

9-17-2002

Independent- Sep. 17, 2002

Brian Blaszkowski

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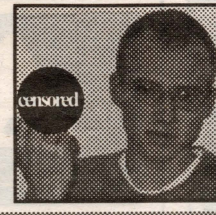
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The saga continues!
Stan's Life
on page 10



In memory of 9/11/2001
Timelines, Opinions,
and news all inside!



VOC gives
a lesson in
grammar!
page 7

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

Independent

Vol. 19 Issue 3

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

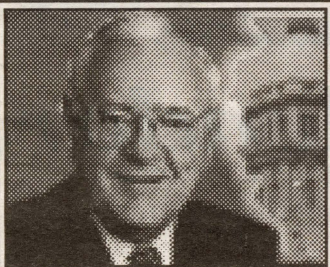
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY

SEP 18 2002

Tuesday, September 17th, 2002

ARCHIVES

NEIU Remembers: September 11th



State Cuts Millions in Financial Aid

by Sophia Logothetis
Staff Writer

In what is thought to be a highly controversial move, the Illinois State Legislature has decided to radically decrease funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) in an effort to reduce the State Budget. This cut, which is part of a larger decrease of \$62 million in higher education, affects an estimated 12,000 students in post-secondary institutions across the state.

For the 2002-2003 academic year, overall funding for the MAP program administered by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) will total \$333.2 million, \$38 million less than the funding provided by the State for the 2001-2002 academic year. This is the program's most substantial year-to-year reduction since it was initiated thirty-two years ago.

Of those 12,000 students directly affected, about 7,000 will lose their MAP eligibility right when they are attempting to complete their undergraduate studies. In order to save \$20 million, state lawmakers directed the Commission to eliminate "fifth-year" MAP eligibility in FY2003. Until this change, students demonstrating financial need could receive MAP grants for the equivalent of up to five years of full-time undergraduate study.

In a statement released by the ISAC, Executive Director Larry Matejka said, "With this action, students will at least be able to apply up to the time they are registering for classes in August."

The cut comes at a time when, due to the current status of the economy, application volume for the 2002-2003 MAP program has increased by almost 11%, with community colleges seeing an increase of 20% in applications.

Students and administrators alike have expressed concern over the decrease in funding, as has Executive Director Matejka. He

Financial Aid
continued on page 3



Photo by Carole Brown

Master of Ceremonies Dean Kelly speaks in front of a large crowd at the Memorial Service Held in memory of September 11, 2001.

by Carole M. Brown
Features Editor

Simplicity seemed to set the tone at two memorials in commemoration of the loss of September 11th, 2001.

The Norwood Park firehouse held a memorial, and rang the bell for those who died in service. Northeastern Illinois University also held a gathering Wednesday, September 11, 2002, which included input from many different religious groups.

Carrying the banner of being the most culturally diverse university in the midwest, the university looked to provide a forum focusing on the loss of life a year ago. A majority of the focus at NEIU's commemoration was the pursuit of peace.

A Beacon of Light Commemoration of the September 11th Tragedy was held in the field between the Physical Education Building and WTTW. The seating for the memorial was surrounded by nature, silence provided by the trees and prairie plants, the peace pole, and the peace fire circle.

"NEIU is a community campus and wanted a formal program to mark what happened last year, and allow students a chance to reflect on what happened last year," stated Dean

of Students Michael Kelly, who also served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

The Student Affairs Committee on Special Programs estimated that 160 people would come to the memorial, but the attendance was far greater, in excess of 300 people. Joe Podlasek, the President of the Chicago American Indian Center and two of his students began the observance with the drumming of the "Flagstaff Song."

NEIU President Salme Steinberg spoke on how proud she was that there was no backlash against Muslim and Arabic students in the past year. Steinberg remarked on how tolerant NEIU students have been, and continue to be.

Professor Dan Creely then spoke about the significance of the peace pole and the peace fire. The peace pole was erected in its current location just over two years ago, and is not just inscribed with messages of peace, but holds letters of those seeking peace inside it. The

peace fire is lit for departmental meetings and special affairs, such as demonstrations like the recent commemoration.

Before the commemoration began [string] was passed among the attendees, to collect peaceful energy from everyone there. The [string] was then collected and Steinberg, with the aid of

Creely, lighted the peace fire. While the students from the American Indian Center drummed again, Steinberg and Creely then added the [string], sending the peace filled energy into the breezy, autumn day.

NEIU remembers
continued on page 3

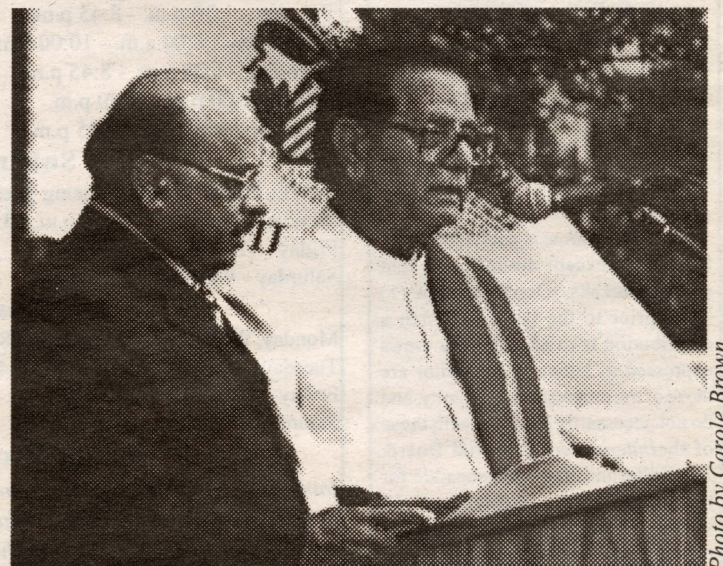


Photo by Carole Brown

EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!

bite-sized but essential news
gripes, moans, and common sense
features to entertain and enlighten
the bulletin board you can bring with you

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The Commuter page 8
Golden Opportunities page 12



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

Friday

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

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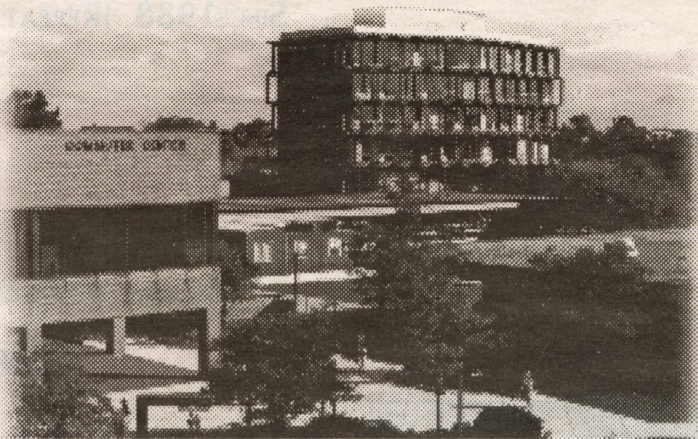
The Independent is published every two weeks except during finals and semester breaks. Deadline is one (1) week prior to the issue in which a contribution is to appear. The views expressed in letters to the editor are those of the university community, and do not necessarily coincide with those of the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

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AROUND CAMPUS

Economics Honor Society Accepting Applications

Omicron Delta Epsilon, the International Honor Society in Economics, is now accepting applications for membership. The society is dedicated to the advancement of the science of Economics and to the scholarly efforts to make freedom from want and deprivation a reality for all. Undergraduate candidates for membership must have a genuine interest in economics, an overall "B" or better. If you are interested in applying for membership, contact Audie Brewton, Associate Professor of Economics, for membership application information. The application deadline is November 15, 2002.



Survivor Challenge! Fall 2002

Free workshop with refreshments!
Walt Sommers' "Seal of Approval!"

Money Management - Monday, September 23, 2002

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in SU 214

Presented by Marilyn Stangeland from Consumer Credit Counseling Services, Co-sponsored by Student Government Association

Getting A Handle On Stress Before It Gets You

Tuesday, September 24, 2002

1:40 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. in SU 003

Presented by Jessica Lettow

Active Listening - Wednesday, September 25, 2002

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. in SU 214

Presented by Judy Mizrachi

Put Time On Your Side (Take the Lego Challenge!)

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

1:40 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. in SU 214

Presented by Tony Courier

Yoga - Wednesday, October 2, 2002

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. in PE 2140

Presented by Anita Ambaradar

To register for a workshop or for more information contact Student Activities in SU 207, ext. 4660.

Sponsored by Student Activities, Office of Student Affairs

Fall Open Recreation Hours

Physical Education Complex, Running Track & Racquetball Courts

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday - 8:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Main Gymnasium

(at least one court is open during the following times)

Monday - 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. / 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday - 1:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Wednesday - 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. / 1:00 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Thursday - 1:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Friday - 1:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Swimming Pool

NOTE: P.E. Flatwater canoeing Tuesday and Thursday 2:50 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Monday - Thursday - 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Friday - 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Fitness Center

Monday, Wednesday - 11:00 a.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday - 12:05 p.m. - 8:45 p.m.

Friday - 10:00 a.m. - 7:15 p.m.

Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Family Recreation hours

Immediate family members of enrolled students and current pass holders may use the facilities when accompanied by a student or pass holder (must be 18 to use the fitness center). The ID holder must remain with the family member throughout their visit.

Wednesday - 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Friday - 4:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Saturday - 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

This schedule is subject to change at any time throughout the semester. Changes will be posted in the Physical Education complex.

NOTE: A valid Student ID or Rec Pass is needed to enter the PE complex at any time!



Calendar

check here for upcoming
events and due dates

- | | |
|---|---|
| 9/18 <i>La Guitarras De Espana</i>
Coffeeshouse - Hispanic Heritage | 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the Student Union - Alumni Hall. |
| 9/20 <i>Orion Ensemble</i>
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 . | 9/8 <i>Airbrush Face Painting</i>
Novelty |
| 9/26 <i>Pres. Lecture Series</i>
7:30 p.m. Alumni Hall. (Master class is at 1:40 p.m.) Peter Carey , Australian novelist, speaks. Open to public. | 10/9 <i>Back to College Days</i>
Week long event including the Student Organization Fair, NPB Welcome Back Celebration, Freshman Luncheon, Campus Resource Information Day, and Campus Recreation Day. |
| 9/27 <i>Hispanic Heritage Month</i>
7 p.m. to Midnight in the Student Union - Alumni Hall. | 10/14 <i>Mojo and the Bayou Gypsies</i>
Coffeeshouse - Cajun and Creole |
| 9/27 <i>Mostly Music Benefit</i>
6:30 p.m. at the University Club of Chicago. Will honor 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. | 10/18 <i>Haydn by the Lake</i>
Jewel Box series concert at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Evanston. Will play works of Hummel, Haydn, Beethoven, and Mozart. |
| 10/3 <i>Roberta Miles</i>
Coffeeshouse - Jazz | 10/21 <i>Withdraw or Pay</i>
Last day for 25% refund for complete withdrawal. |
| 10/4 <i>Polish Heritage Month</i> | 10/24 <i>Pres. Lecture Series</i>
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. |

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:

October 1st
October 15th
October 29th
November 12th
November 26th

The Editor in Chief reserves the right to alter all content for space, style and editorial considerations. Submissions are not guaranteed to be printed.

If space needs to be reserved please call (773) 442-4577 for information about advertising rates.

Hot tip?



Do you know something we don't? Tip us off about news affecting the NEIU community by calling (773) 442-4577 or e-mail us at neiu_independent@yahoo.com



NEIU students, faculty and staff came to remember the tragedy of 9/11. It was a time of prayers and somber mourning.

NEIU remembers continued

After the fire, Kelly introduced the slate of speakers for the ceremony. All were somehow connected to NEIU and represented a variety of religions. Podlasek spoke again about the need for peace and acceptance. Reverend Richard Higginbotham, the Episcopal Campus Minister, continued with the call for peace, and read from *The Litany of the Dead*, a Christian tradition at wakes, funerals, and memorials. The wording of the litany reminds people that it is in mortality that immortality is found, and that remembrances must be made to honor those who have passed.

Two NEIU students spoke,

representing their respective religions. Gadi Schultz, a member of Hillel, and Robert Hull, a member of the Muslim Student Association, both reiterated the cry for peace and tolerance.

Acharya Rohitkumar Joshi, the Hindu Campus Minister, along with Acharya C.L. Shadri of the Manav Seva Mandir Center, sang a traditional Hindu prayer in sanskrit. The last two phrases of the prayer are transcribed as "May our prayers...remain harmonious, our minds and thoughts remain in concord, our purpose remain common, and may our deliberations become harmonious. May peace prevail in the skies, in the waters and in the herbs. May unity remain in our spiritual and all percussive

life. O Lord, please allow that peace to come to us and let it remain with us ever."

Following the lecturing, those in attendance were invited to light a candle from the peace fire. All the candles were distributed and the attendees gathered in a circle around the fire. After everyone had a chance to light their candle, the moment of silence began. Even the sounds of nature seemed to have lessened in amplitude during the moment of silence.

At the end of the ceremony, student Benigno Boyas bugled "Taps" from under a tree, across the field from the fire.

As the somber notes of "Taps" wafted across the empty field, the attendees dispersed with barely a whispered word.

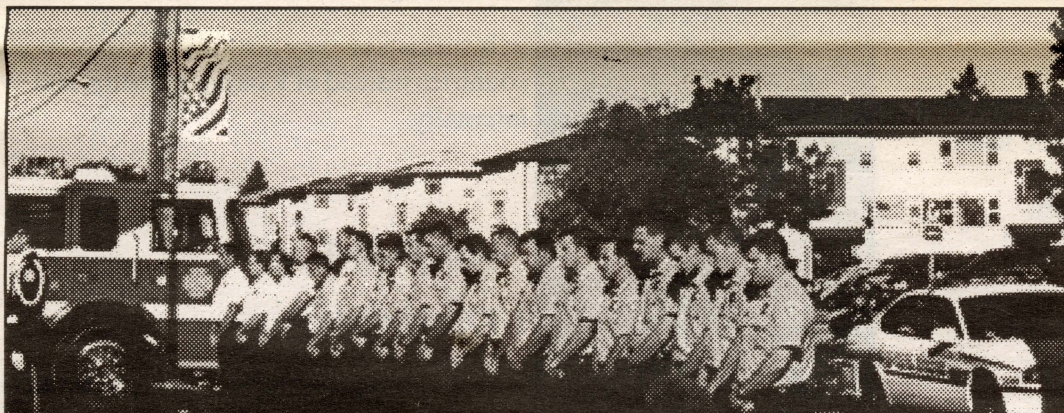


photo by Carole Brown

The Norwood Park fire house held their own memorial, standing at attention while a bell rang.

Financial Aid continued

commented that "The school year is about to begin and these students are faced with a loss of grant aid that in some cases exceeds \$4,000, just as they're attempting to complete their undergraduate studies. It will be very difficult for them to fill the gap left by their loss of MAP eligibility."

The Chairman of the Commission, J. Robert Barr, said, "As demoralizing as this situation is, we have to remember that MAP remains one of the most generously funded programs of its kind in the nation. The State of Illinois has always been very supportive of student financial aid and this agency."

In a recent address, Governor Ryan maintained that "The MAP program will still help students pay for four years of college, but we won't be able to do more than that as some had hoped."

MAP represents the third largest program of its kind in the nation, and is one of thirteen gift assistance programs administered by ISAC.

A significant percentage of Northeastern students are

recipients of MAP funds. The IBHE Student Advisory Committee Representative, Andrea Daniels, said, "The MAP is a state cut and not a federal cut. The students still have the Pell, which has not been affected. Less than 500 students at Northeastern are affected by this state cut. My advice for the students is to stay consistent with your program, and contact ISAC to keep track of your allowable units of financial aid."

Both students that are recipients of MAP funds and those who do not receive financial aid from the Commission have expressed their dissatisfaction with the recent cuts. Becca Raven Gilmore, student and co-chair of the FMLA, recently commented, "It should not be cut! It concerns me greatly that the state cuts funds for education. Why the American culture does not value the education of people is beyond me."

Colleges and universities have been urged by the Commission to take whatever actions possible to assist those students affected by the budget cut through alternative sources of financial aid.

Vouchers cause debate

by S. Fatima Quadri
Staff Writer

In recent months, the issue of education reform has been a hot topic, with the public opinion basically split in half, and the key word being "vouchers." Many politicians are careful when they use this word so as not to stir up a potential debate. No one will argue with the fact that the education system in this nation needs to be overhauled, but if asked how exactly to do it, answers are far from forthcoming.

Most Republicans, including the President, do have something to say. They are in favor of introducing vouchers, which can be used toward tuition at private or parochial schools when kids at local public schools are consistently denied the education they need. Democrats in general oppose vouchers; they worry that the program, which they say would extract federal money from failing public schools into the realm of private schools, could destroy the nation's public education system.

Bush has made a \$48 billion dollar proposal that would direct money to public schools, to be spent on such programs as improved teacher training and pay, better facilities, and updated teaching aids, such as books and computers. It also puts pressure on principals to account for their schools' performance, gives local officials more control, requires that all children be able to read by the third grade, and prescribes regular reading and math testing for students. And for teachers whose students excel, there is a merit-pay clause.

His plan goes on to state that if failing schools don't improve in two years, the federal cash flow stops, and money (as much as \$1,500 per student) once allocated for the school is diverted to parents, initially for use on transportation to better

public schools. Then, after three years, parents can use that money toward private school tuition if they so desire.

Not surprisingly, the democrats have their own ideas. Most notably, their plan contains no mention of vouchers. According to Senator Joe Lieberman, the plan calls for the government to "pour more money into poorer schools, and give the teachers and principals more flexibility on how they are going to use that money. If they are not working, close the schools down and radically restructure them, and give parents an opportunity to send their kids to a higher-performing public school."

Another issue that has been raised is the fact that most private schools have a religious affiliation, and telling parents to pull their children out of public schools and enroll them into these private ones is a violation of the separation of church and state. This particular issue might cause a rift in the entire plan. Parents who don't want their children exposed to religious undertones in their schooling might opt to keep their children in the public school system despite its obvious flaws. However, this might work to the advantage of the public school teachers and administration who are supposed to have a neutral stance on the entire issue.

In this regard, The Supreme Court did more than hand a victory to supporters of school vouchers. Its controversial 5-to-4 ruling presented a breakthrough for supporters who seek to expand the place of religion in American public life.

In the end, perhaps the approval of the new voucher system will be the beginning of a new era - not only in regards to education reform but to the way religion is viewed in the American social fabric.

Statement of the Senate Book Exchange Committee, September 10, 2002

The Senate Book Exchange Committee's purpose is the establishment and subsequent maintenance of an online book exchange. This book exchange will allow students to sell books directly to other students at prices significantly lower than those of our campus bookstore. SGA-sponsored exchanges have already been in progress at universities throughout the nation, and they have had varying degrees of success. For this reason, over the summer, members of the Book Exchange Committee researched different types of exchange systems currently in use, examined various interfaces and evaluated them for user-friendliness, and networked with other Student Governments to determine how best to implement, market, and maintain the exchange. We wanted to be well informed and adequately prepared prior to the system's actual creation to ensure that the exchange would work and best cater to the needs of our commuter campus. The research phase of the project has been completed and, once established, students will be able to search for books by ISBN, title, author, or department.

We created one version of the book exchange before the semester began with the hopes of providing students with this direct form of exchange for the fall semester. Unfortunately, the technology proved incompatible with our university system. The website was designed using MS Frontpage for the front-end and MS Access for the backend for the purpose of handling databases. Due to the incompatibility between the Unix servers of our university and the Microsoft products, the site could not be hosted on NEIU servers. It was then decided to host the website on an NT server (not provided by the university) and to use the SQL server for backend database procedures.

These technical difficulties have delayed the implementation of the book exchange, and we sincerely apologize to students for not having the system in place during the first week of school. We are hiring a professional developer for the site, and funds for the project will be taken out of the money budgeted for the Executive retreat. However, the system will be in place very soon, and students can place books for sale by the end of the month. By the spring term, the book exchange will be in full swing and students will finally get the inexpensive textbooks they deserve.

Ahmad Millwala, Chair

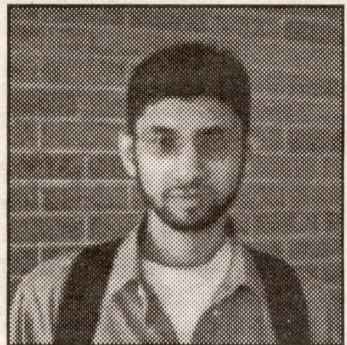
Northeastern students speak out about 9/11 and about terrorism

Two questions about 9/11 and the war on terrorism were posed to twelve random Northeastern students. The two questions were, "How have the events of September 11, 2001 changed your life," and "How do you feel the United States is performing in the War on Terrorism?"



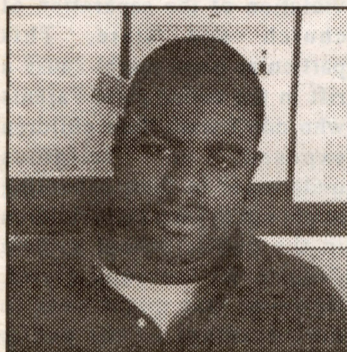
Beth Carpenter

- 1: I've become more appreciative of family and friends.
- 2: It's amazing how quickly people forget what is really going on in the world.



Syed Quadri

- 1: A lot of pressure; Different people looking at you in different ways, especially because I have a beard.
- 2: I think they are doing a pretty good job so far.



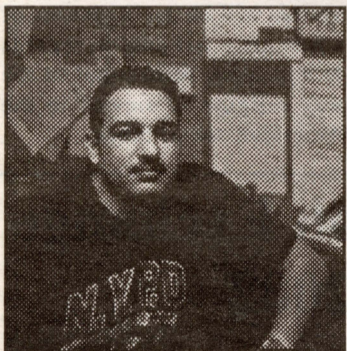
Khalil Rasheed

- 1: I've realized most people have not developed a sense of maturity in dealing with conflict resolution.
- 2: The strategy is going to come back and get them in the end.



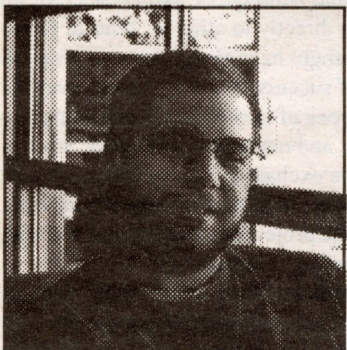
Anne Mothkovich

- 1: I'm much more aware of problems facing minorities and people of the Islamic faith.
- 2: I'm against the war on terrorism.



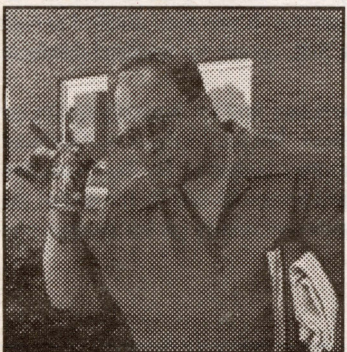
Richard Robles

- 1: I feel that simple things are more important; walks in the park and time with the family.
- 2: It's a marketing scheme designed to make the American people believe this is a new war; it's been going on for years.



Brian Rohloff

- 1: I get more and more frustrated when I drive because of the multitude of blindly patriotic bumper stickers.
- 2: I didn't agree with it in the first place. I'm not for terrorism, but I'm not for war either.



Stephen Paul

- 1: I've been doing a lot of artwork about the fire, nothing political, just about the towers.
- 2: There will always be terrorism. If we take out the leaders, new ones will replace them.



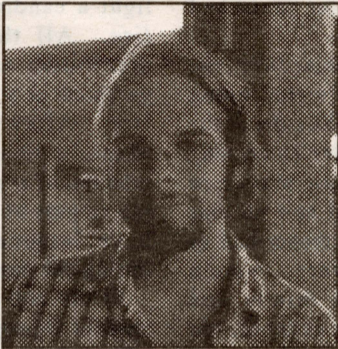
Molly Rand

- 1: It seems people don't really have patriotism; they just pass out flags and call that patriotic.
- 2: How is it not terroristic of us to go after them?



Kevin Hogan

- 1: I've become more aware of how fat, stupid and self pitying Americans are.
- 2: Exactly how the powers that be want it: escalating armament, tightening of civil liberties, and unfettered access to Middle East oil.



Eric Waller

- 1: I've realized the American media has one goal: Propaganda.
- 2: Peace cannot be achieved through violence.



Rammy Zanayed

- 1: Other people are more aware of my ethnic background and some biases come out.
- 2: It seems like they are only focused on a few countries instead of looking globally, and even internally.



Ahmad Kendall

- 1: I'm more patriotic now.
- 2: Not enough action being taken. It's been a year now, and nothing has happened.

NEIU – University of Warsaw Student Symposium

Nov. 23 – Dec. 1, 2002



Northeastern Illinois University
Polish Student Association

The NEIU Polish Club is organizing a one-week visit to Poland to participate in a student symposium sponsored by the Institute of International

Relations of the University of Warsaw, Poland. The symposium will focus on discussions of the current issues related to the European Union and NATO Enlargement.

The total cost of the visit is estimated to be \$1,065 per person, including airfare, housing and local transportation. The estimated cost of attending the symposium as a member of the NEIU student group will be \$785-\$285 depending on the amount that the Polish club can get from fundraisers and donations from outside organizations. The limit is **9 students. APPLY NOW!! The application deadline is October 1st, 2002.**

For more info. contact Angelika Aleszczyk, Event Coordinator of Polish club at Sugaluva10@hotmail.com
For application forms, contact Rubee Fuller, coordinator of international Programs, @ C-510 (773) 442-4799 or via email R-Fuller@neiu.edu

PERSPECTUS

EDITORIAL

Remembering September 11

by Shana Stone
Opinions Editor

September 11, 2002, marked the one-year anniversary of the hijacking of four United States planes that crashed into New York City's twin towers, the Pentagon in Washington, and in a field in Somerset County, PA. No one will be able to forget that fateful day and for many of the victims families, they relive the horrifying moment when their loved ones phoned to say they would not be coming home again, or when they viewed any news channel showing firsthand the pandemonium that was occurring.

The day of September 11, 2001, started just like any other day. People of all ages and walks of life headed off for their daily routine. Some of those people went off to the airport to get onto planes that were soon to be hijacked by terrorists. The fear must have been indescribable for those on the four hijacked planes as well as in the Pentagon and World Trade Center. Three thousand men, women, and children perished on September 11.

Since that ill-fated day, the media has shared with all of America many gruesome details. Some people that worked on the floors above where the planes crashed into the twin towers felt the need to jump ninety stories rather than be engulfed by the nearing flames. Besides some media filming the tragedy of September 11, ordinary citizens filmed the carnage as well. Footage of the falling bodies was then aired on all the major news stations and viewers could both hear and see the bodies falling. One wonders the panic and fear those trapped in the building must have felt to have rather jumped to their death, then wait for the impending fire to slowly burn them alive.

Each American since that day has pondered many questions. Were the hijackings preventable? What kind of people could carry such hate in their hearts that they could willfully and intentionally murder 3,000 people? Most of all we wonder how our government will protect us from any possible future attacks. Sadly, there isn't a concrete answer to any of these.

What we do know is it took one day for the terrorists to destroy our sense of safety and a year later our country is still unsure of itself. The FBI has since issued many alerts of possible future terrorism, airline security is still relatively lax, and there is still the potential threat of chemical and biological warfare.

If September 11 has taught Americans anything, it is that we are all more resilient than we thought. Through the rubble and debris of the burned ruins of the Pentagon, twin towers, and field in Pennsylvania, emerged stories of bravery and heroism. We are a country that can thrive, even in the face of terror. Our country is still standing proud, and Americans are more united than ever. The strength and courage that has been shown from the families and friends of victims of September 11, is astounding. This country has pulled together in support of all the people that have lost someone close to them.

We must continue to remember those that lost their lives on September 11, and win this war on terrorism. One of the most memorable victims of the terrorists was Todd Beamer, who had been a passenger on United Flight 93. His flight was the fourth plane to be hijacked. Beamer, as well as several other passengers banded together to overtake the terrorists in hopes of landing the plane safely. He managed a phone call to a GTE operator and his last known words were "Are you ready? Let's roll." Unfortunately, his plane did not manage to land safely. The plane instead crashed in a field, but Beamer as well as the other passengers are heroes, for they thought the plane may have been heading towards the White House. In memory of Beamer and the other thousands of victims, Americans must remember what America stands for, which is and will always be freedom.

OPINION

BY CHAD NELSON, PHOTO EDITOR

Overweight prices for overweight passengers

Many airlines offer low fares to destinations across the globe, if you are skinny. If, however, you are overweight, the fares may double. That's right; twice the cost for the same service if you are unable to fit within the confines of the seats that airlines provide. While not presently standard practice, at least not that I have discovered, airlines are postulating the possible profit procuring plan. Though discriminatory acts are quite outlawed by countless laws, airlines are able to proceed with these policies.

Why? Because someone taking up more space does not allow them to maximize their profit potential. Instead of cramming 150 people into a plane, they can only cram 149. (Here is where I speak sarcastically): Now I see. A multi-billion dollar a year industry being given billions of dollars in financial welfare from the government can't possibly lose the \$650 (a nice round figure) for the space a person needs to accommodate themselves adequately. If they lost that money, how would they ever turn a profit? It obviously makes sense that discrimination laws should only apply when they don't cause some corporation to lose money. (Sarcasm *fini*)

However, the airlines are not the only ones who need to take responsibility for the needs of passengers. Those patrons who know they will be unable to fit into the seats provided have to understand they will probably need to make special arrangements with the airlines. It is ridiculous to expect that if get onto a sold out flight and are unable to fit into the seats the airlines will be able to magically make another seat appear, just for you. This also eliminates the possibilities of other passengers being poorly accommodated. If the passenger unable to fit in the one seat is next to a passenger who can, the more svelte

passenger does not get all of the space he/she paid for.

At some point, the airlines must define what space a seat will take up, based on the ergonomic needs of an average (by "average," I mean the mathematical average, not "normal") passenger. If a passenger cannot be accommodated within the designated boundaries, then the passenger has a special need the airlines need to address.

Some airlines offer special features for passengers who have special needs. In advance, passengers with disabilities can arrange for special seating, which is larger and easier to access when boarding the plane. When I called United Airline and American Airline, both referred me to the respective "Passengers with Disabilities" page on their websites. The agents for the airlines each stated the special needs of certain passengers would be met, with an extra, though "modest," fee and notice at least 24 hours to the flight's departure. Thus, the responsibility falls on the passengers to ensure their own comfort, and that idea I like.

Too many consumers feel no responsibility to meet their own needs in conjunction with the provider. It seems to be the American way to want everything done for you, exactly as you want it, quickly, with no input from you. It is as though all providers of any service must be psychic to predict every variation and plan for those variations on a basis sans standards. No one can be that good. If you have a special need when using a service, it is your responsibility to elucidate that need or needs to those providing your service. This applies not just to flying in an airplane, but also to every aspect of this (unfortunately) capitalist society. Only through communication can work be done the way it needs to be done, and with more accurate and careful planning

towards the needs of all who plan to use it.

What stand out most firmly in my mind are the innate problems with this society that are clearly enunciated in this problem. The providers of services provide them only as a vehicle to create profit. It matters not why consumers need the service, or if they enjoy it, or if it is useful and accessible to all, as long as those profits stay exceptional. The consumers see things only in the way it affects them individually. If it dispossesses another person, too bad. If it requires extra work, not going to do it. Consumers are just as self serving as providers, each trapped in an endless spiral of personal acquisition at the expense of anyone else. Whatever each has to do to get what they want, they do, and damned be the consequences and anyone standing in the way. It highlights the definite and depressing move away from community and collective responsibility for the welfare of all people.

When consumers disregard the consequences of their selfish mass consumption, they leave themselves open to the repercussions. Repercussions could be as simple as higher prices for airline passage because of a need to accommodate every passenger on an individual basis. Or, if you see the connection, they can be as complex as global warming because too many people and corporations disregard the emissions they produce, which are slowly eroding the atmospheric shield protecting us from climate change severe enough to change, and possibly end, civilization as we know it. Solutions lay not just in corporations taking responsibility for their services provided, but also in people taking responsibility for what they consume, and how much effort they need to put in every action they take.

May we never forget

September
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More kidnappings than ever?

Every other day now it seems as though another report of an abducted child is the top story on almost every news station. The family comes on begging for their child's return and the police say they have very few leads, but they are working on it. Then, the reporter comes on and ascribes this to the epidemic of kidnappings that seems to be overwhelming the nation. It seems very odd to me that suddenly the news has an interest in every abducted child, when it used to be months between stories of the like. Is there really some mass conspiracy of crazies and criminals out to steal all of the children? In one word: No.

I recently heard a report on National Public Radio talking about abductions. Numbers released by the FBI show that less children were reported kidnapped so far this year than at this time last year. This fact made me think about a lot of things for quite some time. Why are news sources giving so much coverage to this now? Don't get me wrong, I am not saying that every abducted child doesn't deserve every possible chance to be helped and returned to their family. But the news stations never really seemed to care before. What could have triggered this? I was puzzled for several days, and then I read a quick blurb on microchips.

A company is going to start offering microchips that can be planted into a child's body. The chip contains a beacon system, which would allow certain parties to track the whereabouts of the child. The problem is the chip stays in for life. So this is where my eyes opened up and I began to see that the abduction stories are just another facet of the propaganda the Corporate News Groups spew for the government and their own interests. If parents are scared their child is going to be abducted, they will allow for a certain tightening of civil liberties. The child can't stop the chip from being placed in himself/herself, and more than likely he/she will never know it is inside them. When the child grows up, though, that is when the government gets what it wants. They can always know where all of their citizens are. Besides, who knows what else these chips transmit?

I also think these stories are just fillers to keep the news full so as not to report on the real news in the world. Several weeks ago when flash floods drowned the town of Dresden, killed thousands and caused billions of dollars of damage in Germany, the only reason it was covered by the "Big News" stations was because it interrupted filming of a Sean Connery movie. We never hear reports of the brutal treatment of women and children in Saudi Arabia, a dictatorship the U.S. government supports because they provide cheaper oil. Instead, the news tries to give us filler, with ten minutes of a twenty two minute show devoted to weather, seven minutes to sports, and five to quick blurbs about news going on all over the world that the government has approved as sanitary enough to not cause any trouble.

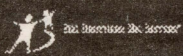
What it overall comes down to is that the television news is not news at all, it is misdirection. As a friend quoted to me from his Media class, "The media can't tell you what to think, but they can tell you what to think about." When the general population is given only this small amount of information and is being told that it is all the news worth hearing about, that is when the powers that be are happiest. Keep the citizenry in the dark, uninformed, and scared, because that is when it is easiest for those with power to retain power. Civil liberties can be stripped away in the name of security, wars can be fought, not to assuage the threat of terrorism or brutal dictatorships but so that corporations get huge military contracts and make billions from taxpayer money.

So the next time you see a story about some little girl from Baltimore being abducted, ask why the story is on the air. Do you think the editor who chooses what is reported cares about her? Do you think that the pre-digested stories impact anything but exactly what they want impacted? What else is going on around the world that they do not want you to think or know about? If you ask these questions, you will end up looking for other avenues for news, and fulfilling one of your responsibilities as a citizen by being informed.



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Should the United States attack Iraq?

Putting an end to Saddam Hussein's tyrannical regime has been an aspiration for many political leaders, including President Bush. His attempts to implement this plan have been in no way democratic. "We are taking him out," said President Bush at a Democratic Senate meeting he imposed in on last March. The Senators knew that now the question was not whether America will attack Iraq, it was simply a matter of when.

After all, the President has been ragging about finishing business his father began even before he came into office. It is obvious President Bush's motives exceed the implementation of democracy and the security of the United States. Let's face it; Iraq has the richest oil deposits in the Middle East, yet at the same time it is the only country that hasn't been manipulated by western entrepreneurs. Replacing Saddam Hussein with a government that is in agreement with the US will have more benefits than just a democratic state in the Middle East. The fact that Saddam Hussein is a tyrant is undisputable; however launching an air strike against Iraq is a dangerous solution for Americans and Iraqi citizens as well.

Little is known about the condition of the US soldiers who went into Iraq ten years ago; many of them suffer from severe side effects of the air strikes, including sterility. US officials predict that military action against Iraq will result in the loss of even more American lives than the previous Gulf war. Millions of Iraqis have been affected by the sanctions without any

impairment to Saddam Hussein's regime. The assault on Iraq might even result in three times as many lives lost than in the Gulf war, lives that are already impoverished and destitute.

Executing the attack will become problematic without the support of our allies. Not a single Arab country is willing to comply with the US. In addition, most European nations are critical of US strategies regarding Iraq. In light of America's war on terrorism, it is crucial for the US to maintain peaceful relations with leaders in the Middle East.

Moreover, it was assumed that the perpetrators of the September 11th attack were angry towards America because of its foreign policies in the Middle East, particularly Palestine and Iraq. Will attacking Iraq not enrage people of this mentality even more, hence putting us at greater risk for another attack? Part of our war on terrorism must be amending those policies, which have created enemies for us.

Observers around the world have long criticized America's bias in the Middle East with Israel. Raging a war on Iraq based on their failure to let UN inspectors examine weapons provides proof of this bias. The last time US officials inspected Iraq was 1998; 95-98% of the weapons found were confiscated. At the same time, the last time the US inspected Israeli weapons was never.

There is no clear proof that Iraq still has weapons of mass destruction. If it does, there is no hard evidence to believe that they are soon to be used

against the United States. Justifying this campaign against Iraq will become a serious challenge for the US. Furthermore, if Saddam responds with counter attacks, the lives of American citizens will be in considerable danger.

America is in the midst of a war on terrorism and its progress is still unclear. If a man like Osama bin Laden, who roams freely from cave to cave has still not been found, how will we capture Saddam, a man who has hundreds of look-alikes due to his paranoia of being assassinated. Even if all his residing quarters are targeted, Saddam has many outlets. He has elevated himself to the highest of ranks among his people, and those who challenge him or his party, face a most horrific demise.

Last but not least, America is among the most powerful and democratic countries in the world, a role model. If the US attacks a country based on suspicion, then we will lose the moral high ground and ability to intervene between other differing nations who encounter similar circumstances. Besides, America has access to weapons of mass destruction as well, does this give other nations the right to forcefully inspect or bomb us on suspicion of what we *might* possess?

There are enough enemies of Saddam Hussein in Iraq to work with the US towards diplomatic action. If the true goal is forming a democratic nation in place of Saddam's dictatorship, then the US along with its allies can cautiously work towards implementing this ambition with respect to the sovereignty of the Iraqi people. Brutal air strikes are only a source of more trouble.

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Local play hits the spot

Commentary ~ page R2

Filter coverage

Commentary ~ below

Another poem the public hates

Poetry from Brian Rohloff ~ page R4

REV

extremely local entertainment ~ pull-out section

Filter stays true to their hard-rock style

by Mike Cahill
Special Contributor

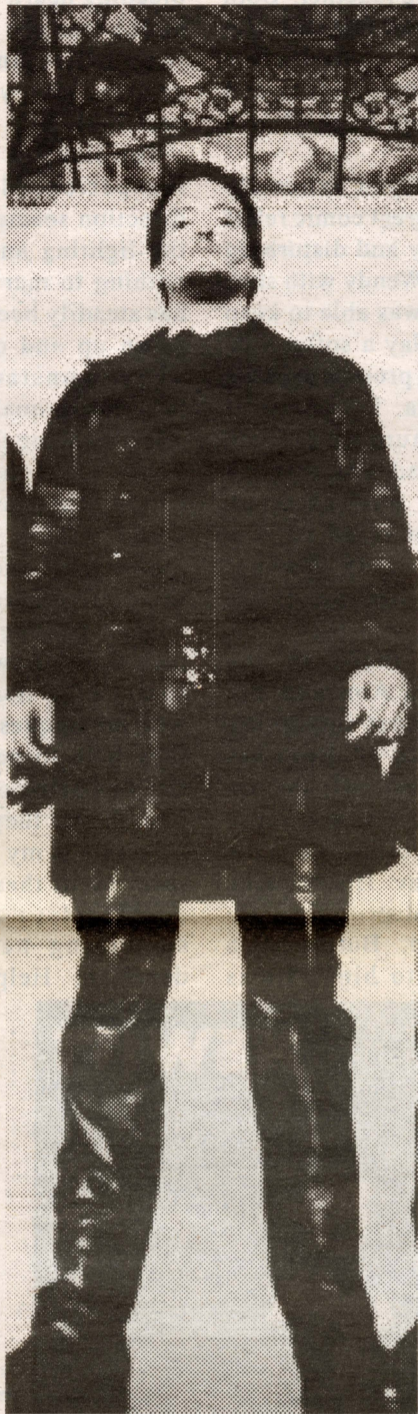
It could have been so easy for Filter to have abandoned their trademark, heavy-hitting, rock style and release a softer album. With the overwhelming success of "Take A Picture," it was most certainly tempting. After all, former hard-rock band, Sugar Ray, went soft after the overnight success of *Fly*, and they currently sell millions of soft records and headline tours. However Filter stuck to their guns and released *The Amalgamut*, a sophisticated, well made record that may prove to be the years best of hard rock.

Filter rose to the glow of the mainstream spotlight some 10 years ago with their sonic, power driven sound. Their debut single, "Hey Man, Nice Shot," had an impressive showing on the rock charts. But it was "Take A Picture," the soft, catchy, melodic tune that caught the attention of Q101 listeners, and Filter quickly became the flavor of the month. On *The Amalgamut*, Filter's barely changed their signature sound.

The album starts off with a bang. The opener "You Walk Away" is an exploration of abandonment filled with angst, hatred, and self-loathing. "My heart aches/ the ground shakes/ you can't beat it/ you can't feed it." The track is perfectly placed to reassure the Filter loyalists that they haven't gone soft on anyone. What's more important is that you see how tight they sound.

Following "You Walk Away" is "American Cliché," yet another heavy distortion track to follow the energy created by the opener. The only thing lacking on the track is the lyrics, a constant theme throughout the record. Patrick's lyrical content seems dull and out of touch. Still, his impeccable vocal performance makes it a worth while track. This is a segue into "Where Do We Go From Here," the album's strongest rock ballad. Here we see a greater emphasis on musical and vocal harmony. Filter fans may have mixed feelings on this progression. Some may like the mature attempt to harmonize. Still others may prefer their customary dissonance between the guitars and vocals. Personally, it seems to work. With Patrick's distinctive voice, the better they'll be.

"Columind" is without a doubt the worst track on the album. The song, if title hadn't already gave it away, is about the tragedy in Columbine. Here he makes an attack on the assailants, and wastes space on the record. The song feels contrived, and lyrically it feels as if it's written by a high school freshman, "You're putting on a show/ what do you think you got done here kid?/



Did you reach your killing goal?" Patrick's heart is in the right place; his execution, however, was piss-poor.

The rest of the album is consistently solid. They mix the rest of the album up with some heavy tunes, and the occasional light tunes. "My Long Walk To Jail" and "God Damn Me", as well as "The 4th" are some of the standout tracks to be heard. Filter excels in putting out hard hitting music, but with this album they seem to have reached a happy medium between the intensity they're best at, and the softer side they continue to explore.

Overall Grade: B

Aven'u Boys a solid performance

by Mike Cahill
Special Contributor

Circle Theater in Forest Park just finished production on AVEN'U BOYS last month, and those of you who didn't get a chance to check out this play missed out on the hidden gem of local entertainment.

Chicago, and its surrounding suburbs, are famous for the tremendous entertainment they provide for locals, as well as tourists from all around the country. From show's like "Blue Man Group," to "Tony and Tina's Wedding," the Chicagoland area is a hotbed of theater activity, but it's small productions like "Aven'u Boys" from theaters like Circle that really make the performing arts community thrive.

"Aven'u Boys" was written by the prolific playwright Frank Pugliese. His credits include "The King of Connecticut" and "Talk", amongst many other screenwrites for film and television. His play "Aven'U Boys" debuted in New York off Broadway, to

where it went on to win the Obie Award. The Circle Theater became the site of its Midwest debut.

The play is set in the mid 1990's in Brooklyn, New York. The focus of the play is on the friendship of three guys: Ed (Samuel G. Munoz), Rocky (Tony Patryn), and Charlie (Jeff Radue and director Jay Fontanetta during the final weekend). The play also puts focus on the relationships between the guys and their romantic interests.

The play opens with the three women onstage, Wendy (Melissa Sloane Briskman), Linda (Devin Bond), and Ann (Jennie Pepsnik) reminiscing about the neighborhood and allowing the audience to get a feel for the timeline the play moves in. The way it worked was that anytime the actors were at the front of the stage, it took place a year before present. Anytime a scene was done at the back of the stage represented present day.

Aven'u Boys
continued on page 3

Aven'u Boys continued

The play starts off graphically with the three men standing on a street corner talking about how two of them had just put a black man in the hospital. The language was foul but accurate, seeing as how these are three uneducated street thugs. The play from there bobs and weaves through each couple, with less and less scenes involving all three men. It's apparent as the play progresses that the friendship between the boys becomes secondary to their own romantic relationships.

The first couple you have is that of Rocky and Linda. Rocky is the crass but often times smooth ladies man. He dresses well and knows how to talk the right game. His counterpart, Linda, is a strong and assertive African American woman. Early on she sees his pitch for what it is; a game. She is a woman who's been through life and hasn't the time to play games, even though she ends up playing them. Their relationship starts and stays bumpy. As expected, the issue of color is a big factor, as Rocky is embarrassed to go public with his relationship, and Linda is put in a compromising situation. Does she continue to put up with his sneaky ways, or does she kick him to the curb?

This may have been the least interesting of the three couples. Bond does a good job as Linda. And though his performance is stale at points, Patryn is able to hold his own as Rocky. The problem exists in their dialogue, which is more the problem of the playwright than of the actors. They seem to constantly be speaking in riddles. It seemed their conversations lacked the give and take that makes dialogue entertaining. Half

the time you felt confused as to what point was trying to be established.

The next couple was Wendy and Charlie. Wendy, for lack of a better term, played the neighborhood slut. Charlie is the guy who knocks her up. The great dynamic of their relationship lies in the insecurities of both characters. Her's is a need to be loved and a constant need for attention. Charlie is the insecure follower with a good heart. Charlie always seemed to be doing things out of a want to please others. But he also has a strong love for Wendy, though everyone thinks he shouldn't. Their story revolves around them forced into living with their mistakes. Charlie gets Wendy pregnant and ends up marrying her and living together. Both people feel trapped and isolated, but neither one knows of a productive alternative. Charlie stays jobless, and Wendy stays miserable as the bread winner.

Both parts were played extremely well. They provided great comic relief in an otherwise heavy and disturbing play. Briskman plays Wendy with such an honest light. She was able to keep the attitude, but display a softer side underneath. The real props may have to go to Jay Fontanetta. His portrayal of Charlie was humorous and endearing, and he had less than 24 hours to learn the part after an unfortunate accident resulted in a broken nose for Jeff Radue, consequently forcing him out of the play.

Then of course there is the relationship between Ann and Ed. This is easily the most intriguing relationship that "Aven'U" Boys has to offer. Ann is a sweet girl; she has an innocent soul, and a strong sense of family and responsibility. Ed is the stereotypical tough guy. His thoughts and actions are vile and primitive. He is fueled by his anger. But he has a more complex side to him. He is

riddled with guilt over the black man he beat to death. He awakes almost nightly from nightmares. He has a deep love for Ann, one that often is able to penetrate through his rough exterior. Still, they have their issues.

As the play goes on, his guilt grows. Their marriage becomes more distant. His absence grows as does her dismay. Both Pepsnik and Munoz did a tremendous job. Their characters were the heaviest to play. They dealt very deeply with issues such as guilt, infidelity, and complex deception. Their chemistry was remarkable as Pepsnik displayed a true life compassion that worked so well with the kind of confusion Munoz was able to exhibit in Ed. She played the bleeding heart, terrified and confused by the man she loves. You could feel their strife and often times their scenes left you speechless and heartbroken.

The play as a whole was the best art I experienced this summer. The direction seemed flawless, as well as the lighting and sound. But this is nothing to marvel at. Circle theater has steadily been earning a reputation as an up and coming local theater. They constantly put on well performed, quality shows.

It's a shame that more people don't know about the small theaters like Circle. These are the places to see the small plays, by up and coming playwrights and actors. Places like these are where the actors work for next to nothing and pour themselves into their show for an audience of barely a few dozen. These are people who are unquestionably in it because they love to perform, they love the thrill of being on that stage, and they love the art they make.

So this is my plea; go support your local small theater. Go and watch a couple plays a year. Experience something new. Make a small donation. Help to keep that theater company up and running. Help to give a home to a young artist hoping to perfect their craft, to gain limited exposure and a ton of experience. Help them to entertain you. You won't be disappointed.

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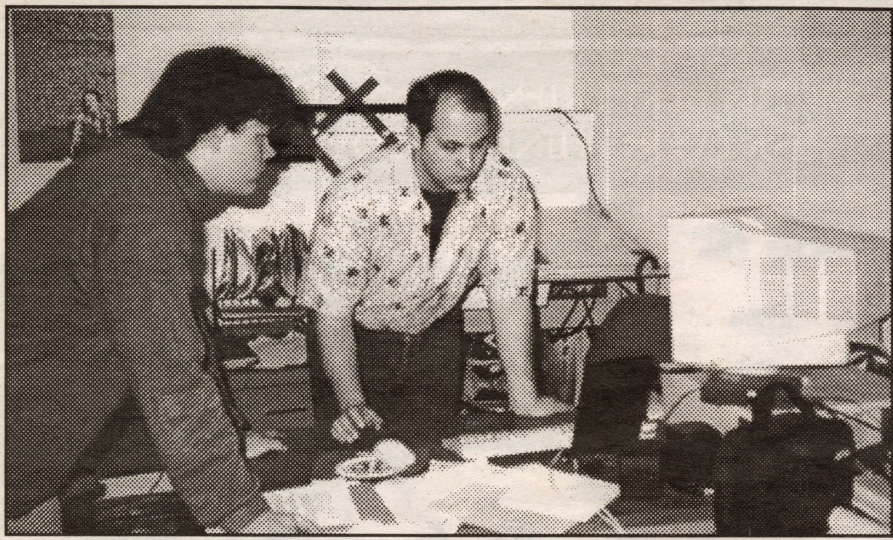
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Hang up

God left a message
 On the machine
 The other day
 Said he wanted to talk
 About these last
 Few years
 Something about being
 Dismayed

So I called him back
 Collect
 Explained it was the Prozac
 And that girl next door
 With the dead yellow
 Grass hair and
 Gripling split ends and
 Stunted chipped nails
 That I never really noticed

and
 Didn't much care
 Blamed it on the Earth's Axis
 And someone's lousy teeth
 So that god eventually hung up
 And sent the bill to me

I paid it

So that next time
 I can complain about that
 Too.

Anthony Loquercio

A reason to go to the library

by **Joey Kandelman**
Senior Staff Writer

The art which is currently on display on the first floor of the library was done by Ken Klopak. He has been teaching in Chicago Public Schools for over 30 years.

Klopak has received several awards for his work during his career. Some of his more prestigious awards are the Golden Apple Award, the Kohl International Teaching Award, and 1996 Elementary Teacher of the Year in Illinois by the Illinois Art Education Association.

He has displayed his work throughout the Chicagoland art fair circuit, including the Gold Coast Art Fair and the 57th Street

Hyde Park Art Fair. He also displays his work at local galleries and coop groups in Chicago.

Besides Chicago, he has displayed his work in the New York Art Expo and at Galarie Hamptons in West Hampton Beach, in Long Island, NY.

"My work," said Klopak, "portrays glimpses of greatness in people and slices of how poetic, among other things in society."

I prefer the observer to decipher my work in a personal manner," Klopak said. "When one observes my work, I would like one to gain skills in perceiving, in seeing things not noticed before about our daily existence."



"Heating Up"



"Pleasin Me"



"Though leaves are many, the root is one"

Poetry

from Brian Rohloff

IANDME

Exhausted convulsions of a paranoid rosebud on it's way through Wonderland
Fixed on a fading high of pixie-drink seeping amidst the gums between glassy
teeth

Star-gazing militant communist Irishmen clap hands
and dance as four pawed moon crests sing out the tune
Pearls fly round in dizzying jargon of bottle then bottle then clock hands
backwards

treading...

Rushing along
out

in there

where?
Wars of candle scents and perfumed melodies to jog the memory into a
hearted run of

the ever-stretching-ahead lap

High priests holding up nude nuns and sisters both before pagan one-eyed
altars of

virtuous disgrace

Stand on the cliff edge and exhale cloud yipe

"I am god!"

Eyes blurry grey perimeter reflecting nothing more then panicked affection
of robotic

workings

Hair curled like bat wings over a head of miserable thoughts and nighttime
worries of

pleasure seeking imps

Three pronged pitch-forks burning up to tickle the feet of Saints

Lips full and glassy and blue with lack of air

Just draw breath and drown down with me

One crisp clear inhale

But nothing is that pure anymore, not even stone colored shirt-buttons

Tiger Lilly stereotypes and smoldering cigars carrying on till half past true
nightingales rejoice from on high between ivory tusks of hand shaking thunder

I can't write anything but a confession

Stifle your heart away in a plastic cup and at least present it with a flower or
two

Screaming with the blood washing over your face and chest

Castles deep writhing the ground of your soul of her eyes of a first-breath
gulp of...

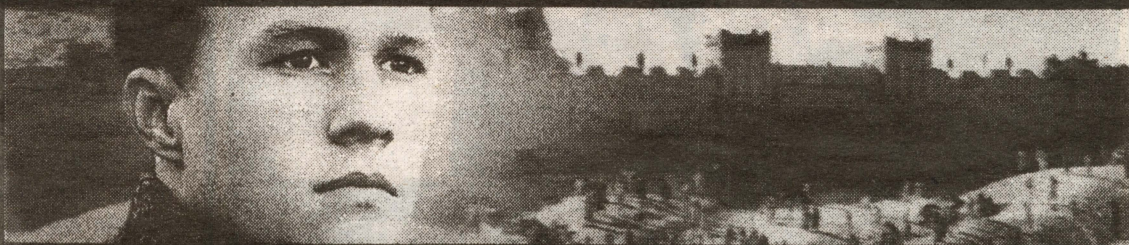
"Oh my God, I don't want to die."

Glisten, shine, gold tempered gem and source of all goodness and light

And when I went from oblivion to an angel whisper to a thought to a twinkle,
A goddess came, put a floral scented finger to my lips and said,

"Keep silent."

To save his best friend, one man must
risk everything he loves.



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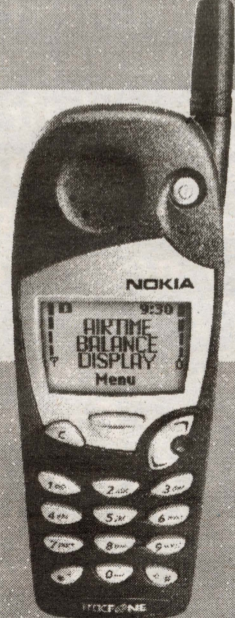
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FMLA co-chair responds to spring flyers

Dear Editor,

Late last spring, there was a flier posted around NEIU's campus put out by NEIU Episcopal Campus Ministry. Who is that? Northeastern doesn't have a student organization called NEIU Episcopal Campus Ministry. Whoever these phony individuals are they LIED about being a campus organization. The flier was full of misinformation and listed unauthorized sponsorship by a number of University departments. I hope the students at NEIU have sense enough to consider and question the validity of information freely posted around campus. It really makes me angry that these folks act like they give a damn about the welfare of women but they cannot even get the facts straight and be honest. Be careful whom you believe; they may just be out to rob you of your right to choose what is best.

Becca Raven Gilmore
NEIU Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
Co-Chair
(And that's no lie.)

Parking woes just keep getting worse

Dear Editor,

For some time now, the *Independent* has been reporting on troubles with parking at Northeastern. During Spring 2001, as reported in the March 27th, 2001 issue, those in charge of parking here held a forum to discuss changes in the parking. Well, those changes seem to be creating more problems than solutions.

Did you know that right now the Parking Office in the P.E. Building is only issuing parking stickers to teachers, not students? They seem to like to keep this little fact to themselves. It seems that the Parking Office has delegated this task to the Cashier's Office, at least temporarily. I haven't seen a single sign stating this, however.

Another wrinkle they've developed is ticketing during the first week of classes. They must be determined to wrench more money from students because during the first few days of classes, not every student will have had time to get a parking permit, especially those sent on a wild goose chase from one end of campus to the other (and the point of putting the Parking Office in the P.E. Building being ...?). Ticketing when few people would likely have a permit is pretty rotten, even for the already rotten Parking Office (which, by the way, seems to send their workers through rudeness and snail-pace-service classes).

Perhaps the powers-that-be of Parking should take logic classes. If students pay more money for the same amount of parking, logic would dictate that service improve. After all, they have more money to spend! However, Parking Office Logic states that the workers become rude, slow, and incompetent.

Now probably would be the time to get the U-Pass. If Parking gets any worse, the CTA may be the best alternative to paying a group of idiots for the privilege of circling filled lots for an hour for parking that is not, and probably never will be, there.

Anonymous

9/3 issue of the *Independent* corrections

In the September 3rd, 2002 issue of the *Independent*, on page 6, an article titled "Obese people victims?" was incorrectly said to have been written by John Bracich. The reporter of that article was actually Max Azizieh. The *Independent* apologizes to its readers and to Max Azizieh for the mistake.

In the same issue, in the Classified section, it was also brought to our attention that we misspelled two words in the same classified ad. The word "Qur'an" appeared as "Qurian," and the word "Muslims" appeared as "Muslums." We would like to apologize to our readers, to Robert, who placed the ad, and to the Muslim community for our mistake.

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:

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

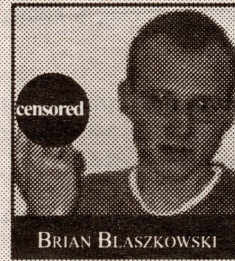
Letters are also accepted through electronic mail, provided they include a telephone number for verification. The address is neiu_independent@yahoo.com

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



Three year education definitely not enough

A POLICY THAT'S BEEN AROUND SINCE BEFORE I JOINED THE PAPER FORBIDS US TO RESPOND TO LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. THE REASONING BEHIND THIS IS TO ALLOW READERS TO HAVE THE LAST WORD ON ANY GIVEN ARTICLE. IT ALSO ENSURES THAT THE PAPER WON'T BECOME SOME SORT OF BIZARRE HATE MAIL PAPER.



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

Fortunately, this policy doesn't cover unsigned and hastily written notes jammed under my office door.

I found the note in question on Friday, September 6th. After sifting through the misspelled words, the punctuation errors, and the fragmented sentences, I discovered that this person doesn't like me. Also, the title, "Brian, Loser

on campus," helped a bit. After I got through laughing, I realized this was a blessing in disguise, as I had no idea what to write about. So, I will offer commentary on select pieces from the letter. Anything written in italics is from the letter. To increase comedy value, I won't fix the typos.

"I've been here 3 years. No complaints At All from me. If things are so horrible here. Why not leave?"

First lesson, kids: commas are cool. They're very useful for separating large, cumbersome sentences, especially when there are several thoughts and ideas in the same sentence. Now, many people ask me why I don't leave this school if I hate it so much. Here's a simple answer. It's not that I don't like this school. It's that I don't like any school. I'd be complaining about any school you put me in, and I figured that as long as I hate school, I might as well hate a school that's very inexpensive and very close to my house, rather than spending thousands and thousands of dollars on an expensive school with a 6 hour commute. Also, please note that the writer has been here for three years. We now have a basic expectation for the level of education that should be evident in this letter.

"I received good competent counselling without them being vague and they were able to help me. Are you saying don't pay the counselors?"

I've already explained how cool commas are, but spelling is also a valuable tool. Here's a helpful tip: if you use the same word more than once in a sentence, make sure to spell it correctly both times. It helps your credibility. Speaking of "your," let's move on.

"I think your a very unhappy, self centered wet blanket."

Another way to help credibility issues is to make certain you know the difference between possessives and contractions. For example, it would be grammatically correct (and factually correct) for me to state that "Your brain doesn't work properly." On the other side of the coin, I could say, "You're not the proper spokesperson to expound on the virtues of a good education." You've been in NEIU for three years? You do an excellent job of hiding your (not you're) education. Good job!

"You must have had a hard time getting into classes. I didn't. Either did all my friends."

Once again, kudos on keeping that education a secret. See, "either" means "one or the other of two," such as "You either never graduated grade school or you went to a shitty grade school." It can also mean "one and the other of two," such as, "I bet that, in regards to both speaking and writing, you aren't very good at either." Neither, on the other hand, basically means, "not either," or "not one or the other." Try and use them in a sentence!

"And the elevators, come on 26 people get real."

I can only assume you meant to express surprise at my statement of finding 26 people in elevators at all times, but you deemed certain punctuation marks to be unnecessary. Next time ask your mom to proofread your documents before you hand them out. As far as my statement goes, I hope this definition from Webster's *College Dictionary* helps you: "hy-per-bojle / n. = exaggeration for effect and not to be taken literally (EX: He's as strong as an ox)." Let me know if you still need help with that one.

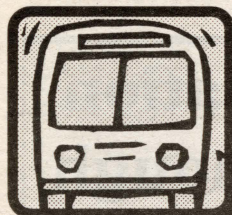
"Brian - why stay here? If its that bad. No one else wants you? probably. We don't. Get lost."

It really is too bad that no one likes me, because I so crave the acceptance of my peers. Please refer back to the above point about the difference between possessives and contractions to fix your latest grammatical problems (its versus it's). Also, your technique of randomly splitting words with periods in the hopes that they'll form sentences just isn't working out for you.

Finally, the letter is signed, "From a student who is very happy!"

I'm happy, too! Guess why? You've not only helped me write a column, but you've given me a fabulous example of writing that I can show my staff writers. I'll use it as an example of how not to write.

Thanks again, Mr. Happy Student, from the Loser on Campus. Or, as you might write, "from the Luser on Kampis."



The Commuter

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

The timeline of a tragedy: 9/11/2001 revisited

by Joanna Frigo
Senior Staff Writer

September 10, 2001 It was a warm fall Monday. We went to class, talked to friends, handed in the work that was due that day. Some of us even worked ate dinner with the family or by ourselves. We go to bed after studying late, or watching TV.

September 11, 2001 Tuesday 6-7:00am: The Chicago area starts to get up and ready for school or work. One might have been hitting the snooze button, listening to the happy-go-lucky morning DJ's not knowing what was going to happen at 7:46 am, Chicago time.

7:46 am Chicago: The World Trade Center North (WTCN) is struck by American Airlines flight 11, between the 94 and 98 floors. Soon, people from the World Trade Center South (WTCS) hear the crash and feels the heat of the fireball. Those who saw it happen in WTCS see people from the upper floors jumping to their deaths. The port Authority states that WTCS is secure, and people make their way back to the offices.

8:03 am United Airlines flight 175 crashes into the WTCS between the seventy-eight and eighty fourth floors. The seventy-eighth floor was a sky lobby for the elevators for the upper floors. With approximately two hundred people in this sky lobby, only seventeen people made it out safely.

8:04 am The country is shocked at the scene before them. Students, faculty, and staff watch in horror at the events unfolding. Little was

known about other events that will happen that day.

8:38 am American Airlines Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon, killing 189 people.

9:58 am A man telephones an emergency dispatcher, telling them that his plane was hijacked.

9:06 am United Airlines Flight 93 crashes into a field in Pennsylvania. Some of the passengers fought the hijackers, not allowing them to hit its intended target The US Capital Building.

8:59 am WTCS collapsed, killing anyone who was trying to get out of the building and emergency personnel.

9:28 am The WTCN collapsed, a half-hour after the WTCS. The total numbers of those who lost their lives on the horrible day is enormous. 2801 people in the Towers died, 200 people from the North Tower jumped to their deaths, not wanting to be killed by smoke and fire.

12:00 pm Northeastern Illinois University closes. It was opened the next day, under very somber circumstances. Also many companies, malls and all government offices closed early. No one knew what was about to happen. for the first time all airlines are grounded over North America, leaving the sky silent. Those who live by O'Hare International and Midway Airports, are stunned by the quiet sky.

Afternoon Radio stations tried to get live feeds. Some radio DJ's

stayed on the air and talked to their listeners. Flags start coming out in droves to show support and to mourn for the fallen victims of the World Trade Centers, Pentagon, and the field in Pennsylvania.

Area hospitals start giving some of their blood supply to help with the tragedy, and people start donating blood in large numbers. Area churches, mosques, and synagogues open doors for people to worship and look for comfort.

3:00 pm Downtown Chicago is almost deserted.

Evening All concerts and sporting events are cancelled for the first time since the late President Kennedy was killed.

All day almost every TV station is covering the event.

Over the next few days, the clean up begins. It is a long and drawn out process. The world is still stunned. The US Embassy in London becomes a shrine of flowers and well wishes. Buckingham breaks tradition and plays the national anthem.

Friday, September 14 A day of reflection. Radio stations are silent at noon. Places of worship have special services, allowing people to come together, have a time to mourn, and help come to terms with the tragedy.

Saturday September 15 The New York Chaplin Father My Judge is laid to rest. He died giving the last rights to a fallen firefighter. The weeks following 9/11 were a blur. The Emmy Awards were

postponed twice. That next week there was the Tribute to Heroes, which saw our favorite stars answering the phones. Dozens of charity events and CD's popped up, doing what they could to lend a hand.

USA Today came out with the various numbers, from the most minuscule to the staggering. All numbers and stats can be found at www.usatoday.com

In 1971 it cost \$1.1 billion to build the World Trade Centers, and it cost about \$4 to make the knives used to hijack all four planes.

December 19, 2001 the fires at Ground Zero were officially extinguished.

On September 11, 2002 the New York Lottery numbers came up 9-1-1.

Morgan Stanley, one of the largest firms in the WTC lost only six employees, compared to Cantor Fitzgerald which lost 658 people.

When the first tower collapsed, the impact had a magnitude of 2.1; when the second tower came down, it was a 2.3.

Christine Hanson, two years old, was going to Disneyland. She was the youngest passenger that was killed.

2,801 is the total number of those who ded in the WTC.

189 died in the Pentagon.

40 were killed in Pennsylvania.

1 female police officer died in the collapse of the towers.

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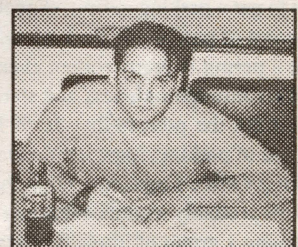
Just when you think you have some free time to play a game or two....



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



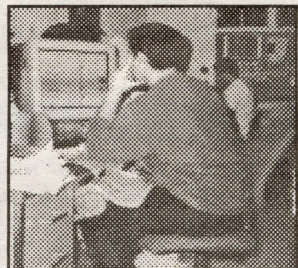
Suddenly you find yourself immersed in research trying to find out the truth....



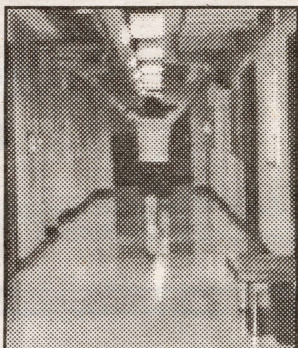
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FMLA gives NEIU reason to walk

by Krystina Sletvold
Staff Writer

The Female Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) is looking for support and hoping to gather other campus organizations and individuals to lace up their walking shoes for Chicago's 10th Annual AIDS Walk/Run.

"Although each organization has its specific purpose, this is a good way for all of us to come together for a good cause," said Anne Mothkovich, a 23-year-old junior and co-chair of FMLA.

As an organization, the FMLA is committed to establishing a body of people to work in pursuit of social justice. FMLA members recognize that on top of supporting a respectable and charitable organization, the AIDS Walk/Run would be a great way for Northeastern Illinois University to get involved as one campus to aid the Chicago community.

"This is good chance to unite people and build solidarity," Mothkovich said.

The AIDS Walk/Run Chicago has become the Midwest's largest, one-day AIDS fundraiser in the AIDS service community. The AIDS Walk/Run will be held on September 29 in Grant Park, with the kickoff at 10:00 a.m. All of the money raised at the event will go directly to the Chicago Foundation for AIDS, helping those individuals diagnosed with AIDS maintain a good quality of life. The foundation also provides medical help, counseling, and grief counseling for family and friends who have lost loved ones to the



The start of the "AIDS Run/Walk Chicago" event last year. picture courtesy of www.chicagorunwalkforaids.org

deadly disease.

According to the Chicago Department of Public Health, there are about 11,556 individuals living with AIDS in the state of Illinois. Approximately 9,775 individuals are currently living with AIDS in the metropolitan Chicago, which 7,583 are living in the city of Chicago. Amongst these individuals living with AIDS, 76 percent are male and 24 percent are female.

With numbers of individuals diagnosed with AIDS continuing to increase, financial support becomes vital. Furthermore, enhancing the importance of groups and individuals to participate in such events like the AIDS Walk/Run helps to contribute to research development and supporting those already diagnosed.

For those who do not wish to walk or run, there are also 800 volunteer positions available. For more information on volunteering,

contact Alan Cervenka at (773) 868-3010 extension 224.

This is a day event in which people rent promotional tents, bring out the grill for some hamburgers and hot dogs, and even hang around until end to see a live musical concert. Prizes are handed out to the walking teams, which include a prize the "Biggest Group" and the "Most Spirited."

Registration for the AIDS Walk is \$20 before Sept. 29 and \$25 on the day of the race. To walk in a team, you must have at least 5 members and be registered by Sept. 20th. For more information visit www.chicagorunwalkforaids.org.

With the walk coming up, the FMLA begins their training and continues to promote the AIDS Walk/Run to others around campus in pursuit to gather some walkers to join them.

"We would really just love to have another organizations and individuals come out and joins us for this good cause," Mothkovich said.

Con Tacto Latino

por: Andrea Belard

Para esta edición de Con Tacto Latino decidí compartir con ustedes algo que recibí hace algunos días por internet. Desconozco al autor, pero sin lugar a dudas quien lo hizo sabía muy bien de lo que hablaba. Espero que les guste!

Baila como si nadie te estuviera viendo

Nos convencemos a nosotros mismos de que la vida será mejor...

Después de terminar la carrera,
después de conseguir trabajo,
después de casarnos,
después de tener un hijo,
y entonces después de tener otro.

Luego nos sentimos frustrados porque nuestros hijos no son lo suficientemente grandes, y pensamos que seremos más felices

cuando crezcan y dejen de ser niños; después nos desesperamos porque son adolescentes, difíciles de tratar.

Pensamos: seremos más felices cuando salgan de esa etapa.

Luego decidimos que nuestra vida será completa...

cuando a nuestro esposo o esposa le vaya mejor.

cuando tengamos un mejor coche.

cuando nos podamos ir de vacaciones,

cuando consigamos el ascenso,

cuando nos retiremos.

La verdad es que ¡NO HAY MEJOR MOMENTO PARA SER FELIZ QUE AHORA MISMO!

Si no es ahora, ¿cuando? La vida siempre estará llena de juegos, de retos.

Es mejor admitirlo y decidir ser felices ahora de todas formas.

No hay un lugar, ni un camino para la felicidad.

la felicidad es el camino y es ¡¡AHORA!!

ATESORA CADA MOMENTO QUE VIVES, y atesóralo más porque lo

compartiste con alguien especial; tan especial que lo llevas en tu corazón.

Y recuerda que EL TIEMPO NO ESPERA POR NADIE.

Así que deja de esperar

hasta que termines la Universidad,

hasta que te enamores,

hasta que encuentres trabajo,

hasta que te cases,

hasta que tengas hijos,

hasta que se vayan de casa,

hasta que te divorcies,

hasta que pierdas esos diez kilos,

hasta el viernes por la noche o

hasta el domingo por la mañana,

hasta la primavera, el verano, el otoño o el invierno, o hasta que te mueras,

para decidir que no hay mejor momento que justamente ÉSTE PARA SER FELIZ.

LA FELICIDAD ES UN TRAYECTO, NO UN DESTINO.

TRABAJA COMO SI NO NECESITARAS DINERO.

AMA COMO SI NUNCA TE HUBIERAN HERIDO.

Y BAILA... BAILA COMO SI NADIE TE ESTUVIERA VIENDO!

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A Week of Empowerment



Tuesday, September 24, 2002

"Academics is the Key to Opening the Door to Success"

English Competency Exam Workshop

Classroom Building 3044

Activity Hour: 1:40 pm to 2:40 pm

Wednesday, September 25, 2002

"Seeing Through the Color Lines"

A Skit on Overcoming Ethnocentrism

Student Union Room 219 from 2pm to 3:30 pm

Thursday, September 26, 2002

"Gluing the Bits and Pieces"

Arts and Crafts with 3-4 year olds

Day Care Center from 3pm to 4:30pm

Semi-Formal Informational

Student Union Room 215 from 7pm to 9pm

Friday, September 27, 2002

"Socializing with the Gammass" Informal Social

Eugene Field Park (On Foster and Ridgeway)

Look for signs to find the room from 6:30pm to 9:30pm

Monday, September 30, 2002

"Threads of Hope [Chilean Origin]"

Cultural Awareness Video Presentation

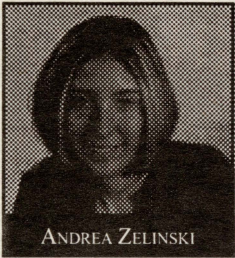
Student Union Room 219 from 2pm to 3:30pm

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

"Latina Experiences in Modern Society"

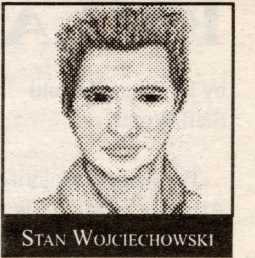
Keynote Speaker: Dra. Angelina Pedroso

Student Union Room 219 from Activity Hour: 1:40 pm to 2:40 pm



ANDREA ZELINSKI

STAN'S LIFE



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI

Last time we visited Stan, he was racing to school with Elliott to meet with Tori, the fantasy girl of his dreams. Everything was going well until Elliott's car stranded them both miles away from school. Will Stan make it in time to meet with Tori? Or was it just not meant to be?

"Ouch!" Stan cried out as he touched the hood to Elliott's beat up old Buick. "That hurt like a—"

"I told you to wait till it cools off!" Elliott shouted out from behind the trunk as he searched for the tools that he didn't have. He paused. "I don't know what to tell you man. See if you can call someone to give us a ride."

Yeah! Why didn't I think of that earlier?! I'll just call... who can I call...?

Stan searched for his cell phone in his backpack. He pulled it out and scrolled through the phone book.

No, no, can't call him. Not him either. She doesn't have a car. But... Sid! He was talking about buying a car over the summer. I'm sure he got it by now.

He nervously pressed "Send" to call Sid's cell phone.

Riiiiing. Riiiiing. *Come on. Pick up.*

"Hey," answered a sly and low voice.

"Sid?"

"Stan? Sup? Where ya been?"

"Eh, nowhere really. Just workin'," he said as he slid his hand over the warm hood.

"Cool, cool."

"You busy? I need a favor."

"Sup?"

"I need a ride." There was a long pause.

"Where you at?" he replied as Stan heard Sid turn on the engine.

Yes! "The corner of Devon and Caldwell." Thank God! I just might make it after all!

"See ya in a few." Click.

Stan and Elliott pushed the Buick into a nearby parking space across the street as they waited for Sid. The nearby traffic didn't make their task any easier. "Get out of the way!" and loud curses filled the intersection as the two struggled to cross the busy street.

Shortly after they settled the rusty hunk of metal into a small parking space, Sid pulled up in his black '99 Sunfire. It gleamed

in the bright September sun as the window rolled down. Stan lowered his head to eye level next to the passenger door. He could see his reflection in the Sid's sunglasses. His hair was combed forward, shielding a narrow sliver of his forehead. He was dressed in a black T-shirt and a pair of loose jeans. His tanned skin stretched over his developed biceps. He leaned slightly over the passenger seat. "You gonna get in or what?"

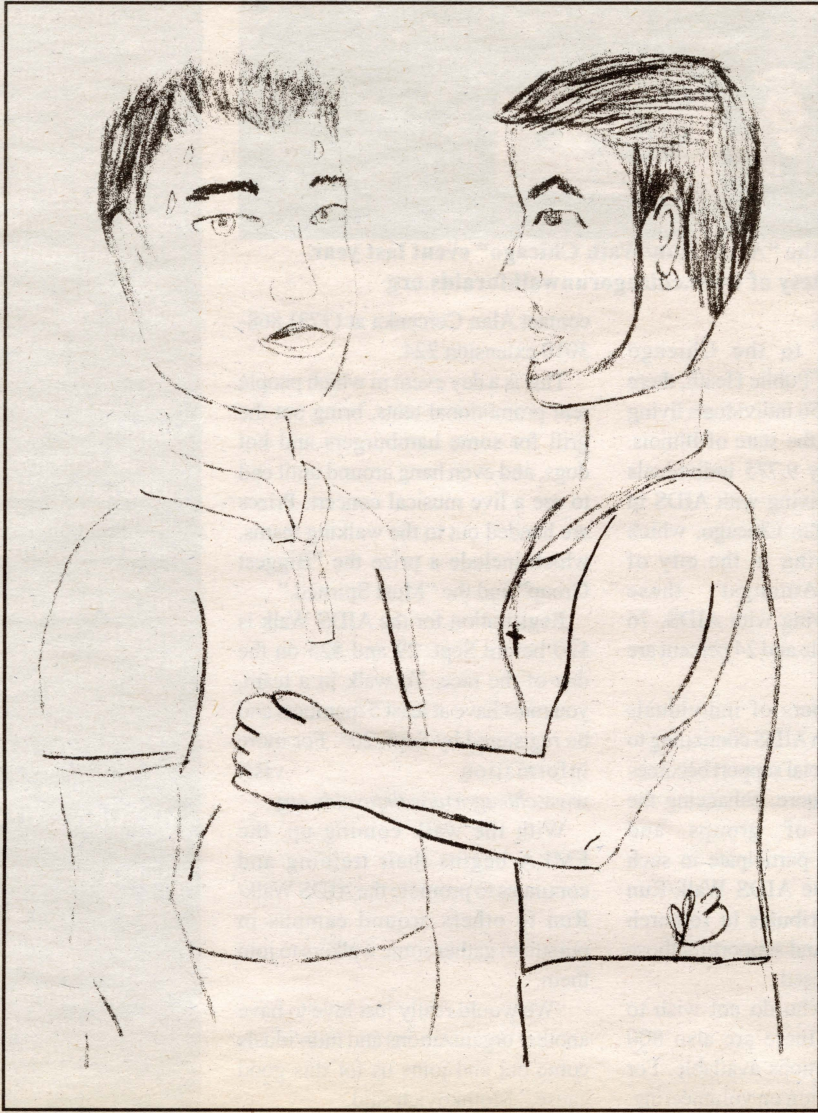
Stan opened the door and stopped. "Do you mind if you bring my friend with? We're both pretty stranded."

Sid glared through his sunglasses at the guy behind Stan. He paused for a moment, then let his lips form a sly smile. "Sure. Let's go."

Once Stan indicated where they needed to drive, Elliott slumped in the back seat. This car looked so familiar to him. But from where? He continued to think about it, and felt a heavy load weigh on his chest. It came to him.

Stan and Sid started to catch up while they headed towards school. "So, what ever happened to that girl you were dating last semester?" Sid asked Stan as he turned down the radio.

"Oh. Her? I don't want to talk about it." He gazed out the window.



"What happened? Break your heart? You broke hers?" he pushed.

"It's over." I really don't want to talk about it. But there's someone new."

"That's great man. Who is she?"

"Her name's Tori," Stan paused as he could see the smirk spread across Sid's face. "What? What's that for?"

"Nothing. You were talking about this girl a couple months back. When did you two hook up?"

"Haven't yet," Stan paused again. *I don't want him to give me shit about it. He's always pushing me to be more of a go-getter.* "I am or was supposed to meet her on campus today at noon, but obviously I'm late," he said as he glanced at the green numbers on the dashboard displaying 12:08.

"Don't sweat it. She'll come back. They always do," Sid remarked as they turned onto Pulaski. He glanced in the

rearview mirror to see Elliott hiding in his seat. The sly smile returned to Sid's face. As he parked the car in the back of the back parking lot, Stan became restless. He slid his backpack from behind his seat and shut his door. "Thanks a lot for the ride Sid. Do you have classes now?"

"Not really. Not any that I go to. I was thinking about checking out the organization fair," he answered as he began to walk towards the student union. Elliott trailed the two, discretely checking out the rear bumper of the Sunfire.

Sid? Checking out the organization fair? That's a bit unlike him. "Okay..."

"I'm not there to check out the newspaper or student government. What do you think I am? A scholar?" he laughed as they continued walking. He glanced at Stan to see that he still didn't get it. "You know that this school does have sororities. Hint hint. Wink wink. Do I have to spell it out?"

"What? We have sororities on campus?" *I didn't think commuter colleges had sororities.* "Do we have fraternities too?"

Sid laughed. "Yeah," he paused, "How about this... I'll go check out the sorority girls and you can check out the fraternities."

"Shut up. I just didn't think that we had those at this school. That's all." They continued to walk past the library. "I'll be right back, I'm going to check out the Library to see if she's in there."

"So what about you? You haven't said anything all day," Sid turned to Elliott as they waited on the stairs. Elliott's body stiffened as Sid's smile widened. "You look nervous."

"Huh?"

"You heard me. You look tense. Like you did something wrong, something bad." Sid paused, leaving the silence awkward. "You didn't do anything to my car, did you?"

"What are you talking about?" Elliott nervously replied.

"You heard me," Sid took off his sunglasses to reveal hazel eyes gleaming at Elliott. "I know what you did. I saw the whole thing. When you hit my car the other day."

"I don't—" Elliott stuttered as he wished Stan would hurry back.

"Don't play stupid," he yelled "I f*ckin saw you. You were in that beat up Buick. The same one that broke down today. I saw you get out of the car, look at the scratch, and walk away," Sid's voice strengthened. "I don't see any reason why I shouldn't kick your ass right now."

"I'm sorry... I just—"

"You just what? Didn't think it mattered? Didn't think anyone would notice?" Sid stepped closer and lowered his voice. "Now this is what's going to happen. I need that bumper replaced. Do you know how much that costs?"

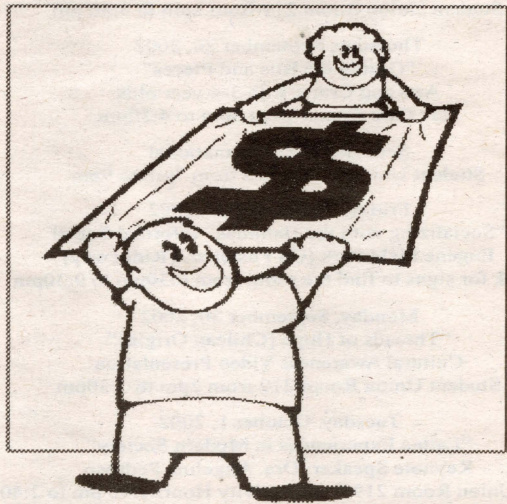
Elliott shook his head.

"It's going to cost you \$300. Now, if you can't pay up by next week Friday, we are going to have some problems. Do you understand me?" Sid stared into Elliott's eyes. Elliott agreed. "Don't you be telling your buddy Stan. Otherwise we'll have worse problems." Sid remarked as he saw Stan walk through the automatic doors. He walked towards Stan. "Not there? Let's go check out those sorority girls." They walked away as Elliott tried to catch his breath.

"Elliott, are you coming?" Stan called back.

"Um... I'm going to study.... bye!" he managed to spit out as he dashed up the stairs.

I wonder what's wrong with him.



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Star Signs

by Eliza the Enchantress

Aries (March 21-April 19)



Knights of Swords: The balance of power is in your favor. You might acquire anything you need or want, but don't let your desires dominate your life.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)



Seven of Coins: You're completing hard work while approaching your harvest time. Something good might be on the horizon. Try not to overwork yourself, as the stress could weigh you down.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)



The Devil: Do not let your own negativity hold you back. The adage "you are your own worst enemy" is true. Remember, the glass is always half full!

Cancer (June 22-July 22)



King of Wands: You have the chance of becoming a leader in the next few weeks. You already know how to follow; now you are a leader. Always try to keep in communication with the people around you.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)



Five of Cups: You rely on the commitment of others. If you want to get things done, DO IT YOURSELF. It is the only way. Count on others at your own risk.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)



Four of Wands: Now is the time to complete that group project. It might be at school, at home (fall cleaning), or a work project. Listen to others as much as you listen to yourself.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct 22)



Six of Wands: You will reach your objectives. Stay focused and you will achieve whatever goal you strive for. Lose focus, and you won't.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)



The Chariot: Incoming freshman, try not to let NEIU get you down. For the graduating seniors, try not to get "senioritis." Everyone else, focus on work before play.

Sattitarius (Nov 22- Dec. 20)



Knight of Swords: The balance of power is in your favor. Don't let it go to your head, or problems will surface.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)



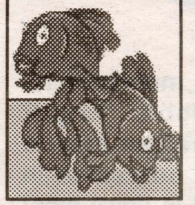
The Empress: You need to cultivate your own creativity. It's out there, but you have to find it. Start a project and stick with it.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)



Eight of Swords: Frustration brings forth the need for patience. Step back and look at the whole picture. Just go with the flow and you'll be fine.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20):



Ten of Cups: You are going towards an emotional commitment in regards to relationships.

The relationship could be anything; maybe it will deal with that special someone. What ever it is, you will be ready.

If your birthday is this week:

Congratulations! The cards say that you will have luck in all three major categories of your life's circle: love, happiness, and balance. But don't break out the

champagne just yet. You will need to overcome several obstacles before your good luck will visit you. Take a deep breath and get to it before it's too late!

If your birthday is next week:

Things won't be quite so easy for you. You will have many problems in work and love in the very near future, and once those are past, financial troubles will set in. But don't get too discouraged, because a big decision sometime within the next month could alter your financial state for years to come, and *not* in a bad way! Don't let the opportunity slip passed you. Keep your eyes open and both feet on the ground, and you'll get through these rough times.

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Free Kung Fu self-defense class. Fridays at 1pm in the P.E. Building. All levels welcome. Sponsored by Campus Rec.

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

WANTED! Students to write for NEIU's Latino publication, "Oue Ondee Sola." Interested? Call ext. 4583 or visit E-041

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 Thursday 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

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.

The Muslim Students Association meets every Tuesday and Thursday in Room FA-153 from 1:40 to 2:50p.m. to discuss the solution to social problems through Islamic means and also to plan public activities on campus. Open to questions and comments. Webs site: <http://neiu.edu/~msa>

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance: meets on Tuesdays in CLS-2094 at 1:40. To join listserve, send a message to femajority-1@neiu.edu with your name and e-mail address.

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 Pamela Barnes, BMC President, at P-barnes@neiu.com

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

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

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Join UPRS! We promote Puerto Rican history, culture, and a better understanding of our present reality. Call ext. 4583

Personals

BB,
Ok, so you beat me in arm-wrestling but you'll eat my dust in the track and field race. We'll see how well your cancerretless serve you when you're panting after 3 steps.
JK

I hate Joey and Joey is boring and Joey has nothing to contribute to society...

PDF's must die...

The red-head in my class:
If God made a rose as fiery as your hair, I'd buy it for you.
If there was an emerald as green as your eyes, I'd find it for you.
If only you felt the same about me...
--Lone Lee Hart

Papa Smurf:
Seems like you sucked it up pretty badly in the survey. That doesn't mean I won't use your work!
--King of the Smurfs

What? Dost thou find merriemtn in the torment of my soul? Egad! Out, vile jelly!

V-man:
Don't think we've forgotten about you! Miss you lots!
--Office girls

V-boy:
I haven't forgotten about you either. Stay out of my office! Or not, whatever.
--You know who

Computer lab attendants: You should double check the hours your department posted in the school planner... they are a bit deceiving. Esspecially when someone is DEPENDING on the fact that the lab will be open on SUNDAYS! You make me sick.

Steph: You are one of the few people I have been able to say this to (one of two actually), but that kinda shit only happens to you.
AZ

Jose C.,
Had a great time the other night. Even if I was a light weight. Next time, I'll do better.

MQ: I miss you. I can't wait till we can spend more time together. But until then, just know that I'm thinking about you, more than you know.

Oh Shucks!

Oh, when the whipporwhills....whistle in the wind...the wind can't whistle back...oh nice and chubby baby!

Tuesday the 17th is the next staff meeting of the Independent. Come see the Chief Editor scream at his staff!

Notice

something

missing?

YOU

join

the

Independent

Next

meeting:

Sept. 17th

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.



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