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Independent- Aug. 26, 2003

Andrea Zelinski

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IS THERE SGA FUND-
ING AT THE END OF
THE RAINBOW FOR
THE GLBA BALL?
PAGE 3



CHECK OUT OUR
NEW LOOK!

SOME-
THING TO
THUMB
YOUR
NOSE AT



SINCE 1988

4 TIME ICPA AWARD WINNER

CHICAGO, IL.

Independent

Vol. 20 Issue 1

SERVING NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY

Tuesday, August 26th. 2003

Once again, construction welcomes students back

by Duncan Macnab
Production Editor

The first phase of the "Commons" reconstruction began over the summer. The project started with the remodeling of the area outside of the Fine Arts building and the Student Union.

In addition, the most visually apparent face lift to the campus will be the removal of the road formally known as Catalpa Street. The road currently intersects the center of Northeastern's campus, passing in between the B-Wing and Science Building.

The anticipated completion of the phase one of construction was prior to August 25. According to Joseph P. Kish, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management, a few finishing touches are to be completed after the first day of class.

Phase one of "Commons" is only part of a bigger plan in creating a more pleasant campus for students to enjoy. This includes the reduction and possible elimination of Parking Lot K, located east of the Library. The decision involving the parking lot has yet to be resolved, says Kish. Reducing the size of the lot will, according to Kish, "create a direct walkway between the Library and the Science Building."

The new plan will also be equipped to accommodate outdoor activities in the area. The recently cleared area between the east entrance of the Fine Arts building



photo by Duncan Macnab

This is the sight of the projected "Quad."

and south entrance of the Student Union will act as a performance area while currently Parking Lot K will become a predominately grassy stretch of land.

At this location is where people can watch university events such as commencements or music performances. This will be possible because there will be a natural incline from the north to south end of the lot.

The problem in planning the layout was to find, "an attractive way to provide access for emergency vehicles," Kish said. He added that there is still a need to develop an entrance to accommodate such vehicles to enter the area as needed. The heavy-duty concrete in major

pathways planned will be able to provide for fire engines. Such pathways will be more accessible than the preexisting plan, excluding steps and steep incline. The plan also will remove all the tripping hazards for students.

The other construction projects, including one in the C-Building and another in the Auditorium, are expected to be completed soon.

Kish expects the Auditorium to be in final condition in order to accommodate the first show in the spring semester of 2004. He hopes to start contractors on the C-Building in October to begin remodeling.

Completed construction projects

See Construction, page 3

NPB is programmed for disaster

by Brian Blaszkowski
News/Opinions Editor

The Northeastern Programming Board (NPB), the organization that sponsors and sets up campus-wide activities, has become a gathering point for controversy.

The problems, according to Brian Miller, NPB member since spring of 2002, stem from the Elections Packet produced by the Student Government Association (SGA). It was the spring 2003 semester, and NPB was given the Election's Packet to approve so they could hold their elections. According to Miller, however, there were a few problems with the packet itself.

"We were happy with the Election's Packet that was produced [by SGA], but we had a few changes to make on behalf of the NPB," Miller said. "We made the changes and approved the packet."

Miller then said that the Election's Packet was "intercepted by the

Advisor of SGA" and Director of Student Activities, Walt Sommers. "There was an order handed down by the Student Activities Office," Miller said. That order was that there was to be no NPB election.

In a memo from Sommers to then-Chair of the NPB, Gaby Herrera, he stated that the NPB was required to ratify the Student Election Packet "by March 27." The memo went on to say, "If I have not received minutes and the signed roster from an official meeting by March 27 stating that the [NPB] has ratified and agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of the Election packet I will bar the [NPB] from participating in the election."

The memo also said that he will not allow the NPB to have an election concurrently with the SGA elections, and the NPB will have to develop its own time, date, rules, and locations of an election and have those sanctioned by the Student Activities Office.

On April 1, 2003, Herrera officially resigned as Chair, citing health problems induced by the stress of Chairing the NPB. NPB member Andrea Daniels then took over as Chair. The very next day, another memo from Sommers stated that he had "no choice but to bar NPB from participating in the current election process."

Other problems within the organization itself began to come to light, including the allegations of members downloading pornography on office computers and even one member using the office as a temporary home.

Chair Daniels and Miller had a meeting with the NPB Advisor Tony Courier to discuss the possibility of having the organization reviewed. Courier agreed to request the review.

The reason for the review that Miller gave was "to clear things up."

See NPB, page 3

Budget woes dig deep

by Chad Nelson
REV Editor

Northeastern faces an 8.2%, or \$3.5 million, cut in state funding for the fiscal year 2004. Combined with cuts from previous budgets, Northeastern has lost 16.3%, or \$7.4 million, over the last three years. These cuts stem from the \$5 billion dollar deficit the state faces for FY 2004. University auxiliary funding, such as parking, student union fees, and child care, as well as private funding from grants and private contracts, will remain stable.

The 5.5% tuition increase implemented "will generate revenue nearly the same as our state funding cut," said Wilcockson. However, rising gas prices, salary increases, insurance premiums, and other costs need to be met through other avenues.

"We're trying to unevenly distribute the pain," said Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Kate Forhan. 7.7% cuts in administration functions and 3.3% in academic and student affairs constitute most of the work that will allow the University to meet the budget shortfall.

Reductions in equipment expenditures, out of state travel, catering services, professional and artistic contracting, professional association dues, and other areas are initial steps taken to quell the shortfall with "minimal intrusion on our educational mission" said Forhan.

Summer classes with low enrollment were dropped, and university facilities will see a drop in hours of operation. Also, maximum class sizes have been raised; caps of 18 are now 23 and caps of 30 are now 35.

Forhan said that the cuts will not affect faculty promotions or new hires. 30 professors will be tenure track as of fall, and searches for six new full time faculty will be occurring during the year. "We want to hire good people at competitive salaries," said Forhan.

25 administration and staff positions have been eliminated, and 10 more staff positions have been replaced at lower salaries. "[No one at the University has been laid off or dismissed because of the state budget cuts," said Vice President of Finance and Administration Mark Wilcockson. The positions were eliminated through attrition; replacements were not hired for staff who retired or quit.

The Ronald Williams Library was forced to cut its budget 3.7%, or \$140,000. A 37% reduction in equipment budget will help to maintain the library's book buying, though the expenditure on serials (journals, newspapers, and magazines) took a nearly \$120,000 cut. The library will reduce its hours of operation to summer levels throughout fall, a drop of 7 hours per week.

Library staff will be maintained, though several student aide positions have been eliminated. Plans to remodel the third floor library classroom and to replace furniture on the 1st and 3rd floors have been pushed back one year. Newly finished rooms on the 4th floor that were expected to become small-group study areas have been allocated as faculty offices because of the "space crunch," as Forhan described it, the University faces.

There is a "severe shortage of office as well as classroom space," said Dean Varkey Titus of the College of Business and Management, emphasizing that increasing enrollment heightens the problem as it necessitates new faculty to meet student needs.

Furthering the space woes, the money expected for completing the Beehive building has been frozen until Governor Blagojevich decides who is going to distribute money for capital improvements, delaying the creation of much needed offices.

Construction work continues elsewhere on campus, however, such as the work just outside the Fine Arts Building and the Auditorium, as that funding comes from private sources, rather than the state.

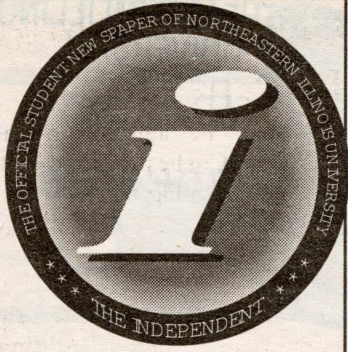
"There is a really high degree of uncertainty," said Forhan in describing preparing the FY 2004 budget.

"We have been allocated a reduced fiscal year 2004 budget by the state, and even now, a month and a half into the fiscal year, we are not certain the budget will hold" said Wilcockson.

Despite the cuts, much optimism can be found in the administrative offices "It could have been a whole lot worse" said Dean Brad Baker of Libraries and Learning Resources.

"I see no indication that the current state budget challenges will diminish our commitment or ability to provide a high quality and affordable education to our students" said Wilcockson.

Pool Reporting by John Bracich
Business Manager



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Independent,

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AROUND CAMPUS

Welcome Back Corn Fest

NEIU hosts the Corn Fest on August 25th and 26th (or while there is corn left) from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm in the B-Courtyard. Free for NEIU students, faculty, and staff.

Future Teachers Club!

Are you interested in receiving certificates for your portfolio? Do you want to attend hands-on education workshops? Would you like to meet fellow education students and network? Then join Future Teachers Club. Meetings are held every other Monday from 7:00 - 8:00 pm and Thursdays from 1:40 - 2:40 pm in CLS 3109. For info. See our bulletin board by CLS 3010 or e-mail at ftcneiu@hotmail.com. First meeting is Thursday, September 18th, 2003.

NPB Lunch Boat Cruise

Saturday, August 30, 2003

12 noon - 3:00 pm

Located at Mystic Blue Cruises, Navy Pier

Free for NEIU students w/ID and Validated Bill,
all others \$25.00

One ticket per person!

10 tickets will be given out at each scheduled distribution table.

Limited number of Tickets!

TICKET SCHEDULE:

Tuesday, August 26th 1:40 - 2:40 pm,
Village Square.

Wednesday, August 27th 11:00 am,
Village Square.

For more info. Call 773 - 442 - 4589 (or x4589 on-campus)

Dates to remember

August 25 - 29 and September 2 - 4

Change of registration by TTRS.

September 1

Labor Day Holiday - No Classes.

September 8

Last day to apply for PASS/FAIL. Last day for full (100 %) refund of tuition.

September 22

Last for 1/2 (50 %) refund of tuition.

October 20

Last for 1/4 (25 %) refund of tuition.

November 7

LAST DAY FOR DROP CLASS OR "COMPLETELY WITHDRAW.

November 27 - 29

Thanks Giving - No Classes.

December 6

Finals for Saturday classes

December 8

Last of classes

December 9 - 12

FINALS WEEK



BACK TO SCHOOL WEEK!!

Monday, September 8

Back to College Fest

Sponsored by Northeastern Programming Board (NPB)

Video, Pinball and Inflatable Games

11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Village Square and Alumni Hall

Back to College Movie: *X-Men II*

7:00 pm (Alumni Hall)

Tuesday, September 9 and

Wednesday, September 10

Student Organization Fair

Sponsored by Student Activities

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Village Square

Thursday, September 11

Campus Resource Information Day

Sponsored by Dean of Students Office

10:30 am - 1:30 pm

Village Square

President's State of the University Address

1:40 - 2:40 pm

Alumni Hall

Information for Evening Students

4:30 - 7:15 pm

Science Building East Lobby

Friday, September 12

Campus Recreation Day

Barbecue and variety of activities

11:30 am - 2:00 pm

P.E. Complex Commons

Back to College Movie: *The Matrix Reloaded*

Sponsored by NPB

7:00 pm (Alumni Hall)

Letters & Ads Hot tip?

Please Note

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If space needs to be reserved please call (773) 794-2812 for information about advertising rates.



Do you know something we don't? Tip us off about news affecting the NEIU community by calling (773) 794-2812 or e-mail us at neiu_independent@yahoo.com.

GLBA might not be Coming Out, only Gaspard knows

by Patrick O'Brien
Production Manager

The Student Government Association, through an announcement from President Gary Gaspard, will release on this coming Thursday its final decision regarding funding for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alliance's Second Annual Coming Out Ball, which is to be held on October 10th here at NEIU.

The Student Senate recently approved the \$5,600 in funding by a vote of eight in favor to six against, with three Senators abstaining from the vote. The issue now goes to President Gaspard, who promised that he was researching the event and had not yet made a final decision on the matter.

That statement comes on the heels of concerns raised by members of several student organizations that Gaspard had already made the decision to veto the funding for the Coming Out Ball, and accusations have been made of bias on his part.

Refuting this, President Gaspard cited this year's SGA budget, created by his former rival for President, Jason Cruz, following his defeat in last Spring's elections.

Cruz cut several budget items, to include retreats for SGA executives and Senators, and also eliminated funding for the Semester Finals Giveaway, while at the same time increasing funding by 420% for Graphic Arts Supplies and giving \$1,000 for the book exchange website, which "has not been used by a single student,"

according to Gaspard.

Gaspard wants it made clear: "I just want to be more careful about spending this time."

Gaspard is referring to his term as President in 2001-02, when he approved every student organization request for funds. Those decisions were made before the current state budget crisis, and Gaspard cites the \$7,200 he allocated to the GLBA during 2001-02 for a concert as proof that he is unbiased on questions of funding student events.

The GLBA Coming Out Ball was first approved by the Senate Finance Committee and its Chairperson, Sen. Adejoke Ashaye, and forwarded to the full Senate for consideration.

The decision of whether or not to fund the GLBA event will be made in the shadow of considering all the other student organizations and their right to money allocated by the Event by Event Fund, a fund that is comprised of monies left over after organizations like The Independent, Student Government, WZRD, Que Ondee Sola, and The Black Heritage Gospel Choir have their budgets approved for the year.

Senator Kendra Young expressed the desire for all events to receive funding, noting that "we do wish we had a bigger budget to hold all events on campus that are requested."

One option President Gaspard has is to tap the supplemental fund that rolls over from one school year to the next, a discretionary fund that can be used to fund student event requests like the one submitted by the GLBA.

"You tap supplemental funds if you have to at the end of the year," noted Sen. Young. So even if President Gaspard elects to conserve Event by



Last year's Coming Out Ball, which may face the budget axe Thursday

Event funds for the long school year, he can fund the GLBA event using supplemental funds.

Given the statements by Gaspard and Young and the state of the SGA budget, it is not a matter of not having the monies available to give the GLBA, it's a matter of discretion on the part of the President of the SGA.

Saying he "had to make the right decision," Gaspard went on to express that unlike past administrations, he would not be giving more money than requested to student organizations, citing the need to be more financially responsible.

After reviewing the budgets for the 2003 and 2004 school years, it has come to light that one outgoing SGA administration (The Student Action League) spent large amounts of money on Finals Giveaways (\$5000 in last year's budget) and trips to Europe for some favored student organizations. There is now a smaller pot to draw from in those same budget categories for this school year.

Gaspard has already used the funds

allocated for an executive retreat this past summer, which took place August 8th-10th in Oakbrook, Illinois. It would then appear that President Gaspard will already tap Supplemental Funds to fund another planned Senate retreat.

The funding for SGA retreats was slashed from \$8,500 to \$3,500 for this school year, again a budget made by the outgoing Student Action League, only to be presided over by political rivals who may have to make adjustments to assist student organizations like GLBA and meet their own political agenda at the same time.

It is quite possible that the GLBA may find itself the victim of bias by some in the Student Government, but given the political games involved in making this year's budget, the GLBA may fall victim to the political motives of two vastly different groups of student politicians.

More on the upcoming decision by President Gaspard and the SGA in the next issue of the Independent.

Construction from page 1

including the demolition and removal of asbestos in the B-Building last spring.

Kish hopes, "by the end of next year we will have sixty percent of the 'commons' project finished."

Future plans include the remodeling of the A-Building, resembling a similarity to the B-Building remodeling last year.

According to Kish, the projects will be updating campus grounds aging about forty years old. The result of these projects are to create a public Quad on campus. Expected completion date has not been established.

NPB from page 1

He stated that the NPB never had a problem performing their tasks, and that they met regularly to continue their business.

Courier also brought up the point that the NPB received the Election's Packet very close to the actual day of the election, and it was created with little input from the NPB itself.

"The language [of the Election's Packet] is vague," Courier stated. He mentioned that there were also conflicts within the Election's Packet and the NPB Constitution.

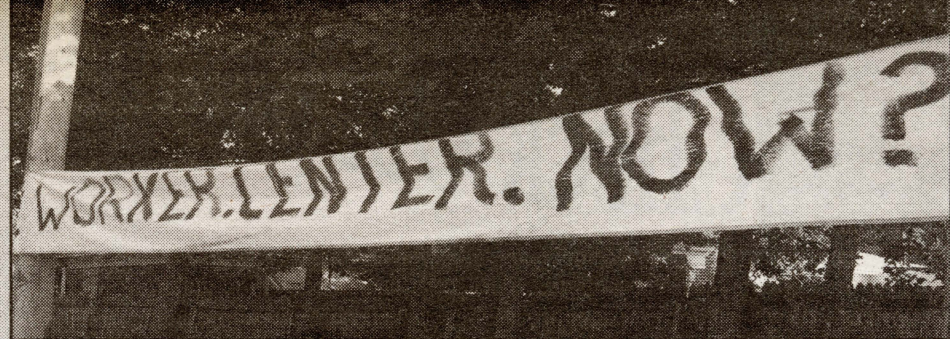
All of these things, Courier said, are reasons that the NPB requested a review. "Student Activities goal and my goal is to have an NPB that is working smoothly and is fulfilling its mission."

More on this story as it develops.



Patrick O'Brien

THE LAST WORD ONE STORY FROM EVERY POSSIBLE ANGLE, AND THEN SOME



The Albany Park Workers Center is located at 5111 N. Pulaski near the Chicago River and Foster Ave. (Above and below)
The workers have organized meals, established a minimum wage, and created a makeshift meeting place for themselves. (Left)

Albany Park workers work community into frenzy

by Patrick O'Brien
Production Manager

You've probably passed by the Albany Park Workers Center if you've left Northeastern traveling west to go home or go to work.

What you may not have seen unless you closely inspected the area at Pulaski and Foster is a hint of the controversy swirling around the group of men who meet there every morning year round to find work where they can.

The workers' center is located at an abandoned CTA bus turnaround that was purchased by the Chicago Park District several years ago, the site of a yet to be determined combination of river walk and green space for the citizens of Albany Park. The point of contention seems to be whether the day laborers are blocking the progress of development in the public interest, or whether there is a political game being played by the office of 39th Ward Alderman Margaret Laurino.

According to a press release from Laurino's office, she has a long

history of supporting the workers, as well as their right to earn wages and have access to medical attention, which she has helped provide through the city's Department of Human Services. Laurino then changes course and says the site at 5111 N. Pulaski needs to be vacated so the Park District can begin work there.

According to Jim McDonald of the North Mayfair Improvement Association, the park plans are "tentative" and have been "talked about for five years", meaning the workers are hurting no one by being at the site.

Enter Jessica Aranda of Latino Union, who is advocating for the workers and has organized protests on their behalf. Aranda has been in contact with Alderman Laurino's office about alternative sites for the center, but has received no response. "She has not responded in anyway, so we will continue to put pressure on her," Aranda added that the city has given the workers permission to stay at the site until another is found.

Aranda also cited a petition taken door to door in the area, which showed 97% percent of residents supported the center, which sometimes has up to 200 men at a time waiting for work during the slow winter construction season. Aranda estimated that about 30% of the laborers who congregate at the center get regular work. Similar centers dot the landscapes of New York and Los Angeles.

Given the current economic climate in our state, it is doubtful any funding will be forthcoming in this situation, which Aranda finds troubling. "They complain about the workers hanging out on the corner, but they won't give us the resources to solve the problem."

Workers at the center work at an undetermined minimum wage of sorts. Jim McDonald agrees that the workers should be supported, adding that, "we do believe their needs should be met."

So if all are agreed that the workers have the right to a livelihood, and to be a part of the community in Albany Park, then where is the conflict?

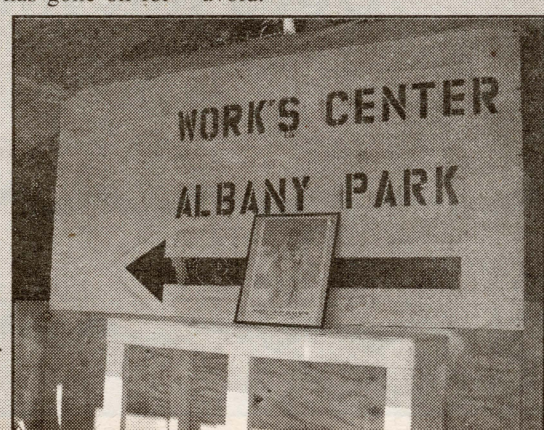
Accusations have been leveled that public drunkenness on the part of some near the site contributes to the lack of action by the Alderman's office and by the city in assisting the workers further. Pictures taken at the site did reveal plenty of beer bottles and other evidence of drinking, but Aranda refutes that, citing the excellent relations that workers have maintained with area police, and saying those complaints were due to a few men who are not involved with the workers' center.

Drinking near the river site where the workers meet has gone on for years, having nothing to do with the existence of the workers' center now.

While new sites are sought for the hard working men who do the jobs union construction workers won't, the legal status of the men has not been cited by the

forementioned advocates and concerned citizens involved with the workers. Could our fine city be a bit hesitant to commit taxpayer dollars to the aid of undocumented men who may or may not pay taxes?

The answer could probably be provided by Alderman Laurino and for her side of the story, please contact the 39th Ward office at (773) 736-5594. And if you're passing by Foster and Pulaski anytime soon, take a little closer look at the gentlemen who are doing the hard work most of us would rather avoid.



No Apocalypse now? *Northeastern's literary magazine almost lived up to its own name this past summer*

by Brian Blaszkowski
News / Opinions Editor

NEIU's literary magazine *Apocalypse* ran into trouble trying to produce their latest edition, nearly resulting in the end of the organization.

According to Tom Mollo, *Apocalypse* member for about two years, the problems stemmed from a lack of competent workers. "People sign up, and you never see them again," laughed Mollo. He added that the core group of workers on the magazine was reduced from four to one in a matter of weeks. He said that people graduated or left, leaving *Apocalypse* in a lurch.

Another member of *Apocalypse*,

Brian Miller, agreed with Mollo. "The problems stemmed from the couple of guys who dealt with the publication graduated without training anyone," he said. He mentioned the names Dennis Fritz and Robert Tedray as being the two principle members of *Apocalypse* that precipitated the problems.

Mollo agreed, stating that Tedray took a high position in the magazine despite the fact that he knew he would soon be graduating. He added that Fritz, while involved, "didn't want to do anything" this last semester.

In addition to the internal problems within the organization, there were accusations of favoritism and a stifling of creativity. *Independent*

writer Joe Hertel said that he had offered some of his unpublished work when he heard that the literary magazine was desperate for submissions. "I had talked to two guys down there and offered my unpublished collection of Vietnam poems and told them they could publish the entire collection if they wanted to," Hertel said. He then added that he also gave them other works of his, and then heard nothing more about it for a month.

Hertel went to the office to talk with Mollo, and discovered his unpublished poems were not to be used, although seven of the poems in his book of poetry were going to be used. When he asked why none of the unpublished work would be

used, he was left unsatisfied with the answer. "He [Mollo] basically told me it wasn't good enough, and if I would let him revise some of them he would use them." Hertel also felt that he was being accused of "using *Apocalypse* to just publish his own work." Hertel then pulled his poems from the magazine out of frustration.

Miller responded to the allegations of the *Apocalypse* members showing favoritism with submissions: "When people submit, they generally feel it's perfect; an editor may see it another way." He added that when someone submits ten pieces of work, they would like to see all ten make it into the magazine. "The problem is that it doesn't happen that way,"

Miller said. Added Miller, "I think Tom [Mollo] worked hard to make sure no one was excluded from this issue."

Mollo said the feelings of resentment have been an ongoing thing. "People are anxious to get their work in [the magazine]. It puts the editors in a spot." He added that this time, it was especially rough. "There were hard feelings this time." He wishes that those involved had been able to sit down and really discuss the problems and the feelings of resentment.

Hertel disagreed, believing that there is a definite show of favoritism in *Apocalypse*. "I think his [Mollo's] selection [of poems] was biased to say the least. A few of his friend's poems were written and submitted just days before the deadline."

Hertel added that Miller really did very little to help the situation in *Apocalypse*. "The only thing Miller did was show up after the work was done and announce that he was a member of *Apocalypse* and he was running for president and we should all follow him." Hertel also said that Miller was not receptive to conversation. "Every time I tried to reason with him he would pull the 'in your face' routine by talking at the same time I was trying to make a point." Mollo confirmed that although Miller said he was a member of *Apocalypse*, Mollo personally was unaware of it.

Despite all of these problems, Mollo assures that the next edition of *Apocalypse* will indeed come out. He expressed gratitude to all those who pitched in to help out in their time of need. "Pat [O'Brien, *Independent* member] and Andrea [Zelinski, *Independent* Chief Editor] were both very professional," Mollo said. He also said that the two other *Independent* members, Hertel and Business Manager John Bracich, were very helpful. Miller echoed these sentiments.

As for the future of the organization, Mollo is confident that *Apocalypse* will endure, foreseeing new members joining in the coming fall semester. He also mentioned that there will be an organization of the magazine, and then they will have their executive elections to select officers.

Look for the latest edition of *Apocalypse* this fall semester.



Check Out Our New Deli Signatures!

**FROM AUGUST 25TH THRU
SEPTEMBER 5TH, RECEIVE A FREE
16OZ FOUNTAIN BEVERAGE WITH
ANY **SANDWICH OR SALAD
PURCHASE FROM DELI SIGNATURES
IN THE FOOD COURT**

***Does not include Minute Maid drinks.
Does not include Value Deli Sandwiches

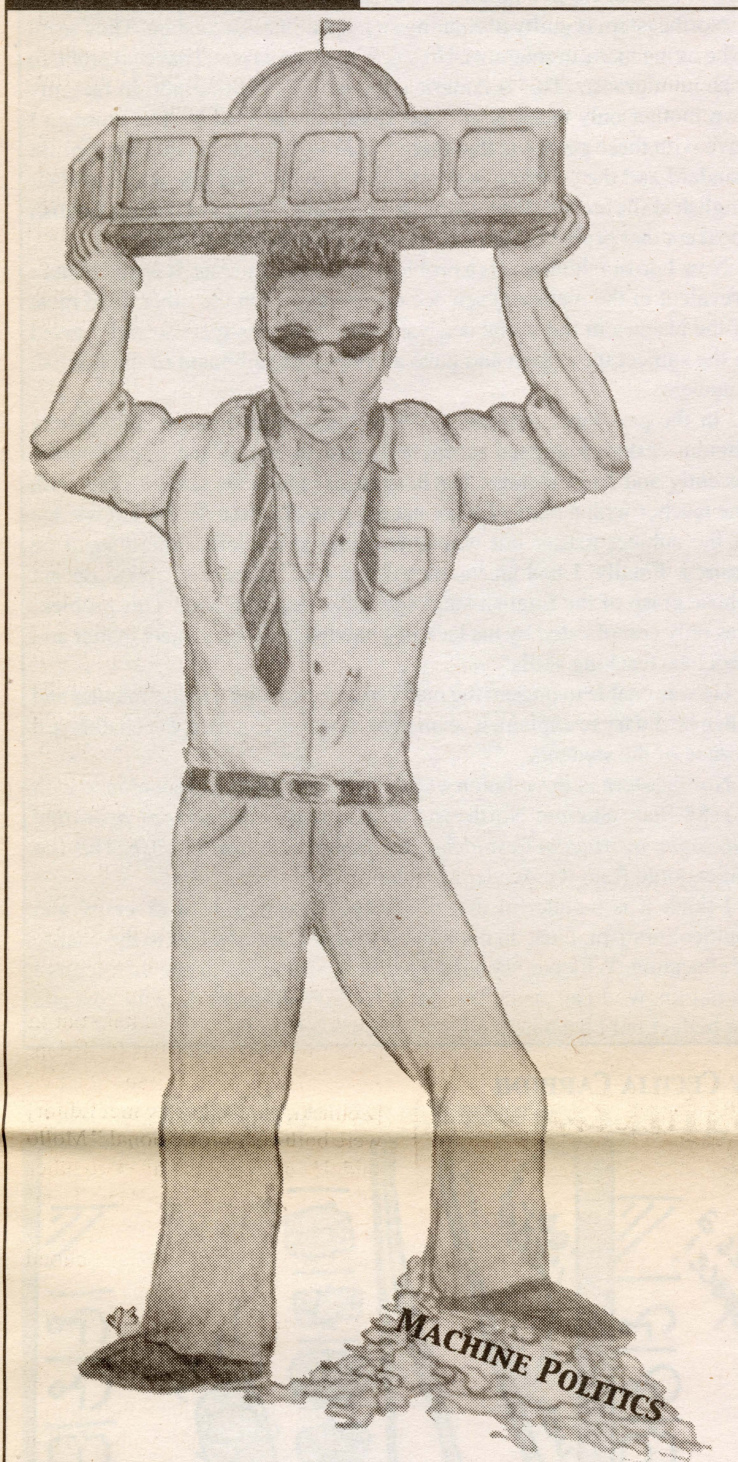


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COMMENTARY

DRAWING BOARD

BY MICHELLE ZELINSKI



Keep God in church where she belongs

by Patrick O'Brien
Production Manager

If God were watching what's going on in Alabama right now, God would be crying. The reason God isn't watching is because her name is being thrown around like so much granite and stone, the material used to forge the monument of intolerance that sits in the chamber of the Alabama Supreme Court, kept there by Chief Justice Roy Moore.

Moore has been suspended by his fellow Alabama Supreme Court justices for violating the federal court order ordering him to remove the monument of the Ten Commandments, which has been cited as a violation of the government ban on the establishment of religion.

If Islamic mosques requested a 5-ton marble Koran be positioned in a courthouse, would the Christian fundamentalists be so keen to protect their rights? This is not a battle over freedom of religion, this a fight for the right to promote Christianity, the de facto state religion of our country.

Don't kid yourself about the legendary separation of church and state that is so avowed in America, we are a predominantly Christian nation. God in this land is defined as the Christian one, and we pay no heed to anyone who says otherwise. So if Christians are so quick to defend Judge Moore and the Ten Commandments, would Jerry Falwell and the rest of the evangelist set defend the Buddhists' right to erect a shrine of their God? After all, God is the most important ideal, the end all and be all of our existence; we all have a right to

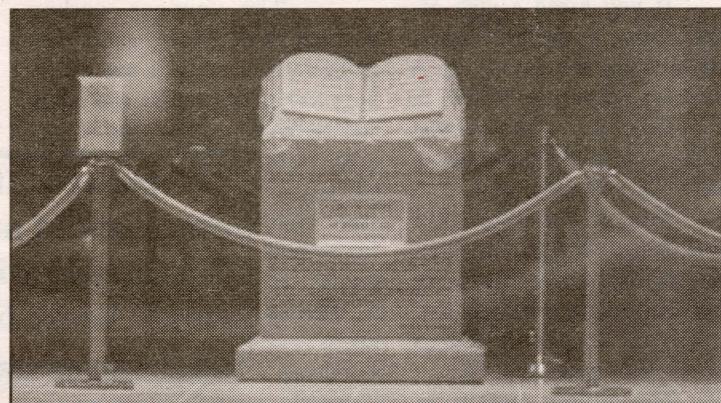


photo courtesy of cmn.com

This monument of religious worship will soon come down.

worship her.

When we set our own beliefs against the rights of others to have their own, we are negating the virtues that underlie our Christianity, Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, Atheism and whatever else we choose to believe. (Or not believe) Religion is supposed to be based on love, tolerance, faith, and freedom. Freedom to believe what you will, but not to impose by presence of 5,000 pound tablet the superiority of those beliefs.

Our Christianity is so pervasive in the U.S that we cannot even begin to see our world in any other way. We have framed our entire war on terrorism as a Islam vs. Christianity battle royal, despite many devout Muslims speaking out against the violence carried out against the West.

Religion in these contexts has succeeded not in upholding its own core values, and the crusader language once utilized by the President has set a bad precedent in our relations with non-Christian countries. The melting pot has become the land of intolerance, and Judge Roy Moore has succeeded in driving another stake into the

growing gap between Christians and non-Christians here and abroad.

We as Americans are supposed to be unique; unique in our belief that freedom and liberty are the most crucial elements that our nation is built on, not the sanctioning of one set of morals or values above all others; that is why the Constitution set limits on the state endorsement of specific religions, so that everyone has their rights protected. The Alabama courthouse is a government building, and therefore is subject to the same laws as any other public place.

Christianity should hold a place in the hearts of its believers, not in out common shared areas where those who are not Christian expect freedom from religious rhetoric. The Ten Commandments are the most powerful Christian rhetoric imaginable, and the monument is a monstrosity that must be removed.

I have been raised to pay loose homage to the idea of Jesus Christ as savior or what have you, and even as a wayward Christian, I find it offensive that any Christian would impose that belief on anyone who wasn't asking to receive it.

After 40 years, campus curmudgeon still has what it takes

by Joe Hertel
Staff Writer

Either academic excellence standards have been lowered or I have become more focused in my old age, but either way, I managed to excel in my first semester back to school after 38 years.

It wasn't easy by any means, but I must confess I had certain advantages. My first advantage is that I don't give a shit! What I mean by that is simply this: I am retired. I have lived a life filled with experience and achievements, and returning to school simply allows me to expand my creativity in the areas of my interest. So I'm not worried about English placement (I taught English as a second language), I ain't worried about math (hell, I can't even read a ruler!) and, touche, I am not concerned about graduating, although I plan to do so. I want to write (this paper gives me that opportunity), I want to paint and sculpt (that's why I'm taking all them fine arts classes), and I want to involve myself in the theater (I can't act, but I am a pretty good publicity guy and stagehand).

It's not all roses, however. I received a form letter this past summer letting me know that even though my first semester back after

all these years netted me a GP of 3.75, averaged out, I still am on academic probation since my overall GPA now stands at 1.8. I still resent the fact that the College of Arts and Sciences refused to forgive my final semester grades in 1965 when I dropped off campus, forgetting to withdraw from classes, which then netted me four F's. So as long as I can stay above 2.0 each semester, the academia nuts in administration will have to put up with me.

It has been a wonderful experience returning to school. I have met some very nice people, teachers and students, who have made the semester an enjoyable one. And I feel, at times, like the tribal elder to whom youth comes to listen to stories of wisdom and sage advice. My God, people are actually listening to what I have to say! I never got that courtesy at work! Thank you!

When I first entered these hallowed halls in 1963, Sony had just introduced a small transistor radio that could fit in your hand. Channel 11, a new public service station, opened a studio here on campus and I actually got to work a TV camera and participate in campus productions. There was no cable network, no BETA, VHS,

PlayStations, personal computers, hand-held calculators, pagers, or cell-phones. What a primitive environment it was back then!

I will say that students today have an advantage with the computer. Not only being able to surf the internet for information and instant access, but also in preparing documents. Hell, when I was on campus, we had to hike to the libraries to do our research, and we had to type the papers out on manual—or, if you had a few bucks, electric—typewriters. You had to deal with messy ribbons and carbon paper, and there was no spell check, correction ribbons, or formatting. You did it all manually. And it took time.

We also used to gather in the cafeteria (which is now occupied by Beck's Books) and smoke cigarettes, drink coffee, play guitars, and entertain the surrounding tables. It's nostalgic to see some folks still playing guitars and singing. Maybe I'll join them one day, but I doubt I would be familiar with their songs and they,

mine.

I would now like to impart a bit of encouragement to my fellow students. In the sixties, when I was your age and attending college here, it was also a time of fear and uncertainty. President John Kennedy was assassinated, the war in Viet Nam was escalating, Premier Kruchev of Soviet Russia died,

President Diem of South Viet Nam was assassinated, and the world wondered where it was headed. And

later, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy were gunned down. And we had to worry about the military draft which conscripted more and more young men to serve their country (mandatory) in a "police action" we knew little about at the time.

Today as well, we are faced with new fears and threats, and we certainly have a right to be concerned. But do not let the evil that exists in this world prevent you from achieving your goals and dreams. Do not be discouraged, although you may become disillusioned, at the way incompetence is rewarded and evil

seems to flourish. Strive against the darkness and let your life count as a voice of change and hope. Some of you will become teachers, and as your teachers before you, you will have the opportunity to mold young minds and give positive direction; therein lies our hope for the future. You can do it if you do not allow cynicism to alter your personality. Without vision, we perish in paperwork.

As for me, well, I did my tour and now it's your turn. I'm retired, I have a pension, and very few worries. So let me be the critic and cynic. Allow me to expound on good and evil based on my life experience. I will be the voice of experience without fear of recrimination. You concern yourself with success in your classes and your future, and stay out of trouble and let me be the one who rattles cages and upsets the apple cart.

Hell, I like being a grumpy old man, and I intend to stick around on campus for a few more years and then hopefully become class valedictorian so I can give a commencement address on the bureaucratic nonsense of a college administration which has a non-forgiveness policy for students, but not for itself. Should be interesting, eh?

What's in a name? Check courses first

by Joe Hertel
Staff Writer

It was called: *Theater Practicum*. What it was instead was manual labor. 115 hours of supporting NEIU's Center Stage Theater.

And supporting meant staining, varnishing, screwing, constructing, painting, cleaning, hauling, sewing, cutting, sanding, and sweeping up.

If you hired a jack-of-all-trades temp to do the work at \$18.00 an hour, that means my A in this course cost over \$2,000 in the free labor I provided. And that doesn't include the \$375 that had to be paid to the college in fees!

And, if you think 115 hours is easy to accumulate, considering the time available to work at Stage Center during the semester, it averages out to about 3.5 hours a day. It was truly a part time job.

The course objectives were to "provide hands on experience in the various technical support areas (I changed light bulbs), and in areas of public relations (I said: "yes, ma'am and yes, sir" a lot), advertising (I brought in \$300 worth of ads for the summer program), and marketing (I went around campus hanging up posters) for the summer theater productions, and to provide hands-on experience in maintaining the Stage Center Theater.

I guess it was that "hands-on in maintaining" part that got me. I spent one afternoon shoveling out sawdust from the circular saw cabinet 8 wastebaskets of sawdust; I went home and coughed up a two-by-four!

My fellow students and I

spent afternoons constructing the stage platforms, walls, doors, windows and floor. We hung curtains, painted and performed a variety of laborious tasks.

Due to my old age and lousy physical condition, I beseeched the professor to allow me more time to work in publicity, such as advertising and obtaining props for the set, to which she agreed, thankfully.

The younger workers dangled from ladders and swung from rafters while I sat on the floor varnishing tables and chairs and searched my basement storage area and called re-sale shops for period pieces to be used as props (I wondered

"I wondered if security ever noticed me entering the campus with all those empty booze bottles?"

if security ever noticed me entering the campus with all those empty booze bottles?).

There were no lectures (except when you screwed up on something), no reading assignments (except for floor plans, and warning labels and directions on solvents, stains, and the myriad of machinery used), and no exams.

All work was "devoted to supporting the professional summer stock theater productions." And, support it we did.

Some of my fellow students could not amass the required 115 hours for an A because they had been taking other courses or working during the summer. I was lucky since being retired and having only this one course, I was able to devote

the time to the project.

But I never learned what I took the class to learn about. I never worked the control boards for lighting or sound.

I was taught how to use an electric drill, and how to make something look wood grained, but was never involved in the actual production of a play (you could sign up to be an usher).

I eventually realized, as did my fellow student workers, that this was not really a class, but a temporary work force. And yet, in spite of ruining two pair of pants and a shirt, I enjoyed the experience

and friendly atmosphere, and I did learn a few things along the way.

I have

always enjoyed

working in theater, and this course at NEIU is no exception. It was, in a way, fun, but it was the professors, supervisors, teachers and fellow students that made it so. What other class would you scrape bar codes off of the labels of liquor bottles?

So my advice is that if you plan to take the Theater Practicum course, do so during a semester where you can have the time to devote to it.

All you have to do is put in the 115 hours during the time frame offered, and you can do it if your schedule is not too busy. Just remember that the difference between an A and an F is only 31 hours! Good luck, and wear old clothes.

ESL For Instructors?

by Daniel Peikes
Staff Writer

My GPA is not what it should be. Why, you ask. I'll tell you why. It is due to the high quality of education this school provides. In case you couldn't tell I was being sarcastic.

For three semesters in a row now I have had the same problem with at least one of my teachers. In a perfect world all teachers would be able to present all information in a clear and concise manner, while the same time keep it interesting. Well if you have heard the new Walgreens commercial, you know that we live nowhere near perfect.

Northeastern is guilty of running an educational sweatshop. They seem to be hiring many immigrants. Now don't get me wrong, I have no problem with immigrants. This is America, the world's melting pot. In fact, my own mother only recently got her American citizenship. The problem I have with these people is that their teaching skills are not on the highest standard and the problem is compounded by the fact that many of their English skills are less than adequate to lecture a group of natural English speakers that probably don't speak any other language at all.

Now I do not think this is a problem in all departments. It is much more prevalent in the math and science departments. On the other hand most of the teaches in the social science and humanities seem to well versed in the subject they teach and have an excellent command of the English language.

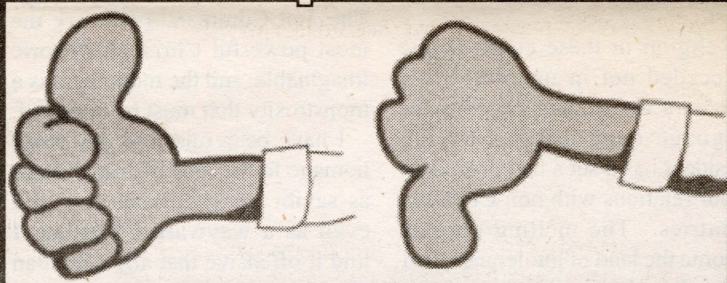
In the past three semesters, I have had two instructors with a very obvious eastern European accent that seemed to know the subject matter decently and had mediocre teaching skills. I also attended a class with one teacher with a heavy Indian accent who also had decent knowledge of the subject matter but whose teaching skills left something to be desired. Finally, I had an instructed this part summer of Asian decent whose grasp of the English language was extremely poor. This problem was only complicated by his lack of knowledge of the subject matter and atrocious teaching skills.

He was unable to present the material in a clear and concise manner and when he did try to explain, it seemed as if he was lecturing the chalkboard instead of the students.

Northeastern is in violation of their own policies. In accordance with a 1987 State Statute, Northeastern insures that all persons providing classroom instruction to students are proficient in oral English. This is a direct quote from the Academic Catalog.

I think it is wonderful that this school is a wealth of diversity and multiculturalism. I just do not think it should come at a loss to the quality of education. Why our school seems to favor these sub par instructors I do not know. I can speculate that it has something to do with cost and the budget but I have no hard evidence towards that.

Thumbs Up! Thumbs



Having enough money for books

You've got 4 GenEd classes this semester

Cold cuts

New food at the cafeteria

Free condoms at Health Services

Welcome the new freshmen

The new Auditorium will be complete by June

At least we're not at a community college

Voice of the Campus's last semester

Not having enough money left to pay the rent

All 4 classes are Physics 103

Budget cuts

Its still the cafeteria

No one to share them with

College here will be the best 7 years of your life

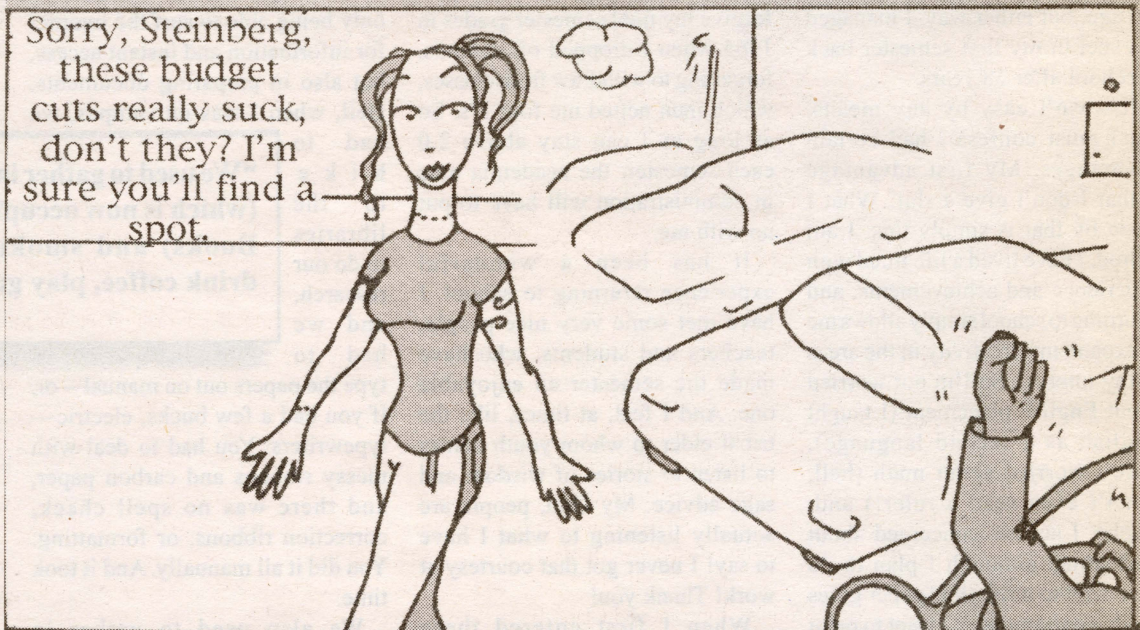
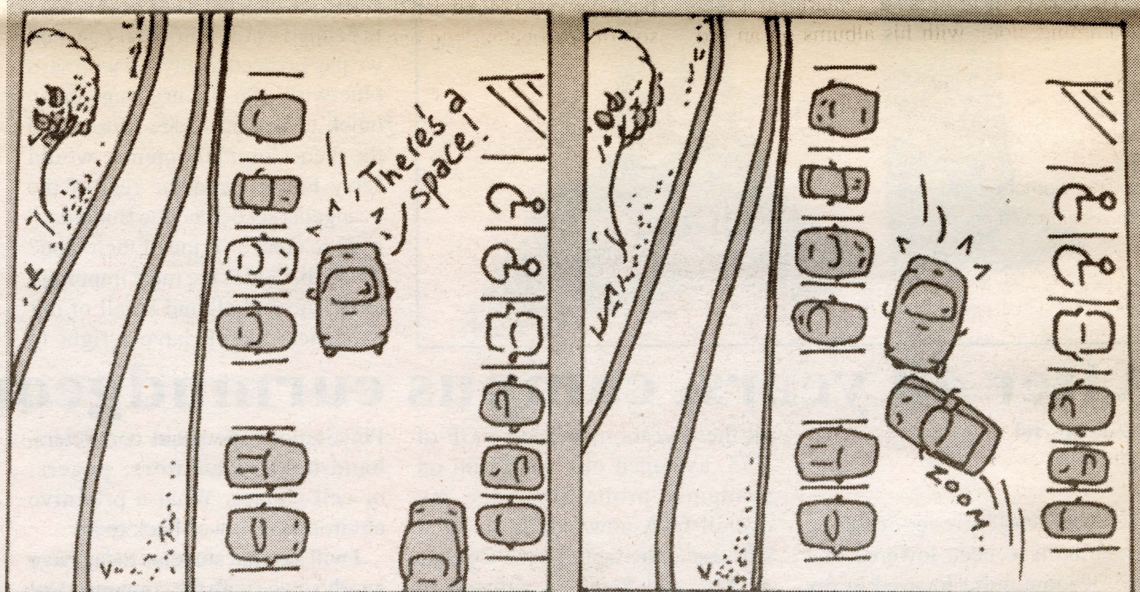
June of 2028

Community colleges have sports teams

Finding another jackass to replace him

DRAWING BOARD

BY CECILIA CARBONI



Got money?



Got friends?



If you answered no to either of these questions, come get some at the Independent.

Prolific Cockburn doesn't burnout

by Brian Blaszkowski
News/Opinions Editor

Whenever I'm asked what sorts of music I like, I usually say, "I like all kinds of different music." This may sound like a weak excuse, but it's true. I like Eminem, I like Cristina Aguilera, I like The Beach Boys, Linkin' Park, Coldplay, Godsmack, and all sorts of other bands. My main love is in the harsher sounds of metal, but I've been known to "get jiggy" with some classical music and even some jazz.

Knowing of my preference to metal, my editor was initially against giving me this CD to listen to, because he felt I couldn't give it a fair and impartial review. I balked, and eventually was able to weasel my way into reviewing Bruce Cockburn's *You've Never Seen Everything*.

I will happily admit I only wanted to review the CD because he has a cool name. But I wanted to be fair, so I also did some preliminary research on this guy to see what he's all about. Quite a lot, it turns out. He is the product of Elvis and Chuck Berry wedded with the beat writings of Allen Ginsberg and Jack Kerouac. In case you couldn't infer it on your own, he is primarily a rock/folk based singer and songwriter, although he also dabbles in reggae, blues, jazz, and other genres.

He was born in Ottawa, Ontario in 1945, strumming along with his albums on an old

guitar his aunt gave to him. After high school, he traveled all over Europe, sampling a bohemian lifestyle. He tried studying at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, but he realized he was not cut out for studying. After hooking up with a local poet and musician named Bill Hawkins and his band The Children, Cockburn was encouraged to write his own songs, which he did, playing everything from blues to psychedelic rock. Then, in 1969, he decided to pursue a solo career, the fruits of which I have sampled and am ready to critique.

OK, let me get this out of the way first. This is not my type of music. At all. I rarely listen to it, so I have little enough to compare it to. I could compare him to Slipknot and the Beastie Boys, but that wouldn't really make sense. My musical tastes (or lack thereof, depending upon whom you ask) aside, I found myself enjoying a couple of tracks on this CD. Not enjoying it enough to buy it or to ever listen to it again, but that's besides the point.

If you're looking for technical jargon about tones and sounds and such, you're reading the wrong review. If a song has a catchy beat, I enjoy it. Lyrics are secondary to me, but good lyrics can only help. I'd have to say that "Open" is my favorite track, but I really couldn't tell you specific reasons as to why. I can only say that it felt the best. I also enjoyed "Wait No More," but beyond that, I felt that the rest of the album sort of ran together into one big song.

I'd have to say that the biggest theme on the CD is political in nature. Now, that can be either a good thing, such as Zach De La Rocha's angst-ridden political lyrics from the glory days of Rage Against the Machine, or it can be a bad and annoying thing, like Bono from U2 and his blubbering. In this case, I have to admit that it's not a bad thing. While Cockburn's lyrics are confrontational and definitely critical, it is his soft-spoken and almost fatherly tone that makes it work. It doesn't sound like he's pounding on a pulpit, standing on a soap box, screaming at heathens like me and condemning us for our love of war and our greed. Rather, it seems he is admitting that we are all in the same situation, and rather than pointing the finger and blaming people, he focuses on feelings and solutions.

Anyway, from what I've found about Cockburn on websites and reviews of his past CDs, this is the sort of CD that can only be properly appreciated by Bruce Cockburn fans, as it marks a definite evolution of his music,

allegedly adding to each of his previous works. However, at 57 years of age, Cockburn has proved that the one-two combo of his lyrics and music can not only entertain and delight his fans, but he can also hold the interest of a mean bastard like myself.



Photo Courtesy of cockburnproject.net/frames.html

We know his name is Cockburn, it was too easy

Skateborders' ill-ass movie premiers

by Dan Demchuk
Distribution Manager

Okay, so I left super late to go to this DC skateboarding video premier on June 26th, which was first come, first serve, and free, right. Anyways, I'm just getting to the corner to catch the bus perfectly in time to see this Polish couple hit an old lady crossing the street with their car! I totally laughed out loud. But I stifled myself so she wouldn't hear me if she really was hurt, but I was just like, "Holy shit," and walked over to see if she was alright. She was. She already had a cast on her foot, and she told me in this feeble old lady voice, "I have trouble keeping my balance sometimes." Foolish old woman. I would have laid there on the ground, all like, "I've fallen, and I can't get up!" and fuckin milked it.

Have you ever seen a bird get hit by a car? I don't drive, so I haven't had the opportunity to go out of my way and hit one yet. This bird was just chillin' on the ground, listening for worms and shit, and then he got sketchy when I walked by, so he went to fly away, and instead flew right into this dude's windshield! I heard it thud all crazy, and then bounce off in this perfect parabola, with its wing all crooked like Chet Childress' arm, and then slam on the pavement in traffic. I just stopped and watched, figuring he was roadkill, but this car drove over him, and as soon as he was out from underneath, he flew off. I was pretty stoked then. It filled my heart with sunshine.

Arriving at the Park West over on Armitage, Lincoln, and Clark, I ran in to Clemente locals, Wilson park rippers, Uprise team members, and downtown street dogs, all lined up for blocks, wrapped around the Park West's large facility. Everyone around my friend and I had tickets, many had these green VIP lanyards around their necks, so we started to doubt our chances of getting into the premier. Then, Brad the Genius reminded me that I'm a working member of the Associated Collegiate Press, and I went right away to go exercise some clout at the front door. It was my first time asserting my Press access, and I was as giddy as a



He's catching major rail

you in early. I would have expected strippers and champagne and shit. Jackson and Marfa were waiting in line for beers, but Jackson said, "I came prepared," flashing a back pocket loaded with bottled brew and I realized what a great idea that was. I need to start taking beer to the movies. Jackson is also a genius.

There were banners everywhere, 4 big screens emblazoned with the DC films screensaver, hundreds of TV's, and, sadly, tons of people wearing VIP lanyards. That meant we weren't special. At all. I almost wanted to take mine off. No, I'm kidding. I wore it for a week.

The lights started flickering and some nobody walked on stage to introduce the video. We saw the bus with the pros unload, so why didn't they come up? Anyways, Van Englen kicked it

virgin on her wedding night. Not really. Actually, I figured they would tell me to go fuck myself.

I walked off to check the door, and walk back with two VIP lanyards in hand. Kids were trippin so hard, asking me, "Duuude! How'd you get that?" Just then, a minibus full of DC team members pulled up and unloaded, and soon after they announced that anyone with a ticket could come in. So we went in all together like a big happy family of skateboarders, holding hands and skipping. No. Really. We all held hands. Well, we didn't want anyone to get lost. Shut up, okay.

As soon as we walked into the lobby area of the Park West, Brad spots Jackson Taylor, beer in hand, who's on Jason Jesse's new team Six Gun, and Marfa, former Uprise team member and Beer City amateur. Marfa pointed to our VIP lanyards and asked, "How'd you get that?" I figured Marfa'd be wearing one too, since he gets flow from DC, but its not like it really mattered, all it did was get

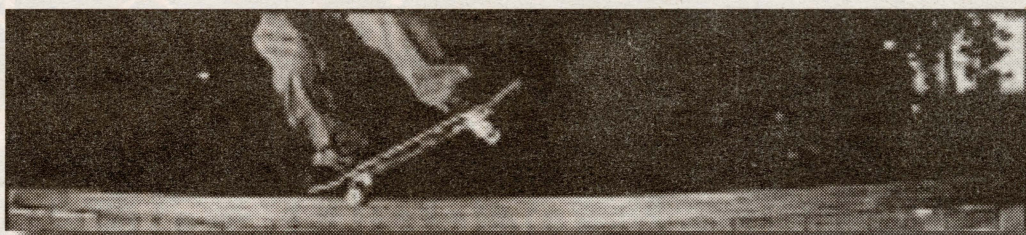
Photo Courtesy of expn.go.com

off fast! High speed b/s crooks to f/s 180 out around corners, some pool shredding, tons of switch tre's, shit... New Chicago loc. Josh Kalis ripped it, of course. Stevie William's part was the shit, with some crazy nose manual tricks, and this shuv-it revert thing in the air! Damn that's hot!

Rob Dyrdek busted a kf b/s 5-0 on the Clemente ledge that comes out the wheelchair ramp and the fuckin Park West just exploded! Danny Way's parts were amazing! The man broke 2 world records in one day! I actually had chills watching the slow motion gap jumps, clearing 65 feet for the longest air, and breaking his previous world record for the highest air with an 18'3" ollie on a 20' vert ramp!

Anyways, after the premier, the DJ just walked back on stage and started playing records, and cats started mingling. All the under 18 set had to break, so I figured the party was about to get lit. All the chicks there were with dudes, so it wasn't like a real party, but there was plenty of overpriced booze to go around. We ran into Nia, manager of Windward Sports, and her boyfriend, TQ, or QT, or QP or something, I can't really remember, and we just caught up with them and the goings on at the shop and whatnot.

At that time, I realized how much booze actually affects a party atmosphere. Nia and QB kept trying to get trashed on \$10 drinks, but broke-asses Brad and myself couldn't afford to get sloppy. Stevie Williams was definitely feeling good, signing tons of autographs, engaging Nia in a special handshake, trying to bro-down with her or something. She's a cutie, so I don't blame ya, dogg. Shit was fun, though. Ryan Smith got rowdy on a table, and security had to escort him from the premises. We considered trying to just go anywhere in the spot and assert our VIP status if anyone had shit to say, but instead, we just said peace to the cats we knew, and broke. Thanks DC for letting pretty much all the skaters in Chicago come to see the new video for free. I think the majority cut out right away for the new park at Wilson, inspired by the ridiculous lines A.V.E., Kalis, and Dyrdek, among others, pulled off on screen, and thanks to the Wizard for hooking up the press pass, without which I could have never experienced the "high living" of a VIP.



This ain't no grind

The Wizard's 29th

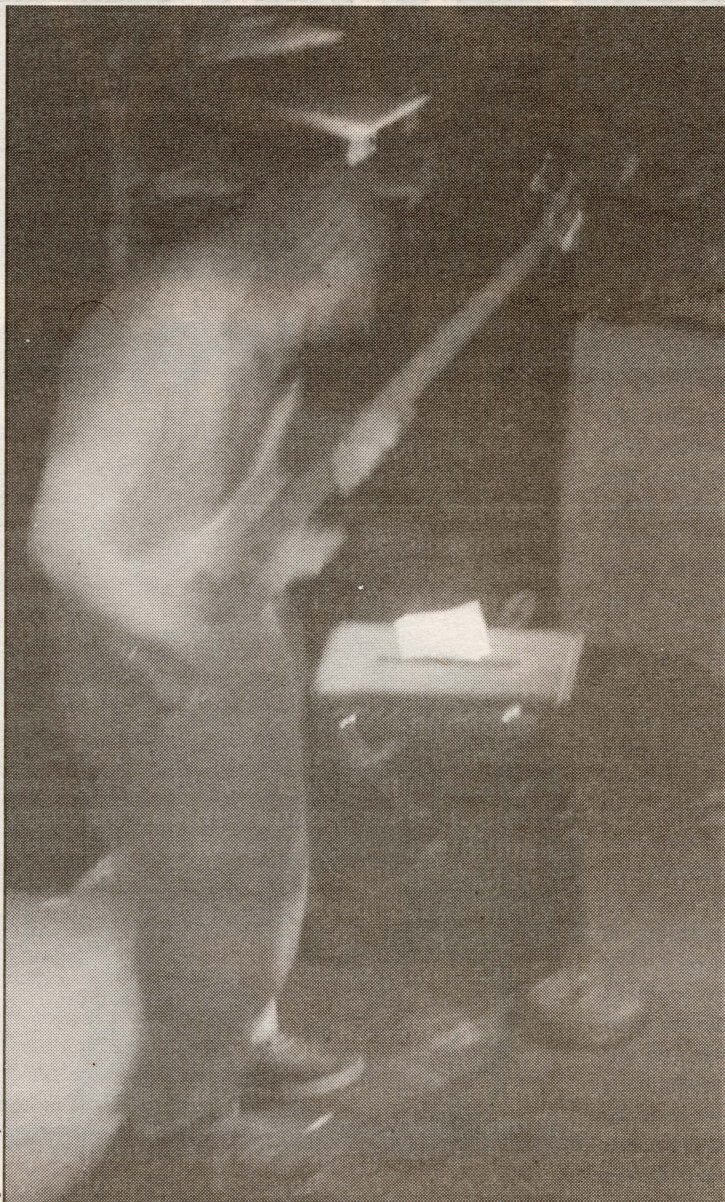


photo by Chad Nelson

The sound of fury signifying everything permeated the air

by Dan Demchuk
Distribution Manager

Maybe I'm going out of my mind. Maybe it was all a dream, a figment of my overactive imagination. I don't remember much of Wednesday, July 23rd.

The flashes of picturesque melodies coupled with smoky cinematic glimpses of stage performers are lost in the haze of my blinded mind's eye. Was I really at the Subterranean? Has the Wizard enchanted me, cast a spell of forgotten lore to

cloud the remembrances of my feeble memory? I must find out. I must remember. Where did it all begin?

The Wizard first spellbound the city of Chicago with fewer than 10 watts of radiated power in 1971, under the call letters WRNE (Radio Northeastern).

On July 8th, 1974, WZRD began broadcasting on 88.3fm with 10 watts of transmitted power in both horizontal and vertical polarizations, spreading the alluring spell of non-commercial radio to listeners on Chicago's near north side and Northeastern's surrounding community. In 1979 WZRD and a consortium of other 10 watt stations began applying for a power increase to 100 watts, which was granted in 1984, concurrently increasing the potential listening audience to millions!

At WZRD, the anonymous wizard is a sorcerer of music itself, not just some glorified CD player. Freeform offers the listener and DJ alike to embark on a musical journey through madness, sadness, happiness, and bliss, creating something wholly new from the raw materials found in the Wizard's music collection of over 40,000 works!

It's as if I'm watching a scratchy silent film, the fields of light and dark flashing, alternating, allowing only a sketchy perception of the Subterranean depths to

which I've sunk. I vaguely remember a tugging of heartstrings and the blue pallor of Franklin Goodlove as the wailing harmonica spoke the words of lost and jilted lovers everywhere. Angelically upon the stage next, if my memory serves correctly, was the Reverend Eric LabRaTT who spoke live jive and sizzled phonetically through an abbreviated sermon. Then an Estrojam goddess enchanted me, dressed all in white, like an apparition or spirit of Hedonists Maybe. Their acoustic revelry wrapped around my senses like a shawl, a veil. I couldn't see the truth or the lies, whether I was above ground or below, lost in sound.

WZRD serves "a unique segment of the population; one that is bored (even offended) by the state of the radio broadcasting art as practiced by most large commercial outlets," allowing Chicago's listeners to hear something new, different, and imaginative everyday for the last 29 years, exposing millions to music they may have never thought possible to produce.

From jazzy experimental noise, to rockabilly blues, metal and hip-hop, trance inducing electronica overlaid with poetry and spoken word, grassroots politics, and off-beat news, the Wizard broadcasts free from format, as well as from annoying 10 minute commercial breaks.

Dan Agent serenaded me into celebration, following a bleary-eyed birthday chorus, in preparation for the sonic ingenuity of Ann Arbor transplants Crush Kill Destroy. I've often asked myself Why People Believe Weird Things, thinking only the Worst Ever thoughts, pondering over exactly what Is The New Black, and on the brink of July 24th Crush Kill Destroy allayed all my concern for answers.

Brian, Toby, Jacob, and Chris became the Optimist, and their set of intelligent soundscape post-rock brought focus, inspiration, and quite literally a new day, the beginning, the end, all throughout and at once, together, to the 29th year.

The Wizard has consistently brought cutting edge, underground originality to the listeners of Chicago, many as a part of its Thursday Night Live series, the catalog of which reads like a lesson in Music History.

WZRD was host to Naked Raygun in '83, Cheer Accident in '89, and the Defoliants in '88, whose lineup included Butch Vig, famed producer for Nirvana, the Smashing Pumpkins, and who is a current member of Garbage.

The Wizard was witness to Billy Corgan's early genius, whose high school goth band made an appearance before returning in 1989 with the Smashing Pumpkins.

Electrifying, DJ Livewire snaked his rhythms and



photo by Chad Nelson

Has the Wizard enchanted me, cast a spell of forgotten lore to cloud the remembrances of my feeble memory?

Are you in a band? Do you want to see you're band's name in print? E-mail us at neiu_rev@yahoo.com, drop off a demo at E-049, or call us at 773-442-4577.

Anniversary Bash

body rocks through the smoke-laden haze, the pulsations and poundings of the electro magnifico spoke volumes to the natural vibrations of the soul. I knew wizards could control the elements, but I was unprepared for the fire erupting and enervating within me, sparked and spurned by the emotive fingertips of a Livewire.

WZRD ushered in the 90's with live performances from The Jesus Lizard, Pegboy, and Impotent Seansnakes, the Smoking Popes, Apocalypse Hoboken, and punk legends like Screeching Weasel, Oblivion, and 88 Fingers Louie.

The 1990's wizards also saw the Flying Lutenbachers, Twang Bang, rockabilly locals Rockin' Billy and his Wild Coyotes, indie rockers Today's My Super Spaceout Day, Mary Tyler Morphine, and Red Red Meat.

Approaching its third decade of freeform, this millennial's wizardry has included live performances by Milkplow and Red River, formed in the wake of Veroscene's split; feminine aggression from Loraxx; a split ep battle between labelmates HeWhoCorrupts and Tusk; Yakuza; Secret Agent Bill, whose performance included support from

members of Parliament Funkadelic and the Red Hot Chili Peppers; and Chris Connelly, founding member of Ministry.

The border had been crossed. Bosco and Jorge escaped the conventions of sanity and released a magical torrent of sound upon the unsuspecting masses gathered high aloft within the Subterranean. Steven Hess beat the incantation's rhythm, Bud Melvin slid the strings of steel, Bill Lowman directed the upright, Brad Gallagher's andante guitar drove the spell to a fever pitch, while Brett Richardson's xylophone exploded with euphoria, the mallets pounding home with percussive passion.

Mike Krause's noise came last, but not least, lulling the mind to ease with the precision expected of a seasoned wizard.

Sadly, all nights must come to a close at dawn, even 29th anniversaries, yet the mystical majesty of the Wizard's enchantment deluded my senses, and I'm left wondering whether the scrivener can be trusted, or if the spell of wizardry has worn off.

**Let the Wizard enrapture
you, see with closed eyes,
listen without being told,
discover freedom and revel
in it.**



A blurry sense of decadent muscial energy filled the room at the Wizard Bash

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THE FUTURE OF RADIO

Battle Royale: a new novel from Koushun

by Jenni Lada
Features Editor

What would you do if you were forced into a situation where you must kill or be killed? The novel *Battle Royale*, by Koushun Takami, places a class of forty two eighth graders into this exact situation. In this controversial novel recently translated from Japanese, boundaries are crossed when a futuristic dictatorship randomly chooses one class of eighth graders each year to participate in a ghastly program. In the beginning the motives even for this event is unclear, due to propaganda spread by their dictatorship.

Students are secretly taken away from their families, on the ruse of being on a class trip, to an undisclosed island location and collared. These explosive collars prevent students from escaping, with the ability to blow up on command and a tracking system. They even stop rebellions; if no one dies within the first twenty-four hours, then all the collars explode at once. Forbidden zones also pop up every hour during the day, and any students in the areas will die.

The story mainly follows three students, mysterious loner Shogo, rebelling rocker Shuya and kind injured Noriko, who band together in an attempt to try and find a way to escape the program. But even this proves difficult, because many of their friends actually are participating in this program out of fear and survival instinct. Some even have lost their minds along the way, not caring about the consequences and enjoying this twisted game.

Despite the grisly atmosphere and large number of students participating, this truly enables to you better see each student's state of mind and personality. When the characters are placed in such a situation, you can see their flaws and even the ingrained goodness in each of them. There are ones who are easy to hate, from Kazou, the boy who possesses no emotions and bases his decision to participate on the toss of a coin, to Mitsuko, the bad girl who technically died a long time ago after years of abuse. Some students are in a position where you want to dislike them, but because of their reasoning and situation, you can't help but care about them. Kayoko is tragic, in that she was a plain girl who shot out of fear, and ended up hurting someone who she cared deeply for. Yoshio is a boy who was always teased, and so immediately begins playing, afraid everyone is going to try

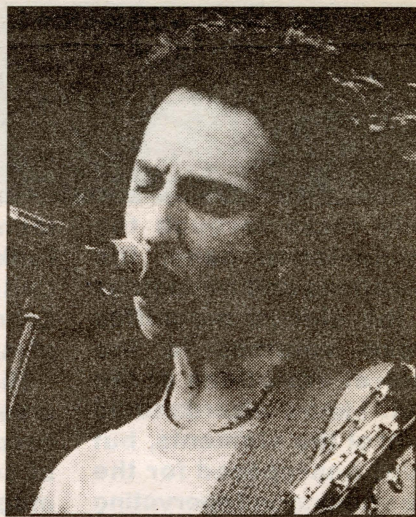
and kill him first.

It also helps emphasize the effects of trust and group mentality. In a way it is even a sociological study. When placed in this situation, you see how quickly people react to such extreme circumstances. You are even allowed a chance to see the best and worst in people. Two students are killed when they simply try to help convince people to fight back and gather people together. One girl is seeking out her friends, simply to use them as human shields. The good and bad sides of trusting people is even highlighted, with the good side being the small band of Shogo, Shuya, and Noriko; and the bad being a small group of 6 girls lead by a student representative.

This incredibly intense and chilling work has been compared to both the novel *Lord of the Flies* and the television series *Survivor*. It gives the chance to see in a gruesome way what the real world is like, the backstabbing and cut-throat world in which we all live in today. It tries to enlighten and show what will happen if people don't assert their freedom, embrace individualism, and have faith in the basic goodness of their fellow man. Even the title refers to the essence of the dog-eat-dog mentality, with the reference to the pro-wrestling matches where upwards of ten men are placed into the ring at once, to fight it out with only one winner.

In a way this intelligent and innovative novel also has a positive effect. Despite the crumbling social situations around them, some friends are able to come together to try to overcome and aid even the people who wish to hurt them. Even the ending provides a positive outlook, helping to prove that, despite there being people in the world who would want to hurt others in order to elevate themselves, essentially good will prevail, and showing that people are able to unconditionally trust one another when the worst happens.

Even despite how horribly violent this novel can be, it carries all the emotions necessary to make it an enjoyable novel for anyone who would want to read an intelligent and thoughtful piece of fiction. You can find romantic, heartwarming, and even rare happy moments in this gritty book. Though it was first shunned and put down by critics in Japan who claimed it was a bloodbath, people looked beyond the reviews and read it on their own, seeing the deeper side and making this series a bestseller which later went on to also be presented under the same name as a graphic novel and movie.



Courtesy of guster.net

New sound, new look works well Guster.

Cooler jam-band second only to Phish

by Duncan Macnab
Production Editor

Guster is back with a new sound and look. After a couple of years in the cave of obscurity, they carved their way back in to the spotlight. This time around they have added electric to the plate. Let me tell you it tastes incredibly well.

Their new album, that came out this summer, *Keeping it Together*, will rock your soul right out of your skin then suck it back in. Although the band's first album, *Parachute*, was amazing for an acoustic work, this one shows that electric sounds really, really cool too.

The band combines electric, acoustic and drums (most of the time with hand drums) and has the sound of Phish with a dash of the Beatles.

This style of music is the key to helping you mellow out on those stressful days. You know, the ones where you just left your complete set of your favorite CD's on the bus except for this album.

Especially the track entitled "Keep it Together." This track tells the story of, in my opinion, keeping your wits about you in moments that may pop up in the days ahead.

Guster has a track that almost to the point tells about the stresses of dealing with growing up. Believe you me, almost everyone will relate to this song with the coolest title, "Red Oyster Cult." Cool right? "Homecoming King" tells the story of the band's history and how they weren't the biggest band around, and kept getting overpowered by other bands. This is, of course, just my opinion.

I'm not sure, but the track "Amsterdam" definitely seems to be about how their opening bands, for example, John Mayer, get bigger than they do, wink, wink. But a very good track. Another good song is "Backyard." It has some very uplifting power chords and a very melancholy, but enjoyable, harmonica solo.

This CD is definitely their break out album and they are finally getting larger. Because let's face it a band can try to stay in the underground, but when one runs out of gas money one needs to get bigger to earn more money.

The band has been around for nearly as long as Dave Matthews, but now after their fourth album they get there moment to shine.

This CD will rock you, move you, and make you have a good 'ol time blasting the music on that perfect road trip. There are only one or maybe two tracks that aren't the best, but the album as a whole is tantrically astonishing.

Oh, also, don't forget to see Guster at the Aragon, October 24th. Visit guster.com to find out the time and cost for the show. I've followed the band since *Parachute*, so I most definitely will try to promote this ill ass band.

So go out and buy this CD, then see them at the Aragon, and you'll see what I've been talking about since the early nineties.

Khyber Pass is the perfect path for Indian food

by Cecilia Carboni
Production Editor

I was never a fan of Indian food until I dined at Khyber Pass. My father had taken me to Indian restaurants along Devon many times, yet I never found anything I really liked. Finally I did, nestled in downtown Oak Park at 1031 Lake Street.

Stepping in, one is warmly greeted by a very cozy atmosphere. Not only is it tastefully decorated in traditional Indian colors and accented by beautiful paintings, one is also soothed by the sitar music that floats in the air.

Ambience is definitely a compliment to the main attraction: the food. There is a menu, yet I favor the buffet. For those trying a certain cuisine for the first time this is a convenient choice. It provides variety without the usual costs and a chance to let your taste buds explore. Here, I especially enjoy the buffet because they realize that it is not necessary to trade in quality for quantity. The cuisine originates from

Northern India, from which the owner's immigrated. They owned a restaurant there and the experience shows. The authentic flavor is a welcomed change.

First on my plate was an appetizer known as Samosa: lightly fried pyramids of dough which contain potatoes. Next is some Peas Palau, which is Basmati rice with cloves, cumin seeds, and cinnamon. Good by itself, yet a great compliment to the lamb curry, the mixed vegetables, and the Dal Mukhni, which is made of lentils, ginger, and tomato. All these entrees have their own unique flavor and are spiced to perfection.

Most of the people I've spoken to do not like the amount of curry used in most Indian food. The Khyber Pass has made an exception by distinguishing between the flavor that spices add to a dish and that which is considered "spicy," making their dishes a treat to the palate and never overwhelming. There are other entrees, all with their own distinct sauce, as well as fresh salad and soup.

There are two highlights to the meal that I looked forward to. The flat bread,

named Nan, is one of them. It is a white bread that resembles a lighter and crunchier pita. The second highlight is an entree that is brought to the table. Sizzling as it is brought out, the Tandon chicken is delicious. It is a peculiar shade of red, similar to the shell of a crab and sits on a bed of grilled onions. Whatever its color, it is very tender and never dry. Definitely an interesting twist to the chicken we're used to every day.

For dessert there is homemade mango ice cream and rice pudding. Definitely a great way to top off the meal. Also, for those who want to dine in style, there is a wine list available.

The Khyber Pass provides a wonderful dining experience. Not only do I think so, but I am backed up by reviews done by the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Sun Times*, *Chicago Magazine*, *Conscious Choice*, and the *Wednesday Journal*. A clean environment with a kind staff and delicious food is a definite recipe for a return customer. If you need any other reasons, on Saturdays from 7-9 there are live belly dancers and on Fridays there is live sitar music.

Profile: OAR's revolution is just beginning

by Duncan Macnab
Production Editor

The name Of a Revolution came from a phrase in a story, entitled "The Wanderer" written by Marc Roberge, the lead singer. The name was more of naming what the band is about, meanings brought about from their music. The following is an interview with the band's bass guitarist, Benj Gersman. Also with a little research from the band's website, www.ofarevolution.com.

A group of junior high kids decided to create a band that would become one of the most impressive bands of the new millennium. They grew up in a town outside of Washington, D.C. Rockville, Maryland. Then continued to Ohio State University. Trading their music there over the net spread their popularity. So it was only natural that when jumped on the road the started selling out shows.

They are two years out of college and have already performed on David Letterman and Conan O'Brien. Road-life is a tough job, but with constant contact between family and loved-ones are the things that keep them from insanity, wink, wink. We love it. "The road is treating us well," says Benj Gersman, bass guitarist for OAR. "When we graduated college we wanted to go on the road full time as much as possible. For the band at one point they felt the band was strong enough to support them financially, so a few left early, but the feel that one person growing up to get as much of there education as possible. They are planning there next tour schedule mid October through the end of November and then go back out in January, but is still not completed.

With a band like Dave Matthews covering Bob Dylan's "All Along the Watchtower," OAR chose their trademark cover to be U2's "Sunday Bloody Sunday." They really enjoy U2's work. It is a song about the atrocities of war, and how that

affects us as people. Benj said, "We have strong feelings about that [war], and we are not going to hide them."

With in the past year OAR signed with Everfine Record and Lava Records (Blue Man Group's record label). The band is very excited with the deal and feels that good things are happening. Benj feels he is speaking for the band in that he feels that Lava has helped undoubtedly with marketing their new album, *In Between Now and Then* and that the promoting the album through the road adds to the advertisement and selling of the album. The band would also like to tell all Chicagoans that they will be performing at Tweeter Center on September 6th doors open at 3:30, be sure log-on to their webpage for ticket information. This show is a part of the Sprite Liquid Mix Tour, supporting bands are N*E*R*D*, The Roots, Robert Randolph & the Family Band, Talib Kweli, and Slightly Stoopid.

GLBA Ball receives funding for Coming Out Ball October 10th

Dear Editor,

All members of the GLBA (Gay Lesbian Bisexual & Allies) would like to thank the Student Government for approving the funding for our Second Annual GLBA Coming Out Ball! We would like to inform all students that the Second Annual GLBA Coming Out Ball will be held October 10th, 2003 in Alumni Hall from 8pm to 1am. This was one of the most evening events held at NEIU last year and is guaranteed to be a great time for all NEIU students, faculty and community members. (All are welcome to this event regardless of sexual orientation.) Admissions is free to NEIU students. Internationally acclaimed performing artist Ember Swift will be performing and a DJ will provide entertainment at this formal event. This year the GLBA is expecting over 500 people to attend the event which will also be raising funds for two worthy charities, Lesbian Community Cancer Project (LCCP) and the Test Positive Awareness Network (TPAN) which provides counseling and support for those diagnosed with HIV. In upcoming weeks we will working hard to plan a fabulous event for the NEIU community. If you would like to help plan this event please come to a GLBA meet (FA 153 1:40 - 2:40 pm on Thursdays) or call Anne at extension 4550. We hope you will mark your calendars and attend this event!

Members of the GLBA

President Bush keeps on spending

Dear Editor,

Before George W. Bush's father became President, one invulnerable submarine could destroy any country on Earth.

The Cold War ended over 10 years ago. The former Soviet Union split into 15 countries. There are about 300 million people in the U.S. For each of the past 10 years, the U.S. has been spending about \$300 billion for defense. In other words, the U.S. has been spending about \$1000 per person per year for the last 10 years.

It would take about 17,000 New York City sized terrorist attacks to equal the deaths of World War II. About 3,000 people died in New York on September 11, 2001; WWII killed about 50,000,000. One U.S. submarine now has more firepower than all of WWII.

According to page 207 of the 2003 World Almanac, the U.S. defense budget is now 5 times larger than the Russian budget. All Western European nations are allies of the U.S.

Still, George W. Bush has obtained large increases in non-terrorist related defense spending.

Sincerely,

Chris Collins

LETTER POLICY

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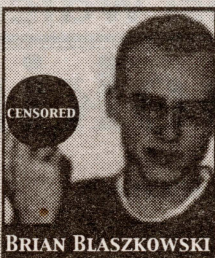
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VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

If it wasn't for the SGA circus, I would have nothing to write about



BRIAN BLASZKOWSKI

WELL, MY SUMMER SUCKED, BUT THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT RIGHT NOW. OVER THE SUMMER, I WAS IN SCHOOL MORE THAN WAS GOOD FOR MY HEALTH AND SANITY, AND LIKE ALWAYS, I WAS KEEPING TABS ON THE HAPPENINGS OF THE SGA (STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION, FOR ALL YOU NEW PEOPLE). I DON'T REALLY EVEN KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN. I DON'T KNOW IF I EVEN HAVE ENOUGH ROOM IN THIS COLUMN TO COVER IT ALL. WELL, NO TIME TO WASTE, THEN.

I'll start with the Student Judiciary Board (SJB, because that's a lot to type and I'm lazy), which is a fancy name for the Supreme Court. They've been hearing petitions filed against SGA President Gary Gaspard about the various ways he's breaking the SGA Constitution, amongst other things. I swear, I don't think the SJB is even aware that the SGA has a Constitution, because just about every single ruling they have made violates the Constitution. Either that or they're illiterate. Of course, some of the Justices are members of the Assyrian club, a club which fully endorsed Gaspard's Presidential nomination. Is it a coincidence that they now are protecting him by *breaking* the very Constitution they're supposed to uphold?

The Justices are pathetic. They've sent out letters that are in accordance to one chapter in the Bylaws but break the *very next damn chapter!* In conversations with people whom have petitions up for a Hearing (which also is against the Constitution, I believe), they have demonstrated that they don't know the Constitution. Time and again, it's apparent that the SJB has not even *read* the Constitution fully. Am I the only asshole out there who thinks that's a pretty big dereliction of duties?

Not only that, but they send their Hearing notifications by certified mail. That's obviously so they can ensure that the people get them, but let's look at this logically. What about those of us who live alone and go to school during the day? You have to sign for certified mail, who the hell is going to sign for it when the house is empty? Or what if you go to school and work? Who's got the time to drive to some random post office and pick up a letter? Why don't they send letters, email, *and* post a list of the hearings on the SGA corkboard? Hell, if you're trying to get a hearing, surely you'd be willing to find the corkboard and search for your name. Doesn't make just a tiny but of sense?

To hell with the Justices for now, they suck and obviously are only there to keep Gary in office. Let's talk about the head honcho himself a little bit. Gary has not changed since my other columns. In Finance Committee meetings, according to members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alliance (GLBA), while they were talking about the funds they needed for their Second Annual Coming-Out Ball (\$5607, to be exact), Gary would get up and walk out, talking on his cell phone. He would just up and leave, and then he would come back in and start talking about how he doesn't want to give them all the money they need.

Not only this, but in a recent SGA meeting, he stood up and said something that caused even my jaw to drop. A member of the GLBA was talking and said that she hoped their request for funds for the Ball wouldn't be withheld due to bias against them. Gary stood up and said that it was OK for Senators to be biased.

I'll repeat that, because it's kind of interesting. Our SGA President, Gary Gaspard, said that it was ok for Senators of the Student Government Association of NEIU, the most diverse university there is, to be biased against groups of people. Apparently, due to the implicit statement made by Gary, racism is OK. I guess it's also OK to be biased against gays and lesbians. Understandably, the GLBA is upset with that. NEIU is supposed to be a diverse community, with all sorts and accepting all sorts, but according to our SGA President, it's OK for the Senators to be biased. Wow.

Gary's implicit endorsement of homophobia aside, the Senate passed the budget and agreed to fund the GLBA's Coming-Out Ball. I think this was mostly due to the presence of the GLBA, who freely answered any and all questions, and the comments of two Senators in particular, Senator Dan Gonzalez and Senator Michael Magee. Gonzalez pointed out that the SGA just paid \$5000 so that ten people could go to a leadership conference, and here they were discussing withholding \$5000 from the GLBA for an event that 500 people will attend. Senator Magee agreed, calling the debate over this reprehensible. So, the money was approved, but Gary all but promised to veto it and withhold the money from the GLBA, because remember: it's OK to be biased! Right, Gary?

Enough about Gary. Let's talk about the Senators themselves. At the same meeting during which Gary gave a "thumbs-up" to being biased, Kendra Young was voted in as the 20th Senator, now occupying the formerly vacant seat. The Senate was given an opportunity to ask her questions, but chose not to. I'd like to know why, seeing as how many of the Senators are aware of Young's past and her transgressions. She has a letter of Reprimand on her SGA record, but no one asked about it. No one asked about her work as former Student Trustee. Not one question.

While upsetting, this shouldn't have surprised me. Our Senators are all worthless. Every single one of them. Sure, every now and then someone will display a spark of life, like Gonzalez and Magee did with the GLBA funds, but for the most part the Senators just sit there and do nothing. We have Senators, people who should be *representing* us, coming in late to meetings *all the time*. We have people leaving early *all the time*. We have people leaving their damn cell phones on, like they don't even realize how rude that is.

We have Senators who get up and leave while someone is talking, then come back in when they're finished and say that they agree with everything that they said, even though *they didn't hear it!* Senators show up late and vote on things that they don't understand. What the hell, man. What is wrong with you Senators? I know some of them are just there to do what Gary says, like Senator Anarwala. I swear in all the time I've known that guy, the only words I've heard him say are "I second" after Gary makes a motion. Gary looks at him, he raises his hand to vote. Gary shakes his head at him, he leaves his hand down. I'm wondering if he's some sort of automaton that Gary made, seeing as how he displays absolutely no independent thought of his own.

Perhaps the worst thing the Senators do is something that a few of them told me in the recent meeting: "We all know how the vote is going to turn out anyway, so what's the point in trying?" You have *got* to be shitting me. What's the point in trying? What the hell are you doing sitting in that Senate seat, representing students, if you're *not* going to try? God damn it, I've never heard anything so pathetic!

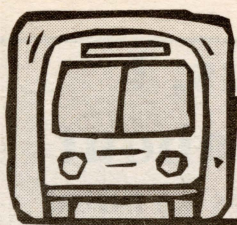
Not *one* of you Senators sitting in those chairs deserves those seats. Not *one*. All of you just show up, play with yourselves, and then vote on things you don't even understand. If you really don't even want to try, then get the hell out of the seat! Quit and let someone in there who gives a damn about the SGA.

I hear a lot of big talk from Senators, about how they'll stand up for this and they'll do that and they'll make a motion for this, but when push comes to shove, they're all talk. It really pisses me off when they look at me and say shit like that. Really, my friendships with some of you aside, you're all pathetic. You should all be *ashamed* of yourselves. Seriously, all of you need to go home and realize that you're doing the students a disservice with your lackadaisical involvement. Grow a sack and stand up for yourselves and for the students you're supposedly representing.

In a nutshell, that is our SGA. We have Senators who act like Gary's puppets, Senators who don't even bother trying to do what they were elected to do, and a Supreme Court who obviously is unaware that they need to uphold and follow the Constitution. On top of it all, we have an SGA President who gave the green-light to be biased.

I hope it's OK to be biased against incompetent and cowardly Senators, an illiterate and oblivious Supreme Court, and a corrupt dictator of an SGA President; otherwise, I might be in trouble.

Opinions



The Commuter

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



NEIU students finding one way to buy books for their classes.

Looking for books?

It isn't an open and shut case

by Franklin Silencieux
Staff writer

If you're like me, you like the look and smell of fresh, newly-printed books, preferably laminated. But once you spot the price tags, those used books at the bottom shelf begin to look really good.

Ripped, written on, and reeking of cigarettes, sure, but still inexpensive and able to get the job done. Lucky for us there are plenty of other sources for books, especially online.

Reputable online stores are great places to find both new and used college textbooks. Barnes & Noble, eCampus.com, and even Wal-Mart have easy-to-use websites and a long list of titles. Of the many online stores offering books, Amazon.com is one of the most reliable.

With its wide selection and secure account services, Amazon is a virtual mall, with one large floor dedicated to college textbooks. They list the new-book price and its availability, but they also provide a list of used book prices offered by individual sellers. When buying used books though, you have to proceed at your own risk. With seller comments like "*This book is really not pretty, but is totally functional,*" you have to judge how high or low you're willing to go. But with its reviews, easy



photo by Patrick O'Brien

Student Brenda Roman checks out the offerings at Beck's.

shopping, and multiple shipping options, Amazon is a great place to shop for books.

There are other websites that can help the frugal buyer find the right book at the right price and, just as importantly, in the right condition. Middlemen sites don't sell you the actual books, but they tell you where you can get it. For example, Getcheapbooks.com is an amazing little WebCrawler that compares multiple online stores, not just the popular ones, and provides you with a list of prices. It's a slower search engine, but the results can be worth it. They describe what condition the books are in and how reliable the stores are, and they even factor shipping

prices into the total costs. With these sites, it's good to know the ISBN of the book you're looking for. An author, title or subject search takes longer.

There are also great opportunities to sell your books online through some of these same companies and others. One of these companies, PDXbooks, lets you set your own price, report the condition, and wait for any interested buyers.

However, if you are someone without access to the web, you can always find what you need at Beck's Bookstores. Its take-it-or-leave-it pricing and you might not always have the options of buying a used copy of a book, but it's incredibly convenient and right on campus.

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These burgers are the boss

by Joe Hertel
Staff writer

A noticeable change has occurred in the food court area, managed by Sodexho Campus Services, as we begin the Fall Semester.

According to manager Mark Weiner, both students and faculty are going to be pleased with the many new gastronomic offerings that have been added since last semester.

Besides the already immense salad bar, delicious home style soups, Pizza Hut and the Chicago Style grill, Sodexho will be introducing a new sub sandwich shop which will consist of premium meats, cheeses and roasted vegetables served on "old world" crusty French and whole grained breads with hot or cold serving options.

The food court will retain its value deli sandwich shop without a price increase, and will add several new salad options with fresh seasonal greens and a variety of toppings.

In addition to Sodexho's famous world class special entrees, which have always been well received here on campus for those of us who enjoy a good sit down meal, they will be offering a greater variety of "grab and go" items for those who are on the move (or late for class).

These will include value priced baguette sandwiches, assorted prepared salads, healthy yogurt and granola parfaits, microwaveable snack items, sushi (yes, sushi), and a large variety of fresh fruits and desserts.

As in the past, Sodexho will always have many vegetarian options. They are also more than willing to accommodate any specific dietary and/or allergic conditions.

If you have any specific requests or questions, just stop down at the Sodexho office, located in room SU009 in the northeast corner of the

food court area, where friendly staff will be happy to assist you.

And a note for incoming freshmen epicureans: You will find the food and offerings in the cafeteria diverse, tasty, and reasonably priced. Especially watch for the food court's ethnic style specials which occur from time to time. It's an all-you-can-fit-on-your-plate; buffet operation that is an enjoyable culinary experience.

Mark Weiner and his staff go out of their way to insure your satisfaction of selection in the food court area, and these new changes will only enhance the already abundant offerings provided for your dining pleasure.

You are encouraged to visit the food court and see for yourself the changes that have been made.

After all, some of us are going to be around here for quite a while, and a good place to eat on campus is a bonus.



Photo courtesy of multimedia.lycos.com

by Shayna LaBue
Staff writer

Tattoos are more popular now than at any recorded time in history. They are able to be legally attained at the age of 21, in Illinois, and while many wonder what the attraction is to this unique form of art, many more are embracing it. It's now a common sight to see random people covered in tattoos. The process involves piercing the skin with a sharp tool that inserts the colored material into the skins' top layers.

Though today's methods don't sound like a walk in the park they are far more pleasant than the methods used in either ancient Japan or in Egypt in 2000 B.C. They didn't have the sterilized needles and professional training and knowledge we have today. Though tattooing may seem like a new style of expression, it actually has deeper roots of origin than we may think.

The earliest form of tattooing was discovered on a mummified Iceman's body. The body dates back to 3300 B.C. and displays unusual markings on the skin that may indicate as the earliest valid proof of tattooing.

More recently, with evidence dating back to 2000 B.C. showed the art was practiced by the Egyptians. This knowledge was derived from Egyptian hieroglyphics and the body markings discovered on certain clay dolls that mimicked body art of today. Egypt's way of tattooing was then refined by people in that live in what is now China, India, and Japan then was introduced to the Maories, native peoples of New Zealand. Then later, spread across seas in the 16th century to Europe by travelers. But then, due to the growth in Christianity, it was forbidden for many years.



Tattooing has been a way of self-expression for a myriad of centuries.

Tattoos: a story under the skin



Left: a primitive tool used to tattoo before needles were used. Right: a ancient celtic design often seen today.



accepted." Mostly during the 1940's tattooed males requested anything from lingerie, skirts, brassieres, fans, bubbles, flowers, and even butterflies to cover the nudity of the girls on their arms.

A few examples of some of the most popular seaman tattoos were rope around the wrist to show if a man was a deckhand, a golden dragon to show if a man crossed the international date line, a full rigged ship to show a man had sailed around Cape Horn, and to have port and starboard on the left and right sides of a man's body.

If you ever think of getting a tattoo and don't think you can take the pain, listen to someone who has had a tattoo done. I personally hate needles and once cried in High School while I gave blood. However, having a tattoo done wasn't as bad as I thought it would be. The only real unpleasantness was when they tattooed over bone because it caused a weird vibration all the way down my arm. Other than that, it just feels like a mild annoyance. Tattoos are easy to care for, reasonably priced, and fun to show off. The choice is yours.

The art form rose to popularity in New World in 1909 when the United States Government issued a warning to potential males joining any service that "indecent tattooing [tattoos of nude women] is cause for rejection, the applicant should be given an opportunity to alter the design in which event he may be

Is the economy going back in time?

by Miriam R. Pertea
Staff Writer

Is we is, or is we ain't bouncing back? That phrase, while not grammatically correct, reflects how some of us feel about our economy. Late in November 2001, experts had concluded that the U.S. is officially in a recession. However, there have recently been some news articles proclaiming that we are slowly inching out of it. To reach an educated guess on this dilemma and the status of our economy, we must examine several components will show where our economy stands. If these defining factors will steadily show for a prolonged period of time, then we can safely conclude that this country is out of recession.

According to www.howstuffworks.com, "A recession is defined as a prolonged period of time when a nation's economy is slowing down or contracting." This slowing is characterized by consumers spending less, a decrease in factory output, a rise of unemployment, a decline in personal income, and a wavering stock market. Our economy has been experiencing all of these defining factors. Unemployment has hit many close to home as we have witnessed our loved ones enrolling on the payroll of the government. In turn, the insecurity of jobs made consumers spend less, which in turn calls for the production of fewer products. Fewer workers were needed for manufacturing goods, which therefore resulted in more unemployment. These definitions are in reference to a downward spiral of a slumping economy.

Obviously, the opposite is true of a good economy.

There are several factors defining a good economy. High consumer spending, an increased or a steady factory output in production, a steady employment rate, a high or steady personal income, and a yielding stock market really determine a positive economy. What goes down must come up, and what goes up must come down!

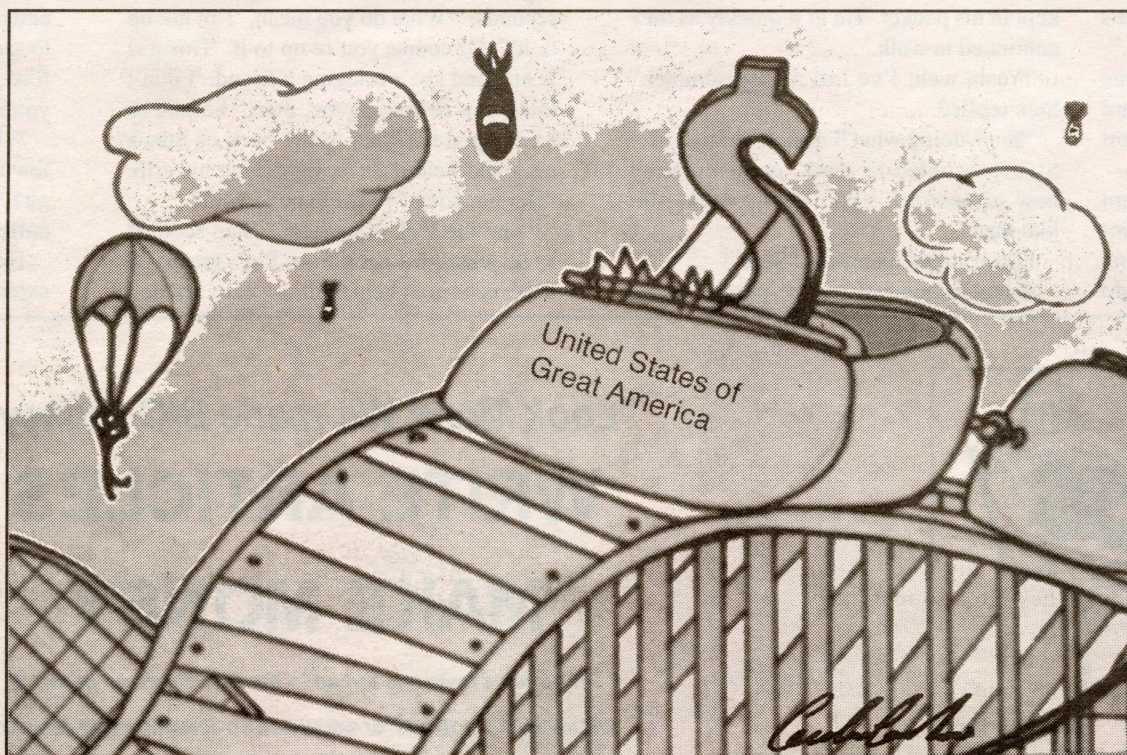
This is the wave of an economy. It all has to do with supply and demand. A growing economy will show an increase in consumer demand. An increase in demand means that the product supply needs to increase, resulting in demand for employment. If the consumer is confident and secure in employment and has money to spend, then they

will spend and spend some more, which causes capital to be floating within the market. This capital is then available for use and growth while producing more capital, hence a rich, good, and healthy economy. Have these defining factors of a growing economy been peaking out these past few months?

According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the Gross Domestic Product has shown a slight improvement. In addition to that, the BEA reports that since April, personal income percentage has rose from 0.2 to 0.3, and has held 0.3 in the month of June as well. "Private wage and salary disbursement increased \$9.9 billion in June, compared with an increase of \$7.1 billion in May." The Yahoo! News bulletins have

been posting positive articles on the economy as well, with titles such as "Productivity Soars, Jobless Claims Drop," and "U.S. Productivity Soars 5.7 Percent in Second Quarter."

Slight economic improvement have been peaking out like a slight curve of an upward moving wave. Experts will be on the lookout to announce any movement of the economy. We will soon know for sure if our economy has indeed climbed out of this recession. Until our economy is declared well again (and on a humorous note to all of us who like to shop and feel guilty about it), as consumers, we can lend a helping hand in speeding up the process of our economic recovery by spending and spending all we can. Of course, any bounce-back takes patience and time.



Music to get you talking

Some most liked songs of our time are strategically used in the most unexpected ways

by Jenni Lada
Features Editor

Remember when your parents told you that heavy metal could be hazardous to your health? Well, in a way your parents might have been right.

Starting in around 1989, the United States started using music as a method of interrogation when dealing with people from foreign countries in times of war. Along with other methods of interrogation, such as sleep deprivation and solitary confinement, playing certain types of music non-stop is also very common and effective. At times, psychological pressure such as this can even be more effective.

According to research and testing done on recruits during training, the use of heavy metal music is very effective. Because the people they are dealing with have never heard music of this genre before, they are completely unaccustomed to it. Even after hearing it for only twenty-four hours, their train of thought slows down and they start to begin talking.

A wide variety of music is also used for these purposes. Older songs, such as Guns and Roses' *Welcome to the Jungle* and Metallica's *Enter Sandman* are used as frequently as newer songs, like Drowning Pool's *Bodies*. These songs are played on a loop over and over for captives in order to help the army gain information.

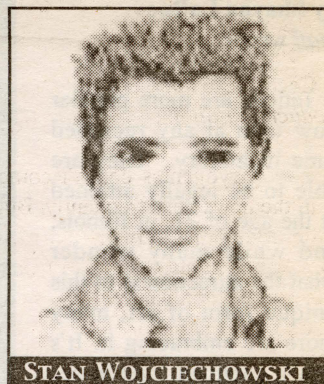
Along with the heavy metal songs that you would expect is a song that, deep down in your heart, you knew could make anyone crumble. The *I Love You* song from the well known children's television show, Barney the Dinosaur, is also among the songs that the army uses most often. Many US operatives who had to train under these conditions cited this song as the one that tormented them the most.

Music is used in many ways by the US operatives though, not only for interrogation. High levels of music are often also used by the army to drive people out of hiding. For example, when the United States was searching for Al-Qaida in Afghanistan, music was directed at caves where terrorists were thought to be hiding.



ANDREA ZELINSKI

Stan's Life



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI

Welcome to Stan's life, a story about dealing with the dramas of life; stress, school, college, love, sex, drugs, and rock and roll. You'll read into Stan's thoughts, feelings, and most intimate struggles while he tries to discover who he truly wants to be. So be prepared for anything.

"Baby if you give it me, I'll give it to you, as long as you want. You know I've got it."

"Oh shut up!" Stan mumbled as he rolled around on his bed and covered his ears with the pillow. The music from the alarm continued to roar through to his ears. "Oh Jesus!" he yelled as the music grew too loud for him to sleep through. He pulled himself to the foot of his bed and leaned over to the dresser, turning off the alarm.

Stan sat there for a moment and gazed at a picture sitting next to the alarm on his dresser. An attractive girl, maybe twenty-two-years-old, sat on a park bench next to him. His arm was draped around her shoulders while his free hand was laced with hers.

He blinked, joggling himself out of the trance between him and the picture. He closed his eyes and took a deep breath, leaning back onto the bed and falling back asleep.

A half-hour later, he slowly rolled out of bed, showered, and starting to gather his backpack for school. He fingered through his hair with a little bit of jelly as he walked toward the living room to see a strange man sitting on his couch. *What the ...*

"Hey, Stan," the man said as he lifted himself from the couch and into the light shining through the living room window. The light revealed the soft features of Elliott, a twenty-year-old Asian kid he met his first year at Northeastern. By coincidence, they live barely ten minutes away from each other in the same neighborhood, letting their friendship sprout from asking each other for rides home into a companionship.

"Oh hey. I didn't recognize you."

"Yeah, all us Asians look alike, huh?" Elliot joked as he started looking at the pictures around the living room. He stopped as he noticed picture after picture was of the same girl. "You haven't taken these down?"

Stan stopped thumbing through his hair, "Shut up man. Let's go."

"Whatever. All I've got to say is that it's been four months. Its time to let her go."

"I don't want to talk about this," Stan replied, picking up his backpack and heading toward the front door. Elliott followed him out.

They reached the borders of Northeastern Illinois University just as the parking lot began to fill up. Pulling into the back of the Science Building parking lot, Stan caught



a glimpse of another familiar face. He rolled down the window and yelled out to a man who looked to be twenty-three-years old. The dark skinned male turned around, revealing nothing but his dark sunglasses and thick goatee covering a well-tanned face. He gave a nod to Stan as he shut the door to his jet black Pontiac Sunfire. He leaned against the car while Stan and Elliott walked toward him.

"Well, if it isn't Sid?! What's going on?" Stan asked as the man gazed at him through the dark, thick lens of his sunglasses. "Haven't seen you around in a long time."

"I haven't seen you around either, chump," the man said as the three of them began to walk towards the Student Union. Standing at about five foot eleven with a medium build and dark brown to black hair, Sid walked with a discrete strut to his step. He had always been known as the bad boy and bad ass by his crew. Sid pulled a Salem cigarette from a small tin he kept in his pocket. He lit it quickly as they continued to walk.

"Yeah, well, I've had a busy summer," Stan replied.

"Busy doing what?" Elliott chimed in. Stan continued to walk, contemplating how to answer. "You know, work, shit like that."

Elliott rolled his eyes. "Sure."

A few minutes of silence passed before

they closed in on the Student Union. The construction to the right of the entrance left an unsettled look in the university landscape. Random cement borders and walkways were guarded by a tall, silver fence. *You'd think they would have finished this project before classes started. That's Northeastern for ya.*

"Yeah," Sid started before taking a long drag on his cigarette, "Well, I'm meeting up with some girl I met at a club last week. She said she'd bring a friend and shit," Sid changed his voice to sound like Stan. "You coming, or do you have to 'work and shit like that?'" he mimicked.

Stan cringed as he tried to avoid Sid and Elliott's faces. "I'm not up to it," he paused. "Maybe next time," he said approaching the Frappa Moca coffee shop in Village Square. He pulled out a couple dollars and ordered a large coffee.

Expressions of confusion, frustration, and anger swept over Sid's face in a matter of seconds. "What do you mean, 'I'm not up to it?'" Of course you're up to it. This girl is hot, and she's bringing a friend. I don't think you're hearing me, Stan," he said as he slapped his hand to the back of Stan's neck and held it there, tightening his grip. "Her hot friend wants to bone you!"

"Get the f*ck outta here," Stan scolded as he jerked his neck from Sid's grasp. "I don't need your help finding a date, nor do I

want it. Just give it a rest, Sid," Stan paused. "And what the hell makes you think that I'm just looking for a girl to bone? Jesus!" Grabbing the coffee off the counter, Stan scooped up a handful of creamers and sugars and stormed down the hall towards class alone.

He eventually found his room hidden on the third floor of the Classroom Building. The muscles in his legs throbbed as he found an empty seat in the third row. He sat his books on the desk and waited patiently for the professor to pass out the syllabus. *Who the hell does he think he is,* he thought as began to reflect on his fight with Sid. *God, I don't want to bone anyone. I don't even have the heart to date again. Screw that, I can't even look at women anymore. All I see is Tori...the one that got away.*

The professor cleared his throat as the classroom began to echo with awkward shuffling interrupting the silence. As soon as he began talking, Stan resumed to dwell on Tori and what they had left behind. *None of these women even come close to her,* he thought as he briefly scanned the room, searching for a familiar face. *Sure, some are good looking, but they aren't her. They pale in comparison. She's the one I need.*

While he sat there, dazing at the chalkboard, he consumed himself in thoughts of emptiness and longing. He moved his arm hypnotically to pretend to take notes when he pushed his coffee off the edge of his desk. The creamy, tall white cup tilted upside down as it fell, crashing into the foot of the girl sitting next to him.

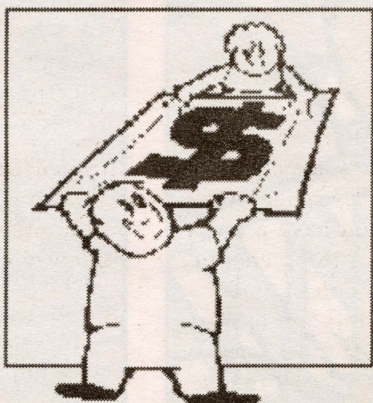
She screamed as the scorching hot liquid splashed all over her pants and sandals. She violently kicked off her shoe and lifted her knee to her chest to console her foot. "What the ..." she mouthed as the entire class turned around to look at her.

"I'm so sorry," Stan whispered to the girl as he picked up the fallen cup. He kneeled on the floor and leaned over to pick up the her sandal, looking up to the judging eyes of his classmates. His cheeks flushed as he returned to a sitting position and faced the professor. "Sorry," he said with a soft undertone. The professor shot a hard stare at the two as he restarted his lecture.

"I can't tell you how sorry I am," Stan sighed as he lowered his head in embarrassment. He lifted his eyes to hers to see a once infuriated expression soften. She smiled in response. "Don't beat yourself up about it," she replied.

When the professor released the class a few minutes early, Stan turned back to the girl. "Now that's I've introduced you to my coffee, my name is Stan."

Her lips revealed a soft smile as she extended her hand, "I'm Isabella."



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Cryogenics being given the cold shoulder by science, public

by Cecilia Carboni
Production Editor

Cryogenics doesn't come up in the news very frequently. But while cryogenics remains an idea from science fiction story to many in the public, companies such as the Alcor Life Extension Foundation have clients willing to pay high prices for the promise of being able to continue their lives someday in the future.

Alcor is a prominent company stationed in Riverside, California, which is funded by the Manrise Company. It performed its first suspension on July 16, 1976, and its followers have slowly grown. Presently, Alcor has 98 living members.

The price of such a procedure depends on the options the client chooses. A client can pay \$100,000 for their entire body or they can become a "neuro" for just \$35,000.

At the moment of death, the client is rushed to Alcor to be prepared for the freezing process. Getting the body there quickly reduces the damage that it could sustain.

It is attached to a CPR machine for circulation and glycerol is pumped into the veins as a blood substitute. The body is placed in a silicone oil bath and over the course of three days its temperature drops down to 110 degrees below zero. The body is then placed in liquid nitrogen. Paying \$100,000 means your entire body stands upside down in stainless

steel tanks. In "neuro" only the head is preserved and the rest of the body is either buried or cremated. These are held in specialized containers and stored in a concrete vault. The costs cover not only the initial process but also maintenance. Once the liquid nitrogen begins to warm it evaporates and it must be replaced weekly.

A large percentage of the science community shuns those who believe in cryogenics. In its 25 years, cryogenics has had little success. There are several companies besides Alcor with the same goal, but all are at about the same point when it comes to their success rate.

Many of those foundations are run on low funds by independent researchers. One such company started by freezing hamsters in a garage. Of the 30 people frozen before 1973, only one remains.

Companies simply can't afford to maintain them because of the time span between freezing periods. Alcor's web site gives information on Term-Life, Whole life, and Universal Life insurance. If the funds start running low a whole body can be demoted to a neuro.

The future for these frosty time travelers is still unsure. There is still no concrete answer as to how these people will be brought back and under what conditions. Some scientists believe that even if they were reanimated it would be like bringing back a vegetable, the damage done by ice crystals to neurons could be irreversible. Even if it does successfully regain consciousness

a "neuro" is only a head, but those who believe in the science are convinced that a future where clients can be reawakened would be likewise endowed with the technology to create a new body for them.

Cryogenics remains an unstable science and an unregulated industry. It is full of ideals and dreamers which are still limited by the very boundaries of medicine.

For many, however, this seems to possibly provide an escape when faced with death. The prospect of a different life in the future helps gives them the idea that they may still have a chance at immortality.

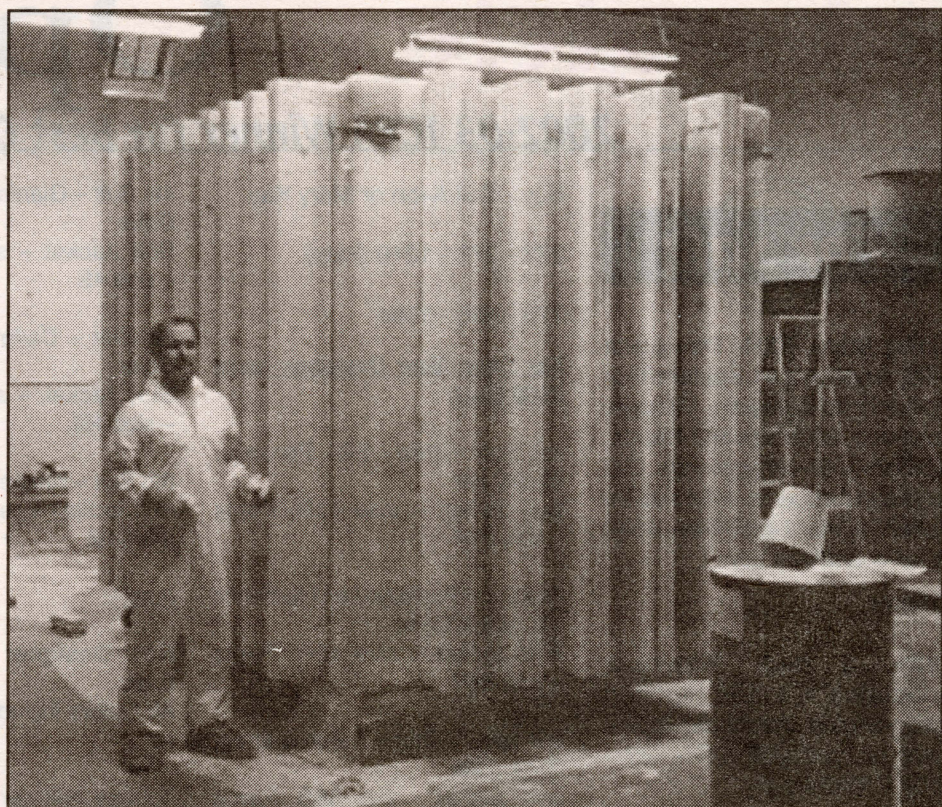


Photo courtesy of cryoforce.com

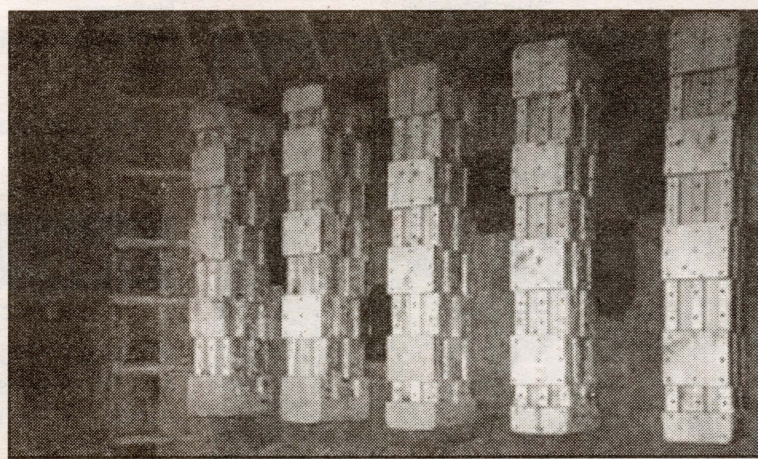


Photo courtesy of cryoforce.com

Above and below: Workers attending to those who have opted to be frozen for future use. Frozen bodies are kept upside down for storage purposes.

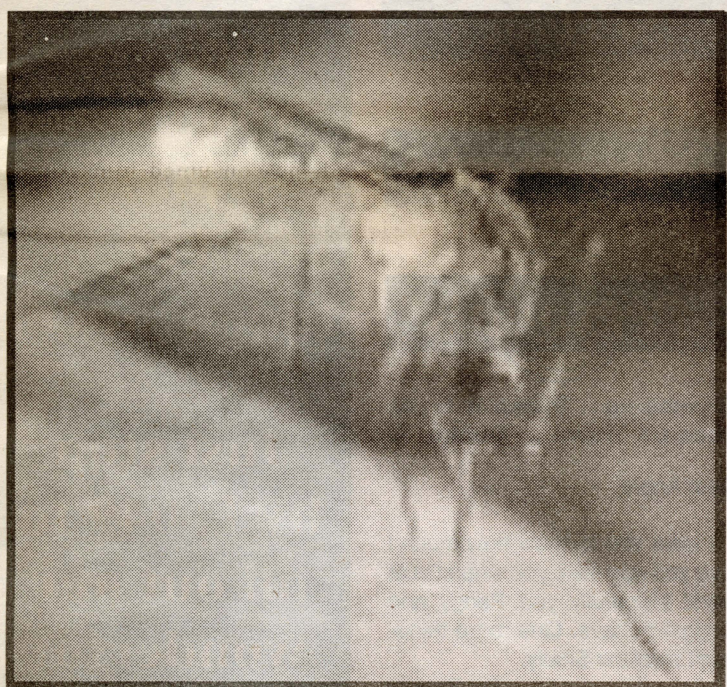


Photo courtesy of yahoo.com

This is one angry mosquito.

These small critters are more annoying thanks to West Nile

by Daniel Peikes
Staff Writer

As the dog days of summer slip by and we savor the little time we have left with warm weather, we can sometimes forget about the animals that like to share the outdoors with us. The ground and air are full of critters that want a piece of the action. Everything from the earthworm to the family dog loves to come out and play this time of year, but not all the creatures of summer are so lovable. The mosquito thrives during these late summer and early fall months, and with it comes West Nile Virus (WNV).

Last year Illinois was hit hard with an epidemic of WNV. There were more cases reported in Illinois than any other state. According to the Center for Disease Control, there were 884 reported cases and 64 fatalities due to the disease. The

next closest state was Michigan with 614 reported cases and 51 deaths as a result of WNV.

Surprisingly this year there have been no reported human cases in Illinois. As of now Colorado has the most reported human cases at 72, with only one fatality. However, Texas and Alabama are tied for most deaths from WNV, with two fatalities each. These five deaths are the only reported deaths from WNV this year.

West Nile is spread mostly through mosquito bites, but can also be spread through blood transfusion, organ transplant, pregnancy, or breast-feeding. You cannot contract it from casual contact, such as kissing someone.

WNV affects the central nervous system and its symptoms vary. Many people that are infected show no signs of at all. Around twenty percent of people with

WNV will show mild symptoms, like fever, headache, muscle-ache, nausea, vomiting, skin rashes, and swollen glands.

Only about one out of every 150 cases might develop more serious symptoms. In some of the more serious cases a person might develop a high fever, stiff neck, stupor, vision loss, coma, muscle weakness, disorientation, tremors, or paralysis. These symptoms can last for several weeks and cause permanent neurological damage.

The risk of getting WNV is very low. Less than one percent of people bitten by mosquitoes become infected with the disease. The people who are at the highest risk are those who spend long periods of time outdoors. People over the age of 50 have an increased risk of having serious complications from the virus and should take extra care to avoid being bitten.

There are many precautions you can take to prevent West Nile. Since mosquitoes breed in standing water, draining any that may be on your property is a must. You should also limit your time outdoors, especially during dusk and dawn.

If you must be outdoors, there are steps you can take to protect yourself. Be sure to wear long sleeves and long pants whenever possible. Also make sure to wear bug repellent that contains DEET. However, take care to only spray it on your clothes, because most experts recommend avoiding direct skin contact with DEET.

If you think you have contracted WNV it may not be necessary to seek medical attention. You may need immediate attention if you develop any of the serious symptoms listed above. If you are nursing, pregnant, or over the age of 50 and show symptoms of even mild WNV, then you should consult your doctor.

Like to run or walk?

by Office of Campus Recreation's Jackie Abreu
Special Contributor

Like to run or walk? Want to do something exciting and challenging this season? Well, you can start by running a 5K race. It is the shortest mileage race and perfect for beginners. A 5K race is about 3.1 miles.

You should give yourself at least 9 weeks to train if you don't regularly run. For beginners, your main concern should be to increase your endurance to run for 3.1 miles. As a beginner your biggest competitor is yourself even if you have to walk to the finish line.

Once you are able to accomplish that you can set a time goal, which means you increase your pace to finish at a shorter time.

It is very important when you run to set a pace that you can endure. You can train outside, on a track, or on a treadmill. Before you start your running regimen, you should make sure that you use a pair of running shoes that will give you the correct support you need. Then, you should make a schedule per week of what your goals are, including rest days.

If you don't rest it can increase your risk for injury. It is also important to remember to do a warm up and cool down, followed by a full body stretch.

To start your routine you can set a schedule depending on how much time you have a week. For example, this schedule that I found on the Internet at www.clarion.org and is made for training 4 days per week.

Week 1: Walk for 20 minutes

2 days and 30 minutes for 2 days.

Week 2: Run 2 minutes at an easy pace (you should be able to carry on a conversation while you're running) and walk for 4 minutes. Repeat five times.

Week 3: Run 5 minutes, walk 2 minutes. Repeat four times.

Week 4: Run 7 minutes, walk 3 minutes. Repeat 3 times.

Week 5: Run 8 minutes, walk 2 minutes. Repeat twice then run 8 minutes.

Week 6: Run 9 minutes, walk 1 minute. Repeat 3 times.

Week 7: Run 13 minutes, walk 2 minutes. Repeat twice.

Week 8: Run 14 minutes, walk 1 minute. Repeat twice.

Week 9: 5k race. During this week, cut back on your training. Run 30 minutes on the first day, followed by 20, then 10. The fourth day is the actual race.

If you want more information on race, you can go to www.cararuns.org. CARA stands for Chicago Area Runners Association. This website gives you information on training programs, clinics, a race calendar, race info, race results, pace calculators, places to run, fun runs and much more.

These runs are sponsored to help a cause. I think that not only are you supporting a cause, but also participating in a race is fulfilling and fun. It is a great experience.

If you need more information on how to get started, create a specific program for yourself, or motivation; you can receive free personal training sessions at the Northeastern PE complex. We can be reached at 773.442.4188.

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The Black Heritage Gospel Choir is extending its membership to all NEIU students. Come join us in singing songs of praise. Tues and Thurs., 1:40-2: 50, FA 152. -President T'challa Williams

WZRD88.3FM's "ThursdayNite Live: seeks bands/musicians All styles considered. No promises. Must have demo. Send band style descriptions and biography to dmpecoraro@hotmail.com.

The Muslim Student Association meets on Thursday Fa 107 and Friday Prayer/is held in CLS 2094 at 1:15

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

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