

1-7-2003

## Independent- Jan. 7, 2003

Andrea Zelinski

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

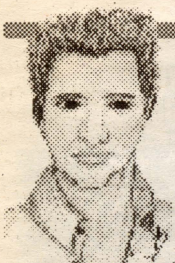
---

### Recommended Citation

Zelinski, Andrea, "Independent- Jan. 7, 2003" (2003). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 285.  
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/285>

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





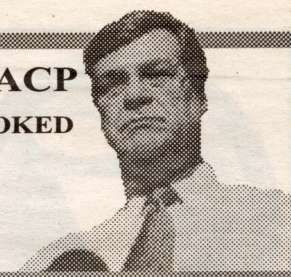
EVERYONE HAS A PAST;  
STAN IS NO EXCEPTION.

STAN'S LIFE  
PAGE 7

## BACK SO SOON?

TRENT LOTT NAACP  
MEMBERSHIP REVOKED

OPINIONS  
PAGE 3



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

# Independent

Vol. 19 Issue 10

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

JAN 08 2003

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

ARCHIVES

## Parking garage plans are two years away

*U-pass not an option; many area campuses currently have program in place*

by Chad Nelson  
Rev/Photo Editor

The Administration revealed tentative plans to build a new parking facility at an SGA meeting about transportation on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Though exact location and blueprints for the new construction have not been confirmed, the construction is slated to begin in about two years. It will be a multi-level facility, and estimates indicate that it will cost the University nearly \$20,000 per spot to build.

The forum was held as a response to student concerns about the lack of adequate parking. The administration claims that only certain "peak hours," when the largest amount of students want to take class, cause of the parking problems. At other times, the parking lot provides ample space for the number of students and staff that drive.

Administrators also looked at other alternatives besides the new parking facility. The other main consideration was implementing the CTA's U-

Pass program. The U-Pass is card that allows students to ride all CTA busses and trains for the duration of the semester. This program is only available to full-time students, and the university would be charged \$75 for each full time student at the university.

All full-time students, whether they use the U-Pass or not, would then have an additional fee of at least \$75 dollars. The fee, unlike the parking fee, could not be waived. Students would also lose the privilege of the card if they were to fall below full-time status, but would not receive a refund of their fee.

Administrators cited a survey taken several years ago, in which 42 students stated an interest in obtaining the U-Pass. Also, with 30 percent of the student population taking twelve credits hours or more (the requirement for full-time status) the administration does not feel that the program would have a broad enough effect to help deal with the parking dilemma. They also feel that the program would not meet the



Due to overcrowding, some drivers have had to resort to drastic and foolish measures.

needs of enough students to justify the added tuition fee.

An audience member noted that 32 other universities and colleges around the city already have the U-Pass program, including many schools that have only a minority percentage of full-time students.

Harold Washington College offers students the choice between a parking permit

or the U-Pass, though students must choose and pay for one. The Administration claimed that these schools have worked out special deals with the CTA. They also claimed that because of debts related to the parking lots built several years ago, Northeastern is not in a position to spend the money for the program.

The possibility of offering more classes at

different times was brought up, but statistics show that these class times are not as popular with students. The university had also contacted CTA officials about diverting an existing bus route to drop students off on campus. The CTA would only consider this plan if it were in conjunction with the university adopting the U-Pass program.

### Attendance at a glance

With the new semester now underway, here is a quick reminder of the general guidelines for NEIU's early semester attendance policy:

by Joey Kandelman  
Senior Staff Writer

- ◆ On the first day of any given class, the professor can decide how many students they are willing to enroll in that section.
- ◆ The minimum enrollment of a class consists of all those who have registered with NEIU's Touchtone Telephone Registration System (TTRS).
- ◆ Students on the TTRS roster who fail to attend on the first day of class without notifying the instructor beforehand, lose their guaranteed slot in that class.
- ◆ Professors are permitted-but not obligated-to reassign that seat to another student.
- ◆ Once the number of slots for pre-registered students are filled, the professor can choose to allow more students into the class, but, is not obligated to do so.
- ◆ Students accepted into a class on the first day must register through TTRS only after the professor has given them permission. TTRS is open for changes from January 7-10, and 13-15.

#### For more info:

NEIU attendance policies are found in the school catalog and the schedule of classes. The catalog can be obtained for free at Beck's Bookstore.

If a student with a spot in the class does not pay their bill by the due date, January 16, 7:00 p.m., all classes are automatically dropped, leaving vacancies.

## SGA pens new Constitution

by Brian Blaszkowski  
Associate Editor

In the eyes of many, a long awaited new NEIU Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution has been created. The Constitution is based on the templates of several other universities' student government Constitutions, but it was written by Vice-President Georgia Logothetis.

"I wrote it up and presented it to the Charter and Rules Committee," Logothetis stated. She went on to say that the executives of SGA decided a new Constitution was needed, and they decided to make the creation process inclusive. There were informal meetings and discussions on SGA's list serve,

a mailing list that goes to all of the SGA members.

Despite these apparent efforts at including everyone, Logothetis said that not everyone contributed. "Some people were too busy with finals," she said. "In any organization," she continued, "you'll have people who do most of the work and people who fulfill the minimum requirements for their positions."

Some of the more obvious changes would be the removal of the Student Trustee and the IBHE-SAC Representatives' right to vote or engage in debate in Senate meetings. Logothetis said that several SGA members, including those involved or interested in the two positions, expressed concerns that the duties of the two positions have not been

fulfilled properly in the past. Logothetis hopes that this change will allow the IBHE-SAC Representative and the Student Trustee to use their time towards talking to state representatives and attending those meetings, rather than becoming caught up in the inner-government arguments and debates.

Another change is that the SGA President will no longer have the power of appointment, or the power to appoint students to vacant Senatorial seats. Logothetis pointed out that the SGA is modelled after the U.S. Government, and "you don't have the U.S. President appointing senators in the government." She also expressed concern that this

Constitution  
continued on page 2



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

News page 2

Perspectus page 3

The Commuter page 5

Golden Opportunities page 8





#### Fall/Spring Office Hours

Monday-Thursday

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

Friday

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

#### Telephones

Editorial (773) 442-4577

Advertising (773) 442-4585

Fax (773) 442-4579

#### E-mail

neiu\_independent@yahoo.com

**Andrea Zelinski**

Chief Editor

**Brian Blaszkowski**

Associate Editor

#### Position Available

News Editor

**Shana Stone**

Opinions Editor

**Emily Haddad**

Features Editor

**Chad Nelson**

REV Editor

#### Patrick O'Brien

Production Editor

**Chad Nelson**

Photo Editor

**Emily Haddad**

Copy Editor

#### John Bracich

Business Manager

Position Available

Distribution Manager

#### Michael Wilson

Advisor

#### Senior Staff Members

Joanna Frigo

Joey Kandelman

Samantha Plencner

Scott Plencner

#### Staff Members

Joe Allagier

Dan Demchuk

Dave DeSmedt

Ator Lawandow

Azzi Lifisics

Sophia Logthetis

Casey McCowan

Brian Miller

Natalie Olenczuk

S. Fatima Quadri

Syeda Razeen

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 Chief Editor is responsible for the content of the Independent and views presented do not necessarily represent, in whole or in part, those of the NEIU administration, faculty, or students. The Independent is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and the Illinois College Press Association.

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



# Calendar

check here for upcoming  
events and due dates

1/6 No Registration  
First day of classes

1/7-10 Change of Registration  
9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

1/13-15 Change of Registration  
9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

1/15 Tutored Study Deadline  
Last day to submit an  
Independent/Tutored Study or  
Thesis Seminar form for Spring  
2003 courses.

1/16 Withdrawal or Pay  
Last day to make an initial  
payment for Late Registration and  
Change of Registration for the  
Spring 2003

1/17 Withdraw or Pay  
Last day for a 100% refund for  
a complete withdrawal of ALL  
courses via TTRS from the Spring  
2003 Semester.

1/17 Withdraw or Pay  
Last day for 100% refund/credit  
of tuition and fees for reduction of  
credit hour load.

1/17 Pass/Fail Deadline  
Last day to apply for the pass/

fail option for for Spring 2003  
courses.

1/20 No Classes  
Martin Luther King Jr.'s  
Birthday Holiday

1/22 Graduation Deadline  
Final date to file for  
Undergraduate Graduation for  
August 2003.

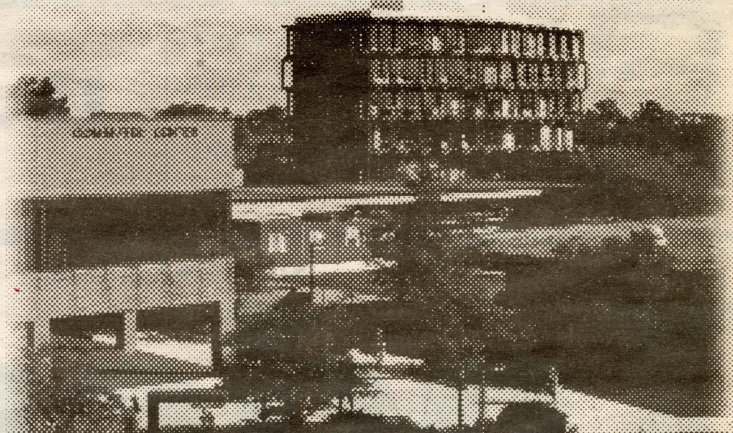
1/31 Application Deadline  
Final date for students in the  
Graduate College to submit an  
application for May 2003.

2/3 Withdrawal or Pay  
Last day for a 50% refund/credit  
of tuition and fees for complete  
withdrawal of ALL courses via  
TTRS.

2/3 Withdrawal or Pay  
Final date to submit Graduate  
Admissions application file for  
Summer 2003.

2/12 No Classes  
Abraham Lincoln's Birthday  
Holiday

2/20 Withdrawal or Pay  
Second deferred payment due.



## Constitution continued

power of appointment has been  
abused in the past.

Also to be changed is the  
procedures for impeaching an  
SGA member. In the new  
Constitution, a majority vote is  
needed to impeach an SGA  
member. "The old constitution  
didn't need a vote, you only  
needed to submit a document  
with seven signatures," she said.  
She also cited a discrepancy in  
the old Constitution that "needed  
clarification." The Constitution  
called the document with seven  
signatures on it a Declaration of  
Impeachment, but then in the next  
line, called it a Resolution of  
Impeachment. This contradiction  
is illustrated even further in  
*Robert's Rules of Order*, a  
supplement used by SGA and  
containing political definitions  
and procedures. A "resolution" is

something that requires a vote,  
while a "declaration" does not.

Also in the works is the  
creation and implementation of a  
Code of Conduct for SGA  
members. Logothetis said that  
numerous other student  
government's across the country  
use such a code. She further  
stated that "It's evident with the  
actions of candidates and SGA  
members in the previous election  
that [we] need an internal code of  
conduct."

She then clarified that the new  
Constitution must still meet with  
the approval of the Senate, the  
SGA Advisor and Director of  
Student Activities Walt Sommers,  
the Vice President of Student  
Affairs Melvin Terrell, and the  
President of NEIU Salme  
Steinberg before it is officially  
adopted. Even then, she said, the  
new Constitution wouldn't take  
effect until the new SGA  
administration takes office.

"So, seven signatures will still  
impeach us," she quipped.

## Extension 4100

An NEIU employee reported that a  
window in her vehicle had been  
broken out while the auto was parked  
in the D-Lot. Nothing was taken from  
the vehicle.

#### 4 September - Traffic Accident - Personal Injury

A delivery truck struck and slightly  
injured an NEIU student while the  
student was walking through the J-  
Lot. Victim was treated by Chicago  
Fire Department paramedics and  
transported to Swedish Covenant  
Hospital. One ticket was issued for  
failure to yield to a pedestrian.

#### 10 September - Criminal Damage to Property

Two NEIU students became engaged  
in a verbal altercation over a parking  
space in the F-Lot. Damaged occurred  
to one vehicle when both drivers  
attempted to enter the same space. No  
traffic tickets were issued.

#### 12 September - Theft - Under \$300

A fire extinguisher was stolen from  
the front lobby area of the PE  
Building.

#### 12 September - Motor Vehicle Offense - Hit and Run

An NEIU student reported that his  
vehicle had been damaged while  
parked in the K-Lot.

#### 13 September - Medical Assist

An NEIU employee fell backwards  
off a broken chair and injured her head  
and shoulders. NEIU police assisted  
and the employee was taken to  
Swedish Covenant Hospital by her  
supervisor.

#### 18 September - Theft - Under \$300

An NEIU employee reported the theft  
of her unattended purse from the  
Cafeteria. On 19 September the  
employee called Public Safety to say

that she had found her purse in her  
locked desk drawer.

#### 19 September - Medical Assist

NEIU police responded to the call of  
a student who had suffered chest pains  
while driving on I-90. The victim had  
blackout but woke up when his  
vehicle struck an unknown object.  
Victim managed to drive to the NEIU  
PE-Building before stopping. Victim  
was treated by Chicago Fire  
Department paramedics and  
transported to Swedish Covenant  
Hospital. On 24 September, another  
NEIU student came to Public Safety  
to report that her car had been struck  
from behind on I-90 on 19 September.  
The victim had spotted the offender's  
car in the J-Lot. NEIU police  
contacted the offender and both  
parties exchanged information for  
insurance purposes.

#### 24 September - Motor Vehicle Theft

An NEIU student reported the theft  
of his vehicle from Bryn Mawr  
Avenue. The Chicago Police  
Department handled the off-campus  
theft.

#### 26 September - Disorderly Conduct - False Fire Alarm

An unknown child pulled a fire alarm  
box in the Fine Arts Building.  
Chicago Fire Department responded.

#### 30 September - Theft - Under \$300

An NEIU student reported the theft  
of a book left unattended in the library.  
The victim later discovered that the  
book had been sold back to Beck's  
Bookstore. A search through Beck's  
computer revealed information on the  
seller but NEIU police were unable  
to track down the offender. The  
information given to Beck's  
Bookstore appears to be false.

#### 1 October - Theft - Under \$300

An NEIU student reported the theft  
of a purse left unattended in the

## By Officer Gene Eric Salecker

#### Science Building

#### 7 October - Criminal Trespass to Property

An NEIU student reported damage to  
his vehicle while it was parked in the  
J-Lot.

#### 8 October - Theft - Under \$300

A chair was stolen from the Fine Arts  
Building.

#### 14 October - Station Information

NEIU police responded to a  
complaint of a verbal altercation in  
the classroom building. Only one  
party was present when the police  
arrived. NEIU police then escorted  
the complainant to his vehicle.

#### 16 October - Medical Assist

An NEIU student slipped outside of  
the Science Building and received  
injuries to her face and hands. Victim  
was treated by NEIU Health Services.

#### 16 October - Theft - Under \$300

An NEIU instructor reported the theft  
of a scale from the Science Building.  
On 18 October, the instructor  
informed Public Safety that the scale  
had been located in a different room.

#### 16 October - Disturbance - Fighting

A domestic disturbance took place in  
the D-Lot. The male victim was hit  
and scratched but declined medical  
attention.

#### 16 October - Theft - Under \$300

An NEIU instructor reported the theft  
of a nameplate from outside her office  
door in the Science Building.

#### 20 October - Medical Assist

An NEIU employee tripped outside  
of the H-Building and injured her  
ankle. Victim was transported to  
Swedish Covenant Hospital by a  
fellow employee.

#### 22 October - Criminal Damage to

#### Property

An NEIU student had his vehicle  
vandalized with spray paint while it  
was parked in the H-Lot.

#### 23 October - Criminal Damage to Property

An NEIU student had her vehicle  
vandalized with a black marker while  
it was parked in the K-Lot.

#### 25 October - Assault

A non-student was banned from  
campus after putting an NEIU  
student in fear of receiving bodily  
harm.

#### 25 October - In-State Warrant

A non-student was arrested on an  
outstanding warrant from Massac  
County, Illinois after being stopped  
on campus for a traffic violation. Two  
traffic tickets were issued.

#### 25 October - Purse Snatching

An NEIU employee had her purse  
taken from her office in the Science  
Building. NEIU police identified the  
offender and gave chase. The  
offender escaped but the purse was  
reclaimed. Nothing was missing.

#### 29 October - Theft - Under \$300

An NEIU student reported the theft  
of a purse left unattended in the  
Library. NEIU police managed to  
recover a set of keys that had been  
discarded in a Student Union  
restroom.

#### 29 October - Disorderly Conduct

An NEIU student who did not have  
proper ID became verbally abusive  
when denied access to the PE  
Building.

#### 29 October - Medical Assist

An NEIU student slipped in the L-  
Lot and suffered an abrasion to her  
face. Chicago Fire Department  
paramedics responded but the victim  
refused transport to a local hospital.



# PERSPECTUS

## OPINION

### Good riddance to another good ole boy

by Scott Plencner  
Senior Staff Writer

Republicans should thank Trent Lott for so eloquently reminding them not to re-elect him to lead them in the Senate next January. It has been so long since Jim Jeffords decided to become an independent and lost control of the chamber for his former party that many Republicans have forgotten just how horrible a leader the Senator from Mississippi is.

As memory of his fumbles receded almost completely, Republicans won back the Senate in an unprecedented mid-term election and prepared to reinstate their leader. Perhaps sensing the great victory for his party and the chance for them to gain ground in Congress and with the people, Trent Lott does what comes so naturally to him: something stupid.

Jesse Jackson, Jr. and the Congressional Black Caucus have made sure (and justly so) that we all have had a chance to hear Lott tell us in a rare moment of honesty what an incredibly ignorant racist he is. Because of this I do not need to drag my readers through the embarrassing scene again. I do not need to explain how Lott, surrounded by his "good ole boy" Southern friends at a comical birthday party for 100 year-old outgoing Senator Strom Thurmond, said that America would have been a better place had Thurmond won the presidency in 1948. I don't have to, but I think I will one last time.

Strom Thurmond in 1948 was among the last of a dying breed, the arch-conservative Southern Democrat. Like Sen. Al Gore, Sr., Thurmond supported Jim Crow laws and ran on a pro-segregation platform as an independent, winning a handful of states. His party was named by history the "Dixiecrat party" because of its appeal to the Southern white interests. Thurmond later ran for the

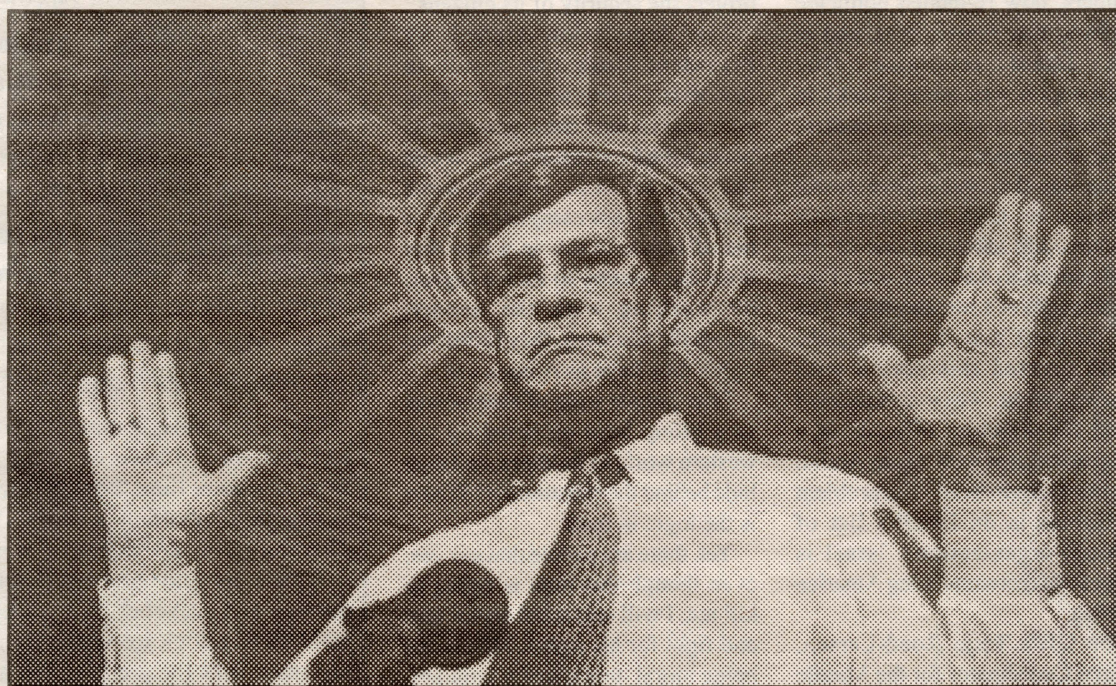


Photo by mongourindave.net

Senator Lott apologizes for bombing out at Open Mic Night at the Apollo last Saturday.

Senate and became the only man elected as a write-in candidate. Like Jeffords, he jumped parties whenever it suited him and spent decades upon decades in the Senate advocating the superiority of whites. In 2002 Thurmond, born only 37 years after slavery ended, was finally retiring. At his send-off party movies were played highlighting Thurmond's dedication to the plight of African Americans. The event had a selective memory I have rarely seen outside of a high school history textbook.

And then Trent Lott, the once and future Senate majority leader, stepped to the podium. That alone was inappropriate. He continued lauding Thurmond and then said in essence that continuing segregation would have made America a "better place." The event was forgotten for a few short days and then Republicans were given a golden opportunity to regain their memories and to change their minds once again about Mr. Lott's ability to lead the GOP into the 21st century.

First they remembered what a bad

Majority leader he was. They remembered how as Senate leader Lott failed to command the chamber and went so far as to share committee chairmanships with liberal Democrats who in turn stopped at nothing to set up road blocks to the Republican agenda. They remembered how nothing ever got done, how tax cuts were abandoned, and how Lott left them so disillusioned that Jim Jeffords left the GOP and John McCain threatened to follow. They remembered how their newly elected president George W. Bush had trouble getting his judges through Congress and how perjurous President Clinton was never made to take responsibility for his crimes and abuse of power. While the Hosue was busy getting things done for the GOP, the Senate took its time and Lott missed every chance he got to improve things for his party and for America. Trent Lott may be able to count votes and push some to vote his way, but he has a history of bungling things up for the GOP.

Not only is he a bad leader for the GOP, but his moral life is an embarrassment for the party, struggling under the centrist Bush administrations to broaden its appeal beyond its base. George Bush and his son have struggled to find votes and offer answers to the problems of those in the black and Hispanic communities tired of misleading Democratic smokescreen promises. This is hard to do when the base of the GOP has included powerful capitalists since its inception in 1856, and since 1980's Reagan Revolution, the Southern-based Christian Coalition. When the South went Republican in 1980, responding to the GOP's anti-big government stance, white supremacists like Thurmond and David Duke followed their constituencies and remain a black eye on the face of the Republican party.

Trent Lott is everything George W. Bush would like to rid the Republican party of and so he and other Republicans are making their best efforts to disassociate the party of

Lincoln and abolition from the Lott affair. Lott's associates and Lott himself have ties to the Council for Conservative Citizens (COFCC), an organization dedicated to white supremacy that to this day proudly displays the Confederate battle flag on its webpage ([www.cofcc.org](http://www.cofcc.org)). The organization opposes civil rights and created editorials lambasting Dr. Martin Luther King. The nativist tendencies in the organization harken back to the days of Millard Fillmore's Know-Nothing party, as it opposes immigration into the U.S. The COFCC goes one step further and actually has printed an article carrying the headline "Caucasian Skull Oldest Found in Americas." It is the good-ole boy club that got Sen. Phil Gramm in hot water with his party and it will be the undoing of Mr. Lott.

Like Mr. Fillmore's historical party, the COFCC is a "know-nothing" organization. Gramm knew nothing of its true beliefs. Neither does Lott. Maybe a powerful leader in Congress like Lott would have the smarts to check out the COFCC website before he associates himself with the group. More than likely, he has done just that and liked what he saw. More than likely Trent Lott is a white supremacist. His comments about Thurmond proved a brief moment of honesty, not "a mistake of the mouth," as he has called it.

Bush has washed his hands of the matter and has not come out in support of Lott, who has become a thorn in his side. Lott will not leave the Senate, but he also will not lead it. President Bush will see to it that his party abandons Lott in January. He and the GOP cannot afford, after 2002's victorious election, to ignore the matter. Lott must go or else he may very well follow in the footsteps of his Southern brother in arms John Wilkes Booth and end a nationally beneficial and successful Republican presidency.

## OPINION

### Administration feast leaves out most important group

*Granola, coffee only alternative to starving students while administration dines at cafeteria*

by Patrick O'Brien  
Production Editor

Students who attempted to use the school cafeteria during the week of finals last month were greeted with a sign proclaiming the area closed from Tuesday December 10<sup>th</sup> thru Friday December 13<sup>th</sup>. Light refreshments were offered in Alumni Hall as an alternative.

Though no reason was given for the interruption of regular food service to students, to passerby it was apparent that some more powerful forces were at work as the setup for an administration sponsored party closed this student and staff area for four whole days during the most crucial week of the semester.

It is unknown why the school cafeteria was chosen for this event as opposed to another campus venue (Alumni Hall, Golden Eagles Room) that would not

conflict with everyone's (students) already hectic schedules during an already hellish week.

President Steinberg cannot be faulted for having a much deserved end of the year party to reward the staff and members of individual departments as well as alumni. Yet the timing and location of the celebration can definitely be called into question. With the only options left to students on campus being SGA and other student organizations handing out granola bars and cans of soda, along with the coffee that was so graciously provided in Alumni Hall.

This situation saw many students opt to leave campus, when they should have been studying, to eat elsewhere, as the pitiful selection of snack foods available on campus was inadequate for those studying long hours with no breaks. There were many complaints to be heard around campus, with many students commenting on the irony of well-

dressed partygoers bypassing folding tables full of candy and cookies in University Commons to attend the much classier event downstairs.

Now take this to heart: the complaint here isn't that we aren't grateful for what was provided, but a more significant gesture by the administration would have been appreciated. If you're studying your ass off to pass that big test, it would be great if you could eat in the lunchroom and get right back to work. Or at least blow off some steam chatting with friends. While the Student Stress-Free Zone was great, it was just one of many outlets. Not everyone wants black lights and tie-dyed t-shirts, sometimes all you want is a cheeseburger or a piece of lasagna from our cafeteria.

Isn't it our God-given right as Northeastern students to be able to purchase a box of stale breadsticks

**"Isn't it our God-given right as Northeastern students to be able to purchase a box of stale breadsticks in between cramming for the class we never attend?"**

in between cramming for the class we never attend? We have every right to demand quick access to the most average food our money can buy, with no interference from university officials who are sipping champagne and dining on caviar in our cafeteria. So even with all the complaining about our cafeteria from past years, we still miss it when it's taken from us.

Now with that said, it could have been worse. We could have had even fewer options during the always stressful finals week. Yet is it too much to ask that our basic needs as students be attended to by

our administration while we fight for our academic lives? As students we really don't demand much of this university. In fact, this campus is very apathetic toward forcing the school to accommodate us.

So the school took the cafeteria away and gave us free coffee and junk food, while they enjoyed a world-class soiree in our cafeteria. A cornucopia of foods was offered to the administration and staff, while NEIU students munched on the carbohydrate parade present elsewhere on campus. I guess this is what we get for working hard during finals, as we were once again taken for granted by NEIU.

The use of the cafeteria during such an important week for the students at NEIU shows a definite amount of arrogance on the part of our administration, and we as students should be outraged.



# Bush: do as I say, not as I do

By: Azzi Lifisics  
Staff Writer.

"On Nov. 3, a CIA-operated Predator drone fired a missile that destroyed a carload of suspected al Qaeda operatives in Yemen. The target of the attack, a Yemeni named Qaed Salim Sinan al-Harethi, was believed to be the top Al-Qaeda operative in that country" (abcnews.com). This action is permitted under legislation signed by President Bush after September 11. In essence the CIA has permission to target officials of an organization it considers to be a terrorist entity, and dispose of them.

Now lets take a trip to the west of Yemen to Israel, a seemingly small country in comparison to all the Arab countries around it. Put together, the surrounding countries add up to at least 600 times the size of Israel. But nonetheless, thousands have been killed because of this country since September of 2000.

The rise of the Al-Aqsa Intifada came after Ariel Sharon visited the Temple Mount in Jerusalem, the holiest Jewish site in the world. Sharon, having more security clearance because of his political status than the average Jew who would like to go to the temple mount, actually made it, and after that it was all downhill. People's short fuses were lit, the demands for a holy war were made, the rocks were in hand, and the explosives were strapped on. The Intifada had begun and with it,

**"I don't know about you, but if I saw a guy with a knife running towards me, and I had a gun, I'd shoot him."**

came enormous bloodshed. Suicide bombers, now re-named homicide bombers, take Israeli lives, and in turn Israel retaliates. The repercussion was more attacks in response. It's a seemingly endless circle of violence.

One day the Israeli government chooses to take an offensive measure, and takes out one of the head members of Hamas, one of the masterminds of a suicide attack. The UN, the Red Cross, the U.S, and the world greeted this action with condemnation. They condemned Israel for targeting officials of a group associated with Yasser Arafat, a political figurehead. The problem is, Hamas is on Israel's list of terrorist organizations. Israel is doing the exact same thing America is doing.

The UN's Terje Roed-Larsen, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General, told the Security Council that "Israel must...end targeted killings." Was there any condemnation of America for doing the same thing? No.

The US Congress had to be informed that American made weaponry was being used for killing Arab leaders, a supposed breach of contract. The contract said certain weapons were only to be used in

self-defense. I don't know about you, but if I saw a guy with a knife running towards me, and I had a gun, I'd shoot him. I would also call that self-defense. Israel has since continued its

policy of offensive measures of self-defense in order to protect the security of its citizens.

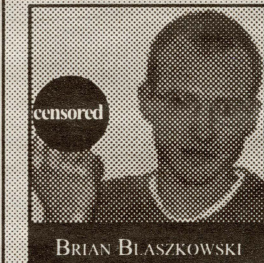
The legislation signed by President Bush can result in American citizens actively working with known terrorist organizations being killed extrajudicially. While this may not make sense to some people, it makes complete sense to me. If someone acts in a way that hurts this country to such a degree, by working with the enemy, especially terrorists, they forfeit the rights they have as Americans.

First people give of themselves to a group bent on bringing the western world to its knees, and then hide behind the constitution? Where is the logic in that?

Yet, there are people that say yes, even though this man is trying to kill me, I will still stand up for him and fight for his rights. This is not being moral, this is being ignorant. For those people, I would like to inform you that by you fighting for the terrorists' rights, you are not buying yourself any time. They would gladly kill you just as well as any other American. They did not discern between who was a Liberal, or a Republican, or a Democrat on September 11<sup>th</sup>. They won't start discerning who stood up for their constitutional rights and who didn't if there comes another September 11<sup>th</sup>, either.

# God help you if you try to use the book exchange website

**TWO OF THE GREATEST TRAGEDIES IN NEIU HISTORY HAVE UNFORTUNATELY REACHED THEIR PEAK IN OUR TIME. THE FIRST WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE THOSE TRAITOR-STUDENTS WHO WHORE THEMSELVES OUT TO THE PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICE BY GIVING THEIR FELLOW STUDENTS PARKING TICKETS FOR RANDOM INFRACTIONS ("TOO MANY BUMPER STICKERS" OR "I HATE THIS COLOR ON A CAR," TO NAME TWO). THE SECOND WOULD BE THE LACK OF OUR PROMISED BOOK EXCHANGE.**



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

I'll be honest right now. It's winter break, I'm tired, I'm cranky, and I'm not too keen on doing "research." How that's different from any other time, I don't know. Regardless, a big part of being in charge of anything is taking the blame when it all goes to shit. Therefore, Ahmad Millwala, prepare to be shat upon.

What's the hold up? I'm sure there's a lot of red tape to be hacked through and such, but let's not kid ourselves. I *heard* you say that we'd have a book exchange sometime around October 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>. My math isn't the greatest, but after only 16 minutes of fumbling with a calculator I found, it became apparent that the book exchange will be about three months late by the time school starts again, and by that time most students will have bought their books already.

Damn it, I spent almost \$400 on books this semester. I *wasted* that much. I should say, because I never *ever* use all my textbooks for any class. Not only that, but lots of teachers simply require their *own* books, books that they've written, so they can bring joy and meaning into their miserable little lives. But that's for another day.

Anyway, I could have possibly saved a good deal of money. Millwala. The one *base* reason that I and many other students got stuck with huge book bills is because you are dragging your ass. Is the administration giving you trouble? Is *Beck's*? Is the finance department? Then these are the demons you must *slay*! Get on the phone and make some calls! Don't wait for shit to get done *for* you! Take some initiative!

A book exchange is something that most students want. It makes us angry to have to buy a new edition of a book when the only change is the picture on the damn cover. It makes us really mad when we sell back a \$90 book for \$20, and then see that exact book priced on the shelf for \$90 again. And it pisses us off to spend hundreds of dollars on books that we are then stuck with because classes randomly switch editions on us. Bastards.

By the way, a book exchange wouldn't, like some silly people think, bankrupt *Beck's*. Lots of students (myself among them, in some situations) keep some of their books in preparation for teaching or whatever. Teachers still require workbooks, pens, paper, folders and all that crap. *Beck's* still has row upon row and shelf upon shelf of random crap with NEIU logos smeared all over it. And black-hearted, *evil* professors will still switch editions and force us to buy books no NEIU student has seen before.

But the point of the book exchange has never been to "stick it to *Beck's*," even though I'd *love* for that to happen. The point was to relieve some of the financial burden that purchasing books heaps upon NEIU students. Students could make a little more money off their books than *Beck's* would be willing to pay, and the students buying books off of the exchange would probably save a good amount of money.

All of this is a lovely fantasy but until Millwala gets his ass moving and gets this shit *done*, it remains a fantasy. From what I hear, it's pretty much done, but there is some problem over the domain name. Well, here's a simple solution: change the God damn name!

Millwala and the entire "Book Exchange Committee" need to take some initiative and get involved. Why the hell did you join SGA if you didn't want to do anything for the students? Do you think it's a joke? Well, it sort of is. But you can still *do* things for the students who *elected* you. Only *some* people can get elected by ballot fraud and by benevolent hackers. For you, Millwala, you must make good on your promise of a book exchange, and do your job as the Chair of the committee to *deliver* said book exchange. But what I just said is a problem not only of Millwala's (get to *work*, damn you!). It's a problem facing much of SGA. The same 6 people (really, the same *one* person) doing all the work. I'm not going to name names of the lazy (I'll do that when I tell you who to vote for in the Spring Elections). I'd just like to say that a large portion of SGA members are lazy and irresponsible, and it makes me ashamed to have you as my representatives.

Are you the chair of a committee? Then set up meeting dates. Are you a member of the Senate? Then, help out at give-a-ways or tables. Is your name Ahmad Millwala? Then *stop* reading this article and bring us a book exchange for the *love* of God.

# Caught between two parents

## Children often the victims as marriages go astray

by Emily Haddad  
Features/Copy Editor

This holiday season, between the re-runs of "It's a Wonderful Life" and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas," we heard the chilling story of a custody war gone horribly wrong. A man whose three-year old son and five-year old daughter were at his home on visitation, killed his girlfriend and kidnapped the children. Then, in a bizarre twist, he murdered them both, shooting the three-year old boy twice in the head and dumping both children in a river, fleeing to Florida after the fact.

As shocking and unreal as the news must seem to us, whose family squabbles rarely go beyond flinging the occasional bit of dinnerware, still we must pause in our horror and wonder, *why*?

Children whose parents get divorced must toe a harrowing line. Unless one parent has committed some crime that prevents them from seeing the children—a painful separation which even an abused child often has a hard time understanding—most parents are awarded joint custody. The young ones are constantly switching back and forth, from one parent's house to another. Children are often used as messengers between parents, carrying news that can be emotionally charged, and often bad. Parents, at this point, are still reeling from the shock of falling out of love and being dragged through court by a former life partner. Are they mature enough to

keep the children from being caught in the middle? Many try.

Some fail. Children of divorce tend to feel at fault, as though they are somehow to blame for their parents' fighting. They don't pull those feelings out of a vacuum. Parents who have become accustomed to fighting with one another tend to turn their unspent anger on the nearest targets of opportunity—the innocent bystanders.

The same kids who bear messages from one parent to another must also bear the reaction to those messages. Mother and father, bitter and hungry for news of one another, see children going on visitation as agents in enemy territory. And all the while, the children are having the worst possible view and side of their parents revealed to them as though the person they knew from birth was just a mask.

And when the children begin to resent this new and undesired emotional roller coaster, parents can be more suspicious than the U.S. government during the Cold War. Feeling betrayed by their spouses, it is easy for either parent or both to assume that the children, too, are 'out to get them,' and have begun to love the other parent exclusively. In the worst case, a baffled child will dash back and forth from one parent to another, trying to regain the love of each, and end up being rejected by both.

Yet parents, blinded by their own pain and loss, can miss the depth of their children's loneliness. A child can become a living, breathing

symbol of a hated ex-husband or ex-wife, and attacked in their stead.

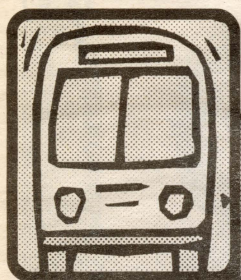
In most families, this doesn't go much further than yelling, cold words, door slamming, and perhaps the occasional bit of flung dinnerware. The only wounds are invisible—damage done to feelings, personalities developed in twisted solitude that might have been whole. But these things are becoming normal.

What is still abnormal, criminal, and freakish is when someone who is already deeply disturbed wanders too deeply into divorce's mental minefield. Someone who lost their grip on reality is not good for their children. Who mistook the emotional battleground of a divorced family for an actual war, and bewildered children for malicious enemies?

Have we known people who made those ridiculous assumptions? Probably. Hopefully most of us have never known anyone mad enough to act on them, much less act on them with violence. But the scary thing of it is, this type of sudden violent lash-out is becoming all the more common in a wide spectrum of situations and crimes; the desperation level for humans as a species seems to be spiraling closer to the red line every day.

The man who committed those murders is like someone who brazenly blurts out what everyone, at one point or another might have thought, but didn't dare say. We, as the public, are horrified by the gory resolution, yes. But we are not surprised.





# The Commuter

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

## Diamonds forever?

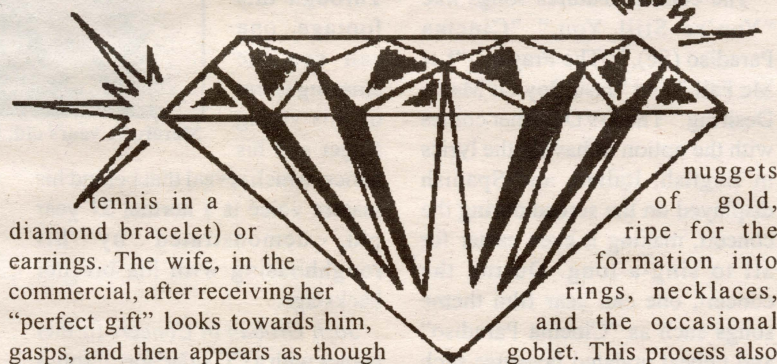
by Chad Nelson  
REV/Photo Editor

Since the dawn of civilization decadence and extravagance have been the some most easily recognizable symbols of power in many cultures. The Egyptian Pharaohs had sarcophagi made of gold and jewels, the caliphs had nothing but the finest silks inside their palaces, and the pope had the largest single residency palace in the world built.

If it was rare, expensive, or considered beautiful by a culture, it was a must that the ruler owned a much larger portion than his subjects did.

Now, however, in our modern age of more equally dispersed wealth, those same materials are easily accessible by a larger portion of the populace. No longer a sign of power, decadence and extravagance have become Western societies symbols of love. Just watch television for more than five minutes in the season between Thanksgiving and Valentine's Day and it is quite obvious that diamonds and gold are the gifts of choice to show you love someone.

Those black and white commercials of a middle-aged white couple in a not-uncomfortable economic status, with violins playing romantically in the background; these commercials to inform men (traditionally understood as being devoid of any ability to know their spouse well enough to purchase a gift they will like) that all that their wives really want for Christmas\Birthday\Valentine's Day\Every day of the year is diamond necklaces, tennis bracelets (who the hell plays



tennis in a diamond bracelet) or earrings. The wife, in the commercial, after receiving her "perfect gift" looks towards him, gasps, and then appears as though she is about to cry.

Cry? Why would one cry when receiving such a gift? Perhaps she cries because she knows that diamonds she has just received more than likely have a history inextricably tied to brutality and perpetuating dictatorships.

Perhaps she has read the reports on the diamond mining practices in Sierra Leone, where workers, or slaves since they are not paid, are forced to dig by armed guards; guards with records of human rights violations including rape and murder. Perhaps she knows that the profit from those diamonds supports a group that kills unarmed civilians, children and has been condemned by nearly every human rights watch group in the world. Maybe, that is why she is going to cry.

Well, there is always golden jewelry as the old standby gift then. Kings had everything made out of gold; the American currency is based on a supply of gold; and the proper twenty-fifth anniversary gift is...you guessed it, gold. An obviously enduring symbol of decadence, which now means love, gold, seems to be the other gift of choice.

Gold is also a perfect way to express your desire to see environments and ecosystems destroyed. A little known fact about gold mining is that the process involves the use of cyanide or sulfuric acid. The chemicals strip away excess material from gold (and silver) deposits leaving clean

nuggets of gold, ripe for the formation into rings, necklaces, and the occasional goblet. This process also leaves large amounts of unused chemicals in the ground, which have a tendency to seep down into water deposits. These chemicals also infect, and often kill (cyanide is rat poison after all) local animals, plants, and sometimes people. Cyanide needs only to be 20 parts per billion of a river's makeup to kill the average fish, 100 parts per billion to kill small woodland creatures.

In Thailand, a group of local fishermen reported their annual catch dropped by fifty percent soon after a new gold mining project began near the river. Greek residents of (insert town name) protested a mining development after sinkholes began to appear, even causing the destruction of a resident's house.

Does this mean that in modern Western society, expressing love implies the dispossession of people and destruction of the environment? Well, it does when love is allowed to be mediated and defined by corporate profit margins.

A "perfect" gift is not one that is marketed well, or costs more than one of two monthly paychecks. Perfect gifts can be made, bought, found, or even stolen, but one thing is evidently clear, decadence and extravagance are ambiguous symbols, providing some with breathtaking joy, and others with heart wrenching pain.

## Depression grips students

College life overwhelms many young adults

by Fatima Quadri  
Staff Writer

A group of people waited for the train to arrive on a late December evening; little did they know that a college student among them was waiting for the same train to take her life. Seconds before the train came to its stop, the girl lunged herself in front of the train, her life coming to a brutal and sudden end. At her funeral her mother wept over the suicide note found in her dorm as her peers mused over the suicidal poetry and graffiti on the walls of the State University's bathrooms and dorm rooms.

Suicide has become the leading cause of death among Americans between ages 19-24 after traffic accidents; and surprisingly, the suicide rate among 19-24 year olds enrolled in college is higher than those who are not enrolled. The leading cause is depression and mood disorders.

Although college students are apprehensive about discussing these topics, the importance and severity of such illnesses continue to grow. Researchers say that about 19 million Americans suffer from depression and the numbers have nearly tripled since World War II.

Depression can take numerous forms. The most severe one is Dysthymia, a chronic ongoing depression caused during childhood or adolescence. If gone untreated, it can carry on into adulthood for years. A person with this disorder will show little enthusiasm or interest in daily life, and usually be pessimistic (seeing the glass as "half empty" instead of "half full"). Unfortunately, Dysthymia can be mistaken for the person's nature because of its long term existence when in fact it is a mental disorder that can be transformed into double depression, putting the person in major depressive episodes.

Another serious form of depression is bipolar disorder, or manic depression. A person suffering from bipolar disorder has mood swings that soar to extreme, unusual elation, and then plummet to depression. Symptoms include extreme feelings of excitement, joy, or agitation that may be inappropriate to a given situation; excessive spending or rash business decisions; decreased need for sleep; and increase in impulsive sexual activity. A person with bipolar disorder may also experience hallucinations or paranoia; in cases of severe mania, the person may have to be hospitalized.

A less severe form of depression is Seasonal

Affective Disorder (SAD), which often occurs in the winter when days are shorter and duller, and is most common among people in their early or mid-twenties. Researchers believe it is caused by lack of exposure to sunlight and is more common in regions where the four seasons are clearly defined. The tensions and excitement of the holiday season may also play a role in the development of SAD.

People facing SAD undergo excessive fatigue, poor concentration, and irritation; they tend to pack on more pounds as they crave more carbohydrates and sweets. Luckily, SAD often cures itself with the coming of spring, but suicide rates tend to inflate during the months when people most often experience this form of depression.

There are many warning signs for depression. Experts agree that if some or all of the following symptoms are evident in a persons behavior nearly everyday for two weeks, they can be categorized as clinically depressed: persistent feelings of hopelessness or guilt, lack of energy, decreased motivation, pessimistic thinking, loss of interest in hobbies, friends, or physical appearance, weight gain or loss, frequent crying, sleep problems, difficulty in concentration and decision making, anxiousness or worry, and thoughts of death and suicide.

While it is a common misconception that depression is all "in the head," it is an actual disease just like diabetes or ulcers, and it needs to be treated. 90% of the people treated for depression have successful outcomes. Numerous things, such as hormonal imbalances, drugs or intoxications, biochemical makeup, and stressful life events, can cause it.

For college students, depression can be caused by "burnout," which is a depletion of mental and physical energy because of overwork and overloads.

It is also heightened by the staples of college life—partying, drug use, and alcohol. With the juggling of work and classes, students have little time for simple pleasures and spirituality. We are stressed with intensified workloads and making sure we plan our lives in the right direction, making it more difficult to identify with something that provides purpose and meaning to our lives. It is no wonder psychologists found that most middle age or senior adults preferred to have their bodies when they were young without having to relive the experiences of young adulthood.

### CARDIO KICK-BOXING

The crossover between Martial Arts and Aerobics.

Have A Blast With The Best Workout You Have Ever Had.

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS???

Improved cardio-vascular fitness.

strength, muscle tone, and endurance.

Reduce body fat and stress levels.

Excellent self-defense training.

Stress reduction and control.

Greater confidence.

Far more interesting than a "step" or "aerobics" class.

#### FREE TRIAL CLASS

BAEKS TEAKWONDO 3405 W. Bryn Mawr,  
Chicago, IL 60659 Phone (773) 583-0445

—coupon expires Feb. 28th 2003—



# In Concert is the complete package

by Sophia Logothetis  
Staff Writer

At the age when most of us are looking to graduate college, singing sensation Josh Groban has already sang to an audience of over 1 billion people during the Winter Olympics, has been on ABC's *20/20* and *Ally McBeal*, made appearances on Oprah Winfrey's show, and he even has his own PBS special. Groban, 21, is a singer who seamlessly fuses classical and pop music, creating a truly unique sound that has established him as an extraordinary talent in the musical arena.

Groban grew up in Los Angeles and joined the school vocal group mainly as a way to keep busy. He began contemplating music as a career when he joined the prestigious Interlochen Arts Program. It was there that he got a vocal coach and truly developed his talent.

His big break occurred when he

was just 17 years old, when he was asked to fill in for famed opera singer Andrea Bocelli and sing "The Prayer" during a Grammy rehearsal with Celine Dion. With the first note that came out of his young mouth, Celine Dion was captivated by his talent, and even asked him to sing with her during concerts.

Shortly afterward, he was accepted to Carnegie Mellon's music department. Groban further had a role on FOX's *Ally McBeal* as a senior who sang to Ally during his prom. His angelic voice not only captivated the cast and crew of the show, but also the attention of Oscar-winning David Foster, who later produced much of Josh Groban's music.

What has led to Groban's success is more than a series of lucky breaks or knowing the right people. His baritone voice is spectacular in its breadth and strength, and his music appeals both to a classical and pop

audience.

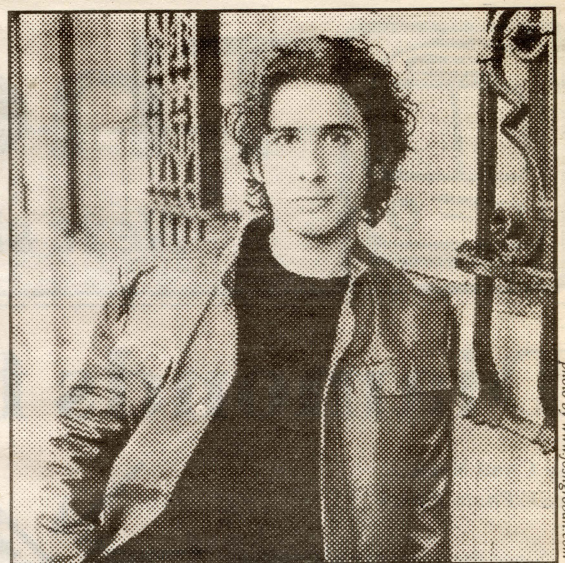
His newest release is a DVD, entitled *Josh Groban in Concert*, and it features performances from his much acclaimed November 23<sup>rd</sup> performance in the PBS special, *Great Performances*. This great talent was in NEIU's backyard before he became well-known to the masses.

The concert features songs like "You're Still You," "Cinema Paradiso (Se)," "The Prayer," "Let Me Fall," and "Jesu, Joy Of Man's Desiring." The DVD further comes with the option of having the lyrics in English, Italian, and Spanish displayed on the screen during the concert, making it even easier for all to sing-a-long. During the concert, one can hear film theme songs such as "Cinema Paradiso" and upbeat updated favorites such as "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" preformed by Lili Haydn and Josh Groban.

*Josh Groban in Concert* is loaded

with extras such as backstage footage taken by Groban's younger brother Chris Groban (an aspiring filmmaker). Through this footage, one can see the amazing talent of this young singer and his antics, which reveal that behind his mature voice is a normal 21 year old, demonstrated by his roughhousing with his brother backstage.

*Josh Groban in Concert* further comes with a CD selection of songs from his PBS concert, along with a remarkable version of "O Holy Night." This CD and DVD can be enjoyed by all age groups. My



Merely 21 years old, Groban is making his way to the top.

parrot even loves the CD and tries to sing along with it when I play it. The amazing thing about Groban's performance is that you do not necessarily have to like his style of music. In truth, being a hard rock fan, I never enjoyed this style until I first heard him sing it. His relaxing voice, though, is what makes the CD and DVD collection of *Josh Groban in Concert* worth giving a try.

## A dog's life - not so bad anymore

by Dove P. O'Connor  
Staff Writer

Personal trainers, fur stylists, designer clothing, all day spas, wedding parties, and gourmet food; sounds like life in the lap of luxury. However, these luxuries that are not necessarily available for the average person are becoming a growing trend for the most beloved member of the family: the dog.

In today's busy "rush to the top," people no longer have the time to spend personal wealth on raising children, so it goes instead to the pampered pooch! Places in infamous Lincoln Park, such as "Animal Lovers Pet Salon" or "Gallop and Gourmutts" cater to dogs almost exclusively. Many designers are also now realizing the potential market there is for dog merchandise. For example, *Coach*, which is famous for

women's purses, carried the most popular item for dog owners this season: a vintage dog collar that went for \$48. It was such a popular item that it was nearly impossible

to find in any of *Coach*'s boutiques a few weeks after the release date. Other designers are rushing to get items in the market such as *Ralph Lauren*'s special line for dogs,

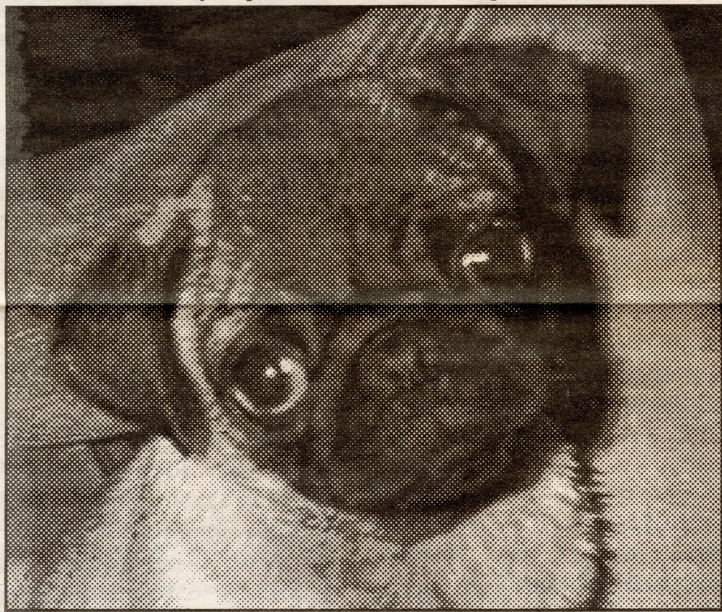


photo by www.barkingbuddies.com

How can you not pamper this precious pooch?

which include cashmere sweaters, toiletries and special all natural treats.

This sudden rise in demand for services for pets has other markets taking advantage of this dog friendly environment as well. Insurance companies and veterinarians have come up with some new ways to protect your dog.

Now there are computer chips that can be installed inside of pets, so that if they where ever to get lost and then found, they would scan the animal (similar to a store scanner) and read the animal's background information, making it easier to notify the owner. Of course, the dog or other pet would have to have the microchip installed for this system to work, but it's a step up from putting up Lost Dog posters.

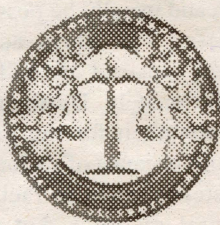
Other more entertaining elements such as pet psychic TV

shows and pet reality shows are starting to pop up. From start to finish, your dog has numerous options on sprucing up their life. Personal trainers can help get you and your dog in shape or just improve behavior.

Some resorts are even offering "pet getaways" for you and your dog to both enjoy. Pet therapy helps you understand any troubles your dog might be enduring or what his bad behavior may be rooted in.

With more and more dog lines and businesses starting up, this doesn't seem to be just another passing fad. It is a new era that will hopefully last through time, because these faithful companions have had this good treatment and acknowledgement coming for a long time. Dogs are more than just man's best friend; they are now a real part of the family.

# NEIU SGA



Thursday  
January 9  
1:40 pm SU-003

**Come In! Speak out!**

Student Government Association

## SPRING BREAK FIESTA 2003



**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND Texas**

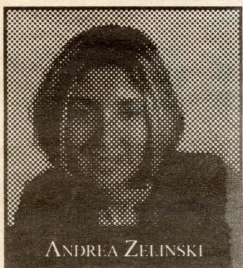
Beach Party on the Border!

1-800-SOPADRE  
www.springbreak.sopadre.com

**LET'S PADRE**

YOU CAN ADVERTISE WITH THE  
INDEPENDENT TOO! STOP BY  
E-049 TO FIND OUT HOW!





ANDREA ZELINSKI

# STAN'S LIFE



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI

Sweat rolled down Stan's neck as he dribbled the heavy basketball down the court. He wiped the sweat off his wet forehead with his forearm. He faced Sid, Elliott, and Sid's brother across the court. He looked hopefully towards Elliott as he attempted to pass the ball to see Sid cover him like a blanket.

Stan turned and dribbled the opposite way, attempting to sneak by Sid's brother and toss the ball in the hole before anyone knew different. As he trotted towards the basket, Sid's brother leapt out from nowhere and charged towards him like a wild bull. Stan raised his arms and snapped his wrists as he let go of the ball. Sid's brother leapt into mid air and blocked the ball as he came crashing down on Stan, knocking him on his back.

"Oh God!" Stan yelled as his spine hit the gymnasium floor. He lay there for a moment while Sid scoped-up the ball and made and easy lay-up.

"Get up you pansy," he heard as opened his eyes. "Get your ass off the floor. I didn't hit you that hard," Sid's brother snickered as he watched Stan raise himself up.

"Yeah, but you aren't exactly a light guy. Maybe if you lost a little weight, I wouldn't fallen over," Stan joked as he brushed off his long blue shorts. "That's game, isn't it?"

"You got it. Not a bad game though," Sid commented as he passed the ball to Elliott. "Ya lasted longer than I thought you could."

"Thanks," Elliott replied out of breath as he used the bottom of his T-shirt up to clean the sweat off his face.

"Up for another game?" Sid asked as the group headed towards the doors.

"I don't think so. I'm exhausted," Stan shrugged. "Maybe next week."

The group gathered their various belongings and passed through the doors into the hallway of the Physical Education building. One by one, they reached the water



fountain at the end of the hall. They slurped and gulped as the cold water ran in their mouths.

"Alright. We're outta here," Sid called as they began to walk separate ways down the hall. "We've got some shit to take care of. Later," he shouted as he and his brother headed outside towards the parking lot.

Stan sat down on a nearby bench as he pulled a cell phone out of his bag. "You need a ride?" Elliott asked as he slid his body down the wall into a sitting position on the floor.

"Nah, I'll just call Tori to pick me up. Don't worry about it."

"I'll just drive you. This way she doesn't have to drive in this weather," Elliott insisted as they noticed the thick layers of snow forming on the sidewalk.

"You sure?"

"Don't even worry about it," Elliott answered as he stood up again and slipped on a pair a gym pants over his heavy shorts. They both threw on jackets and opened the doors to a blast of wind against their faces. The brisk air felt good against their hot cheeks

momentarily as they headed towards the car. Stan's gym shoes found little traction on the freshly fallen snow. They eventually reached the car, and after a final gust of wind, the two managed to climb in. Elliott fumbled for his keys in his gym bag as Stan silently shivered. After a few moments, Elliott and Stan felt the loud rumble of the car engine.

"We need to wait for a while until it warms up. Otherwise, the car won't run well for about 20 minutes."

"That's cool. So how was your holiday break? Haven't seen too much of you lately. Are you still with-"

"With Lyndsey? Yeah. I'm really into her."

"You seems different somehow. I don't know what it is," Stan paused, "hell, you look like you got laid," he laughed.

Elliott shrugged. "That could be it."

Stan's eyes popped out of his head. *Did I just hear him right?* Stan relaxed and tried to play it off. "Oh yeah. Good for you buddy," he said with a nod. *God*

*damn it. I haven't been alone with Tori for most of winter break because she was visiting family back home, and he ends up seeing more action that I do!* Stan began to feel uncomfortable.

"What?" Elliott asked after a couple minutes passed by.

"Nothing."

"Nah, come on. Something's on your mind. Just tell me," Elliott urged as he began to pull the car out of

the parking space.

Stan hesitated. *How do I say this without preaching?* "This really isn't any of my business, but for some reason that I cannot explain right now, I feel the need to ask;" he paused, "you used protection, right?"

Elliott sat emotionless behind the wheel, waiting for the light to turn green. "Yeah, you are getting a little personal there, aren't you?"

Stan sighed. *If only he knew. If only anyone knew.* "I'm not messing around with you Elliott. I want to know."

After a brief moment, the street light turned green. Elliott carefully crept the car through the slippery intersection and turned left onto Foster. He scratched the back of his neck as Stan waited for an answer. "It felt better without it."

An unpleasant mixture of frustration and anxiety caused Stan's stomach to churn. *What was he thinking! Does he have any idea? "You're kidding, right?"*

Elliott shook his head in response.

Stan sighed. He tried to hold in

his emotions, but thoughts were coming to him all at once. *How could anyone be so naive? So stupid? What was he thinking? If he only knew what I do now! I hope to God she's on the pill!* "Is she on the pill?" Stan blurted out without thinking.

"I don't think so."

"What do you mean you 'don't think so'? Don't you two talk about things like that? Or do you just jump into bed and hope everything comes out alright?!" Stan began to get vocal.

Elliott looked puzzled. "Thanks for the concern and all, but when did I ask you for advice about my sex life? I finally have a part of my life that I enjoy, and you think you can just walk all over it?" he paused. "My question is why do you care?"

"You're a big boy now Elliott. You should be capable of making adult decisions now. Don't go mess up your life by-"

"By what? Enjoying myself? Damn it Stan. I thought, of all people, you would be happy for me. Why do you have to tear me down?"

The car grew silent. The only trace of noise came from the windshield wipers as they repeatedly scraped the frosty glass. Stan hesitated. "Look, I didn't mean to get out of hand. There are just some things about me that you don't know. Nobody knows I'm getting off track. I'm just looking out for you. That's all," he lied as he turned to look out the window.

Elliott slowed the car as it approached the oncoming red light. He sighed. "I appreciate your concern. But as you said, I'm a big boy now. And I can make my own decisions," he said as he brought the car to a halt. "But really, why do you care so much?"

*Screw it. I'll just tell him. I don't think I can keep my past a secret anymore.* "You want to know why? I'll tell you why. I have a-!" Stan was cut off by a jerk and loud thud as a speeding driver slammed into the back of Elliott's car.

## CYBERNET COFFEE

(773) 866-2467

**SUPERFAST INTERNET CONNECTION!!!  
OVER 30 PCs W/ 19inch FLAT SCREEN MONITORS  
ALL THE GAMES YOU WANT!!!**

oCounter-Strike oDiablo2 oWarcraft III oDiablo2-lord of destruction  
oUnreal Tournament 3 oMedal of Honor oC & C Renegade  
oStarWars-jedi Outcast oUnreal Tournament 3 oMedal of Honor  
oC & C RenegadeStarcraft-broodwars  
oStarcraft oReturn to Castle Wolfenstein

**ONE HOUR  
FREE**  
With 2  
paid hours  
of playing  
time

**BRING A FRIEND AND GET ONE HOUR FREE!!!  
with paying customer**

**coupons expire :feb 29th 2003**

**PRINT o COPY o FAXING o SNACKS**

**WEBCAMS o CD-R WRITERS**

**3220 W Bryn Mawr Chicago, IL 60659-3606**

## SPEAK UP! Don't be shy!



**join the  
Independent**

**for more details see our ad in the  
classifieds on page 8**

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

**neiu\_independent@yahoo.com**



# Golden Opportunities

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

## For Sale

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

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

**Royal Blue Sofa and arm chair.** Beautiful tweed fabric, maple wood trim. Durable, like-new set seats across. Valued at \$1700, now \$200. (773)297-3839

**LINCOLN SQUARE HUGE 3 BDRM** on 2 floors! 4900 N. Bell Ave, hardwood floors, laundry, parking, storage, walk to Brown Line and Old Town School, \$1200, no pets/smokers, cmw@imaxx.net (815) 342-3083

**SMALL TRAILER** for sale. 45" x 70" x 18" Truck tires. Metal frame, rest wood. \$200.00. Joe (773) 763-2812.

Room- two blocks south of school. Share with two others. Grocery two more blocks south. \$260 & utilities and cable.

98 CARAVAN. 95,000 highway miles. AC/AUTO 7 passenger. \$4180. (708) 457-1292

**TREADMILL** for sale. Electronic/multiple settings/space saver. \$250 obo, MUST GO! Contact smotangr177@yahoo.com for pickup.

**FOR SALE** 2000 Ford Focus SE. Fully loaded. Only 7,200 miles. Call (773) 456-9039. \$9,900 obo.

**FREE FACIALS.** Ask for Patricia. (773) 279-1210

## Wanted

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

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

**JOIN A GROWING COMPANY! EMPIRE HOME SERVICES** (Empire Carpet) is continuing rapid growth & is in need of **Customer Service Reps.** for our Lincolnwood facility. Full & Part-Time, day & evening shifts available. Solid Microsoft Office, data entry, & telephone customer service skills are required. We offer competitive benefits & salary. Enjoy a fun, busy, & casual environment. Forward resume & salary requirements to: hrge@empirecarpet.com Fax 847-583-3095. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. eoe

**Enthusiastic College Students WANTED.** Chicago based mortgage Compan is looking for enthusiastic students interested in making a salary plus commissions. Daytime and Nighttime hours available. Call Gil or Todd at 312-981-5255

**Bartender Trainees Needed.** \$250 a day potential. Local Positions. 1-800-293-3985 ext. 787

## Spring Break

\*\*\* ACT NOW! Guarantee the best **spring break prices!** South Padre, Cancun, Jamaica, Bahamas, Acapulco, Florida & Mardigras. TRAVEL FREE, Reps Needed, EARN\$\$\$.  
**Group Discounts for 6+. 1 888**

**THINK SUN (1-888-844-6578)/** [www.springbreakdiscounts.com](http://www.springbreakdiscounts.com)

\*\*\***ACT FAST!** Save \$\$\$, Get Spring Break Discounts!...**1 888 THINK SUN (1-888-8444-6578 dept 2626)**

**SPRING BREAK '03 with StudentCity.com!** The ultimate vacation in Cancun, Bahamas, Mazatlan, Acapulco, Jamaica and more! Packages include airfare, 7nts hotel, FREE FOOD, FREE DRINKS and 150% Lowest Price Guarantee! **REPS WANTED!** ORGANIZE 15 friencds and get hooked up with 2 FREE TRIPS and VIP treatment! Also earn extra cash and bonus prizes just for promoting. StudentCity.com! Call 1-800-293-1445 or e-mail [sales@studentcity.com](mailto:sales@studentcity.com) today!

**Wanted! Spring Breakers!** Sun Coast Vacations wants to send you on Spring Break 2003 to Cancun, Acapulco, Mazatlan, Jamaica or the Bahamas for **FREE!** Call us now at 1-800-795-4786 or email us at [sales@suncoastvacations.com](mailto:sales@suncoastvacations.com)!

## 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,

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

**Join the Independent's** award-winning staff. Be famous! Make money! Become a part of the

student newspaper. We are in search of photographers, writers, cartoonists, and reporters. Staff meetings are held every other Tuesday during the activity hour. The *Independent* office is located in E-049, below Beck's Bookstore. Call 442-4577.

**The Muslim Student Association** meets on Thursday FA 107 and Friday Prayer/is held in CLS 2094 at 1:15 until 2:00.

**Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance:** meets on Tuesdays in CLS-2094 at 1:40. To join listserve, send a message to [femajority-l@neiu.edu](mailto:femajority-l@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](mailto:P-barnes@neiu.com)

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

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

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

Say no to Bush's war. Be a positive part of American History. Join the Anti-War Committee. Thursdays 1:40 p.m. in room 3094.

**WE NEED WRITERS! THE INDEPENDENT IS LOOKING FOR MORE WRITERS. PHOTOGRAPHERS AND CARTOONISTS TO WORK FOR OUR AWARD WINNING NEWSPAPER. EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO CHECK IT OUT. WE'RE IN ROOM E-049. IF YOU'RE INTERESTED PLEASE CALL 442-4577 FOR DETAILS**

## Personals

I could never love a woman the way I love you, and the only way for me to be a better man is with you in my life, Biviana. I adore you more than anything in the world, and I hope you feel the same. Love you know who

I need a man and I hope you're the one. Single Caucasian man in his early 70's looking for companionship, a bingo partner, and wild romps in the park. Don't hesitate to include a racy photo.

Listen fatty: we need an Associate Editor, not a neurotic mess. Put the bottle away, and we will be there for you. Don't

forget not everyone is your sworn enemy.

Professor in need of discipline, leather, whips and chains. Bondage gear welcome.

Single lonely female in search of 5 other single females for Tupperware parties, possible orgies. Bring plenty of lotion and baked goods. Smokers need not apply.

Housewife in desperate need of a sailor for midday role playing while the husband is away. Fantasy games, dominatrix gear a plus. Smokers need not apply.

Why is it that I can never find a topless butler when I need one? If this describes you, please see me about employment opportunities in my brothel. Smokers need not apply.

Miguel: I can't believe how much I love you. You are more than just my lover; you are my best friend. Nothing can match what I feel for you. Don't you ever forget that.

Looking for girl who doesn't mind watching me play EverQuest for 14 hours a day. Must have high tolerance for emotional abuse and be willing to pick up booze for me at a moment's notice. First come, first serve. Smokers need not apply.

**NOTICE  
SOMETHING  
MISSING?**

**YOU!!**

**JOIN THE  
INDEPENDENT**

**NEXT  
MEETING:  
JAN. 21**

**1:40P.M.  
E-049**

## Check it out!

**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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID#: \_\_\_\_\_

Ad as it is to read:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_