

3-9-2004

Independent- Mar. 9, 2004

Andrea Zelinski

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

Recommended Citation

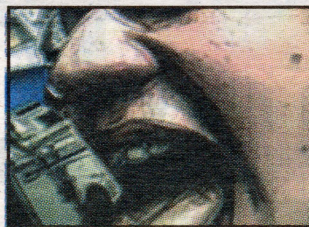
Zelinski, Andrea, "Independent- Mar. 9, 2004" (2004). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 305.
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/305>

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

IN EVERY ISSUE...

Old Man on Campus, page 12
Voice of the Campus, page 11
The Side Splitters, page 17
Stan's Life, page 16

IN THIS ISSUE...



They're
throwing
up perfectly
good food,
page 13



Salsa bands
just got
a little
younger,
In REV

Northeastern Illinois University's

Tuesday, March 9, 2004 volume 20 issue 13

INDEPENDENT

Chicago

Ten-Time ICPA Award Winner

Illinois

NEWS

SGA is taken to task
by student, page 3

FMLA Film Fest
wrap-up, page 3

University Day,
page 4

Student Symposium
overview, page 4

Barron takes texts to
task, page 6

Latino Business
Conference coverage,
page 7

Rapid HIV Test now
on campus, page 8

COMMENTARY

Passionate takes on
Jesus' last day,
page 9

Dark Nader gives
Democrats the chills,
page 10

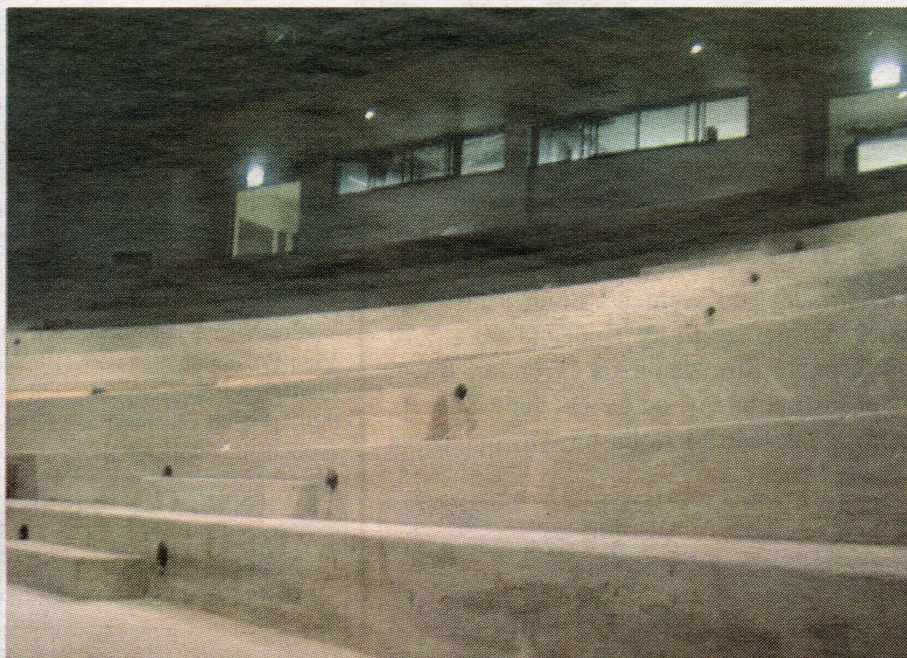
Old Man Joe is
walking out for
GLBA, page 10

EAGLES NEST

Your Senate and
Presidential election
guides, page 14-15

Justice is quick in
her classroom,
page 18

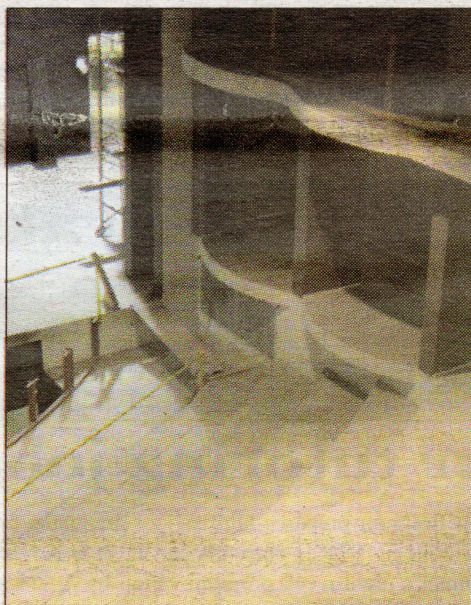
Not ready til Fall 2004



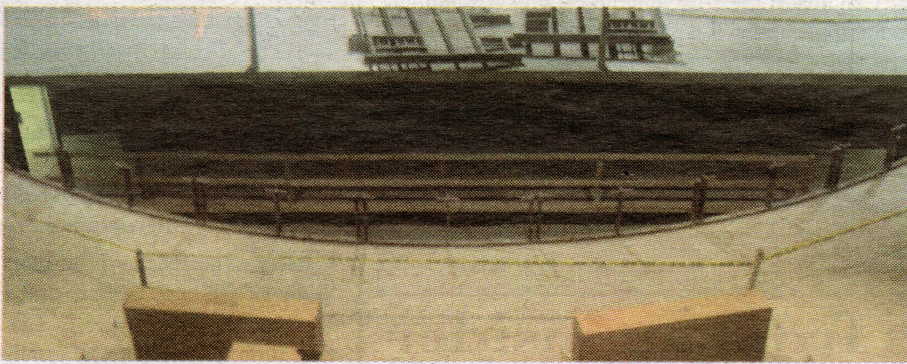
The new auditorium, which has been under construction for some time now, will be ready for limited use this summer, but there won't be full-scale productions until the fall, according to Joseph Kish, Assistant VP, Facilities Management.

The *Independent* was able to take a look at the project in progress last week, and while there is work to be done, the project has taken shape.

In their spring 2004 bulletin, however, Facilities Management states that the project will be done during this spring. A look at these images indicates that much is still left to be done.



photos by Andrea Zelinski



Student group will walk out

GLBA is seeking public support for their

by Joe Hertel
Senior Staff Writer

Unsatisfied with the university administration's delay in responding to demands made on behalf of the gay, lesbian, bisexual community on campus by the GLBA, several student organizations have banded together in organizing a student's rights walkout and rally to be held this Thursday, March 11, at 1pm in the Village Square.

"We want all students to know that this rally is to show the administration that *all* students, staff, and faculty have a voice on this campus," and that, "all minority groups on campus deserve to be heard, feel safe, and obtain an education in an environment free from racism, sexism, and homophobia."

This statement came from Anne Mothkovich and Robin Matthies, two principle organizers of the event. "This is not just a 'gay' issue," was another of their points. Other student groups have also been targets of hate on this campus," stated Matthies.

"It really discourages me and makes me angry that input from a minority group of students regarding their safety and well being is obviously taken so lightly [by the administration]," stated Matthies.

Matthies was referring to the fact that the demands were presented to NEIU administration after a gay-rights demonstration in November of 2003 (*Independent*, December 2, 2003, page 4). "We are still waiting to hear from 'higher officials' [who have the power to meet the list of demands]."

According to the GLBA, the demands are not radical, citing similar policies and programs approved in 1989 at Brown University.

The NEIU administration is citing monetary concerns and questions the necessity of the policy changes, educational programs, and the ability to meet the GLBA's timetable.

Organizers of the rally are encouraging students, faculty, and staff to attend the rally beginning at 1pm, this Thursday, even if it means leaving in the middle of a class.

The *Independent* conducted a random survey of instructors who will have a class in session during the planned walkout, for their response.

Of the ten instructors polled, all of them answered "yes" to the question: "Will you allow your students, if they so desire, to leave class to attend the rally without penalty (e.g.: marked tardy or absent)."

One instructor stated that students leaving class would have "no great problem," even if they were to exceed their allowable "three cuts."

Also asked if they would attend the rally themselves, four instructors said "yes," while six said "no," two citing responsibility to the students remaining in class.

One instructor stated she will announce the rally

Students may face Judiciary Board

Four accused in January bust could be sanctioned by

by Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor
Patrick O'Brien
Production Manager

Four students were arrested when marijuana was found in the WZRD radio station on the evening of January 23, 2004, according to Jack Baker, Acting Director of Public Safety. The students may await trials by a student judiciary committee.

The student committee, according to Assistant Dean of Students, Anthony Jenkins, is common procedure for university disciplinary action. Jenkins

will also be present at the proceedings as the University Judicial Hearing Officer.

"Any time the University uses a judicial committee, it is a jury of their peers," said Jenkins.

Possible outcomes of the trial include dismissal of case, reprimand, suspension, or expulsion. According to Jenkins, "history has shown students to be more harsh on other students."

Jenkins did say that the goal of the process was not to punish students, but to be an educational experience. "We do not want to remove students from the university. We do not want to jeopardize

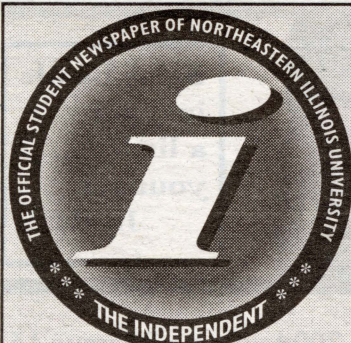
anyone's academic career," said Jenkins.

If tried, the four students will be tried individually before the student jury. While the students will have the right to have an advisor present, "under higher education, the advisor cannot speak on the student's behalf," said Jenkins.

The decision for possible trial resulted from a string of conferences with Flora Llacuna, the University Examiner, where she was given the option to dismiss the case, forward the accused to a judicial hearing, or sanction the individuals without

see Judiciary Board, page 8

See Walk Out, page 8



Office Hours

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

Friday

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

Telephones

Editorial (773) 442-4577

Advertising (773) 442-4585

Fax (773) 442-4579

E-mail

neiu_independent@yahoo.com

Andrea Zelinski Chief Editor

Brian Rohloff Associate Editor

Franklin Silencieux

Opinions Editor

Jenny Lada

News & Features Editor

Tom Robb

News Co-Editor

Chad Nelson

REV Editor

Patrick O'Brien

Production Manager

Cecilia Carboni

Duncan Macnab

Production Editors

Len Grayes

Photo Editor

PJ Beemer

Copy Editor

John Bracich

Business Manager

Dan Demchuk

Distribution Manager

Staci Sonenthal

Office Assistant

Michael Wilson

Media Consultant

Cartoonists

Cecilia Carboni

Brian Hagy

Jenni Lada

Michelle Zelinski

Photographers

Hanibal Tehrani

Senior Staff Writers

Benny Boyas

Dan Demchuk

Joe Hertel

Daniel Peikes

Scott Plencer

Atoor Lawando

Dave DeSmedt

Staff Writers

Elana Barron

PJ Beemer

Azucena Beltran

David Cavazos

Juan Diaz

Violette Green

Johnathan Gronli

Amy Harris

Conor Heyback

Ashley Jackson

Shayna Labue

Mary Meyer

Jessie Moen

Izzy Moskovits

Sherri Rafalson

Staci Sonenthal

Andrew Valkanas

Gregoria Williams

Chaim Zimmerman

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

Independent,

Northeastern Illinois

University, Room E-049,

5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago,

Illinois 60625

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.

Fine Arts Gallery

"Communion with Vacancy" art from Julie Connick. Her art will be up through April 9. There will be a reception held on March 19 from 6:30 - 9:00 PM. For more information call ext. 4944.

Harry Petrakis reading

Author of *Twilight of the Ice*, Harry Mark Petrakis is holding a writing workshop and reading on Monday, March 15 in the Golden Eagles Room in the Student Union. Free to the public. The workshop will be at 1:40 PM and the reading will be at 6:00 PM. There will be a signing following the reading. For more information call the Apocalypse Literary Arts Coalition at (773) 442 - 4582.

Women's History Month

Join the History Department and Women's Studies Program on Tuesday, March 9 during "Activity Hour" (1:40 - 2:40 PM) in SU 003; in a panel discussion on "Gender, Race, Education & Political Institutions." Led by Dr. June Sochen, with presentations from Dr. Joan M. Johnson, Dr. Francesca Morgan, and Dr. Michael Tuck.

GLBA Walkout

Join fellow students and staff in GLBA sponsored walkout for Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual rights on campus March 11 at 1 PM in Village Square.

GUITAR SHOWCASE

NEIU's Classical Guitar Series, under the direction of Brian Torosian, will be on display Tuesday, March 9 during Activity Hour in the Fine Arts Recital Hall. Concert information is available at 773-442-5921 or visit www.neiu.edu/~music.edu.

College Democrats

Wesley Clark? Howard Dean? John Edwards? John Kerry? Dennis Kucinich? Al Sharpton? What do all of these men have in common? They're all utterly more qualified to be President than George W. Bush. Find out how you can help one or all of them. Join the NEIU College Democrats. For more info e-mail Jeremy at Etheridge2@yahoo.com.

Summer tutoring jobs

The Summer Transition Program prepares high school graduates for a successful transition to college. STP is currently hiring Peer Advisors and Tutors for this summer's eight-week program. Stop by A-111 and schedule an interview. Candidates must be sophomores with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Deadline for applications is April 1, 2004.

McNair Achievement

The Ronald E. McNair post-baccalaureate program is accepting applications from Juniors and Seniors to participate in its McNair Scholars program. Benefits include an annual \$2,800 research stipend, paid graduate school visits, faculty mentoring and academic and career guidance. Stop by B-141 for details or call 773-442-4253 for details.

Politics from an insider

The Social Work Program of NEIU will present a lecture by Rep. Calvin L. Giles (D-Chicago) 8th District on Wednesday, March 10, 2004 from 5:40 PM to 8:40 PM in Student Union 214. Call 773-442-4760 for details.

Attention Future Teachers

If you're not busy on Monday nights from 7 to 8 o'clock, the Future Teachers Club is holding meetings in CLS 2005. Learn new skills, earn recognition, and gain valuable insight and info about your profession. There is a bulletin board near CLS 3010 with more details, or e-mail ftcneiu@hotmail.com

Women's Self-Defense

As part of Women's History Month 2004, the Sociology and Women's Studies Departments are sponsoring Dr. Martha Thompson's IMPACT course on self-defense in Student Union room 003 on Thursday March 18th during Activity Hour. Resistance, Rebels, and Rights! Women don't want to miss this workshop on how to fight back in case of an assault. Female students, faculty, and staff are invited to attend.



Presidential Lecture

Featuring Nilo Cruz, Pulitzer Prize- Winning Playwright will lead a writer's workshop and Q & A in SU 214 on March 11th, and an evening with Cruz in Alumni Hall at 7:30 PM.

NPB Spring Elections

Four openings on the Northeastern Programming Board are up for grabs this Spring. Election packets are available at the Student Activities Office in Student Union 206. Packets are due by March 19th.

Student Government Elections

You're the one! Run for student office. Available offices include President, Vice-President, Speaker, 10 Senate seats, Illinois Board of Higher Education Representative, and Student Trustee. Elections are April 6th thru April 9th. Election packets are available at the Student Activities office in Student Union 206. Registration deadline is March 19.

Aztec Dance & Rhythm

Learn to dance and build your own headdress. Learn exciting rhythms and native drumming styles. Make cultural connections and meet new people. Sponsored by Chimexla, every Tuesday at 1:40 PM in CLS 2081 or call Leo at 773-615-4300 or e-mail smokedream@hotmail.com.

NPB Student Employment

The Programming Board is hiring for several positions, including Outreach Coordinator and Advertising and Promotion Coordinator. Both positions pay up to \$5.95 an hour, with up to 15 hours weekly. Students must be enrolled for 6 credit hours or more to be eligible. Contact Tony Courier with Student Activities at ext. 4661 or e-mail at T-Courier@neiu.edu.

Master Drummer Atiba and BUSA

NPB hosted Afrikan Drumming, Dance and Storytelling Troupe with Atiba Y. Jali and BUSA, Tuesday, March 16, 1 PM - 3 PM in Village Square.

Dean of Students is in

Speak with Dean Kelly in Village Square on Thursday, March 11 and Thursday April 29 during Activity Hour.

Group Therapy Sessions

Every Tuesday from 12 PM to 1PM in the Counseling Office, an open-ended group experience where students can talk about issues in a supporting environment. Contact Jane at 773-442-4656 for details.

Summer Study Abroad

All TRIP DEADLINES ARE MARCH 25TH, 2004 Call Office of International Programs at 773-442-4798

China- The Teacher Education Program is sponsoring an International Study of Chinese Culture and Educational Practices for the Summer 1A Session. This course (ECED 312) is designed to teach strategies for education of multicultural groups and explore Chinese culture. The trip to China is May 29-June 12 and costs \$1,580. Please call Dr. Yi Hao at 442-4586 or visit CLS 3023.

Belize- A Summer Archaeological Field School in Belize for the Summer 1A session. The trip will offer hands-on experience in use of instruments, record keeping and a broader understanding of Mayan culture. Student cost is \$1,780 per student. The course is ANTH-352, contact R-Peyton@neiu.edu for details.

Jamaica- An investigation of Caribbean Culture, Education and Family in the Summer II session. The trip date is July 3-17th, cost is \$1,335 per student. Students in ECED 405, ECED 312, and SWK 330 are all eligible for this trip. Intensive study at Moneague College, Ocho Rios and Montego Bay, designed for social workers, counselors, teachers, scholars, or majors interested in the region.

Tanzania- The NEIU-Marangu Teacher College Exchange Program is paired with ECED 312 to explore the variety of cultural values in American ethnic groups. The trip from July 24-August 9 costs \$3,000 per student. Cities visited will include: Dar Es Salaam, Kilimanjaro, and Zanzibar. Broadening perspectives on multicultural education and interacting with Tanzanian children will highlight the trip.

FMLA Film Fest highlights lives of women under fire

Economic survival, rape crises, race and rebirth of women featured over three days

by Gregoria Williams
Staff Writer

The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA) celebrates March as Women's History Month by starting out with three days of films. The festival contained powerful documentary messages for women who struggled with issues of date rape, work for economical survival, battered women who kill, and racism, along with a variety of other films.

The movies are an expression of the FMLA's dedication to ending sexism, racism, and homophobia in our society.

A film called *The Chain of Love* discussed the demand for help for families in the West in which both parents must work for economical survival. Escalating numbers of women from the Philippines are leaving their own children to take care of kids in the West to support their own families.

Many women are oppressed, taking their chances by having challenging decisions to make- not for themselves but for their family.

True Stories, a disturbing look at the issue of date rape, contains a powerful message for women. This short film depicts two male high school students who rampantly took over the innocence of two females.

Both the female and male students discuss their behavior and feelings before, during, and after the attacks. Rape is a felony; the blame is on the person who forced the other person. Talking, as opposed to concealing, helps to overcome the circumstances surrounding date rape.

Light in the Shadows documents a heart to heart conversation among women regarding race. The film showcases women of African, Arab, European, Jewish, Asian and mixed race descent that travel to demonstrate why valuable discourse on race is so laden with emotion, distrust, and misunderstanding.

When Women Kill is a film that places personal stories of three battered women in a legal, historical context. The women tell why they killed, and talk about the years of beating, torture, humiliation, and violent attacks on their person and property that led up to the killings.

These are women who struggle through the challenges of social change and legal institutions.

A celebration took place with a pizza party and discussions following the viewings.

On a related note, the FMLA and GLBA are sponsoring a university-wide walkout and rally in support of GLBT rights and student rights on Thursday, March 11th at 1PM in Village Square. All students, faculty and staff are invited to attend.

SGA confronted with petition

by Joe Hertel
Senior Staff Writer

After a heated debate over the SGA approval of \$8,000 towards the Caribbean Club's Bi-centennial celebration of Haitian Independence, and confronted with a student petition against the expense, the senators present voted 9 to 4 against rescinding the allocated funds.

The Student Government meeting on February 26th was witness to a bill introduced by Senator Alexander Patt calling for the Senate to recall the funds it had already approved for the party at the prior meeting.

After the defeat of the bill, senator Patt commented: "It's not over. The bill will continue to be submitted until the last Senate meeting before the party will be held!"

Prior to the vote, Senator Patt, as well as SGA Vice-President Evelyn Nazario-Rose, thought they had full



photo by Patrick O'Brien

SGA Senator Alexander Patt speaks for rescinding party funds

senate support on the bill.

"I don't know what happened!" commented Rose. Senator Patt added, "I urge the student population to voice their opposition at the next Senate meeting on March 11th, and those (meetings) to follow!"

During the meeting, prior to the vote, NEIU student Miguel Mosqueda

presented a petition allegedly containing 250 signatures of students against the approval of funds being allocated for the event.

Disappointed in the response of the senators to his petition, he stated that he intended to continue to raise more signatures.

President Gaspard spoke to the *Independent* about the controversy surrounding his influence in obtaining \$16,000 of approved funds for the dance.

He expects attendance at the dance to exceed 400 persons. "This is the first time in nine years that this band (Tabou) has come to Chicago."

Gaspard also explained that all money from the sale of tickets to the dance would, in fact, be returned to the Student Activities Fund and the Northeastern Programming Board, equally, thus reducing the original expense involved.

President Gaspard also made it a point that he was able to obtain the band, Tabou, with a substantial discount (50%) of the base fee charged due to this event being "not-for-profit."

He noted that NEIU students will be admitted to the dance at no charge by showing their student identification card (he estimates there are around 100 Haitian students currently enrolled at NEIU).

Meanwhile, senators opposed to the funding are asking for student support at the next meeting, where debate will continue, in the hopes of rescinding the \$8,000 approved by the SGA, which one senator referred to as "gluttonous."

SGA Senator: "signatures don't mean anything"

by Atoor Lawando
Senior Staff Writer

"The university needs money...isn't there a better way to spend 16 thousand dollars?" this is what Miguel Mosqueda, a student, had to say during his interview with the *Independent*.

Mosqueda has been successful in collecting 200 signatures from students who oppose SGA's \$16k party in May, and says that he will be out collecting more signatures this coming Monday.

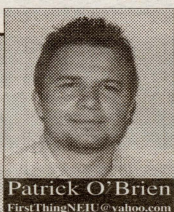
According to Mosqueda, when he told a senator from SGA about the 200 signatures that have been collected, the senator commented that, "signatures don't mean anything."

When asked how the petition will be used, Mosqueda said that the petition will serve to show that the students oppose the large expenditure on a party when the university is faced with a budget crisis.



photo by Patrick O'Brien

Student petitioner Miguel Mosqueda watches SGA debate.



Patrick O'Brien
FirstThingNEIU@yahoo.com

First Things First... Did U.S. help terrorists in Haiti?

Recent events in Haiti, and the subsequent accounts in the press, have uncovered major discrepancies in the United States' role in the coup that forcefully ousted Haitian President Jean Bertrand Aristide last week.

In damage control mode after accusations of U.S. aid to the paramilitaries who brought bloodshed to Haiti, a chorus of Bush administration officials laid blame at the door of Aristide. Beginning, of course, at the top, with Vice President Dick Cheney, who said the elected Haitian President had "worn out his welcome."

The White House released a statement condemning the violence, but passing the blame of instigating the events. "Gangs armed and directed by President Aristide have looted and attacked property," was their assertion.

NEIU Student Body President Gary Gaspard pointed the finger in the direction of George W. Bush himself: "Any role U.S. intelligence plays in an operation, the President would be the first to know. Then again, he would be the one to give the order if anything has to happen."

A native of Haiti, Gaspard refuted the claim that the Haitian populace was clamoring for revolution: "I do not believe for a moment

that Haiti was looking for a revolution."

What is known about America's role in helping bring to power a group of men who were responsible for the deaths of thousands of people in the previous coup in 1994?

For one, several of the men were granted exile in the U.S. after the 1994 coup. Guy Philippe, a former Haitian police officer, was trained by US Special Forces in the early 90's, and was cited by Human Rights Watch as having summarily executed Haitians, under the auspices of being a police chief.

Philippe is closely associated with FRAPH, a group under which the 1994 coup and thousands of murders and brutalities took place, under Jean Tatuone.

American ties to these violent men in Haiti were the subject of intense scrutiny when Assistant Secretary of State Roger Noriega

was questioned before a House International Relations subcommittee on March 3rd.

Congressman Donald Payne (D-NJ) asked Noriega why 35,000 weapons had recently been shipped to the Dominican Republic.

"The rebels (FRAPH) have a lot of U.S made weapons... a lot of M-16's, M 60's."

Noriega denied knowledge of these weapons being shipped, though he is in charge of Latin American affairs.

It is unknown whether those recent arms shipments made it into the hands of the Haitian "rebels," or whether any aid was being given to the military junta that seized power.

Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY) questioned Noriega as to whether Aristide was forced to resign to save his own life and that of his family, where Noriega backpedaled and talked about establishing a "sustainable

political solution."

Noriega never directly answered as to whether Aristide ever truly resigned.

With no military to speak of, the elected Haitian government stood no chance against these "armed thugs," as Rangel described them.

Congresswoman Maxine Waters (D-NY) berated Noriega as to whether he could confirm knowledge of an Emanuel Constant, a key member of FRAPH and a target of human rights groups, for his role in violence in Haiti.

Waters also questioned whether the U.S. would protect Aristide, who she described as being "held prisoner" after being "kidnapped" to the Central African Republic.

Gary Gaspard sees another front being opened up in the quest for Haitian democracy: "The rebels are a new ballgame...what happens to Haiti should concern everyone who believes in human rights and social welfare. History's always tempted to repeat itself."

Questions remain unanswered and *Independent* phone calls to the White House Press Office go unreturned. Someone should answer, and just tell the truth.

A liberal university?

University Day 2004 features debate over General Education and liberal traditions

by Jessica Moen
Staff Writer

The Student Union building was very busy last Thursday as NEIU University Day 2004 kicked off.

Vice President of the American Association of Colleges and Universities, Andrea Leskes, spoke to students and staff about liberal education in Alumni Hall at 9:15 PM.

The presentation introduced us to liberal education and how it affects both how students learn and how teachers present their material to the class.

After everyone in attendance listened to Mrs. Leskes' speech (and enjoyed free coffee!), they broke off into separate individual sessions that met at various locations in the Student Union.

The sessions included "Liberal Education: It's Impact on Business Ethics," which had a guest speaker from Loyola, Father Raymond C. Baumhart;

"Diversity in the Liberal Education Classroom," which had NEIU teachers Shelley Bannister, Ken Addison, Erica Meiners, T.Y. Okosun, Barbara Scott, Brett Stockdill, and Martha Thompson;

"Learning Communities and Their Relationship to Liberal Education," which had speakers Brad Greenburg, Katie McKnight, Tim Dun, and David Leaman; and lastly, "Diversity in the Workplace," with speaker Murrell Duster.

12:15 PM sessions were "Included education," which had NEIU staff Shelley Bannister, Selina Mushi, and Roger Reinsch; "Howard Zinn: Linking Political Activism and the Classroom," with speakers Cindy Moran and Jade Stanley;

"Relating Current Events to Already Established Curriculum: The Case of Ethnic Music," with speaker Constance Speake.

Lastly, "NEIU's General Education Program: Perceptions

of Meaningfulness," with speakers Katherine Gliess-Monar, Teddy Bofman, Robert Binkowski, Paisley DiBianca, Lukasz Dobrzynski, and Jennifer Kontny.

University Day closed with a session called "The Future of Liberal Education at NEIU." The speakers that participated were Antoinette McConnel, fellow student Lina Sweiss, guest speaker from Loyola, Michal Rasheed, the keynote speaker Andrea Leskes, and Lawrence Frank.

The audience turnout was mostly staff, with five or six students thrown into the mix.

The panelists took turns asking Mrs. Leskes questions and sharing their own views with her and the audience as well.

The arguments got a little heated when the panel allowed the audience to ask questions and express their views on liberal education and general education.

Most of the students agreed that they thought general education courses were a waste of time and although valuable to our education, not always necessary.

It was argued that they end up taking time away from our more important major/minor classes.

Other students, and Mrs. Leskes, seemed to disagree and held that general education courses are as, if not more, important, because it allows your mind to expand and, in the long run, causes you to learn more.

Mrs. Leskes stressed the importance of learning beyond your major and "thinking outside of the box," as we all have heard before.

Mrs. Leskes said to The Independent, "I was invited to come and talk to NEIU about my program, "Greater Expectations," and share my work stimulus."

"I wanted to find out how your school worked and what makes it exceptional. I really enjoyed doing it as well."

apocalypse literary arts coalition is proud to present

author and storyteller

Harry Mark Petrakis

Monday, March 15th

Workshop 1:30PM

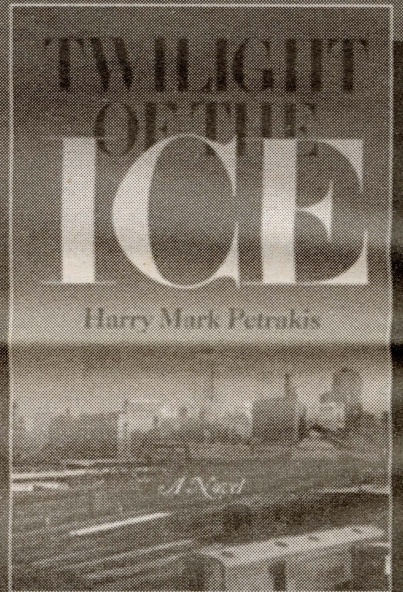
Reading & Book Signing 6PM

Golden Eagles

refreshments will be served following the reading

Twilight of the Ice is available for purchase in Beck's Bookstore

Call 442-4582 for more information



The Independent is always looking for new writers

12th Student Symposium

This year's symposium is sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences and will be held on Friday, April 16th.

All students, both graduate and undergraduate, from the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business and Management, Education, and the University Honors Program are invited to submit research and creative activities proposal in abstract form in any subject of their choice to the Symposium Steering Committee.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 4:00 PM on Monday, March 1st. Sample abstracts are available for viewing at www.neiu.edu/~srcas.

The Symposium is a day-long celebration of NEIU's students and their accomplishments in all fields.

Students gather from all parts

of the university to perform or present their work for consideration by the student body and campus community.

The work is critiqued by those in attendance in order to help the student identify areas for improvement, if any.

At this point, students who are interested in presenting their work at the symposium need to identify a theme for their work, consult with a faculty member, write a one-page abstract, and submit it by March 1st to the Symposium Steering Committee.

Themes include anything from the areas of research including social science, humanities, natural and applied sciences.

Creative activities may include painting, sculpture, photography, music, theater, dance, poetry, creative writing, film, video, or any

other artistic work that merits creative performance.

For more information regarding the abstract submission process contact a member of the Symposium Steering Committee.

The members are: Rachel Adeodu (College of Education, ext. 5369, CLS-3018), John Albazi (College of Arts and Sciences, ext. 5681, SCI-218G), Lesa Davis (for the Graduate College, ext. 5862, CLS-3084), Roger Gilman (College of Arts and Sciences, ext. 5714), Kathleen Kardaras (University Honors Program, ext. 6045, B-141), Rasuoul Rezvani (College of Business and Management, ext. 6163, CLS-0016), Santiago Vaca (Creative Activities, ext. 4917, FA-206A).

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.

Post & Pre Graduate Approval Programs \$500.00 Cash Incentive

College Connection Program Great Opportunity for New Vehicles

Altima-Xterra-Sentra-Maxima-Murano Pathfinder-350Z- and hundreds of used vehicles

*depending on price of car



Master of Arts in

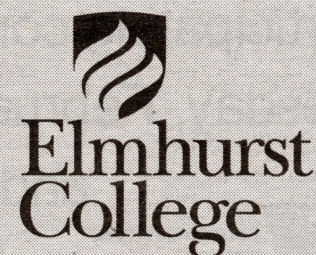
English Studies

AN IDEAL NEW PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS OF ENGLISH

- Deepen your knowledge of literary study
- Explore challenges in the practice and teaching of writing
- Examine the literature of cultural diversity
- Master the use of technology in scholarly research
- Conduct independent research in areas of your interest
- Complete your master's degree in two years—in evening classes—on a beautiful, easy-to-access suburban campus

Learn more about Elmhurst College:

Contact the Office of Graduate Admission,
190 Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst, Ill. 60126
(630) 617-3030 or (800) 581-4723
gradadm@elmhurst.edu www.elmhurst.edu



Throwing the book at college texts

Students struggle to pay for books as companies cite rising costs and some professors take bribes to adopt certain texts

by Elana Barron
Staff Writer

Northeastern students struggle to afford the high price of textbooks. Students throughout the country are protesting inflated textbook prices.

Many universities, fed up with bookstores and textbook companies taking advantage of students, have decided to fight back. Northeastern students have the opportunity to join this fight.

Cuyahoga Community College in Ohio has decided to take a stand against costly textbooks. Their student government is circulating a petition among universities to protest the cost of textbooks.

They assert that the increase in textbook prices is disproportionate to other consumer goods, and that the same textbooks are sold for half the price in Europe and Asia.

Further, professors and universities admit to receiving kickbacks and incentives for adopting certain textbooks. Cuyahoga claims, "We can no longer afford to be complaisant and accept these unfair pricing



<http://www.tocc.cc.az.us/images/photos>

The Consumer Price Index reports textbook prices rose 238 percent.

practices." They plan to lobby this petition in Washington on March 20th.

The price of textbooks has risen dramatically. Over the past twenty years, according to the Consumer Price Index,

textbook prices rose 238 percent. Over the same period of time, regular consumer goods increased a mere 51 percent.

The National Association of College Stores notes that 20 percent of students do

not buy all required texts. Five years ago, it was only 5 percent.

Another student complaint is that the same textbooks sold in America are sold in Europe and Asia for significantly less. For example, the textbook used in Biology 102 and 103 class costs \$126. On amazon.co.uk, the same textbook can be purchased for \$77.

Publishing companies claim they need to lower their prices because foreign markets cannot afford American prices.

However, as said above, 20 percent of American students do not buy all required texts; American students are obviously struggling to afford those American prices.

An investigation by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* quotes many professors who admit to accepting money in exchange for the adoption of certain textbooks.

North West Publishing has offered professors up to \$4,000 to adopt their textbooks. To date, there is no evidence that NEIU professors are involved in taking kickbacks in exchange for textbook adoptions.

Other protests include the absurd amount of supplements that are packaged with a textbook. Many textbooks come with CD-ROM's, instructions for websites, answer books, and study guides.

Some textbooks have as many as five of these costly supplements. Most students do not use these supplements; however, they are required to pay for them.

Due to these exorbitant prices, students are turning to other forums to find textbooks. Most students turn to the internet. Websites such as amazon.com, e.campus.com, half.com, and textbooks.com offer cheaper textbooks.

Other students are turning to foreign markets, such as amazon.co.uk, for cheaper alternatives. However, identical textbooks are not always available. Many students are forced to share books, or they simply do not buy them at all.

This issue of high textbook prices is not foreign to Northeastern's SGA (Student Government Association). The prior administration attempted to institute a "Book Exchange," a website that would allow students to sell and exchange books for a higher profit than that refunded by Beck's.

However, SGA President Gary Gaspard opted to terminate the book exchange. When questioned over the termination of the program, he first claimed, "I was not even aware about it." He then corrected himself, saying, "It was up for over a year. Not even one student used it."

However, Vice President Evelyn Nazario-Rose disagrees with Gaspard.

"It was planned and worked on for a year, but it was only operating about a month or two," she said. "Due to lack of advertising, it didn't have the chance to be effective."

Further, not only did students use it, but numerous students have approached her about reinstating the book exchange website.

There are many explanations for these huge book prices, and various student responses to this problem. However, each explanation leads to the same conclusion--students are the victims.

Students who wish to protest the pricing of textbooks should visit Vice President Nazario-Rose by March 16th and sign the petition that will be sent to the federal government.

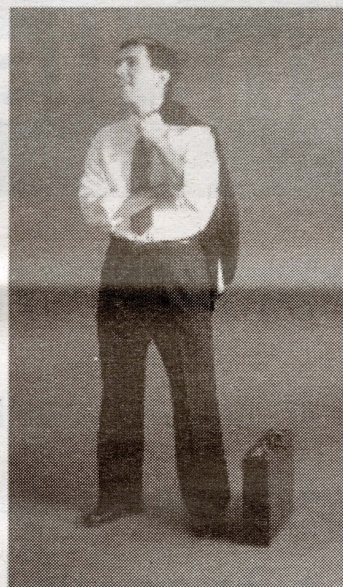
Need a Degree Required Job?

Come to the Northeastern Illinois University Business and Liberal Arts

Job Fair on

Tuesday, March 16, 2004.

The event will held in Alumni Hall from 12:00pm - 3:00pm.



Participating employers will be recruiting from the following industries: Business, Higher Education, Information Technology, Nonprofit, Finance, Accounting, and more.

Professional attire, plenty of resumes and company research prior to attendance is strongly recommended.

Free for NEIU students and alumni

\$5.00 fee for everyone else!

For more information, visit <http://www.neiu.edu/CarServ.htm>

Participating company information will be posted beginning Tuesday, February 17th, and will be updated regularly up to and including the day of the event.



The Placement Office, Office of Student Affairs

B-119, 773.442.4680

International conference gets down to business

L.A.I.B.C. proves to be one of the more successful events of the year as over 1,000 flock to Alumni

by Atoor Lawando
Senior Staff Writer

"Complete success, complete attendance- 1,262 people attended the event in total."

This is what Angel Monterroso had to say at the end of the Latin American International Business Conference (L.A.I.B.C.), an event which he helped put together and for which he was presented with an award for his efforts.

The L.A.I.B.C. took place on March 1st through the 3rd in Alumni Hall, the conference opening at 7 PM on Monday evening.

It was sponsored by the Marketing Club, College of Business and Management, APICS, Business and Management College, and the Graduate College.

The last event of the conference took place on Wednesday evening at 5:40 PM and was entitled "Commerce Between the US and Latin America: Goods, Services, and People."

Dr. Homero Tristan and Francelyn Perez, an immigration lawyer, were the keynote speakers at this event.

Dr. Tristan began his presentation by discussing some of the key qualities that are essential when considering a career in international business.

"It's nice to know the language of the country that you will be dealing with, but more importantly, you must understand

that country," Tristan said during his presentation.

He also went on to emphasize the importance of knowing the trends, the labor policies, and the new developments that are going on in the country with which one is dealing.

Dr. Tristan also went on to talk about the U.S. economy as far as trade is concerned. "The U.S. economy is the most integrated economy in the world, and it is at the same time the most prosperous,"

Tristan began, "Clearly a connection can be made between the two." Tristan went on to highlight some economic statistics, "In 2002, close to 50% of U.S. exports were shipped to N.A.F.T.A. countries, which include many Latin American countries."

Tristan also pointed out that the service sector accounts for a major export for the U.S. Moreover, Tristan said that, "U.S. exports of services are expected to reach \$400 billion this year alone."

Francelyn Perez, an immigration lawyer, then took the floor and talked, not so much about the economic factor, but the immigration factor of U.S. commerce with Latin America.

She presented to the audience different types of temporary visas that foreign workers can obtain in order to work in the U.S.

She briefly explained what the obtainment of each type of

visa required and the conditions under which a foreign worker seeking work here in U.S. must fall under.

Perez also went on to talk about how foreign workers can achieve permanent residency status through their employers.

Some of the different types of temporary or non-immigrant visas that she talked about included the B-1, the E-1, and E-2 visas.

As far as permanent status for foreign employees, [i.e. getting a green card,] Perez explained that foreign workers can only achieve permanent residency status if sponsored by a U.S. based employer; even then workers are faced with strict regulations and quotas.

Perez then stated, "Immigration builds the U.S. economy and attracts workers, professionals, investors, and scientists from around the world to bring talent and expertise to U.S. companies."

Perez emphasized that "business immigration is a core strategy to promote growth in the U.S. economy."

As far as the attendees' opinions of the L.A.I.B.C. is concerned,



photo by Hamid Tehran

The NAFTA trade agreement was one item discussed during lectures.

senior and Business major Joe Daley had this to say: "I thought it was a nice introduction to business issues in Latin America, and how business works in Latin America."

For the people interested, Angel Monterroso informed the Independent that a video tape of the L.A.I.B.C. will be available for check out through the College of Business and Management's Office of the Dean in approximately one month.

For further information on the L.A.B.I.C, check out the Marketing Club website www.neiu.edu/~mmclub



Student Trustee and conference coordinator Angel Monterroso received recognition at the conference for his efforts in organizing the three day event.

Business and Management Club Presents

12th ANNUAL BUSINESS **ETIQUETTE** **SEMINAR AND DINNER**

Saturday, April 17, 2004

6:00pm

Ramada Plaza Hotel

(Radisson Hotel)

4500 W. Touhy

Lincolnwood, IL

Please contact Ms. Lynn Payer

773-442-6120 CLS 0044A

\$15.00 for NEIU Students

\$35.00 for non-NEIU Students

Give him enough rope- and he'll entertain



David Fisher in action

by Jessica Moen
Staff Writer

When you say jump, he says "In what style?" Yup, it's the one and only Rope Warrior, David Fisher.

For those who missed it, David was invited to Northeastern on Tuesday March 2nd by the Hillel Club to perform a astonishing rope jumping show.

He did tricks unlike anything you have ever seen (unless of course you have seen his show before) right inside the Village Square of our school.

Fisher did such things as jumping rope while doing various dances including break dancing and Irish step. He even got the audience involved.

He ended the show by climbing into a giant balloon, with only his head-poking out, and jumping rope.

Don't get too upset if you missed the performance, Fisher does lots of shows all over the world. For a list, go to www.ropewarrior.com.

This fellow Chicagoan has been doing rope jumping tricks for 15 years now, and it has become more enjoyable now that he travels with his wife Renee.

He has performed on shows such as Regis and Kathy Lee, Jenny Jones, Wild Chicago, and he even jumped rope during both Bush and Clinton's inauguration.

He holds two records in the Guinness book of world records; one is for most jumps on a jump rope while sitting on the ground (tush-up's he calls them).

He has also been mentioned in Ripley's Believe it or Not, and is in the Guinness encyclopedia of the bizarre.

You may have seen him on TV, or at a social event, or maybe even at your grammar school when you were young.

"I am fortunate to be doing something I love to do, I get to travel the world and see lots of places. I truly love it," says David, when asked what his rope jumping experiences have been like.

The event was a very enjoyable experience for all that watched.

Black History Month winds down

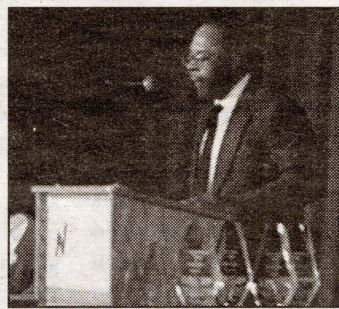
Black History Month 2004 finished with an awards dinner on Friday, February 27th in Alumni Hall.

Speakers included VP Melvin Terrell of Student Affairs, pictured below right, and the Black Heritage Gospel Choir also performed, below left.

Congratulations to the committee on organizing a month of events that educated us all.



photo by Hanibal Tehran



Judiciary Board, from page 1

forwarding the case.

The situation was brought to light after Officer Arteuro Galindo of Public Safety found four students in the WZRD radio station with marijuana hidden in a couch, according to Lt. Jack Baker, Acting Director of Public Safety.

"It appears to be marijuana, or it could be oregano," said WZRD station manager, Bob Goode. "It could have been there for 10 years, we don't know."

According to Baker, the officer found a number of people in the radio station and informed the students that those who do not belong in the radio station must leave.

Approximately 20 minutes later, the officer returned to the radio station. "They got nervous when I came in," he said.

"When I went in, there was a strong smell of cannabis," he said. The officer also said there were attempts to mask the smell with various articles.

The Public Safety officer conducted a search of the station. According to Baker, a small bag of marijuana was

found in the couch.

"They [Public Safety Officers] tore the station apart trying to find the little bit... I spent three hours cleaning up the mess," said Goode. None of the four students claimed or were in possession of the bag.

The four students were arrested with the assistance of Officer Irwin Barrios and Officer David Declat. The students were housed at the 17th District lockup a mile away from campus.

Attempts to recover the official arrest records from the Chicago Police and County Clerk were not completed before publication.

According to Goode, he believed he would be held responsible for the drugs found in the station.

He said he was told at the beginning of his tenure as Station Manager, "if anyone in our station was caught with something in their possession, they would be arrested. If it was found hidden in the office, I would be arrested. [Public Safety officers] arrested the wrong guys. I should have been the one held accountable for this," said Goode.

According to Walt Summers, Director of Student Activities,

no such policy had ever been placed on the radio station or any other student organization.

Public Safety officers refused to identify Goode as a responsible party for the narcotics because he was not at the scene at the time of arrest.

According to the station's Media Advisor, Michael Wilson, "we have, as a result of this, significantly increased the level of surveillance and security at the station."

Good said "[The four students'] whole academic career is hanging in the balance. This is a terrible thing to have happened. I can't imagine what they are going through now. They have their whole life ahead of them. I'm confident the school will make the right decision here. These are just kids."

The four students await verification of a defined trial or disciplinary process by Northeastern officials.

Due to the confidential nature of University judicial procedures, accounts of many aspects of this specific incident were unavailable to us for this report.

Walkout, from page 1

and "bring the whole class!" Another instructor stated that he was "100% behind student equality!"

Flyers and palm cards are being circulated prior to the event, and volunteers will be standing outside of classes beginning at 12:15 on the day of the rally, passing out flyers to attending students, encouraging them to participate in the walkout.

The rally, within only a few weeks, appears to have gained momentum and positive support from NEIU faculty, as well as students.

The GLBA is currently contacting other student organizations on campus and offering time to speak at the rally on behalf of student rights.

According to Robin Matthies, press releases were sent to Chicagoland media outlets for possible coverage of the event, and, a meeting with university President, Salme Steinberg was also scheduled.

The walkout and rally is sponsored by the NEIU Amnesty International, The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Alliance, the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, the NEIU Socialist Club, NEIU Sociology, and other student organizations.

When asked what they would do if response exceeds the capacity of the Village Square area, organizers stated that, "Hopefully, if it's a nice day, we'll relocate outside."

And, if not, plans are being discussed to move the rally to another indoor location, if attendance warrants.

Student or faculty representatives wishing to speak at the rally, and those seeking additional information, should contact Anne Mothkovich, GLBA secretary, at 773-442-5389.

Quick HIV test now available

by Dave DeSmedt
Senior Staff Writer

The university began offering free, on-campus HIV testing to students on Friday, March 5, 2004 thanks to new technology and the generosity of the Health Services staff.

Confidentiality is guaranteed and accuracy is definite. Results are confirmed within a half hour, but an hour is allotted to each student for the entire process.

Prior to this breakthrough, students were referred off-campus to the Chicago Department of Public Health.

Although this service is also free, time and convenience are huge factors, and bringing it in house makes the process much faster and easier on the student.

The test itself consists of a finger-sticking procedure, similar to blood-sugar tests endured by diabetics. It is virtually painless, quick, and simple.

The process does require an appointment, and involves a briefing and a signed consent. From there, students are initially tested with a screening test, Oraquick.

This test provides a true negative, but if a positive result is produced, then further testing using Orasure, another test kit, is required.

The Orasure test is sent to a lab for further screening and confirmation. A positive result obtained from the Orasure test provides a true positive.

If students' results are truly positive, then Health Services will refer them to an agency that will offer further support and assistance.

"Technology has caught up with our desire to provide on-campus testing," remarked Jessica Lettow, RN, Director of Health Services.

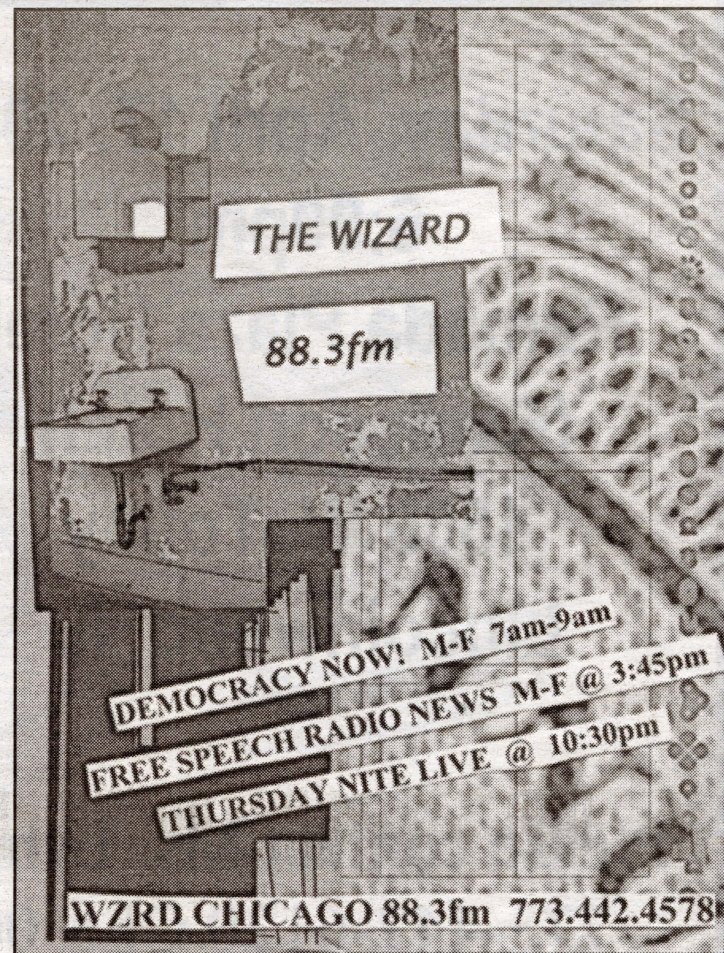
Although the technology has been around for a few years, Health Services has been restricted in the past due to insurance stipulations regarding lab expenses, since the Orasure test requires off-campus testing.

The Oraquick test eliminates the insurance hurdles. The fact that Northeastern is a smaller school with no lab, limited space, and limited services were other factors that prohibited on-campus testing in the past.

Students are reminded to be patient with the program because it is new. It is only conducted on Fridays because of space limitations.

Even though results are available within a half hour, students are allotted an hour to ensure proper procedure and respect for all.

Please contact Health Services at 773-442-5800 or visit them in E-051 for appointment scheduling and further information.



Commentary

Positive is as positive does

The Student Government Association (SGA) was downstate this weekend at Model Illinois Government (MIG), a annual program in the state capital that shows student politicians and journalists how real government works.

Here's hoping they stop acting like the politicians we already have, and start giving us something to report on.

At a recent Senate meeting, several of our reporters were asked why we never report on anything positive that the SGA does.

These statements were uttered in the middle of a meeting where the Student Senate bickered back and forth about the merits of rescinding monies allotted for the Caribbean Club's Haitian Celebration in May.

The debate featured more than a few insults, Senators attempting to out talk each other, and personal attacks as well. What it also featured was very little that reflected a student government capable of helping students in anyway other than approving funding for campus events.

The SGA has more to do than rubber-stamp spending and fight over who occupies the President's office. This same February 26th meeting also had Senate Committess reporting that they either weren't meeting regularly, or weren't meeting at all.

If all you're doing is stuffing your resume with the title, Student Government Senator, or Speaker, or Vice President, or whatever position you hold, why bother? Find another way to make yourself look better for the job market.

And why are Senators leaving a meeting while a vote is taking place? They have class, apparently. *Independent* reporters at the event also had class, but stayed late anyway. The students don't care that you have class, they care that you do your job.

Balancing Senate duties and academic ones is what was promised by Senate hopefuls when they were running for office. But short memories are plentiful in SGA.

So now the SGA will come back from Springfield, full of ideas about how government works and how the pros do it. We don't need the bickering and posturing we see in our state and federal legislatures, but we do deserve a more active and more effective representation from our student leaders.

With elections less than a month away, can anyone from SGA make an accounting for themselves? The *Independent* will continue to concern itself with that students, while the SGA will not. Who are our most important constituents?

The SGA has failed to make itself relevant enough to warrant coverage here, or interest from the student body. One Seantor was presented with a petition that had 200 signatures of protest about the Caribbean party, and told the petitioner that the signatures didn't matter.

Well, the Senator had the right idea, but the wrong group.

The students matter; their interests matter.

Right now, it's the student government that doesn't matter.

Independent Editorial Board

Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor

John Bracich
Business Manager

Brian Rohloff
Associate Editor

Patrick O'Brien
Production Manager

Views expressed in staff editorials are those of the entire Board, unless otherwise indicated.

LETTER POLICY

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

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

Letters may be received through mail addressed to:

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

or e-mailed to neu_independent@yahoo.com

Controversy of the Christ

Looking at Passion from my world

No one is listening to Jesus anyway

by Daniel Peikes
Senior Staff Writer

Let me begin by admitting ignorance. I am an Orthodox Jew and am not very familiar with the story of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus.

I have never studied the New Testament, though I have studied much of the Old Testament in the original Hebrew and much of the Talmud in the original Aramaic.

Seeing this film expanded my knowledge of this subject, or at least my knowledge of Mel Gibson's interpretation of it.

I am not here to argue if what the movie presented is correct or not, because I just don't know the real truth.

What I am here to discuss is the way the Jews are presented in the film.

The way I understand it, we didn't kill Jesus. We just convinced the Romans to do it.

The Jews are portrayed as blood thirsty, money-hungry weaklings.

First, you see the Jews pulling the same shtick that Richard Daley did with Meigs field, kidnapping Jesus under the cover of darkness.

Yeah, that makes us look pretty spineless. Then the "Rabbis" hide him, once again making us look miserable. Oh yeah, I forgot, we paid someone to rat on Jesus. That also makes us look wonderful.

Eventually we turn Jesus over to the Romans, selling out one of our own. Beautiful. At this point in the movie, I am starting to hate myself for being Jewish.

Next comes the decision of whether to set free Jesus or a convicted murderer, and of course the Jews choose to set the murderer free.

Finally, when we have the option to pick Jesus' punishment, we decide to crucify him—so we are bloodthirsty cowards.

To me, this movie seems to propagate the idea that while the Jews did not kill Jesus, they were responsible for his death.

Furthermore, we look like an angry, savage, bloodthirsty mob.

Finally, how will this affect anti-Semitism? First of all, I hope that people will realize that this is just a movie, telling a story, and that the facts may or may not be accurate.

Secondly, I hope that people realize that even if parts of the movie are true, that was then and this is now.

by Cecilia Carboni
Production Editor

Christians are hailing it for its portrayal of Jesus. The Anti-Defamation League is claiming that it *may* inspire Anti-Semitic feelings.

The Passion of the Christ has generated a lot of attention in the religious communities, as well as in the box office.

The Passion of the Christ is not anti-Semitic, yet it refuses to hide behind what's considered "politically correct." Whether you believe Jesus was or was not the Messiah isn't the issue, one needs to look at it historically, and more importantly, in the context of the movie.

First of all, the Jewish leaders are mainly the ones calling for the crucifixion of Jesus, not the entire Jewish populace.

Those leaders are portrayed as harsh figures, however, that's understandable. Jesus posed not only a religious danger, but also a political one.

He interpreted the Torah in a way that contradicted and abolished much of its commandments. He was

considered by the Jewish leaders to be a blasphemer, something that incurred the death penalty under Jewish code. He was also a liability in the peace held between the Jews and the Romans.

His following could have jeopardized the political authority of the Jewish religious establishment, and the power of the Romans in Israel. The reasons why both the Jewish and Roman leaders wanted him dead are not difficult to understand.

The aims of a few Jewish leaders were by no means representative of the Jewish people of the time—much less of those today. To blame today's Jews for the death of Jesus is plain ignorance.

I don't see how you could walk out hating Jews unless you walked in with it. If you did, then you have missed a huge message of the movie, as well as of Christ. Jesus is seen speaking with his apostles about loving your enemy.

Loving your friends, and having them love you, is no big accomplishment according to him. What's really honorable is loving your enemy. If Jesus could hold that kind of respect while being nailed up, then I can expect it of Christians while they sit in their comfy little movie theater seats.

In the movie Jesus claims that he was sent to Earth to die. Furthermore, he claims that no one has the power to take his life from him. He has to be willing to lay it down. Technically, the Jews who did call for his crucifixion were only doing God's will.

First, the movie does not promote anti-Semitism. Who killed Jesus is irrelevant in our current age. Those who would go out and commit hate crimes because of the movie have obviously missed large portions of their savior's message.

Nader: candidate or spoiler?

Right problem, wrong man, wrong time *Ralph Nader; A truly different choice*

by Tom Robb
Co-News Editor

by Andrew Valkanas
Staff Writer

Ralph Nader recently announced his intention to run for president of the United States as an independent in the 2004 election. You may remember Nader as the presidential candidate of the Green Party who many blame for Al Gore losing the election in 2000 and sending George Bush on to become president. Democrats were not happy with Nader then and they are down right pissed off with him now.

Democrats remember Nader receiving 97,000 votes in Florida in 2000. Vice President Al Gore, the nominee of the Democratic Party, lost that state, when the Supreme Court ordered that ballot counting stop, by a mere 500 votes. George Bush was then able to win the state and the national election.

Democrats have not forgotten this. They are bitter and angry with Nader for being the spoiler. They desperately want to remove George Bush from office, and are understandably fearful that Nader's run could again siphon off just enough votes to cost them the election, again.

Ralph Nader has been a consumer advocate since the early 1970s. In the 2000 presidential election he ran on the Green Party ticket. The Green party is a liberal-to-progressive political party whose members might have voted Democrat in 2000.

WZRD Radio recently took some calls about Nader on the air. Many former Nader supporters, even one former Nader campaign worker, called in to express their views. The majority of those calls were angry with Nader for running. The callers asked where he has been for the last four years and accused him of running for the sake of his own ego. The caller who worked on Nader's 2000 campaign stated that Nader did not even join the Green Party in 2000, even though he was their nominee.

Many of the callers who were former Nader supporters now supported Kucinich. Kucinich took 3rd in the state of Maine by convincing Green Party members to switch their voter registrations to Democrat and vote for him in the primary.

Political pundits have observed that Howard Dean, although out of the race now, did raise some issues loudly enough that the other Democratic candidates had to address them. Dean had what was called a movement, rather than just supporters. But Dean is out now, so is it up to Nader to carry in his place? No.

Dennis Kucinich and Al Sharpton are still in the race and can still speak for that progressive wing of the party. In spite of Kucinich's mere 10 delegates he refuses to give up and has gained ground, taking 2nd in Hawaii. Sharpton has stated that he intends to be a factor at the convention, not allowing his issues to be pushed aside.

This is what primaries are for in a country that, like it or not, has a two-party system. When Bill Clinton faced George Bush the 1st, Ross Perot split the conservative vote and Bush lost. When Al Gore faced George the 2nd, Ralph Nader siphoned off just enough votes to give Bush the victory.

We need to change the system. It is broken. But understand how things are right now. True enough, George W. Bush and front runner John Kerry both went to Yale, were both in the secret society of Skull and Bones, and both are extremely wealthy. Many think they are not so different. The country is split almost exactly 50/50. Every vote, and I mean EVERY SINGLE SOLITARY VOTE, counts.

Nader does not stand a chance of winning. True, he will keep Kerry from trying to be too much like Bush as Dean did, but he could also cause Bush to win. There will come a time to change the system, but now is not that time, and Nader is not that man.

A candidate came out of the woodwork and made a lot of media buzz when he appealed at the grassroots level. He used the Internet effectively and got people excited about his campaign. He had gatherings across the country of all sizes where he would spread his message. Celebrities supported him, pundits hated him, and thousands of people gave small contributions to his campaign.

Before Howard Dean attempted this strategy without success in 2004, Ralph Nader got somewhere with it in 2000. He pulled nearly three percent of the vote without the backing of big money donors or a major political party's soft money war chest. He attracted voters of all stripes and all political leanings who felt, as he did, that the two major parties were - and are - so substantially similar that only an outside challenge would bring any chance of real change.

Ralph Nader is radically different from any other candidate who is running for the presidency. He has never held political office, but he has done more for the health and well being of Americans than any politician. Starting in 1966 with his work "Unsafe at Any Speed," his activism led to the creation of mandatory seatbelt laws and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. He has worked to protect the environment with helping launch the Environmental Protection Agency, protect workers with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and helped institute a bevy of consumer protection laws.

Ralph also brings issues to the table that neither party will discuss. He is opposed to the spread of corporate power and corporate influence in politics, which the two major party candidates cannot even consider opposing. He supports universal health care, an issue that the Republicans oppose and the Democrats mostly oppose, as insurance companies have a lot of influence. He opposes media consolidation and concentrated media ownership, which lobby Washington exceptionally hard.

He is not the only one who brings up "oddball" issues. Rev. Al Sharpton and Dennis Kucinich brought up foreign affairs and domestic issues which John Kerry and John Edwards did not want to talk about in the recent debate in California. Just because they do not have much chance to win, does not make the discourse less relevant, and it doesn't mean that they should be denied a voice.

Calling Ralph Nader a spoiler in that election is to deny that he was anything more than a troublemaker. He was not a spoiler in that election. Pat Buchanan, who garnered 500,000 votes, swung four states in favor of Gore, while Nader can only be attributed clearly for New Hampshire.

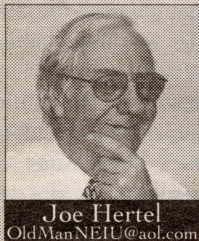
Florida was a sewer in electoral politics. Beyond the now-infamous butterfly ballot, there was a greater scandal that received little media attention: the disenfranchising of 55,000 voters illegally by then Secretary of State Katherine Harris. She extended a list of ex-felons by adding the names of people who shared the same birth date and same last name. The result? These voters, who statistically would have voted 90% Democratic, were truly denied their rights.

Granted, the odds of Ralph winning are slim. However, to deny him the right to run is un-American. The Democrats and those blaming him for Gore in 2000 should perhaps tell this year's candidate to run a campaign that attracts people to vote for him. Votes have to be earned.



Nader strikes back. Does he have a chance?

photos courtesy of argosy.ca



Joe Hertel
OldManNEIU@aol.com

Old Man on Campus *Hey, We Are a Village, People!*

It is time to place personal feelings aside and band together as a student body in order to support the equal treatment and respect for all students of this most diverse campus culture. It is time for us to show support for one another. It is time to become one voice. It is time to walk!

We all do not see eye to eye, and there are opposing views to just about every statement made on campus. There are those who have difficulty in accepting certain cultures, certain beliefs, and certain lifestyles. There certainly are enough differences among students to keep us busy growling and snapping at each other throughout our academic journey through NEIU. As long as we are fragmented like this, administration can drag its collective feet in addressing any student concerns.

There comes a time when we need to stand together and let the administration of this university know that we demand respect and equal treatment for every individual attending this campus. A time when we demand to be heard! As diverse as we are, student wise, there can be no allowance for disrespect, bias or contempt

of another individual, student or faculty, and it is the job of the administration to insure these student rights.

That is why I am encouraging all students and instructors at NEIU to join the GLBA in its walkout demonstration to be held this Thursday, March 11th at 1pm, and attend this rally in Village Square.

But Old man (you say), didn't you state that you did not endorse, or approve of, the Gay lifestyle? Yes, I said that. I also said that I support our GLBA in what they are doing as an organization, that I support them in their list of demands, that I respect everyone's individuality, and I agree with them that the administration is dragging its feet and not addressing these concerns.

Hey, it ain't that confusing, folks. Everyone is entitled to respect as a human being; as a person. We are guaranteed equal rights. I am not gay; as a matter of fact, most of the time I'm clinically depressed. But I do have an idea of why the GLBA is concerned with the issues raised in their demands, and they need to be assured that someone in those offices are earning their paycheck by doing something about it!

When I was in grade school, I used to fear walking to and from school. There were a few neighborhood bullies who took pleasure in beating up on us "outsiders" and would lurk

in gangways, pouncing on us as we walked by. Some beat us up only because we were from a different school or a different religion. Many times I ran home afraid. I guess that's one reason why I am siding with the GLBA on this one.

Showing up to the rally does not infer that you approve of, or endorse, the gay lifestyle. I'll be wearing a button that says: "I'm not queer, but I'm here!" What it proves is that you care about your fellow students enough to support them in their concerns. And in this case it happens to involve the GLBA.

But, Old man, didn't you say the GLBA is over-reacting? Yes, I said that. They do over-react at times, but understand how gays are accosted and even murdered for no other reason except being gay, and you can see why there is a need to feel "safe" on campus. Talking with Anne Mothkovich and Robin Matthies of GLBA, I am persuaded that this rally is all-inclusive as to the equal treatment of all students on campus. No one is over-reacting in this situation.

As I see it, the issue here is not just the GLBA and its list of demands. Personally, I agree with some demands, but not all of them. The administration, however, should address each demand, and let the students know the results ASAP. The issue is really whether or not we do have rights on campus,



whether Administration really listens to our concerns. The question is whether or not we can gather support for each other when needed, like right now.

I will be at the rally on Thursday in support of student equality on campus. I will be at the rally joining the GLBA demanding that Administration address their concerns immediately. You should be there also, class or no class. I'm an old man and I know what I am talking about. We need to do this for our own benefit and well-being. It would be a good day for President Steinberg to come also and publicly condemn homophobia on behalf of the university. How about it, Salme?

Youthful salsa group packs spicy bite: A first-hand look at Orquesta Juvenil

by Benny Boyas
Senior Staff Writer

Located in the evolving neighborhood of Logan Square, on the corner of Diversey and Rockwell, Rancho Luna del Caribe houses a tiny, intimate dining setting, a spacey bar, and a dance floor flanked by tables with tea lights in ashtrays – literally, smoking with class!

Though this venue appears deceptively quaint, considering you can cover its perimeter on foot in no more than twenty seconds, its enormous space jams packed every weekend, for it is within these walls on Friday and Saturday nights that a tiny well-kept secret of Chicagoland's fertile talent pool emerges, bringing charm and delight to the patrons of this Cuban dreamland.

Consisting largely of local college musicians, the band Orquesta Juvenil can do nothing more than astound those who bother to listen, or those who are sober enough.

Headed up by local freelance composer/arranger/trombonist Tony Herrera, a regular figure on the city's jazz scene, this talent-packed mob not only captures your attention, it grabs you by the throat and forces you to listen like only a great band can: through their assertive ability to make salsa, merengue, and other Latin dance styles consistently cool and tasty.

Striving not for replication of the mainstream, but for preservation of the original style of salsa music, the group simultaneously uses subtle jazz and blues influences to harvest the fruits of the genre without departing from its conventions.

"Salsa bands today, they ain't nothing but two kinds: You either got the loud ones, or the one's so laid back... [shakes his head with disgust]," Herrera said. "We are a salsa band – with dynamics!" he explained, as he shared his direction of the ensemble, and how he "dedicate[s] this band to Celia Cruz."

Appropriately, a framed montage of Celia artwork hangs just to the right of the band's location adjacent to the dance area. His dedication to the legendary bandleader who passed away last year is not just in theory, but is, in fact, practiced.

Herrera not only does justice to her works, he magically transcribes them to his instrumentation without losing a measure's worth of the original product.

Of course, getting a vocalist masterful enough to even attempt to cover Celia Cruz's works is also challenging. This is

where lead singer Jackie Alvarado comes into play. With her sassiness, she works the crowd like a snake charmer; with her voice, she enchants those around like a sorceress. Her flawless undertaking of Cruz's "Carnaval" was by far the highlight of the night's set, reinforced by an indignantly inspired solo from Nanasas Rivera, pianist from Morton College. With minimum facial expression, Rivera sets ablaze the piano keys with his invigorating fingertips.

Also solid was the cadenced support from the band's rhythm section, which keeps time like sailors navigating; never leading the tempo astray, even when departing from metronomic stagnancy into impromptu exploration.

But to see Leon Allen, student at Columbia College, emerge with trumpet bell held high from the cramped corner the band is forced to play from is astonishing.

Allen parallels another great Chicagoan trumpet player – a legend in his own time – Orbert Davis, with his flawless, articulate, growling solos, and his outrageous flexibility with the altissimo range.

His creativity was steeped up a notch as he wah-wahed with plunger mute during one of the tunes. Plunger mutes – in salsa? Yes – and it was refreshing and provocative too!

This is what Herrera means by keeping Salsa pure while making subtle embellishments. This is also what makes it so entertaining to watch them perform. The age factor must be to blame for the enthusiasm that is carried over from one member to the next.

As the name implies, this juvenile orchestra has amongst its ranks music majors from colleges and universities across the city and suburbs. DePaul student Andrew Zelm, the newest member on trombone, is accompanied in the section by Norman Paul, who left NEIU this past semester. And the list goes on: Juan Figueroa – Elgin Community College; John Castellon – Vandercook School of Music.

In fact, Madeline Padilla, the second singer and prime compliment to Alvarado's angelic voice, is by comparison a baby – she attends Carl Schurz high school on the city's Northwest Side.

And with his ability to reach the stratospheric salsa trumpet range with fluidity and poise, NEIU's own Jerome Crosswell stands out as a key example of how one can be young and possess extraordinary talent.

Though thoroughly diverse in style and color, this fresh and lively ensemble represents a tiny morsel of the all-encompassing Latin style bands on the Chicago nightclub scene. The majority of these groups consist of veteran, seasoned musicians, established in their own style and ritual.

But the differentiating factor that



photo by Benny Boyas

Orchestra Juvenil takes it's name from the fact that all its members are from local colleges and universities. Above and Right: Band members play with the enthusiasm that many salsa bands have been lacking. Below: Dancers burn the night away at the packed Rancho Luna Del Caribe in Logan Square.



makes this ensemble praiseworthy is the innovativeness that is absent in other bands.

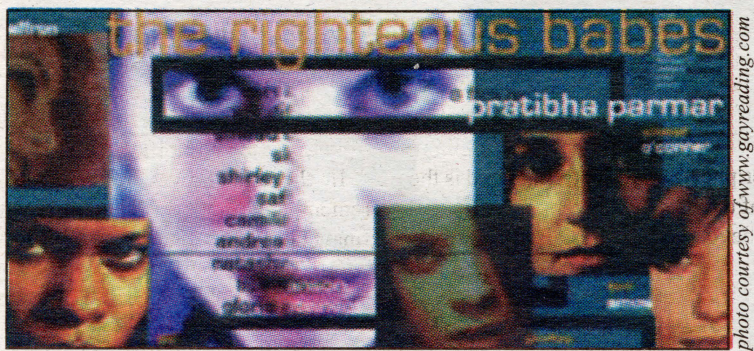
Herrera, who studies at Roosevelt University, has within him fervor not for commercial success, but for the beauty of the music, along with the rest of the supporting cast.

It is this zealotry that will carry them to perpetual greatness.

To proclaim these ladies and gentlemen will gain a huge following is by no means a stretch of the imagination. That is, if they continue to strive for the artistic ecstasy they have already attained and need to consistently sustain.

But that should not be a problem in the least bit.





Documentary on the influential feminists of rock

Women who rock the silver screen

by David Cavazos
Staff Writer

I was fortunate enough to have attended the film festival various times on the 26th. The films I saw were *Light In The Shadow*, *Our Mom's A Dyke*, *Righteous Babes: Women Who Rock*, and *Bend It Like Beckham*.

Light In The Shadow was a videotaped discussion held by a group of women of all sorts of cultural backgrounds. These women talked about racism and how they each perceive it as well as how it affects them personally.

One point brought up by a black woman that I found particularly interesting was that it seems racism is about people feeling uncomfortable and even threatened when they feel that others who they perceive as inferior have happiness and confidence.

The words of one white woman exemplified this point as she soon confessed that she could not help but feel curious as to why women of color that she has encountered seem so happy all the time.

I felt sort of annoyed by this white woman because it seemed like she was trying really hard to justify everything she said in order to come off as being not racist. I have always felt that people who consistently go to extremes to prove to others that they are not racist are perhaps closet racists.

Although a lot of interesting points were brought up, I found this film to be kind of boring. I have never been much of a fan of group discussions.

The next film I watched was a documentary called *Our Mom's A Dyke*. The documentary was based around commentary from a lesbian mother, Kitty Richards, her three daughters, and her mother concerning Richards' lesbianism and how coming out has affected her family. I enjoyed the structure of the film. I do not know whether or not there is a name for this type of documentary film structure though I liked that, as the film progressed, it kept taking viewers to different family members to get specific responses to specific issues as they came about. It almost seemed instantaneous, and I liked it.

It saddened me that Kitty Richards' daughters were so uncomfortable with their mother's

lesbianism. But then again, I can understand that maybe after having a father for so long and just assuming that their mother is heterosexual, this did come as quite a surprise to them.

To my surprise, one of her daughters even requested that her mom sign contracts in which she agreed to repress open affection with her partner. I felt her daughter was asking for a bit too much. Overall, I liked that the documentary ended on a gay (for the sake of a bad pun) note,

and from the film I got a message that was already obvious to me: a person's sexual orientation does not denote the content of their character and regardless of Kitty Richard's sexual preference, she seems like a very good, loving mother.

Righteous Babes: Women Who Rock (the first half of that title is actually the name of Ani DiFranco's independently owned record label) was my favorite movie

of the four I saw at the festival. The film discussed feminism in mainstream music and highlighted several widely successful female artists such as Sinead O'Connor, Madonna, and Ani DiFranco.

I absolutely loved the segment of the film in which everyone being interviewed bashed the Spice Girls and the false feminist empowerment that they represented.

I was slightly disillusioned by the film's bashing of the "riot grrrl" movement of the early 90s, but I am sure it is only because I am a big fan of Bikini Kill and the like.

I did have to disagree, though, with the film's stance that Courtney Love had a strong presence in the feminist movement. I consider Courtney Love nothing more than a cheap imitation of Madonna without the intelligence.

Bend It Like Beckham was certainly an interesting movie. For one thing, the movie had more homosexual innuendos in it than I can even remember seeing in a movie.

Then again, I do not watch many movies. Granted, I am not a sports fan (thank gawd), and though the basis of this movie revolved around an Indian girl overcoming cultural upbringing to pursue her desire to play soccer (or football, as it was referred to in the movie), I thought the film was very entertaining.

There were several funny moments that got a lot of laughs from everyone who viewed it.

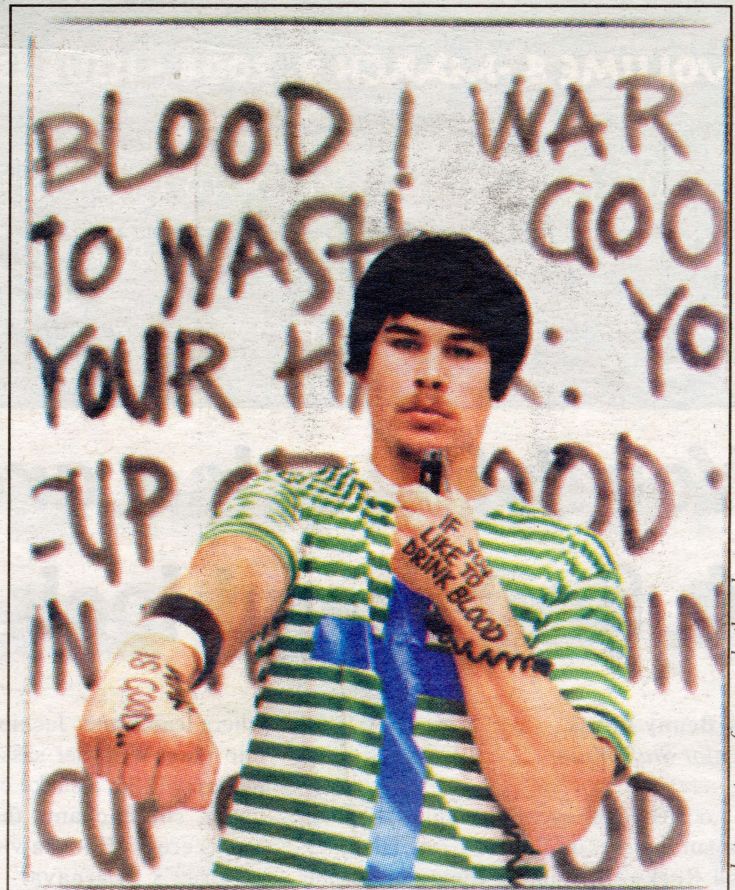
Sleepy Jackson's dormant debut worthy of inquiry

by Benny Boyas
Senior Staff Writer

Surely one of the greatest albums to be released in the past few years, The Sleepy Jackson's Summer of 2003 production has yet to make a lasting impression on our American minds. Yet Australia, the home of this beautifully arranged ensemble of genius music brains led by Luke Steele, has already experienced an incurable outbreak- a rampant fever for their music. The awesomeness of their multi-stylistic experimentations is surely to blame for this epidemic, for rarely does an album surface that works like *Lovers* does.

Rarely, if ever, has a single band so closely resembled a smorgasbord of influential musicians from a number of eras and movements in musical history. The Sleepy Jackson does this - all without sounding like a confused cover band from the local pub. The only confusion surrounding the album is the fact that the world has yet to acknowledge their supreme level of boldness and brilliance.

The greatness of these newcomers, this contemporary "fab-four," lies not in cheap studio manipulation but in the fundamental concept largely abandoned by other bands of this day: the willingness to go beyond the comfort zone; the desire to evolve and shape music while bringing forth established styles through fresh and inconceivable mixtures. For instance, who would have ever thought that country music's flavorful (and often abhorrently abused) twangy steel-guitar/banjo/fiddle combo would merge so lusciously when coupled with haunting falsetto harmonies and the electric orgasms like those of The Who? Now throw in some Liverpoolian guitar licks of the great George Harrison



Lead singer Luke Steele gets crazy with finger paints and politics.

(compare his solo on "My Sweet Lord" to the melodic figures on "Come to This" - as close to musical plagiarism as you can get without a lawsuit!). All this while incorporating synthetic orchestras, a children's choir and an out-of-tune piano, the album amounts to a manifestation of a recipe for a punk/techno/pop/rock/country extravaganza! Again, rarely if ever has an album worked as smooth and unexpectedly as *Lovers* does.

The initial track "Good Dancers," though catchy and captivating with its use of oriental pentatonic scales and instrumentation, which surface again on "This Day," falls short only because of its placing: not a good opening pace-setter with its dingy wailing. Other than that, the record echoes with an Abbey Road (The Beatles) flavor - a continuous flow from song to song with breaks that are hardly noticeable. The album moves along without thematic constraints yet the stark "Fill me with Apples," with its tension-building and sobering use of the lower vocal male range (think Barry White - only sedated and British), acts almost as an epiphany, separating the album into two parts - the mostly solemn division and the proceeding, largely upbeat and

bouncy partition.

The influences of numerous innovators are plainly noticeable: "Vampire Racecourse" sounds like a newly discovered Rolling Stones recording with a Pet Sounds (Beach Boys) approach to electronic augmentation, as does "This Day." But the neatest reoccurring mode is by far the country music approach. "Miniskirt," "Old Dirt Farmer," and "Mourning Rain" are overwhelmingly the most intriguing examples of country-rock fusion EVER to be recorded, and just how sweet this combination can be if done right. So how is it that a band that is so daring, inventive, and flat-out insanely talented can remain so underrated? They shouldn't be. For one thing, they are taking chances to advance and create progress in a world of homogenized rock n' roll. The last time someone did that was...too long ago to remember! So check out their awe-inspiring jukebox available at www.sleepyjackson.com if you (like everyone else) haven't heard these guys jam.

The band kicks off their 40 date headline tour this month as they land in Seattle, WA, and arrive here in Chicago on April 13, 2004.

Beck's

Almost Spring Sale!

March 8-19, 2004

20% Off

All Northeastern imprinted merchandise

Includes clothes, sale clothes, supplies, etc.

20% Off

Recycled Paper Greeting Cards

Extra Bonus!

20% Off

already reduced sale merchandise*

*does not include already reduced clothing & recycled Paper Greeting Cards.






A view of Jesus too harsh for some.

by Franklin Silencieux
Opinions Editor

Mel Gibson's newest directorial effort is a trial to sit through. But that's exactly the intention of this film, for better or for worse. This movie is not the kind of sprawling, operatic entertainment that movies like Ben Hur and The Ten Commandments were. *The Passion* has a singular focus: to show you every lash, every puncture, every hardship that Jesus endured between the time of his capture and his crucifixion. For two hours the audience is subjected to an intense violence.

"Passion..." a beautiful film to try to stomach

This is not the cartoon movie violence to which we've become desensitized. Some of the scenes actually do manage to tear-jerk your heartstrings, while most of them scare you with barbarity.

The movie foregoes conventional storytelling. Imagine yourself staring at a painting of the crucifixion for two hours, taking in the details of the horror and torture Jesus went through in his final hours. You may suddenly remember other bits of the Christ story, and the movie provides quick flashbacks to his childhood, his sermon on the mount, his carpentry. It does not dwell on these scenes.

Gibson assumes you've been to Sunday school (a father behind me was quizzing his son on who certain characters were). And he never forgets the main focus of the story--the torture-- and how the "passion of Christ" never breaks under it.

There are other characters in the movie. We follow Jesus' mother, brother, and friend Magdalene, feeling every emotion they do as they follow Christ to his death. Pontius Pilate is depicted as a conscientious, conflicted man. Herod has a brief scene that evokes Peter Ustinov's Nero in *Quo Vadis*. We see what guilt does to Judas. But one

interesting addition to the story's cast is Satan, a hooded, androgynous figure stalking Christ's periphery. Slightly exaggerated is the barbarity of the Roman soldiers, drunken and villainous beyond reason. The Jewish crowds are conflicted, but most take their cue from the venomous Chief Priests who urge, push, and demand the Romans to kill one of their own.

Though controversial, we can commend Gibson for making a film based on his religious yearnings. At times the movie becomes too Catholic, too depressing, but this was the point of the movie. On that level, the movie succeeds. On a financial level, too, the movie is succeeding, crucifying the smaller, fluffier

Hollywood movies and crowning itself as king of kings at the box office.

In the end, however, this film may be remembered more for its controversy and its financial success than its religious value. The movie affirms one's already strong religious beliefs, but may not inspire any new born-again Christians.

This may not be the quintessential Christ film and you may not remember what the fuss was all about. But the film does make its point--with great intensity, energy, and artistry. I advise people to see or read something much lighter afterwards; the final scene, meant to uplift, is very brief.

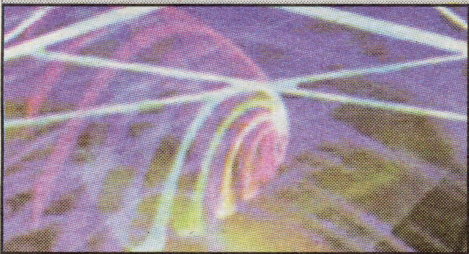
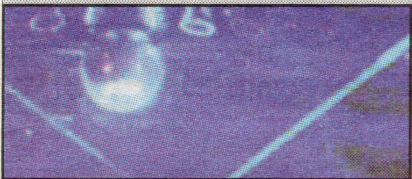
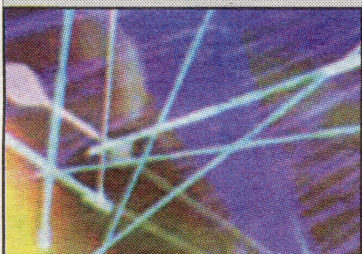


Roman soldiers torment Jesus of Nazareth in a Mel Gibson's gritty rendition of the Gospels.

Pretty Lights and Walls

by Daniel Peikes
Senior Staff Writer

"We don't need no education, we don't need no thought control!" These are words that have probably passed through most college students' heads at one point or another in their tenure at schools of higher education. More importantly though, they are the words to one of Pink Floyd's most popular songs too. When I heard that *Paramount's Pink Floyd Laser Spectacular* was coming to Chicago, I knew there was no way I could pass it up.

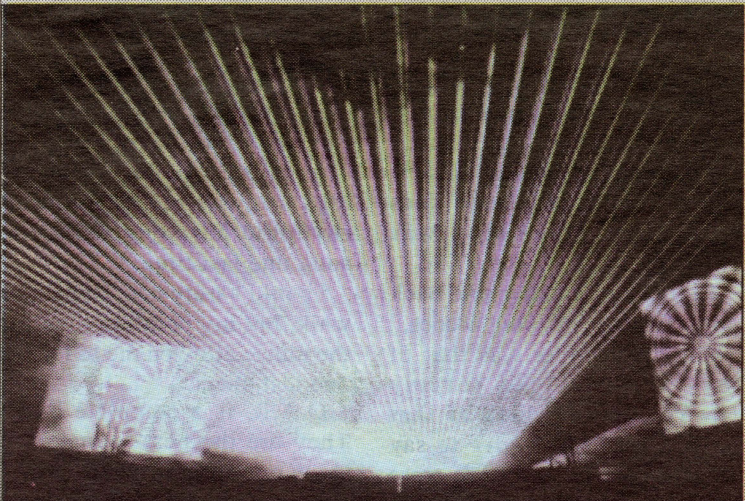


I made plans to go with a few friends, including a buddy of mine that I have known since elementary school. We are both huge classic rock fans.

We started to look into tickets and found out that the show was sold out but they had added a second show at 11:30PM. We decided that we still had to go, despite the fact that it was going to end extremely late.

We arrived at The House of Blues at about 10:30PM, got in line and, after a short wait, our ID's were checked and the doors were opened. At this point the anticipation was more than we could bear, but that is about where the excitement ended.

The show started about fifteen minutes late.



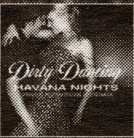
Eye candy and auditory treats of educational discontent.

The first part was supposed to be Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* synchronized with *Wizard of Oz*. They messed with the order and played about ten minutes of the movie and inserted other random video footage. This went on for about an hour and fifteen minutes followed by a fifteen-minute intermission.

The second half was a medley of Floyd songs set to a laser show. They played a broad range of songs from different albums. It was nice to hear the broad range, but

it came at the cost of some classics. While they did play the song "Another Brick in the Wall Part Two," which is the most famous part, and the one the above quote came from, I was looking forward to hearing Part One and Three as well. They also missed some other classics of "The Wall" album, such as "The Trial."

Overall, it was an entertaining show. It was something to say you have done, but at \$24 a ticket (without Ticketmaster fees), I don't think I would go again.



CD IN STORES FEBRUARY 17TH
FILM IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 27TH



SEE WYCLEF. BRING A JACKET.

CELEBRATE "DIRTY DANCING: HAVANA NIGHTS" IN HAVANA, MINNESOTA ON APRIL 17. YOUR VIRGIN MOBILE PHONE COULD BE YOUR TICKET IN. DETAILS AT VIRGINMOBILEUSA.COM.



NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. ALL ENTRIES, REGARDLESS OF ENTRY METHOD, HAVE AN EQUAL CHANCE OF WINNING. OPEN TO LEGAL RESIDENTS OF THE 50 UNITED STATES AND DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 13 YEARS AND OLDER. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED. Sweepstakes ends March 8, 2004 at 11:59:00 a.m. PT for entries by phone. Mail-in entries must be postmarked by March 9, 2004 and received by March 17, 2004. For Official Rules, prize descriptions and odds disclosure, visit <http://www.virginmobileusa.com> or participating stores. Sponsor: Virgin Mobile USA, LLC, 10 Independence Blvd., Warren, NJ 07059.

Eat on the Cheap goes Irish at Abbey

by Mary Meyer
Staff Writer

The word "pub" brings to mind cheap, greasy bar food but the Abbey Pub has so much more. You can still find things like quesadillas and hot wings, but flip the menu and you will find a full range of burgers topped with cheese and imported Irish bacon, to fish 'n' chips, to bangers and mash.

Bangers and mash? If you don't tune to BBC on a regular basis, you may be conjuring images of crazy food concoctions but the Abbey serves a bang-up plate of four sausages, a mound of mashed potatoes and vegetable of the day.

If you're fishing for something lighter, try Molly Malone's fish and chips. Two filets battered in a light, crispy batter atop a pile of steak fries and a side salad which comes drenched in the best raspberry vinaigrette I have ever tasted.

And what's St. Patty's Day without some corned beef and cabbage? They have it here, too, and not just in March. Don't forget to check out the traditional Irish breakfast, too.

Try the Bailey's Irish cheesecake for a rich, chocolaty treat that really tastes like its namesake. And, of course, there's the beer. Weeknight specials are a great deal Sunday through Thursday nights, including \$2.50 Foster's pints on Tuesdays, \$3 Heineken pints Wednesdays, and \$3.00 Sam Adams' pints on Thursdays.

Plan on spending St. Patty's Day at the Abbey Pub and you're really going to feel the Luck o' the Irish.

by Juan Diaz
Staff Writer

So you've been to the Abbey for music, but have you eaten there? To not eat at the Abbey is to miss out on a great dining experience. The Abbey has a shepherd's pie so good that it took me back to my boyhood days in Ireland. Pretty amazing when you consider that I've never stepped foot in Ireland and I'm as far from being Irish as I can get.

Now, I'm putting out my words of caution right at the beginning. The Abbey Pub is—brace yourself—a pub. The Abbey is the place you and your friends go to lick your wounds after the soccer riot you probably started.

There are some characters hanging out at the Abbey. I was watching a soccer match when "God save the Queen" came over the television speaker. The only thing louder than the British Anthem was the thick stream of Irish-accented cursing coming from the direction of the bar.

Another example of bar-themed hijinx concerned the golfing simulator in the corner. The last time I grabbed somebody by the hips and humped their butt in order to make them miss a shot was—well, never. But I can appreciate a humorous humping.

The Abbey is currently going through a decor flux. The first time there, I was seated at a comfortable booth of beautiful wood. I was shocked to find all the booths gone save half of one when I returned.

I found light brown tables and chairs in their place. I was filled with fears of gentrification till I sat down at a wobbly table.

I moved and found my new table just as wobbly. Not exactly comfortable, but still in the same spirit as the Irish pub atmosphere.

Cold beer, tasty food, and randy, foul-mouthed perverts. What more could you ask for?



ABBEY PUB'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY FEST

Thursday, March 11th:

Sinclair & The Rovers
(direct from Norway)

Saturday, March 13th:

St. Patrick's Day Parade Bash
8AM - 9PM

Irish food, music & fun,
including Irish breakfast.

Trolley to the parade, Irish
dancers, performers Tim

O'Shea, Galvin Whelan, Larry
Nugent, Maurice Lennon,

Sinclair & The Rovers, The
McCabes, and Irish bagpipers.

Sunday March 14th: Irish
breakfast & bus to

South Side Parade at 9AM,
Irish music 4PM to 12AM

Wednesday, March 17th:

St. Patrick's Day Party 3PM
- 1AM

Tim O'Shea & Gavin Whelan,
Mulligan Stew, Irish dancers &

bag pipers, and Fonnimhor

(Call or check online for more details.)



Above:
A patron
enjoys a
cold one.
Right:
Helena
tends the
bar with
a warm
smile and
plenty of
booze.



photos by Atoor Lawando

O.A.R. equals a rockin' revolution

by Duncan Macnab
Production Editor

O.A.R. (a.k.a. Of A Revolution) performed at the House of Blues on February 24th. What is it about a revolution that gets people movin'? If you add the camaraderie of "roots rock" fans, "island vibe" fans and damn good music, you'll find yourself in no pain.

The Revolution started with the melancholy lyrics and melody of Matt Nathanson. This tortured soul performs the rhythmically stringed instrument similar in style to that of Ani DiFranco. With his accompaniment from the cello, Matt Fish added an even deeper melody of painlessness.

With that typical singer/songwriter way, Nathanson added his clever commentary about penises, vaginas, and a wristband symbolizing one "not-so-happy" break-ups. The curtains closed and a cheer of "O - A - R" resonated through the relatively small venue.

Then, with a wind of energy, the curtains opened for the

headlining O.A.R. The crowd jumped in absolute joy. It seemed as if the music bounced off our chests like a rush of air from a barrel of a gun. Our souls were lost "About an Hour Ago" with the first verse.

We were in a "high speed chase" with energy. Being "Fat Tuesday," we were transported to the crowded streets of a Caribbean version of Bourbon Street.

Bodies and arms were flailing around in sequence to the pulse of drums from Chris Colus. Jerry DePizzo's bluesy harmonics of his sax placed us all in a dream-state reality.

Unwittingly, I felt my body start to undulate with the multitude of sounds vibrating through my soul. Vocally, Mark Roberge has a whisky-soaked sound with a peppering of cigarette-burned throat.

Well, what do you expect, he has a soulfulness to him, he just belts out his vocal cords. I'm sure a nice glass of warm lemon-ginger juice with some honey feels great after a show.

One thing about bands like O.A.R., they like to add a

cover to the repertoire. This band usually covers U2's "Sunday Bloody Sunday," but on this special night they chose "With or Without You," with guest singer Matt Nathanson returning to add to the harmonious evening.

Richard On filled the pallet of tunes with the style and stance of the "The Edge." Roberge later remarked his feeling that the Chicago House of Blues is a second home to them. Well, your welcome O.A.R., Chicago says the same, you're like family. Go Chi-Town, OSU, and Rockville!

"That Was a Crazy Game of Poker" is a cult favorite of fans, much like "Satellite" from Dave. Bodies were moving, "Mardi Gras" beads were flying, and bras were thrown. I'm not sure about the latter, but I was too involved in the frenzy of sounds running through my mind.

The flashing of the strobes placed me in trance of memories long lost. This song is from a story that inspired their name. Their set ended up-tempo and

the **abbey**

3420 W. Grace St.
Chicago, IL 60618
(773)-478-4408
www.abbeypub.com

20% OFF ANY MEAL WHEN YOU BRING IN YOUR NEIU STUDENT ID!

Thurs. 3/18: The Clarks, The Nadas
Fri. 3/19: Starlight Mints, Dressy Bessy, Centaur, Palomar
Sat. 3/20: Pro Choice Benefit with Loraxx, The Georges, Hedonists Maybe
(Proceeds benefit March For Choice)
Wed. 3/24: Robert Cornelius 7
Thurs. 3/25: The Oranges Band, Palomar, more dogs, Great Influence Machine
Fri. 3/26: The Proclaimers
Sat. 3/27: Skeleton Key, Mazarin, Light FM
Sun. 3/28: Strawberry Fields- featuring members of the hit Broadway show, Beatlemania- Performing in full costume
Thurs. 4/1: Drive, By Truckers
Fri. 4/2: Blonde Redhead, Secret Machines- AN 18 AND OVER EVENT
Sat. 4/3: Blonde Redhead, Secret Machines
Wed. 4/7: 16 Horsepower
Fri. 4/9: Maia Entertainment presents
The Chicago "Really" Short Film Fest
Fri. 4/16: Mason Jennings
Tue. 4-20: Sebadoh
Fri. 4/23: Savath and Savalas featuring Prefuse 73
with special guest, Juana Molina
Sat. 4/24: Silver Wrapper Entertainment Presents...
Robert Walters 20th Congress- Future Rock
Fri. 4/30: International Pop Overthrow featuring Off Broadway, EIEIO
Enuff Z'nuff, Dolly Varden, Supermint, The Bradburys, Stingray Green
Wed. 5-12: Ex-Girl

with the sudden blackout of the lights. The crowd started again with chanting, waiting for the encore portion of their show. This band *always* does an encore. Something was "missing."

Lights and music came back on to fill the "missing pieces." Their other cover was that of the "Marley" tune "Lively Up Yourself," which at that point... well, do I have to say what *happened* next. We were honored to hear an introducing of a brand new song. Entitled, "The Dakota," the band rocked

out on that one. Thank you.

Sadly the night ended, but with my favorite song "Hey Girl." At this point my legs allowed me to move in rhythmic harmony with this song one last time.

I could barely hear, speak, or walk, but my painless love for the music allowed me to let out one last cheer.

O.A.R. is a complete band. They are the best at makin' a show out of their music. And I hope they and their fans, both old and new, "hold on true" to the revolution.



The band performs live in black and white to the delight of fans.

\$16,000 for what?

There's nothing wrong, but is it right?

by Joe Hertel
Senior Staff Writer

Gary Gaspard should be congratulated for his amazing skill in arranging appropriation of \$16,000 of student money for a dance (and the appearance of Haiti's most popular Konpa band) that will not only lose money, but not even benefit the school or student body, as I see it, one iota, except for a good time for those who attend.

How did this extravagance get funded? Let's do some political math. Gary Gaspard is: 1) President of the Student Government Association, 2) a member of the Northeastern Programming Board, and 3) an Officer in the Caribbean Club.

Where did the \$16,000 come from? Half from the 1) Northeastern Programming Board and the other half requested from Student Activities by the 2) Caribbean Club, with half of the total being approved by the 3) SGA. The math: $3 \times 3 = \$16,000$. Kudos to Gary for a job well done!

Gary does have his opposition, and rumors and allegations, some a bit outrageous, are circulating around campus as to why this party is taking place. And some of the rumors are

very interesting and worth checking out. So, last week, I walked into Mr. Gaspard's SGA office (which is almost right next to the *Independent*), sat down with him as he graciously agreed to answer a few questions about the dance.

I forewarned him that I would be asking questions based on rumors and allegations I had heard. "No problem," stated Gary, as a CD of Tabou played in the background.

Two questions I asked Gary: Why are we paying a \$5,000 "base charge," and \$4,000 for airfare for Tabou? Look at the band's schedule: May 15: Miami, Florida; May 22: Paris, France; May 29: NEIU, and May 30: Brooklyn N.Y. Exactly what part of this excursion are we paying for?

Gary responded by explaining that the band, Tabou, normally charges a \$10,000 flat fee for hire. This covers the 14 members of the entourage. In the case of NEIU, the charge was cut in half because the dance is not a fundraiser, it's a school function and, not for profit.

The airfare, Gary told me, is for the 14 members of the entourage, based on round trip from New York. Reasonable costs. We actually got somewhat of a deal.

Mr. Gaspard estimated that the total attendance at this party would be around 400 persons minimum; some of them NEIU students. If the NEIU students get in free, that leaves, let's say, 300 people paying around 25 dollars each to attend, which is a total of \$7,500.

More math: \$16,000 minus \$7,500 is a loss of \$8,500! I asked why anyone would spend this amount on an event knowing it would lose a lot of money?

Mr. Gaspard stressed that any monies made from the dance would be

returned, equally, to the Programming Board and Student Activities funds. So it is possible that the actual outlay will be around \$8,000, perhaps even less.

And Mr. Gaspard pointed out that other organizations have, over the course of a semester, spent that much for their activities. So, the size of the paying crowd will determine how much money is returned to NEIU coffers, and how much, in actuality, will have been spent.

I have been around a long time, and in my experience, organizations or individuals stage events that knowingly lose money do so for only two major reasons: promotion/publicity for an individual/organization seeking support and/or favor; or networking in order to establish contacts and support for future personal/organizational ambitions/gains.

The time to ask questions is now. So I asked Gary if any of the band entourage were relatives or family friends, as I had heard rumored. He was understandably upset, but realizing I was asking these questions on behalf of the student body, he smiled at me and emphatically denied any such liaison. "Totally false," he stated.

Things aren't going too well in Haiti right now, and financially, things ain't going too well at NEIU either. But the Caribbean Club, thanks to Gary, has succeeded in funding this dance.

There does not appear to be anything wrong in this endeavor, after all, it was all approved, even though it is being held during the summer months when most students are not on campus.

Gary made sure everything was done properly, even though the three hundred guests, perhaps more, will be paying no where near the amount needed to cover the event.

I am not against a dance/party to celebrate the bi-centennial of Haitian Independence. I am against unnecessary extravagance. Gary Gaspard has answered my questions and admits using his influence to get the funding, and I find nothing wrong with that.

There will continue to be objections to this celebration's expense. But it looks like a done deal.

So you might as well get a date, dress up, and come hear the best Konpa band in the world on May 29th, thanks to Gary Gaspard.



Gary Gaspard, President of SGA and pioneer of May's Haitian Celebration.

Ok, lets drop the Act already!

by Jessica Moen
Staff Writer

Schools everywhere are being subjected to the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) that was passed by President Bush in 2002. This means that schools will be given tests for their students to see how well they are doing in classes. If the test scores are low, than the school will lose government funding and the parents will have the option to move their kids to a "better school."

Evanston, Illinois decided that this act is full of crap (for lack of a better and perhaps not appropriate word), so they are dropping it. Let's look a little more into this. If a school is doing badly academically, then they will not only lose their students, but lose government funding. Yes, this may seem like a fair punishment. But what if schools are failing due to a LACK of the funds they need to buy educational supplies?

When a school has 2 thousand kids in it, and only enough money to buy books, what is a teacher suppose to do? It's very hard to teach students based on books alone. Students get sick of hearing lectures all day long! They want variety! They want to go on field trips. They want to watch videos, do arts and crafts, and other hands on things. If a child gets bored with his education, he is not going to try and is not going to succeed. So how can you blame this on the poor teachers who are

doing all they can with the little supplies they have.

The first thing parents think when their kid is doing badly is, "It must be the teacher. I mean, there is no way my kid is a dumbass!" Yes, no way could it be THEIR kids' fault. Being an education major and living in a family of teachers (both of my parents teach), I understand that some kids have a harder time than others. I guess the government doesn't understand that. I'm not saying some kids are hopeless, because there is hope for everyone. I am saying that if you bring a student up a grade when they are not ready, not only are they going to have a very hard time, but they also are going to have low self-esteem issues, among other things. Is this really what we want for our kids?

Basically, I'm suggesting that the problem of failing schools should not be blamed on the teachers' ability to teach. Therefore, we should not penalize schools by taking their funding away. It's not going to give the schools a "wake up call," it's just going to make matters worse. If the government thinks that pushing students farther than they are able to be taught in a given time frame is going to help them succeed, perhaps they should be the ones doing the teaching! So right on, Evanston! I hope every school will one day take a cue from them.

For more detailed information you can visit www.nochildleftbehind.gov.

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

Telemarketers for Jesus



I respect telemarketers because there's one thing they never try peddling to me: religion. I'm very tolerant and understanding with other people's beliefs. I enjoy discussing them on certain occasions. However, there are limits to my tolerance.

A couple weeks ago I got stopped five different times. It starts innocently enough with "Isn't it a beautiful day," and you say, "Why yes, it is." Meanwhile your eyeballs notice the big, worn, black book in their hands, and send an urgent message to your brain. The next sentence will always be, "Well, don't you think God..." By then my suspicion is confirmed.

The first thing that makes me mad about these scenarios is that I feel these people are only talking to me because of their religiously motivated ulterior motives. If they weren't trying to indoctrinate me, would they have even said hello to me? It's not the time that bothers me, but the pretense that I am in no way capable of deciding my own view on a topic so prominent. I could stand someone telling me about the endangered sloth population in Wisconsin because chances are it doesn't cross my mind often. The concept of God, on the other hand, has been present in every aspect of life.

So they ask me if I read the bible, and I go off on my standard response. I attempt to concisely explain my beliefs so I can show them I have put some thought into it. No, I don't read the bible. I believe in god as a general concept, symbolic for the unfathomable expanse of information that is the universe. I believe we should be honest people who care for each other. And I top it off with the, "I think you have every right to believe what you do, but I need to get back to my agnostic daydreaming."

I have never claimed that what I believe is the ultimate truth. It's just what I think and I could be wrong. If I am, I don't think I'm hurting anyone. I have undergone many changes and refinements in my complex philosophy during my lifetime. Regardless, I really don't care if people worship the Blender God as long as they treat others well and strive to be a "good" person (in whatever way they take good, that's another column).

So you would assume at this point I've made it clear to the other person that I politely disagree, and that I have my beliefs already pretty straight. I've read my religious texts, my philosophy, and I went through Pascal's decision matrix concerning the existence of god. I enjoy my pagan holidays, and mostly, I'm just happy like that.

No. Never clear enough. They persist. They start to fumble around with their purses looking for pamphlets to give me and the address to their church. All the while, they tell me that religion and science can be reconciled, obviously they didn't hear of word of what I said. They really think I'm going to take the time to go to their church? I have one that is two blocks from my house, and I run past it whenever I'm going that way.

One time, on my way to school, I told a lady on the bus that she shouldn't even bother looking for the address because she had obviously ignored all I had said. I could line my walls with all the pamphlets and addresses I've received. She wasn't happy with me, coldly told me to have a nice day, and turned around. Most people sheepishly accept it because they feel bad saying something; I've seen it many times. After me, I saw that lady accost two other people. Both told me, once she got off the bus, that they felt bothered despite the fact that they were religious people. I felt at that moment that I wasn't going to allow someone to push me around with their beliefs. Why open my mouth so they could shove it down my throat?

As I said, I enjoy discussing religion. However, I don't enjoy it on the bus, or on my way to class from complete strangers with absolutely no respect for me. They don't care what you believe as long as you are willing to change it for them.

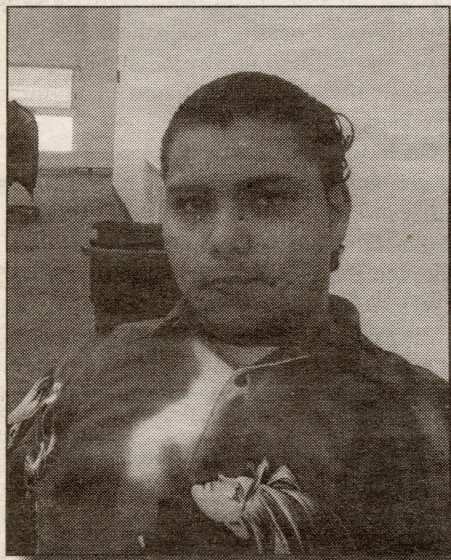
Not to say strangers are the only ones who do this kind of thing. When I was 14 my grandmother would sit by my bed and not allow me to go to sleep until I had prayed, something I found very empty and pointless. She traveled for a while and didn't come back until I was 18. This time around I let her know I was agnostic. She automatically assumed I was a devil worshipper. My wardrobe of black didn't quite help that argument. Point being, if I get it at home, I definitely don't want to get it at school.

I guess this column is for all the people that sheepishly avoid confrontation when someone's trying to sell them religious beliefs. It's for those who do it, so maybe they'll realize the disrespect they are showing others. That's my biggest complaint. People want people to respect their beliefs, but they don't respect those of others. Just because I'm agnostic doesn't mean I'm going to kill people, so stop worrying about my salvation, and go worry about homeless people or starving kids and battered wives. Just because I don't have an institution behind my beliefs doesn't mean you can discriminate me.

All I know is that I don't want one more person coming up to me, especially because my picture's next to this column. If they do, they are going to find someone ringing their doorbell at six in the morning on a Saturday with a big black book of Nietzsche.

"Excuse me sir, but did you know that according to "Thus Spake Zarathustara," God is dead? Can I come in?"

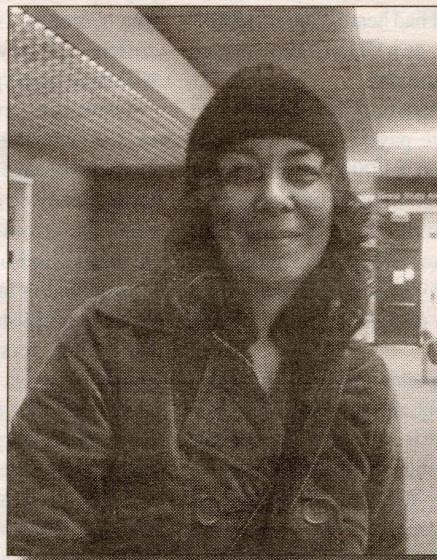
What is a reasonable punishment for students found with a small amount of marijuana on campus?



Milton Flores

**Reprimand/
Community Service**

"Its not like they would have the intent to sell."



Laura R. Smith

**Reprimand/
Community Service**

"If its the first time they are caught, then I'd reprimand. I wouldn't expell."

Ireida Tovar

Warning

"I think we all do it once in our lives. But they just got caught."



Andrzej Burszczyk

**Suspension and
Community Service**

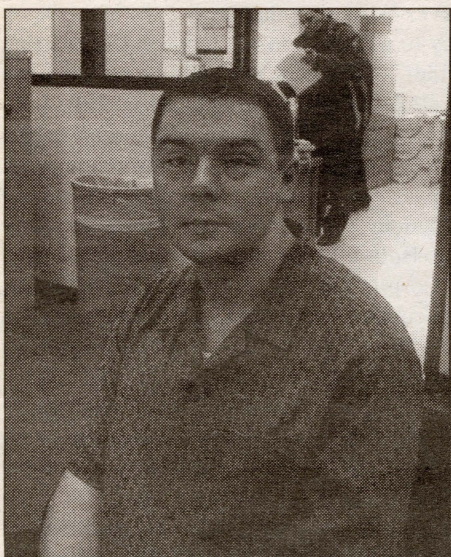
"Drugs are not good for the community, so they should give something back."



Stephanie Garcia

Warning

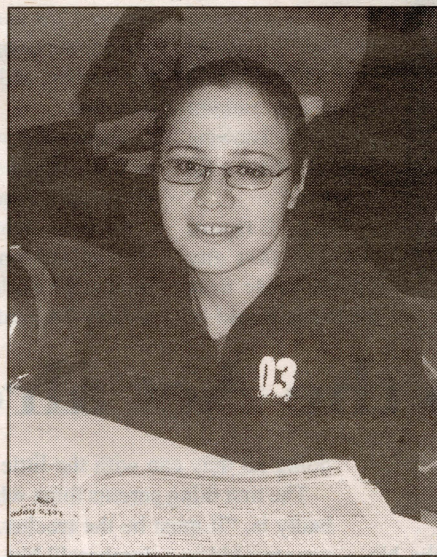
"If they're caught again, then an hour of community service."



Derek Caputa

Expulsion

"I don't believe people should be using drugs. If you're caught with it, you pay the price."



Carl Gartland

Reprimand

"I don't think that is a serious offense. That's it, I don't think its a serious offense."



Maghan Vandernat

Warning

"Its not appropriate for school, but we are adults. If it was an ongoing problem, then community service would be appropriate."



Eagles Nest

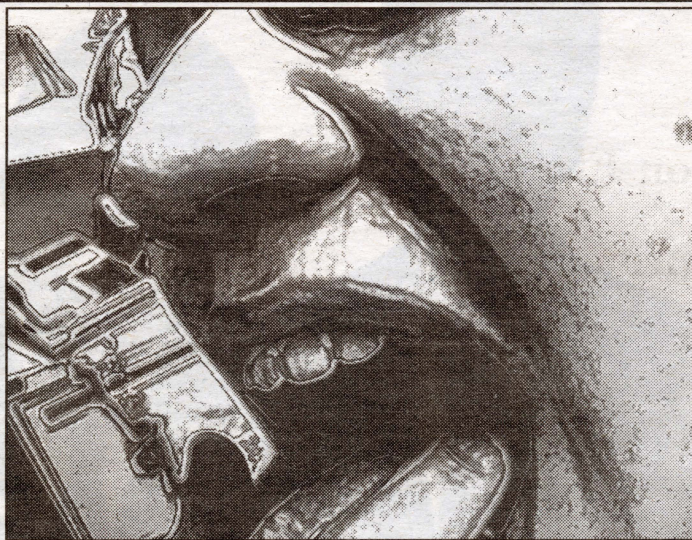
Lifestyles of the Northeastern community



Bulimia

A vicious cycle of self-hate

by Daniel Peikes
Senior Staff Writer



graphics by Cecilia Carboni

Worrying about your weight can lead to drastic measures.

Binge and Purge: it is not just a Metallica box set, but rather can be signs of a serious problem. Binging, the act of eating large amounts of food at a single sitting, followed by self induced vomiting, better know as purging, can be a sign of a serious eating disorder Bulimia Nervosa.

Bulimia is found mostly in adolescent females but has also been found in adolescent males and females past their teen years. The exact cause of Bulimia is not known, but it though to be brought on by a combination of psychological, biological, and cultural triggers. There are those that say Bulimia may be somewhat genetic. If your mother or sister, especially a twin, has Bulimia, your chances increases greatly.

The idea exists that Bulimia may be caused by a chemical imbalance. Decreased serotonin levels are found in those with Bulimia which may lead to the inability to control impulses leading to binge eating.

Major social changes can also bring on Bulimia, such as starting high school, breaking up with a boyfriend or girlfriend, or leaving home to college. People with low self esteem or volatile family life are also particularly at risk.

The major symptoms of Bulimia are eating mass amount in a short period of time such as two hours, a sense of the inability to control the amount of food you eat, a fear of weight gain, and determining your self worth based on your body shape and size. It also can have horrendous effect on the body including heart damage that can lead to cardiac arrest, irritation and bleeding of the throat due to vomiting, nausea, cramping, constipation, weak and brittle bones, problems with hair and nails, and even death do to stomach ruptures.

Treatment for Bulimia requires professional help. It usually consists of a combination of counseling and antidepressants. It usually does not require a hospital stay, but in some extreme cases where one has done serious damage to their body more intricate treatment may be required.

Precious pets for busy students



photo courtesy of www.preyerplanning.com

Think you have enough time to handle a pet?

by Jenni Lada
News & Features Editor

When you finally do get free time, how often do you end up spending it alone? Wouldn't you like to have someone there to greet you? Well sorry. You don't have that much free time, so maybe a low maintenance pet would be a good idea. Pets are a great way to have a companion who will love you unconditionally... as long as you keep feeding them.

Since many people have very little time and little space, fish can be the obvious choice. They work especially well if you have roommates too. Fish are quiet, stay in their own personal area, and can be very relaxing. The main downside is that they don't offer any real companionship and can be a bit boring, unless you decide to be sadistic and torment them by tapping the bowl every few seconds to see them scatter. Fish are easy to take care of and only require you to feed them and clean their bowl every week or so. Plus, should some tragic accident occur, memorial services are very easy to arrange (burial at sea is most common), and you can usually buy an identical replacement in order to ease the grieving process.

Hamsters, either dwarf or regular, are another viable option and tend to create a bit more excitement. These cute little balls of fluff also happily occupy a small cage and will frolic around running in wheels, stuffing their pouches with food, and gnawing on little wooden sticks. Of course all this activity will most likely occur at about 3 in the morning the day before a big midterm. But don't worry, the noise usually will stop at about 4 because by then the hamster has remembered that it *can* escape the cage and will be running around your home. Other than that they are sweet pets, and can be very docile and even sleep and cuddle in your hand. It prepares you for children, who can be angels one second and devils the other. And what's cuter than a little rodent stealing food from your fingers? The only downside is that it may believe you won't give it the food, and then plunge it's needle-like teeth into your fingertips.

On the other hand, maybe a virtual pet would be best. Something like a pet from www.neopets.com that you really don't have to feed, pay attention to, or take care of. Who in college has time for a real responsibility anyway? Virtual pets like the old tamagotchis and neopets really do make the most sense. And best of all they're free! (Well, okay, it might cost you \$5 on Ebay for an old tamagotchi, but still.) So all of your money can continue to go to pay for classes, books, and maybe occasionally lunch.

So if you want to try and have a pet while attending classes, some sort of small animal or reptile would probably be best, seeing as they don't require large amounts of attention like cats, dogs, and some larger animals. But if you don't want the responsibility, yet still want the illusion of supporting another life, then something virtual that is free and won't haunt you if it should pass on (of natural causes of course) is probably the way to go.

Birth control and weight gain

Don't blame the pills

by Shayna LaBue
Staff Writer

Have you used the excuse or complaint that the extra fifteen pounds you just packed on are due to your birth control? To finally put the matter to rest, after listening to the same topic every year, birth control does not cause excessive weight gain from 10-15 pounds.

It seems that ever since the pill first came out in the 1960's, women have used the excuse that the pill caused their extra tubbiness. Finally, a team at Family Health International in Research Triangle Park in North Carolina and the University of Leiden decided to put it to rest. They ran a series of 24 trials, using women on either pills or patches, and carefully recorded their every weight change. The control group, who were not given any form of birth control at all, was found to gain just as much weight as women who were on birth control. Even the women given placebo birth control remained normal. The results showed that all women gained or lost weight naturally.

Women are biologically made to gain weight. Due to the status of being female, they naturally gain weight with age for child bearing. There is speculation that since most women tend to blame the pill/patch, it creates a placebo effect on other females that the same will happen to them. Placebo works best if you believe that the effects will happen, and then your body will accept that it will. The birth control blamers could be the main reason for their own weight gain.

The only effect birth control has on your weight at all is the estrogen in the pill/patch plays a small role in retaining water in your body for the first several months you start your birth control. To easily combat this, cut down on your sodium intake by avoiding foods such as chips, soy sauce, or bacon.

So, relax. If you just started the pill or are planning to, no need to worry about any excessive weight gain. Just to help in the transition stage, cut back on sodium in your diet, which you should not have a lot in your system to begin with. For women already on the pill/patch, it looks like they'll have to come up with a new excuse.

Primary Election Guide:

Know where they stand so you can take your stand

**Senator
John Kerry**

**Rep.
Dennis
Kucinich**

**Reverend
Al Sharpton**



**On War
& Security**

Voted for the authorization to send troops to Iraq and voted against the \$87 Billion funding for it. Opposes the USA Patriot Act and favors allowing it to expire. Has made an issue of military service as a decorated Vietnam vet and 60's peace activist.

Vocal critic on Iraq. Has a plan to get the U.S. out in 90 days, by giving control of Iraq to the U. N. Voted against the authorization to use force in Iraq, the \$87 Billion funding for it, and the USA Patriot Act. Will decrease Defense Department by 15%, and will create a Department of Peace.

Against the decision to go to war with Iraq. Expressed his beliefs that citizens' constitutional rights are being infringed upon excessively in the name of the war on terror.

**On the
Economy**

Favors repealing tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, but not rolling back the cuts altogether. Would penalize what he calls "Benidict Arnold" companies who move jobs overseas.

Would repeal NAFTA and the WTO, rescind the tax cuts for the wealthiest taxpayers, creating \$107 billion, and cut taxes on lower income taxpayers by \$87 billion, and increase taxes on big corporations.

Has been very critical of most of the Bush Administration's \$1.7 trillion in tax cuts, stating that he believes some of this money should be directed towards social programs for the poor in the United States.

**On
Education**

Favors increased funding for public schools and opposes school vouchers. On aid for college tuition, proposes a "College Opportunity Tax Credit" for tuition of up to \$4000 per year for college.

States "a high quality free education is the right of every American child." Offers free college tuition at state universities and pre-kindergarten programs, funded by rescinding tax cuts for the wealthy and decreases in the defense department.

Supports a proposed Constitutional Amendment making education a federally protected civil right. He also would have more federal control over education. He contends that as a states' rights issue, education in America is "Separate yet unequal."

**On
Health Care**

Stated a plan to make health care affordable to 96% of the population, expand the Patient's bill of rights, and expand the prescription benefit. Stated "affordable health care is a right, not a privilege, for every American."

Creation of a single payer national health insurance plan called "Enhanced Medicare for All." Utilize the buying power of the government to force down drug prices.

States that the US has the resources and for universal health care and the only reason there is not universal health care is a lack of political will. States the current system is "Separate and unequal"

**On
Gay Rights**

Wants to lift the ban on gays in the military and favors civil unions rather than gay marriage. Kerry would also allow gays to serve openly in the military.

"Same sex couples and opposite sex couples should be equal in the eyes of the law, including in marriage."

Applauded the Massachusetts high court decision favoring same-sex marriages.

THE NEIU CHESS CLUB

Now Meets Tuesdays & Thursdays

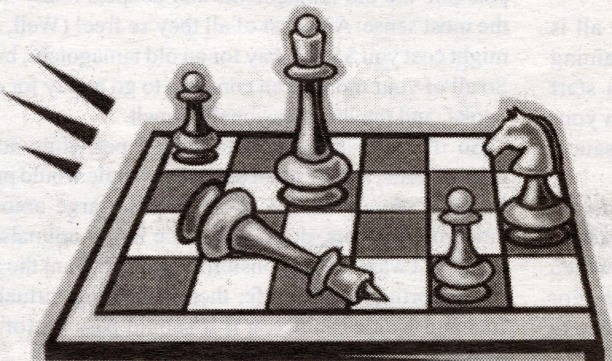
1:40 p.m. – 2:40 p.m.

Science Building, Room 129

First meeting is Tuesday, 2 Mar 04

Refreshments will be served

Tournaments and a team to be organized!



**Picture yourself
working at a
newspaper...**

Seeing your name in print...

Making money...

Building up your resume...

Making new contacts...

and so much more!

Drop by E-049 to find out how!

Positions available in business *and* editorial departments

The great Senate race

by Andrew Valkanas
Staff Writer

Though the Presidential nominees for the two major parties will be known well before the March 16th Illinois primary, there are still many races which are important. The most significant is the race for departing Senator Peter Fitzgerald's seat. This could determine control of the Senate in November, and is one of the most hotly contested seats in the nation. Seven Democrats and eight Republicans are on the ballot for their party's nomination for the race, and here is a breakdown on the candidates and their positions on the major issues.

Gery Chico, former President of the Chicago Board of Education, focuses greatly on education issues. He believes No Child Left Behind needs to be reformed. He would remove tax loopholes that allow the richest Americans and major corporations to avoid paying any tax. He also supports easing certain restrictions on immigration and making it easier for certain illegal immigrants to gain legal status.

Blair Hull is running a campaign based on his refusal to accept special interest donations or any donations larger than \$100. He is strongly opposed to current prescription drug pricing, which can be two or three times higher than in Canada for the exact same medication. He believes in protecting Social Security and not privatizing the program.

State Comptroller Dan Hynes, the Democrat with the highest elected position running for the Senate seat, would start with bringing the federal budget back into balance by curtailing tax breaks for the wealthy. He would work to repeal Bush administration environmental policies, oppose school voucher programs, and support workers' rights.

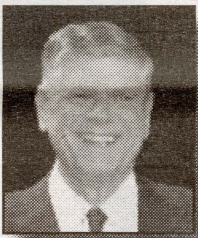
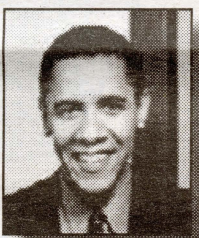
State Senator Barack Obama is a champion of civil rights, and intends to continue if elected to the senate. He vehemently opposes the USA PATRIOT act, and would work to end racial profiling and support affirmative action programs. He supports rural communities and agriculture, alternative energy research, and increasing the minimum wage nationally by over 20%.

Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas has a strong foreign affairs background. Prior to her career in political office, she worked in several European nations and in Israel. She would improve domestic security programs and work towards improving relations with our allies. She also supports universal healthcare by private companies and increased support for pre-kindergarten to college education programs.

Nancy Skinner, a talk radio host, has media savvy and nearly no budget. She opposes the Bush tax cuts and the excessive deficits, as well as free trade agreements without worker protections. She proposes a voluntary government-run health care program, and is a supporter of LGBT rights.

Joyce Washington is a former CEO of a health care corporation, and proposes allowing all Americans access to the same health care program that federal employees can buy into. She also supports prison reform, tougher hate laws, the anti-land mine treaty, and opposes tort reform, which limits the amount one could win in certain lawsuits.

Retired Major General John Borling is unique amongst the Republican candidates in his pro-abortion stance. This "idealist without illusions" opposes pork barrel spending and believes in reforming schools at the neighborhood level. In addition, he also proposes universal military service for all men 18 to 26 and backs the war in Iraq.



Norm Hill has a very moralistic agenda. He opposes same-sex marriage, condom distribution to minors, and supports abstinence-only sex education. He has an exceptionally rough policy on crime, with a "two strikes and you're out" proposal for sexual criminals and stronger sentences for drug and sexual offences. He is against any form of gun control.

Dr. Chirinjeev Kathuria, a Sikh, a medical doctor, and a founder of MirCorp, supports tort reform and private health care programs. He would slash the Bush tax cuts permanent, and would slash the federal budget. He supports concealed firearms, increases in homeland security spending, school vouchers, investigations into political corruption, and opposes attempts to tax Internet transactions.

Andy McKenna has job creation as his top priority. He proposes that Job Impact Statements be created for every piece of legislation. He also would overhaul the current tax code, revising it to reduce the federal tax burden. He supports local control of education, and would propose a tax credit for primary and secondary education expenses.

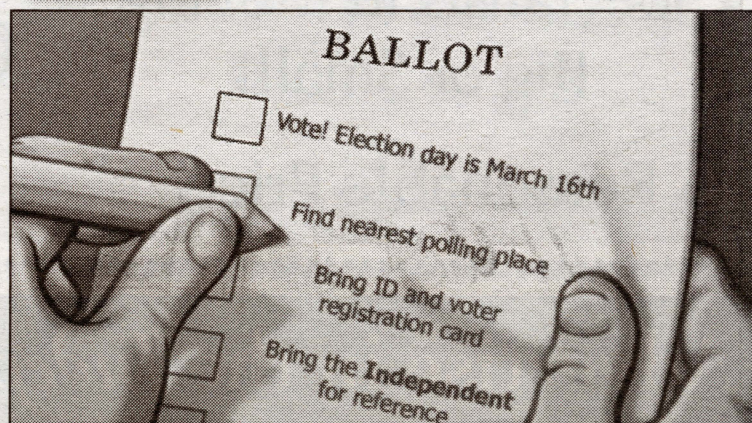
Jim Oberweis has strong views on education. He supports voluntary prayer in schools, voucher programs for failing schools, and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. He also stands firmly against same-sex marriage and abortion, illegal immigration, and supports increasing military spending, elimination of the estate tax, and purchasing cheaper prescription medication from Canada.

State Senator Steven Rauschenburger is the only Republican running that has been elected to public office. He would overhaul No Child Left Behind to focus on the individual rather than the school. He proposes increased Internet sales taxes. He supports concealed carry, and opposes any GLBT legislation, including civil rights and same-sex marriages.

Jack Ryan, a former investment banker and teacher, fully supports Bush's foreign policy. He states he would endorse all Bush proposals against terrorism. He pledges to cut taxes and the federal budget, and supports efforts towards a two-state solution in Israel. He is opposed to any formal recognition of same-sex couples and gun control.

Jonathan Wright is anti-abortion, without exception. He also believes that the role of the UN and NATO in American military action should be limited. He supports expanded use of the death penalty, drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and school voucher programs. He opposes gun control, free trade, and an overreaching government.

2004 Election Day, March 16th





Andrea Zelinski
neiu_stanslife@yahoo.com

Stan's Life

A life of his own



STAN WOJCIECHOWSKI

Last Episode

Life has changed for Stan since he's met Janika. He's livelier now, more enthusiastic, and the brutal mask he's had about him has turned to warmth. Janika is just what he needed, and as far as Stan's concerned, she all he needs.

"So, when am I going to meet your daughter," she asked him again as a waitress dropped two piping hot plates of pasta before them.

"Oh, not again."

She watched him as he fumbled through his pasta for a moment and looked up. "Oh come on!" He smiled.

She smirked. "Are you afraid?"

"Of what?" He replied, struggling to keep all the spaghetti on the fork. It slipped off his utensil and back to the plate.

She smiled again. "I don't know. Of me liking your daughter or finding out some deep, dark secret from your ex?"

"No. That's not it."

"Then what is it?" she persisted.

Stan dropped his fork to the plate in frustration and whipped his mouth with the papery white napkin. He sighed, "Tell me the truth, are you ready for this? I don't want to overwhelm or scare you off. I... I just don't want to move too fast."

"Don't worry about it, sugar. I'm

ready."

Crystal answered the door with nothing but a towel wrapped around her chest. "Oh! Shit... hi? How are you? Uh, I just uh jumped out of the shower. Please, come in. I'm on my way to work soon, and I had to wash my hair. Stan!" she whispered, "why the hell didn't you tell me you were bringing someone over?"

"Oh no, don't worry," Janika said to Crystal as she led them through the living room. "I don't mind a bit. I hope its not too much of an inconvenience for you."

"No, no its okay. Excuse me for a minute though," she replied. "Alexis! Your father's here!"

"Huh!" yelled a tiny voice from the next room. "Daddy, Daddy," she yelled as she ran to the living room. Stan knelt down and scooped her into his arms, lifting her up, up, up until she pleaded to be let go out of laughter. As he let her down, he pointed to the woman sitting on the couch. "Alexis, this is Janika. She's my new best friend."

"I thought I was your best friend, Daddy?"

"Oh, you are pumpkin! But she's my next best friend."

"Okay!"

"How about you go introduce yourself?"

Stan insisted as he patted her on the back and sent her towards Janika. He looked up at her, "You want something to drink?"

"Sure. A Coke's fine."

Stan turned towards the kitchen, still in ear-shot of the two strangers.

"Hi," Alexis said as she inquisitively approached the woman. "My name's Alex. What's yours?" she asked as she extended her arm towards her.

"Janika. Nice to meet you," she said shaking the little extended hand.

"You're very pretty," the little girl smiled, "but why did God paint you?"

Janika laughed uncomfortably for a second as she scratched her head trying to find an answer.

"ALEX!" Stan yelled from the kitchen. "What did you just say!"

"No, no, I've got it," Janika replied. She turned toward the little girl with brown curls and bright blue eyes. "God made me this way because he loves me. He loves people who are even painted green, blue, and purple. He loves everyone, and, you wanna know something?" she said as she pulled her closer like she was telling a secret, "beautiful people come in lots of colors."



cartoons by Michelle Zelinski

(773) 315-2352

TRIHO

Moving Co.

- Specialists in Moving Big or Small!
- Reasonable Price

Call for FREE Estimate!

- 24 Hours •

Advertise in the *Independent* 773-442-4585

summer camp
LIFE GUARDS WANTED



GET A GREAT SUMMER JOB:

JCC of Chicago is now hiring lifeguards for its eight day camp sites located throughout Chicagoland. Must be WSI or ALS certified. Competitive salary, bonus opportunities and the chance to work outdoors in a fun, camp environment.

TO APPLY VISIT WWW.GO.JCC.ORG

Camp runs from June 21 through August 13. A mandatory staff training week will be held June 14-18.

Jewish Community Centers of Chicago is a partner in serving our community and receives support from the Jewish Federation/Jewish United Fund of Metropolitan Chicago.

the side splitters

Michelle Zelinski

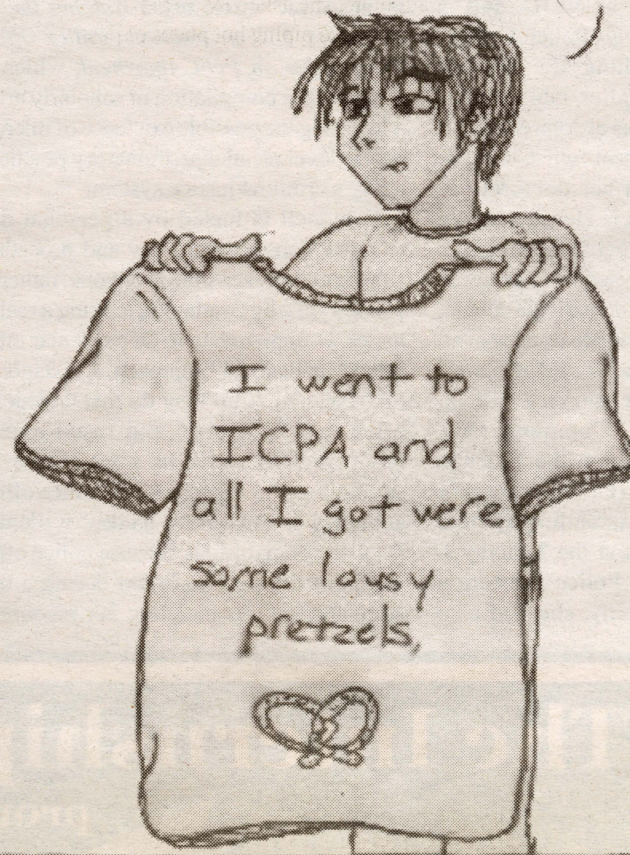
The Rainy Student Special



"Free Car Wash" coupon redeemable this spring

Jenni Lada

Am I to assume we're still a tad sensitive about how the convention went?



Cecilia Carboni

Suzy must really like me! She punched me in the arm!

Actually, she likes Tommy more.

Did someone say my name?

Kindergarten Love

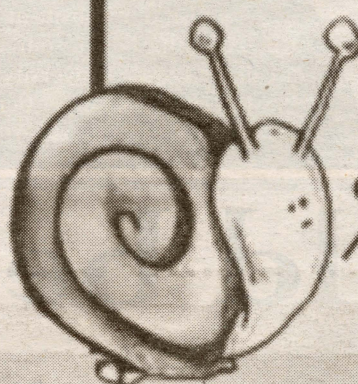


Side Splitters not cutting it for ya? You give it a shot? the Independent is always looking for creative cartoonists!

Cecilia Carboni...

Save the Enviroment!

♀
Equality NOW!



So, I guess we're both fighting for our mothers.



From streets, courts, and classrooms

Professor Jackie Campbell does justice

by Benny Boyas
Senior Staff Writer

One individual you probably do not want to encounter outside of the educational environment is NEIU Professor Jackie Campbell. You're probably up to something mischievous, perhaps illegal, if you find yourself face-to-face with her!

Jackie Campbell received her B.A. in Criminal Justice at NEIU, and is also a veteran Chicago Police Officer. In addition to teaching law through NEIU's Justice Studies department, Campbell also teaches at John Marshall Law School in downtown Chicago, where she received her doctorate in jurisprudence (J.D.). Her extensive background and current involvement in legal education is fueled by a personal passion and fascination with the subject matter. "I went into law because I wanted to teach it - not to practice it," she said.

Apart from her service as an educator, Jackie Campbell has trained extensively with the Chicago Police Department (CPD). Currently serving as the Commanding Officer of Defensive Tactics at the Timothy J. O'Connor Chicago Police Education and Training Academy, she had also

garnered certifications in the areas of police survival tactics, fitness, and personal training from various agencies. Her experiences with educating, practicing law, and community policing have assisted in her role as an advisor to the department's use of deadly force policies, as well as in writing some of CPD's curriculum.

The insight gained from her duties as a minority, female officer in some of Chicago's toughest neighborhoods led to her authoring an academic article titled *Walking the Beat Alone: An African American Police Officer's Perspective on Petit Apartheid*, which was featured in a compilation of scholarly articles addressing the possible existence of micro and macro level racial discriminatory practices in today's criminal justice system.

Campbell is fueled by a personal desire to make constitutional law and procedure a subject comprehensible to anyone, rather than just lawyers, by continuing to bring a realistic, hands-on approach to it. Of particular interest is her "candedodat" approach. A juxtaposition of the words "Can they do that?" which are often rapidly spoken and fused together, this paradigm serves as a set of questions scrutinizing the legal scope of police officers' actions. For example, a student walked into her classroom, furious because police officers confiscated a personal item during a traffic stop, and upon completing her recount, she

angrily exclaimed "Candedodat?" Her aim is for anyone to be able to answer any questions concerning this area.

Additionally, Campbell arranges visits to the classroom by other officers, and representatives of the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) of CPD, which handles citizen allegations of police misconduct. Also contributing to the unadulterated analysis of the justice system is a classroom visit to courtroom sessions, where students can draw their own inferences on how law and justice are administered in the court system.

Because of her extensive experience, within the next year she is expected to travel along with other CPD officials to South Africa to train and indoctrinate the resident police force. She credits her success in part to the personal education and mentorship

gained at NEIU. She states, "I always knew I wanted to teach law. I talked to some good professors at [NEIU] and I asked them 'What is the best track to teach law?' and they said to get into law school." Jackie Campbell is one of those professors at NEIU trying to influence future generations with her powerful and enthusiastic teaching methodology.



photo by Benny Boyas

Professor Campbell, Criminal Justice educator

The Internship & Career Center proudly presents

a
duet of
opportunities

The Great Chicago Spring 2004 Job & Internship Fair

Thursday 18 March, 2004
1:00 - 6:00pm
Lake Shore Campus
Gentile Center
6525 N. Sheridan Road
Chicago, IL 60626

Admission Fees:
Non-Loyola Students \$10
Loyola Students Free
No Pre-Registration Necessary

The 7th Annual Communication Career & Internship Fair

Friday 19 March, 2004
Noon - 3:00pm
Water Tower Campus
Kasbeer Hall 14th Floor
25 East Pearson
Chicago, IL 60611

No Fees Apply
No Pre-Registration Necessary

For more information,
visit our website at
<http://www.luc.edu/resources/career>
or call the Loyola University Chicago
Internship & Career Center
at 773-508-2874 or 312-915-7300.

This could be your AD!

To advertise an upcoming event, see our Business Manager for more details

Golden Opportunities

2002 ICPA Winner for Best Classified Ad Section in the state

For Sale

LOOKING FOR A GREAT APARTMENT NEAR SCHOOL? We've got 3,000 to choose from in 28 of Chicago's best locations - LAKEVIEW - GOLDCOAST- LINCOLN PARK - studios from \$650/mo. Planned Property Management. Call (773) 327-5159 www.plannedproperty.com

Spring Break 2004- Travel with STS, America's #1 Student Tour Operator to Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas and Florida. Now hiring on-campus reps. Call for group discounts. Information/Reservations 1-800-648-4849 or www.ststravel.com.

SPRING BREAK Cancun, Acapulco, Jamaica, South Padre Island, & FLORIDA! Free food, parties, and drinks! Our students seen on CBS' 48 hours! Best Hotels and Lowest prices! www.breakerstravel.com (800) 985-6789

Wardrobe Closet - \$75. Admiral washing machine (20 lb / 2 speed) - \$100. Hot Point heavy duty gas dryer - \$75. Twin size mattress - \$75. Sofa Sleeper - 150. Please call Robert (773) 835 - 3138

Mary Kay/Avon sale buy/sell Avon/Quix Tax/Tupper ware/Dishware/Wedding Dress (petite) 1/2 off. (773) 279 - 1210.

Bryn Mawr/Pulaski 2 Bedroom apartment for rent. \$750 + utilities + deposit. Walking distance to university. No pets. Call (773) 616 - 5178.

2001 Ford Explorer Sport, SUV. Only \$230 a month upon credit approval, assume this lease for next 32 months perfect condition. Call (847) 853 - 1999.

#1 SPRING BREAK COMPANY in Acapulco is now offering

3 destinations! Go Loco in Acapulco, Party in Vallarta, or get Crazy in Cabo-all with BIANCHI-ROSSI TOURS. Book by Oct. 31-get FREE MEALS! Organize a group and travel for FREE. Call for details. (800) 875-4525 or www.bianchi-rossi.com.

One-bedroom apartment for rent: near school, near the Kimball El. Central Park near Carmen. For more information, call Piedad Montoya, (773) 539 - 5462.

32MB Fuji Compact Flush Cords \$20 each or 2-for \$30. Contact Mike at m-magee@neiu.edu

1994 Ford Probe 64 K. New trans! CD Runs great, 1800 OBO call (773) 531 - 9056.

Apartment for rent: Half mile radius to NEIU. 3 Bedroom, 1 bath, kitchen & living. 5750 N. Kimball Call Hashmi@ (773) 539-5782

Book your next vacation, cruise or hotel by calling 1-847-673-3413. Ask for Dushan or leave a message if he is not available.

Looking to invest? Condo for sale. Walk to all locale! Located near Devon/Clark & \$129,999. Call Oscar Gil @ (773) 463-7700 or (773) 457-6502 (Cell).

Garden apartment for rent, one bedroom, laundry room available, all utilities paid. Near Montrose & Central. \$575.00, call Amalf. (773) 545-6198.

Services

PartyLite consultant available for in-home presentations. Great hostess specials ! Call Laura Hadley @ (773) 339 - 6553.

Tutor for ENG 101-2, ESL, test prep (IBST, TOEFL), pre-

credit English. Contact Diane at kiwi_gigi@hotmail.com.

Learn to dance! Professional Dance instructor, Hit salsa clubs & meet lot of guys/girls. Also do Quincane-ras. Call for Info. Silvia @ (773) 419 - 8668 or e-mail yasodhara_saj@yahoo.com.

Tax Services, file your through Jackson Hewitt and recieve \$20 discount on tax preparation fee. Call (773) 716 - 6503 to make an appointment.

Wanted

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

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

"HEALTH and FITNESS" Exploding new company is looking for health minded individuals for promotion, advertising, and other marketing areas. NO TELEMARKETING!!! Reference 1099. Call: (773) 631-2616

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

Seeking "Urge Overkill" poster from Double Door Show (Feb. 14 & 15) or other. Namer your price and call Michael @ (847) 985-9081.

Graduate students to apply and qualify for Tuition Waiver to study in Jamaica, Summer II. Details: eland325@earthlink.net & binahabibi@hotmail.com

Jamaica Waiting! Summer II International Study Abroad. July 3-July 17, 3 credit hours. For details, E-mail jade_stanley@sbcglobal.net, eland325@earthlink.net, j-karr@neiu.edu

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 wwwcampusfundraser.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.

Anthropos-New Anthropology club upcoming events- Morgue tour, story teller/folksinger. Next Mtg. 03-11-04 CLS 3046, 1:

40 - 2:40. Join us. For info: c-bulicek@neiu.edu

Personals

What to say when the world is listening and I have nothing to say? Associations, baby. Jello-babies-tv-repetition-intercoarse-dominatrixes-psychological impotence-philosophy-lust for the moon- unattainable knowledge-god-emptiness-craniums-cranberries-toes-foot fetishes-stuffed animals-paint-bile-the ancient ages-black death-prostitutes on the hillside. I love you.

We struggle through the weekend so you may have your texts. Meticulously labor (a rotten refrigerator and throbbing eyes) that keeps us on edge. I see full bins and I wonder where you are. What do you demand of us, reader? How can you hold such apathy when we try so hard? I feel like I have dropped my own child down a dark well, come every other Tuesday.

I wish I was a little more patient with this job, with this life. Sometimes I wonder if I can do it all. I wonder if you will love me when you realize that I am often angry and confused about this world, and that I cannot live in it without trying to make it better. I only want us to raise kids in a world worth raising them in. And I want you to know that I don't wanna take it out on you.

It been so long since I could just sit and enjoy my time. I haven't been able to enjoy a meal, the warm weather, or your company. I want to, and I will. With your help, we can come together, cast aside our problems for a few minutes out of the day to just look into each others eyes and fall asleep in your arms. I hope we both have enough patience for that.

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 in E-049.

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.

Name: _____

NEIU I. D. Card#: _____

Run Date (s): _____

ADASTISTOREAD3

NO COMMITMENT NO HIDDEN COSTS

THAT'S WHAT GIRLFRIENDS ARE FOR.

Prepaid wireless, that's what **TalkTracker** is for.

NO Contracts
Monthly Bills
Credit Checks



- **Unlimited Nights & Weekends**
- **Includes Nationwide Long Distance**
- **500 Anytime Minutes**
- **\$50 per month is all it costs**

Plus get a **NOKIA 3586**
color phone for just \$25

TalkTracker
PREPAID WIRELESS SERVICE

 **U.S. Cellular**

1-888-BUY-USCC • GETUSC.COM

Unlimited Night and Weekends promotion is a limited time offer only available on TalkTracker TrackerPack Plans. Promotional phone offer requires activation of a new TalkTracker service. Limited time offer. Restrictions may apply. For TalkTracker coverage and restrictions, see the coverage map and brochure available in U.S. Cellular stores and authorized agents. ©2004 U.S. Cellular Corporation