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Independent- Dec. 2, 2003

Andrea Zelinski

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The Northeastern Illinois University

41 Years In Business

INDEPENDENT

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P.E. Department Turmoil:

Complacency in appeal process

Delayed graduate seeks grade adjustment amid conflicting reports of responsibility in P.E.

by Joe Hertel
Staff Writer
Patrick O'Brien
Production Manager

NEIU student Dan Ruzicka has been appealing his grade in Kinesiology (the study of the principles of mechanics and anatomy in relation to human movement), since the Fall of 2000, and, after many attempts, has failed to have his D changed.

According to the information provided to the *Independent*, the grade change hinged on a final course paper Ruzicka submitted on the side thrust kick, a move common in karate and kickboxing. His initial paper received a grade of F.

Three years ago, Ruzicka, a PE major, received a D in the course. His instructor, Dr. Violet Johnson, informed him he would have to redo the paper to a level of acceptability to raise the grade. He has since made over 15 revisions to the now 23-page document, including additional references, charts, graphs and photographs.

Johnson wrote on the paper: "This is still an F. You need to re-take the class in Fall." Ruzicka believes with all the revisions and corrections, "If

the paper has improved over the last two and a half years, doesn't that merit the D (in the course) be raised to a C?"

Ruzicka, who had hoped to graduate this fall, has also had the content in the paper reviewed by a certified personal trainer, Mr. Glen Peavey, having 25 years of experience in the field. Peavey told the *Independent* in a phone interview that, "Even though

his English is not the best," he considered Ruzicka's paper to be "very detailed and accurate."

Ruzicka also took the paper to David C. Smith of Chiropractic Systems in Woodridge, Illinois for review; Dr. Smith is also a judge of professional kickboxing events. "With their guidance, I made further revisions on the paper...only to receive it back with new mistake notes on it!" states Ruzicka, whose

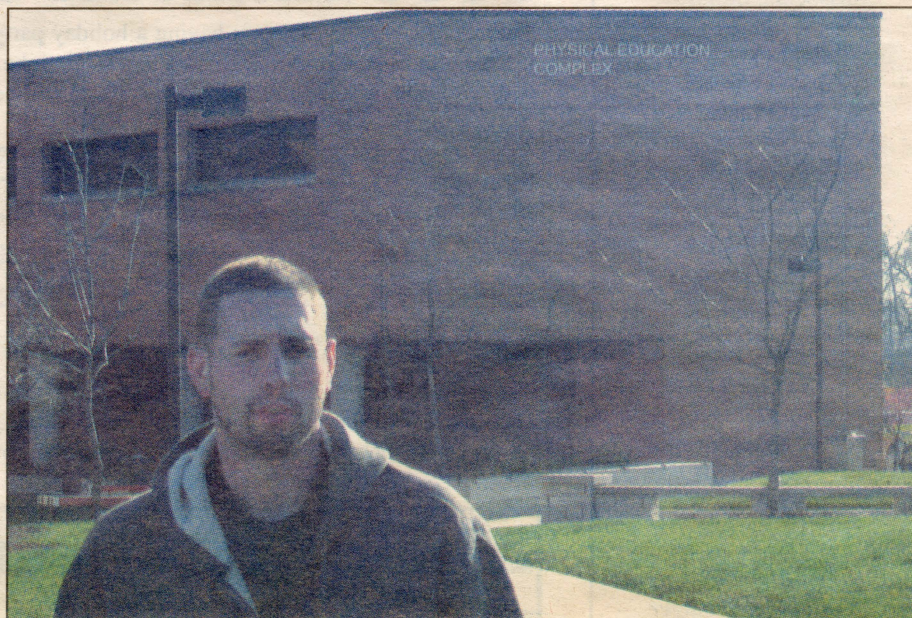
graduation may be delayed two years due to the grade.

On July 28th 2003 Dr. Johnson notified Ruzicka his paper was still an F, and he would have to take the course over. The next day he picked up his paper from Dr. Johnson and telephoned Dr. Christopher Hearon, Department Chair, for an appeal.

In a letter to Mr. Ruzicka dated August 12, Dr. Hearon said he reviewed the letter appealing the

grade, submitted the appeal to Dr. Johnson, received a response, and read his term paper, which "...appears to be critical to the grade appeal..." and concurred with Johnson's grade. Ruzicka alleges Dr. Hearon could not have read his final revision since the only copy was in his (Ruzicka's) possession at the time. Although Dr. Hearon told Ruzicka he read the

see Grade Change, page 4



Ruzicka outside P.E Complex while discussing his story with the *Independent*

photo by Patrick O'Brien

AIDS Quilt, solemn ritual fill hall of Student Union



photos by Len Graves, Staci Sonenthal

The AIDS Quilt was on display across from Beck's as a part of AIDS Awareness Week at NEIU. The steady sound of victims names being read by student volunteers filled the hallway for several hours each day.

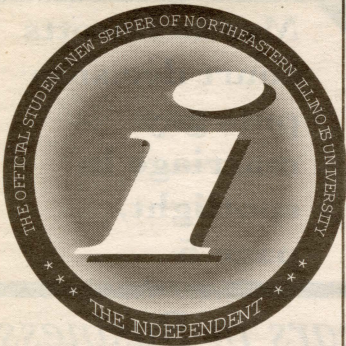
From event organizer Evelyn Nazario Rose:

"Unfortunately, I experienced the loss of a loved one to the AIDS virus in the early 1980's. Her name was Lilly Serrano. She contracted the AIDS virus through her husband who was an intravenous drug user. They both left behind two beautiful boys ages 10 and 8. The boys are grown now but even after twenty years the pain of their loss is still very vivid to me. Ever since then I have tried to raise as much awareness of this virus, especially to our younger generation.

AIDS is a killer and it has to be treated that way.

Personally, it was my privilege to have been part of the AIDS Awareness Committee and AIDS Awareness Week. It was an honor to remember the victims. My humble thanks go out to all the volunteers that took time out of their busy schedules to also read names! What have I learned about this whole experience? **Humankind - be both.**"

Evelyn Nazario Rose and another student read from the list of victims last week near Village Square.



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Independent,

Northeastern Illinois

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Around Campus

University Charity Drive

The All University Charity Drive is ongoing, sponsored by Student Activities Office, Student Volunteer Corps and the Student Union. Donation boxes are located in the Village Square until December 12.

Musical Evening with PSA

The Pakistani Student Association proudly presents a program featuring a fashion show, singing, dance and drama along with DJ Saagar on Friday December 5th in Alumni Hall at 8pm. Free food and drink go along with the evening's entertainment.

Retirement Announcement

Northeastern send best wishes to Director of Publications, Terry Katz in her retirement. On Tuesday, December 2, from 2:00 - 3:30 pm in room SU 214, Terry will be proofing your farewell cards and autographing souvenir graphic request forms.

Free Radicals Party

The NEIU Chemistry Club is having a holiday party and everyone is invited! On Thursday December 4th in a room to be announced in the Science Building during Activity Hour. There will be a \$15 and under grab bag and free food.

SGA Meeting

The Student Government is holding its last meeting of the semester during Activity Hour on Thursday December 4th in SU 003.

GLBA/Socialist Alliance

The Fight for Gay Rights as a joint meeting between the NEIU Socialist Club and Gay Lesbian Bisexual Alliance are speaking about taking on the roots of homophobia at NEIU and in U.S. society. Thursday, December 4th in CLS 2071 during activity hour.

Miller responds to charges at NPB

by Patrick O'Brien

Production Manager

The Former Vice Chair of Northeastern Programming Board Brian Miller recently responded to allegations published in the *Independent* involving statements made by newly elected Vice Chair Jermont Montgomery and Chair Kendra Young accusing Brian Miller and Former Chair Andrea Daniels at NPB of wrongdoing and fraudulent appropriation of students funds.

Miller first stated that goods that Montgomery said were wrongly given to the Charity Drive were actually donated by companies as promotional items, not paid for by student fees. Miller is concerned that working relations with the organizations operating the Charity Drive are now severed.

Miller also projects surpluses in the area of program support, where Montgomery claims there is no longer money to pay NPB employees, Miller asserts there will be money left over in Spring as a result of "continuing to implement strategies to effectively and efficiently utilize student resources as exemplified in the past year."

Miller contends there is still over \$10,000 left to compensate team assistants for the rest of the budget year. Montgomery and Young put the figure at \$288, and the two also claimed Miller and Daniels "masterminded a mutiny" against them. (Miller's words)

Miller also claims that "Montgomery and Young arbitrarily fired all team assistants." The *Independent* originally reported that NPB could no longer afford to pay them per Montgomery's budget numbers. Miller also answers that budgets are "measuring tools" and questions the Dobryzinski Administration from last year's SGA of decreasing NPB's budget request, along with re-itemizing the organization's budget.

Miller also accused Montgomery and Young of "insecurities as student leaders," and equated the original article published to "yellow journalism" and denied attempts to contact both him and Andrea Daniels, though attempts were made to do so.

Hot tip?



Know something we don't ?

Tip us off about news affecting

the NEIU community by

calling (773) 442-4577 or

e-mail us at

neiu_independent@

yahoo.com



Killer Coke Continued: Alliance obtains contract

by Tom Robb

Staff Writer

The Independent has learned that the NEIU Alliance to Boycott Coke (a.k.a. The Alliance) has received a copy of NEIU's contract with Coca-Cola (see Nov 18th Independent article "Coke may be making a killing" page 3).

The University made the contract available to the Alliance in response to the group's filing of a Freedom of Information Act request. The Alliance will be reviewing the contract to look for grounds for NEIU to break the contract.

The NEIU Alliance to Boycott Coke is calling for Coke to be kicked off campus in response to their alleged involvement in the killings of trade unionists seeking to organize bottling plants in Columbia. They have held speakouts, tabled, and appeared on WZRD. The national Killer Coke campaign is planning a national day of protest against Coke on Dec. 5th.

Coca-Cola denies the claims made by the Killer Coke Campaign. For more information on the Killer Coke Campaign go to www.killercoke.org (a site maintained by the Killer Coke Campaign) or www.killercoke.com (a site maintained by Coca-Cola).

Dress for Success: professional looks for all students

by Sherri Rafalson

Staff Writer

On Thursday, October 30, 2003, NEIU's College of Business and Management club hosted the 13th Annual Dress for Success fashion show. The beautiful clothing being modeled by Northeastern students was furnished by Banana Republic, which has a location in Old Orchard Shopping Center.

The extravaganza lasted approximately one hour, and was narrated by NBC 5's Barbra Glass, who provides the city with fashion tips every Saturday during the 9am news.

During the course of her narration, she also gave very helpful hints in regards to dressing for either going to an interview or just a regular day at the office. Some memorable advice she gave was that while in the office, never wear any sleeveless garments, and that boots are also a mistake.

Moreover, guys should never have visible undershirts, because it makes you feel more causal and less presentable when the public sees you. Basically what you want to do is observe what your co-workers are wearing, and try to mimic their style.

Aside for the wonderful guidance that was given, a representative from Banana Republic informed students that the store is known for their high quality merchandise, and looks that are very versatile. For instance, most of the sweaters, pants, and suits for both men and women are great for office to dinner to weekend wear.

Additionally, if one knows how to accessorize their wardrobe, it makes a world of difference and it always appears as though it is a different outfit! The best part was when the sales spokesperson stated that Banana Republic is running a sale, and if students visit the store, they may enter to win a \$50 gift card.

Furthermore, the company is looking to hire people for the upcoming holiday season, and the positions would be excellent for students, due to the flexible hours.

All University Charity Drive- Now Through December 12th On Campus Call 773-442-4660 for details Drop donations in Village Square



Patrick O'Brien

The Last Word Pushing for a place at the table with Doc

There is a meeting on Tuesday December 2nd concerning the inclusion of black students at Northeastern. It will be a joint meeting of the Black Caucus and Black Heritage Clubs, and will be addressed by William "Doc" Speller, advisor to both clubs.

This comes on the heels of a November 20th meeting concerning the nature of the diversity enjoyed on this campus, and whether that diversity is indeed real. Doc Speller pointed out that there is still no Black Studies program on campus, though sources say one will be in place by next Fall.

Many students, such as myself, have hoped to take many black-themed courses like African American History at NEIU. According to Doc Speller, the Black History course he taught here from 1969-1997 was no longer offered because white professors moved in. If that's true, there are questions to be answered at Northeastern. Why was Doc Speller pushed out? At a university with over 1,000 black students, why has it taken so long to get a black studies program here?

But, at the same time, why does the flier that touted the original meeting addressed by Doc Speller on the 20th say that the meeting is "regarding Black Faculty Staff and Students at NEIU," while the new flier for the December 2nd meeting says that "All Black Faculty, Staff and Students at NEIU are invited?" Non-blacks may have been at either meeting, and the would have a vested interest in the cause of exposing 'diversity' at NEIU, where students are all the colors of the rainbow, while the instructors are mostly lily white.

These new fliers were posted just days after a member of one of the aforementioned organizations admitted the was problem with the wording of the fliers. These fliers were not Speller's choice, as he expressed his practice of communicating via e-mail to students when he sat down recently and spoke to me regarding the private nature of the meeting.

He never wanted it made public, and added, "whenever two or three of us get together, there has to be a reporter, with a pen and a paper, or a tape recorder," implying the *Independent* had some ulterior motives in reporting on the event. The reporter we sent was an Arab-American, not "white" by any standard definition.

What is clear is that white people were not intended to be at that meeting, as is evidenced by the news story in this issue. Is there a problem with being discriminated against based on the color of your skin? Absolutely. But who defines black? What about mixed race people? What percentage of "black" blood is required to attend the meeting?

And therein lies the rub. Do whites have the right to be angry about inclusion in the affairs of other groups? The meetings both were held in Student Union room 003, on campus property, and they were open to the public. Food was served at the first meeting, paid for by student fees, as some organizations' meetings are through Student Government.

However, entire sections of the university were politely not invited to attend. Or were "made to feel uncomfortable" by someone at the meeting, as is the case of *Independent*

reporter who was responding to a flier posted in the hallway that said "Come join us for a lively discussion." She was then confronted while reporting on the meeting for this issue of the *Independent*, made to feel awkward, and questioned as to what her motives were. She isn't purely "white", so what gives?

Doc Speller may not trust whites. During a discussion with the *Independent*, he acknowledged he doesn't trust this newspaper. Why would he trust whites at all? He is a wise man who has seen plenty of promises made and broke by those in power during the span of his life. And there's no questioning his right to be angry, hurt, and disenchanted with the way things are here. What is questionable is his right to invoke the principle of exclusion himself.

A white person can never know what it is to be black, or to have lived under the specter of discrimination for so long, that goes without saying. But even given that, holding meetings on campus for only blacks is a questionable enterprise indeed.

What Doc Speller really promotes is whites never being able to understand or participate in the same things black people can. Causes like the furthering of a dialogue that breaks down the walls of racism that do still exist in parts of our society, invisible to us that don't experience it ourselves. Instead of an invitation, exclusive meetings for segments of students send another message. You don't fit in here, please leave.

We should all want to live where white or black is not the first thing we notice. One where difference is celebrated, not used to rank and judge. That's why I'll be at the meeting.

Exclusion of reporter at 'Illusion of Inclusion'

by Atoor Lawando
Staff Writer

"Dream great dreams and they'll come true," was William "Doc" Speller's opening statement at the Black Caucus Club and Black Heritage Club's joint meeting on Thursday November 20th in SU 003. Speller, a student advisor for Project Success, was the speaker at this event, entitled the Illusion of Inclusion. The purpose of the event was to address certain issues regarding black faculty, staff, and students at the university.



Photo by Len Grayes

Doc Speller at the November 20th meeting

"No one will give you a seat at the table of diversity unless you identify yourself," said Speller, speaking of problems associated with a mistaken notion of diversity. He went on to say that "when we disappear into diversity, we reaffirm the illusion of inclusion." Speller insisted on making it clear that "diversity" is not achieved through the dissection of African-American social networks on campus. He further went on to explain the importance of African-American students networking with each other, in order to establish a more visible presence at the university.

Furthermore, Speller mentioned that he, in cooperation with President Steinberg, has been able to put together an African-American Studies program, which will begin next fall. "[Our] faculty can do things for [you] that [you] can't do for yourselves, but when we get [it] done, don't let our work be in vain." These were Speller's comments to the students in the audience regarding the establishment of an African-American studies program.

During the last portion of the meeting, Speller gave the audience a chance to ask questions. A student in the audience asked when the African-American studies program will begin, and whether or not the university had been cooperative with Speller in starting such a program. "I wouldn't ask Steinberg to try and get an African-American studies program if I wasn't one hundred percent sure that she would agree," Speller explained, "So yes the university has been cooperative and the program will be up and running next fall."

After realizing that the student was a reporter for the *Independent*, Speller made it very clear that the meeting was a closed function, like a "family gathering." He explained that it was certainly not a function to be viewed by any reporter, because according to Speller, "[We] are here to vent." Furthermore, Speller tried to justify his desire to keep the reporter out by expressing concern that what he said during the meeting would not be reported impartially by the reporter.

Speller went on, saying, "When the Asian faculty was planning an Asian Studies program there were no reporters in [their] meetings...but every time two or three of [us] get together, there has to be a reporter, with a pen and a paper, or a tape recorder." Speller continued to the reporter: "What we're talking about here are plans, there is nothing to report about." Speller made it very clear that the student-reporter was not welcome to attend the meeting, and the student, therefore, had no choice but to leave.

Tech Talk- for the advanced computer connoisseur

Giveaways and live demos attract computer savvy crowd

by Daniel Peikes
Senior Staff Writer

On Tuesday, November 18th, the NEIU Computer Science Society held their first major event of the year in SU003.

The event was a "Tech Talk," covering advanced computer topics including ASP, PHP, C++ and the Microsoft.NET framework. These are all high-level programming languages with many different applications, including database access, and web development.

The talk drew a relatively large crowd of about fifty people. Each subject was briefly described with important highlights, and then the crowd was given a brief live demonstration.

The presenters assumed all members of the audience had some advanced computer knowledge during the talk. Most attendees knew of C++ and many other computer languages as well.

One of the big drawing points of the event was the give-away. The Computer Science Society collaborated with Microsoft so the two could provide free promotional items such as Frisbees and highlighters for every one in attendance, along with some larger prizes that were raffled off at the end of the event.

The larger prizes included several computer books, some software, a t-shirt, and a Microsoft X-Box. Another benefit of the alliance is that most Microsoft products are available to NEIU students at no cost, with just a minimal charge to cover shipping and handling.

The Computer Science Society also announced that they are planning a programming contest for the spring semester, with plans to enter the winners into a national contest.

They also are working on several other projects including repairing donated computers for the Charity drive.

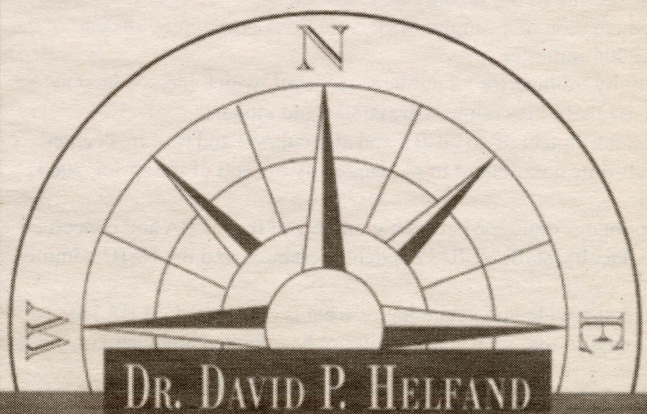
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Second Edition



GLBA demands address by university on hate speech

by Tom Robb
Staff Writer

Several days after H.O.M.E.'s latest visit to the NEIU campus created an up roar in Village Square, the GLBA organization called a meeting of students, faculty, and administrators.

The GLBA outlined eight demands to the university. Further, they stated that they had contacted Lambda Legal (a GLBT legal advocacy group) and the ACLU, and would seek legal remedies with the help of those organizations if their demands were not met.

A moratorium

The Administration has imposed a temporary moratorium on all outside groups coming on campus. "One, we are putting a moratorium on those groups for the time being. Second, if I had to do it over again, I would have involved GLBA with discussions surrounding the speak out. In the future, I will bring you all to the table," said Melvin Terrell, VP of Student Affairs.

The demands included a call for a statement signed by the president of the University condemning homophobic harassment and violence, a campus wide "Safe Zone," a center for GLBT issues, sensitivity training for Public Safety officers, and a ban on "hate speech." They cited other universities that have such programs, such as Brown, that passed similar proposals in 1989.

Administrators officials and most at the meeting severely condemned H.O.M.E.'s message, but were divided on how to deal with it. Dean of Students Michael Kelly stated, "They know our constitution provides them the right to say what they want to say, provided they abide by the rules of the campus, which they did do."

Anne Mothkovich, Secretary of the GLBA, stated, "The University has known for three months that students

had concerns (after a derogatory letter was posted outside the women's studies office) but did nothing." Chief of Public Safety, Lt. Jack Baker stated that this has been the only incident reported to his office.

Defending free speech

Dean of Students Michael Kelly stated in reaction to the demands, "One of the things we can certainly look at is, along with all these demands, of course, is the existing policy and what kind of changes the university can make to retain a better handle on the time, place and manner when H.O.M.E. and everybody else wants to reserve space here at Northeastern to express their points of view."

NEIU student Rachel Cohen stated, "It is a really clear cut simple question of whether we value this as a place where students can learn and teachers can teach, or we value this as a place where anybody who has a hateful message can come and spread their word."

Free Speech vs. Hate Speech

One of the most contentious issues was a the demand for a ban on "Hate Speech" and what that meant. The GLBA made literature available to the *Independent* on the subject that defines a "Bias Incident," and clarifies that hate crime laws use bias to elevate a crime to a hate crime. "A bias incident is conduct, speech or expression that

is motivated by bias or prejudice."

Walt Summers, Dean of Student Activities, summed up the problem with H.O.M.E. and hate speech. "This is their life work and they are very clever about what they say, and they will say it in a way that will promote, as someone else said, an environment that creates somebody taking the next step."

Faculty Matters

An NEIU Faculty member who identified herself as a lesbian stated, "All of this rhetoric towards freedom of speech has to be modified by equal protection under the law, that's also a constitutional amendment." She continued, "Freedom of speech exists for those who already have it."

One faculty member who had experienced similar debates at universities in California warned that barring of hate speech could cause other speech or demonstrations, like those against the War in Iraq, to also be suppressed.

GLBA leaders read a portion of a letter from a faculty member that read, in part, "I do not endorse homosexuality or lesbianism, I do believe God is able to deliver people from these lifestyles."

GLBA leaders questioned how someone like that could be employed at the university. Administration officials questioned whether someone with those views would go along with this program were it to be implemented.

At other college campuses

The *Independent* contacted UIC's head of Campus Unions, Rob Rouzer. Rouzer stated that H.O.M.E. has been to UIC and has caused similar disturbances.

Rouzer stated UIC's policy of tabling is that outside groups must be sponsored by a university group.

Non-university groups may have access to UIC without these restrictions but, Rouzer stated, "We will control the time, place, and manner of these groups on campus." UIC also has an Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns.

There are similar policies at private universities like Northwestern, Brown and Stanford, but they are not subject to the same restrictions a public state university is.

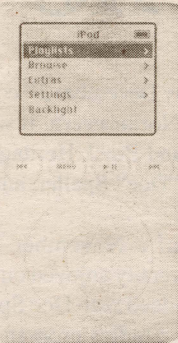
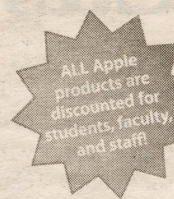
President Steinberg has agreed to meet with The *Independent* to further discuss this story, but was not available prior to The *Independent* going to press.



Students surround speakers from H.O.M.E. during their visit last month

photo by Patrick O'Brien

Stocking Stuffers.



✓ iPod

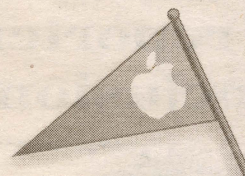
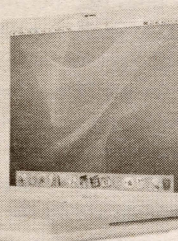
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Your story could be on this page. Join the *Independent* and be the news. Room E-049

Grade change, from page 1

paper and returned it to Johnson, when Ruzicka contacted Johnson for the paper, "she claimed she did not have a copy."

Ruzicka then filed for a hearing with Dr. Beverly Otto, Associate Dean, which was held in October without Hearon present.

Dr. Otto had "promised" Ruzicka that Dr. Hearon would attend. Ruzicka believes this did not allow him a fair hearing. "I brought my paper with, and (the committee) didn't even review it, they just glanced at it and passed it around."

He subsequently received a letter from Dean Nan Giblin, stating the Grade Appeal Committee of the College of Education found "no evidence that the grade was capricious, unreasonable or unjust" (the same words used by Dr. Hearon in his letter of August 12), and that "the grade of D would be retained."

Ruzicka feels that "no one is listening" to his allegations of unfairness and irresponsibility. "Dr. Johnson presented a class syllabus at my hearing which I swear no one in my class ever received!" He believes that after so many revisions to his paper, "if Dr. Hearon had indeed read it, instead of 'covering up for Dr. Johnson,' things might have been different.

Dr. Hearon responded to the *Independent's* questions via E-mail: "I can assure you that the student's grade appeal was given fair consideration according to NEIU's Grade Appeal Policy and Procedure. Outside of that, in compliance with the Family Educational Rights and

Privacy Act (FERPA) of 1974, I am not at liberty to discuss this student's academic situation or the specifics of this grade appeal with any outside parties."

The *Independent* is in possession of a signed statement from Ruzicka allowing the *Independent* to view all pertinent information in the case.

Mary Ellyn O'Donnell of the Dean of Students office informed the *Independent* that according to FERPA, a third party could view student records with the aforementioned permission.

The *Independent* questioned four former students of Dr. Johnson's Kinesiology course (all wishing to remain anonymous), and though these PE majors were not classmates, their comments were similar to Ruzicka's claims.

All four stated that Dr. Johnson didn't like being questioned. One opted to drop the class: "I didn't know how the class was graded. She (Johnson) assumed that the students knew things that they didn't. She really didn't know how to present the material."

Another stated that Johnson "was inconsistent. The class was not well structured. She would shout you down."

Dr. Johnson had "No comment," on why Ruzicka's paper did not merit a higher grade, or why she allowed him to continue appealing for the chance to raise his grade.

Whether or not Dr. Hearon actually read Ruzicka's final paper is unclear. Ruzicka has contemplated obtaining legal counsel as of this printing.

GLBA demands of University Community

1. An official condemnation of homophobic harassment and violence signed by NEIU President Steinburg and other administrators. In January 2004, the university administration will mail this official statement to all of the NEIU community, with the instruction for all faculty to read the statement in all their classes. This prohibition of homophobic harassment and violence must also be published in the *Independent* by January 2004.
2. On each occasion when homophobic harassment or violence occurs on our campus, the administration will document, investigate, and publicly condemn the incident.
3. The University, with guidance from GLBT students, staff and faculty, will develop a formal university policy outlining the university's procedures in handling GLBT related harassment and violence; this will include specifications of penalties for students, faculty, and staff who violate this policy by the end of the January 2004 semester.
4. Implementation of a campus-wide Safe Zone program by the end of the January 2004 semester.
5. Sensitivity training for all public safety staff, which include how to respond to GLBT bias related harassment and violence.
6. The establishment of an GLBT and ally cultural and resource center, with a full-time coordinator implemented by the end of the spring 2004 semester.
7. A continuous dialogue between members of the GLBA and concerned students, faculty, staff, NEIU President Steinburg, and the NEIU administration.
8. A university wide understanding of what is considered GLBA hate speech, and also that such speech will not be tolerated anywhere on our campus

Commentary

Marriage should be for everyone

by PJ Beemer
Copy Editor

Love is something everyone wants. Deep down, or not even acknowledged, the desire for affection and often something deeper is still there.

Whether you follow a particular religion or not, in some aspect, the common sense rule of "treat others as you want to be treated" exists. So why is it that when it comes to love between two people of the same gender, many people seem to think that the above-mentioned rule does not apply?

Gay marriage has begun to become legalized, both around the world and in the United States. In Hawaii and Alaska, courts have ruled that the state does not have a right to deny marriage certificates to couples of the same sex. In recent news, Massachusetts could become the first state to legally recognize gay marriage.

I, personally, see absolutely nothing wrong with gay marriage. The sodomy issue I dismiss entirely, as long as the participants are consenting adults. Let me repeat that very important condition, as long as they are adults. If they are, then I see no reason for any issues involving sex between the partners to exist. I know this may offend some people's sense of morality, but it's their right to be offended. Just as the right to get married, have a family, buy an SUV, and put up a white picket fence should be a right for gay couples.

For those people who equate NAMBLA (North American Man-Boy Love Association) with GLBA (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alliance), they're simply misinformed. The difference? NAMBLA involves children; GLBA advocates unions between consenting adults. Huh, there's that phrase again "consenting adults."

I'll readily admit that I've never read the Bible, so I'm not versed in biblical laws that disapprove of gay unions. I just follow what my heart tells me is right, love between two adults who know what they are doing is good. If other people are blind to the fact that love is right, well, then I pity them. And my editor will probably get letters saying that they pity me for not believing what they believe. But you know what? I don't care; they can believe I'm wrong as long as they don't try to convince me with force.

In a world where hate is so prevalent, why are there people who want to deny something good between two people? You can't assume that a gay couple will tear asunder the fabric of society just because they have a piece of paper that recognizes their union as a legal and binding one. Actually, I'll correct myself so you all don't have to. You can assume that. It's your right. And you know you would scream if that right was taken away from you. Just like gay and lesbian couples, along with their supporters, are screaming for their own rights. Listen to them. I have.

America is not a melting pot

Labels belong on cans, not on groups of people, so stop separating us

by David Cavazos
Staff Writer

Though it might be proper to claim that this article is being in response and elaboration to a brief allusion to the "melting pot" theory made by the occasionally poetic/often goaded Joe Hertel in the November 4th edition, my desire to write about this theory in a subsequent issue is merely a coincidence.

Now that I have justified myself and have made a notable digression from whatever it is this article pertains to, I will continue by saying that I believe we should refrain from labeling people. It merely separates people more, and labels are for cans.

People should not feel required or motivated to point out a person's skin color and/or ethnicity as something pertinent to one's abilities.

Regarding the "melting pot" theory, a lot of people say America is a melting pot culture, or they used to. Either way, the person who coined that phrase should be thrashed with every travel guide to every ethnic district in the United States.

We are not a melting pot culture. I do not know when it happened, but we no longer incorporate immigrant cultures into our own.

We keep them separate from the main culture, either by our apathy and/or sheer unwillingness to incorporate other cultures, or their stubbornness not to be fully absorbed by America. Regardless of exactly why this is so, it is moronic.

Our culture is stagnant, needing to be updated and upgraded, and if people coming from other countries do not want to be apart of the American culture, why do they come here? If a person expects to work and live and raise a family here,

then that person should learn the culture and become apart of it. I understand that many people who come here from other countries want to preserve their native culture (as they should). They do not want to be generalized by others, and they feel that being absorbed into the culture will mean they lose their identity and that they will be discriminated against.

Generalizing does not come with absorption. The core principles of other cultures would be added into America's, altering it slightly. That would cut down on discrimination, I think. If everyone knew and understood other cultures, then there would be no discrimination, or it would drop.

Hate and prejudice come from miscomprehension.

If everyone understands, there is nothing to make an assumption about. You do not lose your individuality with absorption.

You are applying the neat aspects of your own heritage and culture to America, and accepting ours. You are not losing your identity, religion, or opinions. You are not thrown a number in place of your name.

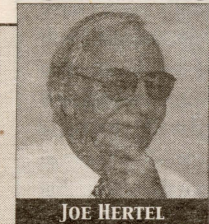
That is one of the few things I still respect about this country. With a mish-mash, you still retain the core you. Little Chinas, Little Italy's, and Little Germanys are not the core you. They are as big a waste of space as golf courses.

Unlike others, I think the melting pot culture should revive again. We should absorb every ethnic district into our own larger culture. It would bring a great understanding and knowledge to America, and an update on where-the-world-is-now.

I would love to hear feedback, so turn up your guitars, and feel free to respond to anything and everything I have said.



Old Man on Campus A Soldier's Christmas



JOE HERTEL

The holiday season will be upon us soon. Therefore, I have decided to share with you some bittersweet memories as to when I was in the Army, half way across the world, in a war I didn't really want to be in. Perhaps, by sharing, you will have an idea of what our troops are feeling around this time in Iraq, because wars are not the same for those who fight in them. And we must never forget that soldiers are sons and daughters, husbands and wives, who would rather be with their families, children and friends, out of harm's way.

It was Christmastime in Viet Nam, 1967. It was the loneliest time of my life. I was 22. My parents sent me a little folding Christmas tree with ornaments. It stood a little over twelve inches tall. My sister sent me a Bing Crosby Christmas album which included the Andrew Sisters, and I also received a musical snow man and the damn thing played "Here Comes Peter Cottontail!" I still have it, and put it out on the table every season.

There was a so-called truce, but skirmishes were still taking place sporadically. We had a traditional (army style) Christmas dinner, in the middle of the afternoon, of turkey and dressing and cranberries, and it wasn't that bad considering the mess sergeant was cooking for

hundreds. We got a souvenir menu with a holiday prayer for peace in it, and an encouraging message from General Westmoreland. None of that helped. We were lonely, weary of war. We knew that the Vietnamese, even though they were kind to us and appreciated our being there to help fight the terrorism of the Viet Cong, resented our influence and presence.

It was Christmastime, but we were sweating in the heat, soaked in the monsoons, and dusty from the dirt and sand that swept upon us in the wind. We wanted to be home, and wondered if we would ever make it home. Then came Bob Hope and his entourage to entertain the troops. He made us laugh and forget our misery for a few hours. (God bless you Mr. Hope. I know you would have made Iraq also if you were still with us). But the death, mayhem, confusion, suffering and pain would soon return, and it would return on a scale no one had imagined.

Christmas eve I listened to a tiny reel to reel tape provided by the Red Cross that my parents sent me, re-read the Christmas cards from friends and neighbors, had some Korean rice beer with a few of the guys, and cursed the war. Christmas day was uneventful, although a few days before, I went into town to visit my girlfriend and made plans to be with her during the upcoming Vietnamese holiday known as TET. I never saw her again. She was

killed during the TET offensive of 1968. (If you would like to read the entire story of how I met her and what happened, send me an e-mail at OldManNEIU@aol.com and I will send you a link to my homepage.)

My memories of the holiday season of 1967-68 in Viet Nam are depressing, morbid and will never go away. I live with the ghosts from that era, which visit me each year and remind me. And so it will be with our young men and women who are currently engaged in this operation in Iraq. I feel compassion for them because I know they don't want to be there, but they are soldiers, and they are serving their country. It is deplorable that our President is not serving his country in a manner that would bring honor to its people. There are already approximately 500 families in this country (and how many hundreds of Iraqis) who will be crying this Holiday Season, thousands of relatives and friends mourning, near 500 of our young people who will never see another Christmas, and thousands who daily will be in danger of dying in a foreign land. And more of them will die.

This holiday season, I ask you to remember and/or pray for our young people in the military throughout the world. And please bear in mind, our troops are sent to war by this country, by us. That is their job. The president represents



graphic by Cecilia Carboni

the people, and when he no longer does, it is up to the people to say so. If you don't want our young men and women fighting in Iraq, then it is up to us, the citizens of this country, not the soldiers, to say, "Enough! Bring them home!"

And the saddest part is that, when they do come home, they will not be the same as when they left, for they will have their ghosts of war who will visit them for the rest of their lives. Happy Holidays!

Letters to the Editor

MAIL BAG

Dear Editor,

I am responding to the letter about NPB Patch Addams program. I don't know how this person says that they weren't informed that Patch Addams was here. I myself handed out the fliers in the village hall and the lunchroom. There were signs on the board next to where you get your I.D., Science Building, D-wing (next to the computer lab), and all of the boards.

I want to know if this is part of the story about NPB fraud because this person said it was misuse of funds. I really liked working for NPB and I didn't want to lose my job but they fired all of the assistants and did not give us a two week notice. I don't think that's fair at all. They should have told us earlier so we would have time to find jobs and try to pay our bills off. In the budget, there is still money left because we don't have any coordinators at all.

So I was wondering, where is that money going? It's not going to the students or team assistants anymore, so how are they gonna spend. Maybe they might borrow it to go to a retreat to pay for other stuff. I don't know why Jermont Montgomery is saying that us team assistants were turned against Kendra Williams, Jermont Montgomery, and Gary Gaspard because they said themselves that if we ever go against them they would fire us. That was considered as a threat because you are not supposed to do that. I'm not on anybody's side but they said to trust them. How can you trust people who fire you on the spot and not give you a two weeks notice that would be a hard choice? I only trust myself or God, but that's about it.

Linda (last name withheld)
Former NPB Team Assistant

MAIL BAG

Dear Editor,

The GLBA, in coordination with the FLMA and the Socialist Club, asked the university to put a stop to "hate speech" on our campus. The university complied with a moratorium on allowing outside groups distributing "hate speech" into the Free Speech Zone in Village Square.

H.O.M.E. is *not* practicing "hate speech." They do not use derogatory statements. They are not standing in front of the GLBA table shouting at them. They are quietly sitting at their table, distributing information and debating when they feel they have something to say. While their information is flawed and their arguments illogical, they are not trying to attack dissenters in any way. They are merely bringing the other side of the argument.

As a bisexual student, this issue affects me personally. But it should affect everyone at Northeastern personally, because our right to practice free speech is in jeopardy. If the university can term one group into a broad and loosely defined category of "hate speech" because many people disagree with their views, we are facing a dire threat to our personal liberties. We are facing censorship, not only of our own right to free speech, but also to our education.

If anything, H.O.M.E.'s presence on campus has sparked students and staff alike to bring real-life issues such as GLBT rights and discrimination into the classroom and into their daily consciousness. Several of my professors began discussions of this issue in class, and students were shocked that this was occurring on our campus.

H.O.M.E. has failed, because instead of "fixing" homosexuals, they have instead brought awareness to our campus. H.O.M.E. has helped the fight for GLBT equality more than they could have ever imagined. Let H.O.M.E. come back, not because we like what they have to say, but because we don't.

Mary Meyer

MAIL BAG

Dear Editor,

The protest against HOME shows that most NEIU students support gay rights. However, the administration tried to silence a student speak-out against hate by closeting it away. Students refused to be silenced and organized a vocal protest in the Village Square, involving more than 100 people. Protesters should be commended for opposing hate and standing up for the free speech of gay students. Our administration has a history of squelching free speech. Moving the speak-out organized by the GLBA, FMLA, Sociology and Socialist Clubs from a high traffic area to Alumni Hall is only the latest example.

Meanwhile, the school brought in the police to protect—not students—but the bigots from HOME! In the past, students have been prevented from distributing antiwar literature in the "free speech area." The school's red tape is designed to limit speech. The administration, however, aided and abetted the gay-bashers! The administration needs to send a clear message that it stands with gay students, faculty and staff by complying with the demands made by the GLBA. And they should lift restrictions on student speech and allow student organizations to distribute literature and speak anywhere on campus. What is happening here is part of a larger fight for civil rights. HOME is just the tip of an iceberg, which includes the attack on the right to gay marriage, continued discrimination in housing, employment and in the military.

The attack on gay rights is part of a fight that includes attacks on affirmative action, abortion rights and unions. Homophobia and racism are about dividing ordinary people so the rich who run this country can rob us. For example, by giving themselves tax breaks while slashing education funds. We can't rely on the administration in that fight. We can only rely on ourselves.

Doug Lee, Knute Horwitz and Rachel Cohen
Socialist Club

MAIL BAG

Dear Editor,

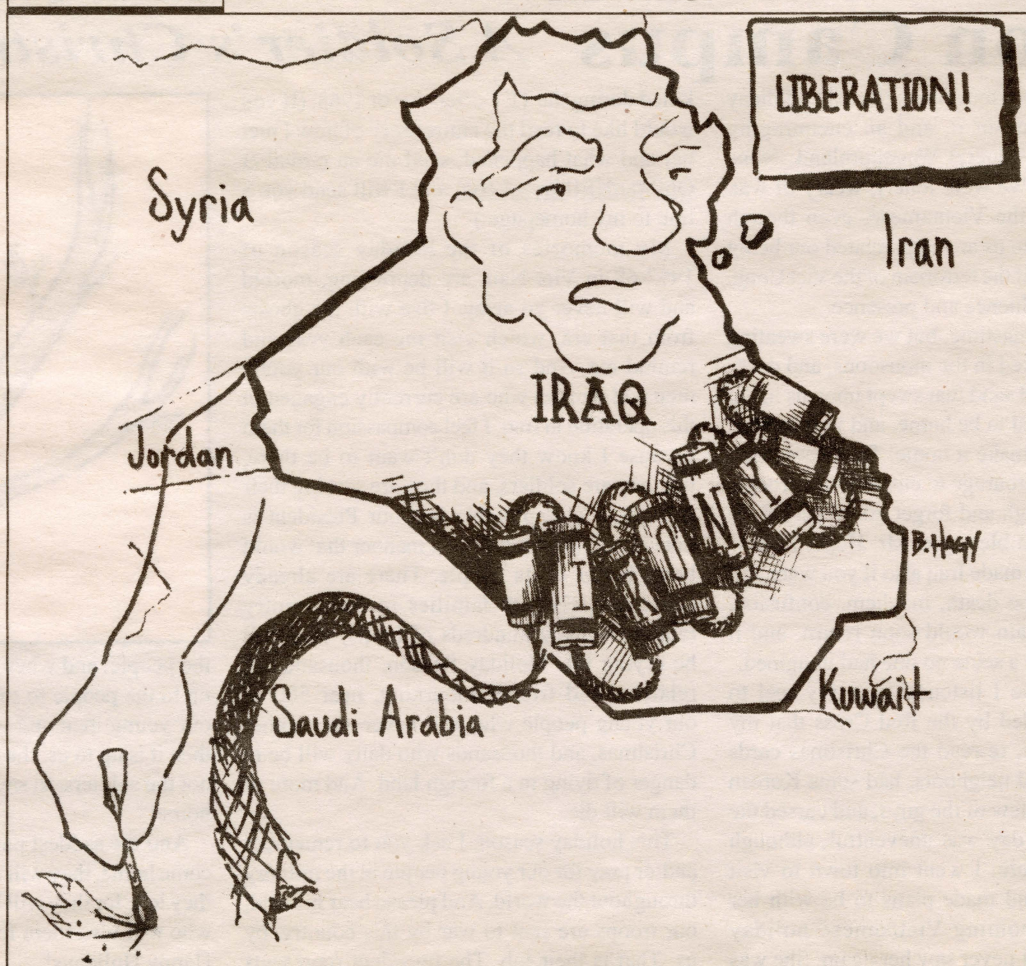
I read the article about H.O.M.E. being on campus. I also had seen the posters to stop Hate speeches. How exactly do we do that? According to the Constitution of the United States, all of us are granted freedom of speech. Now while we may not agree with organizations like H.O.M.E., Nazi, etc., they still have a right to voice their opinion. I know plenty of Vietnam/Korean war veterans who just want to shoot any Asian they see (some were POW's). We just have to stop hate from controlling us.

Also, I read the article about Coke products. I could not believe that people pulled it from some campuses because there are problems in Columbia. 60% of the population lives in poverty. People being abused or killed or disappearing is not all that uncommon. Look what the drug lords have done to people. Also, we had problems here dealing with unions in the early 50's or 60's where people disappeared. Look at what happened to the demonstrators in China. Are we going to oppose all Chinese products because of that? Don't try to make Coke the bad guy. That kind of behavior is going to continue to happen whether or not Coke has a plant there.

Name withheld

DRAWING BOARD

BRIAN HAGY



VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

All the time in the world



JENNI LADA

Now before I get into things, I want to give a little warning. This latest babbling session might not be as amusing or insightful as my previous ones, because, like most of my close friends, I have been distracted by something, and haven't had much free time. It's not from all the end of the semester projects, designed to leave you burned out by the time finals week rolls around, or even from preparing for the Thanksgiving feast. Sadly it's because I got a new videogame. I know, I'm weak. But usually I have lots of time to waste, which brings me to my topic today.

One major issue for most students is free time, or the lack thereof. Everybody is always rushing from class to class, then from classes to work, never getting a moment's rest. Which of course makes it seem rare for some people to get a few seconds to just relax and do nothing.

And of course then there's me. By some freak miracle I always have free time, and large amounts of it, which always gets some attention. "Yeah, you always have free time. Do you ever study? When do you work?" I think that is the gentle way of a friend telling you that you are a lazy bum. I personally prefer to think of myself as an industrious bum.

I suppose I'm just a lucky one, and I'll decide to chalk it up to good time management. So I thought I'd share a few tips and strategies I've run across during the years, especially since in the last week before finals you might find something that could save you. Of course I can't really offer any study tips to help you excel in classes, because honestly I don't have any set rules for studying, other than just read the material 20 minutes before class.

First of all, it helps to take a casual approach to life. The more you let things bother you, the shorter your lifespan. I'm guessing if I keep going at the rate I do, I will easily reach that age when I can be a senile old lady with 50 cats. Taking a Zen approach makes things easier on you when problems arise. So your car breaks down? That's what friends are for. Didn't finish a paper in time for class? Ditch and call the professor saying your fifth grandfather died. Not letting little things bog you down helps you rise above them.

Plus, it is always good to get things done and out of the way right after you have them assigned to you. I know this is a tough one. I never follow it either. Most papers are usually assigned near the beginning of the semester, and are due around Thanksgiving. Now everyone knows there is NO way that paper is getting done before November. If you're lucky you'll find the assignment sheet again before then.

In this case, what you want to prepare for is damage control. When you see ideas or information that might pertain to your project, highlight it, and put it in a large stack. Plus, you will want to stock up on Red Bull and Jolt Cola (the White Hen near the school carries both). I mean, you're going to probably write it all in one night anyway; at least you can make it easier by having all the information and legal stimulants ready to help you get it done quicker.

A good final thought for this is not to take on more than you know you're capable of doing. Personally I don't have a set work schedule during the school year, though I will help out in my Dad's office if he needs assistance. You can't be working almost 40 hours a week, and managing 6 classes, without eventually going nuts and walking around for a week with no shoes and a necklace made of human hair (don't ask where it's from). But if you still harbor that insane dream of graduating in 4 years (yeah right), and have to go overboard, try to take classes you'll find some joy in attending.

As for me, it's not broke, so why fix it? Of course, I'm probably one of the few people with 4 classes with a sometimes part-time job who still appears to have really no responsibilities. I guess it's a gift. Now if you will excuse me, Final Fantasy X-2 is waiting.

I hope you all had a good Thanksgiving, and have a great winter break!

LETTER POLICY

Letters to the Editor must be signed, contain an address and telephone number for verification, and must be approximately 300 words in length or less.

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

The Independent, Room E-049
5500 N. St. Louis Ave
Chicago, IL 60625

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

REV

CD REVIEW

Thursday is great for Skeet



Photo courtesy of Island Records

If you want something else to use instead of clay pigeons, use this CD instead.

by Cecilia Carboni
Production Editor

Thursday caught my attention because I have the suspicion they stole Radiohead's CD booklet designer. I recognized the cover and inside art of *War All the Time* to have the trademark look of desaturated colors, semi-abstract images, and lyrics typed out by a scratch-happy madman. How this gave them any air of quality, I don't know, but I'm a sucker for visual candy.

The first track just bursts right in and I know this isn't what I expected. I read the lyrics and they seemed pleasantly quirky. The first track is "For the Workforce, Drowning," and to illustrate my point, "falling from the top floor, your lungs fill like parachutes, the windows go rushing by, the people inside, they're dressed for the funeral in black and white, these ties strangle our necks." A very dramatic ode to the melancholy of the cubicle. Yet somehow the sound that conveys these words just doesn't seem to fit.

The music is not inherently bad, nor mediocre. It just seems like

these guys fell in between a crack somewhere. The lead singer's voice is just too whiny or too rough at the wrong parts. The points of emphasis placed on the words just seem awkward. The music seems to simply accompany it and not compliment it. Am I saying it's a bad band? By no means. I just think they need to refine their style. The talent seems to be there, but the synchronization isn't. The songs remind me of fat little birds. They take off with a lot of enthusiasm but land with a thud after a lot of strained flapping. The lead singer just gives me the impression that he tries too hard, and that's what dragging their whole vibe down. I want to think that maybe this is one of those bands that are just more energy than anything else. They seem like they would be a lot more enjoyable live. On disc their sound takes on a two dimensionality. The instruments just seem to melt together, rather than flow with each other. Perhaps his voice isn't as ridiculous on stage. They could get me to like them but I don't know how. Right now I'm shaking my head hoping they prove me wrong.

Listening to the whole CD over and over, I can't find anything extremely innovative about them. The singer seems to be part of that

trend that has been haunting popular music for some time. Lincoln Park made strained screaming a fashion, and it seems that every lead singer thinks they can pull it off. Lincoln Park remained on the edge of my tolerance for a long time, but I respect them because of their music (and eye candy videos). I can't stand imitators. It's just not worth imitating. If I could take Thursday aside, I would seriously let them know how cheap it makes them look.

To prove my point, track 7 is a very calm song where the man actually sounds respectable. Track 8 shattered that short illusion, but we can't live in our delusions.

So what do I suggest you do with a Thursday CD? Hold on, I'm loading it into my clay disk launcher and cleaning out my rifle. I suggest you destroy the insult, keep the cover, and see if you can get (cheap) tickets to one of their shows. If you enjoy it, then pull the singer aside and suggest him to stop straining himself, hire better production people next time, but keep the CD designer. On second thought, fire him too. All of our Radiohead fans are getting really confused.

REV

THEATER REVIEW

Lend Me a Tenor is a "ten," or very close

by Izzy Moskovits
Staff Writer

There is nothing quite as much fun as those movies in which two or more characters are unaware of a big secret throughout the film's duration that the audience is in on. What is even better than seeing it on screen, though, is seeing it in person. This idea is the key of a new play now playing at the NEIU Stage Center. As a big theatre fan, I was present on the opening night of "Lend Me a Tenor," a farce written by Ken Ludwig.

The play is set in a hotel suite in Cleveland Ohio, in 1934. The story is that the world famous Opera tenor, Tito Merelli, has come to town to perform. Saunders, the show's coordinator, as well as Max and Maggie, his daughter and son-in-law, are eagerly awaiting his performance. He arrives at the hotel and everyone quickly becomes intrigued by Tito, especially Max, who, as it turns out, is an aspiring Opera singer himself. Tito and his wife are having marital difficulties, and after a particularly rough feud, she decides to leave him. Tito reacts to this news in shock and falls into a heavy sleep after excessive drinking. Saunders finds him sprawled out on the bed and believes him to be dead. This leaves him in a terrible predicament. If Tito is not able to perform, the audience will be fumed and Saunders could lose his job.

But Saunders suddenly has a brilliant idea. He pleads with Max to impersonate Tito and save the performance, to which Max reluctantly agrees. The show goes on as planned and no one notices the switch. The next morning, Tito awakens, not knowing what has happened and leaves the hotel. Saunders and Max quickly realize what could happen to both of them if their secret is revealed. They need to find a way to allow the show to continue without anyone finding out their scheme. Let's just say that a good word for this show is "double entendre."

This play succeeds on many levels. For starters, the script written by Ludwig is superb, filled with witty lines and punctual retorts. Each character's personality is so wonderfully unique that we quickly come to love them, and empathize with their zany predicaments. The real reason this play succeeds though, is the casting. Each actor perfectly fits their role. It was almost as if each character was made to play each particular part. One particular role that caught my attention was that of the Bellhop, played by Andrew Berlien. Though his character had a minor role, his lines were delivered so perfectly that he stuck out when he appeared on stage. Though the play was over two and a half hours long, it passed very quickly. Another impressive bit was the ending of the play, which involved complicated choreography that was carried out flawlessly. This is one of the finer plays shown here at Northeastern, and a crowning achievement for the Stage Center.



The Cat in the Hat will make you hit yourself with a bat.

The Cat's out of the bag

Dr. Seuss's masterpiece torn to shreds by none other than Universal and DreamWorks with no help from Mike Myers

by Izzy Moskovits
Staff Writer

Dr. Seuss was an incredible man. He wrote books overflowing with addictive rhymes and endlessly quotable catchphrases. His works spawned so many timeless characters, so popular that they became American icons in short order. He was so influential that he even invented his own word, "nerd." (Check out its etymology if you don't believe me.) Well, for someone so famous, movie adaptations of his books are an inevitability. It did happen. It was called "The Grinch." It starred Jim Carrey, was directed by Ron Howard, and met fans with mixed feelings. It also made bucket loads of cash. Hollywood had evidently realized the box office gold that is Dr. Seuss books and have done it again, this time with what is, no doubt everyone's favorite book from childhood (or one of them, anyway), "The Cat In The Hat." I'll be kind and say that Seuss got it right the first time.

I entered the theater pumped with optimism. It was the screen adaptation of the endlessly popular book. It starred legendary funny man Mike Myers, and it had a very generous budget. I loved the animated Universal and DreamWorks logos. After those faded, I gasped in awe at the wonderful Seuss world I saw in front of me. The vibrant colors, cars, and zany looking trees were things of the imagination. That was where my positive feelings about the film ended. This movie takes the story in an entirely different direction, and has very little to do with the book at all.

The story is as follows: Sally and Conrad's mom is away at work, getting ready for a company party she's holding at her house. She instructs the children to be on their best behavior and not to make any messes. She leaves the kids in the custody of a grossly incapable sitter and goes to work, confident that all will be fine. Everything is fine until a certain cat shows up and promises them fun on the rainy wet day. There is also a subplot barely worth mentioning involving the kid's mom and her neighbor, who is trying to court her and send Conrad to military school.

What a disaster! This film has literally nothing to do with the medium that inspired it. Very little of the original book is present in this movie, and that which is added (98% of the film) is strongly unwelcome. For starters, Mike Myers is no Cat in the Hat. He is merely Austin Powers in a scary looking costume. I was shocked at the sexual and otherwise perverse humor that was rampant in a film that should be a strict family feature. Purist unhappiness aside, this film has nothing to offer as a stand-alone project. The plot is unoriginal, the dialogue uninspiring, and the title character's antics unimpressive. The big budget was shamefully wasted in some unneeded and excessive special effects. By the time the film was over, I could not believe that this was the film I had seen advertised on TV. This is the word "bastardization" taken to its final extreme. This is not a movie. It's a mess. 'Nuff said.

REV

CD REVIEW

The Flaming Lips with rock's newest ego trip

by Jonathan Gronli
Staff Writer

Through different periods of my life, I have listened to different bands. Each year, I add at least one new band to the list of my musical taste. I was just bored in the newspaper meeting, and thought this CD would be at least a decent album to review. I mean I looked at it and expected a lot. So I picked it up and started listening to it.

Musically, the originals have a very deep Pink Floyd feel within them. The music is just sort of always flowing. It's a refreshing change from the crap rock and pseudo-metal of today. This CD just has a very musical purpose. In the case of the remix tracks of their songs, I kept getting one image running through. I kept thinking of Jane's Addiction doing dance music. The remixes are just upbeat, care-free, living entities within themselves. It just makes a person want to get up and move. That is also, for the lack of a better word, incredible. Few actual bands of today can actually pull that off. However I must say with each good thing there must be some bad. Sometimes the music is just so driven off the sound of other bands that it seems to be inspired by, that I switched between CDs and saw too many similarities. I guess it's true when people say there are no truly original ideas anymore. Still,

it is at least original nowadays since it actually has musical talent and shows it. It's not about the image of the band, but actually about the music, which is a non-concept for most CDs released since 1995.

Now to the lyrics; I must say that they are strange. I guess that is understandable since this CD is just driven by psychedelic rock throughout the entire thing. But they are very well-written and story driven. Each song is about relationships, break ups, and humanity, but it's just very real in terms of the stories brought up in the songs. "Assassination Of The Sun" is the quintessential break up song. I mean when you just got out of a meaningful relationship, it may seem like the light of your life has just been dimmed, and is slowly being killed. "Ego Tripping At The Gates Of Hell" is a song about never making a move for love. "I was wanting you to love me but your love it never came" just illustrates the point I mentioned. When you want something, you may be afraid to go for it. If you are too afraid to go for it, you may miss out on a good thing. "Sunship Balloons" is a song about making the most of what time you may have with the one you love. Sometimes a good thing doesn't



Photo courtesy of www.flaminglips.com

The Flaming Lips' ego is on fire at the Gates of Hell, from the reaction of their new album.

last that long, and you have to appreciate it before it slips away. "A Change At Christmas (Say It Isn't So)" is easy to explain if you read and listen to the lyrics. It's about the duel within mankind. It is about how the good and evil within us are always fighting. Everyone has a fight going on within themselves and the side that wins depends on the person.

Ego Tripping At The Gates Of Hell is

incredible, and so are the Flaming Lips. I don't mean that there aren't flaws. I ask this though. What albums are perfect? There are no truly perfect CDs, but this is just about as close as it comes for the rock of this generation. That's not saying much, but this will. It, in my mind, rivals some of the classic rock best sellers. Go out and get this incredible work of art.

REV

CD REVIEW

Getting a little...



Photo courtesy of Repise Records

22-year-old Josh Groban strikes again with the opera crowd. He is in a generation of his own.

by Sherri Rafelson
Staff Writer

Generally, in conversation, when people mention opera singers, they normally imagine people like Pavarotti or the other two gentlemen who comprise the Three Tenors. Interestingly, for some time people thought the opera was deemed a form of entertainment strictly for individuals who are passed retirement age. Yet there is one young man that is creating a very loud buzz in the opera world. His name is Josh Groban and he just released a new CD entitled *Closer*. Among the 13 new songs on the recently released CD, several are sung in English but, there are tracks in Italian also. In fact, since achieving recognition for his marvelous talents,

sales in the division of opera have truly soared.

Groban's album, in all probability, will sell a great number of CDs for two reasons. His voice is extremely strong and the music honestly reaches your heart. Yet he will sell even more copies because this 22-year old is also appealing to the vast teenage market. Astoundingly, Groban has the remarkable talent of being able to touch and amaze every age group, and even has some fans that are devoted enthusiasts of Goth music. Though the majority of the songs are slower and do not encompass upbeat sounds, one can tell that he hits each and every note with exact precision; he sings very meticulously. Additionally, as each song comes to a close, it sincerely leaves a lasting impression on the listener.

And still, even in regards to the foreign language songs, one feels as though they are actually immersed in the scene. Maybe that has something to do with the aspect that is completely the audience's imagination. Yet these Italian songs may wind up encouraging some Groban admirers to take interest in learning Italian. Interestingly, it is offered at Northeastern. The English tracks as well are mesmerizing as well and, in truth, ear candy, due to its ability to soothe one's ears.

Groban is truthfully an overnight success. People should be familiar with him due to his long list of appearances on coveted talk shows and performances in such honorable places as the closing ceremonies of the winter Olympic Games held in Salt Lake City. However, his

celebrity really skyrocketed when he had landed his very own television special, which aired on PBS.

All in all, *Closer* is very well put together, meaning the lyrics are not all surrounding the same topic, and the melodies are sincerely unique. After people listen to this CD, Groban will certainly and deservedly earn many fans, and should get Grammy or award-show recognition. In addition to that, if you begin listening to this CD with an open mind, even if opera may not be your cup of tea, you will surely find at least one song on this album enjoyable, and will want to listen to it constantly. Moreover, with this young man aboard, the opera scene will definitely no longer carry its reputation for being a 60+ years of age obsession.

A thrill ride of Gothic Porportions

by P.J. Breemer
Copy Editor

Shadows, cigarette smoke and a cage in a mental hospital make for a fitting beginning to what has to be one of the scariest movies that I have seen this year. That said, I have to make a cautionary note- as long as you are able to suspend disbelief for the 1 hour, 50 minute long thriller, you'll be riveted to your seat.

Gothika, directed by Matheiu Kassovitz and written by Sebastian Gutierrez, has a cast of well-known stars such as Halle Berry, Penelope Cruz and Robert Downey, Jr. who, with some lapses by Downey, Jr., reach into themselves and manage to pull out things that you wouldn't want to see in even your husband/wife or girlfriend/boyfriend.

Dr. Miranda Grey, played by Halle Berry (of such films as *X-Men* and *Die Another Day*), is a criminal psychologist in a Connecticut prison that has a mental hospital occupying the same grounds. Oh, and let's not forget the full-length swimming pool that seems to exist only for plot contrivances like being a suitable hiding place when Berry needs to escape from guards.

But I digress. The movie opens by introducing us to Berry as she interviews Chloe, one of her patients, played by washed-out Cruz. Chloe will become an integral part of the movie even though she doesn't have much screen time. Then, after a quick swim, Berry is forced to take a detour on the way home and runs off the road when she sees a girl in the middle of the street.

To make a long story short, the girl, played by Kathleen Mackey, is a ghost, Berry swallows fire and then wakes up in the very mental hospital where she used to work. Her doctor, ex-coworker Pete Graham, played by Downey Jr., conveniently enters a minute after she wakes up wide-eyed and gasping. Berry finds out that she has been in the hospital for three days, none of which she remembers, and is charged with the murder of her husband, Dr. Douglas Grey, the hospital coordinator played by Charles Dutton. What happens between the time she hits the girl and the time she wakes up in the hospital takes the rest of the movie to figure out.

Berry looks throughout the movie very convincingly less-than-coiffed, especially since the only shower we get to see her take winds up with her in the prison/hospital's infirmary. If you can't stand the sight of blood, look away during the shower scene. If you can't stand movies made up of scenes shot, with one exception, entirely at night and mostly in the rain, then just don't go. However, for those who don't mind, the darkness really does set the mood, helped by a generator with a tendency to cut out and/or flicker at just the right time.



Photo courtesy of www.imdb.com

Berry breaks in to her character in her new filic, *Gothika*

The girl, who we find out was Rachel Parsons, the daughter of the hospital administrator, has been dead for four years. This does not prevent Berry from seeing the girl throughout the movie as the ghost tries to "help" Berry understand her more-than-once cryptically delivered message- "NOT ALONE." And the scene where ghost-girl walks disjointedly down the hall will leave you troubled and disturbed.

I don't want to ruin the movie's ending anymore than I have already, so I'll stop here. Let me just say that *Gothinka* was an adrenaline rush from start to finish. The entire audience in a packed stadium theater managed to gasp, scream and nervously giggle from the time Berry sees the first ghost to the time she sees the last.

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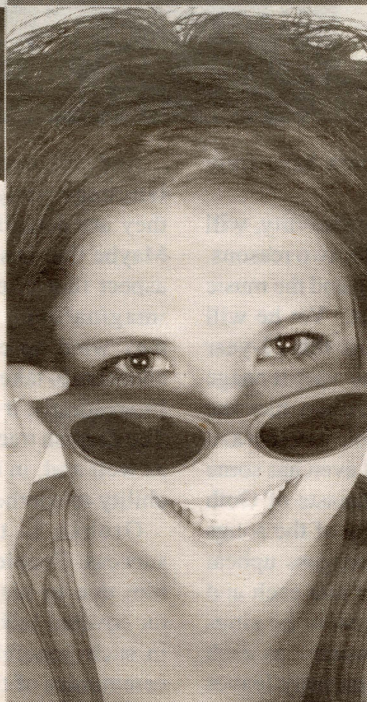
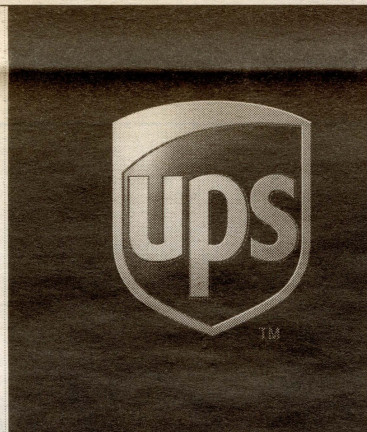
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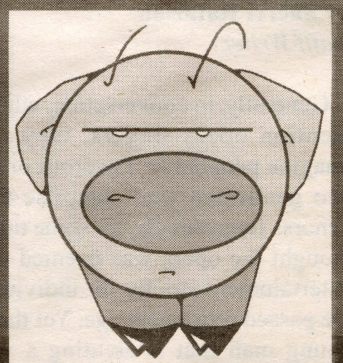


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Or a funny flick.



It's in **REV**

Eagle's Nest

Lifestyles of the Northeastern community



Are you sad or could it be more?

Depression: an illness students are able to relate to

by Staci Sonenthal
Office Assistant

Depression is an illness that affects many people around the world today. Most people suffering from this illness aren't even aware that they are depressed until it has affected their daily lives, or when it is already too late. Everyone experiences variations on moods, whether it be a disappointment, the normal grief when someone close passes or just the blues. "Depression" also can occur in teenagers dealing with the following situations: breakup of a relationship, a bad shopping trip, a favorite sports team loss, a bad grade in a class, or a bad hair day. But a prolonged depression that interferes with the ability to function is not just a case of the blues.

There are three time frames where people may have a greater chance of encountering depression. They are: late adolescence, middle age, and the years after retirement. Many teenagers find the transition into adulthood depressing because of family conflicts, education, work pressure, or having to assume adult responsibilities. Many middle age people feel depressed because they feel they are not longer sexually attractive. A person in late middle age may feel depressed at the realization that career advancement may not be possible, or retirement is approaching.

The public often misunderstands depression, yet it affects many people of all ages. It is estimated that one in five people will suffer from depression at some point in their lives. When someone starts feeling like they don't matter in life anymore, and that there isn't a reason for them to be alive anymore, that is when the depression is serious. Researchers have demonstrated that depression sometimes results from biochemical imbalances in the brain.

Some of the most common symptoms of depression are: feeling helplessness

and hopelessness; being "over-sensitive;" a significant loss or gain of weight; or difficulty getting to sleep. The more extreme symptoms are suicidal ideas, failure to eat or drink, delusions or hallucinations.

There are many different types of depression. For instance, severe depression is when the person is in desperate need of support, with ideas of ending their life. Manic, or Bipolar, Depression occurs when a person has extreme mood swings, which can also be referred to as high and low days. Post Natal Depression sometimes happens after a woman has just giving birth and is resenting the pregnancy. One of the final forms, Seasonal Affective Disorder, only occurs in certain seasons of the year, usually starting in September and lasting until spring. NO one is immune from depression; it occurs in people of all social classes, all countries, and all cultural settings.

Depression is one the most treatable mental illness known to man. Unfortunately about half of all cases of depression are unrecognized and left untreated. One disheartening statistic is that about 10-15% of depressed people take their own lives. Vacations, active sports or taking up a hobby might help lessen the depression. But if this isn't working then consulting a doctor might be on the list of things to do.

Many forms of mild depression can be treated with anti-depressants, which usually work within two to three weeks. People who have mild depression usually respond well to treatment. Others may take longer to treat. If there is anyone dealing with, or think they have the symptoms of, depression, help is out there. So consult a doctor; suicide is NOT the answer! Suicide will only affect the people, family and friends that care about the person. Thus causing their depression, and the cycle to continue. Place an end to this cycle; don't let the statistics continue to rise.

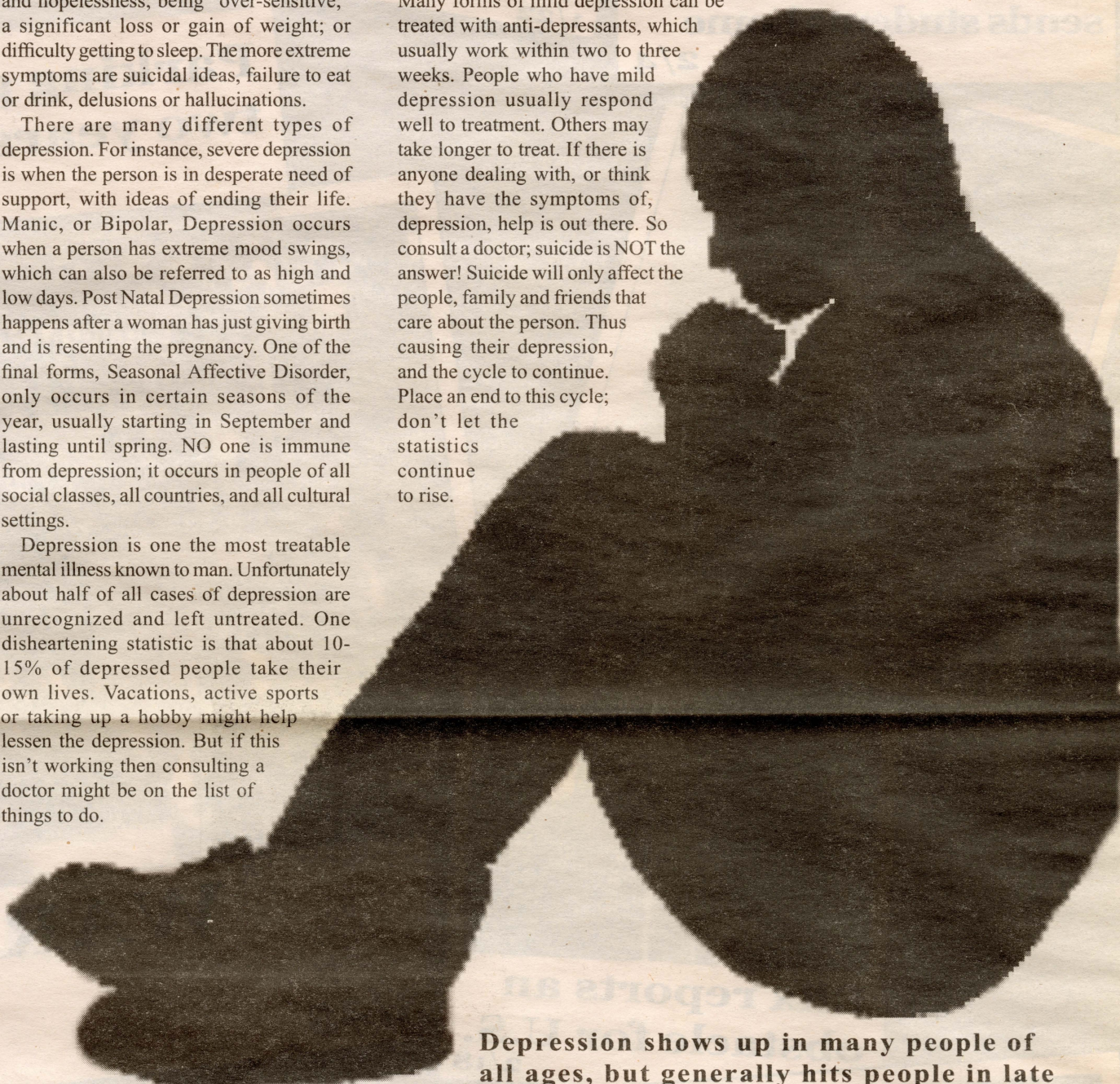


Image courtesy of www.geocities.com

Depression shows up in many people of all ages, but generally hits people in late adolescence, middle ages, and seniors.

File sharing: a perspective

by Izzy Moskovits
Staff Writer

Though it was a concept tossed around in the computer world for several years, peer-to-peer file sharing didn't take off until Napster creator Shawn Fanning dropped out of college to pursue his idea. Peer-to-peer file sharing or P2P is, as it sounds, the process of transferring files from one user's computer to another.

With the invention of the MP3 File format, music file sizes became small enough to transfer songs over standard dial-up modems. The idea was an instant success.

Once Napster began to take off, other companies began to follow suit, and soon software with names such as KaZaa, Imesh, Gnutella, and Shareaza were rampant throughout the web.

Although music usually comes to mind in the subject of P2P, many of these new services began offering the ability to transfer

almost any file, including text, video, and images to any user of the software. All of these services were free, of course, and soon the internet was teeming with illegally obtained files available everywhere. Record companies began to sue the software creators in the now famous Napster and KaZaa lawsuits. But software writers began to find more creative ways to avoid legal trouble and still be able to share files.

After almost two years of being shut down, Napster is now back online and revamped. The service is no longer free. Users pay 99 cents per song or \$9.99 per album.

The company is now owned by Roxio, a company known for its CD Burning software. The new version of Napster features over 500,000 songs, music recommendations, and CD Burning capabilities. The software is available at Napster.com.



Photo courtesy of www.zmni.org

The weight of the world in P.E. Complex

by Izzy Moskovits
Staff Writer

The NEIU Fitness Center is located upstairs on the second floor of the Physical Education Building. The room itself is on the small side for an exercise room, but it is usually moderately populated. The facility boasts air conditioning and many regularly maintained workout machines.

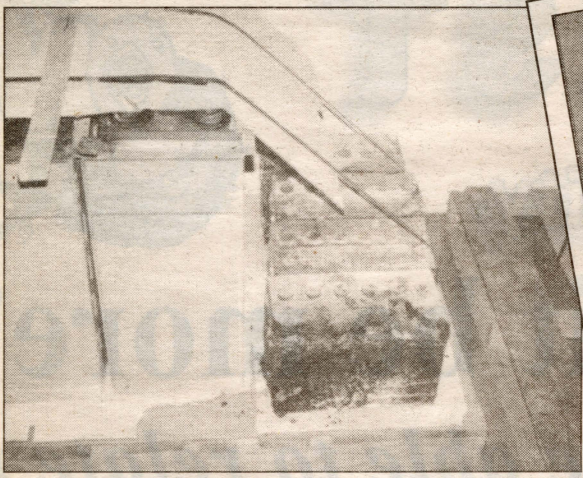
For those looking for a cardio-based workout, there are treadmills, Stair Masters, rowing machines, exercise bikes (both recumbent and upright), a Star Trac elliptical trainer, and a Versaclimber. For those looking for a resistance workout, the room has a full set of dumbbells ranging in weight from 2 1/2 to 100 pounds. There are also three bench presses, (standard, incline, and declined) a Smith Machine, and many resistance-based workout machines working almost every muscle group.

Northeastern students are also eligible for up to six sessions per semester with any of the 11 available personal trainers so that ones individual fitness needs can be addressed. The personal trainers have been educated according to ACSM guidelines, and can assist in almost any workout goal, from strength training to motivation. Sign up sheets are available in the weight room upon request. The fitness center is open Monday-Thursday from 11:00am-8:45pm, Friday from 10:00am-7:15pm, and Sunday from 9:00am-2:45pm.



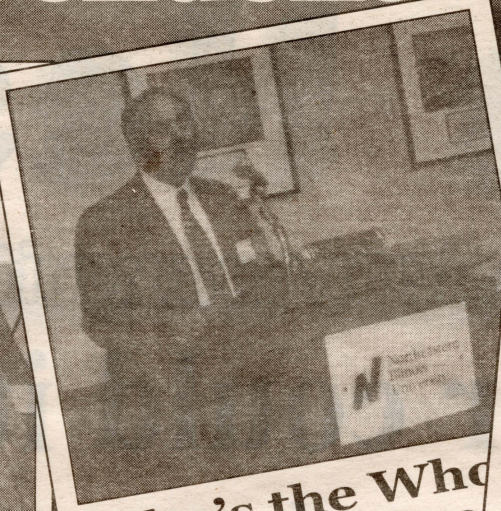
cartoon by Cecilia Carboni

The Independent's 2003 in review



**Classroom building fire
sends students home**

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**Who's the Who
Who at NEIU?**

1/22



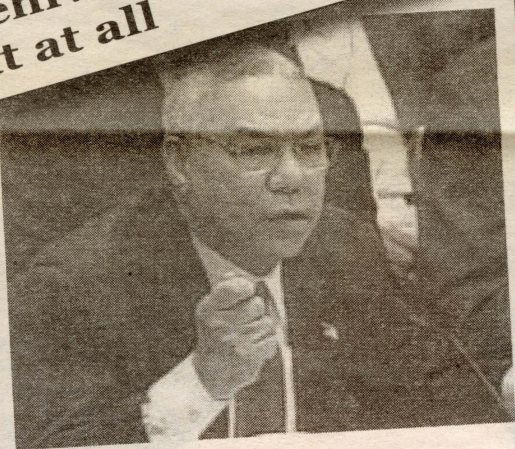
**Parking garage plans
two years away**

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**Kish: Asbestos threat
in Beehive really no
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**Blix reports an
obstacle for U.S.**

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WAR

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Every vote counts

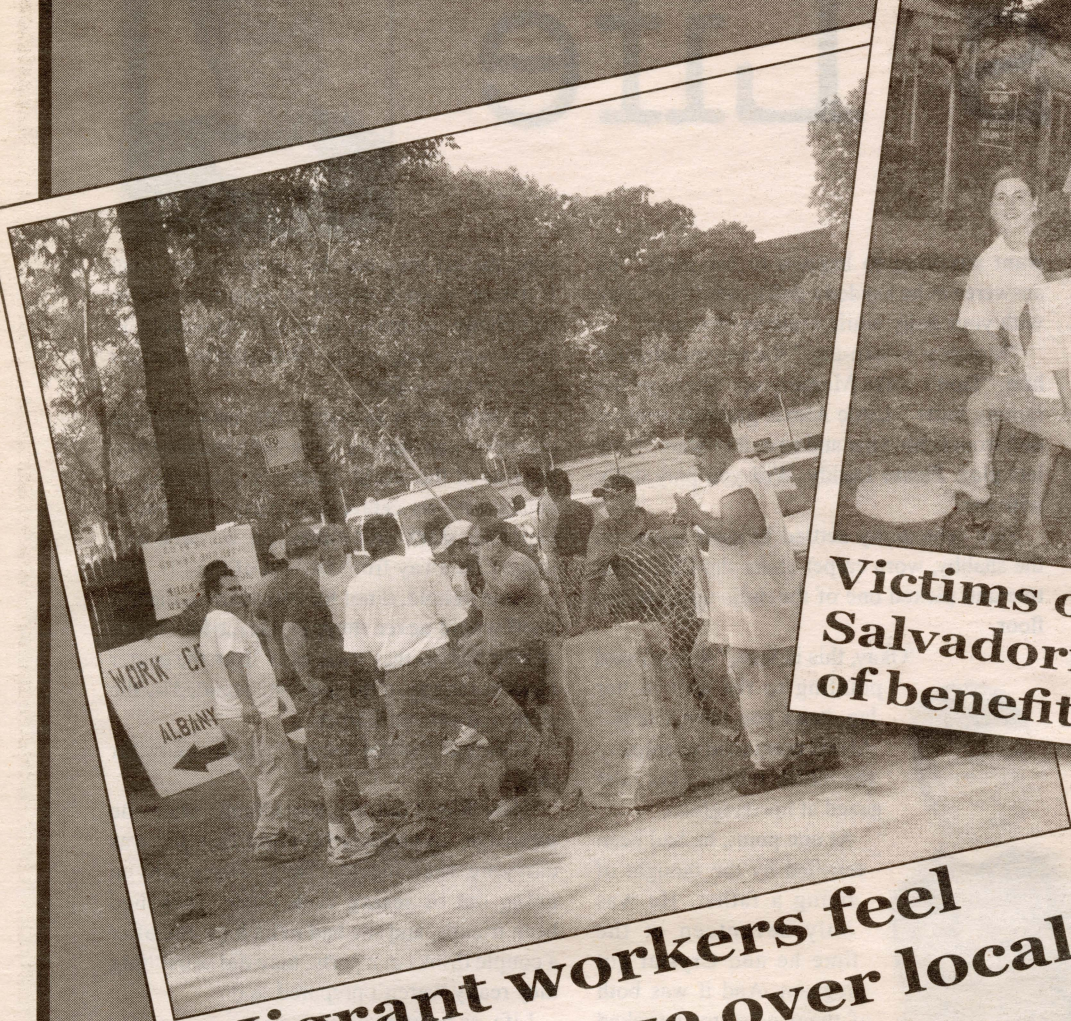
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**Student finds gateway
to Financial Aid
through basement**

4/8

Snapshots from the year that was



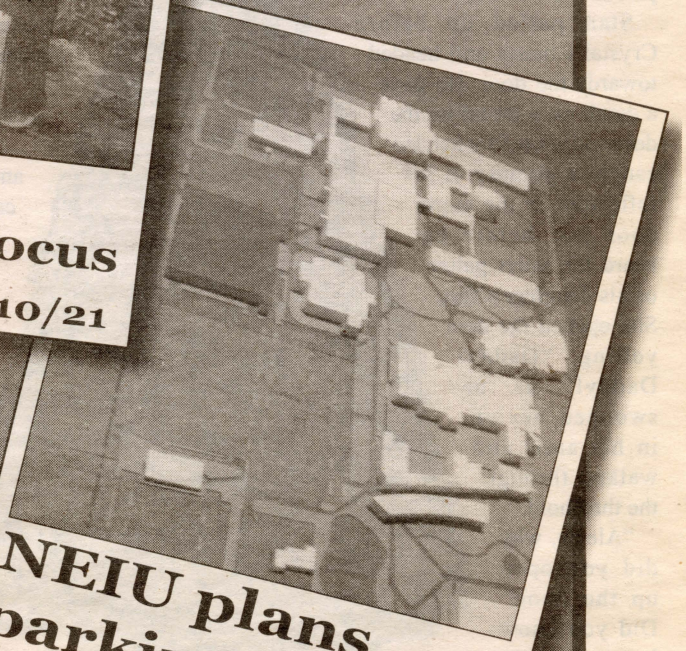
Migrant workers feel city's squeeze over local worker site

9/9



Victims of El Salvadorian crisis focus of benefit, auction

10/21



NEIU plans parking garage

9/23



Once again, construction welcomes students back

8/26



Where is our public safety?

10/7



Campus erupts at H.O.M.E.

11/18



Our sense of safety could go up in flames

11/4



ANDREA ZELINSKI

Stan's Life



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI

So far this year, teen pregnancies have totaled 805,892. Just over half of them came to term. Stan doesn't need to see the numbers to believe it. Back when he was in high school, he and Crystal were a part of that statistic.

Stan pulled up before Crystal's house and headed towards the door. He gave a quick rat-a-tat-tat on the door and waited for her. He caught a glimpse of his reflection in the storm door just before he heard the pitter patter of his daughter's feet. She opened the door yelling, "Daddy! Daddy!" as he swooped her up in his arms and walked through the threshold.

"Alexis, why did you open up the door? Did you know I was outside?"

The four-year-old girl shrugged.

"So you didn't know it was me outside?"

"Nope," she replied, and the innocence in

her eyes scared him.

"Listen to me," he said as he lowered her to the ground by the Christmas tree and crouched down in front of her. "Don't EVER open the door unless Mommy is with you."

"Why?" she asked.

"Because there are bad strangers outside."

"How do I know who's a stranger?" she asked.

"They are people you, me, and Mommy don't know. They can be very bad people."

"Why are they bad?"

Stan paused for a moment.

"Sometimes, sweetie, people do very bad things for no good reason. They try to hurt people they don't even know, and I don't

want anything to happen to my girls," he answered as he handed a doll to her. "Now play with your dolly while I talk to Mommy."

"Mommy's sleep-ing," she annunciated for him. "Don't wake Mommy up. She says her tummy hurts." Little Alexis grabbed another doll from behind her and gave it to Stan. "Now lets play. Please Daddy. Will you play dolly with me."

Stan reluctantly settled himself down on the shabby, worn carpet under the Christmas tree and picked one of the dolls up from the floor.

"Okay, this is Sara," the girl said pointing to the doll in her lap, "and you have Cindy." Alexis continued to animate the dolls while Stan just gazed at his daughter.

At one point, he had been terrified by the thought of being a father. He was only seventeen at the time he and Crystal got pregnant. And it was both of them who got knocked up. Both had to live with the consequences of their actions, and no one would be left behind.

They decided to have sex before they even knew what it was. They were juniors in high school. Of course they knew

what the act was, but they didn't know what it meant; what it meant to give yourself to somebody, to leave yourself vulnerable in every way imaginable. Vulnerable doesn't even do sex justice.

To have sex is to expose the most intimate pieces of you; the ones you keep hidden from the rest of the world. Like a lily, opening its petals with its centermost part, the stamen, exposed, stark and naked, to be seen and judged far away from the rest of the lily. But low and behold, if not for that stamen, the lily itself would never show the beautiful shades of magenta, as they fade away from the center towards the tips of the petal, surrounded by the stark and solemn stamen.

Stan and Crystal weren't at all ready for that.

They found out about 4 months after one particular un-noteworthy night that she was carrying their child. They weren't even going out or seeing each other. They had been friends, and she had liked him, and after a couple drinks at a party, they did something they really weren't prepared to do.

Life, as he knew it, was over.

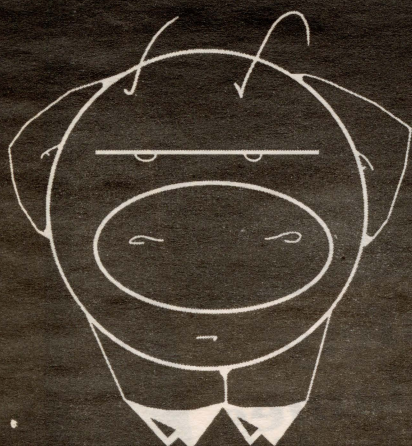
It wasn't until this moment that he realized that it had really just begun. He gazed at the girl, with her light brown curly hair, and big green eyes. Her innocence was a gift and a treasure he could do nothing but protect. She continued to play with her dolls, insisting Stan play too. She pulled his sleeve saying, "Come on Daddy. Play right!"

He chuckled. Maybe he did make a few good mistakes with his life.



**Side
Splitters not
cutting it
for ya?
How about
you give it
a shot?**

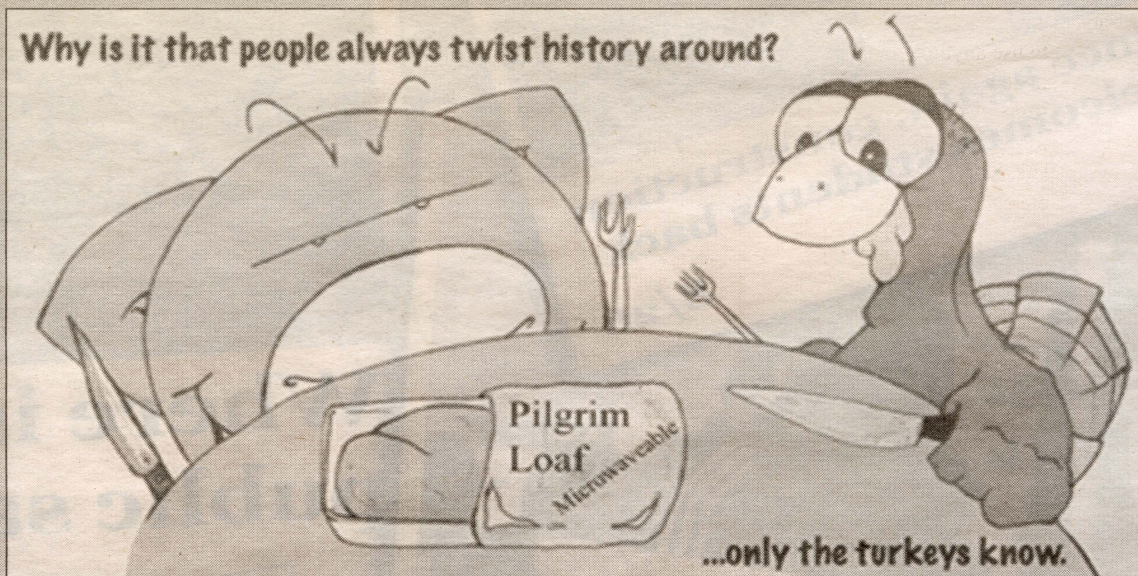
**If you're not
a solution
you're
part of the
problem.**



the side splitters

Cecilia Carboni

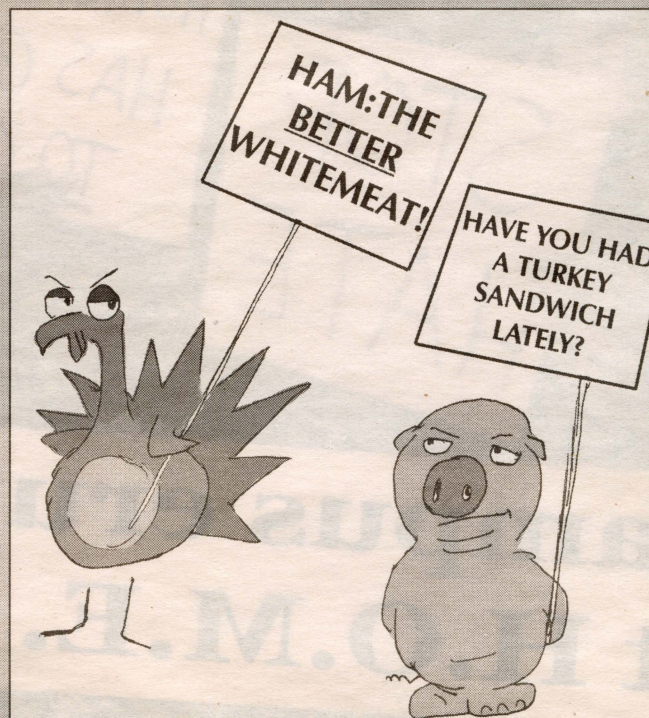
Why is it that people always twist history around?



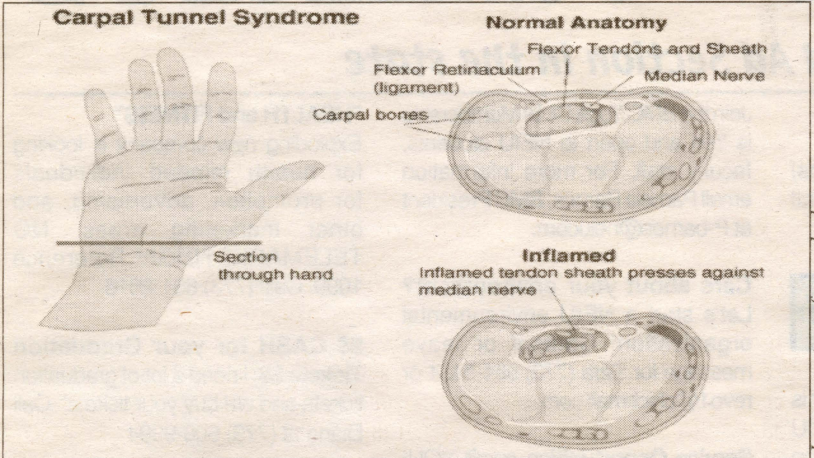
Brian Hagy



John Bracich



It's a pain in the wrist



In normal situations the median nerve in the wrist is not being pinched.
by Denisse Feliz
Staff Writer

Carpal Tunnel Syndrome is the name given to the symptoms that occur when the nerves and tendons running through the carpal tunnel of the wrist are compressed by tissue or bone, or become irritated and swell. There is a group of small bones that make up your wrist and the base of your hand called "carpals." To allow nerves and tendons to pass through to your fingers, there is a tunnel through these bones called the "carpal tunnel." Through this tunnel pass nine tendons and a bundle of nerve fibers called the "median nerve."

There is limited room in this tunnel, and if anything happens to cause swelling of any of the tissues, the median nerve will be compressed, at first causing irritation, then over time causing actual nerve damage. Since the median nerve includes both sensory fibers (carrying information about touch to the brain) and motor fibers (carrying impulses from the brain to move the fingers), this irritation or damage results in numbness, pain, and possibly even partial paralysis.

The muscles most likely to be affected are the muscles forming the ball of your thumb. It is important to remember, though, that pain and even movement problems in your wrist and hand can be caused by things other than carpal tunnel syndrome. Diseases or conditions that predispose to the development of carpal tunnel syndrome include pregnancy, diabetes, and obesity.

The progress of carpal tunnel syndrome is usually predictable. First, the small nerve fibers that are not insulated are affected, then the larger insulated sensory fibers, and lastly the larger insulated motor, or movement, fibers. These changes can be the result both of direct irritation to the nerve and of loss of blood to the nerve. By the time a person goes to the doctor complaining of numbness, pain or movement problems, the last condition -- damage to the motor fibers -- has usually come about. At that point, a neurologist or a professional specializing in electrical measurements of nerve performance can perform tests that will determine whether the condition is early, moderate, or severe.

Anti-inflammatory drugs, such as aspirin and ibuprofen, and corticosteroid injections, will help carpal tunnel syndrome temporarily. Things like wrist braces, and wrist-rests on keyboards, help carpal tunnel syndrome by relieving stress on the tendons. Anything that reduces swelling and irritation and promotes blood flow to nourish the tissues and remove the waste products will help carpal tunnel syndrome. Massage therapy can help too, by reducing the tightness in the muscles that control these tendons and by increasing blood flow to the area. But it's also important to use anything that will help retrain the person in the positioning and use of the wrists and hands.

The cure for carpal tunnel syndrome is to do whatever is necessary to relieve pressure on the median nerve in the wrist. Surgery does that very well by opening the tunnel and making it bigger, and the relief is almost immediate. But if the same result can be accomplished without surgery, it would certainly be preferable, even if it were to take a longer amount of time to heal.

Tomatoes + tobacco = Tomacco Where The Simpsons collided with science

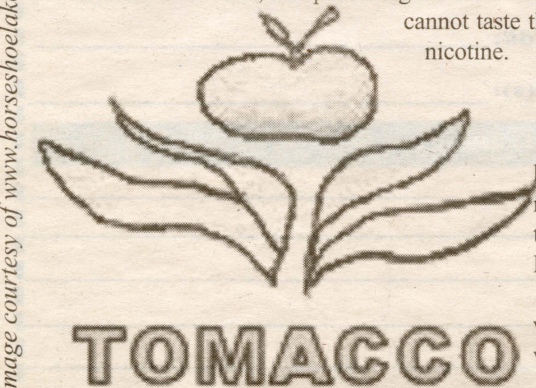
by Elana Barron
Staff Writer

As The Simpsons, the longest-running sitcom, enters their fifteenth season, they have a lot to be proud of. It has won 20 Emmys and is enjoyed by fans of all ages - adults, college students, and children. Its catch phrases, such as "Ay, carumba" and "Don't have a cow, man" have permeated our vernacular. Even the Oxford Dictionary has included "D'oh" in its vocabulary.

However, no one expected The Simpsons to impact the science world, until recently. Rob Baur has successfully conducted a scientific experiment based on a Simpsons episode. In 1999, episode #1105 aired, in which Homer starts a farm. Unfortunately, he has trouble growing crops, probably because he first attempts to plant Gummy Bears. Fortunately, he discovers the concept of seeds and successfully crosses tomatoes and tobacco, thus forming the hybrid tomacco.

Tomacco does not taste good, as Ralph Wiggum exclaims, "This tastes like grandma!" Bart Simpson, however, influenced by the addictive nature of tobacco, says it is "smooth and mild--and refreshingly addictive!" The entire town, including the animals, becomes addicted to tomacco.

Rob Baur, who obviously had too much time on his hands, decided to grow tomacco. He first grew a tomato and tobacco plant. He cut the stems of each plant open and wrapped them together. Then, he cut off the tomato root, forcing the plant to rely on the tobacco root for its nutrients and water, thus producing a tomato-tobacco hybrid: tomacco. Unfortunately, Baur cannot taste the plant for it contains a fatal amount of nicotine.



A drawing of the ubiquitous plant Tomacco

A local lab offered to test the plant for free. One can only assume that they are Simpsons fans as well. These scientists have found nicotine in the leaves, but have not yet tested the actual fruit. However, they believe it will also contain nicotine. Despite the ridicule Baur has received (mainly from his family), he says it is worth it. "We'll see who's saying 'D'oh' when I'm on the cover of TV Guide and Scientific American the same week," Baur says.

Ask the Trustee In Angel we trust



Angel Monterroso
Student Trustee

Good Day NEIU. A very important topic that has come up during many conversations with students around campus is the Grade Appeal Process.

What can I tell you about the Grade Appeal Process? Well, what do you know? I am currently dealing with one myself. It's okay to appeal a grade. According to NEIU's Grade Appeal Process, "All students have a legitimate right to seek redress when they consider their final grade in a course to be unreasonable, unjust or capricious."

The keywords here are "unreasonable, unjust or capricious." You shouldn't initiate an appeal because you didn't like the teacher's necktie, or because he didn't accept your late homework. Let's assume though, that there is a reasonable need for an appeal to be initiated.

The process should be initiated during the term immediately following the finished course, and there are certain steps that you must follow. The following info was gathered from the NEIU Dean of Students Website:

- Step1:** Contact the faculty member who issued the grade for reconsideration of the grade.
Step2: If the faculty is unavailable or if after meeting with faculty, you feel that you need to take it a step further, contact the Head of the Department for the class in question and request an investigation.
- Type a formal statement to the Head of Department explaining the reasons for believing the grade to be unreasonable, unjust or capricious. The Head of Dept. then is responsible for contacting the parties involved, gathering the info needed, and preparing a written report of the results of the investigation which will be used when meeting with the faculty and the student involved. At this point the Head of Dept. will make a decision and either: request the faculty member to review the final grade; or concur with the faculty member's decision and leave the grade as recorded.
- Step 3:** If the Head of Dept. is the teacher of record, you may submit a written appeal to appropriate Dean (undergraduates) and to the Dean of the Graduate College (graduate).
- The Academic Dean shall be responsible for requesting a written statement from the head of the Dept. in question. If the issue is not resolved at this point to your satisfaction, you may submit a letter to the appropriate Dean requesting a hearing by the Grade Appeal Committee (GAC)
 - The Dean, while consulting with the GAC, will review the statement prepared by the Head of Dept. If the Dean decides the issue should not be pursued, the grade remains as recorded. The decision of the Dean is final. All parties should be notified.
 - The Grade Appeal Committee (GAC) is composed of 5 members: 2 faculty members, 2 SGA members, and Dean of College in question

The GAC will then review the information provided. The faculty member, student and Head of Dpt shall be invited to be part of this meeting. After the GAC arrives to a decision, it will make its recommendations to the Dean of the College in question, and request for the grade to be changed to a "P" (Pass). Credits from this course will count towards undergraduate degree requirements. Otherwise, the GAC will recommend for the grade to be kept as originally recorded. Copies of all decisions shall be sent to all parties involved.

A few tips:

*keep a paper trail; always insist for responses to be submitted back to you in writing; always keep copies of all documents regarding your appeal; keep a journal if possible (it may come handy during the hearing process); and be patient, this process can be lengthy but well worth the time.

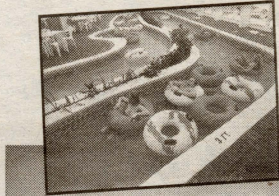
Important Contact Info:

College of Arts & Science	Kate L. Forehand, Ph.D.	SCI-158/ 442-5700
College of Business & Management	Varkey Titus, Ph.D.	CLS-0041/ 442-6100
College of Education	Nan J. Giblin, Ph.D.	CLS-2nd fl/ 442-5500
Graduate College		CLS-429 / 442-6005

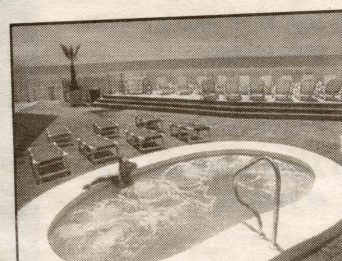
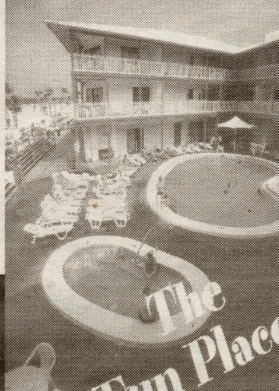
For additional information regarding the Grade Appeal Process, feel free to contact the Office of the Dean of Students at B-119 / 442-4610.

For questions or comments, email me at angelmonterroso@hotmail.com or call at 773-442-4668.
Good Luck with finals, and enjoy your Winter Break.

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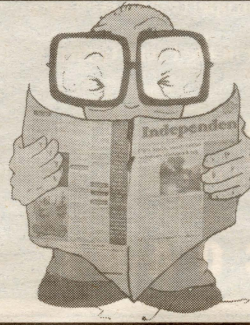


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Organizations

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.

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

WZRD 88.3 FM's "Thursday Nite 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 SU 214 at 1:15.

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance: meets on Tuesdays in FA153 at 1:40. To join listserve, send a message to femajority-l@neiu.edu with your name and e-mail address.

NEIU's new Yoga club. Do you want to learn how to enhance concentration and reduce stress while having fun?!

Join the BMC Yoga Club! Membership is free and open to NEIU students, faculty staff. For more information email Pamela Barnes, BMC President at P-barnes@neiu.com.

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

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

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

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

Fraternities, sororities, clubs student groups. Earn \$1,000-\$2,000 this semester with a proven Campus Fundraiser 3 hour fundraising event. Our programs make fundraising easy. Dates are filling quickly, so get this the program. It works. Contact Campus Fundraiser at (888) 923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraser.com.

Sustainable Land Use Group (SLUG), a NEIU environmental group, fostering environmental sensibility. For more information, email SLUG at neiu_SLUG@yahoo.com.

FUTURE TEACHERS CLUB: Education majors wanted! Meetings held Mondays and Thursdays. See bulletin board near CLS 3010 or E-Mail ftcneiu@hotmail.com

Wanted

Responsible animal lover to walk dogs in lake-front area. Will need someone with a flexible weekday schedule. Must have transportation. Call Melissa @ (773) 510-6607.

R/L guitarist/writer, 30 yrs exp. Seeks rhythm section (bass & drums or percussion), for once/wk development of original material. Age not a consideration, but strong rhythmic sensibility and improvisational spirit are. bonzadog@hotmail.com.

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Personal

From our home to yours, happy holidays from the *Independent*.

To the best woman anyone could ask for, better yet, the best boss as well. every moment with you personally and professionally is a beautiful one. -Patrick

Thumbalina,
The end is near. I can't believe it. Anyway, soon I will have more time so we can do more together. --Goldfish

As I look up at the Christmas tree and stare up at the simple lights, all I'll be thinking about is how my life has changed because of you. You've brought out the best in me, a feat never attempted. -Andie

Turkey Day spent so far away I missed my job, and you. Tonight, I'll speak of my daring ventures in the deep South, and how I swore that I saw the General Lee on I-75. - Strudel

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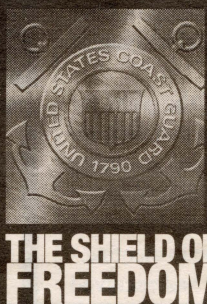
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