

9-3-2002

## Independent- Sep. 3, 2002

Brian Blaszkowski

Follow this and additional works at: <https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent>

---

### Recommended Citation

Blaszkowski, Brian, "Independent- Sep. 3, 2002" (2002). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 277.  
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/277>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the NEIU Student Newspapers at NEIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Independent (1988-present) by an authorized administrator of NEIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [neiudc@neiu.edu](mailto:neiudc@neiu.edu).



Race your way to our  
NASCAR coverage  
in Features!

**Elvis lives!**  
(in REV)  
Check out the story!

The story  
continues! *Stan's*  
*Life* in Features!

SINCE 1988 | REPEAT 2000-2001 ICPA AWARD WINNER | CHICAGO, IL.

# Independent

Vol. 19 Issue 2

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Tuesday, September 3rd, 2002

## Campus puts on a new face for fall

by Joey Kandelman  
Senior Staff Writer

There are many changes within NEIU this semester. The B-Wing is on the verge of completion after nearly a year and a half of construction. The Special Education Program was completely restructured throughout the state. The school hired three new deans: Dean of the College of Business and Management, Dr. Varkey K. Titus; Dean of College of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Kate Forhan; and Dean of Graduate College, Dr. Janet Fredericks. The school also hired a new Provost, Dr. Lawrence P. Frank. The number of learning communities jumped from an average of two or three in past semesters to ten this semester. In wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, Student Activities changed their annual "Fall Into Fun Week" title to "Back to College Days" and are planning a commemoration ceremony for this September.

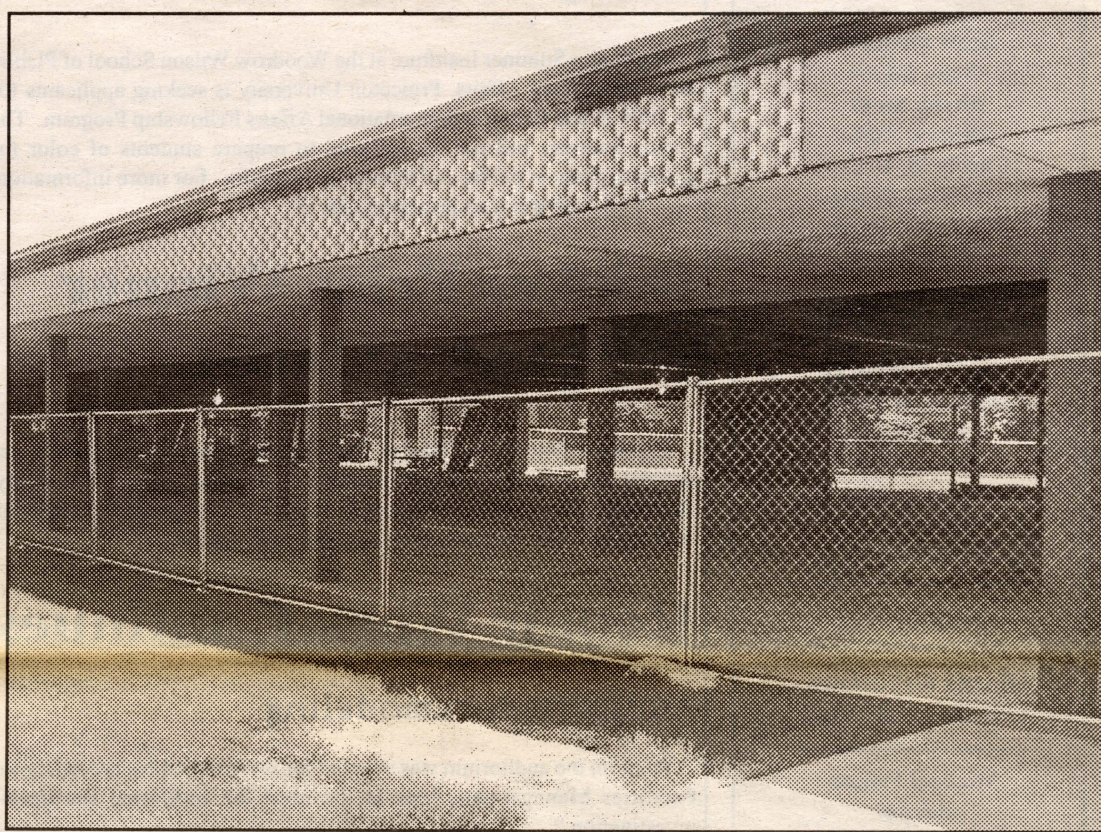
NEIU began construction on the B-wing in April 2001. The

move in over the summer (see the January 15, 2002 issue of the Independent). So far, that prediction was off by a few months. They currently intend to complete construction and start moving people in by the middle of this semester. The bulk of NEIU employees which are moving into the B-Wing are coming from the C-Building (a.k.a. the Beehive). Some departments who will move into the B-Wing are the Honors Program, International Program, Non-Traditional Degree Program, Dean of Students, Job Placement - Job Resources, Faculty Resource Center, and Academic Computing.

The Illinois State Board of Education has instructed all schools in Illinois to restructure their special education programs. Up until the change, education majors who wanted to work with special education students needed to obtain a specialized certificate for whatever the disability was. (Available certificates included: Autism, Deaf-Blindness, Deafness,

Emotional Disturbance, Hearing Impairment, mental Retardation, Multiple Disabilities, Orthopedic Impairment, Other Health Impairment, Specific Learning Disability, Speech / Language Impairment, Speech / Language Pathology Services, Traumatic Brain Injury, and Visual Impairment.)

This change was because a coalition of parents of special education students sued the Illinois Board of Education (Corey H. vs. Board of Education of the City of Chicago). They complained that the special education teachers were



The B-Wing completely gutted, as it appeared in May of 2001 when construction got underway.

certified in a specific area, which was not the area that their children needed help in. Therefore, they felt that their children were being taught by people unqualified to teach them. The case has been appealed several times, and finally Corey H. won. The state of Illinois now requires special education teachers to get an LBS I certificate, which is an all-encompassing degree. In order to become certified they must have training on all categories within the spectrum of special education. If they want further training, they can get an LBS II certificate (similar to a masters degree) in their specific area.

Dr. Varkey K. Titus started as Dean of College of Business and Management on July 1, 2002. Previously, Titus was Dean of the College of Business and Economics at Lake Superior State University for 2 years. Before that, he was chair of the division of

management, marketing, finance and economics at Emporia State University.

Dr. Kate Forhan started as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on September 14, 2002. She came to NEIU from New York's Siena College and received a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Janet Fredericks started as Dean of the Graduate College on August 1, 2002. She is the only new dean who has been promoted from within Northeastern.

Dr. Lawrence P. Frank will start as acting Provost on September 2, 2002. He has been on staff at least ten colleges in his career, including Sarah Lawrence College in New York, Columbia University in NY, Saint Xavier University and Roosevelt University - both in Chicago. One University he worked at is in Cairo, Egypt. Another was in Zaria, Nigeria and a University that spanned

throughout a few other countries in Africa. His first day on NEIU campus will be September 2.

Learning Communities have many different meanings to many different universities. As defined by Northeastern, a learning community (or L.C.) is a group of two to three classes that have the same students in all classes, but different teachers teaching different subjects. Often, the subjects are seemingly unrelated general education courses. For example, World History teamed up with Intro to Cultural Anthropology to form one learning community. Social Work teamed up with Macroeconomics to form another. For a complete list of learning communities this semester, see your academic advisor, (located in the A Wing, room A-109).

New face for fall  
continued on page 3



Dr. Varkey Titus, the new Dean of the College of Business and Management, takes office this fall.

B-wing is the fenced-off building between the Student Union/ Fine Arts Building and the Science Building. In January of last year, Facilities Management predicted that all B-Wing construction would be complete and NEIU staff could

**EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!**

bite-sized but essential news

gripes, moans, and common sense

features to entertain and enlighten

the bulletin board you can bring with you

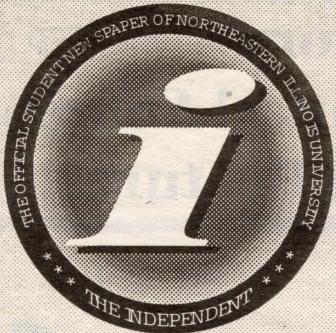
**Around Campus** page 2

**Perspectus** page 4

**The Commuter** page 8

**Golden Opportunities** page 12





#### Fall/Spring Office Hours

Monday-Thursday  
9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Friday

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

#### Telephones

Editorial (773) 442-4577

Advertising (773) 442-4585

Fax (773) 442-4579

#### E-mail

neiu\_independent@yahoo.com

**Brian Blaszkowski**

*Chief Editor*

**Scott Plencner**

*News Editor*

**Shana Stone**

*Opinions Editor*

**Carole M. Brown**

*Features Editor*

**Stephanie Prado**

*REV Editor*

**Andrea Zelinski**

*Production Editor*

**Chad Nelson**

*Photo Editor*

**John Brolley**

*Copy Editor*

**John Bracich**

*Business Manager*

**Joseph Kandelman**

*Distribution Manager*

**Michael Wilson**

*Advisor*

#### Senior Staff Members

Jessica Bezold

Thomas J. Foley

Joanna Frigo

Joseph Kandelman

Samantha Plencner

John Rossi

Lisa St. Martin

#### Staff Members

Max Azizieh

Andrea Belard

Benigno Boyas

Anit Chacko

Anais Green

Alan Jacob

Sophia Logothetis

S. Fatima Quadri

Brian Rohloff

Lisa Santizo

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,  
Northeastern Illinois  
University, Room E-049,  
5500 N. St. Louis Av.  
Chicago, Illinois 60625

# AROUND CAMPUS

## State of the University Address

A meeting of the Faculty Assembly will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2002, at 1:40 p.m. in Alumni Hall. President Salme H. Steinberg will give the annual State of the University Address.

All faculty, A & P employees, department chairs, civil service employees, and students are cordially invited to attend this meeting and the reception which will follow immediately in Alumni Hall.

## Seeking applicants for International Affairs Program

The Junior Summer Insititure at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University is seeking applicants for its 2003 Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship Program. The Junior Summer Institute is designed to prepare students of color for graduate study in public and international affairs. For more information, go to <http://www.wss.princeton.edu/isi>

## Booker Prize Winner to Speak at NEIU

Chicago- Northeast Illinois University's Presidential Lecture Series presents an evening with award-winning Australian author Peter Carey, September 26 at 7:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall. A book signing and reception will follow. The lecture is free and open to the public.

## Repair Work Continues

### Auditorium remodeling

Work on the auditorium was stopped for several months, according to Facilities Management, "due to the need for additional structural investigation."

Design changes were made mid-project to correct the situation and work will resume.

### ADA modifications

In order to better address the Americans with Disabilities civil rights Act, NEIU will make several changes around campus, which may add to constuction throughout the fall semester. Among the projects planned are updates to the emergency call stations for the hearing impaired, installing new handrails, replacing locker handles, and providing wheelchair accessibility in the CICS auditorium.

### The elusive elevator

The new elevator, installed in Building E by Beck's Bookstore, should be in operation soon, according to Facilities Management.

### B-Wing contruction

Before the fall semester begins, Facilities Management hoped to open the remodeled B-Wing, which will house several departments and three much-needed classrooms.

### Beehive remodeling

This fall work will begin on the remodeling of the C-Building, known to students as the Beehive. Departments and offices will be moved to different areas.

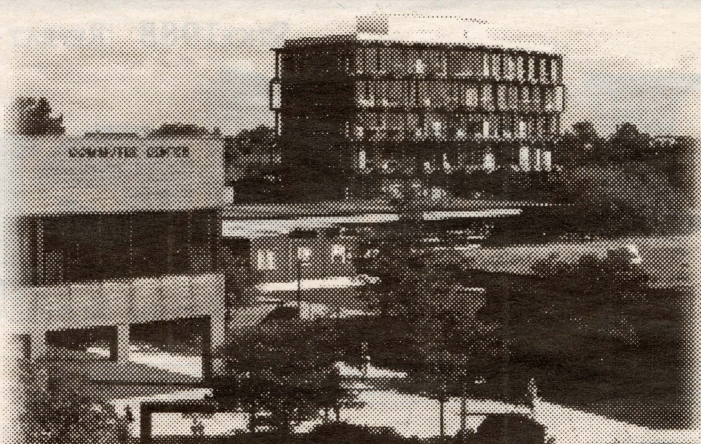
Please recycle this newspaper.



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



## Calendar

check here for upcoming events and due dates

9/3-5 **Change of Registration**  
Students may change their registration info (add and remove classes.)

musician **William Warfield** and present highlights of next year's Chamber Music Series at NEIU. \$100 per person. Call (773) 442-4978 for more info.

9/6 **Confirm Late Regist.**  
Students who registered late must confirm and make initial tuition payment.

10/4 **Polish Heritage Month**  
6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Student Union - Alumni Hall.

9/9 **Due Dates**  
Last day to apply for pass/fail option and last day for 100% refund for complete withdrawal.

10/9 **Back to College Days**  
Week long event including the Student Organization Fair, NPB Welcome Back Celebration, Freshman Luncheon, Campus Resource Information Day, and Campus Recreation Day.

9/20 **Orion Ensemble**  
Opening concert for the five-piece group. Will perform works of Mozart and Schumann, in addition to premiering a new work by local composer **Robert Kritz**.

10/18 **Haydn by the Lake**  
Jewel Box series concert at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Evanston. Will play works of Hummel, Haydn, Beethoven, and Mozart.

9/26 **Pres. Lecture Series**  
7:30 p.m. Alumni Hall. (Master class is at 1:40 p.m.) **Peter Carey**, Australian novelist, speaks. Open to public.

10/21 **Withdraw or Pay**  
Last day for 25% refund for complete withdrawal.

9/27 **HispanicHeritage Month**  
7 p.m. to Midnight in the Student Union - Alumni Hall.

10/24 **Pres. Lecture Series**  
8:00 p.m. Alumni Hall. (Master class is at 5:00 p.m.) **Jonathan Kozol**, social activist, teacher, and author, will speak. Open to public.

9/27 **Mostly Music Benefit**  
6:30 p.m. at the University Club of Chicago. Will honor

## 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 2002 semester:

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.

September 17th  
October 1st  
October 15th  
October 29th  
November 12th

## 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](mailto:neiu_independent@yahoo.com)



# U. California makes progress in the lawsuit against Enron

by Kim Cutler  
Daily Californian (U. California-Berkeley)

(U-WIRE) BERKELEY, Calif. — The University of California made a promising breakthrough in its class action lawsuit against Enron Corporation by reaching a tentative \$40 million settlement Tuesday.

If approved by the court, the settlement will drop all charges made against defendant Andersen Worldwide SC but will not affect the class action charges filed against Enron and auditing firm Arthur Andersen LLP.

"This substantial settlement is a favorable result for the class in light of the limited role of the non-U.S. Andersen entities and represents one of the more substantial securities recoveries from an accounting firm," said UC general counsel James E. Holst in a statement.

Andersen Worldwide SC, the umbrella organization that

coordinates the international activity of Andersen firms, played a minor role in the Enron fraud and has admitted no wrongdoing, a UC statement said.

With the settlement, thousands of investors are seeking to regain some of the total \$25 billion lost through investments in Enron.

It is unclear how much of the settlement's \$40 million UC will actually receive because the university is only one of a large number of plaintiffs in the case that will divide the settlement, said UC spokesman Trey Davis. The settlement will be portioned between the class members based on an allocation formula.

Additionally, it will be "some time" before the money is distributed, said university counsel Christopher Patti.

"We'll wait until there are other recoveries," he said.

Last December, UC joined a class action lawsuit against Enron alleging it lost approximately \$145 million

following Enron's collapse, with which the auditing firm was complicit.

In April, the lawsuit was amended to include, among other companies, Andersen Worldwide SC.

While U.S.-branch Arthur Andersen LLP — convicted in June of obstruction of justice for shredding and doctoring documents related to Enron audits — is a member firm of Andersen Worldwide SC, it has its own structure and leadership separate from the international organization.

Various international Andersen branches were charged with involvement in the Enron audits from 1997 to 2000, according to a consolidated complaint filed by UC in April. Unlike Arthur Andersen LLP, however, they were not Enron's auditor and did not sign Enron's financial statements.

"This first settlement recovers millions of dollars for the class and demonstrates that even relatively minor actors may face substantial liability to Enron's investors," said William S. Lerach, a partner in Enron's lead counsel firm, in a statement.

The settlement with Andersen Worldwide SC is the culmination of a series of talks that began in May, shortly after the U.S. Andersen firm discontinued mediation with UC. After the U.S. branch ended talks, UC began negotiations for a separate settlement with Andersen Worldwide SC.

Because new negotiations may be initiated between UC and other defendants before the trial with Arthur Andersen LLP next December, there may be other settlements and thus more recoveries for investors, Patti said.

At this time it is unknown whether the current settlement will affect the status of the other defendants, although UC is still open to talks with Arthur Andersen LLP if certain considerations regarding liability are met, Davis said.

Should the court approve the settlement with Andersen Worldwide SC, \$15 million of the settlement fees will be used to cover costs of the ongoing class action lawsuit, the UC statement said.

"We regard this settlement as only a first step in obtaining recovery for the class and will continue to pursue damages from the remaining defendants, most of whom had far deeper involvement in the Enron debacle than the overseas Andersen firms," Holst said in the statement.

But UC may not fully recover its losses in investment from the Enron collapse because of Enron's bankruptcy and the case's large legal expenses, although the university has said it believes it "can achieve a substantial recovery on behalf of investors."

In February, the university was selected as the lead plaintiff in representing investors and observing prosecution of the lawsuit because of the size of its monetary loss to Enron.

But though UC suffered significant losses in the corporation's collapse compared to other defendants in the class action suit, its losses represent less than half a percent of the university's total investment portfolio and are not expected to have a significant impact on UC pensions, said a statement from the UC Office of the President.

## New face for fall continued

According to Shelley Bannister, Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Northeastern has had a maximum of two or three learning communities each semester. This year, there are ten. The major increase is largely due to publicizing and encouraging L.C.'s during freshmen orientation over the summer.

Some benefits of L.C.'s are that students tend to get to know one another better because they come into contact with the same people for longer periods of time and under different circumstances. Students who tend to have more social interaction on campus "tend to come back next year," said Dr. Bannister. "They have a higher commitment to school." Another benefit is that teachers may find connections between their subjects and the other subjects in the learning community.

Student Activities holds fun activities during the first week of each fall semester. This was

called "Fall Into Fun Week" up until this year. Because it is possible to misconstrue this as a euphemism of buildings collapsing and out of respect to the tragedies of 9/11 last year, Student Activities changed the name to "Back to College Days." They are still planning a commemoration ceremony for 9/11 of this year.

Dr. Walt Sommers, Director of Student Activities, and Tony Courier, a programming consultant, strongly urge students to "get involved and take advantage of all opportunities you can" with the various activities and organizations on campus. "We have 52 student organizations on campus," Courier said. "They're all looking for more students to get involved." Last year alone, 357 activities took place under the auspices of Student Activities. In addition, there were various theatre performances, music performances, art exhibits, the president's lecture series, and several departments that have events of their own.

## Changes in education, computer tracking info

by S. Fatima Quadri  
Staff Writer

Education majors may now face new environments, as far as student/teacher/parent relationships are concerned.

For ten years now, researchers at the University of Chicago have gathered information, and after a year of preparation Chicago Public School's CEO Arne Duncan will launch his first academic plan. He calls it the "third wave of school reform." The program will provide Chicago Public School teachers with information about their students and will provide parents with more information about the schools. More than three hundred educators, parents, students, and school activists have contributed to the plan.

Chicago public school officials met with principals last week at Orchestral Hall. Many principals optimistically embraced the plan, while others doubted the efficiency of the reform.

The program aimed to supply Chicago Public School teachers with more information; they will be given web accounts to keep track of their students with a computerized menu of ways to help them. With the click of a button, teachers will be able to detect which students are advanced, lack practice, or deficient in various categories, along with suggestions on how to deal with each group.

In addition, statistics will be measured to aid in the revision of teacher and student performance. Figures of how many new teachers leave the schools they teach at, how many high school students remain until graduation, and how many of those students

enroll into college will be released.

The parents will also have access to data that will inform them about the accomplishments of the schools and their children. By spring, parents will get a detailed report about their children, which will enable them to better assess their weaknesses. "We can do a much better job of helping to accelerate student achievement if we provide everyone—students, parents, teachers, principals—with more accurate and timely information," said Duncan.

One of the most crucial concerns about the plan is how it will be implemented. The city's six regions are each responsible for about 90 schools. They will be condensed into 24 "instructional areas" supervised by "instructional officers," or AIO. These officers will take charge of 20-40 schools with a pay of \$117,000 a year. Therefore, 99 new AIO's will be employed, costing the same as the previous budget.

The duty of the officers is to advise and supervise the principals with check lists and evaluations. In addition, they will systematize teacher training. 24 other people will relieve teachers of extraneous duties, such as monitoring or lunch room duties.

Currently, 15 principals have left their jobs to take on the responsibilities of the instructional officers, including Richard Gazda from Von Steuben High School and Cynthia Barron from Jones College Prep. They have been replaced with acting principals who might also be replaced.

**DYNAMIC**

**FOCUSED**

**GOAL ORIENTED**

**EVERYTHING YOU LOOK FOR IN A CHARITY.**

United Way is more than just a fund-raiser. We're fighting poverty and violence every day. Bringing the community together to identify its pressing needs, and creating a plan to achieve meaningful results. Compassion in action. That's United Way.

**FIND OUT ABOUT YOUR COMMUNITY'S IMPACT AGENDA.**

**LOG ON TO UNITEDWAY.ORG**

**United Way**  
The Way America Cares.  
Community by Community.

**DO GOOD. MENTOR A CHILD. CALL 1-877-BE A MENTOR.**

To be a mentor, you don't have to be perfect. You just have to be yourself, which, by the way, is pretty good.

**Save the Children**  
GET UP FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD

**Academy**



# PERSPECTUS

## OPINION

BY ALAN JACOB, STAFF WRITER

### Armed for take-off?

There are innumerable potential problems that arise when considering arming commercial pilots. The first and foremost is that the pilots (captain and co-pilot) bring two guns onto an airplane that normally would not have been there. When I was trained as a police officer years ago, I was told something very important that I did not immediately realize; there will be a gun at every single call I go to. The same concept applies here now you have two guns for potential terrorist use. A terrorist who is physically stronger than the pilots can disarm them and use the guns to hijack the aircraft. Another major problem is the compacted area of an aircraft. It is very dangerous to fire a gun inside such a compacted place because of the potential of shooting an innocent bystander (in this case a passenger). A bullet can ricochet, tear through seats, or even go through a terrorist and hit an unintended target. Furthermore, if a pilot misses his intended target and hits a window or the structure of the aircraft, not to mention the fuselage, the pressure in the passenger compartment can drop quickly or a fire can ignite, engulfing the entire aircraft in flames.

Some will argue that the pilots can use rubber bullets. How effective are rubber bullets? I have seen them in action. They are not as effective as believed. The circumstances under which they are used, the person who is being shot at and the fact that each bullet causes a different reaction with each person are all factors one should take into account before using them. It does not work on everyone. Add adrenaline, and one may be able to sustain a barrage of rubber bullets. Furthermore, firing rubber bullets properly does not mean they will hit the intended target. Because they are coated with rubber, they are erratic in flight. In other words, they don't fly straight. This could cause unintended injury to an innocent bystander (or in this case a passenger). If a terrorist is bent on hijacking the airplane, he may be able to sustain a barrage of rubber bullets, then attack the pilots and take control of the airplane.

Aside from the dangers mentioned above, let's think about the pilots for a second. Not only do they have to go through intense training to become a pilot (most pilots are armed forces veterans), but also now they will have to qualify with the weapon, be proficient at shooting, and be able to recognize a threat. Qualifying and being proficient at shooting are the easy parts. The hard part is recognizing a potential threat. Recognizing suspicious activity or movement cannot be taught. As a police officer, it took me nearly 2 years to be able to recognize what is and is not suspicious. What a common person would never describe as suspicious, a pilot now must recognize almost immediately.

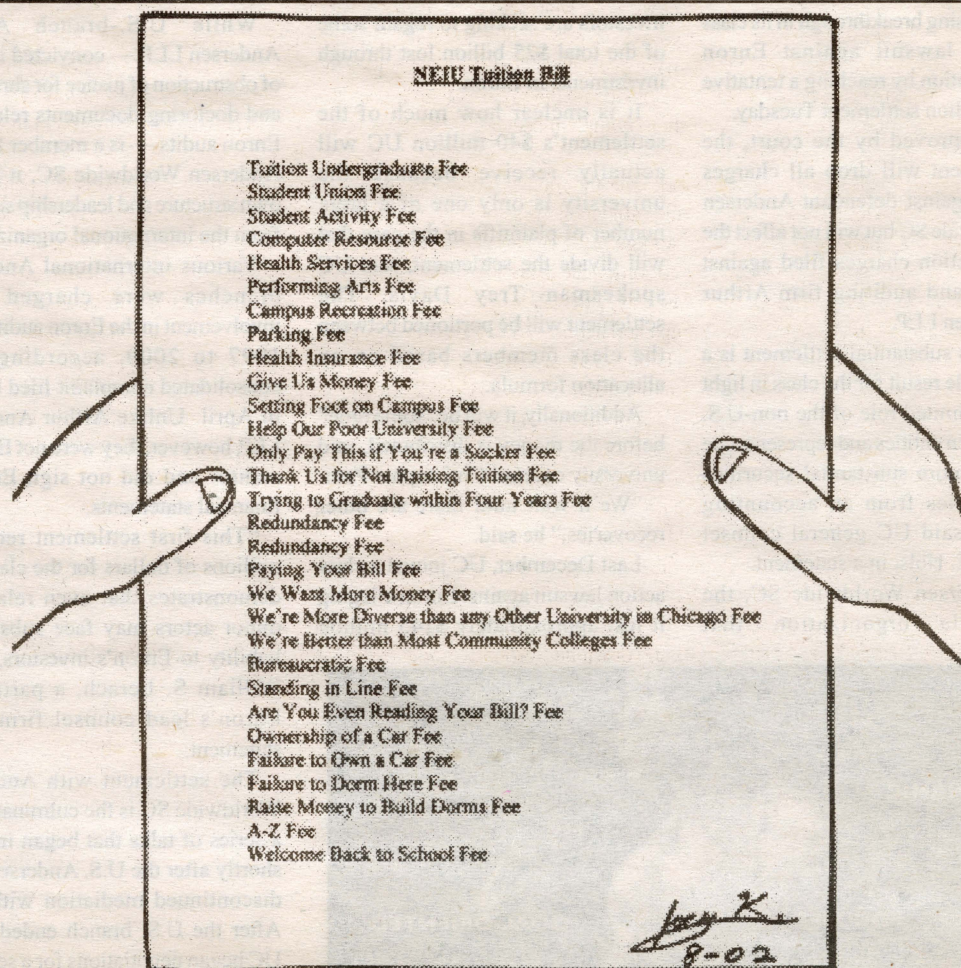
But wait, there's more. A pilot now not only has to take off, maneuver, and land an aircraft, in addition to monitoring and communicating with various control towers, paying special attention to the radar screen, watching whether patterns, fighting turbulence, as well as addressing potential problems in flight and any other issue related to the complexity of flying, but also recognizing and deeming an action by a terrorist as life threatening to the pilot, passengers, or the United States, the pilot must now make a split second decision to shoot or not to shoot in compact quarters, shoot accurately without injuring anyone else or the aircraft, holster, and land the plane.

Some people may argue that the carrying of a gun by a pilot will deter the terrorist. A bigger and better deterrent would be the use of Air Marshals. A terrorist does not know if one or two or any are aboard. Not only is this a better deterrent, but also an Air Marshal has the element of surprise on his side, the pilot does not.

This idea of arming pilots is preposterous. It's almost an invite for a terrorist: "Dear Mr. Terrorist, during your flight there will be two guns in the cockpit. If at anytime, you feel the need to disarm the pilot or pilots and hijack the airplane, please feel free to do so at any time. You do not need to bring your own gun; the U.S. Government will supply them to you. Since you are suicidal by nature, firing a gun inside of an airplane by either you or the pilot in flight will help you accomplish your mission. If you have any questions, please contact the U.S. Government during flight using an airfone. Thank you for flying United Terrorists Airlines."

## DRAWING BOARD

BY JOSEPH KANDELMAN, SENIOR STAFF WRITER



## OPINION

BY JOHN BROLLEY, COPY EDITOR

### The Real World a pathetic parody

Just as the fate of the contestants on *Survivor* are never really in question (instead of thirty-nine days in Bora Bora, how about one night in Cabrini Green?), the lives of the seven twenty-something's from *The Real World* are real only in that they eat, sleep, and whine just like the rest of us. The *Sur-Real World* guys and girls live together, always in an amazing house, in some happening city. At least two of the participants share a bedroom, and since no one gets their own bathroom, *The Real World* at least mirrors reality in its depiction of the typical American family's bathroom wars.

The eleventh and latest installment of *The Real World* was filmed in Chicago. First off, all seven people survived. That Chicago was finally chosen as the host city for *The Real World* was a dubious compliment at best. The Chicago 7 barely made mention of their surroundings. You know, that would have meant not talking about their hair or outfit...the Chicago 7 were Aneesa, Cara, Chris, Keri, Kyle, Theo, and Tonya.

What follows are capsule descriptions of each cast member:

**Aneesa:** Attractive, gay, and naked a lot

**Cara:** Skinny and annoying, See *Carrie of Sex and The City*

**Chris:** Gay Male Model whose hobbies mostly involved enjoying his flexed reflection in the overworked bathroom mirror

**Keri:** Juicy-lipped southern princess

**Kyle:** Thick haired, thin skinned

**Theo:** Cool dude, son of a minister

**Tonya:** Chilly, hard bodied, fish out of water

While none of the Chicago 7 were total jerks, Kyle, a Princeton grad, and soap opera handsome, made the other six showboats look positively reasoned and selfless. Of course, Kyle's only a young guy, but hey, so were the Menendez brothers. Kyle's over the top love of self only served to underline the primary focus of the show: *Self-absorption Gone Wild*.

Some of what takes place on *The Real World* is, sadly, beyond parody. For instance, one of the more irksome aspects of *The Real World* (or in the whole world) is The Confessional. Here, cast members have a chance to air their respective gripes or in some cases enlighten us with their deepest thoughts. Here is an actual collection of a few of the Confessions available on MTV's Real World web site.

"Kyle has some serious thoughts about 9/11." Is it really necessary to note that Kyle's thoughts are serious?

"Theo discusses working with kids vs. life guarding." I guess it's too late to let Theo know that there were more than a few kids to be found at the beach, too.

"Tonya discusses the struggles of working with Theo." Better would have been, "Tonya discusses working with kids vs. life guarding, and how both would suck anyway because she'd have to work with Theo."

"Aneesa discusses what kind of a person she is." Did you expect her discuss someone else?

"Theo discusses his relationship with Nelson." Wasn't sure if he meant Charles Nelson Reilly or Nelson Mandela?

In any good story or reality show you need conflict of some sort. Just as important as who you're pulling for is who you're rooting against. *The Real World's* editors always offer up one or two cast members for us to despise. This is probably a good time to bring up the fact that there are 168 hours in any given week. It's also worth noting that *The Real World* show is only one hour of that same week. Meaning, if you're going to be an ass, do it when the camera is not pointing in your direction.

Which brings us to the Chicago 7's Tonya, the closest thing to a villain that we had to work with. Her crime was being caught on camera lacking polish and the filter we all have that keeps us from saying really dumb things. In her very first meeting with Theo (an African American), Tonya let it be known that she had never really been in close contact with a black person, but was nonetheless intimidated by them. This is about as logical as my hating mushrooms without ever having eaten one.

Someone asked me recently what I thought the reason was for the growing popularity of "Reality Shows." Yeah, I do get some serious questions like this, but most of the questions that I get are more like, "You going to eat that?" Or "Could you move?" Anyway, Reality Shows, to be sure, do provide that voyeur itch that most of us have but are afraid to scratch. What are our options really, peeping through windows? Too risky.



## SPEAK UP!

join the Independent

for more details see our ad in the classifieds on page 16

call us at (773) 442-4577 or e-mail us

neiu\_independent@yahoo.com



# NEIU customer service falls short

I rented a Northeastern locker for spring semester of 2002. I waited far beyond the deadline, May 5 2002, to either get my deposit back or reserve it for summer 2002. As a result, the school kept my deposit and changed the lock on my locker. All of this was completely my fault and their policy was very clear from when I first rented it.

In the mean time, I registered for a Summer II class, for which I had previously bought the textbook, put it away somewhere, and forgot where I put it. After thoroughly searching my house for this textbook, I reached the conclusion that I had left the textbook in my locker the semester before.

Aggravated with myself for being so irresponsible, I paid a visit to the Student Information Center, the department in charge of lockers, to see whether they still had my textbook. Marie Skorupa, the lady who works there, explained that students who do not consult them by the end of the semester lose their \$5.00 deposit fee. In addition, the school cleans out the contents of each unclaimed locker and disposes of it. In the event that they find something relatively valuable, such as a textbook, they put it in storage and charge an additional \$5.00 storage fee if the students come back to claim it. Although I was furious that I had been penalized twice, I knew I had no right to complain because I had brought this whole fiasco upon myself and they had made their rules very clear beforehand.

Extracting my wallet, I was ready to fork over the money when she said it wasn't that simple. All goods left behind in lockers past the deadline were stored in a file cabinet on the second floor of the Student Union, under lock and key. The only person who knew the whereabouts of the storage key was Patrick Fleury, a custodian who works at the Student Union. As it turns out, he had just left to go on vacation to some state in another time zone for three-weeks (I didn't get a clear answer). He would not return to Northeastern until Monday, July 22, when the semester was more than halfway through (4/7 of the semester, to be exact). According to Skorupa and her boss, Sarator Whitehead, Fleury was the only person who knew where the key was. The new head of the Student Union, Sarator Whitehead, claimed that she did not have a copy. I asked Skorupa, Whitehead, and even Public Safety if they either had access to a key or knew anybody who did. Not one of them had a single copy of the key. The more I asked, the more I got the same answer: not one person in all of Northeastern had a single copy of the key except for Pat Fleury, who was on vacation. I asked if he left a phone number which they can call, on the chance that the key was somewhere on campus. Nobody claimed to know how to reach him either. Did they in fact know? I'll give them the benefit of the doubt that they really did not.

After tracking down Whitehead, she told me that there were two options for dealing with this problem. We could demolish the lock on the file cabinet and buy a new file drawer (which she was not prepared to do) or we could wait until Fleury comes back from vacation. I asked her whether Northeastern would at least drop the storage fee as some form of compensation for their error. She said she didn't know, and she would get back to me. I'm still waiting for her to get back to me a month and a half later. By the time this article is printed and distributed around campus, it will have been over two months. I'm sure she'll get back to me any day now.

This meant that I was unable to use my textbook for 4/7ths of the entire Summer II semester. I don't have a prayer of succeeding in a math class without a textbook for a day, let alone over half the semester. I now had to either buy a second copy of the book (which was non-returnable, thank you very much Beck's Bookstore) or photocopy about half of the textbook. Leaving me no choice, I borrowed another student's textbook and went to Kinko's. I made 132 photocopies of pages (most of them were 2 textbook pages per copy). It cost me \$11.41 and wasted nearly an hour of my time and immeasurable aggravation. I went to all of this trouble to make copies of a textbook, which I already owned and was being held for ransom at Northeastern for more than half a semester.

Did I get an apology from anyone at Northeastern? Did any Northeastern employees do anything to assuage the situation? Did a single employee at Northeastern give the slightest hint of sympathy? Not on your life! They defended and rationalized their actions! They made me out to be the bad guy. "If you cared so damn much about your book," shouted Skorupa, "why didn't you collect it before the end of the [spring] semester?" Needless to say, I was livid.

Eventually, July 22 came and Fleury returned from his trip. They unlocked the drawer, extracted my textbook, and had it ready for me. After all of the inconvenience, time, frustration, and expense that they put me through, I hoped they would at least have the decency to drop the \$5.00 storage fee. Did they? Of course not! "We promised the \$5.00 fee for storing the goods," said Skorupa, "but we didn't promise anything about when to pick them up. You pick them up at our convenience, not yours."

There you have it. Northeastern is not apologetic for all of their irresponsibility and carelessness, they're proud of it. They revel in their bureaucracy, callousness, and greed (even if it's a measly \$5.00, they just can't bear to overlook it. By gum, it belongs to them fair and square and Joe Student is just sorry-out-of-luck. Well, I've got a few choice words for them).

Although it is frustrating that I had to eat these fees, my grudge against Northeastern is not primarily about the money. Yes, it was time and money, which I didn't need to spend, but my biggest grudge is about how their foul-up cost me immeasurable aggravation throughout this saga. After all was said and done, they didn't apologize; they didn't try to mitigate or even sympathize about how much they inconvenienced me. To the contrary, they were irate and indignant that I kept nudging them about getting my stuff before they were good and ready to return it.

Let me make this perfectly clear: If I foul up, I will be the first to admit it. I was at fault for not showing up to collect my deposit on the locker before the deadline. I was at fault for leaving a textbook in the locker.

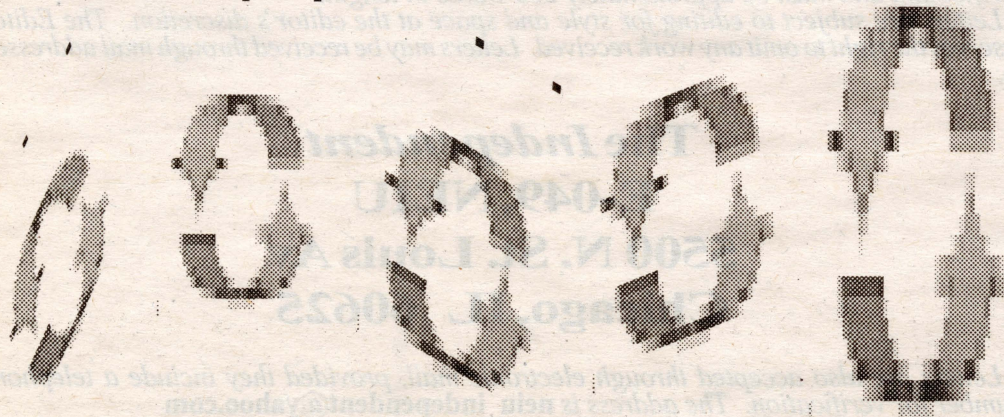
Let this be equally clear: Northeastern owed me the duty of care to return my book when I arrived to claim it. They breached that duty for three weeks and four days, totaling 4/7 of the semester. As a result I had to pay \$16.41 (the money I spent making photocopies plus the \$5 storage fee that they wouldn't drop), waste several hours of my precious time, and infuriating me with their bureaucratic games. Three games they played were: pass-the-buck [I don't have the key. Do you have the key?]; squeeze-the-sucker-for-every-penny-we-can-get [the policy is you owe us this fee]; and a boat-load of attitude [Apologize? When pigs fly! It's your fault, buddy].

It gets better. When Mr. Fleury returned, he told Whitehead that she had two sets of the keys all along. This reminds me of the story of Dumbo who lost his feather and thought that he couldn't fly, when in actuality he could fly all along.

Oh, but we cost the student lots of time, money, and frustration?

Too bad. Welcome to Northeastern [hey, I just came up with a great school motto! Remember, you heard it here first!]

**When done reading, tossing, whapping other people with, and making hats out of this paper, drop it in a recycling bin'**

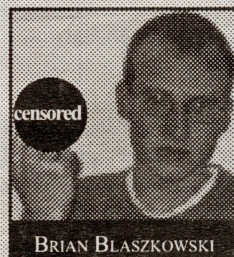


The Voice of the Campus is feeling a little under the weather, and so he is unable to write a new column for this issue. He will be back in all his cursing and hate-filled glory next issue. Until then, please enjoy this "Classic Voice of the Campus" from last semester.

## Of computer geeks and meek people

WELL, IT'S BEEN ABOUT A YEAR SINCE I LAST WROTE ABOUT SOMETHING THAT IS ACTUALLY RELATED TO NORTHEASTERN, SO I MIGHT

AS WELL DO IT AGAIN. AFTER ALL, I'M SUPPOSED TO BE WRITING ABOUT CAMPUS RELATED ISSUES, NOT BITCHING ABOUT WHAT A LOSER I AM AND TELLING RANDOM STORIES WITH NO POINT. SO, HERE'S MY ANNUAL "NEIU RELATED TOPIC."



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

The computer lab in the basement of the classroom building is being overrun by losers. This particular brand of loser is monopolizing the use of the computers, and they are all

making life difficult for those of us who want to do school work. They're easy to spot. They're playing pool on the computer.

Pool? What the hell is wrong with them? They're wasting resources to play a simulated activity? Good God, what a bunch of freaks. Now, when the lab isn't full, they can do whatever they want. Play pool, play snooker, chat with other desperate people in the "love rooms," whatever. But, when the lab is full and people are wandering about, trying to do homework, then all pool playing must stop.

It says so right on some signs posted in various locations, the signs basically say that if someone needs the computer for homework and you're just screwing around, get the hell off. But they don't. They sit right there, pretending they're cool, and pretending to play pool.

They also play cards, checkers, chess, backgammon, and other games that normally require props and other people to make them fun. I don't have a problem with people who play video games. Video games and computer games are about all I have left, which just goes to show you how sad my life is. (You knew I'd work in some personal bitching somehow). I've been known to dabble in *Quake* and *EverQuest*, among others. But the thing is, I dabble on my *personal* computer. I don't sit at a public computer, desperately seeking some validation in my life, and wasting other people's time.

So, it seems the obvious thing to do would be ban the playing of games in the computer labs. The labs, after all, are there for homework, right? They serve the purpose of helping those without access to computers. NEIU's brochure doesn't say "Come to NEIU! Meet new people, take part in our wonderful class selection process, and play computer games in the school computer labs!" Of course it doesn't say that. Our class selection process sucks, and the purpose of the labs isn't to play games. So, let's ban games from the labs.

But, that simply wouldn't work. It wouldn't work because, out of all the complaints I've heard about the people playing games in a full computer lab, never once have the people complaining ever asked the "video gamers" to move. Not once. They wait. They simmer. They scowl. But they don't take matters into their own hands. Why not? The signs are posted. They have the backing of the computer lab. Those computer lab people are mean. I wouldn't want to mess with them. So, why do people just stand there like idiots, counting the tiles in the ceiling and passively waiting for someone to move?

Take some initiative, for God's sake! Ask them nicely if they would move, since you have homework to do. If they won't, then tell the computer people. The signs clearly state that you are in the right, here. Don't be timid, be confident! Are you worried that the video gamer might think you're rude? That's *his* problem. He can go to hell. You have homework to do!

The problem here is people confuse being assertive with being rude. You aren't always automatically being rude if you stick up for yourself and your rights. Asking some dork who is playing games in the computer to move isn't being rude, unless you call him a dork in your request. Be calm, assertive, and comfortable in the knowledge that you are right. If he won't move, obviously, then some rudeness might be required.

I'm always surprised at just how much crap people will tolerate. I have no patience at all. I've seen it. Someone is in a hurry in the halls, and they get stuck behind some slow moving herd of idiots, bumbling around and bumping into things. They try to sneak around, but one of the herd sways into their path, so they sigh and just slow their walk.

Not me! Screw that, I'm busy. I'll walk around them. If they happen to bump into me, such is life. I'll squeeze past them, mutter an insensitive apology if I knock one of them over, and continue on my way. The hallways are for everyone. Don't be too polite to tell someone they're in your way. Just make sure you can either take them in a fight or outrun them if they're bigger than you.

It's the same thing in the parking lot. People just can't deal with three-way stops. So, help them out! Honk your horn, flip them off, scream out the window. Do anything to get them moving. I can't afford to be stuck behind some jackass who's fumbling with a cell phone.

I have to get home and play *EverQuest*.



# Obese people victims?

Recently, 56-year-old maintenance worker Caesar Barber filed a lawsuit against several fast food establishments. The plaintiff claims that it is the fault of such places as McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy's, as well as KFC that he is obese. Barber, who stands five foot ten inches tall and weighs in the ball park of 270 pounds, has taken it upon himself to stand up for other obese people in New York for the ill-mannered way in which these junk food giants have lured in the unsuspecting populous.

Barber even went on ABC's morning talk show *Good Morning America*, saying "They never explained to me what I was eating." In a way, he is right. When is the last time a menu at McDonalds ever listed what exactly it was that they put into their "Big Mac"? Under the law, don't consumers have a right to know what it is they are buying? Doesn't packaging at the supermarket have a list of ingredients on the label? So, is it fair that fast food restaurants have to list in plain view of the patrons what exactly it is they stuff into their menu items?

Part of me says yes. But at the same time, back here on earth, in the universe known as reality, if a place can sell a burger for about a buck and still make a profit, not to mention have contests where you can win \$1 million, you might want to rethink it before reaching for your wallet in the back pocket covering your cavernous, not to mention nasty, sweaty, taking up two, sometimes three, seats on a bus, butt.

Does this guy, like so many others, not have a mirror at home? Have they never seen themselves naked in the shower before? At what point do they realize, if at all, that they might have a problem?

Before all the obese start sending in hate mail, I will acknowledge people can live busy lives. So at times it is easier to just go and grab something from a fast food joint. But at the same time, there is something called "time management." If there is at all a chance that you might in any way be busy during the day, why not grab something before you leave in the morning? Ooohhh, but packing a lunch is soooo childish and grade schoolish. But lets look at it logically, shall we? If it came down to getting up a few minutes earlier in the morning and making something healthy for yourself, or spending time in the hospital because your heart, liver, kidneys, or some other organ gave out because of your diet, which would you prefer?

Does anyone really believe the fault lies with the fast food industry? Is this anything like the lawsuits against major tobacco manufacturers? At least with cigarettes, a person with the least bit of common sense should know that smoking might eventually kill them. What about fast food? With all the grease and fat loaded into some of the food, is it not also reasonable to conclude that eventually it might lead to health problems, just as cigarettes do? The establishments mentioned in the lawsuit are, dare I say, corporate entities, and anyone who knows anything knows that corporations are just like everyday people in a way. They are all looking for a way to increase profits. And since corporations are legal entities unto themselves in the eyes of the states in which they reside, the shareholders care about nothing more than profit. So of course the board of directors might actually turn the other cheek when it comes to exactly what is in their product, as long as it does not kill anyone and raise the possibility of a lawsuit coming out of it. Why should they be concerned about what eating too many burgers will do to someone's cholesterol? All they would have to do in court is say that it was the person's responsibility to know when to say when. After all, as long as there is no mind-altering chemicals or addictive substances in their food, can they really be held responsible?

I am not saying all these fast food restaurants are bad. After all, Subway does offer on it's menu a selection that they claim is "under 6 grams of fat." If Jared could lose all that weight and keep it off, what is the problem? So, in the specific case of Caesar Barber, it is his own fault that he is in the situation he is in, not that of the fast food industry. At what point does someone claim responsibility for their own actions and not place the blame on someone else? It is his own fault that he is fat and not necessarily that of fast food establishments. To quote Fat Bastard from the second *Austin Powers* movie, "I eat because I'm unhappy. And I'm unhappy because I eat. It's a vicious cycle."



in order to create interest in joining the *Independent* as a WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER, or REPORTER we bring to you this **celebrity testimonial** from the legendary clipart model and founding member of the Rat Pack,

Mr. Excitement, himself,  
**JOE CLIPART**

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



your name, opinions, and photos in print!  
**join the Independent**

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

# Students respond to VOC's NEIU myths

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to Brian Blaszkowski's column regarding the myths surrounding NEIU. I am a transfer student and have attended 4 other colleges prior to entering NEIU and have found that the transition to NEIU has been unbelievable. One of the colleges that I came from had a typo on the transcript and it delayed my entry forcing me to have to wait until late registration. Brian was not kidding when he said that you could not get the schedule you wanted. First of all, the touch tone registration is a joke. I could not get through dialing from area code 773, but had to get my husband to call from a different area code so we could register. Come out of the dinosaur age and get on-line. I did not get the classes I wanted, but was lucky enough to get some classes in the time slots that I needed. I was in shock when 15-20 students who were trying to get into some of the classes, were being turned away. Scheduling is a joke. I love how they change the class dates and times sporadically. There are not enough classes for the amount of students that attend. In the handbook, there are tons of classes that are allegedly offered but, when it comes time for registration it is a totally different story.

The administrative staff is overwhelmed. Either everyone is incompetent or they do not have enough people to keep up with student body. It is impossible to get a live person when trying to get anything done, instead you are forced into a web of directories and voice mails, in which call backs are few and far between. Financial aid counselors have better security than the president of the United States. Chances of talking to George W. Bush or Elvis, for that matter, are better than speaking to your assigned financial aid counselor. The one time I tried to speak with an academic counselor, they seemed to be inconvenienced by my presence and were completely useless. The parking situation is incredible. What a cluster-f\*\*\*! At least the school gets the parking fees up front! If you have a class that begins after 7 a.m. forget about finding a space, unless of course you pay the additional \$400 a year for the level one parking. Sooner or later though everyone is going to realize that little perk and there won't be any parking there either.

For any of you parents out there who expected to find on-campus child care, forget it. There is at least a 2 year waiting list. For me, I will be long gone by the time my kids' names come up. Who knows they may be graduated from college by the time their names come up.

In response to all of the extra classes you are forced to pay for, here is my take. We all know that the primary mission for "Schools of Higher Learning" is to generate revenue, and that is by enrollment. If you are not aware of this, than you are either naive or plain down right stupid and don't belong in college. That is the reason for the "impossible to complete in 4-5 years curriculum." The only way they can continue to keep getting your money is to change what is offered, make sure that the classes that you need are only offered once every 2-3 years and when they are offered make sure that all of the classes required by your major are all in the same time slots. Of course, we have to change the curriculum every couple years, too. So when it is time to graduate they can throw a few more mandatory classes at ya.

Fortunately, NEIU has a way around the never ending requirements. That is the reason that I am here. I strongly recommend looking into the Board of Governor's Program.

I have not come in too much contact with the professors, but so far mine seem okay. It's a shame that there is such a language barrier that I can barely understand some of them though, unfortunately, I can't try to get into another class because there are probably 20-40 other people trying to get in also. I was hoping to be challenged in the classroom, but find that getting into the school, registering and reaching counselors is far more challenging than what I can expect in the classroom.

Thank you for letting me vent.

Sincerely,

Becky Malarski  
Junior, NEIU

Dear Editor,

As usual, I grabbed up my copy of the *Independent* and flipped immediately to the Voice of the Campus section to get my dose of ridiculous humor that's really meant to be serious. Most of the time, I laugh hard at the incredible amounts of BS Mr. Blaszkowski manages to fit into such a small column and then I toss the paper and go on about by business. Sometimes, however, I see that Mr. Blaszkowski needs some help because he seems to not know what to do in a university system. No wonder he's still here, poor guy.

Contrary to what he says, plenty of NEIU students get the schedules they need, and are taking all the right courses, because they take the time to register when it is their turn to advance register (if you wait until late registration, then, yes, class will more than likely be full). Besides, there are also ways to be eligible for priority registration (look at some of the bulletin boards) like the STARS Program offered up by the Admissions Office, to name one. Don't be lazy, look for a way to help yourself.

Go see your advisor. We do not have guidance counselors—this is not high school. Your advisor can tell you everything you need to know; just try meeting him or her sometime and don't roll your eyes and yawn while they tell you what needs to be done. You asking your friend who's in the same major but has two more courses than you about what to take does not count as advising. Apply for graduation early (you can do this when you reach 85 credit hours, it says so right in the schedule of classes) and the graduation evaluators will tell you exactly what you're missing so you're not caught unaware. And, news-flash, read the catalog. You know, that thing with all the course descriptions that you can get from the Admissions Office or bookstore for free. You can find out if courses have prerequisites, believe it or not. Besides, were adults. Again, this is not high school. Do something for your self and quit blaming the rest of the University because you're still here.

As far as the cafeteria goes, it's better than most. If you don't like it, go eat elsewhere. The Food Services staff does a pretty darn good job, to say the least.

Believe it or not, I do agree with you about the elevators and the parking. But that's life, and every university probably has the same problems. Take public transportation and use the stairs if you can. These issues have nothing to do with the quality of education that you receive from NEIU. An excellent one. Read it again. You can get an excellent education from NEIU if you apply yourself, read the catalog, and quit wasting your time bitching about trivialities.

Thanks for keeping laughing, though, Mr. Blaszkowski. Who needs the comic pages anyway?

Steve Pajak

## LETTER POLICY

Letters to the Editor must be signed and contain an address and telephone number for verification and must be approximately 250 words in length.

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

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

Letters are also accepted through electronic mail, provided they include a telephone number for verification. The address is [neiu\\_independent@yahoo.com](mailto:neiu_independent@yahoo.com)



## The Vines not original

Commentary ~ page R2

## Elvis lives...in other rock stars

Commentary ~ below

## Ssimpossible

Poetry from Brian Rohloff ~ page R4

# REV

extremely local entertainment ~ pull-out section

## Elvis's contributions to Rock and Roll

by Mike Cahill  
Special Contributor

Some twenty five years ago, the world mourned the loss of Elvis Presley. The iconic "King" of rock & roll passed, leaving a legacy no other performer has been able to match. In a successful but turbulent career, Elvis changed the entire landscape of music forever.

John Lennon once said, "Nothing really affected me until I heard Elvis. If there hadn't been Elvis, there wouldn't have been the *Beatles*." This statement could easily be echoed by hundreds of performers all over the world who came after Elvis. Elvis Presley started out as a young, ambitious performer from the south, looking to make his mark in the world of music. In the early 1950's, before Elvis was a household name, before the thirty #1 singles, before the excess, before the demise, he just a young man trying to make it. It was during this time that Elvis began working for Sun Records. In his short time there he worked with such artists as Jerry Lewis, Roy Orbison, and Johnny Cash, and created some of the best rock-a-billy sound the world has ever heard.

It was also during this time that Elvis began touring the Louisiana Hayride, a traveling circus of young performers playing to small (small certainly by Elvis standards) audiences. It was here that Elvis would begin to blossom into the tremendous performer he was known to be. The leg shaking that would later be his trademark was done early on. Only it wasn't done out of a sense of showmanship, rather it was done out of sheer nerves. To hear the Louisiana Hayride Sessions is to listen to the evolution of a legend. As his confidence grew in front of a live audience, so did his stage presence. The leg shaking became more choreographed, and his voice, always emotional and unique, got stronger with each song he performed. "That's All Right" gained a certain attitude when Elvis sang it, and "Baby, Let's Play House" was sung with the kind of sneakiness of an inside joke that only he and the audience shared. Those Hayride sessions helped to prove to those that attended, that Elvis was too good to have no one know about him.

In 1956, Elvis and the music world would change forever. He invaded the mainstream like no other artist before him. Bob Dylan once said that "hearing him for the first time was like busting out of jail." This is important in helping to dispell the long time myth about Elvis: that he was simply a singer, that Elvis wasn't a musician. This statement couldn't have been farther from the truth. Elvis was and should always be remembered as a

Elvis  
continued on page 3





# The Vines lack originality

by Mike Cahill  
Special Contributor

Oh, *The Vines*. Their album *Highly Evolved* was released not too long ago, and due to a large "lack of originality" factor, *The Vines* are just a bit better than average. In an age of Rap-Rock, boy bands, and a time where every other band to hit the mainstream seems to be a throwback to some legendary band of the 1970's, it is a little refreshing to hear a sound like *The Vines*.

*Highly Evolved* is a rock album, plain and simple. There are no bells and whistles, no gimmicks, and no guest appearances. It's a three-member band who lets their music speak for themselves. This overall sounds to be the making of a true rock force in the industry; however, *The Vines* aren't totally original themselves.

For those that were conscious in the early 90's, you might remember a movement out of Seattle known as grunge. The movement was led by the legendary *Nirvana*. Well, *The Vines* are so heavily influenced by *Nirvana* you could almost credit Kurt Cobain with a couple of tracks on the album.

Craig Nicholls, the band's guitarist and lead singer, spends an entire album mimicking the voice of Cobain. He comes across with the same strained and painful tone that Cobain made famous over a decade earlier. The first track, "Highly Evolved," is a high-charged number soaked in their *Nirvana*/Punk roots. Lyrically the song offers little, but it contains a lively energy that makes it work.

The second track follows at the same blistering speed, and once again offers little substance but keeps the sound cohesive. The first four tracks entirely are dedicated to the Cobain sound. The sound is simple and dissident.

The album reaches it's first really impressive point at track five. "Homesick" is one of the

best two tracks on the album. Their Nicholls abandons his carbon-copy style and begins to sing much more like himself. The track is slow and beautiful. His voice crackles and draws you in. And, for the first time on the album, he begins to say something of substance. "I can see the leaves of golden glisten in the sun/ making time for everyone is what I should have done/ blue and green with eyes between are acting all the same/ you and me are never free until we're cast away." He grows into his own on the track and unfortunately you catch it seldom the rest of the way.

Track seven is that one other time. "Country Yard" is just as soulful as the fifth track. The sad thing about these two tracks is that you see how good they can be when they just play from their heads, but they rarely do it. "I'm tired of feelin' sick and useless/ then speakin' every other way/ gluin my eyes together girl/ might be the right escape." This is as personal as they get, and it's well worth the listen.

The album is a lot like *Nirvana*, and that's a problem. He sounds like Cobain, and their music is like *Nirvana*, but they're not. They can't draw out the feeling that *Bleach* gave us. Nicholls can imitate, but his voice lacks that insecurity you felt when Cobain sang. And lyrically there are few that would ever be able to write the way he did. The problem with modeling yourself after *Nirvana* is that you have to come with some seriously brilliant music, and *The Vines* only gave us glimpses of that.

The album isn't something that you definitely shouldn't buy. I mean, to model yourself after *Nirvana* is a good choice, and the album has good rhythm and the good songs, many times, out weigh the bad ones. But if you're looking for something brand new and completely fresh, look elsewhere, *Nirvana*'s already done it. Overall, *Highly Evolved*, and more specifically *The Vines* themselves, get a "C."

# The Who return to Chicago

by Mary Jo Chrabasz  
Senior Staff Writer

With the opening strains of "I Can't Explain," the Who show just why they are unsurpassed in rock history — just how many rock bands continue to open with their first hit nearly forty years after it was released? Not many. Despite the turmoil of the years, the *Who* continue to prove they are one of the best bands in rock n' roll.

The *Who* are currently touring the United States on their 2002 tour, choosing to continue even after the death of their bassist John Alec Entwistle, just before the start of the tour. Despite the loss, the *Who* were at their finest on Saturday, August 24 at the Tweeter Center (formerly New World Music Theatre) in Tinley Park.

Currently consisting of a 6-piece band, led by original band member Pete Townshend and founder Roger Daltrey, the *Who* delivered a more than two hour stream of non-stop rock and roll. With veteran bassist Pino Palladino, long time keyboard player (with the band since shortly before Keith Moon's death in 1978) John "Rabbit" Bundrick, drummer Zak Starkey (son of Ringo Starr and trained by both Ringo and Keith Moon), and vocalist/guitarist Simon Townshend, the *Who* brought back the sound of their early rebellious days in the 1960s.

The band played nearly non-stop, pausing only to chat with the audience and crack jokes, taking the stage at 9 p.m. and not relenting until after 11:30 p.m. From the tried-and-always-true opener of "I Can't Explain" the band segued into another early hit, "Substitute" and then "Anyway Anyhow Anywhere." Next was "Who Are You," recently immortalized in Gateway commercials and as the opening theme to the television series CSI, followed by Townshend introducing the band.

After introductions, the band chose a pair of somewhat less frequently performed live numbers, "Another Tricky Day" from 1981's *Face Dances* and "Relay," long an un-released studio track. Next the band moved onto "Bargain," now well-known as Nissan's theme song, and then the energetic hit "Baba O'Riley" (don't call it "Teenage Wasteland" in front of a true *Who* fan; the song was named for the Meher Baba, whose philosophy Townshend follows).

The next few numbers were somewhat predicted by the merchandise spread available at the show, with several shirts, pins, and key chains bearing the logo of the *Who*'s second rock opera, 1970's *Quadrophenia*. In quick succession, the band moved swiftly through "Sea and Sand" (rarely heard live except for the two *Quadrophenia* tours), "5:15" and "Love Reign O'er Me." Here, the band's age finally showed, as Roger Daltrey stopped mid-song and declared "I forgot the fucking words!" After a glare from Townshend, the band finished the song, at which point Daltrey announced they would play the song over again, "...until we get the fucking thing right!" Some members of the audience seemed to feel the band wouldn't play the song again, but they held true to their word and on the second attempt, performed "Love Reign O'er Me" flawlessly.

Once again back in their stride, the *Who* sped up from the slow *Quadrophenia* number to the jazzy "Eminence Front," another rare live number. Then it was back to old favorites, with "Behind Blue Eyes," "You Better, You Bet," and "The Kids Are Alright." The band hit their peak with the final two numbers of the main set, solid hits "My Generation" and "Won't Get Fooled Again." While not quite as long as it sometimes became during the *Who*'s heyday, "My Generation" added a few more minutes with a brilliant Townshend jam session added in the middle. Despite having been told not to try to emulate Entwistle, Palladino still managed to capture the master's characteristic riffs in the song.

After the last strains of the ultimate rock anthem died out, all six band members quietly left the stage and the four large projection screens set up around the theatre silently paid tribute to John Entwistle with a series of photographs spanning the *Who*'s career. The packed outdoor amphitheatre became silent as fans remembered the thundering "Ox" who helped create the *Who*'s trademark thunder and noise.

After the tribute, the band returned to the state, Townshend announcing they had planned to perform the entirety of *Tommy* (the *Who*'s first rock opera and a lengthy set that dominated the *Who*'s concerts of 1969-1971) for an encore. Cheers arose, but hopes were dashed when Townshend declared that, "some of you have babysitters." Instead the *Who* performed an abbreviated, but no less magical, version of *Tommy*, with "Pinball Wizard" sliding smoothly into "Amazing Journey" and "Sparks" and topped with the famous refrains of "See Me Feel Me/Listening to You." With that, the band thanked Chicago for another wonderful evening and left...for now. They will be back in September for Townshend's annual Maryville Academy benefit show at the House of Blues.

For more information, or to bring some of the magic of the *Who* live home, check out Townshend's official websites, <http://www.petetownshend.com> and <http://www.eelpie.com>, or for live concert recordings, <http://www.themusic.com>.

Long live rock!

## Oasis rocks the Chicago theatre

by Mary Jo Chrabasz  
Senior Staff Writer

Move over *Who*, here comes the new loudest rock 'n roll band in the world, *Oasis*. Returning again to the historic Chicago Theatre, *Oasis* has again asserted their place in rock history. With a nonstop slew of new hits, old hits, and other hits, the band made for a thrilling two-and-a-half hours on Tuesday, August 20.

Parts of the set list followed the band's tour album *Familiar to Millions* from 2000, with plenty of songs from their new release, *Heathen Chemistry* sprinkled in. The band remained offstage as the house lights were dimmed and the recorded tune "Fuckin' in the Bushes" played, with a series of images played on the large projection screen at the back of the stage. When Liam and Noel Gallagher took the stage, cheers arose among the sold-out crowd, which stood and remained standing until the show was over.

The set list included old favorites such as "Hello," "Morning Glory," "Some Might Say," and "Don't Look Back in Anger" from (*What's the Story*) *Morning Glory*; "Go Let It Out" from *Standing on the Shoulder of Giants*; "Columbia," "Cigarettes and Alcohol," and "Live Forever" from *Definitely Maybe*; and "Acquiescence" from *The Masterplan*. There was also the wonderful highlight of the well-known hit "Wonderwall" performed as an acoustic solo by Noel.

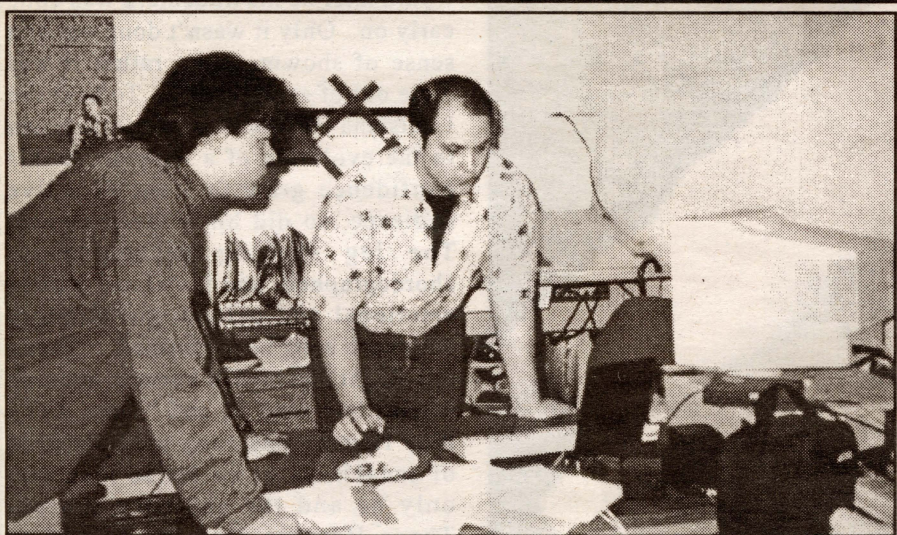
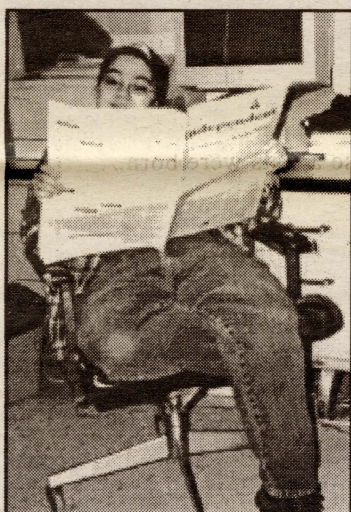
However the purpose of the band's tour is, naturally, to promote their newly-released album *Heathen Chemistry*, and with that, seven songs from the new album were included. From "The Hindu Times" to "Hung in a Bad Place," "Stop Crying Your Heart Out" to "Little by Little," "Better Man" to "Force of Nature" and "Born on a Different Cloud," the band proved that their new album still holds up to *Oasis*' stellar past accomplishments.

The night ended with a rocking, supremely energetic rendition of the *Who*'s hit "My Generation" before the band left the stage to hoots, hollers, and cries for an encore. The car crash involving three members of the band earlier this month in Indianapolis certainly did not diminish the band's energy or ability. Despite having to postpone dates, *Oasis* certainly has done their best to keep their fans happy.

The band continues their U.S. tour for the next few weeks, returning to the States again after several tour dates in England and Ireland. All the latest tour news can be found at <http://www.oasisinet.com>

Pick up the next  
issue of the  
*Independent* on  
September 17th.

Don't  
Delay!



No, we aren't going to show just  
what you're missing.. that's  
information for *Independent* staff  
members only.

It's easy to join the *Independent*!  
Just tsop by E-049 and ask for an  
application, or contact us  
by phone (at 773-442-4577) or  
by email ([neiu\\_independent@yahoo.com](mailto:neiu_independent@yahoo.com)).



# Elvis

## continued from page 1

Louisiana Hayrides the one thing that would most likely surprise those who aren't that familiar with Elvis would be to hear that guitar. Elvis could play. No matter what he did, he would have never been put in the same category as an Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page, or Jimi Hendrix. Those men owned the guitar; Elvis simply played it, but he played it pretty well.

It's also important to recognize his voice as a musical instrument. Music is solely about sound. It's about all things working together to create an ideal balance of all parts to make a song good. One of the most prominent parts of that sound are the vocals. Every band has a singer, but few had a voice like Elvis. His voice could cut through you, as well as invade your soul. His voice was as distinct as any in the history of music. To have Elvis sing the lead vocal on any track would be to add another dimension of possibilities. He had a tremendous range, with picture perfect clarity. Not every lead singer can be considered a musician by voice alone, but Elvis certainly is one of those few.

The late, great, Ed Sullivan said, "I don't want him on my show. I don't care what anyone says about him-how great a talent he is-he just won't be in my show and that's that." This statement would prove to be false, and his appearance on Ed Sullivan would be historic. *The Ed Sullivan Show* would help catapult Elvis into the teenage heartthrob he was and the icon he became. It was also there that Elvis would find himself at the forefront of moral outrage.

On his first appearance, Elvis performed the way Elvis performed. His on- stage performance was filled with his trademark leg shaking, hip swivling, pelvis thrusting dancing. This seemed very natural and innocent to the "King," but parents across the country felt differently. They saw it as morally reprehensible. They found it to be sexually aggressive. His performance on Ed Sullivan would create such a stir that on future performances, they would have to shoot Elvis from the waist up. The controversy would only add to his legend, but it wasn't his first taste of



controversy. Earlier in his career, during the Louisiana Hayride Sessions, he played a song (a staple in his set back then) "Baby, Let's Play House." Simply by the title alone, Christian groups were in a tizzy, feeling that the song encouraged premarital sex. Elvis, aware of the anger, played the song anyway.

It's funny now when we think about the controversy Elvis stirred up. Nowadays we have a barely clothed Britney Spears being licked in her videos. We have Madonna, who spent the majority of her career pushing the sex envelope. Meanwhile, people like Eminem and *Limp Bizkit*, not to mention the entire hip-hop community, are under the gun for things like ultra-violent lyrical content, gay bashing, and the objectification of women. And to think that this sort of behavior is

common in the world of music. They create chaos, the public throws a fit, and they sell another million records. Their status just rises with every outlandish thing they do. And to think, Elvis was seen as being too sexual in his time. And he was criticized for the moral content of a song he performed, and he was doing it long before any of these artists were born.

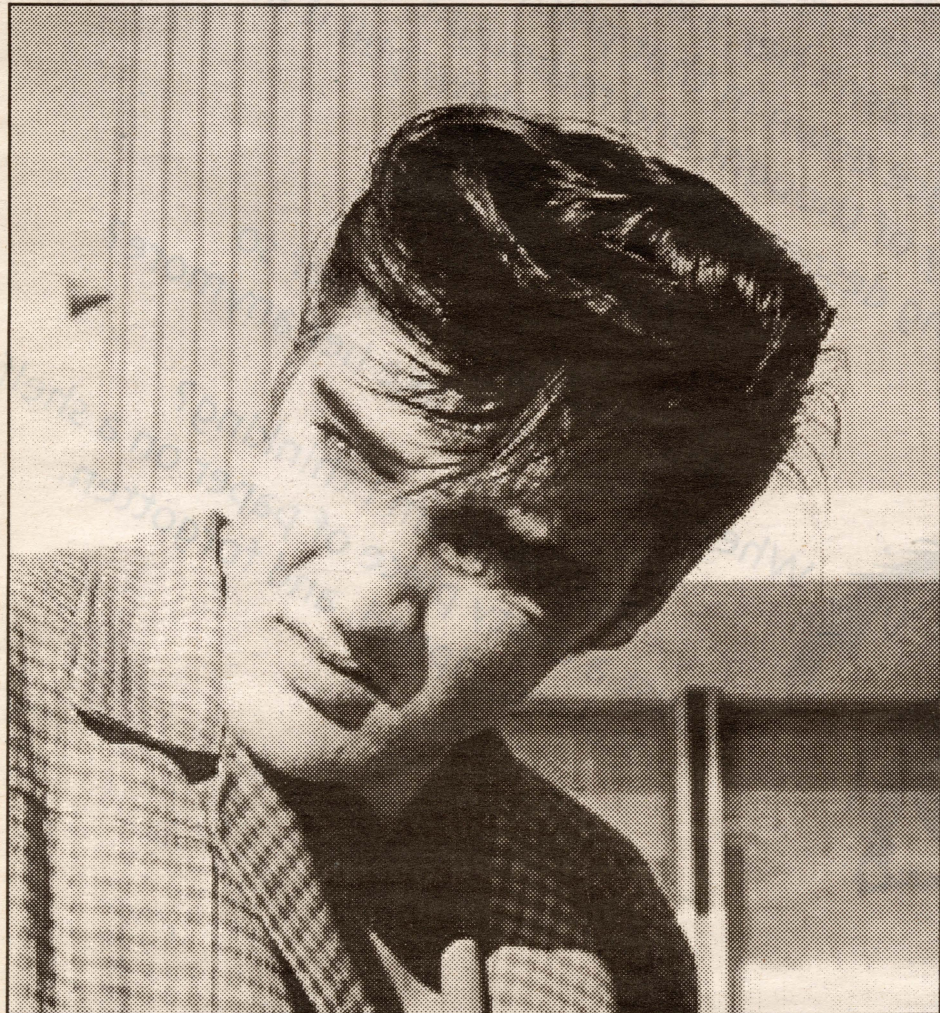
Elvis's career just seemed to grow and grow. He was the musical focal point for millions of fans worldwide. But with the fame, came the excess. Elvis' lifestyle became more flamboyant, the women were always readily available, and so were the drugs. Elvis suffered the same pitfall that so many of the world's best artists could never avoid. It seemed that the pressure to be who he was became too much for him to handle. With the drugs came the weight and that loss of the spotlight he had come to know so well.

In 1968, Elvis accomplished a rare feat in the fast paced, ever changing music scene. He staged a comeback, and was able to get back on top one more time. There was something so special about the "King" that his fans could forgive and never forget. His comeback would be relatively short-lived, as he would fall again and never fully recover. On August 16, 1977, Elvis Presley died in his Graceland home. He left a nation shocked and devastated.

As twenty-five years have passed since the end of the Kings reign, we are just beginning to see how influential he was. Elvis made the "rockstar." Everything today's musicians do, had already been done by Elvis. The struggling artist turned overnight phenomenon? Elvis had been there. From the sex symbol, to the overweight artist past their prime. From the humility early on, to the raging ego in the middle, to the humbled and introspective artist at the end. Elvis had been through it. From the drugs to the womanizing, from the crossover to movies to the money flaunting, from the peak, to the comeback, to the tragic ending everyone saw coming and

wished so hard against, Elvis did it all.

But Elvis was much more than his image; he was an artist at heart. His career was prolific and diverse. He did rock-a-billy, rock & roll, and gospel. And he topped the charts in all three categories. In his lifetime, Elvis Presley produced some of the world's finest music. This music will be finding its way into the cars and bedrooms of teenagers for generations to come. They will discover the wonder that was Elvis. They will be touched by his soulful voice, uplifted by his spirit, and smile at his sound. They move their hips to "HoundDog" and get "Heartbreak Hotel" stuck in their heads for days on end. They'll slowdance to "Can't Help Falling In Love With You," and marvel at "Good Rockin' Tonight." They will understand, like millions of others, why we were blessed to be have him, and how cheated we felt when we lost him. Elvis Presley is dead, but his impact is alive and well. His legend intrigues us, but it's his music that will live eternally. Elvis will be remembered the way a great artist should. By his music.



His hairstyle along with his handsome face played a big part of Elvis' fame.

Looking for a  
good band to  
see this  
weekend?

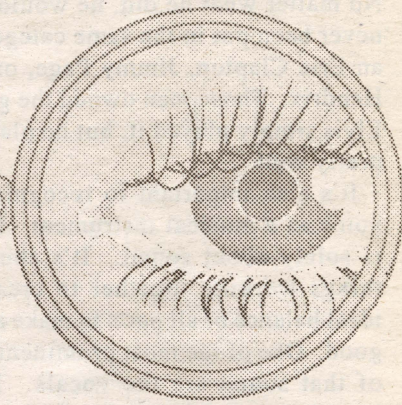
Check out  
[ChicagoLocalBands.com](http://ChicagoLocalBands.com)  
One of this cities most  
comprehensive source for  
local talent. Dedicated to  
the promotion & support of  
Chicago music.



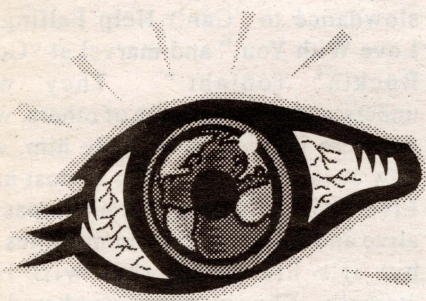


# Impossible

The sickly-sweet smell of sugared air assaults my nose  
And so I turn away and shut my eyes, hoping it'll go away  
Hoping it'll all go away  
Candle flickers lighting my way as I trudge around  
Bumping into all the little things strewn about me  
An obstacle course of my life laid out in a dim basement  
Far, far under the earth, all kept under the surface  
And away from the piercing light of day



I'm remembering as I cringe and hold my eyes shut  
All the faces, all the demons that haunt my now  
Rush up from even deeper down to assault my senses again  
And I see them all, all the faces of those I've held dear, and know...  
A few discarded letters left to collect dust in an unused corner  
These are the only tracks left behind by my passage  
Past their walls and through their doors for the briefest of times  
And then escorted right back out with a phone "click"  
That might as well have been a "NOT WELCOME" sign posted  
I dove into the sheet and buried my face in the pillow



Just to inhale every last scent left by her resting head  
As she had laid there the night before... laid without me there...  
And like a hound I sniffed and sniffed and grew more forlorn  
For all I had was this fragrant reminder  
I didn't have her, but only a slight flowery scent left by her presence  
It wasn't her, I kept telling myself  
And yet I lay face down in that pillow and under those sheets  
For an eternity of thought and rethought, visions and revisions  
Trying desperately to somehow pull it into me  
Make it mine  
Make her mine



And how can I love her so  
When I don't even like her anymore?

But what am I thinking?  
I'm just a dusty piece of paper on a shelf  
Stained, ripped, and forgotten.





Just  
because  
you  
blew your  
summer  
savings,

doesn't mean  
you have  
to look like  
you blew  
your summer  
savings.

**T.J. maxx**  
you should go<sup>®</sup>

Store nearest campus.

In Norridge at Dunning Square,  
West Irving Rd. and  
Naragansett Rd.

©2002 T.J. Maxx

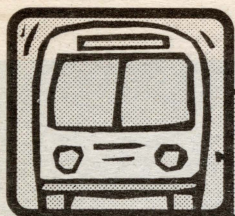
Styles will vary by store.

Visit us at [www.tjmaxx.com](http://www.tjmaxx.com)

USE YOUR TJX VISA<sup>®</sup>CARD when you shop with us and earn 5% rewards. Visit any store or call 1-877-588-8TJX to apply for your card today.







# The Commuter

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

## Petty legacy continues forward

by Mary Jo Chrabasz  
Special Contributor

Some people search all their lives for the career they are suited for; some are born to their chosen careers. In olden days, a young man would follow in his father's footsteps, take over the family business. Some family names, such as Weaver, come from this tradition. Well, when it comes to motorsports, the family name Petty means skilled National Association of Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR) Winston Cup driver.

Son of Richard Petty, the King of NASCAR, and grandson of Lee, one of the first NASCAR drivers, and father of formerly up-and-coming driver Adam Petty, Kyle Petty is a skilled driver by his own right. Currently driving the #45 Sprint Dodge, Kyle follows in a fine family legacy that dates back to the early days of NASCAR.

Kyle has been racing for over two decades, entering and winning his first stock car race, the ARCA 200, in 1979 at Daytona International Speedway. Later that year he made his debut in Winston Cup, the top-level series for NASCAR, on August 5 at Talladega Superspeedway. This talented Petty has started in over 600 Winston Cup races, winning eight, finishing in the top five over fifty times and in the top ten over one hundred sixty times. He has also won the pole, the coveted inside front row starting position given to the fastest qualifying driver, eight times. Additionally, he has competed outside of NASCAR, including finishing seventh in the 24 Hours of Daytona.

Kyle doesn't limit himself to just driving race cars. When he's not behind the wheel of the #45 Sprint Dodge, Kyle is usually astride a motorcycle. In 1995, he founded the Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America, which has grown to

enormous proportions. The Ride involves numerous motorcyclists, many of them NASCAR drivers, who travel by motorcycle from California to North Carolina (from Sears Point Raceway to Lowe's Motor Speedway between Winston Cup races), stopping at various hospitals along the way to visit with sick children. With sponsorship help from Sprint, the Ride has raised millions of dollars for children's hospitals across the country.

A recent addition to the mission of the Charity Ride has been the announcement in 2000 of the creation of The Victory Junction Gang Camp, in honor of Kyle's son Adam. The first fourth-generation athlete in America, and in NASCAR, Adam was killed while practicing for a race in Loudon, New Hampshire. The Camp will be in his honor, as he had wanted to open one like Paul Newman's Hole In The Wall Gang camps; its mission, to create a memorable experience for chronically ill children and children facing life-threatening illness.

The Ride has already raised money for the Camp, scheduled to open in 2004, on land donated by Richard and Lynda Petty. Also in Adam's honor, for the remainder of the 2000 race season, Kyle drove Adam's #45 Sprint Chevrolet Monte Carlo in the Busch series (he had been racing the #44 Hot Wheels Pontiac in Winston Cup).

With Lee racing #42, Richard being almost synonymous with #43, and Kyle racing in #44, naturally from a very young age, Adam's number was 45. Moving from #44 to #45 was a symbolic gesture for Kyle, keeping his son's memory alive. The numbers 43 and 44 remain in the Petty family, though, still racing for Petty Enterprises with John Andretti driving #43 and Jerry Nadeau driving #44.

Also off the track, Kyle has won numerous awards, including the Myers Brothers Award from the National Motorsports Press Association in 2000, selected as the NASCAR Good Guy by *The Sporting News* in 2001, NASCAR True Value Man of the Year for 1998, and chosen to be *Winston Cup Illustrated's* Person of the Year twice (individually in 1999 and as part of the Petty family in 2000).

Kyle, of course, has a legacy to live up to. His father, Richard, is known as the King, being unrivaled in NASCAR Winston Cup racing. No driver, short of Dale Earnhardt, Darrell Waltrip, and Cale Yarborough, has come close to rivaling the King's 200 career wins. Those 200 wins include seven Daytona 500 wins, seven Winston Cup Championships, and one hundred twenty-six poles in 1,177 starts. In contrast, while Earnhardt ties Petty's seven Championships, he only had 76 wins (one Daytona 500) under his belt before his untimely death in 2001. The second-ranked driver in career starts, Dave Marcis, is still over two hundred races (over eight full seasons' worth) behind the King (even after the King had been retired for nearly a decade).

The King has been inducted into the North Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame (1973), International Motorsports Hall of Fame (1997), North Carolina Auto Racing Hall of Fame (1997), and National Motorsports Press Association Hall of Fame (1998), as well as receiving the Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award in the United States, in 1992.

While Richard may have retired in 1992, he remains a prominent figure in NASCAR, easily found in the garage during race weekends to support the three Petty Enterprises cars (the #43 Cheerios Dodge, the #44 Georgia Pacific Dodge, and the #45 Sprint Dodge). He also co-

owns the Richard Petty Driving Experience, which gives fans a chance to experience driving a Winston Cup car (or just have a ride in one with an experience driver behind the wheel).

Richard, like Kyle, followed his father's footsteps into NASCAR. Lee Petty began his racing career in NASCAR when Bill France held the first Strictly Stock race in June 1949. The Strictly Stock racing series later became the Grand National, and eventually Winston Cup when Winston cigarettes began sponsoring the series. Lee's, and NASCAR's, first season began the legacy of Petty racers to come. Lee finished second to Red Byron in points that first season, with one win, two top-fives, and two top-tens. He went on to finish in the top five in Championship points eleven times (Richard achieved that feat nineteen times, and Kyle has twice.)

Petty's have had 32 seasons finishing top-five in championship points, and 40 out of the 53 seasons of NASCAR's existence, a Petty has wound up in the top ten in points. Lee

won three championships, never lower than sixth in points in his twelve seasons in NASCAR. With fifty-five career victories and eighteen poles, Lee set the pace of the Petty legacy that has continued to thrive.

The legacy of the Petty family is by no means a small one. There has probably not been a single NASCAR race that hasn't had a Petty owned or prepared car in it. The Pettys have been in the midst of every NASCAR event, and there likely is not one major event in NASCAR's history that hasn't had at least one Petty in attendance.

Certainly, NASCAR is a Petty playground.

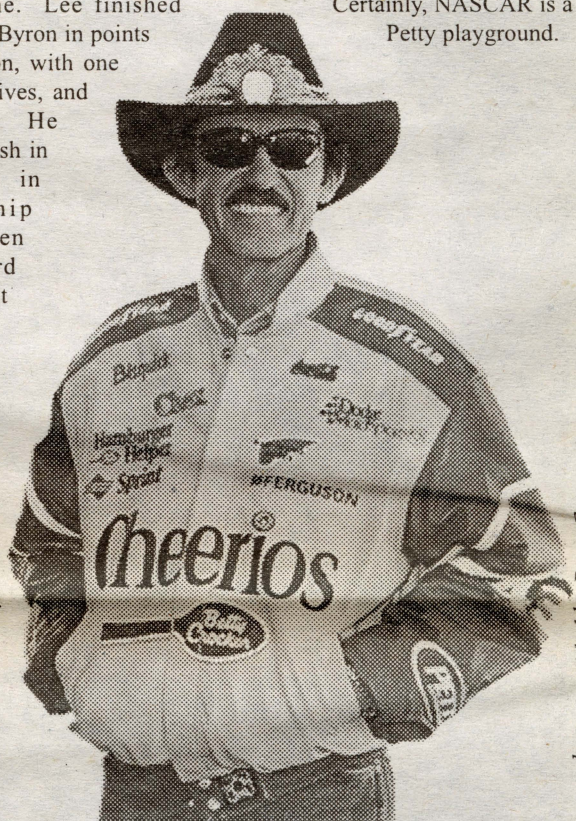


photo provided by Petty Enterprises

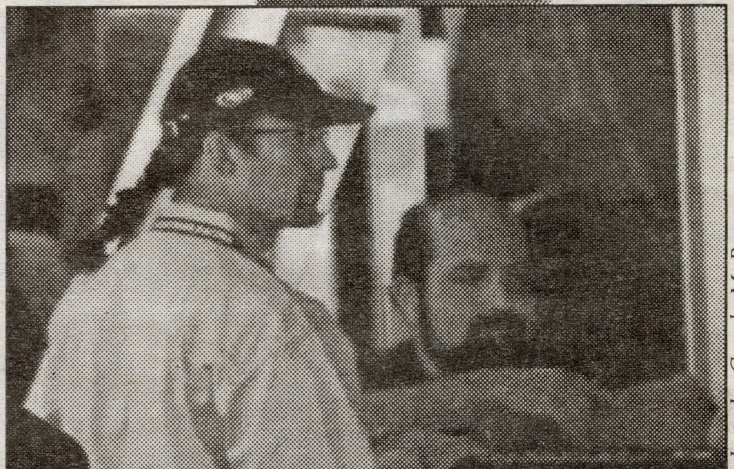


photo by Carole M. Brown

The Pettys continue to do what they do best, even in 2002. Kyle Petty (left) continues to race the #45 Sprint Dodge, even while conducting his duties as CEO (above). Richard Petty (top) still oversees the operation of Petty Enterprises and is often seen in the garages and pits (#44 crew, below) on race weekends.

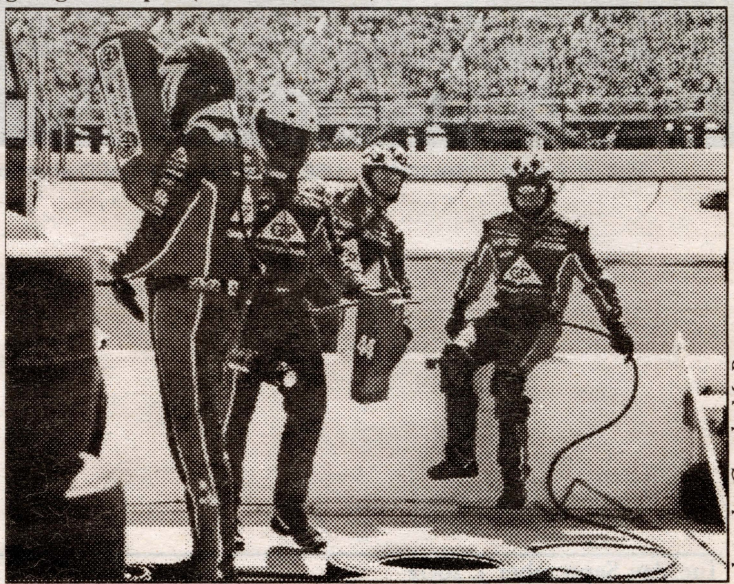


photo by Carole M. Brown

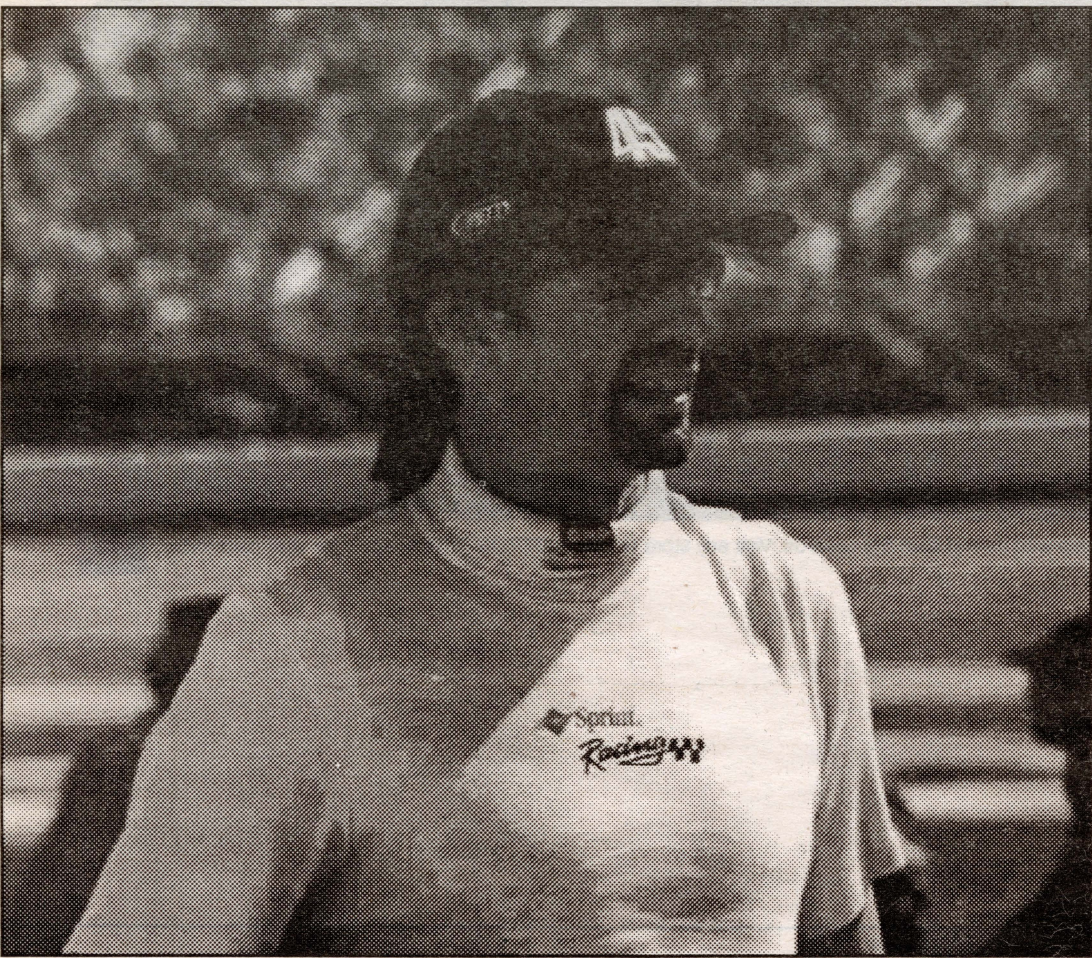


photo by Carole M. Brown



# Summer intrigue at the SCT

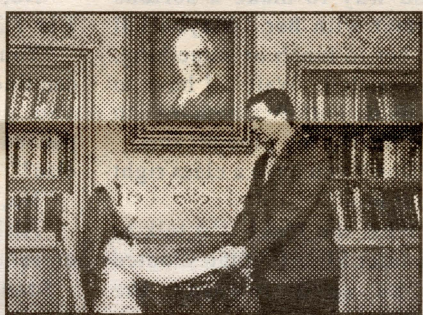
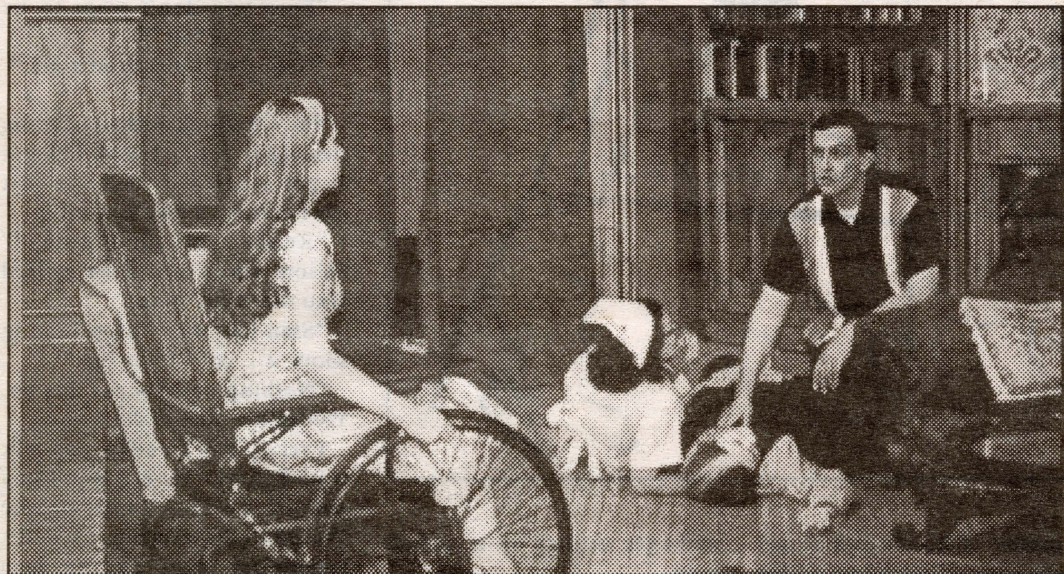
The Stage Center Theatre (SCT) produced their Professional Summer Stock Season this past summer. Below are some pictures from their last production, *The House on the Cliff* by George Batson. It was part of their "Summer of Batson." *House on the Cliff* was preceded in production by *Ramshackle Inn* by George Batson.

The Stage Center is located on campus in the F-Wing, adjacent to the Classroom Building. The new theatre season is upon the Stage Center as auditions will be held on September 3-5 for two mainstage productions and two studio series productions. The two mainstage shows are *We Won't Pay! We Won't*

*Pay!* by Dario Fro, and *The Curate Shakespeare As You Like It* by Don Nigro. The studio series productions are *Marx Brothers Madness*, and *Water and Wine* by Stuart Spencer. The directors for the productions are, respectively, Rodney Higginbotham, Dan Wirth, Angela DeMarco and Bryan Avis.

Audition times are as follows: September 3-4, from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. (walk-ins, no appointment necessary) and 7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. (by appointment). For an appointment, call (773) 442-5961.

For more information on the Stage Center Theatre, check them out on the web at [www.neiu.edu/~stagectr](http://www.neiu.edu/~stagectr).



Clockwise from top: Maria Stephens (as Ellen Clayton) looks on as Chelsey Peterson (as Miss Pepper) catches a dying Rosemary Bradley (as Jenny) while William Mayer (as Dr. Corey Phillips) looks on, Stephens and Mayer share a moment, Bradley tries to antagonize a unscareable Peterson, and Peterson demonstrates her nursing technique.

# Another new year

by **Joey Kandelman**  
Senior Staff Writer

Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, falls out this year on Saturday, September 7 and Sunday, September 8. The new year on the Jewish calendar is 5763.

According to Jewish beliefs, Rosh Hashana was originally the sixth day in which God created the world, 5763 years ago.

Why would Jews celebrate the sixth day of creation rather than the first? According to the Torah, the most fundamental and central book to the Jewish religion, the sixth day of creation was when God created the first human beings, Adam and Hava (Eve in English). Rosh Hashana is no less than the birthday of the human race.

The Torah teaches that God created the solar system, sun, moons, stars, and planets all on the fourth day of creation. Before that, days and nights might not have been the same length of time as they are now because there was no rotation of planets prior to that day. The first three days of creation could have lasted ten seconds each or ten thousand years each or a different amount on each day. Nobody can know for sure. Therefore, Jews cannot know when to celebrate the anniversary for first day of creation.

Jews celebrate Rosh Hashana (literally "Head of the Year") by going to synagogue to cleanse themselves of any sins they have acquired in the past year and to make commitments to be better people for the following year. They cleanse themselves by praying, fasting (on Yom Kippur, not on Rosh Hashana - see below) and giving charity. Ideally, Jews strive to completely remove themselves from any kind of sin they have done in the past year so they can start the next year as pure, righteous people.

There are varying Jewish customs to eat certain foods on Rosh Hashana to indicate they want a good year. Many dip apples or bread in honey to symbolize they want it to be a sweet year. Some Jews eat bread with raisins baked inside for the same reason. Some Jews eat a pomegranate because its many seeds represent that they want to do many good deeds and follow the many commandments in the Torah. Some

eat other fruits which they only have at the beginning of the year so as to represent a fresh start. Many Jews eat round bread (as opposed to the regular rectangular shape) to symbolize that the year is an unending cycle, rather than a straight line which has a beginning and an end.

Another way Jews celebrate Rosh Hashana is a process called Tashlich (literally, "sending"). This is where they stand over a body of water and say prayers asking God to remove all of their previous sins and metaphorically send them away. Some additionally throw bread crumbs into the water. Another reason is to symbolize that Jews are like fish within a net in that we know that ultimately, we humans are not in complete control of our lives. God decides when each person is born and dies, and every aspect of our fate in between. Ultimately, only God can choose who will be wealthy and who will be poor; who will live peacefully and who will be hassled; who will be exalted and who will be degraded. (Artsroll Machzor, p. 541).

Jews believe that the beginning of each year is an era of God's judgment. God takes a detailed accounting of every Jew's deeds for the prior year and the ten days of the next year. On the tenth day is Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement), which falls out this year on Monday, September 16. On that Yom Kippur, God metaphorically seals every Jew's name in one of his two books: the book of righteousness or the book of wickedness. Those in the book of wickedness will be punished, and those in the book of righteousness will be rewarded. Some people have the custom on Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur to wear all white clothing to symbolize that they want to be pure from sins and righteous people.

On Yom Kippur, Jews fast (a way of repenting in Judaism), and pray in their synagogues for God's mercy and for a favorable judgment.

During this ten-day period, Jews pray not just for themselves, but also for their families, for the Jewish people as a whole, and for the entire human race.

They hope that God will answer their prayers, forgive all humans for any wrongdoings or sins, and bless them all in this new year.

photos by Carole M. Brown

May we never forget

September  
11th, 2001

United We Stand



"I can't believe my photos have  
been published!"

CLICK!

join the  
independent

for more details see our advertisement in  
the classified section on page 12  
or call us at (773) 442-4577 or e-mail us  
[neiu\\_independent@yahoo.com](mailto:neiu_independent@yahoo.com)

This could be the start of something

BEAUTIFUL

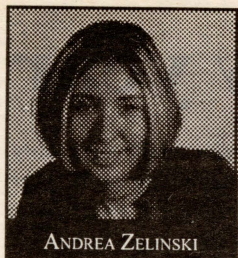


advertise  
in the pages of  
the independent  
the most read paper on campus

Reach 11,000 students!  
and 1,000 staff members!

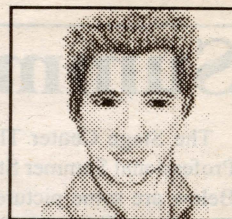
Classifieds are FREE to current students and  
organizations. Every student organization is also  
offered one size G ad per year. Call (773)442-4585 for  
our low rates and more info or stop by our office in E-  
049 for a detailed brochure.





ANDREA ZELINSKI

# STAN'S LIFE



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI

When we left off last issue, the girl of his dreams, **Tori**, a beautiful brunette who was in his math class last semester, encountered Stan to ask him a question...

Just ahead of Stan and his friend Elliott, a student dressed in a knee length jean skirt headed straight for them. Her brown hair was highlighted in chunks perfectly framing her face and bright green eyes.

"Is that... Tori?" Stan drifted off.

"Yeah," Elliott answered. "It is."

She continued to walk towards them. Stan's hands became moist and his heartbeat raced a little. I'm okay. I'm okay. I'll just say hello. Try to relax. You don't want to act like a fool.

"Hey!" the girl exclaimed. "You're Stan, right?" she asked as she combed her fingers through her hair.

"Um hum," Stan mumbled.

"Can I talk to you?"

"Hey Stan... I'll catch you later," Elliott mumbled as he turned to walk away.

"Oh no need," Tori smiled. Elliott stopped in his tracks as he scanned Stan's face for a response. Stan's eyes never left Tori's face. She turned back to Stan. "You were in my Math 110 last semester, right?"

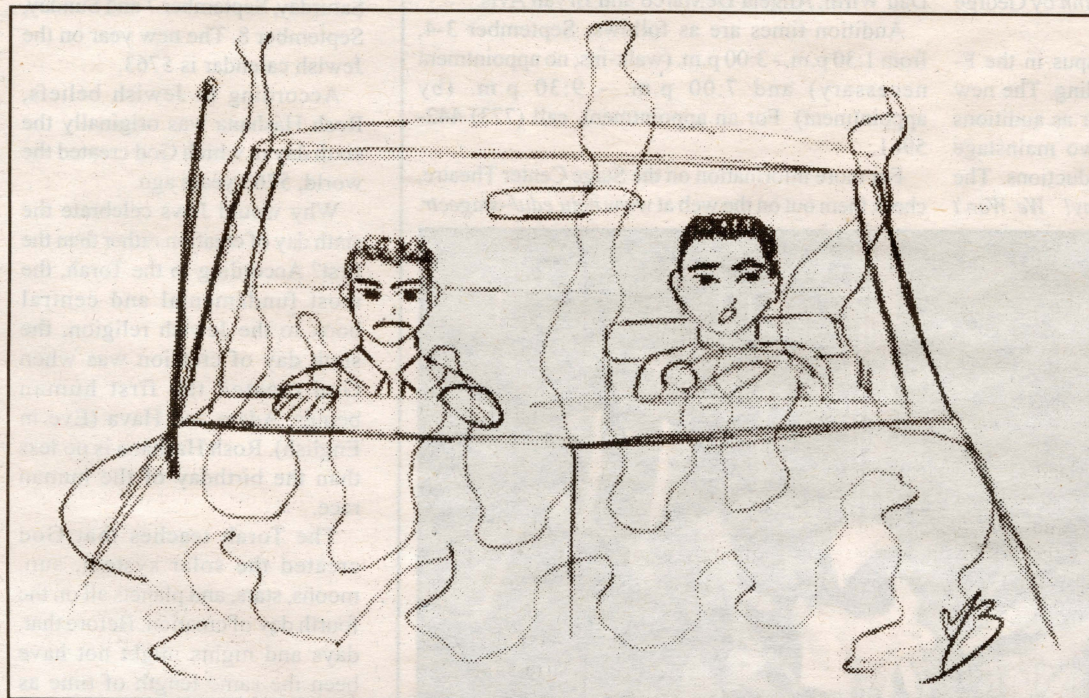
"I think so," Stan replied attempting to act like he hadn't taken note of her presence last semester.

"Do you still have the professor's phone number?"

"Not on me," Stan said as he flipped through his backpack. Stan glanced up at Tori's face to see a sigh of disappointment. "But I know I have it at home. I can get it for you tomorrow." He paused. "What did you need it for?"

"Oh, the professor must have filled in the wrong bubble on the scantron when he did the grades because I got a ridiculously low grade in his class."

"I hate when that happens," Elliott piped in.



"Yeah. I really need that to be corrected before I can be accepted into the honors program," Tori commented as she bundled her books in her arms and started to walk away.

"So, do you want me to bring that number in tomorrow?" Stan desperately exclaimed after her.

Tori turned and paused. "Yeah. Meet me right here at noon." She turned her back and continued walking toward the science building.

"Sweet," Elliott exclaimed as they began to walk towards the Student Union. "There you go! This is your lucky day! I guess you were right. You do have a couple of tricks up your sleeve," Elliott congratulated him by patting him on the back.

"Yeah," managed to escape from Stan's lips as he walked in disbelief. I didn't even think she knew my name. How did I look? I hope I come off as a loser or anything. What am I thinking?! I've really got to relax. I'll see her tomorrow ... tomorrow at 12. Shit!

"Hey, I don't know if I can make it here by 12. I totally forgot I have to work," Stan exclaimed to Elliott as he opened the door to the student union.

"Is there any way you can switch hours with someone? You still work at the grocery store, right?"

"Oh man, don't remind me," Stan groaned. It is an

incredibly difficult task to get someone to switch hours at that place. Everyone is so stubborn. No one is going to want to take over my 11 am to 7 pm shift. What am I going to do? There is no way I am going to mess this up with Tori. This is my big chance. Its not like we're going to hook up or anything tomorrow, but at least it's a good way to make a serious contact with her. Maybe I'll ask her to lunch or something. Stan smiled. Wait... I have to get the day off first before I can start having my pipe dreams.

"Don't you have a class right about now?"

"What the f\*ck! I'll talk to you later Elliott!" Stan shouted as he sped towards the classroom building.

"Hello, Happy Foods, how can I help you?"

"Can I please talk to Scott?"

"I think he's in a meeting, hold on," a long pause followed. "He'll be here in a moment."

"Thanks," Stan replied as he switched the telephone receiver to the opposite ear. Man, I really need to switch hours with someone. Maybe Scott will just give me the day off. That would be perfect. But knowing my boss that son of a bitc-

"Scott speaking."

"Hi Scott, its Stan Woja-"

"Yes, I know who you are. What did you need?" the store

manager replied in a rushed tone.

"Um... I wanted to know if you could... uh... well, if I could come in a little later tomorrow."

"Do have someone else who can work for you?"

"I was just hoping -"

"Do you have someone to work for you?" Scott snapped.

"No, but I can be in by about 1 or 1:30."

"You can come in late if you can find someone to work until you get in," the manager paused. "Was there anything else?"

"No," Stan grunted.

"Alright then. I'll see you at eleven." Click.

Stan slammed down the receiver sat down on his bed. What an ass hole! Can't he give me a break? Now I've got to call all of the boys at work until one of them says they'll work for me. Damn, I can't ever get a break around here. Stan picked up the phone again.

"So, did you get someone to work for you?"

"Yeah, and how I'm stuck working for him on Friday night."

"Ouch. What hours?"

"Closing."

"That's gotta hurt."

Tell me about it. "My mom borrowed my car because her's is in the shop. Is there any

chance you could bumb me a ride?"

"No problem. I have class around that time anyway."

"Cool." Thank God. "Well, I've gotta run. See you at 11:30?"

"Sure you don't want to be picked up earlier?"

"Nah, that's plenty of time."

The car shook as Stan shut the passenger door. Elliott has got to get a new car, this one just isn't cutting it like it used to.

"Ready for your big day?" Elliott asked while he pulled onto the main street.

"Stan smiled. "Stop talking about it... you'll hex me."

"Nothing could mess this up. You're in. Just make a move."

I really don't need a pep talk from Elliott. He is a good guy and all, but him of all people shouldn't be talking. I don't remember ever seeing him pursue anyone. "Yeah, I know." They continued to drive. "What the f\*ck!" Stan yelled as the car refused to obey the green light ahead of them. "What's going on?"

"Damn car stalled," Elliott yelled as he flicked on the emergency lights.

"Try it again! Try it again!"

The car groaned in waves as the two passengers begged, pleaded, and wished the engine would catch.

"I'm sorry man. This really sucks."

Every time something good happens to me, something has to go wrong. It's always been like this. I think I'm just destined to never truly be happy. There goes my chance with Tori. She's really going to think that I'm flaky and unreliable. And why would she want to even consider spending time with someone like that. I don't think I'll really have a chance after this.

All Stan could do was start through the windshield and grip the dash board until his knuckles turned white.

**Find out on September 17th if Stan can, somehow, devise a way to get to school in time to meet Tori or if he is just doomed to failure.**

**"Look Mom! We made BIG money!"**

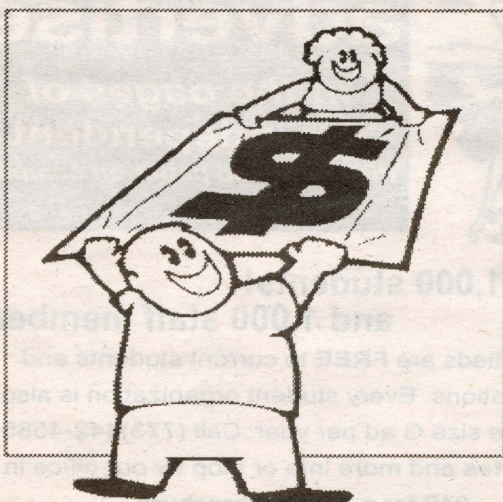
## WRITE ARTICLES

## MAKE MONEY

**join the Independent**

for more details see our ad in the classifieds on page 12

call us at (773) 442-4577 or e-mail us [neiu\\_independent@yahoo.com](mailto:neiu_independent@yahoo.com)





# Star Signs

by Eliza the Enchantress

If your birthday is this week: Wheel of Fortune: Abundance faith, opportunity. You will have faith in yourself, and that my friend is a "good thing." You will have the opportunity to do something that you always wanted to do.

If your birthday is next week: Knight of Cups: An emotionally sensitive person. you will be sensitive over your birthday. Don't let it bother you, it will only be worse if you let it.

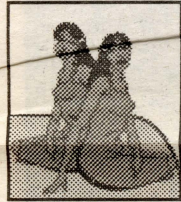
**Aries (March 21-April 19) The Ten of Swords:** The next few weeks will be hard for you but you must work through it. My cards told me you are going to be having trouble with school, work, your love life, among other things. IF you can survive the next few weeks you should be ok.



**Taurus (April 20-May 20) Eight of Pentacles:** You're a crafty person at work with the abilities being demonstrated. The song "She works hard for the money" is so true for you. You will be working hard at all of your classes and at work. When it comes down to it, you will be doing what you do best.



**Gemini (May 21-June 21) Nine of Pentacles:** You are gaining recognition in the eyes of others. What have you been doing to deserve this? Going to work on time? Studying hard for school? Helping out someone who needed it? Well, do something nice for someone. Even though you won't get a monetary award for it you could get some other recognition for doing your good deed.



**Cancer (June 22-July 22) Eight of Pentacles:** So, you crab have something in common with the ram. Supposedly you are a matched set, and now I understand why. Unlike the ram, you have to do something a bit different. We all know about the motto "treat others the way you want to be treated." That is a lesson for all not just for the crab.



**Leo (July 23- August 22) Knight of Pentacles:** You are a person who wants to develop the work side of their life. You ask the question sometimes "why am I still in school?" Now, the question is answered. Since you are a Lion, you want to be "King of the Jungle," you know you have to work hard for it, and that is your work side.



**Virgo (August 23-September 22) Six of Swords:** You are moving out of a negative situation, you moving from the bad to the good. That can be a good thing and then it might not. Something might have happened in the past week, month or year that seemed bad. Remember everything changes all the time, even though sometimes it might feel the same - it is not.



**Libra (September 23- October 22) Ace of Cups:** You are feeling emotional fulfillment. You are happy about something. Whether it deals with school, work, family, friends, love or that dream you have everything will be great for you. Do remember though, what goes up must come down.



**Scorpio (October 23- November 21) Three of Wands:** You are leading others by example. You are a leader and people do look to you for advice, whether it deals with personal matters or with public matters. If you are unsure of this, then lead by example in the classroom. We all need people to lead us when it comes to doing course work.



**Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) Justice:** Look to achieve a new sense of balance, harmony. You are with it, with yourself. Remember to keep taking time for yourself, as a whole being, especially with classes in full swing.



**Capricorn (December 23- January 19) Five of Swords:** Cross swords and a come to a parting of ways. This does not mean you are going to break up your relationship(s). This deals with the inner self. Then it might deal with a relationship, it might be a coming of age parting the ways.



**Aquarius (January 20- February 18) Hanged Man:** You are dealing with suspended activity, a period of delay. Do not stop you at any point in your life. Go with the flow and you will be more than alright. Take the time to yourself and you can be lazy on the weekend. Remember to take it one day at a time.



**Pisces (February 19- March 20) Three of Cups:** There is a reunion of friends: You will re-meet old friends. Like my friends and I we meet several times a year, you need your friends. We all need friends. You as a little fish need to be in a "school" of other fish, and your friends are other "fish" in that school.



## ADVERTISEMENT

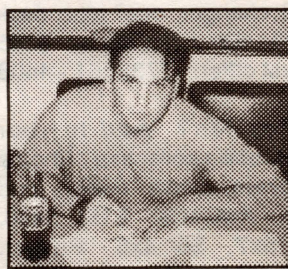
Just when you think you have some free time to play a game or two....



That's when the big tips come ringing in....



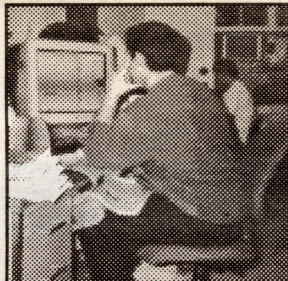
Suddenly you find yourself immersed in research trying to find out the truth....



Despite how tough and tiring it may seem at times....



Yet when it comes time to meet that deadline, nothing can stop you....



And nothing can beat that feeling when YOUR story hits the press.



The Independent is always looking for people willing to try their hand at journalism. There is never a wrong time to stop by our offices and join.



Come on in and pull up a chair. We're waiting for YOU!

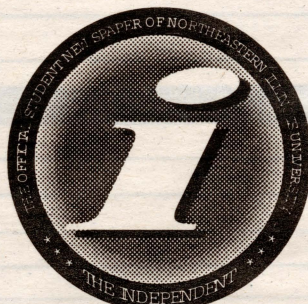
**The Independent**  
YOUR Student Newspaper  
E-049 (Under Beck's)

# INDEPENDENT

... is always looking for new writers, cartoonists, editors, and photographers. Come on down to E-049 (under Beck's Bookstore) and see how you can put your talents to use.



The Independent meets every Tuesday, during the spring and fall semesters at 1:40 p.m. in their office .





# Golden Opportunities

2000-2001 ICPA Winner for Best Classified Ad Section in the state

## For Sale

**1989 Dodge Caravan** - \$500.00. 114k miles, runs great, well maintained with alarm. (773) 338-3117.

**NEIU student offereing** books, flyers, brochures, the Qurian, and other information about Islam and Muslums. Good material and reasonable prices! Call Robert at (773) 480-1057 Mon-Fri after 3 pm and all day Sat and Sun. Or e-mail: rd\_hull\_97@hotmail.com

**Kenwood stereo with remote.** 3-CD changer, dual tape deck AM/FM with digital tuning. \$145 or best offer. (773) 761 - 4408

**Nascar fan? Add** to your memorabilia collection. Photos of drivers, crews, owners and more. Available: \$15/ 8x10, \$10/ 5x7, \$5/ 4x6. Paypal, cash, or checks accepted. C o n t a c t theatre\_girl79@yahoo.com

Do you have a talent or a service you would like to advertise? Do you tutor, babysit or mow lawns and need a free method of advertising? Put in an ad!!! We want **your ad here!**

## Services

**Math Tutorial.** \$25 per meeting. Discount on weekly meetings. Call 773-685-3125.

**ALMOST BIKINI CAR** WASH!!! Saturday, Sept. 7th at Gomper's Park. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. Hosted by Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority and The Independent. General price/ \$5. \$4 with NEIU ID. The Voice of the Campus with there with a hose!! Don't miss out!!!

## Wanted

**Any students mobilized** for operation Noble Eagle/Enduring Freedom please contact me if interested in being featured in news story for 9/11 issue: benny.boyas@us.army.mil or (773) 610 - 2084

Are you looking for a roommate? Or do you have a need to advertise a job opening? Put in an ad!!! We want **your ad here!**

## Organizations

**Hip Hop is Art.** It's everything around us consisting of vision, vocals, music, rhythm, B-Boys, DJ's, emcees..... Your opinions! Your Input! Join the Hip Hop Organization every Thursdway 1:40-2:40 p.m. in room FA-247.

**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

**WZRD 88.3 FM's "Thursday Nite Live"** seeks bands/ musicians. All styles considered. No promises. Must have demo. Send descriptions to [secretagentbill@hotmail.com](mailto: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 questons and comments. Webs site: <http://neiu.edu/~msa>

**Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance** meets on Tuesdays in C-505 at 1:40. To join listserve, send a message to [femajority-1@neiu.edu](mailto:femajority-1@neiu.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 [d-gonzalez@neiu.edu](mailto:d-gonzalez@neiu.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](mailto: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

## Personals

CL: There is nothing that I can say or do to make your loss any easier to deal with. I hope that you can find comfort in the fact that you know your father loved you very much, and he'll always be with you in spirit.

Roses are read, violets are blue, join the Independent, we'll make a writer out of you.

Cough, cough.... BOOK EXCHANGE.....cough, cough....

Staff: Practice rounds are over, let's get it going.

J.K: Oh, shucks, I've done it again....

Writing! Writing! Writing! What am I, a robot?

Michelle: I'm really proud of you. You've been strong this past week, and I'm happy to know that. Try to keep up with Mr. Vallichelli. He's a tough cookie.

Time will heal all wounds of the heart, but why does time have to move so slowly.

BE!!!!

MJC, JF: We can make it, in everything we're trying for, even graduation. We'll show teh world just how much we can \*improve\*, especially JH. ~CB~

Vicky: I hope that school is going well for you. Good luck with the architecture program. I can't wait until you come here to visit and we can go to Chicago Pizza and Oven Grinder again. LYLAS! :)

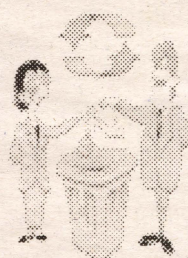
A wise old english teacher once said to me... the length of a story is like a girl's skirt; long enough that it covers everything, yet short enough to keep it interesting.

Miguel: See, I told you that I would put an ad in for you! I love you a lot, just in case you forgot. But you have to start studying more. I know I'm nagging... but its true. Always, Andrea

Push towards your dreams, because even you can go to Northeastern.

VD: I'll be looking for you in Joliet. I hope you can come by and see me rev my engine. -JG

**Please recycle this newspaper.**



Thank you!

by John Prusko, Jr. 08.10.97

Notice  
something  
missing?

YOU

join  
the  
*Independent*

Next  
meeting:  
Sept. 3rd  
1:40p.m.  
E-049

## 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.

**AD AS IT IS TO READ:**