardon for trying to collect a mood when I only really wanted to bring it all together and present it on a silver platter in a banquet that I held in your honor if you would but allow me I'll dream enough for both of us and beg you to come with me while I promise to show you how to do it again and you'll remember if you'll just trust enough in everything I can't say and the little light that shines behind the eyes of a child who knows what it really means and is just trying to get your attention so he can tell you while I listen-in silently as if they were the first words ever spoken and this was just the beginning... maybe this is just the beginning.

What happened to Planned Parenthood?

Students speak out about forgotten program



"I believe it should come here because we do have a lot of young parents who go here. I'm a parent myself. I think it was wrong that the program was stopped. It would empower women. By stopping it, they are denying women the right to control their own bodies. That's not right. Give me the right to choose at least."

Shaneetha Lewis

"I think that health care services needs to be provided here on campus. Planned Parenthood has been around a long time and is a healthcare service a lot of women already use. They have to go facilities that aren't close by. It would be really nice to have this type of facility at Northeastern. It would be really timely for us and more cost effective."

Lisa Ashor



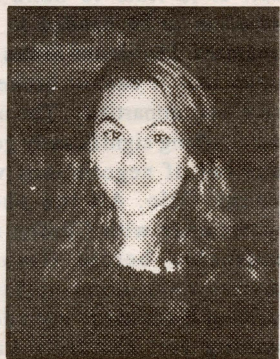
"I think they should give some justification. Generally, I think Planned Parenthood is beneficial. Definitely when people enter college they get a lot more sexually active. If you don't have information and resources, especially emergency contraception, you run a risk of pregnancy and Planned Parenthood is a good step in stopping that. The bottom line is that there is a good service being denied to the students for what I think are ideological reasons."

Tom Robb



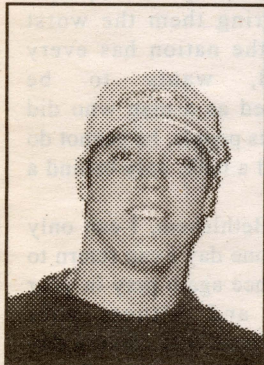
"I'm indifferent. I think it's a good service for those who think they need it. I don't think it was right for the school to deny the program. If they give away free condoms I think another incentive should be added on to what we allow here at this school in terms of sexuality for women, and men."

Ada Ortiz



"It's not fair to the students who are parents or who have family members who are parents who could pass that knowledge along. This free country and we need that kind of support for everyone."

Ben Newburg



"I feel it would be an asset for Planned Parenthood to come. I think that the services could be used. If they were planned to come here I think they should have come. By telling them not to is a slap in the face. It's a service that should be provided."

Eric Kowalke



MAILBAG

LETTERS FROM INDEPENDENT READERS

Right-wings are wrong

Dear Editor,

In his article, "Go Away, Planned Parenthood", *Independent* associate editor Scott Plencer pulls out all the stops as he treats us to yet another lurid display of his relentless ring-wing paranoia. He conjures up images of Planned Parenthood "operatives" roaming the school "advising expectant mothers to abort." He insists that Planned Parenthood is out to "oppress" us, mainly by distorting "our perceptions of liberty" by spreading the diabolical lie that "freedom" might actually have something to do with "choice".

What the hell has Plencer been smoking? Does he even believe what he is saying? I sometimes think that the *Independent* only runs articles like his to create a flood of printable rebuttals and thus save themselves the work of actually putting a halfway decent paper together.

Christianity suppressed at NEIU? Give me a break! There is at least one (the Intervarsity Christian Fellowship), and probably more than one, Christian group that meets regularly on campus. Students get together and pray, study the Bible, and do all kinds of pious things. The second floor of the student union building is bible-study central. Most afternoons, you can't swing a dead cat up there with hitting one of the faithful. And what evidence has Plencer that Catholics are especially oppressed? Since he presents none, I think it is safe to say he has none.

Plencer's attempt to smear Planned Parenthood by portraying it as some kind of mass conspiracy of latter-day eugenicists is equally ludicrous.

To be sure, Planned Parenthood does have a checkered history. For example,

early in this century, Planned Parenthood worked hand in hand with the US government to forcibly sterilize poor women in Puerto Rico (see Betsy Hartmann's book, *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs*, p. 97). However, using this argument to say that contemporary Planned Parenthood should not be allowed on campus is like saying we should all boycott Krupps and Volkswagen products because those companies once worked for Nazi Germany.

Most appalling is Plencer's pretended concern for "the lives of the unborn". Plencer writes, "A life in poverty is not a wasted life and in a nation as great and fair as ours anyone has potential and at least the write to live." Am I hallucinating, or did the *Independent* not recently run a scathing article entitled, "Take Care of Your Own Baby!" In it, Plencer's cohort Victor Dula denounced the provision of childcare, and heaped scorn and derision on poor women and their children. And we are supposed to believe these guys give a rat's ass about poor women and children of any color?

I am sorry to see that the op-ed pages of the *Independent*, a paper which purports to be the voice of the campus, has become nothing but a sounding board for a bunch of right-wing loonies. And they are loonies—not just George Duyba or Donny "Star Wars" Rumsfeld-type loonies, but Pat Buchanan/G. Gordon Liddy/Mayer Kahane-type loonies. As someone who has often been accused of being a left-wing loonie (and I suppose the case could be made), I hope you will print this letter in the interest of balance.

-Dennis Fritz

Thank God for a Christian voice

Dear Scott,

I want to thank you for your "Planned Parenthood" article in last week's *Independent*. I am a graduate student at Northeastern in the Reading M. A. program. I honestly didn't think there was another Christian conservative voice in the whole school! I had no idea that the college kicked out Campus Ministry but I did know that it seems to be SO ACCEPTING of every religion except Christianity (as our world is today).

I volunteered at a Chicago pregnancy center that held office across the hallway from a Planned Parenthood. Girls would come into our office thinking they were in Planned Parenthood and change their minds on the abortion they had scheduled for that day.

Its amazing the lies that scared young women will believe when they're desperate. I knew the history of Planned Parenthood but was so glad to see that you included it in this visual place for college girls to see and called PP out on what they represent.

I am so disappointed that Northeastern is going to bring this awful BUSINESS into the school—and that's all it is, business. They obviously could care less about the emotional or spiritual lives of the women they see. It's all about making money.

Thank you for standing boldly for Truth. There are far too many who wouldn't have written this piece and I commend you on your boldness and your incite.

Happy Easter! He Is Risen!

-Courtney M. Aljancic

DRAWING BOARD



"First of all, this meeting never happened."

Israel vs. Palestine

Students speak about conflict occurring in the Middle East

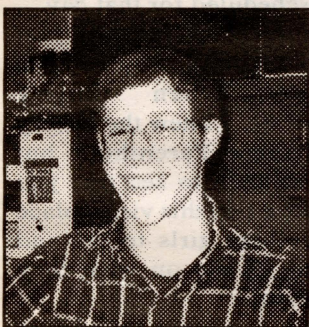


"I don't agree about the tactics Israel is using. The Palestinians are just trying to survive from day to day. What the Israelis are doing is making it harder for the Palestinians to live. The Palestinians are just looking for a place to call their own. Isn't that the bottom line? We all want to belong? Land is what defines us. Without land you are basically no one. In the future, I hope the Israelis lighten up on the Palestinians, because all the Palestinians want is to live."

Laura

"America has its own interests in the conflict. Everyone is labeling Arafat as the enemy. The whole conflict is basically one sided. If your going to take one side without considering the other guy's then why even get involved? Why do we keep sending money over there anyway when we have all these problems here? People are out of work, we can't get gas at the right prices... it's always jumping up every three month... The situation is just unfair however you look at it."

Denis Pritchett



"In order to understand the conflict, you need to understand the history of Israelis and the history of the Palestinians. It involves a lot more than violence back and forth. To put it briefly, the Israelis have given the Palestinians many opportunities to be peaceful. They bent over backwards, they've been willing to give up land and things like that and the Palestinians, as of yet, have not been able to follow through even once on giving the Israelis peace."

Joseph Kandelman

"I don't think Peace is possible unless Israeli troops pull back from occupied territories and Arafat is no longer under siege. Until then Sharon (Bush) have no right to expect anything from Arafat."

S. Fatima Quadri

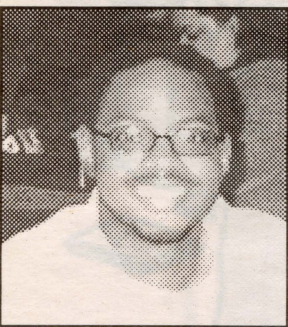


"The Palestinians need to get rid of Arafat. He isn't a good leader. The Israelis need to take over the Palestinian schools because their books are filled with hate; killing Israelis, being martyrs... The Israelis definitely don't need to give up their land because its their land. The Palestinians need to learn to live in peace. The suicide bombings are wrong and their killing innocent people. If they don't learn to live in peace the Israelis are going to go to war with the Palestinians. They either work it out or they're going to go to war."

Shana Stone

"I think the Israelis and the Palestinians need some US help in ending the conflict. I think they need some sort of political figure to come over there and help them come to some sort of compromise. There are a lot of people dieing over there and they need to cease the fighting."

Octavia Brown

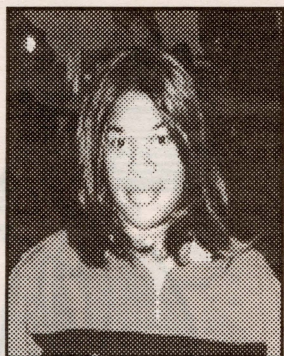
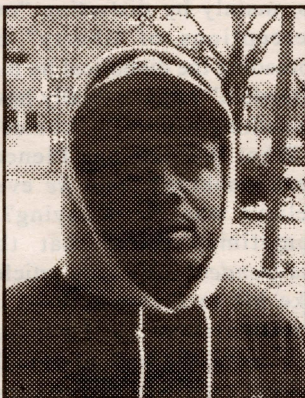


"The Israelis need to cut the Palestinians some slack and give them back most of their land. They've been gentrified from their land. They need permits to get in and out of Israel when their holy land is there. Some need medical attention and they can't receive it because they've been barred from coming in to Israel. So I think the Israelis need to cut the Palestinians some slack."

Fred Claremont

"The situation is very bad over there. The Israelis are using all sorts of tanks, helicopters, missiles... As for the suicide bombers; it's something the President can't stop. It's not in his hands; it's the people themselves. It's what people feel for their countries. We don't call them suicide bombers but that the way people describe it."

Rafi Hamad



Serenity of Bethlehem surely gone

by Yousef Munayyer
Massachusetts Daily Collegian
(U. Massachusetts-Amherst)

(U-WIRE) AMHERST, Mass. -- I remember only a few years ago walking in the streets of Bethlehem. I remember visiting the church of the nativity and kneeling beside the spot where Christ came into this world and praying. I remember the gentle breeze that flowed through the hills of the city and rustled the fig tree's leaves. But most of all, I remember the serenity.

I can only remember now how it was. The serenity is surely gone. The church in which I said my prayers that day is now filled with children who scream and mothers who cry. Soldiers now patrol the streets that I had walked on. The breeze now blows up against the turrets of unmovable tanks. And the serenity that made Bethlehem so sacred has disappeared.

It is time for action to be taken. The Palestinian population is under siege, not from suicide bombers but from apache helicopters, F-16s, tanks and possibly the world's best-trained army. The bloodshed is overflowing in the lands of milk and honey. The Arab hospitals are burying their dead in the parking lots outside, because their morgues are overflowing. A population that has endured so much is now being tested again by a brutal onslaught against the infrastructure of a state being developed in the dreams of its inhabitants.

Ariel Sharon is waging war. He has neglected the United Nations, again, and he has ignored the European Union. The United States has turned its cheek yet again. It is time for the Zinnis, Tenets, Mitchels and the like to get out and stay out of the Middle East. It is time to hand the mediation to be handed to the Europeans. The United States has shown that it cannot broker a peace deal impartially. The only time anything significantly good came out of negotiations was through Oslo. All the photo opportunities with Clinton and handshakes before flashing cameras have done nothing. President Bush hasn't even done anything yet. The Holy Land needs a King Solomon, not a Pontius Pilot. If the United States still wants to feed the blood hungry Israeli occupation machine with aid and weapons, it has the right, but it is not fair to the Palestinians for the United States to toy with the process.

Cease-fires have proven to be useless. Palestinian factions will not cease from attacks until the Israelis completely withdraw from the occupied territories, and the Israelis will not stop incursions until the factions halt their attacks.

The plans that the United States has tried to carry out have led to what we have today. The only way for this violence to stop is for the top leaders of both countries to meet together under European supervision in secret and to come out and announce a settlement once and for all. All of the meeting with "top aids" and "top advisors" are nonsense.

The very first step is the halting of the offensive by the Israelis before it becomes a regional war. Then Israel must recognize Arafat as the head negotiator for the Palestinians. Exile is nonsense, and everyone knows that. Arafat is not a terrorist; in fact, if the world needs to be reminded, he is a noble peace laureate. Many have called for a different person to lead the Palestinian people, but this is not the right thing to do. Arafat has been with his people since the beginning. He has fought relentlessly with a gun and with diplomacy. He has survived plane crashes and assassination attempts. He is recognized by the world as the leader of the Palestinian people, and any attempts by the Sharon government to de-legitimize him are underhanded, unnecessary and are only going to further put the peace process off track.

Once Arafat is treated as a partner, the two leaders must begin to talk about major issues like the right of return and the displaced Palestinians from 1948. These important issues must be dealt with, not only to achieve peace, but for justice. The Palestinians are fighting as they are because they have been treated unjustly. This must be recognized and corrected.

Sharon must be willing to do this, and if he truly wants the best for the safety of his people, he will not hesitate because it is the only way out. Violence only begets violence, and Sharon, a former war general, should know this.

Sharon must be willing to set aside whatever hatred he has for Arafat or the Palestinians and must be willing to work this out diplomatically with no conditions. He cannot expect to be taken seriously if he makes comments to Israeli newspapers saying he wished he had "liquidated" Arafat when he had the chance. If Sharon, an ageing war general who ran on the platform of providing security for his people only to bring them the worst violence the nation has ever witnessed, wants to be remembered as a man who did good for his people, he cannot do this behind a tank, only behind a table.

As for Bethlehem, I can only hope that one day I can return to you and once again pray in your churches and witness your serenity. There will come a day when we will all pray together in ye O Little town.

**Something on your mind? Don't keep it bottled in!
Write to us!**

Letters to the Editor

5500 N. St. Louis * E-049 * Chicago, IL * 60625

email: neiu_independent@yahoo.com

In defense of *your* Student Government

The SGA is probably the most cursed student organization on the planet.

If you are as used to reading negative things about SGA as I am, then the idea of them caring about the student body's best interests becomes shocking. SGA have been called everything from powerless to being a vacation league. It has even been said that the Senate is a bunch of "zombie-like piles of clothing."

To the average reader, the opinionated accusations formed against the SGA shows how appalling the organization is. But, what about those of us who know well enough that no organization here at the University would be able to operate as freely as the Student Government does and not have the administration on their behinds? For this reason, I have decided to find out exactly what goes on in this so called destructive organization.

"There are people in the SGA who do not share the same ideologies. Unfortunately, some of them make decisions based on who their friends are while the

majority, do their job. That job is looking out for the best interests of the students," says president Gaspard. Gary Gaspard went on to show me a few of the accomplishments of the Student Government. They are as follows:

Helped open two additional classes toward graduation in the College of Education: EDUC FUND 305 & EDUC FUND 306.

Eliminated the separate hangtag charge on the parking fees, which decreases them by 30% and saved students approximately \$230,000 this semester.

Negotiated a reduced deal on the Daily Planner, which saved students a total \$16,000 this academic year.

Allocated funds to clubs for many events, such as Europa, the Holly Near Concert by the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, the Business & Management Club's Etiquette Dinner, Black History Month, Spanish Awareness Month - Puerto Rican Day, Asian Awareness Month, the Hip

Hop Organization's, the Muslim Student Association, the Student Council for Exceptional Children and the Illinois Education Association's activities. No student organization has been rejected for or received less than requested funds through the Student Government.

These are all very impressive. But what about the accusations against the student government like the president being a dictator? Vice-President Young stated, "No disparaging titles will prevent us from serving the students. Our goals and plans are not secrets. We care about the ones we walk the halls with and want to make sure that being a student a Northeastern prove to be beneficial for all."

Well there you have it folks! The student government may have some representatives who are not aware of its purpose and how it should function. But, the majority has worked quite diligently to make sure that the University serves all of the students. And according to president Gaspard, there is a whole lot more to come.

Voting for Dummies

SGA ELECTIONS ARE HAPPENING WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY OF THIS WEEK, SPECIFICALLY THE 10TH AND THE 11TH. SINCE MOST OF YOU PROBABLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT SGA IS, I'LL SUMMARIZE. SGA STANDS FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION. THEY ARE A GROUP OF ELECTED STUDENTS WHO MAKE DECISIONS WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECT ALL THE STUDENTS ON CAMPUS, AS WELL AS THE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (THE NEWSPAPER INCLUDED.)



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

Therefore, the election, and more importantly the *results* of the election, are important things for students to pay attention to. Since most people on this campus are lazy, or they don't care (or they are a pleasant mixture of the two, like me), I'll help you out and tell you

who to vote for.

Firstly, let me say right off the bat, that this article is *not* the opinion of the *Independent* staff as a whole. This article and all the opinions that lie within are solely my feelings and thoughts. Now that I've covered my ass just a bit, let's get on with it.

I'm strongly urging all those who read my column to vote *against* the "New Vision" party. I don't trust them. I've seen them in action this semester and last semester, and they reek of dirty politics. For example: last semester, I saw things happening in SGA that I didn't agree with, so I wrote a normal article on it. I criticized some of the actions taken by the leaders of the "New Vision" party (from now on, I'll call them the NV party). One would think that even on such a small, pathetic scale, political figures everywhere must be able to handle criticism. It comes with the territory. You do something, someone won't like it, and then you'll hear about it. Seems common sense to me.

Unfortunately, NV seemed incredibly surprised that I would dare criticize them, and they responded in a ridiculous fashion. They immediately told all their friends that I was a racist.

Yep, apparently I'm a racist. Who knew?

The simple fact that they would respond to criticism by pulling out the "race card" speaks volumes about their integrity, not to mention their intelligence. Obviously, they couldn't respond to my criticism in the normal way (ie: talking about it, arguing with me, etc). Instead, they decided it would be a good idea to try and ruin my credibility. Obviously, they forgot who they were dealing with (since when have I *ever* had credibility?) and the "racist Voice of the Campus" talk died down pretty quickly. But still, is this the sort of person you want in charge of SGA? Someone who is so insecure about criticism, they will respond with a bullshit allegation? I'd rather have someone with the guts to *face* criticism, not hide behind an emotion-packed accusation without any basis on fact.

So, the NV party can't handle criticism. Not only that, but they like to break rules when it suits them. A recent SGA meeting saw president Gary Gaspard (and leader of the NV party) ignore *four consecutive votes* to end the meeting. The majority of the senators didn't like his reform ideas and rejected them. When the senators voted to end the meeting, Gaspard ignored them, even went so far to *threaten* them. He continued the meeting despite the obvious fact that a majority of the senators voted to end the meeting. Eventually, he drove enough senators out of the meeting to pass his bill.

What manner of democracy is this? The "Majority Rules as Long as Gaspard Agrees" variety? What a load of crap. I don't want someone who has to *threaten* people with Public Safety to be in charge, and I certainly don't want someone who decides he can ignore the majority of the Senate when it suits him. Oddly enough, Gaspard *appointed* about two-thirds of the Senate to their positions. How? Why? I thought the students got to vote. Apparently, Gaspard doesn't like votes.

What I'm getting at here is that we need a change. I don't want some big shot with an over-developed ego and a problem with democracy calling the shots in SGA. Therefore, all my loyal readers (all 12 of you), I'm strongly urging you to do what I'm going to do on Wednesday the 10th. Vote against the NV party. Read the rest of the *Independent*, read the candidate statements and the candidate interviews (the interviews of those candidates that *agreed* to be interviewed), and use your common sense.

Or better yet, listen to me. Here's who I suggest you vote for: Vote for Lukasz Dobrzynski for President, Georgia Logothesis for Vice-President, and Caleb Avraham for Speaker. Why put up with Gaspard's anti-Democratic dictatorship? We don't have to.

Or do we? don't forget that two-thirds of the Senate was appointed (that's *appointed*, not elected) by Gaspard himself. Will voting Gapsard out be enough?

I hope so. I'm sick of the bullshit.

MAIL BAG

LETTERS FROM INDEPENDENT READERS

Professors beware of students

I've been coming to NEIU for 3 years now, with a 3.94 GPA, and have had by large, many great professors, and in many departments. However, I personally have come to witness and experience some unfair, or inadequate behavior on the part of a few particular instructors.

When incidents were hurtful to students (often including myself), I placed complaints with the department head verbally. When a professor was particularly unfair and obstructive to my progress, I respectfully presented my grievances in a letter to the dean of that department. After several meetings with the department head, dean of Arts & Sciences, and the head of the faculty union, I received no guarantees to amend problems, and saw no substantial change, nor reprimand due.

The department heads (3 separate incidents) would pretend that there was no serious problem, some even claimed that I was the only one with complaint, hoping to discredit and discourage me. But, I knew better! Just to convince them -on the third time- I made ready a full page signed petition.

It may unfortunately be true however, that most students are either disorganized, too pessimistic or apprehensive, belligerent, blase', or just too lazy to formally complain. Some students think that unfair, or incompetent

professors are just an ordinary obstacle, and a part of life; "I only got 2 more semesters to go and I'm outta here".

When people don't complain, it means that things are as well as can be expected. But, if they really aren't, then you would be giving a false impression by not voicing (or even in an anonymous but credible letter) your view or account of mistreatment.

Well, unlike those personnel in charge who are unwilling to break with tradition and bring about positive changes for the students, who they are appointed to aid, I care to make lasting amendments that will serve my fellow students and future generations of NEIU students.

Professors beware! I'm currently asking for fellow students proficient in web page design to organize a group, monitoring a list. At the end of each semester, students will be asked to participate in a roll. They will be able to vote for up to 5 greatest professors they have had at NEIU, and 5 worse. The results will be tallied and presented as a golden, and a black list, containing 10 of the best professors to look for during enrollment, and 10 of the professors you might want to avoid. Consensus will establish who may be at the top of the list.

This list will enable us students with a reference as to what we may expect during the next semester.

Furthermore, I will ask for the university president, and the faculty union to consider the lists during contract renewals. If enough students drop a particular section, or not enroll, the school will have no other choice but to get rid of that instructor and hire a competent one.

You professors are supposed to be properly trained for your burdensome occupation. But, some of the things my fellow students tell me are shameful. Just remember that from now on a name will be publicized in account.

It is generally not an easy act, placing formal complaints. So, complaints should be respected. I respect and hold valid my fellow student's complaints, even when I'm not in that class with them. I think, it's time that the faculty members that I'm speaking of (and you all know who you are!) Should do the same.

Even if you faculty don't have a ready solution in your defense, acknowledge that you would consider the situation, and that either a change, or a sound explanation will follow. Stubborn, or inappropriate behaviors should not be tolerated.

All students who are interested in helping with this cause, please e-mail me at: A-Jamali@neiu.edu

-Amir Jamali

War on terror still on

After Sept. 11th there was outrage, there was a call to arms, there was the declaration that you just pissed off the wrong world superpower. We declared a unilateral "War on Terror" and promised to hunt it down where ever it was allowed to fester. There is not a cave deep enough or remote enough for the terrorists to hide from American justice! We bombed Afganistan up to the stoneage, took down the Taliban and decimated Al Queda. We are feeling pretty good as we dish out some serious justice and retribution.

But the War on Terror is having a down side which is only becoming all to apperent in Israle and the West Bank. The two sides in this conflict are escalating their rhetoric and their actions to a point where peace may never be possible. We vaguely defined what a terrorist is and looked at it as a blank check to dish out "justice". The Isralies were all to willing to pick up on this, and The United States can no longer advocate restraint and be taken seriously

from a position of moral authority after we unleashed the war machine for actions taken on us.

The Middle East conflicts will not be solved at the point of a gun. The Middle East loves marters, and they seem locked into a mentality of "You kill one of ours we'll kill ten of yours" on both sides. The Arab world seems ready to side with The PLO and go after Israle, which could drag The U.S. into this quagmire. I don't know the answer to the question of what to do, but I do think the Texas "shoot first and ask questions later" mentality is letting a very big nasty Jeni out of the bottle, one which will be very hard to contain. The United States needs to deal with international terrorism and certainly you do not bomb the World Trade Center and The Pentagon and expect to get away with it but we also need to lead by example and that example should be restraint.

-Tom Rob

A blast from the past

"No prison, no life sentences, no second chances. They must die." Stipulated Victor Dula in his article "Teaching Evil to Children" (November 13 issue) as he expressed his grief regarding the Madrasas (schools of Islamic studies) because of a special on *Night Line* that attempted to answer the question of why certain countries hate America.

Dula tends to overlook that Political experiences and views vary from region to region. For example will a boy growing up in Deerfield have the same opinion about America as a boy growing up in the Robert Taylor Homes or Reservations? Just the same, kids growing up in theses countries share complete different experiences; if you're a Palestinian boy who lost his best friend because of an Israeli bomb funded by the US, you won't exactly stand up and sing *America the Beautiful*. People in theses countries don't hate America or

American values; they hate American foreign policy because they have seen the worst of it. We will never see an end to terrorism until we attempt to begin fighting it on our own front.

As a student of a Madrasa it enrages me to hear anyone call all madrasas "hives from which evil flows", especially someone who knows nothing about their curriculum or objectives. It is the same as anyone calling a Bible study an institution of evil because of the KKK or Jewish studies evil because of Jewish extremist groups.

Finally, using the media as an authentic source is a mistake in itself. Was it not the same media who was accused of "mistaking" footage of Palestinians dancing in the street from 1991 as celebrations of terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001?

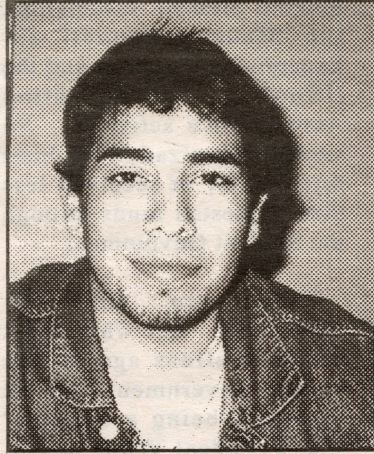
-Name withheld by request

DRAWING BOARD



"Look, I've got nothing against globalization, just as long as it's not in my backyard."

If you could change one thing about Northeastern, what would it be?



"I would raise the academic requirements to get into the school."

Paul Sauter

"Making more room for students to take classes in"

Claudia Negrau

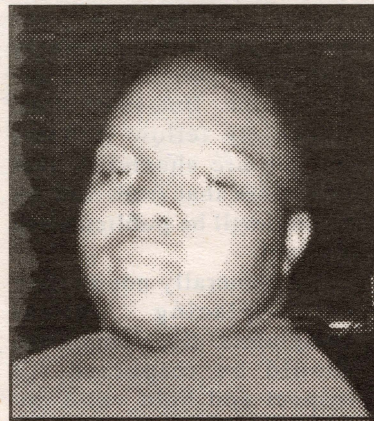
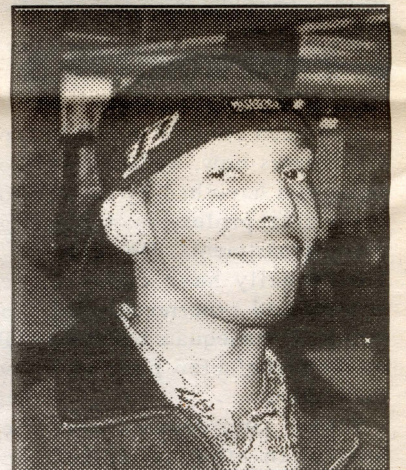


"I would add a food stand at the P.E. building because they don't have good food there."

Paul Rosencrans

"Eliminate the parking fee!"

Rickey Flournoy

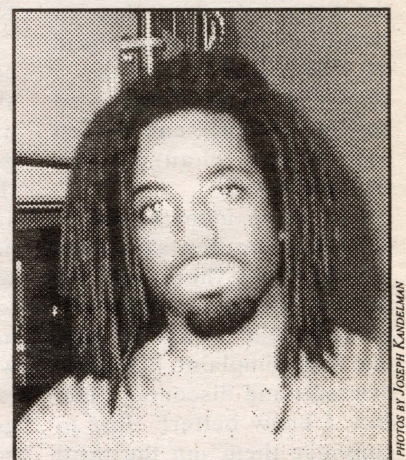


"We need a team for all sports."

Dwayne Williams

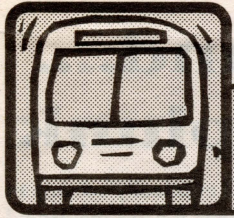
"Better student interaction in activities."

"Sess" Long



"Add a smoking lounge in the cafeteria"

Jennifer Mancini



The Commuter

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

What it means to be in a Sorority

by Andrea Zelinski
Staff Writer

Imagine the collective experiences you have encountered with your very closest friend. Think about what that person knows about your family, lifestyle, past, present and future. It probably took years to develop that type of in-depth relationship. Now imagine condensing all those experiences and knowledge into a matter of a couple months while being expected to be close as brothers or sisters in the end. This is what members of fraternities and sororities face upon pledging.

Given that Northeastern Illinois University houses a mere three sororities and one fraternity, not many know of this process. More over, not many know of this bond shared by those in it. The bonds developed while attempting initiation into a Greek organization are immeasurable. An individual may do things he or she never would have done for anyone else,

AKA

or sacrifice some of their scarce time and energy for each other. The truth is, aside from the involvement from the fraternity or sorority itself, unbreakable bonds are not only established but also strengthened with individuals one never thought they would meet.

In the beginning, no one knows what to expect. As one of many perspective members into this organization, you are lucky to know a single soul. These men or women are of different ages, backgrounds, living styles, incomes and circumstances. They might happen to go to class on the opposite days as you, or work in the middle of the night while the world sleeps. These people are different from you in many ways.

Yet, you have one thing in common: this fraternity or sorority. From day one, you are expected to begin and maintain a healthy relationship with these individuals. This is difficult through the awkwardness and tension of an acquaintance. Sometimes this is successful, and relationships are formed with ease. Other times it is with people you do not like or get along with, leaving a never-ending battle. Disagreements lead to dislike and anger. Some how, you

must get through this and move past the disagreements in order to move to the next level.

Friendship begins to gel once sacrifices are made. Sacrifice is the biggest part of any relationship, especially in a Greek organization. While trying to create some type of bond with these people who are no longer strangers, obligations are taken seriously. One may have to postpone time with their boyfriend or girlfriend, reschedule dinner plans or call in sick to work for none other than the betterment of the group that has now made a difference in your social life. You get used to seeing these fellow pledges on close to an every day basis while completing fraternity or sorority activities.

But the struggle is very difficult. Plans are canceled, and sometimes outside relationships are broken. Not only do these moments define who we are, but help one strengthen through each other. As the process continues, the relationships between the pledges grows with teamwork. You must work together regardless of the strengths of the strongest or weakest links. Patience and nerves are pushed to the limit. At this point, some people just do not take it anymore. Yet, the strong ones do by staying committed and pushing forward to find some way

about religion, sex, or other risky issues of discussion without fear of judgement. Some people have

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friendships without the ability to truly trust. Yet, as a pledge into a fraternity or sorority, this trust is established in weeks. When you begin to trust someone you open up not only your mind, but your heart and soul to be heard from someone who is now very important in your life. You let yourself be seen past the makeup or fancy clothes and designer shoes. When you let yourself be seen for who you are, trust is when you know that you will not be judged for it.

Now that trust is established, the men and women of their respective Greek organization have found a bond. They can feel the sacrifice and the trust they hold for each other. These people have shared countless experiences together through this organizations. The bond is felt when you know how your pledge brothers or sisters feel toward you. They trust you, your judgement and your ability. They know you like the back of their hands. It is such an overwhelming feeling. The bond is when you know exactly what they are trying to say

when they cannot find the words. The bond is the realization that you will grow old with these people. You will be there side by side through school and careers, weddings and babies. The bond is imagining your kids playing together, and watching them grow up. Or looking forward to growing old together, knowing you still have each other. The bond is being a brother or sister.

Many people have trouble finding a friend who would ever reach a point of complete trust, let alone a bond. Some never will. The important thing is to realize the options available. Though

being a part of a fraternity or sorority is difficult work, it is worth the dedication

and sacrifice. Throughout this process, relationships have not only been established, but also strengthened to a point of trust and love for dear friends. While most dorm available college campuses have an average of twenty percent of their students involved in Greek organizations, Northeastern has only a handful. To think hardly a handful of students have been able to experience this life changing realization on this campus.

A vision for the Chicago River

by Sean Riley
Staff Member

It's happening across the globe, and it's happening in Chicago. Wherever there is a water source deemed beautiful that is next to a city, "they" are building trails. These trails line the shores of rivers, lakes, and oceans. (They) are being used as a catalyst for community revitalization and improving the environmental health of urban water sources.

The "they" of Chicago are called Friends, or Friends of the Chicago River and since 1979 they have been getting Chicago to realize what a beautiful river flows through the heart of their city. Friends has many projects taking place at one time, but two of their major focuses have been constructing and devising plans for the Chicago River Trail (CRT) or organizing community events that will both clean and beautify the Chicago River.

Friends' vision of the CRT is a continuous trail connecting over 50 urban neighborhoods and suburban communities along the River's 156 miles. The City of Chicago has endorsed the CRT; which means that the trail has a legal place along the Chicago River. Perhaps as a result of this, or for philanthropic reasons, many large development companies are including in their riverside property designs, a place for the CRT. Even with the help of the city and some businesses there are obstacles that need to be overcome.

The trail is designed to cover a large distance, from Lake County to Cook County, and being an old city Chicago is very developed. The proposed CRT's shoreline is filled with residences, businesses, industrial zones, bridges, all of which are potential obstacles for the CRT. One of these obstacles has been bridges. Within the proposed length of the trail hundreds of bridges cross over the Chicago River. An overwhelming majority of these bridges were built prior to the concept of the CRT. Since there is no room for a trail to pass under these bridges, Friends has either had to design a trail to go around the bridge (and

therefore leave the river for a bit) or attempt to fit the trail under the bridge. Other obstacles have been residents illegally placing "no trespassing" signs in front of their property; or developers either purposely or inadvertently constructing unusable trail sections.

Yet Friends has persevered and with the help of communities throughout Chicago, many sections of the CRT have been built. Some noteworthy sections are: the Forest Preserve bike trail from Caldwell Woods to the Chicago Botanical Garden, the trails along the North Shore Channel, and the trail connecting the river trail to the lake trail that runs to Michigan Avenue.

Along with constructing the trail, Friends and active community effort has improved water quality, restored wildlife habitat, and reduced the damage from floods. Friends has earned an "international reputation for innovative urban river work" and has received various awards because of their efforts. Their effort has and continues to be, with the community. Through public outreach and education programs 1200 people each year learn about the Chicago River through volunteer-led canoe trips, walking tours, bicycle tours, and cruises. In 1995 Friends started the Chicago River Schools Network (CRSN). With near 200 teachers CRSN has involved thousands of students in water monitoring, cleanups, and advocacy.

NEIU students that wish to participate in any of these programs should read about them in more depth on the internet at: www.chicagoriver.org, and then either call (312) 939-0490 or email: friends@chicagoriver.org. Here are a few examples of what you may find: Adopt-A River, Green Corps, Urban Canoe Adventures, North Branch Watershed Project and the Flatwater Classic. The Flatwater Classic is part race/ part leisure cruise starting in Clark Park and finishing off in Ping Tom Memorial Park. The web site is comprehensive and worth visiting whether or not you are interested in getting involved.

To be a sister is a very special privilege, because as a sister you are automatically family. Being a sister is support, trust, love. It's an honest opinion when no one wants to tell you the truth.

-Patricia Pipper of Sigma Lambda Gamma

to iron out their differences to get the job done. Somewhere along this path, trust is built.

Once trust is established, one knows that they have made more than a social acquaintance, but a friend. This is when one has confidence that their pledge brother or sister will be there on time, or be responsible for their jobs. The more spectacular gift

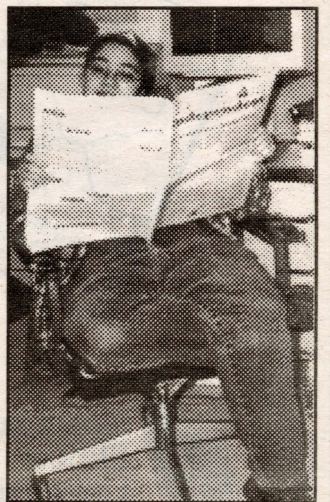
is when you can not only trust these people with emotions and feelings, but with lifelong secrets you never thought would be revealed. You can share personal thoughts

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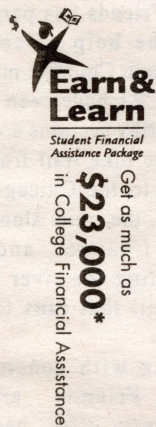


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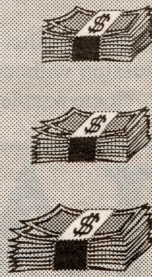
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Hoop scoop and....ker-plunk

by John Brolley
Staff Member

I don't believe in sports curses or anything, but Hoop Scoop had the same effect as Voodoo on the basketball players and teams touted in "Hoop Scoop" last time around. For starters (don't blame me for the Bulls starters), after I noted with the addition of Jalen Rose that the Bulls seemed to be improving they proceeded to lose nine in a row, eleven of twelve. Horri-Bull.

Next, Dwyane Wade and the "resurgent" Marquette Golden Eagles were upset (so was I) in the first round of the NCAA tourney by Tulsa. Although Wade played well (18 points and 7 rebounds), almost dunking in Marquette's last second miss, which would have tied the game, he'll need to work on his outside shot before he'll be the high lottery pick I'm certain he'll be next year.

Proviso East, my "favorite to win the Class AA State title," was defeated by New Trier in the Super Sectional. The Trevians tremendous outside shooting provided a 16 point third quarter lead that was enough for an eventual 60-51 victory. Dee and Shannon Brown, who came in averaging 28 and 25 points respectively, were held to a combined 33 points. Let's Here It For The Girl! Saving me from being wrong about everything was Naperville Central Sophomore, Candace Parker. Parker, who averaged over 30 points and 14 rebounds per game, was named the Chicago Tribune's Girl's Player Of The Year. The 6'3" Parker has a chance to be included among the all-time best women basketball players if she continues her remarkable development.

Chandler will eventually become an excellent player, it's just that Brand is an excellent player. Brand, who played in this years All-Star game, is averaging a Shaq-lite 18 points and nearly 12 rebounds per game. Chandler's 5 points and 4 rebounds per game don't stand up all that well next to Brand's rookie numbers of 20 and 10. In addition, Brand leads the NBA in offensive rebounds, at five per game, a statistic indicative of a players toughness, skill and work ethic.

I can see trading Brand if he was an older player, but he just turned 23 three weeks ago. The Brand for Chandler trade was a risky one, and so far the Bulls are coming way up short. Grinnell Scores In Waves This season, Division III Grinnell College of Grinnell Iowa, broke the (all divisions) NCAA points per game record of 122.4 by Loyola Marymount in the 1990/91 season. Grinnell, who substitutes all five players—every forty-five seconds—averaged an incredible 124.9 points per game. Grinnell's leading scorer, Sophomore Steve Wood averaged 26.9 points per game in just over 20 minutes per game! Grinnell, not a team to get defensive, allowed a criminal 118 points per game. Yes, that is over six points per minute for your average Grinnell game.

Rip Van Williams

Frank Williams, enigmatic point guard for the University of Illinois, played his final collegiate game with the Illini's third round loss to the final four bound University of Kansas. Williams, who shot poorly, but played aggressively throughout the Kansas game, averaged 20 points for the Illini's three NCAA tourney games. Although Williams had a tremendous career at Illinois, he always left you expecting more out of him. I guess the high expectations are a natural result after a player wins three Illinois State championships and the prestigious Mr. Basketball while in high school and the Big Ten Player Of The Year Award after his sophomore season. This year Williams did seem to coast a bit, mostly in the first half of games, but his forceful play throughout this years NCAA tourney was very encouraging. Whether Williams ends up an approximation of Gary Payton or a Peoria Gus Macker legend is strictly up to him. Note to Frank: They play two halves in the NBA, too. Maryland and UConn win NCAA Championships. Maryland fulfilled on the promise of their final four appearance last year in defeating the underdog Indiana Hoosiers 64-52. Indiana held tough for 30 minutes, even managing to earn a two point lead, before Maryland's Juan Dixon, the final four's Most Outstanding Player, hit a 3 and a tough fallaway two to put the Terps ahead for good. The UConn women won. Again. The UConn seniors, in their third Final four, won their second NCAA title. Two out of four ain't bad, indeed. Season Player of the Year, Sue Bird, led the way for the lady Huskies in closing out a dominant 39-0 season. How dominant? The UConn women weren't very ladylike in averaging a 37 point victory during the season. This UConn squad ranks with the greatest in NCAA hoops history, men or women.

Barkley up The Wrong Tree

A few weeks ago, Sports Illustrated did a cover story on future Hall Of Fame basketball player, Charles Barkley. The cover shot of Barkley depicted him in slave attire, busting loose from his chains, symbolic of the full disclosure interview within the pages of the magazine.

What was SI (Sports Illustrated) thinking by trying to imply that they had finally gotten Barkley to open up? This is like bragging about "scoring" with a prostitute. For the past fifteen years there has been no athlete more outspoken than Barkley. He does nothing but speak out. He's probably speaking out right now as you read this, "You call this a hot dog! Give me five more, those first five sucked..."

What's next for SI, half truths from Bill Clinton, malaprops from George W. Bush, another swim suit issue? Hmm, that last one might not be all that objectionable.

Barkley's both blunt and funny, and if he gets any more comfortable in his current stint as pre and post game analyst for TNT (perfect network for the combustible Barkley) we might expect Sir Charles to be belching on-air by playoff time.

A Brand In Hand

Which sounds better to you, Jalen Rose and Tyson Chandler or Jalen Rose and Elton Brand? Me, too. It's not that I don't think that

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Thursday, April 18

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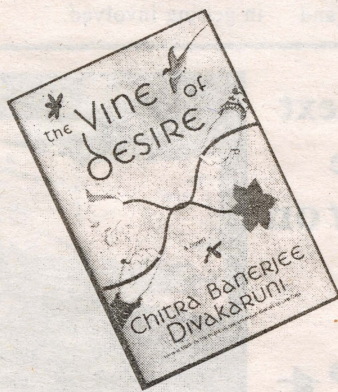


"Divakaruni combines a gift for absorbing narrative with the artistry of a painter"

- Publishers Weekly

"The Indian experience in America - and the conflict between the traditions of her homeland and the culture of her adopted country is the focus of much of Divakaruni's writing."

- Time Magazine



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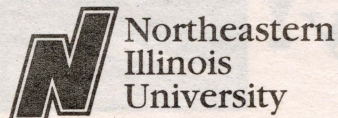
1:30 p.m. • Student Union room 214

Lecture and Book Signing:

"How Stories Save Our Lives"

The events, people and culture that shaped the author's life.

7:30 p.m. • Alumni Hall



Visit the Campus Events page at www.neiu.edu for a list of holdings at the Ronald Williams Library by and about Divakaruni.

Star Signs

by Iris the Oracle

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS THIS WEEK: Your visions can be put into words this year, and then anything can happen. You might even help produce a miracle or two.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY IS NEXT WEEK: You have initiative and you often stand out because you do your own thing. At the same time, you have strong sense of awareness of community.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You are asking yourself, "is it love or lust?" It might be both. This could be an awesome week for you. If you're an athlete, you might beat your old record. A lot of your friends are in feisty moods too, so putting a team together shouldn't be hard. Go play!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your social graces are valuable business asset. Higher-ups are amenable to requests. This can be your most productive day in weeks. Dig deep for information and then utilize it. Sociable, as always, you'll share delightful times with friends this weekend.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You may have to curtail your activities for a while, due to lack of funds. Well, you do have the money, but if you spend it one thing, you won't be able to spend it on the other. If you think of this as a game instead of a dilemma, it'll be a lot more fun.

CANCER (June 22 to July 22) Although you feel otherwise inclined, business interests must take precedence this week. Hold tight on to cash. What appears to be a marvelous bargain may be just the opposite. A friend is important to your success. Listen to this person's advice.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Try not to lock horns with a stubborn adversary. This person is as tough as you are, so victory isn't likely. Work out a compromise instead. Give up on a minor point, for starters. A Surprise news comes from a friend you haven't heard from in a while.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You're under pressure to get a big job done. Tomorrow will be a much better day to play. Explore, examine, discover, look beyond the immediate. Attention revolves around fashion, special purchases, meeting with long-lost relative. This is a new level for you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Those who have been holding out will release your money. You realize you have been victorious. Don't spread yourself too thin, or you'll get circles under your eyes. You hate it when that happens. Your new venture is bound to be a success.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Be independent, make fresh start in a new direction. Many look to you for leadership. A chance of pace is necessary if you are to succeed. Just be patient. You can figure out the best course of action once you give it your complete attention.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Attention revolves around domestic issues including where you live. Your energy level is high. You have a lot of chores on your list, almost too many to count. You may feel like a whirling dervish, but if anybody can get this all done on time, it's you.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) This week finds you especially magnetic and in good cheer. Don't rush. Take time to perfect techniques. Relatives and others suggest short trips. Some could turn into wild-goose chases. Avoid driving with a bibulous individual.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) People who thought you could not be practical are in for a surprise. You can talk people into whatever you want. Take on a challenge. You might end up participating in an engineering project and you could emerge with a profit.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Sometimes, you're kind of shy, but this time you should be ready to party. How about setting up an excursion that's educational too? Your friends will be captivated by the idea. People who previously ignored you will extend hand of friendship.

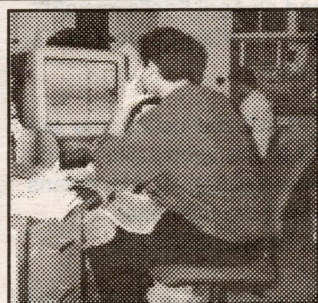
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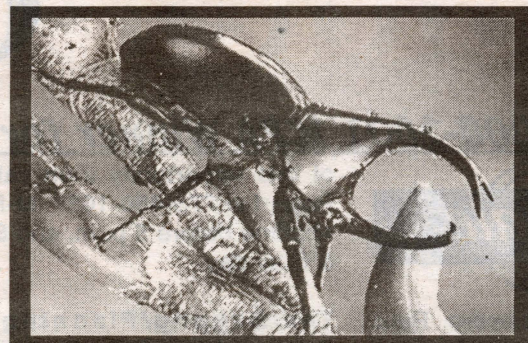
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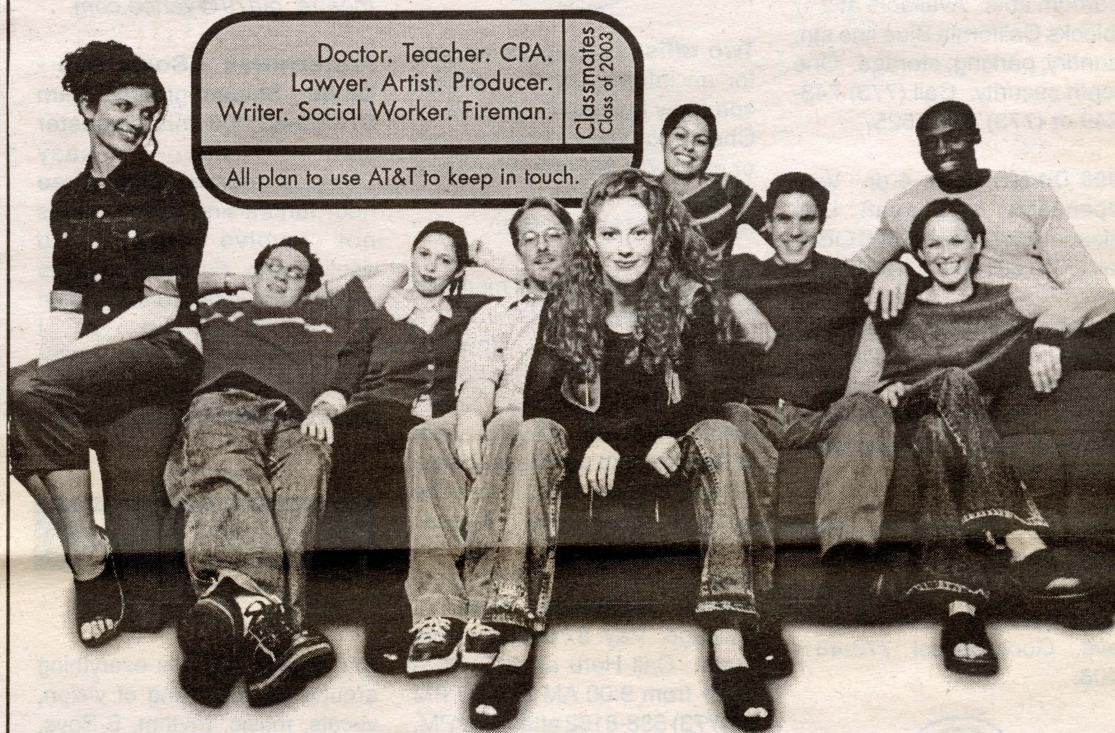
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The Black Heritage Gospel Choir is extending its membership to all Northeastern students. Come join us in singing songs of praise. Tues. and Thurs., 1:40-2:50, FA 152. - President Staria Berry

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secretagentbill@hotmail.com

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.

As-salamu-alaikum, the Muslim Students Association meets every Tuesday and Thursday in Room FA-153 from 1:40 to 2:50p.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://neu.edu/~msa>

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance meets on Tuesdays in C-505 at 1:40. To join listserve, send a message to femajority-1@neu.edu.

NEIU's new Yoga Club. Do you want to learn how to enhance concentration and reduce stress while having fun?! Join the BMC Yoga Club! Membership is free and open to NEIU students, faculty and staff. For more information email Damaris Gonzalez, BMC President, at dgonzalez@neu.edu.

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

Service Opportunities await YOU! Check out Student Volunteer Corps! Call 773-442-4618 or stop in A-125 to find out more.

Get the classes you need every time. GPA 3.25 a must. Find out how. 442-6045

Friends of Bill W. and patients of Dr. Bob: AA Closed Meeting. 12 and 12 at Noon, Wednesdays, in C-505.

Personals

Let's have a good, clean election. Yeah, right...

We had an April Fool's issue?!? Hmm....I didn't notice a difference...

NC- Don't you notice you are talking to the wrong girl. If you have not met her yet, that means she is not the right one. -Other brown-haired girl

All this attraction in the present tense; all you gotta do is smile at me and down I go. It's the best feeling I've ever known.

Death's kiss lingers on my lips still. What a shame it is to us that death may only caress our bodies but once. God knows no power like this.

-The dark poetess

NC- I am sorry we keep missing but leave a message for me so I know you actually come by..... Your one and only brown-haired girl

It was good watching another sunrise with you. Love, Charlie Brown

Keep Mary's legacy alive: Step forward, seize the opportunities, and never be afraid to speak up to accomplish the things that need to be done.

Hey Lefty- Sun, cars, good-looking guys... Sounds like the plans for a perfect summer. Add in a WHO concert and let's rock..... Oh if only the wait were over! -Righty

With all this political mudslinging, there's enough dirt hanging around to pot a thousand plants. Too bad they can't be peace lilies.

Make way for de Fuhrer. Adolph rides!

Cast of 1940: Great show! Keep them guessing and continue to have fun! -Your fans

BB: Are you sure you want to give up all the praise and glory up and shove it my way? You deserve it so much, you do it so well. CMB

Can you see the spirits as they do their dance? Can you hear the banshees as the wail in my ear? Time is trapped in time.

Slumber awaits only the very weary and newspaper editors.

Where's REV? Oh, that's right...

I hate my staff, and this Tuesday, they will suffer as I have suffered.

V-Man: You suck. You whine too much, and you're very unpleasant to look at. For God's sake, get out of public view. It will only cause you undue suffering and pain. Office guys

Audis suck. They are the ugliest abomination ever to be spurted out of a car dealership. Adolff? What a dork.

V-ster: You talk too much you worry me to death, you talk too much you even worry your pet. You just talk (and talk and talk and talk) too much. -The Office Girls

Listening to you I get the music, gazing at you I feel the heat, following you I climb the mountain, I get excitement at your feet. Right behind you I see the millions, on you I see the glory, from you I get opinions, from you I get the story. You know who

Awww..... wook at the wittle wovebirds.....gee golly how sweet..... BARF!

To the Hot Sicilian Man: We can hardly wait... we hold our breaths.. soon..... Your Fans

First one in clean up the mess!

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 the 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:

