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Independent- Feb. 24, 2004

Andrea Zelinski

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IN
THIS
ISSUE...



Funnier
than a bag
of rocks.

In REV

NORTHEASTERN ILL
UNIVERSITY
FEB 26 2004
ARCHIVES

There's
no yolk
about it

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Northeastern Illinois University's

Tuesday, February 24, 2004 volume 20 issue 12

INDEPENDENT

Chicago

Ten-Time ICPA Award Winner

Illinois

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SGA approves \$16,000 party

Power play used to force vote; Nazario, Sommers left to ponder implications

by Daniel Peikes
Senior Staff Writer

On Friday, May 29, 2004, during the summer semester, the Haitian band Tabou Combo Superstars will be performing in Alumni Hall from 8PM-2AM. They are a Konpa band which is Haiti's national dance music. The purpose of this event is to celebrate the bi-centennial Haitian Independence.

The total cost for this event will be \$16,100. According to Dr. Walt Sommers, Director of Student Activities, this is one of the most expensive events ever held by the university's student organizations.

The funding is coming from two separate sources. Half of it is being allocated from the Northeastern Programming Board, and the other half was requested by the Caribbean Club from Student Activities.

The total expected attendance is 400 people, of which about 100 are expected to be NEIU students according to Gary Gaspard, President of SGA, member of the NPB, and officer in the Caribbean Club.

Gaspard told the *Independent* that that about 100 people (or less than

1% of the students) are Haitian. The show will be free to students and tickets will be available at about \$25 for non-students that wish to attend.

The event passed through the Finance Committee without much trouble. It was then sent to the SGA for approval.

According to the Vice President of SGA, Evelyn Nazario-Rose, the general rule for proceedings in matters such as this was suspended, and the issue was voted on without any debate.

When debate was suggested, it was squashed. Furthermore, according to Vice President

Nazario-Rose, it only passed through SGA by a narrow margin.

The funds are being drawn from the student activity fee, which means that each student that is enrolled in summer classes will be putting up a few dollars for this event.

The activities fee is covering most of the expenses of the band, including a \$5,000 base charge, \$3,200 for technical equipment such as sound, lights, and labor involved, \$4,000 for airfare, \$1,000 for lodging, a \$700 per diem charge, and \$300 for local

see 16K Party, page 4



President Gaspard at an SGA meeting during another controversy in 2002

file photo from Independent archives

Apocalypse rocks mic at poetry reading

by Franklin Silencieux
Opinions Editor

NEIU's student literary club, the Apocalypse Literary Arts Coalition, hosted an "Open Mic" last week, inviting student poets to read their own work or "someone else's."

For an hour, as busy students hurried past the Village Square, a small, enthusiastic audience gathered to hear the readings. Adding an air of congeniality was the Association of Students for Social Work (ASSW).

The women of that club sold cookies and other baked foods. Bridging the gap between the ASSW and Apocalypse was their "Shakespeare for a cookie", where people would earn a free cookie if they submitted a piece to Apocalypse. Both clubs helped to create an open atmosphere as activities got underway.

Those who arrived late missed the opening of Jennifer rendering her own poems, "Cold" and "Last Kiss," two somber, colorful pieces. The next piece was an inspirational "Never Quit," which took on more significance as it was read by the wheelchair-bound Tobey Williams.

Duncan, for his first of two performances, read the lovelorn "A Dream into My Soul," and a humorous "Corona." As mostly women sat and listened, Sherry read, "Perfect Woman," a commentary on the societal views and ideals of women.

Passersby became stoppers-by as the second-third of activity hour picked up the pace. Izzy gave a confident reading of "Nonster," shunting free verse for a fast-paced poem, with rhyme and rhythm, inspired, he said, by E. E. Cummings.

Cecilia read "Devil in the Subway" with some light-hearted verve. Things were getting rather lively, though ASSW was dealing with an unruly customer.

One highlight of the afternoon was "David & Friends." David wielded a shrunken guitar, while his girlfriends accompanied him with a makeshift bongo, a coffee-cup shaker, and a tiny xylophone.

They rendered their version of a song by the Pixies.

This could have turned into an infamous scene from "American Idol," as the singer moved from
see Open Mic, page 4

Officer shoved in escape attempt

by Joe Hertel
Senior Staff Writer

Six male subjects who, according to Officer Arturo Galindo of Public Safety, "were not students from NEIU," were discovered in the Ronald Williams Library after hours on the evening of January 29th.

Ten minutes after locking the library, the trespassers were discovered by officer Galindo who entered and asked to see their student ID's, per standard operating procedures. It was at this point that one of the individuals, whose name is being held per request of Public Safety, became "aggressive, argumentative, and agitated," according to officer Galindo.

Sensing trouble, Officer Galindo radioed dispatch requesting back-up, since the belligerent behavior of the vocal member of the six was causing the others to also become aggressive and threatening.

As Galindo detained the abusive group of males,

officer Irwin Barrios arrived quickly and, as he opened the door to the library, the agitated ringleader of the group attempted to push past officer Barrios, shoving him out of the way in order to flee the scene.

Upon seeing the altercation, officer Galindo immediately apprehended and placed the unruly male in custody.

The other five members of the group, who had since calmed down, were warned of criminal trespass and released after showing personal identification to the officers. The instigator of the incident was detained and taken to the Public Safety office for a background check and possible charges.

It was at this point, according to Jack Baker, Acting Director of Public Safety, that the demeanor of the offender changed to remorse.

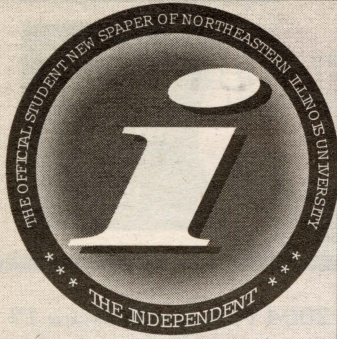
The offender gave officers his name, date of birth, and social security number, and also told officers that he had a prior arrest which was verified when the check was completed.

The offender also signed a voluntary statement as to his actions.

When the background check came back clear, with the exception of the admitted prior arrest, officers decided, based on his now repentant and cooperative nature, to release the offender with a stern warning about further criminal trespass.

"This is not the first time this has happened," stated Lieutenant Baker. Being an open campus, it is easy for non-students to have access to the campus grounds and buildings. Public Safety must use discretion and professionalism in insuring the safety of students and campus buildings. Although trespassers are infrequent, there is always the possibility of an occurrence during and after school hours.

Students can help in maintaining a safe campus environment by reporting any suspicious activity or persons to the Public Safety Office at 442-4100.



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

Friday

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

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Around Campus

Stage Center Theater

NEIU presents Hinerk Ibsen, *Ghosts* directed by Rodney Higgenbotham. Performances are February 26-28, March 4-6, 11-13. All performances are at 7:30 pm. Students, faculty, and staff admitted free. Call (773) 442 - 4274 for tickets and information.

Bug House Returns

Bug House is an on-line community offering students, faculty, and staff old-fashioned dialogue through the internet. To find out what all this is about surf to bughouse.neiu.edu.

Fine Arts Gallery

CAAAP (Chicago Alliance of African-American Photographers) Presents, "Traveled Roads and Streets" from January 26 through February 27.

NEIU String Orchestra

The Department of Music presents the String Orchestra on Thursday, February 26, at 1:40 in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. Free admission to all. For more information call (773) 442 - 5921.

A fight for gay marriage

Join the Socialist Club in the rally to support gay marriage on Tuesday, February 24 at 1:40 pm in CLS 2071.

A talk on Iraq

Join the Socialist Club in the rally to support gay marriage on Tuesday, February 24 at 1:40 pm in CLS 2071.

The Rope Warrior

Hillel at NEIU presents the Rope Warrior on Tuesday, March 2 at 1:40 pm - 3 pm. Weather permitting he will perform in the Building B courtyard, otherwise will be in the Village Square. For more information email Hillel@neiu.edu.



Black History Month

Wednesday, February 25th: Film screening of *Hair Piece: A Film for Nappy-Headed People* in Golden Eagles room at 2:55 pm.

Thursday, February 26: Film screening of *Light in the Shadows* in Golden Eagles room at 2:20 pm.

Friday, February 27: Awards Ceremony & Dance. Awards for persons who have made significant contributions to the NEIU African American community in Alumni Hall from 6:00 - 10:00 pm.

Correction

In an article printed in the January 13th issue of the *Independent* titled "Quake destroys ancient city in Iran earthquake," the article incorrectly reported that Professor Hamid Akbari's relatives and friends who died in Bam. He did not. However, he knew of friends in Chicagoland who lost relatives and friends in Bam. *Independent* regrets this error.

Hot tip?

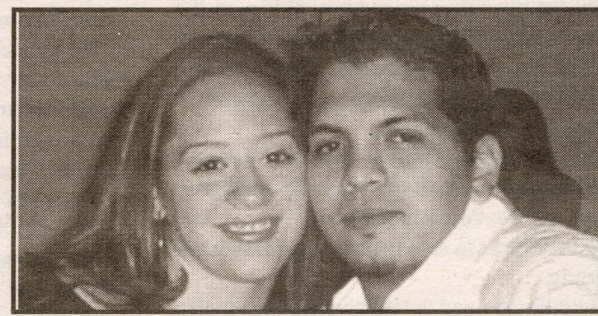


Know something we don't? Tip us off about news affecting the NEIU community by calling (773) 442-4577 or E-mail us at neiu_independent@yahoo.com

Spanish Club Presents: Latin Dance at Alumni Hall



A crowd of 383 people danced until the wee hours of February 14th to Merengue, Salsa and other favorites.



photos by Hanibal Tehrani

No free parking

Five students apprehended in Level One parking scam

by Joe Hertel
Senior Staff Writer

Five NEIU students have been implicated in forging Level One parking permits, and face disciplinary action after the scam was discovered by employees under the supervision of Ann Weaver, manager of the Parking Office.

While students hiked to class in the bitter wind, cold, and snow from level two parking facilities in the G and H lots, at least four students were illegally enjoying the convenience of Level One parking by using forged permits made on a color copier.

The fake permits, now in the possession of Public Safety, were attached to plastic window holders, obtained at the admissions office, with glue or tape, while a few were simply pasted over expired level two permits in an attempt to fool Parking Office employees.

Once discovered on February 10th, a few days before the Lincoln holiday, Public Safety Officers were alerted by the Parking Office and were easily able to identify and confront the perpetrators of the deception through identification of their vehicle license plates.

The vehicles were booted until the owners arrived and surrendered the bogus permits.

According to Jack Baker, Acting Director of Public Safety, a student who had purchased a Level One parking permit then, "allegedly allowed a few friends to copy the tag."

All four confiscated forged permits bore the same identification number as the original. A Level One permit can cost a student just under two hundred dollars, making this crime no small financial matter.

"Rather than have them arrested [and prosecuted as criminals], we turned the matter over to the Dean of Students for disciplinary action," stated Lieutenant Baker.

Speaking with Mary Ellyn O'Donnell of the Dean of Students Office regarding the possible disciplinary sanctions against the students, she responded, "There is nothing we can say, it's against the law."

Asking O'Donnell about what type of discipline might be enforced, this reporter was told to, "Look it up in your Student Survival Kit." Ms. Weaver's office did not



photo by Staci Sonenthal

Parking permits like these forged ones are found periodically by Public Safety; according to them, this type of incident has occurred several times on campus.

return the *Independent's* calls for comment.

Besides being unfair to the students who pay for parking, the forging of parking permits robs the school of income, which in turn, affects NEIU programs and services.

Students should be aware that crimes of a serious nature, such as forgery, can result in severe disciplinary actions, including criminal prosecution and/or expulsion from NEIU (according to the Student Survival Kit).

"[The five students implicated in the deception] are young and did not realize the seriousness of doing something like this," Baker commented.

In the past, students have reproduced permits and sold them to other students, or a small group of students would chip in money and one would buy the permit and give copies to the others. In all cases, the deception was quickly discovered.

An employee of the Parking Office, wishing to remain anonymous, commented, "I would

hate to see these [five] students expelled for this [forgery]. I don't think they realized how serious this can be."

Some students believe that no one checks the parking permits that closely, and are surprised when they are caught so quickly. Every day, the lots are patrolled and permits checked randomly by employees of the Parking Office.

Permits displayed can easily be cross checked with the owner's vehicle license plate. Discrepancies are then investigated and reported to Public Safety.

Sadly, in this most recent attempt of falsifying permits, these five students may have jeopardized their college career and academic future, all for the sake of parking convenience.

The names of the students involved are being withheld pending disciplinary action. According to a reliable source, four of the students have since purchased level one parking permits.

Cafeteria credit cards

Staci Sonenthal
Office Assistant

The Northeastern cafeteria has introduced a new way of purchasing food. They have brought the U Cuisine card to NEIU. This card is very similar to a gift card and can be given as one as well.

This card allows students to purchase food in the cafeteria with out using cash as a form of payment. A student simply spends \$20.00 on this card, and in return gets a fixed deductible balance of \$21.00.

The cafeteria has designed this card so that it can only work in the cafeteria and be used with the current card reader that is located there. A student enters the card into the reader, and the amount of their purchase is then deducted from the card's balance.

However, if a student tries to insert the card in a card reader that is not in the cafeteria, the reader will not accept it. The U Cuisine card went into effect on Wednesday, February 18, with 50 cards sold the first day.

However, when the card runs out of money, it is no longer usable. The goal of the card is to be treated like cash, and to offer the customer convenience and value. The card must then be returned to the cafeteria to be recycled.

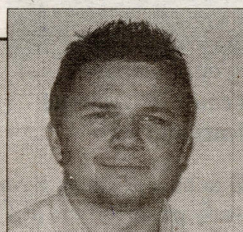
A student may then purchase a new one if so desired. This in no way replaces a student ID card; this is just an addition to it. This card will be available in the cafeteria until further notice, for 20.00.

The cafeteria plans to keep this as a permanent system, so ten years down the line, providing the service is still available, the amount on the card would still be usable.



courtesy of Sodexo

The new U cuisine card available now.



Patrick O'Brien
FirstThingNEIU@yahoo.com

First Things First...

Do profs get overtime pay?

Did you know that your professors are an endangered species? Leaders from the professors' union, University Professionals of Illinois, or UPI, appeared in Village Square last week to provide information to students and staff.

Topics included the status of professors here, including the spiraling number of part-time, non-tenure faculty that are being hired, making tenured positions an ever-shrinking group here and at other universities.

Contract negotiations should be underway in the coming weeks and months, and information about NEIU professors' pay rates compared to those of other schools across the country reflect a large disparity.

For example, for NEIU faculty who are listed as *Instructors*, pay rates are 26% below the national average as sampled by CUPA, the College and University Professional Association, which conducted a national study of hundreds of four year schools.

This same data was used to make salary offers to newly hired professors here, a trend that inflates slightly the average salary of NEIU professors.

Dr. Loretta Capeheart of Justice Studies is the Arts and Sciences representative for the NEIU chapter of UPI and she was outspoken about the treatment of professors. "It seems that faculty and staff have not been a priority in budgeting for many years. This has led to our current situation."

Capeheart also revealed to the *Independent* that a preliminary workload survey discussed at UPI's last members meeting showed "**faculty at NEIU working an average of 59 hours per week.**" At the same meeting plans for a salary schedule proposal that would bring faculty salaries up to the national average was discussed.

CUPA data shows all four NEIU faculty groups measured, Instructors, Assistant Professors, Associate Professors and Full Professors, earn anywhere from 4 to 26% below the average salaries of professors at other universities.

Capeheart noted that bringing salaries to the national average would still leave them 25% below where they should be because Chicago's cost of living is 25% above the national average.

Dr. Capeheart also added that the

administration had pressured union members: "**unfortunately, many of us have received not so subtle messages from those in administrative positions that our union work/activism could result in negative retention, tenure or promotion decisions. This would be a blatant violation of our contract.**"

Capeheart did want to note that she was speaking as an individual and union member, but the numbers speak for themselves, it would seem. Whether these views reflect any number of faculty opinions is unknown at this time.

Upon closer inspection though, it has become apparent that hiring trends and financial crises at many universities have created a growing underclass of part-time instructors, some of whom do not receive benefits.

There is a thread developing here: a look at this year's budget reveals that some instructors make as little as 21,600 dollars a year.

Ed Hunt, Acting President of the UPI chapter here, combines that salary with a 59-hour workweek and laments: "it's stunning. Those people can't survive just teaching here at NEIU. They have to work in at least one other university."

An instructor working 59 hours a week at 21,600 a year, teaching Fall and Spring terms, makes less than \$11 an hour. Though this is an extreme case, it does highlight the plight of 'roads scholars' those who must travel from one school to the next to make ends meet.

Hunt called the workload studies done by UPI "**internally reliable**", and he promised to "**compare results and methods with the administration or the state anytime**", but neither the state nor NEIU has done such a study to this date.

Hunt did also stress his desire to keep negotiations at the table, and to keep them amicable. He recognized that "we are underpaid," and at the same time gave the administration credit for recognizing this same fact.

Though there are some differences of opinion among UPI members, the united front being presented reflects the need to pay professors what they deserve, and Capeheart enlisted students in the issue as well. "Please join us in supporting the faculty and students through our union," she asked.

Can the administration help professors barely above the poverty line? Stay tuned.

The ghosts of Bryn Mawr

by Joe Hertel
Senior Staff Writer

Students arriving on campus at the Bryn Mawr street entrance on the morning February 7th were greeted by what appeared to be a group of ghosts spray painted on the east side of the large NEIU sign located by the access road.

The graffiti was discovered during a routine patrol at approximately 3:40 AM, by officer Gene Salecker, who described the tagging as, "some form of letters which looked like large ghosts." Officer Salecker estimated the tagging to have taken place between the hours of one and three in the morning, since the graffiti had not been seen during earlier patrols of the area.

Another smaller tagging on the north side of the sign, apparently the artist's signature, could not be discerned and "appears to read 'Goesc Midas,'" stated officer Salecker.

According to the Public Safety report, "An inspection of the area showed that the offender's vehicle appeared to be traveling eastbound on Bryn Mawr." Footprints in the newly fallen snow indicated that the offender left the car, stood in the piled up snow to deface the sign, and then re-entered the passenger side of the vehicle which then drove away.

Acting Director of Public Safety, Jack Baker, praised the NEIU grounds crew for their "fast work" in repairing the sign. "They (the grounds crew) don't get enough recognition for the good job they do around here to keep this campus looking good," stated Baker. All evidence of the defacement was gone the following day.

The NEIU "ghosts" appear to have been an isolated incident since "no other graffiti was found anywhere on campus," according to the Criminal Damage report.



This graffiti appears to be an isolated incident

photo by Duncan Macnab

16K Party, from page 1

transportation. The publicity budget for this event is \$1,900 for Haitian radio air time and posters and flyers.

Vice President Nazario-Rose had a hard time swallowing the fact that SGA approved such a large expenditure.

She also suggested that it may have been more appropriate to hold this event last semester when the University designated specific time to celebrate Haitian independence.

Dr. Sommers said if it were up to him, he may not have approved it.

Dr. Sommers also said he only gets involved and denies funding for an event if proper university procedure is not followed when an event is planned.

He compared this event to the large funding that the Assyrian Club had requested for a trip to England. He said that they were rejected because they did not open it to all students, while this event falls within all the guidelines.

Thus, despite any lingering concerns of some over the large cost, the concert's planning continues.

Open Mic, from page 1



photo by Hamid Tehran

Tom Mollo reads at the Open Mic

high-pitched monotone to a low, authoritative voice.

Their second piece was abstract cacophony and they knew it, testing limits until they were taken off the stage.

By this time that unruly customer had become an aspiring performer. Evelyn, "in honor of black history month," read Maya Angelou's "Phenomenal Woman," Gregoria read a short piece called

"Hidden Secrets," and Duncan performed a twisted "Special Announcement."

That aspiring performer was introduced as George, and, in a drunken stupor, he performed a love ballad, complete with wild gestures and an air guitar.

Completing the hour with dignity was Juan reading "The Arrangement," a sharp piece concerning domestic violence.

President's report shows closures and shortages

Many lots and roads will be shut down for construction

by Atoor Lawandow
Senior Staff Writer

The President's report to the Board of Trustees took place at the Chicago Teacher's Center on February 11th. The report consisted of two parts, part one covered the action items, and the second part consisted of Information Items.

Under the action items were expenditures of \$100,000 and more, the most significant of these items was the construction of a new parking structure.

The new parking structure will be located just west of the library, on what is now parking lot G. It will consist of five levels, and approximately 1,050 parking spaces.

The structure is also said to include space for offices, four interior stairways, and two elevators inside the structure.

Most of the handicapped spaces will be located on the first level; forty premium spaces will also be reserved on the same floor.

The construction of this new lot is expected to begin on April 12th, and will result in the closing of lot G in order to allow the contractors access to the construction site during this semester.

By May 6th the south section of lot F, the north section of lot H, lots D and E, and the north access road will be closed to provide further access for the contractors to the construction site.

On May 16th, however, the access road will temporarily be reopened for the commencement ceremony. From May 17th through August 20th the access road from lot G north

to Bryn Mawr will be completely closed to the general public.

This will give the contractors complete access to the road; all the lots north of lot G, and the northern portion of lot F will also be closed.

While the construction takes place, there will be some short-term parking shortages due to the closing of the aforementioned lots.

Since lot G will be closed this semester, 270 spots will be lost from April 12 through the end of the semester.

But the university should gain 40 parking spaces from the completion of the auditorium, and it will further try to improve efficiency by reassigning parking spaces between levels I and II.

Furthermore, the university can increase the number of available level II spaces at night by making lots A and C level II after 5:30 P.M.

Even with these measures the university will still be short in parking spaces. To solve this problem the university will offer alternative work schedules and cash incentives to full-time employees, whose normal work hours are during the day, and who will volunteer to turn in their parking pass from April 5th through May 7th.

As far as the summer semester is concerned, due to low enrollment levels parking shortage is not



file photo from Independent archives

President Steinberg outlined months of projects that could cause widespread headaches for students and staff

expected to be a problem. By next fall the early phase I of the parking lot project should be completed, providing 500 new parking spots.

This project is expected to cost \$17,000,000, which is what the university is asking for from the Board of Trustees.

Another project that was proposed in the report was the construction of group exercise rooms in the physical education complex.

This project is proposed to meet the need of this university for such a space on campus, and is projected to convert two underutilized racquet ball courts into the space for group exercise programs on two floor levels.

The cost for this project is estimated to be \$275,200.

Attention NEIU Students!

A NEIU staff member also serves as a sales professional for **Al Piemonte Nissan**. Take advantage of the opportunity to **save \$500-\$1000* on your New or Used vehicle when you bring in your campus ID card.**

Don't wait! Call Dustin at (708) 343-3800 for more details.

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In E-049. Meetings Mondays and Tuesdays

Plight of undocumented students crosses our borders

Activists for Americans President Juan Martinez reveals the struggle of one group of students to gain support from officials here; charges also leveled that illegal workers were employed by landscaping firm hired to beautify campus

Tom Robb
News Co-Editor

Activists 4 America, a new club on campus, held an event in Alumni Hall on the evening of Tuesday, February 10th at 7pm to react to President Bush's Guest Worker Program.

Also to raise awareness as to the circumstances of undocumented people (non-resident aliens), living in the United States and attending NEIU.

Undocumented student and President of Activists 4 America Juan Martinez stated that the undocumented student population at NEIU was as high as 800 students.

Martinez also claimed that of that number, 97% did not complete their degrees. Information on NEIU's Website states that 1.5% of NEIU students are non-resident aliens.

These students are given what are called 999 numbers to replace social security numbers.

Many of the undocumented students the Independent spoke with expressed frustration with the complex rules governing undocumented students without guidance.

There is however several legitimate programs which assist in bringing undocumented students into NEIU such as Projecto Palante.

Que Ondee Sola, Northeastern's Hispanic magazine, echoed Martinez and Rodriguez's concerns in an article in their December issue in which they criticize the administration for not more aggressively seeking grants as a "Hispanic serving institution" and claiming that they do not provide mentors to Hispanic students.

Martinez also leveled very general charges against the school of corruption in admissions and Facilities Management although he was not at all specific when questioned later by Independent reporters and pressed for details.

Independent reporters investigated Martinez's claims and could not substantiate any irregularities in the admissions process for non-resident aliens.

The Independent did find that Congressman Louis Guterrez's office



has worked with the administration in facilitating undocumented students admission into NEIU since state law HB60 was passed.

HB60 makes it easier for undocumented students to attend state universities in Illinois beginning in the fall 2003 semester.

An aid to Guterrez and a media liaison speaking for the administration stated that undocumented students were being admitted to Northeastern prior to the passage of HB60.

Martinez also charged that NEIU had hired a sub-contracted landscape company, Colonial Landscaping, who Martinez charged, used undocumented workers in completion of a landscaping project in October of 2003 and provided photos of Colonial Landscaping workers claiming they were undocumented.

The Independent contacted Director of Purchasing Robert Filipp, requesting records of Colonial Landscaping employment records.

Filipp stated: "It is my understanding that the university is not required to demand proof of worker documentation from contractors. I recommend that you check directly with Colonial Landscaping, as it has the responsibility for maintaining these records. Neither Facilities Management nor Purchasing possess this information."

The Independent also spoke with Joseph Kish of Facilities Management, who stated that NEIU has used Colonial Landscaping for the past 10 years and that all contracted workers must be paid union scale, although they do not need to be a member of a union.

It should also be stated that Activists 4



photos from Independent archives

Above and left: Workers like these undocumented men may have been used to landscape or perform other jobs on campus.

America stated in their presentation that often unscrupulous companies will find ways of obtaining forged documents for undocumented workers.

Consequently, if records are examined, they would appear to be in compliance with state and federal employment laws.

The Independent can find no evidence of wrongdoing on the part of the university in this matter but will continue to investigate.

Seventy-five people attended the event which showed a short film documenting the plight of one woman living and working as an undocumented seamstress in New York City trying to get money to sick relatives in her home country.

Following the film there were speakers who included four undocumented students, Emma Lozano founder of Centro Sin Fronteras, activist and United Methodist Church minister Rev. Walter Coleman and others.

Undocumented student, Mary Lou Rodriguez, spoke and was brought to tears during her speech describing the undocumented students as an invisible population, not supported by anyone and

struggling for questionable opportunities upon their graduation.

Others spoke of concern in telling their stories because of possible consequences.

The panel discussed the fact that undocumented workers do pay taxes. Due to increased scrutiny of work documents, many undocumented workers are forced to buy forged green cards and social security cards, paying income and social security taxes but never getting a refund.

An undocumented student who requested not to be identified said "We pay and yet we receive no benefits, I pay full tuition, I pay full for my books if you're against immigration remember my taxes pay for your books."

The Panel discussed President George Bush's guest worker program, which would allow foreign workers into the U.S. to work at jobs that U.S. citizens do not fill.

Centro Sin Fronteras claimed that this provision would track foreign workers and would force U.S. wages down.

The Independent will continue its investigation into the concerns raised by Activists 4 America.

Working towards potential at Survivor Workshops

by Gregoria Williams
Staff Writer

It's February, so the Survivor Workshops are back. There were nine this year, and the message that flowed through all of them was the same. Everyone is born with the potential to lead.

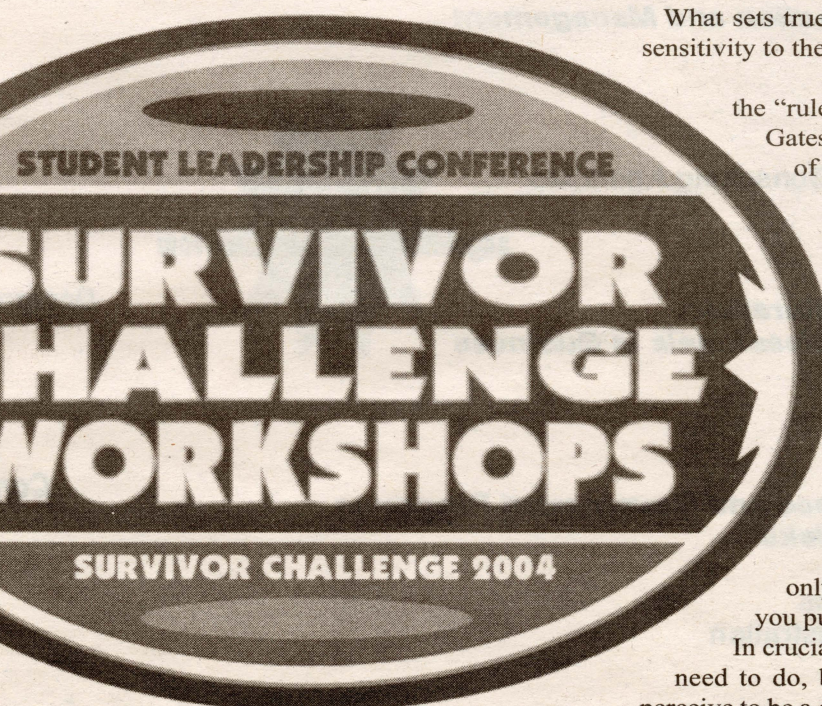
A leader's obligation is to make possible an environment where people's mind and hearts can be inventive, brave, humane and strong.

A leader must make a place where people can inspire to do useful and significant things. Inducement, curiosity, initiative, and perseverance are cornerstones to empower student potential to be a leader.

By networking, interviewing well, and using your time and energy smartly, potential can become reality. Student Activities once again helped students find these skills.

Think for a moment about all the people who have influenced you, your parents, grandparents, partners, guardians, and friends, anyone who has ever had a defining influence and lasting impact on your life. Take a moment now and remember them.

Engage your-self in everything you do. Leadership is not about you, but about the people who are trying to inspire by unleashing their talents, hopes and



aspirations. Leadership comes in small acts as well as bold strokes.

Encourage others to take action in organizing, building community, circulating petitions, arguing funding, networking, taking the public stand, and gaining support.

What sets true leaders apart is their awareness and sensitivity to the needs of others.

Think for a moment of Bill Gates and the "rules of the garage." Can you picture it? Gates started out in the garage with a couple of friends, and now they're billionaires.

Gates never knew that he was going to be standing where he is now. The "garage" is a special place; it is where it all began.

Now think you can do the same.

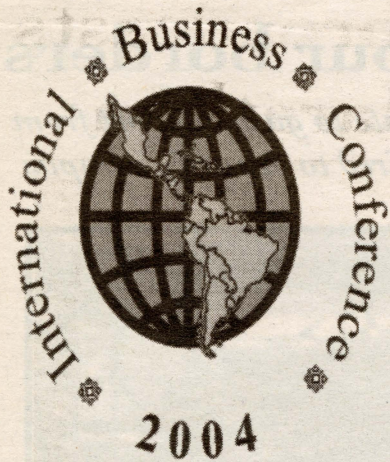
Believe you can change the world, work quickly, keeping the tools unlocked, work whenever, know when to work alone and when to work together, share tools and ideas, and trust in your colleagues.

Throughout a leader's journey, the only limits that really matter are the ones you put on yourself.

In crucial moments when you know what you need to do, but others advise against what they perceive to be a detour from your path, know yourself, trust yourself, and don't blink.

If you do these things, when you look back, you will know that your journey was a wonderful gift and that you made the most of it.

Don't let your circumstances get in your way, follow and do what your heart wants. Once again Survivors will know what this means.



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and career opportunities in Latin America*

March 1-3, 2004

Alumni Hall

Opening Night 7 pm

Ms. Carmela Hernandez
Baker & McKenzie
Associate

Mr. Carlos Angulo
Baker & McKenzie
International Partner

Tuesday

9:25am
**The Political, Social and Financial Context
for Business in Brazil**
Mr. Miguel Magalhaes
Brazilian Consulate

7:05 pm
**The Political, Economical and Trade Issues facing Latin America
and the United States**
Linda Abbruzzese
U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington D.C.

10:50 am
**Emerging Latin America:
From Subordination to Self-Affirmation**
Dr. Leticia E. Pena
Dr. Dayr R. Americo Reis
U. of Wisconsin-LaCrosse

8:30 pm
Perspective on Food Manufacturing in Latin America
Carlos Azanza
Kraft Inc.

12:15 pm
**An Economical View of Latin America:
Past, Present and Future**
Dr. Gustavo Saberbein
Former Peruvian Minister
of Economy and Finance

10:00 am
**From Laggard to Model: A Case Study of a
U.S. Capital Goods Manufacturing Plant in Brazil**
Pat Delaney
System Integration Business Consultants

1:40 pm
**Cross-Cultural Communication and Management
in Latin America**
Ms. Gloria Petersen
Global Protocol-President
Mr. Michael Wynne
International Management Consulting Agencies
President

11:00 am
Mexico: NAFTA Scorecard
Brenda Swartz
Jerry Wheat
Indiana University Southeast

2:50 pm
**Globalization and Multiculturalism:
The need for Bilingual Professionals in Business**
Dr. Andrew Sund
St. Augustine University

2:00 pm
Designing Human Work Systems in Latin America
Dr. Peter Stonebraker
Northeastern Illinois University

5:40 pm
**The Basics of Trade Finance and Government Programs
to Finance and Mitigate Risks**
John Nevell
International Trade Programs
U.S. Small Business Administration

5:40 pm
**Commerce between the US and Latin America:
Goods, Services and People**
Dr. Homero Tristan
Dr. Francelyn Perez
Tristan Ports, LLC

**Refreshments
will be served**

For more info:
angelmonterroso@hotmail.com



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Black History MO-tivation

by Atoor Lawando
Senior Staff Writer

"I come celebrating the movement of our people," was Monique Caradine's opening at the kickoff of Black History Month, held at the Golden Eagles on February the 3rd.

Caradine, founder of Mo*mentum Communications, and former host of the award winning talk show program "Mo in the Midday" on Chicago's WVON 1450 AM, was the keynote speaker at this event.

The event started with a welcome note by Melvin C. Terrell, the Vice President for Student Affairs, followed by an introduction by Kelli-Ann Alcott.

She began by expressing her thoughts on Black History Month, and what it means to her. "Our history is not just black history, its American history," Caradine expressed. The former radio host's lecture took up the issue of "Mobilizing the African Diaspora."

Caradine began by explaining the different ways that blacks everywhere can find strength in the diaspora. "Black people do not exist in a vacuum... there are black people in every corner of the world," Caradine started.

All these Africans living in diaspora, according to Caradine, share the same set of problems, and joys as well. This very fact is what gives all Africans in diaspora the strength to mobilize.

The fact that one black person knows that he/she is not alone in his/her experience, whether that experience is good or bad, is the very thing that gives him/her strength, according to Caradine.

Caradine then spoke of how to go about mobilizing the African people in the diaspora. She presented four steps that she believes must be taken in order to begin mobilizing towards achieving social equality and social betterment.

"We need new leadership. I'm talking about putting a leadership in place to work for the people, not just for corporate giants, or the very rich."

Also, that her first point of action is to elect or put in place leadership whose sole objective is serving the interests of the masses.

As far as the African American community leadership, she believes that the community needs leaders who will push the people to build new systems.

"Money is a tool. Collectively black people have money. We don't know how to use it, but we have it," Caradine said regarding her second plan of action.

She stressed the importance of African Americans supporting African American businesses, by seeking out black businesses all the time.

She also highlighted the importance of not supporting businesses that demean or disrespect African Americans, and/or their causes.

Finally in regards to this point, Caradine stated that, "We need to stop making designer clothes a tool by which we measure our wealth and our worth."

Caradine then went on to explain the third step in mobilizing the African American people. This step entails, according to Caradine, being a knowledgeable practitioner of one's culture. "Our history needs custodians," she explained.

Then she went on to comment on some of the more recent music made by African Americans in the U.S., and its negative depiction of African American culture.

Caradine's final step towards social justice has to do with the way in which African Americans perceive themselves.

"We need to revolutionize the way we see ourselves as black people" said Caradine, "we must revolutionize our thinking."

Radio station broadcasts Homeless Marathon

by Andrew Valkanas
Staff Writer

"After I finish my shift at [a major parcel delivery company], a co-worker takes me to Union Station. He thinks I'm getting on a train to go home. I don't think he or anyone else I work with suspects I spend my nights at Union Station."

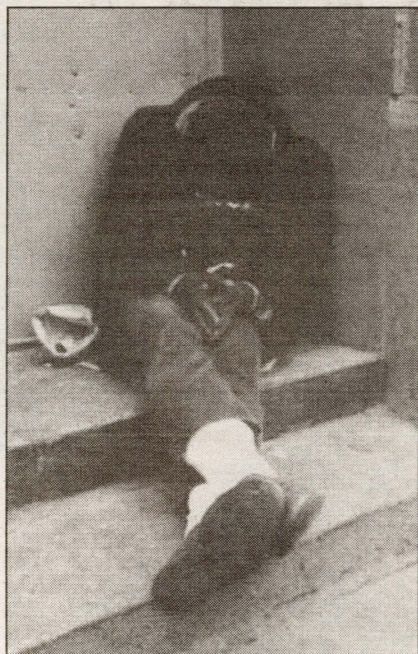
This man's voice, along with the voices of dozens of other homeless people from across the country, was aired during the Seventh Annual Homelessness Marathon. WZRD was one of the few radio stations to broadcast the whole program, which ran from 6:00 P.M. February 12 to 8:00 A.M. February 13.

"Homelessness is like a predator, and like any predator it attacks the most vulnerable individuals" said founder Jeremy Alderson, who also served as the primary broadcaster under the name "Nobody." "What people need to understand is that this predator can be stopped, but it can't be satisfied."

This broadcast is unlike almost any other in American radio. The broadcast booth is set up outside, in the street, for the homeless themselves to come up and tell their stories. The broadcast comes from a different city each year. The Homelessness Marathon is live, which is a challenge for the crew and staff involved.

The homeless are not the only ones invited to speak. Politicians are also invited to speak, but almost none take the opportunity. "Dennis Kucinich did give us about 13 minutes, but the invitation was for an hour," continued Jeremy Alderson. "He acted like he was doing us a favor, not like he felt it was important to participate in the only national broadcast devoted to homelessness."

The mayor of the city hosting the event, the White House, and other elected officials and candidates also declined to participate in this broadcast. "I'd like to think optimistically



courtesy of www.komser.com

This is exactly the problem WZRD hoped to address in its event.

that politicians would address the issue," said WZRD alumnus Dennis Seagal, "but the politicians seem to reflect the people."

WZRD's status as a free-form station allows it flexibility to broadcast programs such as the Homeless Marathon. "This says good things about WZRD and the people who were up all night to make sure this happened," said Dennis Seagal.

WZRD manager Bob Goode supports the Homelessness Marathon with greater passion. "I was homeless at 13. I'm a very strong advocate for the homeless, and this touches me deeply. Sure, you could kick in money, or a blanket, or food. But one of the simplest ways to help is to talk to them, to have a conversation, to realize that the homeless are people too. It's stigmatizing to be homeless."

In E-051

Attention all students!

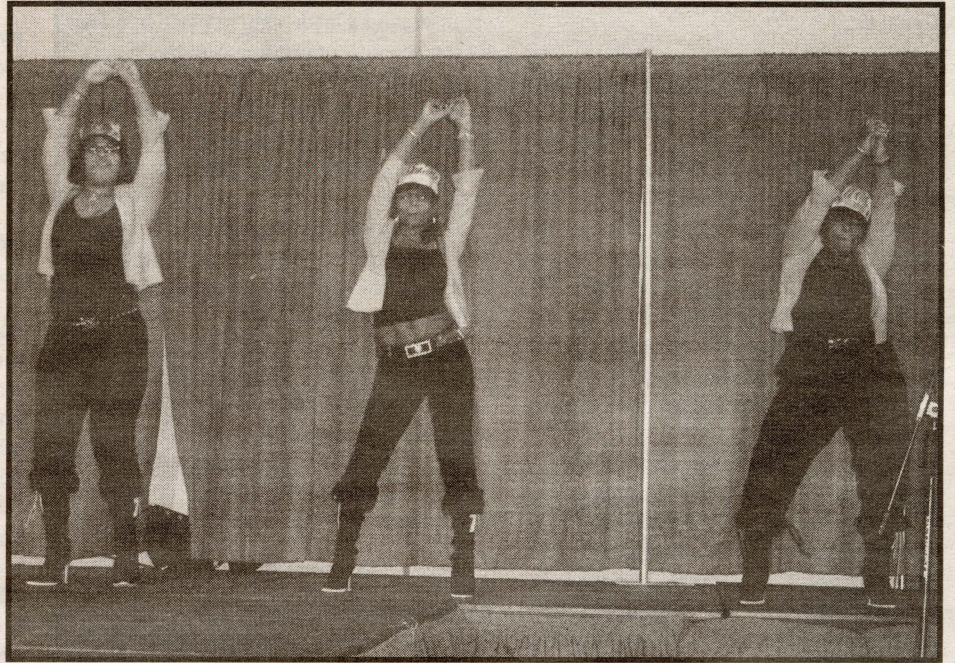
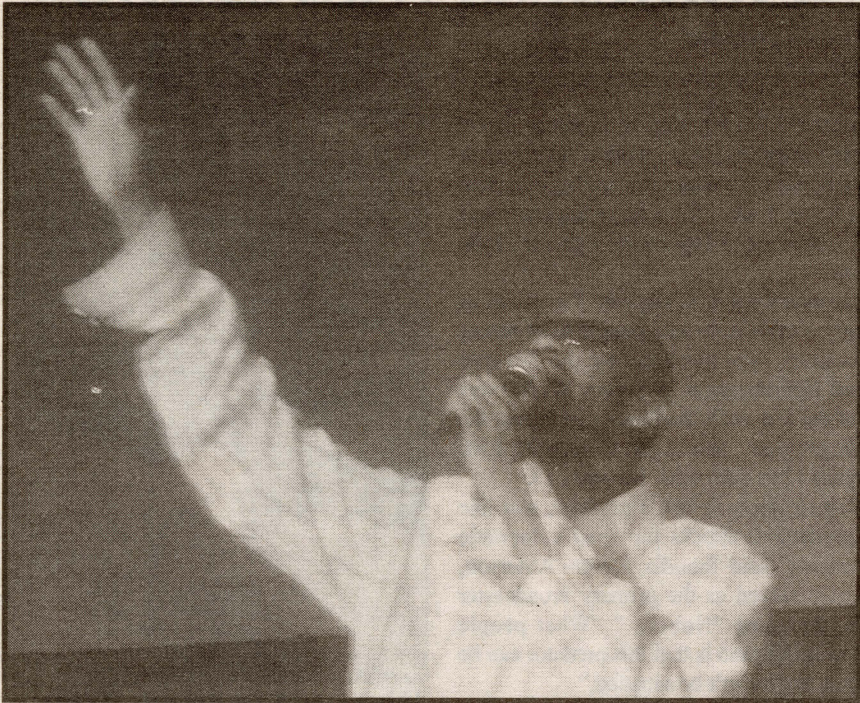


Call 773-442-5800 for info or an appointment

The Student Health Center is open Monday thru Friday 7:30am to 4pm

Beginning in early March, Fridays from 9am-3pm, Student Health Services offers the rapid HIV test. Know your HIV status in 30 minutes; service is completely confidential. In room E-051

Black Heritage Club Talent Show

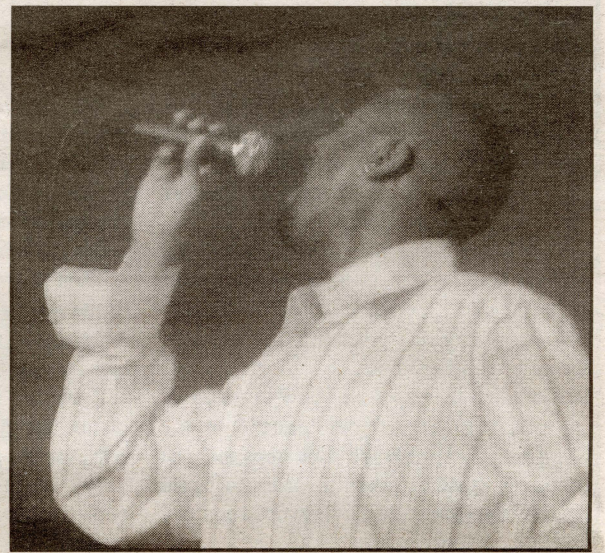


photos by Andrea Zelinski

The performers pictured here were part of the Black Heritage Club's Talent Show held on Friday, February 20th in Alumni Hall.

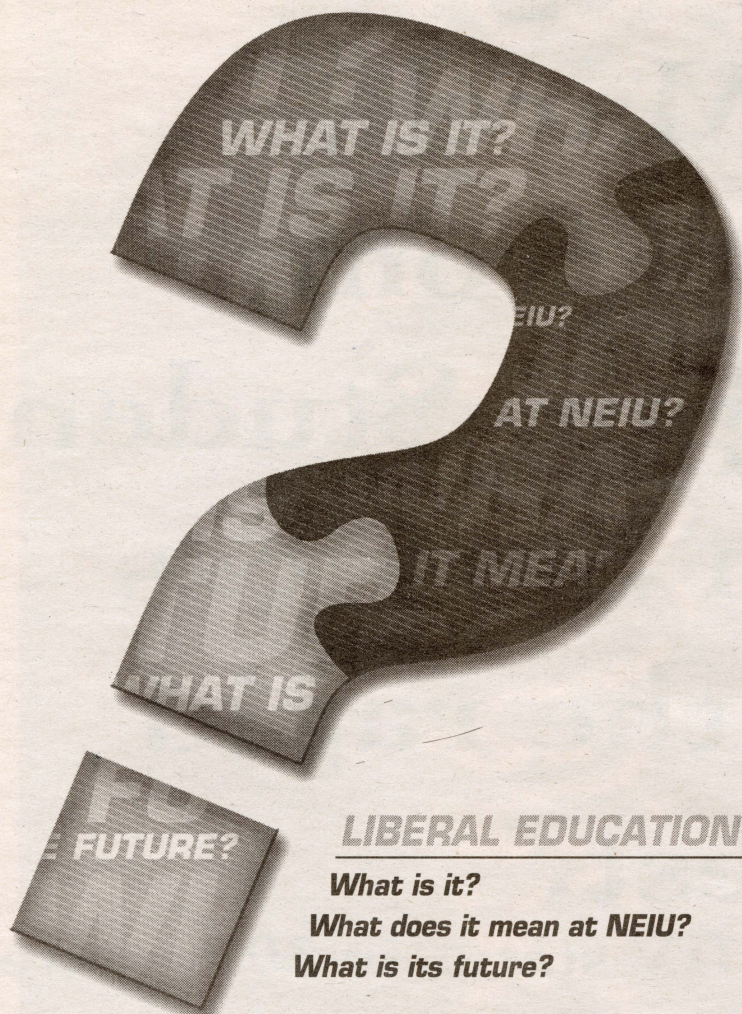
The event was part of the university's Black History Month program.

Over 125 in attendance saw Hip-Hop, Gospel, Jazz and other music and dance from the list of performers.



UNIVERSITY DAY 2004

MARCH 4, 2004



LIBERAL EDUCATION:

What is it?

What does it mean at NEIU?

What is its future?

KEYNOTE ADDRESS 9:15 – 10:40

Liberal Education: A New Vision for Learning.....Alumni Hall

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 10:50 – 12:05

Liberal Education: Its Impact on Business Ethics.....Golden Eagles

Diversity in the Liberal Education Classroom.....SU-214

Learning Communities and Their Relationship to Liberal Education.....SU-003

Diversity in the Workplace.....SU-215

CONCURRENT SESSIONS 12:15 – 1:30

Assessment of Liberal Education.....SU-217

Howard Zinn: Linking Political Activism and the Classroom.....SU-214

Relating Current Events to Already Established Curriculum: The Case of Ethnic Music...SU-216

NEIU's General Education Program: Perceptions of Meaningfulness.....SU-003

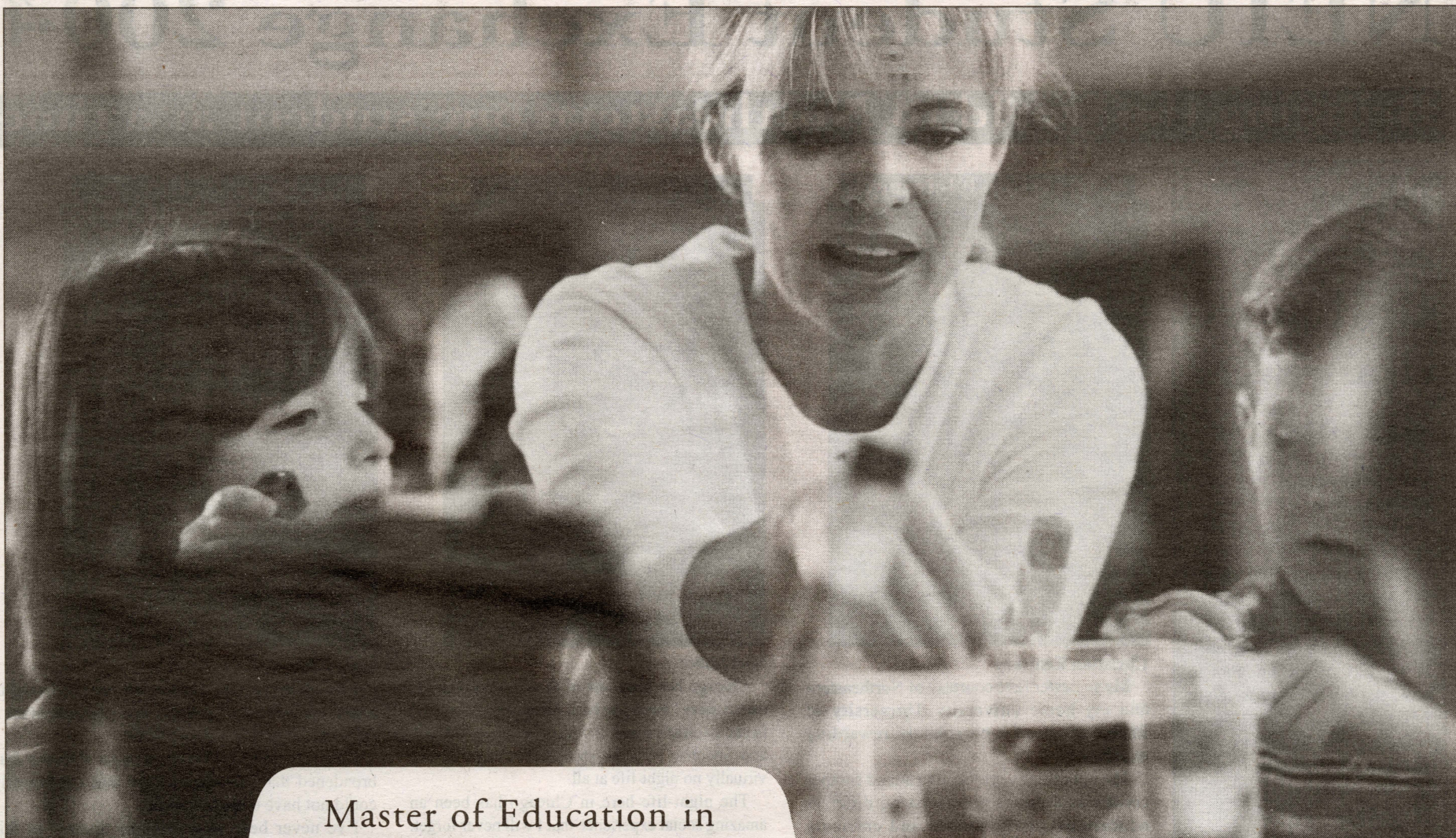
CLOSING SESSION 1:40 – 2:55

The Future of Liberal Education at NEIU.....Golden Eagles

SATELLITE FACILITY AT EL CENTRO 6:00 – 8:00

Liberal Arts Education at El Centro.....Lobby

* More information about University Day at: www.neiu.edu/~uday/



Master of Education in

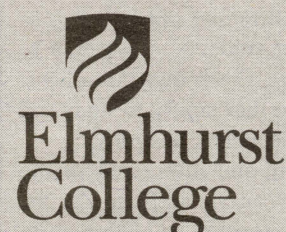
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NEIU Student Exchange 2004

Bringing the world to Northeastern one student at a time

New arrivals find more than just diversity

Staci Sonenthal
Office Assistant

The Student Exchange Program, professionally known as the (National Student Exchange Program), is a program for students to have the opportunity to study internationally.

Students are allowed to study for up to one calendar year at another location, and with 176 colleges and universities to choose from, there is something for everyone's interests and needs.

In order for a student to be eligible for this program they have to be a full-time student at their home campus, as well as being able to have and maintain a minimum of a 2.5 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale).

A student must be in good academic standing as determined by their home school. There are many other provisions and policies that have to be followed and or met by time of travel.

Cost, however, is assessed at the students' home school, and therefore paid directly to that school. This will be determined at the time of financial considerations.

Many students that participated have had the same reactions about the program, especially the city of Chicago in which we are based.

"Coming here to Northeastern Illinois has broadened the outlook in ways that I previously could not comprehend," stated Sean Kelly, an exchange student.

Many of the student's responses were fondly dealing with the diversity of NEIU and the differences of Chicago compared to the many locations they arrived from.

Amy Rivard, another exchange student, stated, "Through the NSE program, I have been able to live in an exciting city, meet many interesting people, and be apart of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

This program is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, as most students aren't able to leave their own state, yet alone the country, to study and broaden their horizons.

Anyone interested in the NSE can contact Flora Llacuna at extension 4616 for more program details or visits her office in the Dean of Students office in the B-Building.

Christian Elsberry



Christian Elsberry

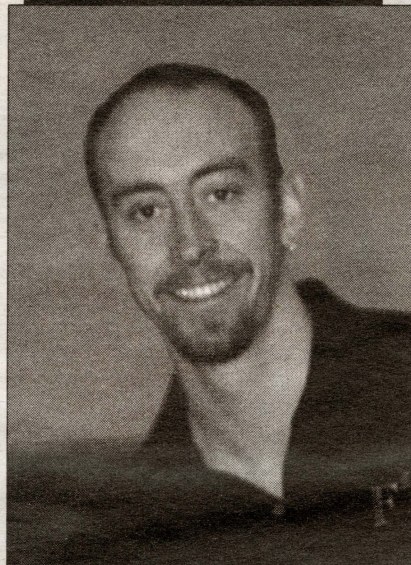
My semester here courtesy of Northeastern and my home university, University of Idaho, has been a completely rewarding experience.

The opportunity provided to attend another college as a means to understand different educational environments and curricula through the professors and students has opened my mind to the possibilities of education in general.

Education is beyond the geography of one place and as Oliver Wendell Holmes once wrote, "Man's mind stretched to a new idea never goes back to its original dimensions."

Thank you to the staff and especially, Flora Llacuna, or Northeastern Illinois University for the opportunity to add one more idea to the body of my education.

Noel Miller



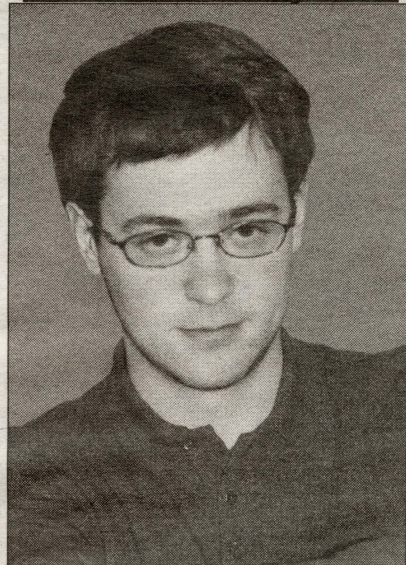
Noel Miller

Chicago has been one of the most memorable experiences I have ever had. I have only ever lived in the painfully small towns of Volcano, Hawaii, and Socorro, New Mexico, both places having virtually no night-life at all.

The night-life here in Chicago has been an amazing social experience that I will never forget. Some of the best teachers I have ever had have been here at Northeastern.

Although it is

Sean Kelley



Sean Kelley

I've spent the vast majority of my life living in small towns in New England, and it has given me a very unique outlook on the world.

Coming here to Northeastern Illinois has broadened that outlook in ways that I previously could not have comprehended.

I've never been to a place as diverse as this one; who would think that a place this small could harbor so many different people and perspectives?

If I take one thing away from my time here, it is this: I am not just a citizen of Massachusetts or even the United States. I am a human being, a citizen of the world.



hard to meet new people here at Northeastern due to the fact that it is a commuter college, the few people I do meet seem to be exceptionally nice.

My experiences while on exchange to Northeastern have me strongly considering moving back to Chicago after my graduation from new Mexico Tech.

Lia Beresford



Lia Beresford

My experience with the National Student Exchange has been amazing. I'd always wanted to live in a big city, and was initially more interested in Chicago than Northeastern, but I've really been impressed with the school.

I know this is cliché, but I love the diversity of the student population and the environment it creates for learning.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Northeastern and just might stay for a few more years.

Christine Kernion



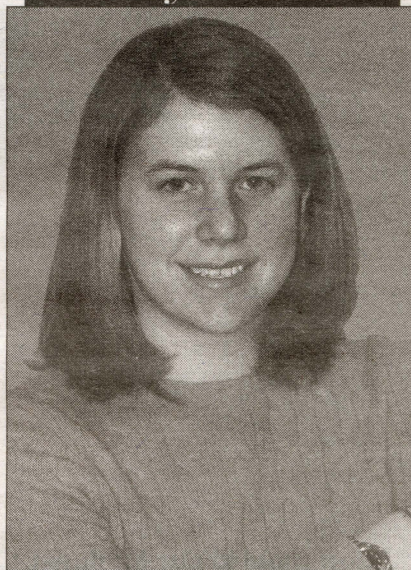
Christine Kernion

I was a little skeptical about coming here on exchange at first because I had come from a state school consisting of 40,000 students.

But since I have been here, I have met some really good friends. I also enjoy being in Chicago and being able to go to the museums and good music shows.

If I had to do it all over again, I would definitely do it again.

Amy Rivard



Amy Rivard

Through the NSE program, I have been able to live in an exciting city, meet many interesting people, and be part of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I am extremely pleased with my decision to take part in the NSE program and encourage others to take advantage of such a worthwhile experience.

From Moscow to Oberlin: Josh Ritter tells his tale on

INTERVIEW



Photo courtesy of www.joshritter.com

The "man in beige" gets his rank in the world of Folk.

by Duncan Macnab
Production Editor

Singer and songwriter Josh Ritter performed at Old Town School of Folk Music on November 29, 2003. The venue filled up, making the night beautiful. The best way to describe Josh is a cross between Leonard Cohen and Bob Dylan. This concert was a part of a tour to promote his newest album, *Hello Starling*.

The night started off amazingly well, mainly because of the interview I had with him before his set. Ritter guy plays the type of music you would listen to on that road trip you've been meaning to take over the summer. This concert is a lot like a trip through the American plains.

Each of his songs has a story and character of its own. He was performing solo, but he was jamming as if he had his band behind him. His ability to play the guitar, to make it sound great, is very reminiscent of Ani DiFranco.

He's your typical folk singer, in stage presence, talking with the enthralled listeners while he was tuning his guitar between songs. His communication was what made this night real, at least for me. If you get a chance to see him live, I promise you will have

the same experience.

I got to know this guy through my sister, who went to the same college as Ritter (you find out where soon).

But, before the show I was able to get an interview with Josh, and this is what I got from the "man in the beige:"

Duncan: Where did you start?

Josh Ritter: I'm from Moscow, Idaho, which is a small town in northern Idaho. I lived there till I went to college in Oberlin, Ohio. I started playing music the last year of High School. I played the Violin, but it never really "grabbed" me. Then I just started playing the guitar, listening to musicians like Mississippi John Hurt... it kind just came out of the blue.

(He was changing the strings, by using his teeth to pull out the pegs.)

D: Cool, cool man. Right, so you're in Oberlin College and you playing your guitar, when did you know this was "the thing?"

JR: It wasn't clear like that, you know, that music I didn't know about it. When I heard it, when I heard Leonard Cohen, that's when I thought "maybe" I could do this for a living. So I decided to give it four years, after college, to see [where it would take me]. You know, I didn't know anything about the music business or how that stuff gets done. I'm more of a musician, or a writer, there is a lot of sitting and waiting and waiting for ideas to come, and to make your life interesting. After Oberlin I moved to Providence and Boston area and started playing there. I wasn't [pushing] my CD's to any one, it all seemed slow at the moment, but looking back now it has been a fast four years.

D: You've been touring in Ireland?

JR: Yeah, it was the first big thing to allow me to quit my day job. I was invited by a band call The Frames. This let me quit my "temp" jobs and play in the U.S., and I keep going back to Ireland. I get to see where I'm at in my career there, then come over here. It is like a first home. Touring, in a sense, helps you know how you feel about a song. Being a musician is hard, but all I want is to make a long career out of this.

D: Are you happy with your new album?

JR: Oh, yeah man. Everything worked out on it. We recorded it in France, in a dairy farm. We recorded in seven days, which is incredibly short time to record. We had fun doing it. It is selling really well. I made it number two in Ireland. My job was to make sure all the songs I wanted were on it... and were good. And then my manager gets it out there, and it is a team effort. But I tend not to think about what I am making... I'm not the person to write hit songs, I'm deeper than that.

The next time "the man in beige" comes back to the U.S. in late March, and the next time you'll catch him in "the Windy City" is on March 26th at Schuba's. Just run over to your computer and log yourself on to joshritter.com to get more information on that particular show.

R

E

V

Iron Jawed women are Angels

A story of women's right to vote in America is immortalized through film

by Conor Heybach
Staff Writer

We have learned that throughout history many people have fought for what they believed in, not the least of which are liberty, freedom, and peace. But why is it that we don't hear much about the women in America during their struggle for the passing of the 19th Amendment, which gave them the right to vote? Many people don't know or realize what actually happened in our own country during this time, one in which President Woodrow Wilson was taking us into World War I.

Luckily, HBO has provided us with a movie entitled "Iron Jawed Angels" that depicts this time during Wilson's presidency when women fought for their right to vote. This movie really has done an extraordinary job in depicting the events that transpired during the Women's suffrage movement between 1903 and 1923. We are given the opportunity to watch and realize what these women had to do to earn their rights in America, especially their right to vote.

There is nothing better than watching a great movie

which really does an excellent job depicting real life. As you watch this film, you will begin to realize what it was like for women during the 1900's, when they were denied certain rights under the U.S. Constitution.

An attempt to summarize the entire film would be futile, so I'll defer to Len Amato, Executive Producers of "Iron Jawed Angels" who was kind enough to share a few words. "It is important to see the real flesh and blood struggle woman had to earn their right to vote and we should not take it for granted." This is an especially big issue in today's society because not everyone exercises their right to vote. Hopefully by watching this movie, peoples' decision not to vote will change.

"Iron Jawed Angels" is brought home by an outstanding cast, consisting of: Hilary Swank (Alice Paul), Francis O'Connor (Lucy Burns), Patrick Dempsey (Ben Weissman), Molly Parker (Emily Leighton), Brooke Smith (Mabel Vernon), Anjelica Huston (Carrie Chapman Catt), Laura Fraser (Doris Stevens), Julia Orm (Inez Milholl), and Vera Far (Ruza Wencla).

The HBO premier of "Iron Jawed Angels"

was on February 15th, 2004 at 9:30PM/8:30c. But don't worry about having missed it, as HBO will be showing the movie regularly throughout the rest of this month, and all of March. Check their website, www.hbo.com, or local listings for exact times.



Photo courtesy of www.hbo.com

Iron Jawed Angels shows us that people can change things.

MOVIE REVIEW

R

E

V

NO DISAPPOINTMENTS NO REGRETS

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REV

MOVIE REVIEW

Sandler's new effort shows growth

by Izzy Moskovits
Staff Writer

I've watched many Adam Sandler films over the years, which is proof that their marketing techniques are effective, considering that I am, no doubt, in their target audience. The films themselves are notorious among adults and kids alike for their off-color humor and frequently tasteless jokes, depending on who you ask. The last Sandler outing I saw was *Anger Management*, and I found it to be most repulsive. I was on the verge of swearing off Sandler forever when *50 First Dates* came along. The premise sounded interesting enough, so I decided to give it a shot. I was glad, in the end, that I did so, because Sandler has come a long way in one year.

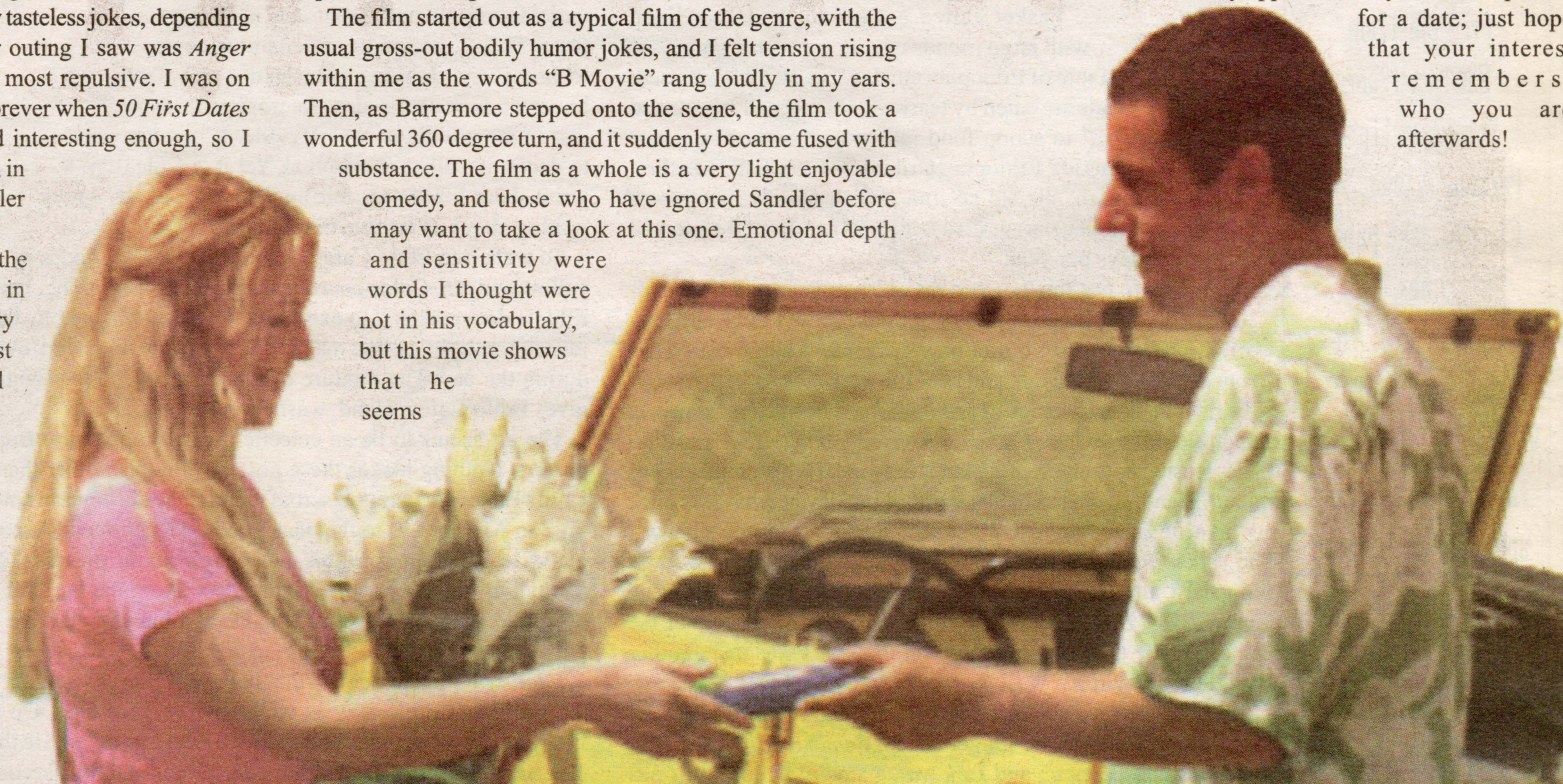
In this film, Sandler still plays the lonely eligible bachelor that he is in all of his movies. His name is Henry Roth, and he's a marine biologist living in Hawaii. His life is a typical routine drill as he takes care of the animals in the zoo and puts up with the antics of his zany friend, Rob Schneider, and his many children. One fateful rainy day, he walks into an eatery and stumbles upon Drew Barrymore, who has to be the most beautiful female he's ever laid his eyes on. They talk, and she gets to know him better as it becomes fairly evident that love is in the air. He returns the

next day to see her sitting at the same chair as before and sits down to talk. The trouble is, she doesn't remember him. It is then that Roth learns of her car accident and her short term memory loss, and, as the film's title suggests, he is faced with the daunting task of winning her back every single day. Sandler, the incurable romantic he is, seems to be more than up to the challenge.

The film started out as a typical film of the genre, with the usual gross-out bodily humor jokes, and I felt tension rising within me as the words "B Movie" rang loudly in my ears. Then, as Barrymore stepped onto the scene, the film took a wonderful 360 degree turn, and it suddenly became fused with substance. The film as a whole is a very light enjoyable comedy, and those who have ignored Sandler before may want to take a look at this one. Emotional depth and sensitivity were words I thought were not in his vocabulary, but this movie shows that he seems

to have a pretty good grasp of both. The chemistry between Sandler and Barrymore is as perfectly matched as it was in *The Wedding Singer*. He makes sure that we don't forget where we are, and where he comes from, by adding the usual crop of strange misfits who pop up in arbitrary random points throughout. But even without them, this movie floats wonderfully on its own.

This movie will most likely appeal to everyone and is perfect for a date; just hope that your interest remembers who you are afterwards!



These two love-birds show their chemistry in their return to the big screen.

Photo courtesy of www.imdb.com

REV TV REVIEW

This guy is funny

by Dan Demchuk
Distribution Manager

"I'm Rick James, bitch!" I hear that line, or even *think* about it, and I can't help but start laughing uncontrollably! It's ridiculous, it's funny, and after much support from viewers, Dave Chappelle has now brought back his show for a second season to meet their demand. You can check out *Chappelle's Show* on Wednesday's at about 9 PM on Comedy Central. But they also show it again, let's see, *every day*! Seriously, if you've missed an episode, there is plenty of time for you to tune in and check it out on any given evening. The guy is just too popular.

Chappelle's been in movies for years, such as Mel Brooks' *Robin Hood: Men in Tights*, 1996's remake of *The Nutty Professor* with Eddie Murphy, and was thrown out of a plane by Nicholas Cage in his film *Con Air*. But Chappelle is most remembered for his very first starring film role, Thorogood Jenkins in *Half Baked*, which Chappelle also received credit for co-writing. You can also catch a few of his costars from the film acting in skits on the Comedy Central show.

Probably the most memorable moment of the new season has been a segment entitled *Charlie Murphy's True Hollywood Stories*, featuring Eddie Murphy's brother, another Chappelle's Show cast member, Charlie Murphy, recounting tales from his partying past. Dave Chappelle is dressed as a 1980's Rick James in a dramatic recount of the cocaine laden party scene, while Charlie Murphy spins the story in an *E!* network interview style, interspersed with interviews from the real Rick James. "Cocaine is a powerful drug..." claims Rick James, and it influences behavior which, in this situation, became very, very funny when recounted by Murphy, and portrayed on screen by Chappelle.

I dunno, Dave Chappelle does a ton of other hilarious skits on his show, like last season's blind, African-American (unbeknownst to himself) KKK member, or the "PopCopy" segment where Michael Rappaport guest starts with Chappelle as unruly photo-copy store employees in an instructional video. Just check the show out, cause Chappelle won't disappoint you. Then again, if you don't like to

He's so funny, you'll pee yourself. laugh...

Tuesday, February 24th, 2004

From The Warped Minds Who Brought You
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SEARCHLIGHT

Think you're the next Tom Shales, join the *Independent*.
We're in the Basement.

REV

Eat on the Cheap:

Ethio Café

Ethio Café

3462 N. Clark St.,
Chicago

(773) 929-8300

Avg. Price*: \$15

Hours: Tue-Thu 3-11pm

Fri 3pm-12am

Sat 1pm-12am

Sun 12pm-11pm

Parking: A joke. It's
Clark St, take public
trans.

Credit Cards: All

Smoking: At bar

Vegetarian-Friendly: Yes

*average price includes
appetizer, meal, dessert

by Mary Meyer
Staff Writer

Ethiopian meals are served in one large basket called a *meshob*, which is lined with large rounds of spongy *ingera* bread, the staple of Ethiopian cuisine. No utensils are used; meals are eaten by tearing off a piece of *ingera* and using it to scoop food into your mouth. The major religions of Ethiopia (Orthodox Christian, Muslim, and Jewish) dictate cuisine, which mainly consists of dairy-less vegetarian dishes due to nearly 200 observed fasting days per year.

Ethio Café has this much right at least; nearly half of their menu is vegan (i.e. completely animal-product free), and they offer a mostly vegan buffet on weekends. Main meat dishes consist of chicken, lamb, and beef (no pork). *Doro Wat*, a stew-like dish made with chicken and *berbere*, a hot-pepper sauce, is supposed to be so hot, it's an out-of-body experience. At Ethio Café, I tasted nothing except bland, fatty meat with a mild zing of spice. "Bland" seems to be the word of the day at what was once my favorite Ethiopian restaurant. Oh, and don't forget "chewy." The *yebeg alitsha*, a lamb dish with "secret spices" was tough and grisly, and the spices were so secret, I couldn't even taste them. *ZilZil Tibs*, a supposedly-spicy beef dish, was about the same. Maybe they saw my face and thought I was just another Wrigleyville wimp.

Vegetarian dishes are a bit better, with *Engudie wat*, tangy mushrooms and garlic ginger sauce; *Sambrussa*, lentils with onions and peppers; and *kihk wat*, a smoky yellow split-pea dish.

For drinks, try the thick and sweet honey wine (*tej*) or the Ethiopian coffee, served in miniature ceramic cups from a small metal pot. *Ting*, a Jamaican lemon-lime soda, is refreshing, but avoid the watery papaya shakes.

I must say that one goes to Ethio Café for the value.

Two can dine heartily, especially at the \$7.95 weekend buffet, for less than \$15 apiece. There is occasional live music as well. But if you want a tasty experience, try the two other African/Ethiopian restaurants just down the street, although you'll pay a bit more.

by Juan Diaz
Staff Writer

The Ethio Café reminds me of the many family-owned restaurants in Puerto Rico. These restaurants are quaint treasures locked away on a tropical island. Ethio Café, however, is not located in the tropics; it is smack dab in the middle of Wrigleyville. When it comes to décor, it's all about context. Yet it is a pleasure to write about Ethio's terrible ambiance if only to ignore writing about its terrible dining fare.

To walk into Ethio Café is to be assaulted by shades of yellow and tan. Color-coordination is a beautiful thing, but Ethio's decor takes it to extremes. This is not helped by the inadequate lighting that makes this restaurant look dark even during the day. The mixture of the coloring and the lighting gives Ethio Café a bland, washed-out mood.

The art seems to be an eclectic mix of dollar store framed posters. Nothing makes these posters Ethiopian other than the word "Ethiopian" printed across them. If the decorator wanted to give an African feel to the place, I could recommend a score of places in a five-block radius. I can live with the posters though, just not with the Christmas lights decorating the bar. The first person to string up Christmas lights at a bar should have their gravestone repeatedly desecrated.

I don't pretend to believe that being a waiter is exciting, but the waiters at Ethio may as well yawn in your face. On my first visit, the waiter was half-asleep on the low divan. He then proceeded to serve us at the speed of mud. On our second visit, Ethio Café was staffed by two waiters who would be better replaced by turtles with trays glued onto their back. I appreciate waiters that leave you alone, but these waiters leave you alone to the point of abandonment. I found myself looking for a rescue party.

So many things to complain about, so little space to do it in. I haven't even breached the subjects of presentation, the bathroom, or the furniture. In other words, if *ambiance* is important to you, go somewhere else.

Image compiled by Cecilia Carboni

MUSIC REVIEW

REV

His floetry is his poetry



Ali performed his stuff at the Abbey Pub.

by Dan Demchuk
Distribution Manager

Rhymesayer Brother Ali headlined his first show Saturday, February 7th, over at the Abbey Pub, presenting to the packed 18+ audience in attendance raw Midwest hip hop at its finest. Ali was promoting and performing cuts off his upcoming *Champion EP*, a remix of the first track off 2003's *Shadows on the Sun*, and including 6 or 7 entirely new joints. Kicking off the night was some DJ's I missed, DJ PNS and Mr. Bim I believe, Iomos Marad, and Immortal Technique sporting his trademark Che Guevarra shirt.

I came to the show with a few Wizards, one of which was removed from the club for holding a bottle he was too young to have purchased on his own. I dunno *how* he got it, but I hope he enjoyed it cause it cost him the remainder of the show. Things looked like they were about to get rowdy for a minute though, with this cat tellin' me that some individuals were present that had some beef to settle. So we were preparing to brawl when a gentleman from

the Abbey asked to see our wristbands, which this cat didn't have. So he was out, but the Immortal Technique was on, so with beer in hand, I attempted to enjoy what was largely an a cappella performance. He came with the skills, and after a brief bit of time between sets, the albino emcee extraordinaire, Brother Ali, hit the stage.

Ali's got great style, tight flows, and a forthright nature and message about his rhymes that transcends your average "conscious" hip hop, laying his life out in words and attempting to bring his former dark reality into the light of understanding, chalked up to experience. I had the opportunity to sit down and speak with Brother Ali a few months back (*Independent, Vol.20, Issue 4*), and his personable manner combined with the positive messages of understanding and acceptance found within his music both solidified and verified the plethora of praises surrounding this up and coming artist. I recommend picking yourself up a copy of Brother Ali's music, or any of the Rhymesayer's crew, cause they're writing and rhyming History.

Photo courtesy of www.tampahiphop.com

Commentary

To be silent is to lie

There would seem to be those around this university who believe the *Independent*, or the media, owe them a sort of polite silence, obedience, or loyalty or give advance notice when a story will break. This cannot be more insulting to the *Independent*, and journalists the world over.

We were lucky to spend this past weekend learning from professional journalists and our college peers just how journalism is practiced elsewhere in this state. What became apparent is a culture has developed at Northeastern, similar to those at other schools, where administrators attempted to kill stories before they go to print, where student governments denied access to some newspapers in violation of state law.

If you're meeting to decide public policy, or using school funds to finance a meeting or event, we belong there. No matter your political agenda or your bias towards us, we must remain unbiased, cover all events and uncover all harsh truths, whether they compromise those we know or do not know personally. If it affects this student body, this university, or our community, we have a right to know the truth and be able to tell it.

This brings us to the issue at hand: two incidents in the past few weeks have led the *Independent* to question whether we are being allowed to practice journalism or not. One was deemed important enough to address. This issue, we have to make clear, involves fellow students and not necessarily school officials in particular.

Though the story hasn't made it to our pages yet, a sister organization and its members have taken great pains to protect their own reputations at the cost of the integrity of this paper and school. Those appealing for our protection with their rampant self-interest in mind are worrisome enough. However, one individual involved in the situation at hand has made obvious in the last week just how far some will go to bury a damaging story.

This Student Government Senator and member of the chastised organization has become fond of issuing threats to freeze funding for the *Independent* if this story comes to light. As this story has unfolded, the *Independent* has been more than judicious in its coverage, and has erred on the side of getting the facts straight before we publish half-truths and allegations. Yet that is not enough for some.

Now that it appears we will in fact be publishing this story in our March 9th issue, this individual is none too happy about it. Asking us to ignore the facts and turn a blind eye is one dubious route to suppressing a story, but issuing idle threats is another entirely. The *Independent* has not, nor will it ever, accept this kind of attack on journalism in our community, or this kind of selfish purveyance in the name of self-preservation.

The story will run on these pages, with no hesitation, and we will brook no opposition to our right to report in the strictest form of its definition.

Sometimes to be silent is to lie.

Gay marriage: Religious rite or legal contract?

by Tom Robb
Co-News Editor

Gay marriage is an issue that many have extremely strong feelings about, not unlike the feelings people had about interracial marriage not so long ago. Debates like these end with people saying either, "Because it's just wrong!" or, "It is our right as a free people!"

If you look a bit deeper, you come to find a larger debate, the separation of church and state, at the core of this discussion.

Marriage is both a religious rite and a legal contract. The state of Massachusetts' Supreme Court recently said gay marriage must be allowed because the Constitution provides for "Equal protection under the law." Gay people live in Massachusetts, and throughout the country, and they deserve the same protections as straight people.

Some religious leaders (not all) pointed to their interpretation of the Bible and said, "No, we will not accept the definition of marriage as anything but a man and a woman!"

Now the state has a problem. How do they abide by the Constitution in providing equal protection to homosexual couples while not stepping into the world of religion and defining a religious ritual?

Are Civil Unions the answer? They afford legal protection and do not step on the toes of religious conservatives who are so opposed to gay marriage.

Wrong. The Massachusetts Supreme Court clarified itself in a later case and, as another court did with *Brown vs. The Board of Education* in the 1960's, saying separate is not equal. Civil unions will

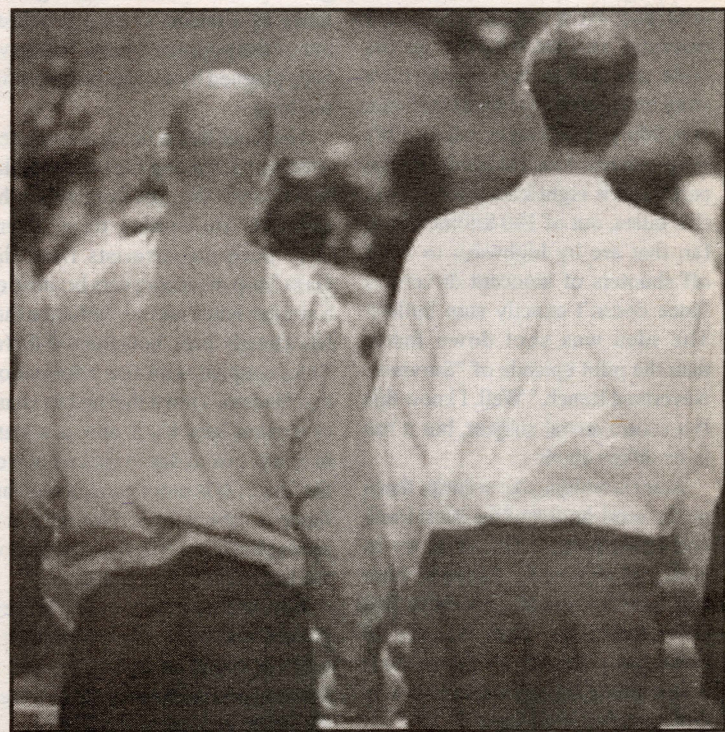


Photo courtesy of www.gayapolis.com

Last week, 3,000 gay couples opted to marry while they still could.

not do, it must be marriage.

The reason that Gay marriage must and will happen comes from not only the Massachusetts Constitution, but also the U.S. Constitution—Equal Protection Under the Law. That means equal, not "separate but equal," but full-on equal.

Many states passed laws in the 1950s and 60s stating that an interracial marriage would not be legal in their state even if it were legal in another. Those laws seem arcane by today's standards about blacks and whites. Yet states across America are passing similar laws right now about gay and straight.

The bottom line is that it is not the job of the state to interpret the Bible, Quran,

or Torah. The state's job is to afford equal protections to all of its citizenry regardless of race, color, creed, and even sexual orientation. The state's job is to define the contract, not the religious right.

Many churches in the United States have stated they would not allow their clergy to perform gay marriages, and that is their right. Legislators deciding that for a church are a different matter.

One day in the not so distant future, denying gays the right to marry will seem as ridiculous and arcane as using race to stand in the way of a man and woman who love each other and want to make a life long commitment to each other.

Does voting really matter in 2004?

Apathy is our only hope

by P.J. Beemer
Copy Editor

Here in America, we are the land of the free. We are the country that introduced democracy, as it is modernly understood, to the world. And how do we maintain this bastion of democracy? We vote. We have had instilled in us since childhood the importance of doing our civic duty by voting when we grew up. Its almost as if we have been inundated with some unspoken mantra: Voting is good. Voting is great. Voting is how we will maintain our State.

But what if we drop the rose-colored glasses through which we, as children, are taught to view this ideal of voting? We find situations like the election catastrophe of 2000 that tore our country apart. For weeks stretching into months, TV, radio and the printed media focused on nothing but the issue of who really won the Presidential election. Arguments over votes and recounts meant that the fate of our country hung on a chad. Why did this happen? To be truthful, it was for many reasons. But for this article, let us focus on just one of the arguments not to vote.

When the founding fathers of our country first set up the voting system, they gave the right to vote to a small percentage of the fledgling country's population- white male landowners. They believed that it was this percentage of the population that could be trusted to have a vested interest in the leadership of their country. Hey, why wouldn't they? The man they voted into the presidency would be in charge of the money they would make from buying and selling the products they raised and sold to other men, both inside the country and out. So they would want to listen to his ideas, believe in his platform and campaign promises. The men would pay attention to the debates that the candidates would wage, and so on and so forth. Our founding fathers did not imagine that, in the future, our society would have degenerated into a populace where voting for the next American Idol would take precedence over voting for the next leader of the free world. But it has, and voting in political elections just is not as important as it once was.

It is for that reason that people do not put the effort into understanding the candidates and their intentions for their constituents. People do not take the time to listen to debates or ask questions about whether or not they want to vote into office someone who will raise taxes, or change legislation, or any number of other important political functions. By voting uninformed, they will only hurt the country. They might have the best intentions, but the wrong person will be in office.

It might be the unpopular opinion, but wouldn't it be best to make sure that the right man or woman is elected into office by people who have paid attention to the candidate's plans and promises?

A right and obligation

by Daniel Peikes
Senior Staff Writer

You cannot do anything these days without feeling the fact that this is an election year. Everywhere you turn, politicians are kissing proverbial babies. The democratic primary is in full swing, and President Bush said the famous, "Start your engines," at the Daytona 500 this weekend. The question then is why you should care.

What difference does it make to you what happens in the White House or on Capital Hill? Actually, it affects you much more than you might think. On a very obvious level, funding for education affects us all in a very close way. In addition, have you looked at your paycheck lately? You have to love all those fun taxes that come off of it. While we are on the subject of things that come off your paycheck, you might want to pay attention to what happens with social security, if any of you are planning on ever retiring. For those of you who have military association, war policy is something you should look at.

Why am I bringing this up? It seems that the youth of today is stricken with a horrible case of patriotic apathy. And who can blame them? Who really wants to listen to a bunch of old farts that sit around all day making stupid rules about how to run our lives? Yet, that is exactly why I vote.

You cannot complain about the way the government works or the policies that our judicial, executive, and legislative branches draft, unless you are willing to take an active role in them. You have to vote to make yourself heard. I would love it if every president, senator, and representative read and took heed to every letter written and every demonstration staged by concerned citizens of this country. Most politicians simply vote with their party. Now, I honestly am not a big fan of the bipartisan system. I do not think it accurately represents the full spectrum of people in this country. While you cannot fight Capitol Hill, you can try to put the person that has the closest ideals to your own in power there.

Things can change in this country, but it is a slow gradual process that starts with the voter. So to sum this whole thing up, SHUT UP or VOTE!!!

Israel's controversial security fence

by Achmed Goldberg
Special Contributor

Israel! There, I said it! Now, after the shudders die down and you get a hold of your collective selves, I will continue. At a recent newspaper meeting, an idea was put on the table that maybe we should do a story on the security fence that Israel is building. That's right, a fence! It's not a concrete wall, except for certain parts, and is eight kilometers, about five miles, out of 180 kilometers so far, that are by highways to ward off shooters of innocent drivers. A fence doesn't exactly stop bullets. The idea was shot down faster than the pilot episode of "Survivor: Neverland Ranch." Well, I know this is a controversial subject, but it has to be talked about.

Israel is building the security fence on the semi-border of the West Bank and Israel proper. This is to try to deter and eliminate infiltration from that area by suicide bombers and other terrorists. With this action came mass attacks on the legality of the fence, along with droves of human rights questions.

If, in fact, the International Court of Justice finds the fence to be in breach of international law, this will mean bad news for Britain and the U.S. too. In the 1960's and 1970's, the British government constructed peace lines between some Protestant and Catholic communities. In Iraq, the U.S. fenced in certain villages and established two square miles as a heavily fortified Green Zone. Anyone who considers the fence fueling the "inhuman" treatment of the residents of the West Bank should take a look at the roadblocks that are being taken down, the pullout of military personnel, and the more lax curfews as a result of the fence (1).

There was an article in the last issue about the CTA, and how they are inflating their prices. Now imagine getting onto that CTA bus everyday, fearing that it might be your last trip to school or the grocery store. Imagine having to switch off with your spouse riding that bus,

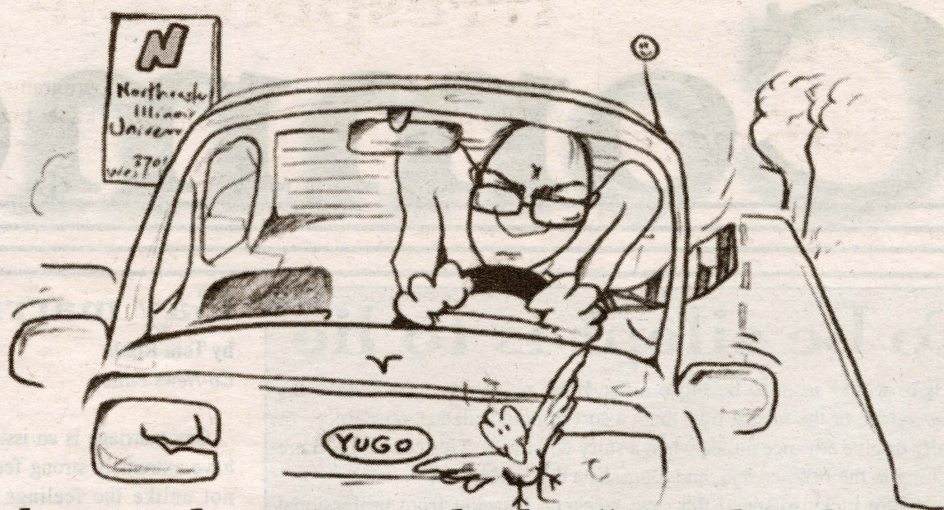
so if anything should happen, your children would at least be left with one parent. This is what the citizens of Israel are living with on a constant, day-to-day basis. The Israeli government is constructing this fence as a means to keep terrorists out of the populated areas that have been plagued by suicide bombers for too long.

The fence that is being constructed is being built along the border of the West Bank—the area from which the terrorists are coming from. There have been no terrorists from the Gaza Strip in recent years because of a similar fence and surveillance that has already been constructed there. This, coupled with the information that Hadera, a town that had its share of terrorist attacks, is now in a state of relative calm due to the creation of the fence (2) is proof enough that this fence is saving lives. Not only is it saving lives, but it is also prolonging the life of the peace process.

Let me explain. The Israeli government has made it clear that it will not negotiate under fire, and if this fence is *making* that quiet, then the peace process will go on (3).

The U.S. did not stand, and will never stand, for anyone killing its civilian population by means of terror, or by any other means. There should not be any person out there that opposes the government of a country to defend its citizens, by any means necessary. This fence saves lives, period. There should be no opposition. The oppositions that are being heard are of mere inconveniences, people having to go around the fence rather than through, and a miniscule amount of land loss, which Israel has set up compensation for. This holds no weight on one side of the scale when you put a human life on the other side.

More information can be found at (1) International Herald Tribune's article, "In Defense of the Fence", (2) Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs website, and (3) a Washington Times article by Daniel Ayalon, Israel's ambassador to the U.S..



On the road again with the "Road Scholars"

Over reliance on the "B" Professor bad for students and education

by Tom Robb
News Co-Editor

If your image of the job of a college professor is one of economic stability and comfort studying and discussing your area of expertise, you would only be partially correct. For many NEIU faculty, the truth is a bit less secure.

While the outer trappings of that may be the case for some, the economics of that are true for far too few. As the *Independent* looked at the upcoming University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) Union talks with the Administration, several themes came consistently back: heavy class loads; fuller and fuller classes; job insecurity; fewer full time tenure track positions; and a lack of benefits.

The Road Scholar

We are not talking about the intellectual Rhodes Scholar. We are talking about teachers on the road, some with master's degrees, many with PhD's, who go from school to school teaching a class here and a class there at several colleges and universities to cobble together a living. They have no health insurance, and little job security.

According to UPI Union

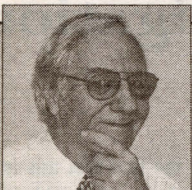
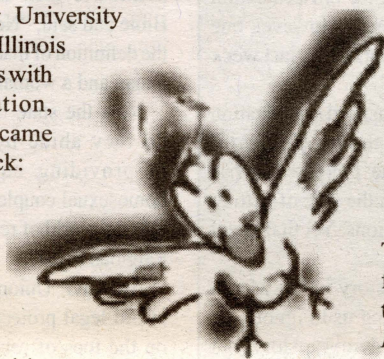
State VP and NEIU Political Science Professor John Murphy, the increasing use of the "Road Scholars," who are schedule "B" Faculty, as opposed to tenure tracked professors (a.k.a. Schedule "A" Faculty), and the increasing difficulty to become tenure tracked, is of concern statewide. Increased class sizes, and increased workloads through increased credit loads, is another concern expressed by Murphy and several faculty and union leaders.

Loyalty over salary

These dedicated teachers, the "Road Scholars," should be commended. They teach for the love of teaching. The *Independent* has spoken with more

than a few teachers who are teaching at NEIU more out of loyalty to the school than for financial gain or stability. I was surprised to find that a member of the *Independent's* staff who works at The Gap makes only slightly less than some new "B" professors for similar hours.

Schedule "B" instructors often have to share offices with up to five instructors, making office hours for students extremely difficult.



Joe Hertel
OldManNEIU@aol.com

Old Man on Campus

Understanding Other Cultures

A few issues ago, I admitted to a "limited understanding" of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual community here on campus, which, as expected, upset members of the GLBA. Therefore, in order to have a better grasp on things, I did some research and will now share the results with you. Hopefully, I will persuade the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Alliance (GLBA) that I am not as ignorant as they think, while at the same time, enlightening my readers.

First, I went to the dictionary and looked up the word "Gay." There were several definitions: "happily excited; keenly alive and exuberant; brilliant in color." Then I looked up the word "Homo," which many of my gay friends are called, although they prefer the label "gay." The definitions included: "genus of primate mammals including modern man; homosexual (shortened) often used disparagingly." I don't know why it is used disparagingly, considering we are all modern primates and enjoy sex.

This leads me to understand that homosexuals prefer the "gay" label because they are disparaged when called "homo." And, since most of my gay friends do appear "happily excited," and also wear "brilliant colors," I can understand their title preference, even though, when in

my company, they sometimes appear more morose than gay.

Looking up the definition of "lesbian," however, I found it said "a female homosexual." Well, that didn't help me too much, so I began a search on the Internet and discovered some interesting facts which shed light on Lesbianism and its origins.

There was this sexy, female poet named Sappho who lived on the island of Lesbos. The people on Lesbos were called Lesbians. Now, Sappho was an instructor at a school for women, and they used to get together and party, write erotic poetry, and talk about men - not unlike many female students here at NEIU. She was so famous for her poetry and fooling around that this guy named Catullus, around 50 b.c., wrote a poem about this married woman he was having fun with named Clodia. But he couldn't use her real name because then her husband, Metellus, would have gotten pissed, so he called her "Lesbia" in honor of this lady poet, Sappho. I guess that Clodia must have come from Lesbos, which made her a lesbian also, which is why Catullus called her Lesbia in the poem.

So I came to the conclusion that lesbians are women (whose ancestors probably came from Lesbos) who like to party, write erotic poetry, and talk about men, while taking courses in Women's studies. This also sounds like the NEIU Literary Coalition, Apocalypse, except most of its members don't wear bright

colors.

Down through the ages, certain ethnic groups have been given disparaging labels—the Poles, Italians, Jews, etc., including the people from Lesbos and Sodom. I still don't understand why men from Lesbos are not called Lesbians, although, if their ancestors came from Sodom, which would be difficult to trace since many genealogical records were lost when the city was destroyed, they are called Sodomites. And it bothers me that the state would enact laws which prohibit Lesbians and Sodomites from practicing the cultural heritage of their respective origins, as well as denying "happily excited" couples the right to get married!

I even went so far as to watch a rerun of *The Simpsons* where the subject of homosexuality was explored, and discovered that gays like to wear costumes and have parades (not unlike the Germans), which is substantiated by the Gay Pride Parade we have here in Chicago every year. I also watched a movie from my parent's video collection, which I inherited, titled "The Gay Parisienne." But it really didn't help me learn much about the gay sub-culture, maybe because it was filmed in France.

My research at times became confusing, since many of my searches wound up on web sites that were offering explicit sexual material and movie downloads (there were more "pops" than a Viagra users convention). So I had



to draw a few conclusions on my own based on the information I had available.

I hope to have clarified, in part, that homosexuality (male and female) is more geographically and/or culturally genetic, rather than just choice. This, of course, debunks the viewpoint of Heterosexuals Organizing for a Moral Environment, an organization, by the way, I do not endorse because they are capnophobic.

I have attempted to shed some light on the subject so that you, gentle reader, are persuaded that everyone is entitled to respect and equal treatment regardless of where we are from, especially those who write poetry and like to party. And, as the dictionary says, if "Gay" can be defined as "keenly alive and exuberant," maybe we all should join the

Our American empire

by Atoor Lawando
Staff Writer

Once upon a time, a people in one corner of Britain's vast empire grew tired of the empire's constant oppression towards them. The people of this colony were heavily taxed to meet Britain's economic ends, yet at the same time, their political views received no fair representation in England. The people grew restless and resisted the oppression of Great Britain. The product of their resistance finally broke out in 1776 as the American Revolution.

The American Revolution would then give way to the formation of a political system unlike any other then known. The American revolutionaries formed a system very different than the one they revolted against. This was done intentionally. The framers of the American constitution wanted as much as possible to distance themselves from the monarchism and the imperialism that they had fought against.

Americans often like to take pride in our system being the best political system in the world. This is true to the extent that the American system is unique—or it certainly was at the time of the American Revolution. But in more recent decades, after the end of the Second World War, as the United States became perceived as a new world power, it began to take on a new identity.

Today the United States stands unrivalled economically and militarily. The political system drafted by the revolutionaries in the American constitution has proven to be successful. But just how close has the American leadership over the last several decades stayed with the principles highlighted within the constitution? The drafters of the American constitution were fighting an imperialist power; they wanted anything but to establish one of their own. The revolutionaries fought against an empire that excluded them, that thought of them as mere subjects, that belittled their plight, and that thought of them only as immature extensions of itself.

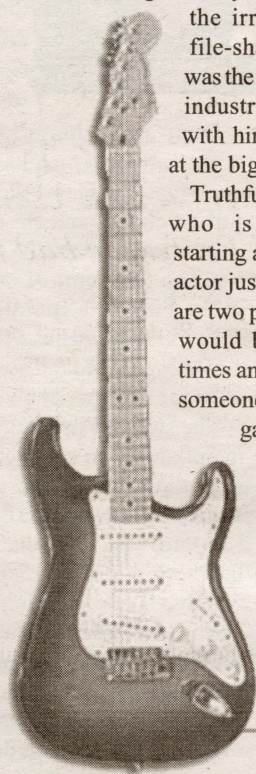
With its advantaged position economically and militarily, the U.S. today is guilty, maybe not in rhetoric, but certainly in practice, of imperialism. Very recently, Newsweek International published a special edition about significant issues in 2004, in which prominent British historian Niall Ferguson said, "The United States is now an empire in all but name...the first case in history of an empire in denial." The American leadership will never admit to imperialist intentions, because to do so will be contradictory to the purpose of the American Revolution, and it would make everything that occurred because of that revolution arbitrary.

Nevertheless, is the American administration guilty of imperialism today? The answer is yes. The Bush administration has openly stated that, "those who are not with us are against us" when referring to countries such as Iran that are considered a threat to the United States, and that, "we will bring them democracy" when referring to the invasion of Iraq. The fact is our administration perceives those with different ideologies than its own dangerous and worthy of annihilation. Furthermore, many Americans fancy their political and economic systems to be superior to all those different from it. This feeling of superiority, then, leads them to believe that it is their duty to "bring" the inferior others democracy, that other cultures need to be modernized and brought up to standards. These feelings are not to be confused with patriotism. They are, however, the most blatant symptom of the American will to be an empire.

Irresponsible loading is unhealthy

by Jonathan Gronli
Staff Writer

At the Grammy Awards, there was a statement made by C. Michael Greene that file sharing has taken a toll on his recording company's business. His speech about it was incredible, but in one way flawed. It is not just the recording industry that was affected by the irresponsible use of file-sharing programs. It was the entire entertainment industry. Though I agree with him, we need to look at the bigger picture.



Truthfully, I am a musician who is thinking about starting a band. I am also an actor just starting off. These are two possible careers that would be affected by the times and by file-sharing. If someone went into writing, game testing, or game programming, they would be affected too. This is because file-sharing has branched out from music to movies, games, computer

programs, art/pictures, and text files. I would know this because I used to download too. Times are getting rather dangerous for that, what with the suing of the users and not the heads of the free downloading sites/programs. It didn't happen because of every person who downloaded. There is always someone to ruin it for everyone. In the case of file-sharing, it truly is a minority of the downloading population. There are people that do occasional downloading. Then there are the occasional people that download everything and anything they can find. I knew people like that in high school.

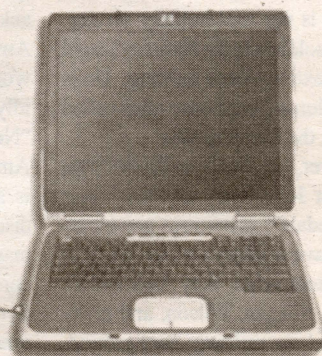
The people that do occasional downloading do so honorably. No one wants to buy something without testing it first—unless he or she wants to be sorely disappointed or pleasantly surprised. So they download just a couple tracks from a CD here and there. They may still buy the CD. So they download the occasional scene or two from a movie before going. They, at least for the most part, still end up going. Some of the people also use the programs that they pay for monthly or per download, even with their downloading habits.

Then there are the other people. They are the scum that have to ruin it for everyone else. They download entire CDs, movies, games, and other forms of entertainment to save money. It's the same with computer programs. If they find someone who wants it and has cash, they will end up

burning these entertainments for profit. Yet again it is the same with computer programs. I know this because I knew these people. Since 1998 they have ruined one of the best things for the entertainment industry because they decided to overdo it. They are the companies' weaknesses.

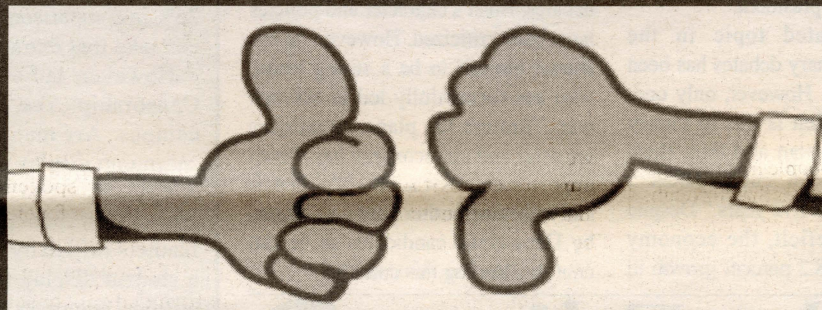
Anyway, this might not have been as interesting as a recording company president's opinion, but if you want the big picture, here it is. File-sharing was a double edged sword. It got the entertainment and the products out. Everything that's needed is sent out and connects the world through sharing. Then again, it's for free, which inspired irresponsible use, making it a plague on the entertainment world. It steals money from companies. That makes people working for such companies lose their jobs.

Stop this irresponsible use and stop the "theft." If you don't stop the "theft," worse things might happen for the entire industry.



graphic by Cecilia Carboni

Thumbs Up? Thumbs down!



Edwards catches up to Kerry

Janet's boob is no longer news

The SGA President is throwing a \$16,000 party

Keeping your pants on at a convention in a hotel

The Independent attended the ICPA journalism conference

Parking garage construction starts in April

We are finally getting a parking garage

Being halfway through the semester

Not much difference between the two

Michael's nose is still on TV

The SGA President will be the only one at the \$16,000 party

Not having a reason to take them off

ICPA stands for "I Can't Purchase Awards"

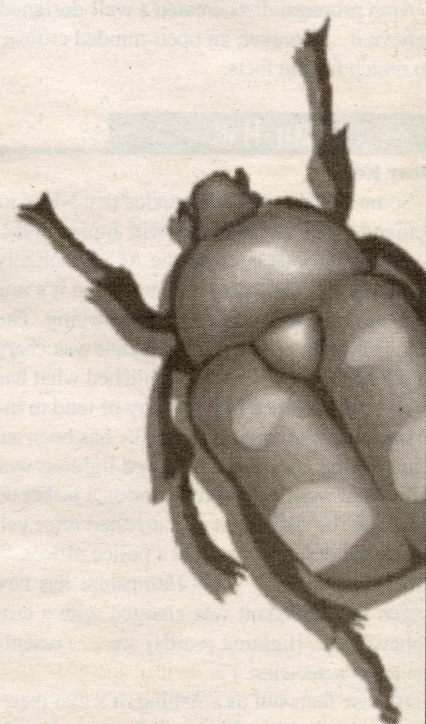
Where the hell are we going to park while they build it?!

That same 17 million dollars could have bought us Alex Rodriguez

Not knowing if the teachers still be here in April

Independent

Infested with good ideas.



Bush in his second term? *He won't be as bad as you think*

by Elana Barron
Staff Writer

The Democratic primaries have focused on discrediting President Bush. The president has received much criticism for the war on terror and other policies he outlined in the State of the Union address, including his plans for protecting this country from terrorists, decreasing taxes, and cutting the deficit in half. The most recent tactic the Democrats have taken is the accusation that Bush shirked his duties in the National Guard.

Senator John Kerry and other Democratic candidates have accused Bush of not fulfilling his duties, despite documentation that has proven that Bush completed the requisite hours. Undaunted, Democrats have further claimed that the National Guard is a joke; it is not *real* military service. Actually, soldiers in the National Guard were not exempt from fighting. Units in the National Guard were often called to fight in the Vietnam War.

However, can Bush really compare to Senator John Kerry and his "chest full of medals?" Numerous presidents did not have military service listed in their resume when they took office. Jefferson, Reagan, Wilson, and many others had no military background. Even Bill Clinton did not serve. Despite his lack of service, Clinton beat out candidates who were awarded the Medal of Honor, Purple Hearts, and the Bronze Star. It seems that American voters are indifferent to a presidential candidate's military background.

Democrats today maintain that only those who have served are truly patriotic and understand the costs of war. In 1992, another presidential campaign revolved around this similar issue. At that time, a senator said, "We do not need now to divide America

over who served and how, [because no group] has cornered the market on virtue or rectitude or love of country." This was said by Senator John Kerry. He too believes that military service does not indicate an automatic patriotism and complete understanding of war.

Bush has repeatedly shown that he can handle the pressure of war. His war on Iraq indicates that he understands the costs of war. Unfortunately, this war has become quite controversial. Critics fail to acknowledge that the attack made America safer. The war showed the world that America will not stand idly by as countries sponsor terrorism. "No one can now doubt the word of America," the President said. Libya is suddenly willing to disclose and dismantle all of its regime's weapons of mass destruction programs and uranium enrichment projects. Gaddafi advised Syria, Iran, and North Korea to do the same. Bush assures us that America will continue to be "committed to keeping the world's most dangerous weapons out of the hands of the most dangerous regimes." And now, terrorists are afraid of the American president.

Another heated topic in the Democratic primary debates has been the large deficit. However, only one-third of this deficit is due to money spent in Afghanistan and Iraq. Bush promises that he will "cut the deficit in half over the next five years." Despite the growing deficit, the economy experienced an 8.2 percent growth in

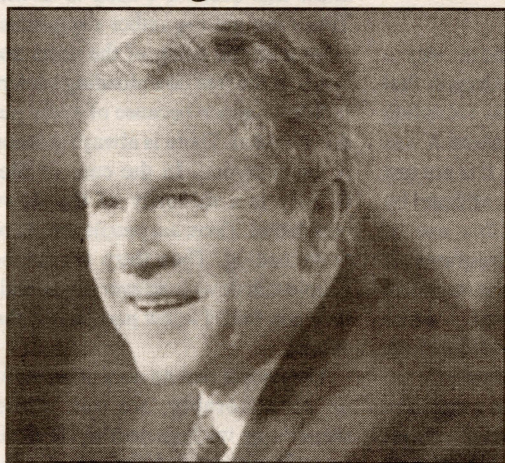


photo courtesy of www.whitehouse.gov

The next four years show some promise.

the third quarter of last year. Under Bush, it has been predicted that the economy will continue to grow at 4.8 percent this year and 4.2 percent in the following year.

Many believe this boost in the economy is due to the President's tax breaks. The President has put more money back in the pocket of the tax payer. Bush gives more freedom to the people because he sees that "the American people are using their money far better than government would have," as he said in the State of the Union address. Further, Bush has suggested implementing Social Security personal retirement accounts. Only under Bush will citizens enjoy the freedom of making their own choices with their own money.

Throughout the Democratic debates, Bush's character and policies have been criticized. However, he has shown himself to be a strong leader who has successfully led us through war. Through his plans, Americans are safer and our economy has shown improvement. We can only hope that he can withstand further false accusations by Democratic candidates so he can continue leading this country.

Letters to the Editor



MAIL BAG

Dear Editor,

Did you ever wonder who the "Palestinians" really are? What was their origin, their history, and their tie to Israel? Can you name any leader they have had before Yassir Arafat? If "Palestinians" were ever an independent nation, can you name their unique currency, customs, language, or any contributions to society (besides terrorism and homicide bombers)? I thought not.

In all of human history, there was never a country called Palestine. The Romans controlled Israel in the second century C.E. In 132 C.E., the Jews revolted to regain Jerusalem, the Jewish capital, into Jewish hands. After the Romans won, as a means to further separate Israel from its Jewish roots, the Romans renamed the region "Palestina." They selected that name to falsely tie the land to the Biblical Philistines, who died out in the 8th century at the hands of the Assyrians.

Some time during the last 100 years, the Arabs pulled the same revisionist tactics. The so-called Palestinians of today are no more than a mix of Arabs from throughout the Middle-East who migrated to Israel, primarily to find jobs. They use the name "Palestinians" as a cover to usurp what has been Jewish land, since the time King David established Jerusalem as the Jewish capital 3,000 years ago.

Arab propagandists created a well-designed revision of history and convinced a significant portion of the world to believe it. However, an open-minded critical thinker searching for the truth will discover that revisionist history is no match for the facts.

Joey Kandelman
Student

MAIL BAG

Dear Editor,

Some students have demanded that NEIU institute a hate speech code. If the university does not meet this and other demands, they say that they will approach the ACLU and take action.

This is curious because the ACLU actually opposes speech codes. It's not that they don't believe that hate and bigotry exist. They do. It's simply that it's impossible to fashion language that does not also ban legitimate speech. This has not stopped people from trying. There is precedent in the 1942 Supreme Court case, *Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire*, in which the defendant was charged with calling a city marshall a "racketeer" and a "damned fascist." In the decision, the court established what has come to be known as the "fighting words" doctrine—words that "by their very utterance inflict injury or tend to incite an immediate breach of the peace."

In years following, *Chaplinsky* has been substantially curtailed by subsequent rulings. However, it's curious how many of the later cases involved fighting words directed against the state: *Cohen v. California* (1971) in which an individual was charged for wearing a jacket with the words, "Fuck the Draft!"; *Lewis v. City of New Orleans* (1974), in which the defendant was arrested after yelling obscenities at a police officer; *City of Houston v. Hill* (1987), in which the defendant said to a police officer, "why don't you pick on somebody your own size?" Still, *Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire* has never been overturned. In the 1992 case, *R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul*, in which the defendant was charged with a cross burning, Justice Antonia Scalia wrote, "for purposes of [the First] Amendment, [fighting words] are . . . essentially a 'nonspeech' element of communication." The ACLU opposed the court's decision.

If these facts tell us anything, it's that there are no easy answers to the question of hate speech. Students at NEIU should be mindful of this before demanding that the university make a hasty decision on how to control controversial discourse on campus.

Brian Doyle
Student

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

F*** Censorship



CECILIA CARBONI
neiu_voc@hotmail.com

When I first came to the school, I was terrified at the thought of becoming an art major. I saw the scant number of displays and the quality of them, only to be absolutely dumbfounded on how these things made it past the teacher, let alone into the hallway (crawling, no doubt). You're supposed to put your best out, right? If this was the cream of the crop, things weren't looking quite peachy for me.

Some of the things I had found aesthetically objectionable were in the gallery, which I assumed to be student work, and later found out it was outside work. Okay, I was even more confused. All those full art classes and almost nothing being produced?

As it turns out, NEIU does harbor some talent, or at least potential. You can find some of its representatives on a lonely Tuesday night in the Fine Arts Building. The Art Group is headed by professor Julie Farstad and has a list of about 15 members. I decided to attend a meeting and found something I wasn't expecting, an explanation as to the mediocrity.

The students presented me with a very disappointing reality. Art majors have no space to show off their work. The only time their pieces see the light of day is at the end of their Senior year. That simply isn't enough. Having a piece viewed is part of the process, I'm told. The work that gets put out is up to the teachers. Most of the work that is on display comes from non-art majors in general classes. While it is important to recognize their work as equally valid, why aren't teachers taking the best paintings, photographs, sculptures, and drawings by art majors and putting those up? Not only does the student benefit from the feedback, but other students get to see what the art department is actually producing. A creative outlet is what's being demanded.

This assembly of art majors is letting me know what I think some art teachers need to know. Their art students are criticizing their lack of initiative and their lack of perogatives towards their pupils. As a teacher, you shouldn't just come in, slap a bottle on a table and expect me to render it realistically. Although underpaid by almost 25% in comparison to the nationwide average of teacher salaries, you can take that extra step to enrich our little paint smeared lives.

However, ladies and germs, there is a bigger issue at hand. Censorship. Yes, it's a b**ch, but it's alive and well on our campus. Art majors have spoken to the Administration about setting up display areas on the second floor of the Student Union. Ample space is available, but the issue is content. Administrators are worried about people getting offended by nudity or having their feathers ruffled by controversial issues. If space was designated for a student display then the pieces would be strictly chosen to the politically correct tastes of the Administration. Students view this as a damaging restriction.

Art students are supposed to push buttons. Education in the arts isn't only the contrast of shapes and shades, but that of society and its perceptions. What good does it do an artist to produce work with a message if they don't experience the interaction of a viewer? I am quite frankly sick of landscapes and puppies. Only 10.5 % percent of those will get any respect from me. I want freakin' squirrels in clown suits with their feet sewn to high-heeled pumps. I want tenderly rendered egg-tempura paintings of lesbians engaging in foot fetishes. I don't care as long as I can view it, love it, or hopefully, hate it. I don't care as long as I know someone's not placing barriers between my eyes and the intentions of the artist. What can be so bad?

I don't think there's anything we can't handle. I'm sure anything extremely morbidly revolting would probably never make it to that point. I don't think many teachers would allow for human body parts to be nailed to the wall, so there's no issue there. Sex? Despite of the ruckus after the Superbowl, I think we all know what an areola looks like. A painting, a sculpture, these things aren't going to jump out and assault you. If you can't handle a naked body because of religious reasons or personal distaste, then don't go into the room and you wont ruin it for the rest of us.

If necessary, a sign can be posted outside warning that there may be offensive materials and that's the end of that. The Administration is worried about children. If you have a 6 year old with you, then decide if you want to drag a 6 year old in there. Personally, I don't think any children are going to wander onto the second floor of S.U. without you knowing. If they do, then you're not a very good parent.

Would you, the reader, like to see what our school is capable of? Wouldn't you like a chance to see what's floating in the minds of your fellow students? If half the art department doesn't know what the other half is doing, then chances are you know even less. With such diversity in age, gender, nationality, we should have a wealth of expression! Have you ever walked through other campuses? People have ideas! And freedom! GASP...

We at Northeastern need to grow beyond the status quo. Art teachers, even teachers in general, need to get a little more involved in the state of their students beyond the class. We understand there's a lot on that plate, but there are a lot of students yearning for just a scrap or two. Art majors deserve to at least have their work displayed in the hallways. As far as the Administration goes, no one's going to respect the art program if all we see of it are the future Disney postcard artists.

It's the jobs, stupid!

by J. Louis Bracich
Business Manager

Now, I like to call myself a free-market capitalist, someone who believes in the concept of private property and being able to make as much money as I can. But it is also this last part (along with the first part) that I am currently having an internal conflict. See, while I believe in free trade, I also believe that the other party involved in trade should believe in free trade. Companies should make as much money as they can, but (I guess this is where my conflict comes in) it shouldn't come at the cost of American jobs. To that end, I guess I am a nationalist of sorts.

Recently, I walked into a Toys 'R' Us to buy a tricycle for my 4-year old cousin, Eriesto. Examining one fire-engine red triky, I noticed that it had been made in Malaysia. Curious, I looked at a few more tricycles, including some regular bikes. All the Huffy bikes were made in China. Still curious, I walked down the aisles and after about 20 minutes or so, out of 30 items, only 2 were made in the US (and only 1 item was made in Mexico) a packet of stickers with unicorns and flying stars. Venturing out to other stores to do my errands, I stopped by a Best Buy to a JC Penny. What I found was that 90+% of the stuff sold in these stores were made outside the US, once again primarily in Asia.

"What the hell is still made in this damn country?" my dad said to one of the crater-faced store clerks at Best Buy. Not much, as I have found out. This has not been exactly late-breaking news, for decades US companies for decades have been exporting jobs instead of products to other countries, mostly to developing nations. It has not stopped with

consumer or commercial tangible products either. Recent studies have shown that the largest outsourcing (remember this word, you're going to hear it again) companies have done since 1994 has been services. Lost your credit card or having technical problems with that old Dell machine? Chances are when you call up that 1-800 number, you're going to be getting someone from Bangalore, India instead of someone from Bedford, Indiana. This has all come at the cost of American jobs, but who's to blame for this?

Corporations aren't the only culprits here, they have two very big partners, you my dear consumers, and government. Back when blue-collar workers in America were losing their jobs to say blue-collar workers in Japan, many were hailing this as a great thing because many looked down upon US union workers as "fat and lazy." Japanese cars, for instance, were being hailed as top quality because Japanese workers were good employees while American cars were crap because...yes, US union workers were "fat and lazy." Looking at a recent issue of Wired magazine, they interviewed a financial analyst in India and a computer programmer in Seoul, Republic of Korea, both of which said American companies were moving to these places because they were more "efficient and reliable than Americans," which I am taking as the new millennium version of "fat and lazy."

Let's be honest here, the numero uno reason why these companies are outsourcing factories in say Shanghai or Kuala Lumpur is because it's fucking cheap. This is not a shot at the people of these nations, just the economics of the whole game. The key item in this game is currency valuation, you know

how many foreign money you can get for you one measly dollar? Throughout Asia, you can get 8 Chinese Renmimbi or 108 Japanese Yen for a single dollar. In China, the pay rates for repetitive factory work range anywhere from 64 - 120 Renmimbi/day (that's about \$8-15 a day) according to the Economist. Here in the US, some union work start at those rates PER HOUR.

"This fucking sucks," a friend of mine says to me while we were drinking coffee at a local Italian café on Harlem avenue, "I got this degree in finance at that stupid school and can't find a job in 2 years!" Another friend who also went to our school chimed in, "Northeastern lied to us, and those counselors should've told us what was happening out there. I went to several job interviews, and one fucking place told me they weren't interviewing anymore because the office was being sent to India." I later found out from her, that that interviewer was training her Indian counterpart to replace her.

Now I know what some of you are going to say, that this whole article is bullshit and racist. I'm sorry but it ain't, it's about putting food on the table. The government hasn't done anything really to make producing goods here more viable, consumers don't raise hell about why little Johnny's shoes are made in China, and the corporations have done nothing to support smaller American companies who don't want to export jobs, just products. Oh yea, as for Ernesto's tricycle? I decided to buy him a shirt I found made in this country, who knows, maybe that money I spent will go to food being put on the table of one of our children.

graphic by Cecilia Carboni

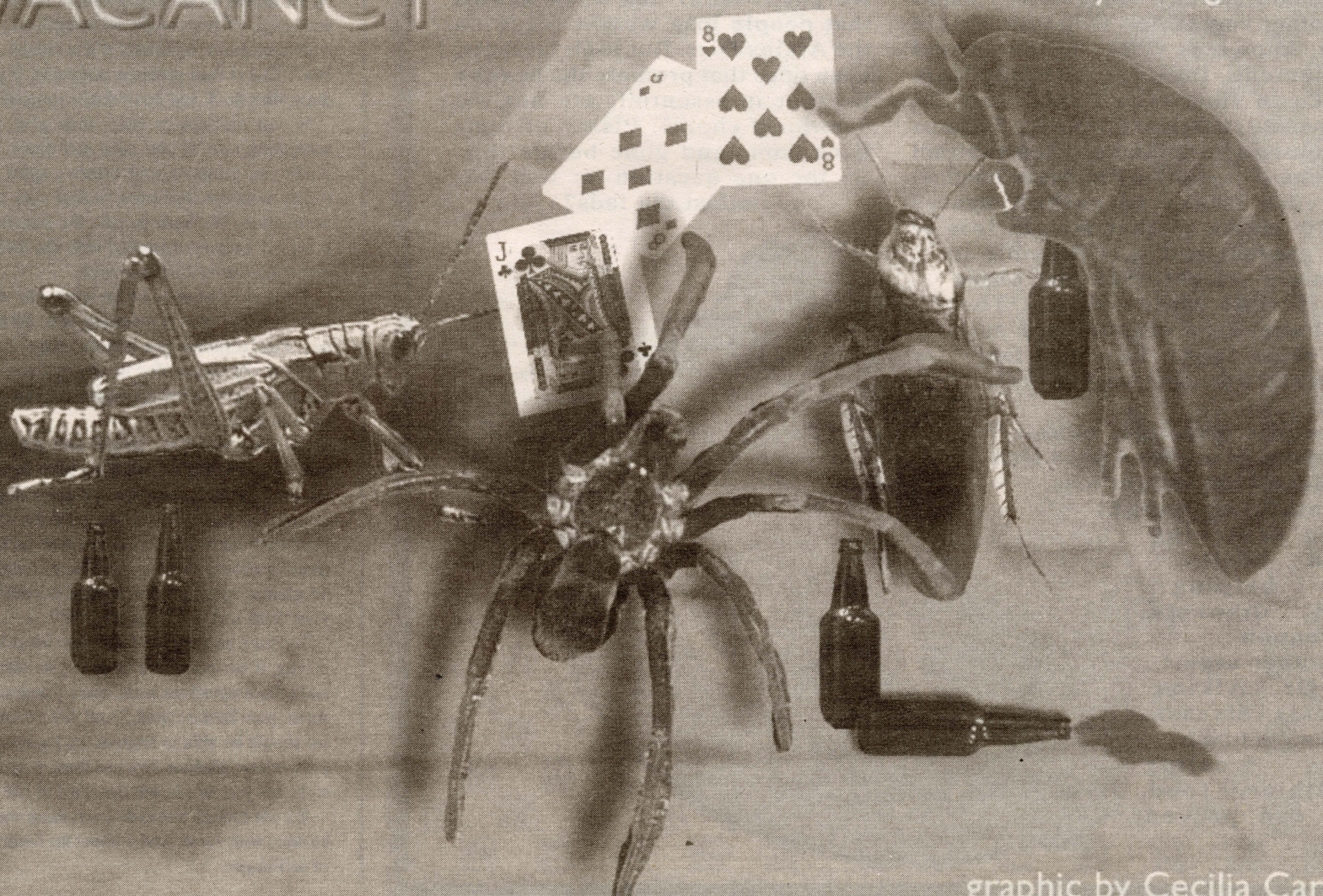
This way to China



Employment

The Rotten Egg Pub and Hotel VACANCY

Strange things happen on a layout weekend.
The production staff would like to remind you
that we put our sanity on the line to provide
you with quality.
Join the Independent.
It's more fun than
you might think.



graphic by Cecilia Carboni

Eagle's Nest

Lifestyles of the Northeastern community



ATKINS

over easy

What's behind the diet?

by Violette Green
Staff Writer

People know that every year there are new popular diets, and right now it's the Atkins Diet. It is a diet based on consuming fewer carbohydrates and more protein. Also there is an emphasis on unprocessed and non-starchy foods.

Dr. Robert C. Atkins introduced the Atkins Diet in 1972. The diet is based on a high protein, high fat, and low carbohydrate plan for eating. Dr. Atkins introduced it as the "Diet Revolution." He started doing research on controlled carbohydrate intake

in 1960 and published his first book *Dr. Atkins Diet Revolution*. His latest editions have become bestsellers.

This is despite the fact that many of his ideas were and still are opposed by researchers.

The Atkins Diet has four phases for implementing the diet. Induction is the first principle. Limit one's intake of carbohydrates to 20 grams each day, and they should come from non-starchy sources like salad and other vegetables. Ongoing Weight Loss, known as OWL, is the second implement. Increase carbohydrate intake in fiber-rich foods. Add 25 grams and increase intake by 5 grams to maintain your intake. Then subtract 5 grams. The third is Pre-Maintenance. Increase intake of carbohydrates by 10 grams so that weight loss is still gradual and it is possible to maintain weight. The last phase is Lifetime Maintenance. The emphasis is on unprocessed and low sugar foods. Essential fatty acids and oils also work into this diet.

The four principles of results when one is on the Atkins Diet are achieving weight loss, maintaining weight loss, achieving good health, and helping with disease prevention.

Another aspect of Dr. Atkins diet is disease prevention. By eating healthier food, one can prevent

hypertension, or high blood pressure, diabetes, and a number of other chronic diseases. All over the place the Atkins Diet is gaining popularity and affecting what foods restaurants put out. There are signs everywhere advertising low-carbohydrate options. They can be seen at Chili's, Subway, and even the grill and deli counter here at Northeastern.

But there are some researchers that disagree with the Atkins Diet. A diet high in protein and fat can lead to a painful condition called gout, which is a building up of fatty deposits in the lower limbs. However Dr. Atkins is correct in that unprocessed carbohydrates are better than processed, because processed carbohydrates often contain high amounts of sugar.

The Atkins Diet does have both good and not-so-good aspects to it. It does promote healthier eating, cutting back on junk food, and weight loss. It has been shown that people lose weight while on the Atkins Diet. But high fat diets, even ones that promote the healthy fat that is essential, are not the healthiest choice. Plenty of diets have come and gone before this. So the one question is: will this one outlast the fads?

Out with doubt; confidence necessary in self-expression

by Joe Hertel
Senior Staff Writer

The biggest destroyer of talent is not the critic, but the self-doubt of the artist.

If you are to become a writer, painter, musician, or sculptor, and want others see your work, you will be faced with criticism, both good and bad. Some will like your work, some will not. Friends will usually tell you it's good, but you, yourself, are the final judge. And if you have self-doubt as to your talent, you will either fail or be miserable in what you do.

Many young artists, regrettably, have tossed out manuscripts, poems, and paintings because they doubted their works were good enough for others to appreciate. Someone would comment, "Don't give up your day job," and they would toss the piece in the trash, not because of the negative reaction, but because of a lack of confidence in their own ability.

There were pieces that somehow survived because aspiring artists knew in their heart their work was good. So what if others didn't like or understand what was being conveyed? To the artist, it was good even though its worth was questioned, and the work was spared destruction. One such example is *Little Dance*, by Edgar Degas, who, when the sculpture was reviled by critics at its initial showing, placed it in his studio never to be publicly shown again until after his death. Today it would sell for around \$12 million dollars at auction.

Of course, you must have talent. Do not deceive yourself into thinking you do if you don't. Many of us do write lousy, paint crappy, or sing off key. If this is true, we soon find out because no one wants to buy or publish our work. This is not, of course, always an indication that your work is garbage. Many famous writers started out self-published. Many artists began by displaying their art at sidewalk fairs. So then, what

**"Dance in the spirit or
paint with passion."**

do you do?

If you like to paint, draw, write, compose, sing, dance, or sculpt, then

by all means do so. Talent should not be stifled, but rather encouraged. Critics might not understand your form of artistic communication, especially if it is radical, new or "out of the box." That is their problem, not yours. If you like to write or draw, then do it, and don't doubt yourself.

If you discourage easy, then give thought to doing something else. If you have self-doubt, then fight it. Self doubt can paralyze your creative spirit. Most artists are overly sensitive, but learn to deal with input, asked for or unsolicited. We learn to take the punches even though at times we become frustrated with the lack of understanding that others have about our work.

Art is an expression of the spirit. Not only what the artist sees, but also what is internally felt. Art is a presentation of emotional response to a subject, image, event, or object. And if you doubt your ability to convey those concerns, you will fail, because even though people tell you it's good, you won't believe them.

Do not hesitate to "let go" and use the emotions inside you to complete the work. Sing from the heart or write from the soul. Dance in the spirit or paint with passion. Have faith in yourself and your abilities. Doubt produces hesitation. Hesitation increases doubt, and then faith is lost. Even with creative ability, an artist must have confidence. And there is no greater accomplishment than to stand back and look at your work and say, "Yes, that's it!"

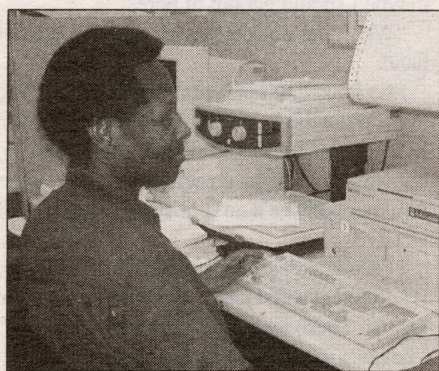
We must harness our talent into creative expression. This is why, if we can afford to do so, we take courses, training, and school ourselves in the history and rules of the medium. As the poet Basho stated, "And, if we do not doubt ourselves, we should be able to express the passion of our thoughts in the work we produce. Not just form, not just medium, not just style, not just words, but the spirit of life itself."

It's not enough just to do everything correctly. Art needs to be done with verve. And without the hindrance and negativity of self-doubt.

A HELPful office on the move



The Handicap Educational Liasison Program (HELP) moved to a larger office. Advantages include more accessibility for any for any type of wheelchair.



by J. Louis Bracich
Business Manager

The scene was a somewhat frantic one. It was in the middle of class periods and people were moving to and fro. Outside, the snow was coming down hard, the view from the windows in the back of the office looked like city was going through a nuclear winter. Just entering from the outside and trying to warm up, I see a young lady in a wheelchair working on what appears to be a term paper. Bursting out of a cubicle with a manila folder in her hands, was Effy Studevant, one of the workers. Suddenly

the young lady in the wheel chair follows Effy. Trying to coordinate on the phone with the Department of Rehabilitation Services was Dr. Victoria Amey-Flippin, who administers the Handicap Educational Liaison Program (HELP), now christened the Accessibility Center.

Getting off the phone, Dr. Flippin greets me in her usual kind manner with that smile that simply says she's going to look out for you. Busy as she is, she takes the time to show me around the new, more accessible office that will serve students who are physically, mentally, psychologically, or/and learning disabled. Behind her, also carrying a manila folder, is another NEIU veteran, Dr. Roosevelt Gordon. Now retired, Dr. Gordon donates his time to help out.

Dr. Flippin shows me the "new" desktop PCs the school has managed to dig up for her students (though one wonders if the school could have gotten around and donated something more friendly for the program), and the tables where students can do their homework. I am soon shown the testing rooms where those within the program can take their tests. Still in a period of transition, the rooms

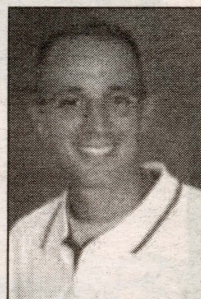
hold a stack of white cardboard boxes. The room is laid out with workstations, those tables/cubicle/overhead compartments one sees in other office sets.

While the school still violates some ADA laws (a lawsuit waiting to happen), all the rooms are now fully accessible to any type of wheelchair. This is a far cry from the past, where today's open access ways were then crowded small walk areas. Originally located in the Building B, the trouble began when the office was moved to the Building A. The program was placed in an office where the door ways restricted movement for those in wheelchairs, not to mention that the office space (considering the programs clients) could not accommodate more than one person in a wheelchair. Things came to a head last year, when HELP and its clients held a town hall meeting with several administrators in the summer. Most of the program's 400-450 students came to the town hall meeting. In December, new office space was found and the moving began.

The Accessibility Center, a month prior to it's move, hosted a fair to promote programs for those who may have some sort of disability. This fair had over 50 groups and organizations, ranging from local non-profits who aid in getting jobs to federal representatives. The newly expanded Accessibility Center is now planning new similar programs, including a television show on public access to advocate for those who suffer from a disability. Perhaps 'suffer' is the wrong word, Dr. Flippin points out to me as she grabs some sort of reading aid for a student, since students in the program have a competitive spirit and have graduated leading successful careers. "We are not talking about students graduated with D averages here, you'll see our students compete with non-disabled students. The doors are slowly opening! What I'm telling you is here at Northeastern, these students can prove to anybody that they can compete and they are successful!"

Bears family adds another cub

by Conor Heybach
Staff Writer



Mike Bajakian almost fainted when the Chicago Bears offered him a coaching job in January of 2004. His number one dream was to be able to coach for the Chicago Bears in the NFL, and his wish came true when Jerry Angelo called him to ask him if wanted to come down for an interview. He is currently the Offensive Quality Control Assistant for the Chicago Bears.

You might ask, "Who is Mike Bajakian and why was he hired by the Chicago Bears?" Bajakian played football for Williams College, where he set NCAA passing records as quarterback.

He has coached at Delbarton High School and Sacred Heart University and eventually an assistant quarterbacks coach for the University of Michigan from July 2000 until February 2002. While on the coaching staff at U of M, they won the Big Ten Championship in 2001.

After his experience as a Big Ten coach, Mr. Bajakian joined the coaching staff at Central Michigan as a Quarterbacks coach. Mike Bajakian was at Central Michigan from February 2002 until January 2004. Mike left Central Michigan when the entire coaching staff was fired after a 3 and 10 record, and then joined the coaching staff at Delaware State. He was at Delaware State for only 3 days when the Chicago Bears called him on Thursday January 22, 2004. Now, Mike Bajakian is starting his coaching career as an Offensive Quality Control Assistant in the NFL. Make sure to watch the Chicago Bears next season.

Presidential Hopefuls

A profile on Denis Kucinich

by Tom Robb
Co-News editor

Denis Kucinich does not have a large campaign war chest; he has all of two delegates compared to John Kerry's 567. Some would argue that he does not stand a chance, yet he persists, and will not discuss dropping out. This is right in character for Denis Kucinich.

Dennis Kucinich first came into the political lime light in 1977 when, at age 31, he became the youngest Mayor in Cleveland Ohio's history. But Kucinich did not start out well off; his web site states that at one time in his life as a teenager he and his family were living out of the family car.

Currently Kucinich is the Congressional representative from Cleveland Ohio and the head of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Kucinich took 3rd in Maine, his best showing in the election, by convincing Green Party members to change their registration and vote as Democrats.

Kucinich has taken criticism by some on the left because, although he is pro-choice on the issue of abortion now, at one time he was pro-life.

On war and terrorism

Kucinich has been one of the most vocal critics on Iraq. Kucinich has proposed a plan to "Get the U.S. out and the U.N. in, in 90 days," giving control of the transitional government to the United Nations, working with the international community, and ending what Kucinich calls "sweetheart deals" with corporations like Haliburton.

Kucinich voted against the authorization to use force in Iraq, the \$87 Billion funding for it, and the USA PATRIOT ACT. Kucinich has also vowed to decrease the Defense Department's budget by 15%, and will create a Department of Peace.

On gay rights

Kucinich favors full gay marriage. His web site states "same sex couples and opposite sex couples should be equal in the eyes of the law, including in marriage."

On the economy

As his first act as president, Kucinich would repeal NAFTA and the US's involvement in the World Trade Organization. He would rescind the tax cuts for the wealthiest, creating \$107 billion, and would cut taxes on lower income taxpayers by \$87 billion. Kucinich would also increase taxes on corporations.

On education

Kucinich has stated that a high quality free education is the right of every American child. Kucinich offers free college tuition at state universities and pre-kindergarten programs. Kucinich would pay for this through receding tax cuts for the wealthy and decreases in the defense department.

On health care

Kucinich would create a single payer national health insurance plan called "Enhanced Medicare for All." Kucinich would also use the buying power of the government to force down drug prices.

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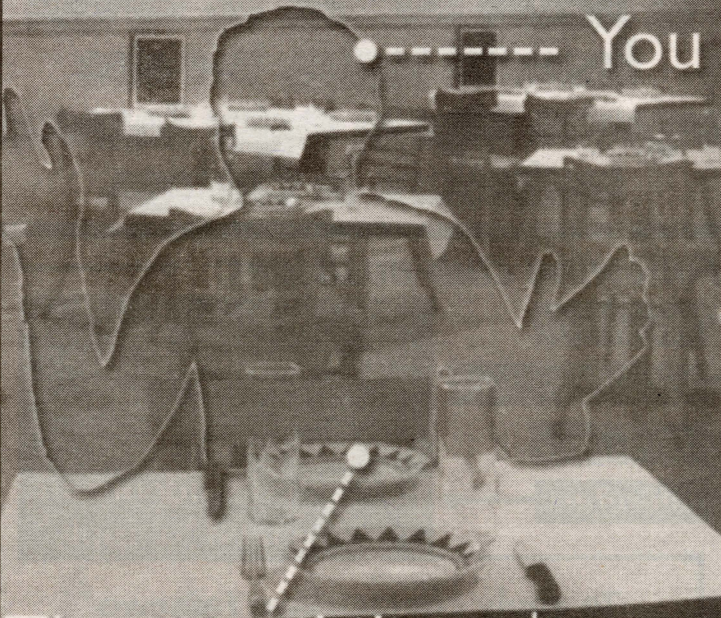
*Steak

*Flan

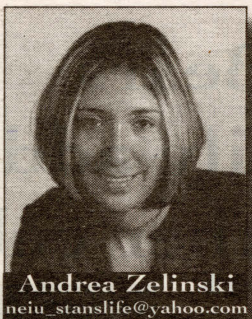
*Empanadas

*Grilled Chicken

----- You



The possibilities*



Andrea Zelinski
neiu_stanslife@yahoo.com

Stan's Life



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI

A life of his own

Most people dream about the kind of relationship Stan and Janika found. They have this connection no one can see. Just being so comfortable and incredibly honest with each other was something new for Stan. Their relationship didn't rely on him being the man, trying to woo her off her feet. It was mutual kindness, friendship, and contentment between them.

After last week, excitement overwhelmed him. As they sat there oh so comfortably on the couch, he couldn't help but think how lucky he was to be with a girl who can touch him in places he never knew. What's more, he couldn't wait to show her what she means to him.

She called him a little after seven one night. He answered, glowing like a warm candle.

"So, how are you?"

"Oh, I'm fine."

"Are you coming over tonight?" He asked inquisitively. "I'll make you dinner," he offered, genuinely excited.

"Umm... I'll think about it," she replied coyly.

"How far are you from the house?"

"Uh, I'm turning your corner right now."

"Ah! Uh, okay. I've got to let you go. I'll see you in a minute," he said, dashing over to his desk.

"Alright..."

He hung up the phone and brushed aside papers and CDs until he found a pen and some note cards.

The house was dark as she strolled up to the front door. A soft breeze carried the subtle scent of spring past her nose. She closed her eyes and smiled at the thought of the approaching warmth as she pressed the doorbell.

"HOLD ON!" she heard from the house.

"I'm holding," she replied to herself. Tiny butterflies of excitement fluttered about her. "Why am I so giddy? What's wrong with me?" she asked herself as she waited for an answer.

After a moment, he swung open the door with a smile as wide as the state of Texas. "Hi," he said almost meekly.

"What's wrong with you?" she laughed.

"Nothing," he whispered. "I have a surprise for you."

Her eyes searched the room, not for the surprise, but for answers. "What?"

"Come here," he said as he reached for her hand. The touch was so soft and gentle, yet solid. He led her through the house into the living room where the only light came from three small candles lit on the coffee table. He

led her closer, where she noticed note cards in front of each glowing light.

The first card read, "You make me smile. Thank you," carefully scratched in pen.

"You make me laugh. Thank you," read the next.

"You make me happy. Thank you."

The reflection of the candles in her eyes revealed a small tear crawling down her warm brown cheeks to her chin. She closed her eyes and felt his hand wrapped in hers. "How is this happening to me?"

He turned toward her, trying to answer, but realized there was no such reply. "I don't know either, but I know that this feels too good to let go," he whispered.

She lowered her face and smiled at him for a second in comfortable silence, hearing nothing but the soft burning of three candles and the loud pounding in their chests.

She pulled him closer to her by the sides of his shirt, until all they could see was each other's eyes. "Thank you," she whispered as she moved her lips to his and offered him one, soft, innocent kiss.

She stepped back for a moment to catch his reaction (and catch her breath). Her heart beat hard, like an overworked machine.

Stan reached for both her hands and smiled back at her. "None of my friends are going to believe this,"

"... Why?" she asked, still light-headed and smiling.

"They will never believe I'm going out with a black girl."

Poof! The light blew out.

"What?" her tone did a 180. "What's that supposed to mean?"

Trying to backpedal, "I just meant, I uh have never dated anyone who was bl- not white before?"

"So what? Is there something *wrong* with that? What does the color of my skin matter to you? Or does it?"

"I just, oh God..."

"Oh! Don't bring God into this, sweetie. This was your doing, not his."

"I didn't mean..."

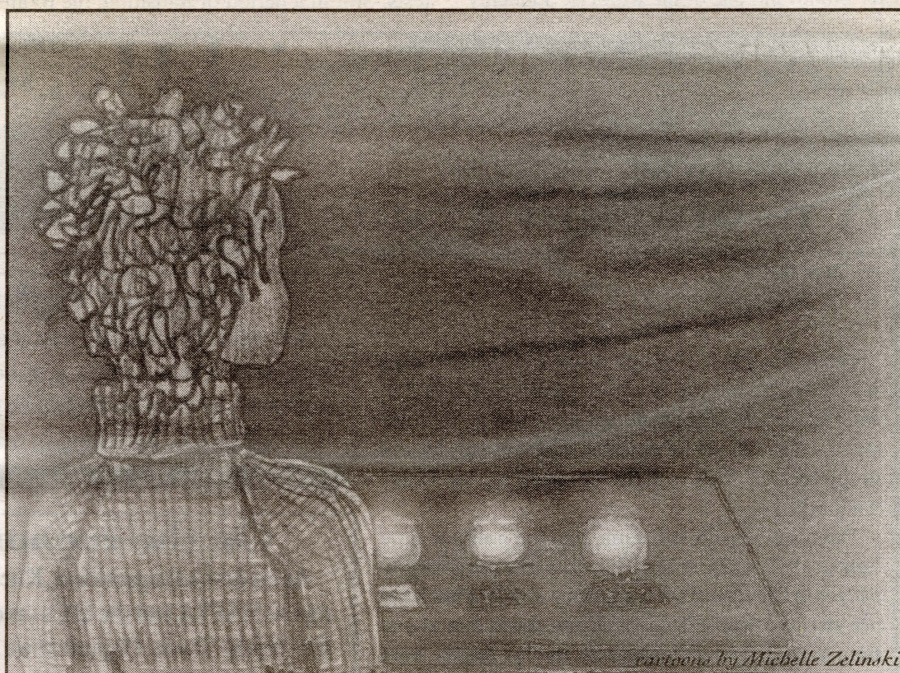
"Oh, I'm sure you didn't. You know what, maybe I should get out of here."

"Wait!" he objected as he reached for her hand.

She looked at him with cool and confused eyes. What did he mean? Did it matter to him if she's black and he's white? And what do his friends have to do with anything? Does it matter that she's not polish or white like he is?

"Please don't go," he paused. "I am SO sorry if I offended you. I just... this is all so different for me. These feelings I have for you, well... I haven't felt them in a long time, and I don't want to mess this up, because I," he rambled, "... I care about you. When I look at you, I don't see only a color, a nationality, a religion, or anything like that. I just see this wonderful person who is not just that, but a beautiful mesh of everything so unique and different from anything I've ever known. All your qualities create this beautiful woman standing here in my living room, and there's no way I can let you leave without you knowing that."

Her eyes softened as she felt his warm hands entangled in hers. She wavered and asked him one question, "I just want to be Janika, and I want you to want me."



cartoons by Michelle Zelinski

FMA is an association that invites speakers to campus to lecture students on various financial topics. We also organize trips to major financial institutions in Chicago.

Following club positions:

President

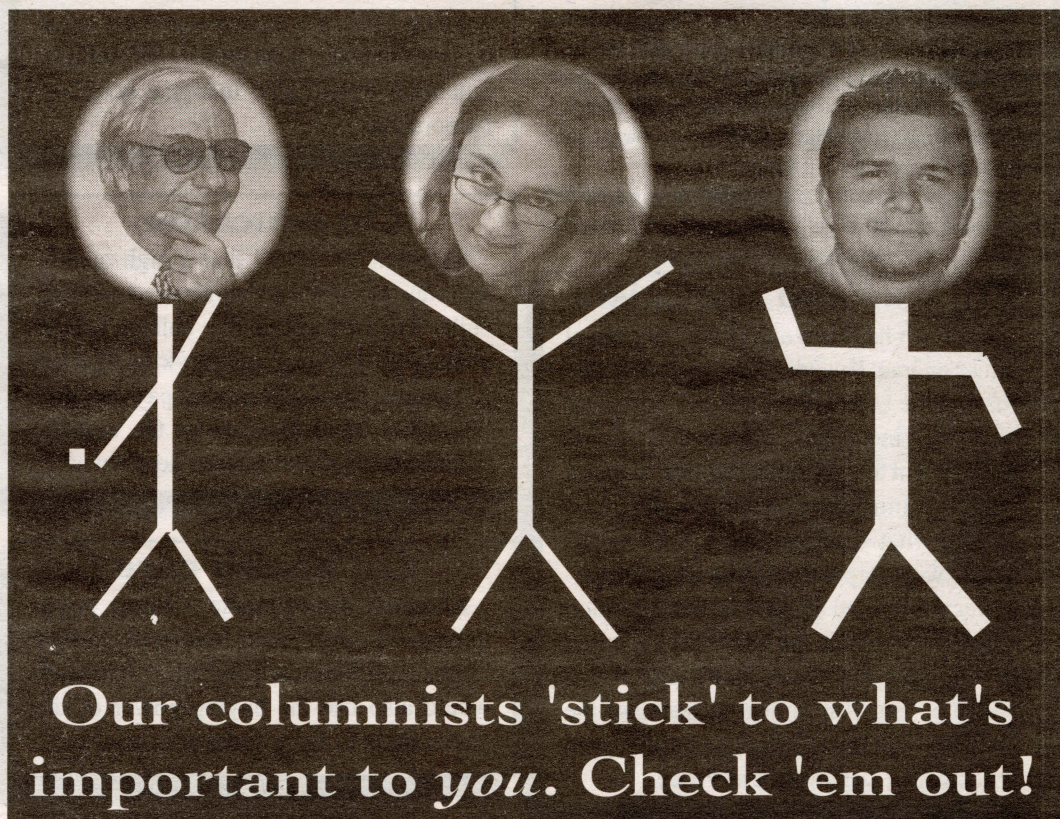
Vice President

Treasurer

Secretary

...are vacant and elections to fill these positions would be conducted soon. Interested students are encouraged to apply.

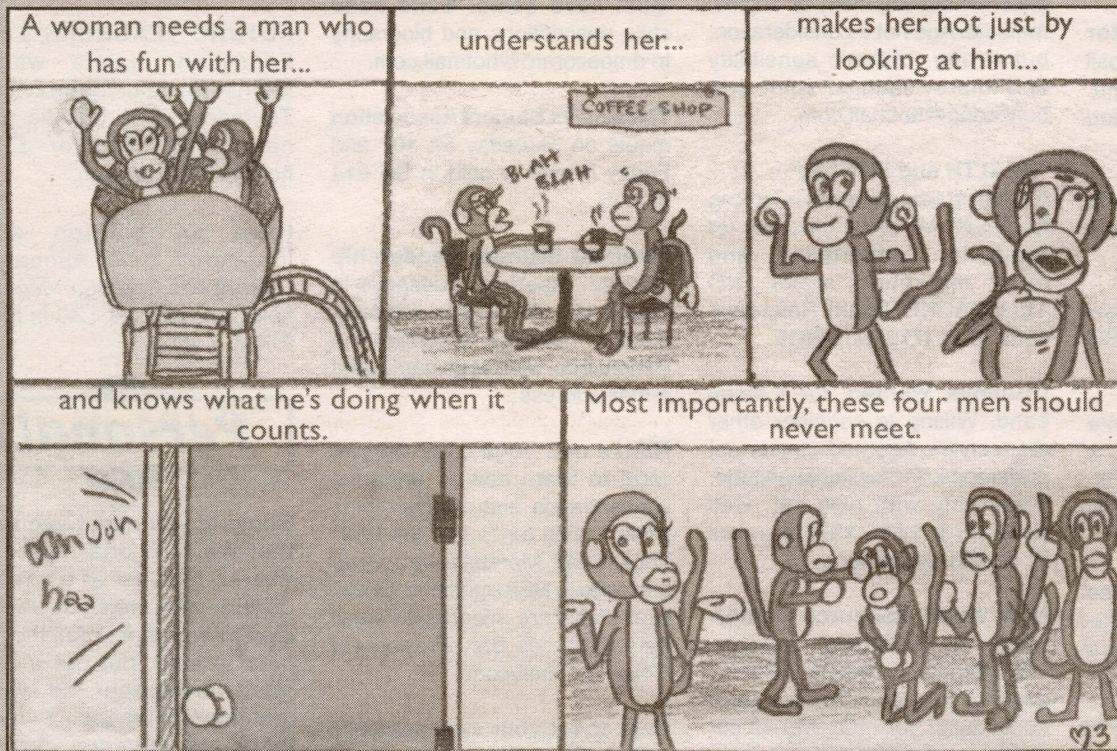
To apply contact: Ayo Famewo
ay77@hotmail.com or
Dr. N Balsara n-balsara@neiu.edu.



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the side splitters

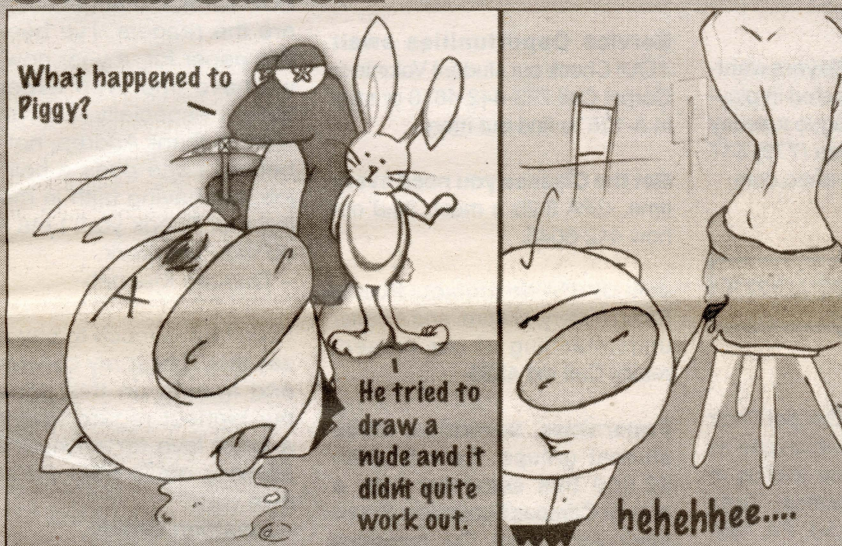
Michelle Zelinski



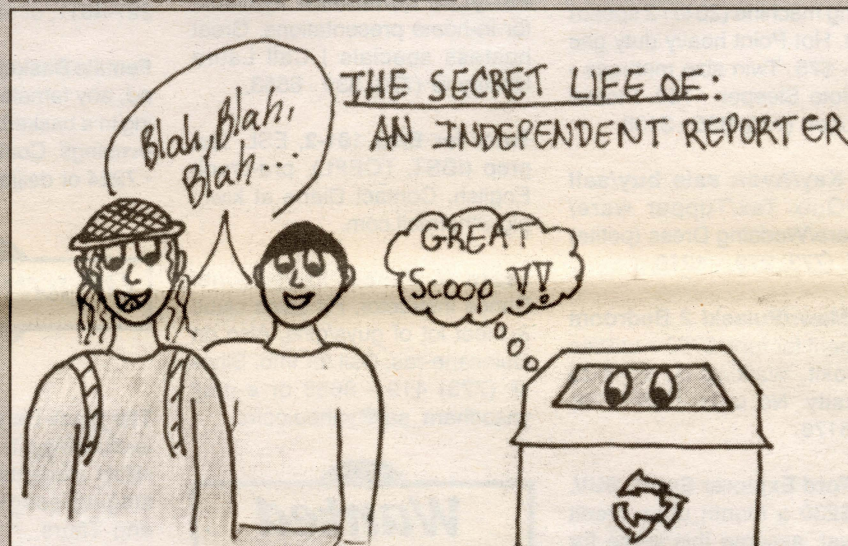
Jenni Lada



Cecilia Carboni

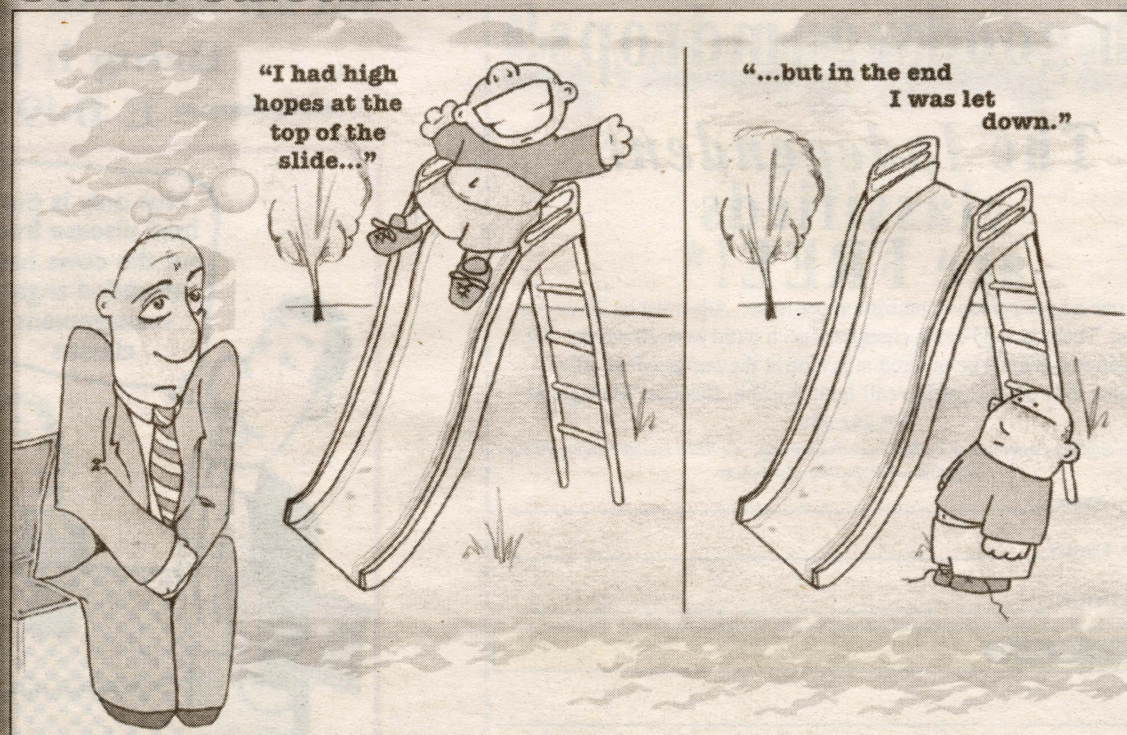


Azucena Beltran



Side Splitters
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Cecilia Carboni...



... and blame the words on David Cavazos

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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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Drummer Wanted, for a Metal band. Willing to consider other drum styles. Age and gender not preference. Professional attitude. Preferably with own set. Call Keith (773) 283 - 1974 or email @ szx431@juno.com.

New World Resource Center- 1300 N. Western Avenue. LEFTWING BOOKSTORE, reading room, and meeting space needs help! Volunteer two 3-hour shifts Tues-Fri 3-9pm; Sat-Sun 12-7 p.m. No experience necessary. Will train. For information email Rob.Bunting@uop.com, call (773) 227-4011, or stop by.

Female Basketball Players wanted, any female interested in playing in a basketball league tuesday evenings. Contact Lisa (773) 517 - 7224 or deijja20@yahoo.com

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 femajoirty-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

Have an opinion about literature? Join Apocalypse Literary Arts Coalition. Meetings held Thursdays at 1:40 in E-035. Phone x 4582.

Personals

Some of you may have heard that we won one award, oh well. This is a transition period, and well I'm used to disappointment. We, the production staff, put out a damn good newspaper, so what if that sounds biased. I want to thank you guys for your help in any way to make this paper for what it is. About the awards, WE DON'T PUT OUT A PAPER FOR ICPA, our target audience are the readers. I've been on this paper for a year now and we have improved exponentially. I especially want thank want to thank Andrea, not only because she does a hell of a job, but having faith in me hiring me, Thank you. Lets keep up the hard work.
-- Duncan Macnab

I don't have much to say so I'll say this. I hold my co-workers and friends on this paper in the highest regard and have a lot of love for each of them allowing me to help out in my own way.
--Jonathan Gronli

I make damn good ads and I bust my ass on graphics, as simple and amateur as they may be. I'm sending my Piggy to shove a hoof up those judges...nevermind. Next year, baby, next year.
-Cecilia Carboni

Oh goody gumdrops!

The Independent classifieds are FREE!*

Limit one ad per person/organization per issue. Ads must be 20 words or less. There is a 25-cents charge for each word over 20 words. All classified ads must be ordered in person at the Independent office. For more information, please call John Bracich, Business Manager at 773.442.4585

* This rate applies to members of the NEIU community only. An NEIU identification card must be presented at the time of purchase.

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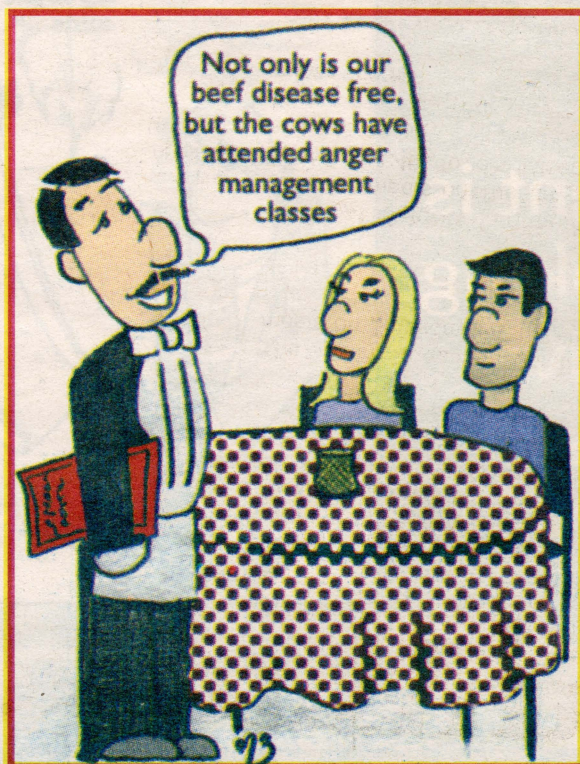
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