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## Independent- Sep. 14, 2004

Andrea Zelinski

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Northeastern Illinois University

Tuesday, September 14th, 2004 Volume 21 Issue 3

# INDEPENDENT

Chicago

Ten-Time ICPA Award Winner

Illinois

## News

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## UPI to file for mediation, intent to strike

Union moves to rally for support after September 13<sup>th</sup> talks collapse

by Andrea Zelinski  
Chief Editor

The Union will be filing for mediation and 10-day intent to strike, after negotiations on Monday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, went sour according to Edmund Hunt, President of Northeastern's chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) local.

Halls rang with the sound of clanging pots and pans as members of the UPI union held demonstrations throughout campus to gain support for their contract negotiations with the university administration. The union held rallies on Aug. 30 and Sept. 7 in reaction to an alleged non-response from the university administration at the bargaining table, according to Hunt.

"We're making noise," said Steve Wolk, professor in the Education Department. "We're letting everyone on campus know that we're serious about workload issues and about salary issues and we don't feel that the administration is negotiating in good faith, taking us seriously and giving us respect."

Rallies began during activity hour in the B-Courtyard and proceeded to march through Building B, Science Building, Fine Arts Building, Student Union, Classroom Building, Building A, Building D, and outside near Bryn Mawr Avenue.

see Union Rally, page 3



About 160 UPI faculty, staff, and students rallied last Tuesday to protest the progress made in contract talks.

photo by Cecilia Carboni

This story, and more coverage of university contract talks, continues on pages 2 and 3

## Parking "festival" a work in progress

by Joe Hertel  
REV Editor

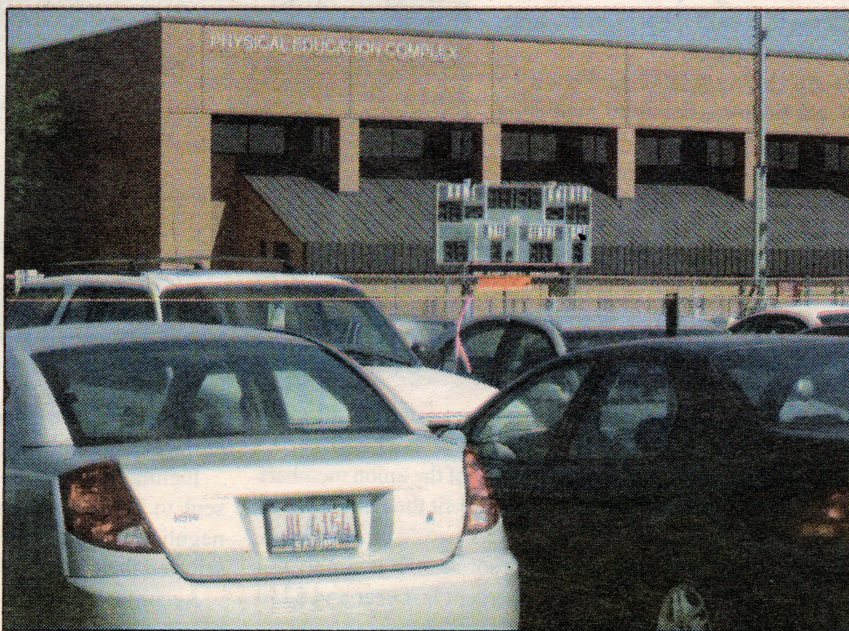
According to Joseph P. Kish, Assistant Vice President of Facilities Management, the new parking garage is "on schedule," despite allegations that it should have been partially finished by the beginning of the fall semester.

In the Apr. 13 edition, Kish explained to the *Independent* that the bid chosen called for partial occupancy of 540 spaces by the end of September as submitted by James McHugh Construction.

A review of the schedule, as presented in a Sept. 1 meeting on the new facility, shows the Phase I completion schedule in line with the original April 12, 2004 project schedule, with full occupancy available on December 26, 2004.

Although at one point during the summer construction was ahead of schedule and it appeared as though it might be available for partial occupancy sooner, delays put the occupancy date back on schedule, but not behind.

"The construction company is doing a hell of a job in getting that garage up as quickly as possible," stated Lt. Jack Baker, Acting



A recent morning at the "festival" parking site near Foster Avenue.

Chief of Public Safety. Baker praised the site manager, Carlos Del Val Cura, "for keeping on top of things."

Parking on the athletic field has inconvenienced students and it will be "a September from Hell," according to Lt. Baker, "if it

see Parking Festival, page 7

## Got advisors?

Student groups caught in the middle of labor dispute lack faculty advising

by Joe Hertel  
REV Editor

Several on-campus student organizations lost their advisors last April when at least seven of them, members of the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) union, quit in response to the denial of credit union equivalents (CUE's) by Lawrence P. Frank, Provost.

This was in violation of the then current union contract (*Independent*, April 27, 2004), which expired on August 31, 2004.

Currently, the union is working without a contract as negotiations continue into the fall semester. Advisors thus far have not returned to their sponsorship positions while awaiting the outcome of current negotiations, which include, according to Edmund Hunt, President of NEIU chapter of UPI, "faculty credit for work as the faculty sponsor of a student organization."

In the interim, since student organizations cannot operate without a sponsor, Dean of Students Michael T. Kelly and Assistant Dean of Students Anthony Jenkins,

see Advisors, page 3

photo by Cecilia Carboni



## Accessibilty Center hosts Fall Orientation

by Marilyn Barzinski-Adler  
Staff Photographer

The Accessibility Center Fall Orientation 2004 was held Thursday, Sept. 9, with 40 attendees.

The speakers were Dr. Victoria Fillippin, Provost Dr. Lawrence Frank, Dean of Students Michael Kelly and Roosevelt Gordon Jr. Effie Sturdivant also spoke about accessibility programs.

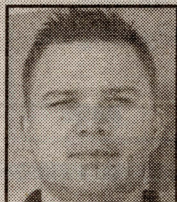
It was suggested that first-year students take various courses to whet their appetite for learning and then narrow their focus to study certain subjects in depth.

Sturdivant recommended that students get involved in school activities and get to know themselves. By doing this, it is thought that students would do better at NEIU and be more successful in completing their educational goals.

Dr. Victoria Amey-Flippin, who does an outstanding job as director of the Accessibility Center, organized the orirntation and encouraged those present to get acquainted and network. Refreshments followed the speakers and preceded a door prize drawing.



## First Things First...



Patrick O'Brien  
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## Conspiracy of rational thinking about suicides at NYU

There is a disturbing trend emerging at New York University that has mental health professionals and parents of college students worried, well, to death.

Students are jumping off buildings and killing themselves, with five of six deaths being ruled suicides, all happening in the past year, dating back to September 2003.

The latest death was that of 23-year-old grad student Joanne Leavy, who leapt to her death on Sept. 7 from the roof of the Tisch School of the Arts, in a death that school officials immediately ruled a suicide, according to the *New York Times*.

"There's an understandable desire to deduce a single cause or conclude that there is a single phenomenon at work," said John Beckman, NYU spokesman. Beckman added, "But we are not in a position to say that. Each of these deaths has its own history and motivation and circumstances."

While what Beckman says is undeniably true, there must be red flags raised about what is unique about NYU, where such a horrible set of circumstances have apparently aligned to produce six such deaths in such a short span of time.

In perspective, the *Independent* was not able to find any history or accounts of even a single suicide on this campus throughout the university's 42-year history.

The *Independent* contacted the school's Public Safety Department, and there were no records of any recorded suicides in their database.

Even if NYU wants to claim there is no phenomenon at work, coincidence is not a good enough explanation.

Is architecture at fault in at least two of the deaths, though?

In *The Villager*, a charge was lodged that the design of the Bobst, the school library, was a contributing factor in two of the deaths that occurred there when students leapt inside the atrium.

While some defended the library with vague comments describing it as a "house of knowledge," it may be worth knowing that NYU President John Sexton has pledged to install glass guard panels around the library's upper railing.

Sexton wants to dismiss any possible reasons for the rash of deaths, stating on October 14, 2003, "The search for a rational cause, so instinctive in a community defined by its commitment to ideas, is a fruitless undertaking."

So the president of a prestigious university, renown for its academic brilliance and quality of thought, refuses to apply even his own sense of the rational to preventing more student deaths.

With Sexton's comments, it appears he expects some of us to take a leap of our own, into a world where death cannot be "rationally" explained and where the senseless ending of life can be addressed simply by installing a 24-hour student mental health hotline, as NYU has done.

According to Ulifeline, "95 percent of college students who commit suicide are suffering from a mental illness, usually depression."

Maybe NYU just isn't thinking hard enough about why six students have died, falling or jumping off campus buildings, and then having the university's official line being that the deaths are not related, or cannot be explained with "rational" thought.

To ask students, parents and the public to ignore what has become a tragic phenomenon in this little corner of New York is to take a leap most human beings aren't willing to take.

## Faculty prepares for potential strike at UPI meeting

by Andrea Zelinski  
Chief Editor

After months of contract negotiations, members of the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) union voted "yes" to a strike authorization vote, which permits the union to file paperwork about its intent to strike.

The vote in CLS 1001, held on Thursday, Sept. 9, was taken after UPI officers deemed the administration negotiation team had allegedly avoided bargaining over broader parts of the contract.

"We can't get them to talk about anything important," said Edmund Hunt, President of Northeastern's chapter of UPI and Special Education Professor. "We're tired of being stalled and we want substantive negotiations now."

One hundred fifty nine UPI members discussed, debated and strategized on the union's current status, as well as on the possibility of a strike.

"We've mentioned probably a dozen or more articles, but none of them have been the substantial things that really are the bread and butter that we need settled," said Hunt. "That's when we said to the other side that they should get back to us when they've got something to say about the important issues, and set aside Sept. 13 for that."

### Mediation

The next step for the union, after taking a strike vote, is requesting mediation. Mediation involves requesting a federal agent, who has no interest or bias for either party, to meet with each group until a settlement is made.

"If they negotiate, fine. We'll continue for as long as we need to to get things settled," said Hunt. "If they don't, that day we will notify them that we are asking for mediation. We will work with a mediator for as long as we can in order to get a settlement."

The role of the mediator will be to reach a settlement, knowing the interest of the two parties. He or she will demand that the groups bargain on each point, pushing the give and take of negotiations. The mediator will stay with the groups until there is a settlement or until there is an impasse, according to Hunt.

Hunt also indicated that a strike will not be necessary until mediation fails.

### On the Table

The latest offer on the table regarded extending the current contract for the year with an increase in wages. The university administration extended an offer of minima adjustment to bring instructors who are below the average salary up to a base salary and a 2 percent raise for all other faculty.

The minima increase affects 42 percent of the union members while the two percent increase would benefit the remaining 58 percent.

"That is not going to fly as a salary solution. It is simply not enough money given that we got 1 percent last year and \$250 the year before," said Hunt.

The union rejected this offer and provided an offer of a nine percent increase, 1 percent lower than they originally asked for. The administrative team returned with a similar increase to the previous, which the union again rejected.

### Alleged Unfair Labor Practices

The union currently has three counts of alleged unfair labor



photo by Andrea Zelinski

159 UPI members voted to ok strike preparations, with one vote against.

practices against the university negotiating team, including surface bargaining, intimidation and interference.

Included in the alleged unfair labor practices was a letter sent to UPI's rank-and-file members by the admistration's negotiating team, informing the members that UPI leadership rejected their latest offer.

According to Hunt, sending the letter "was an unfair labor practice because they were interfering with the way we were running the union."

The union may also file a third complaint for surface bargaining, which includes "coming in and appearing to negotiate and in fact coming in and talking about relatively trivial things," said Hunt.

According to Hunt, the union will file if "they don't talk seriously about these issues."



# “Market rate” salaries make negotiations interesting

IBHE data shows NEIU nearly tops in state dollars spent on administrators’ salaries; school near the bottom in professors’ wages

by Tom Robb  
News Editor  
Patrick O’Brien  
Production Editor

As the University Professional of Illinois (UPI) and others continue contract talks with NEIU, The *Independent* conducted an analysis of salaries for faculty and administrators.

According to Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) data, since 2000 Northeastern has paid its faculty less on average from its total funds spent on employee wages than any other Illinois public university except Chicago State.

“If you look at instructors, we’re in bad shape,” said Lawrence Frank, Provost. “We really do pay below the norm here [for instructors at the bottom of the pay scale],” he added.

NEIU is also paying less of its overall budget for salaries to professors, while paying more to administrative salaries and compensation. Since 2000, administrative pay has risen from 19.47 percent to 21.35 percent of wages paid by NEIU, while faculty pay has dropped to 49.33 percent, less than the 2000 figure of 49.9 percent according to IBHE data.

The *Independent* found disparities in raises between administration officials and faculty and service employees over a four-year period. According to Frank, “There’s a real confusion here as to whether we’re talking positions or people. What they got was market rate for those positions.”

Frank was referring to the jumps in salaries for several administrative positions from fiscal 2001 to fiscal 2002, when the Dean of the College of Education received a raise of \$22,000 over what the position had previously paid, while the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences received nearly \$40,000 more than the position was paid the previous year.

*Independent* reporters were able to obtain copies of the state budget from Ronald Williams Library to confirm information UPI released, all part of UPI’s public relations campaign to gain support during what have become tense negotiations.

Increases of top administrative wages were surveyed in the NEIU budget, and including replacement personnel, some positions compensation rose as much as 95 percent over a four-year period, as was the case with the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, a position that paid \$57,368 in 2001; the position earned \$111,204 in fiscal year 2004.

Administration officials asserted that salaries were given based on “market value” for the individuals in those positions. Several

Administrative Position	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	4-year increase
President	162,228	193,008	210,000	210,000	29.50%
Provost	108,912	122,088	135,000	136,200	25.10%
Executive Assistant to President	82,368	87,720	94,116	99,216	20.50%
Dean College of Arts & Sciences	57,168	96,360	110,004	111,204	94.50%
Dean Business & Management	86,364	89,880	120,000	121,200	28.70%
Dean Library	83,904	91,872	96,468	108,276	29.00%
Dean College of Education	83,196	105,000	105,000	106,200	27.70%
VP Facilities Management	92,316	96,468	101,292	102,492	11.00%

The figures for this salary comparison were made available by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

positions received 20-30 percent increases over four years, a larger rate of increase than most faculty during that period.

The *Independent* also obtained a recent contract offer made to Public Safety officers who are also negotiating their contract through the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP). The latest offer obtained featured a \$500 rise in pay for the bottom and top officers and nothing for three years in steps beyond that, with two officers receiving increases under that proposal.

The proposal the *Independent* obtained, with FOP initials displayed on the document, shows 2005-06 and 2006-07 have pay increases for one public safety officer each year.

Public safety dispatchers make \$19,000 per year. One dispatch officer said, “I’d quit this job if it wasn’t for the overtime.”

Gary Hamburg, Director of Human Resources, was asked to verify these figures and provide comment. Hamburg stated that he does not comment on ongoing union negotiations and would be unavailable for comment on other issues.

According to the American Association of University Professionals (AAUP), Unit B Faculty, also known as instructors, earn wages that place them at the bottom end of Illinois public universities at an average of \$28,800 a year.

Frank provided these figures to the *Independent* and stated he believed the figures to be correct. Frank expressed a desire to address the issue of underpaid instructors, adjunct professors

and visiting lecturers in upcoming negotiations with UPI.

Frank said the IBHE ordered public universities like Northeastern to spend less on administrative salaries, and more on instruction and the salaries of professors.

When Northeastern is compared with its peers, the four-year public universities in Illinois, NEIU ranks near the top since the 2000 fiscal year in spending on administrative department, which includes the salaries of top officials such as Provost Frank himself. The figures cited for this report were supplied by IBHE, with fiscal 2003 being the most recent data available.

Northeastern's Percentage of Income Fund Spent on Employee Wages, 2000-2003		
	2000	2003
Administrative Salaries	19.5%	21.4%
NEIU's state rank (out of 7)	3rd	2nd
Faculty Salaries	49.9%	49.3%
NEIU's state rank (out of 7)	7th	6th
Information acquired from Illinois Board of Higher Education		



Left and right: UPI Acting President Ed Hunt shouts to the crowd, as marchers approach the library on their tour around campus.

## Union Rally, from page 1

Attendance at the Aug. 30 rally included 122 people 30 minutes into the demonstration, with a majority of union members participating. The Sept. 7 rally had a high of 154 participants with a higher percentage of students.

“It’s funny that it’s just the first day of school and there are protests already on display,” said student Collin Konny.

Participants were asked by Hunt to bring pots, pans, and noisemakers to create a march with a South American style.

At the Sept. 7 demonstration, two stops were scheduled in front of University President Salme Steinberg’s office in Building B and Provost Lawrence Frank’s office in Building D, according to Hunt.

Members of the union banged against the doors and windows of the offices with pots, pans, ladles and noisemakers. “I wanted to make sure that [the president and the provost] knew this week that there was a demonstration,” said Hunt.

“This is probably the most activity I’ve seen from any union,” said English Professor Brian White. According to Hunt, “Northeastern hasn’t seen this in 30 years, and they haven’t seen anything yet.”

Student leaders spoke at the rally, including Student Government Association President Kendra Young and Socialist Club member Rachel Cohen.

“We’re taking a stand about what kind of university we want to have and what kind of campus we want to have, where we can fight for our rights together,” said Cohen.

“The louder and noisier and the more disruptive our demonstrations get, we’re hoping they’ll decide it’s better to negotiate with us than listen to us,” said Hunt.

Another rally is scheduled for Sept. 14 during activity hour in the B Courtyard. This rally may include Chicago media organizations.

Participants were asked by union leaders to bring “a pot and pan and bang on it,” to signify “our contract is gone and our pots are empty,” read an e-mail from Hunt.



photos by Cecilia Carboni

## Advisors, from page 1

have temporarily assumed this responsibility over several organizations, assisting with the necessary paperwork and functions.

Student Government Association President Kendra Young, sympathetic to the cause of faculty sponsors and union contract negotiations, stated, “Everybody needs a coach.” Young emphasized that organizations are “hindered without an advisor,” and that the SGA “has to take some kind of action in order to allow organizations to properly function.”

“I want to see students and organizations active and holding events on campus,” Young continued, and expressed concern that if the situation is not resolved soon it could possibly lead some organizations to “become inactive for a time.”

Dean Kelly, Edmund Hunt, and Kendra Young each expressed concern over the matter and expressed hope that the matter would soon be resolved through positive contract negotiations between UPI and NEIU administration.



# Student survey gives summary of campus discontent

by Amir Jamali  
Staff Writer

Two hundred students at random were asked to participate in a survey at the end of the last spring semester expressing their concerns about various aspects of their experience at NEIU. They were asked:

If you have been attending NEIU for at least 2 years or more (for the sake of familiarity with this school), in your honest opinion: What is the greatest problem area that needs more attention? These are the categories students could choose from:

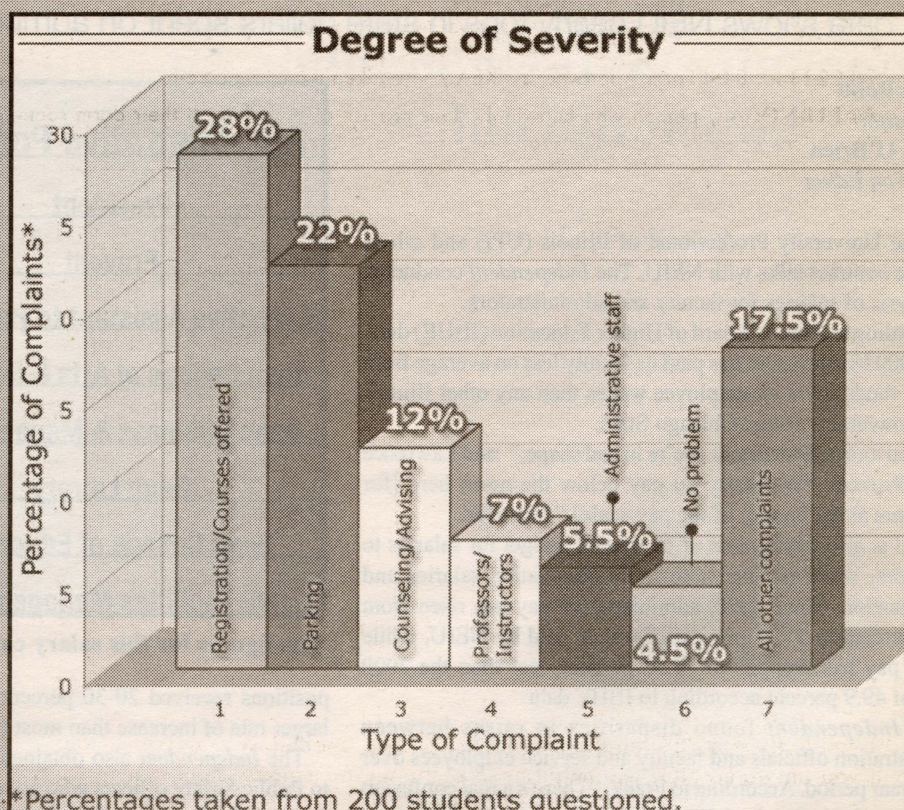
Professors/Instructors, Administrative Staff, Counseling/Advising, Registration/Courses, Student Government Association (SGA), Food Parking, Library, Computer Lab, No Problem and Other.

Dean of Students Michael Kelly Terry Bush, Executive Director of Marketing and Communications; and Dr. Janice Harring-Hendon, Executive Director of Enrollment Services, all confirmed that, to their knowledge, this university has never conducted a student satisfaction survey. However, Harring-Hendon said that she is in the process of proposing a wide-scale satisfaction survey in an upcoming administrative report.

## FINDINGS

Twenty-eight percent of the sampled students said their number one concern was registration and courses offered. For 22 percent, it was parking. Twelve percent had grievances with counseling and advising, or lack of such services. Seven percent complained about their professors or instructors, while 5.5 percent complained about various administrative staffs. All the other categories fall below these figures.

Based on the representative sample, more than 95 percent of the surveyed students had something to comment on. This survey does not necessarily reflect the entire student body, but only those who chose to respond.



Students' campus complaints cite class registration as the biggest problem.

graphic sidebar composed by Amir Jamali and Cecilia Carboni

## Political talk bugs some more than others

by Dino Pollard  
Staff Writer

Bughouse, Northeastern's interactive Web-based message board (<http://bughouse.neiu.edu>), removed political threads from the front portal page under the "Recent Topics" box.

"The decision to remove the 'Political Roundtable' Forum from the Recent Topics block on the Portal page was to allow other non-political topics to get the front stage. This in no way was intended to decrease the amount of political discussion," says Cameron Rex, Bughouse's moderator.

According to Rex, several people have contacted him over the summer saying they feel that the political discussions have overflowed on Bughouse and basically taken the spotlight, and many of these people have said the political discussions have "had a negative impact on their Bughouse experience."

There are plans to reorganize the Bughouse forums during the upgrade of Bughouse to version three (the upgrade has been placed on hold until new software is uploaded to NEIU's server).



photo courtesy of bughouse

Rather than removing the politics discussion from the Bughouse, Rex plans on spreading it out into several forums once the new software has been added, including Recent News, Issues and Candidates, among others.

Despite the removal of political threads from the front portal, Rex says he hasn't received any complaints about the decision from Bughouse users or guests.

A poll was also posted to Bughouse asking users if they believe the political topics should be placed back on the front portal. The majority of the votes showed that users did not mind the decision taken by the administrators.

## SGA holds orientation for student clubs

by Richard Snowden  
Copy Editor

Northeastern's Student Government Association (SGA) welcomed current and prospective student club members with a Student Organization Orientation session on Sept. 7 at Alumni Hall.

The meeting, which featured four SGA members speaking on various topics related to student clubs, served to inform students of the guidelines and procedures involved in operating student organizations.

Dean of Students Michael Kelly offered the opening remarks at the meeting, emphasizing the role of student organizations in campus life. "One of the things we say to our freshmen when they come through freshman orientation is to get involved on campus," Kelly said. "All of the organizations here are a critical part of the campus life of Northeastern, so we really are happy about what you do."

SGA Senator Jujhar Singh, the Finance Committee Chairperson, spoke first, offering information on finance policy and request procedures for student organizations. SGA Senator Michelle Morgan came next, speaking on club charters and related procedures.

SGA Senator Jermont Montgomery followed with a speech on room reservation procedures and financial requests. SGA President Kendra Young concluded the meeting, discussing the mission of the SGA and the workings of student government.

Young explained the purpose of the meeting, stressing the need for student club members to be better informed about practices and procedures relevant to student organizations. "Over the years I've been in student government, I've learned that most organizations aren't familiar with the process when it comes to requesting money for events, scheduling rooms to have an event, and [even] renewing their charter," said Young.

"So, we scheduled this meeting in order to raise awareness and enlighten the organizations so we can have a successful year."

## New Health Services HIV-AIDS test done while you wait

by John Bracich  
Business Manager

Students curious if they are HIV negative or positive will be pleased to know that Health Services now has two new tests, OraSure and OraQuick, to answer their questions.

In the first step, a nurse or medical practitioner takes a small sample of your blood using a tiny "finger-stick" needle. The blood then is collected by a Collection Loop stick and placed in a small plastic vial containing a developer solution.

After the blood mixes with the solution, the test device, which resembles a cross between an electric thermometer and a Q-Tip, is placed in the vial where it analyzes the blood. The analyzing takes about 20 minutes or so, after which a small meter at the head of the device indicates in a similar fashion to a home pregnancy device, whether you are positive or negative.

If the 20 minute tests show a positive reading, Health

Services will provide a second version of the OraQuick tests. The latter takes about a week to get the results.

Due to space constraints, Health Services doesn't have a lab to perform more complex testing procedures. In terms of HIV/AIDS testing, this was the case until OraSure Technologies' OraQuick device was approved by the Food & Drug Administration (FDA). In the past, a test involved waiting for lab results, but now, due to the design of the product, this does not have to be the case.

Since last March, Health Services has been offering this test, paid for from student fees. As of this writing, both versions of the test involve the use of needle, to get blood, but there is now talk of introducing a version that simply would involve getting a sample of saliva from your mouth.

"It's important for people to know their status. [It is also] a way to educate people about lifestyle," said Jessica Lettow Director of Health Services.

## Parking Update

THE CHICAGO POLICE HAVE ASKED US TO PASS ON SOME INFORMATION. DO NOT PARK IN THE TOW ZONE IN THE 3900 BLOCK OF W. BRYN MAWR. THE 3900 BLOCK OF WEST BRYN MAWR HAS CLEARLY MARKED TOW ZONES. ALSO, ABIDE BY THE SIGNS THAT ADVISE YOU NOT TO PARK WHERE BUSES WILL BE LOADING AND UNLOADING STUDENTS. THE CITY WILL BE WRITING \$50 VIOLATIONS AND BOOTING CARS FOR DISOBEYING THE SIGNS.

## Ask A Cop



We apologize for any problems this may have caused. The correct e-mail address is [www.NEIU-cops@neiu.edu](mailto:www.NEIU-cops@neiu.edu)

Next issue we will be posting your e-mails in the school paper. We will personally respond to all e-mails.

Visit the Northeastern Police on the web at <http://www.neiu.edu/~psafety/>

## Campus Crime Compiled by Matt Keifer

Items published in the *Independent's* Campus Crime Blotter are taken from the Northeastern Illinois University Public Safety Department, which is staffed by sworn Illinois State Police officers.

Unless otherwise noted, incidents involving students are usually handled by the college administration rather than the penal system.

### PROJECTOR STOLEN FROM EL CENTRO

A projector valued at \$5,000 was stolen from the El Centro building, 3119 N. Pulaski, between 10:41 a.m. and 10:51 a.m. Aug. 30, according to reports. Police have no suspects.

### CAR DAMAGED WITH CEMENT

A vehicle in Parking Lot H was reportedly "damaged by cement from [the] construction site" sometime between 12:10 a.m. and 12:21 p.m. Aug. 31. Police filed the incident as criminal damage to property.

### WRITING ON THE WALL

Graffiti was found on the handicap stall of a men's restroom in the B-Building by officers around 3 a.m. Aug. 31.

### THEFT IN SCIENCE BUILDING

A wallet was reportedly stolen from a purse that was left in the Science Building between 2:36 p.m. and 2:44 p.m. Sept. 3.



# Application to save money on furnishing your college crib

SVE02234658-04 Form Approved by IKEA / [www.ikeafinancialaid.com](http://www.ikeafinancialaid.com)

**WARNING:** Any person who knowingly does not use IKEA to furnish their dorm room is subject to high prices or really bad milk crate and cinder block furniture.

**IKEA SCHAUMBURG:** North of Woodfield Mall (847) 969-9700  
Mon-Thurs: 10am-9pm, Fri: 10am-10pm, Sat: 9am-10pm,  
Sun: 10am-8pm

PLEASE PRINT NEATLY OR TYPE. COMPARE PRICES CAREFULLY.

## APPLICANT (to be completed by furniture-less student)

Last name: \_\_\_\_\_ First name: \_\_\_\_\_ MI: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: ☐ MALE ☐ FEMALE Expected graduation date: 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009  
(circle one) 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 Dorm room: \_\_\_\_\_ sq/ft Window: ☐ YES ☐ NO  
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021

FURNITURE	Price of typical furniture	IKEA price	YOU SAVE
<b>Lounging/Entertaining</b>  1. Did you choose this school based on an advantageous male to female ratio? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO 2. Does your school rank in the "party school" top ten? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO 3. Do you like experimenting with new things? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO  If you answered YES on the previous questions, see below: If you answered NO, you might need a change of scenery, see below:	\$466.63  \$114.99  \$46.63  \$31.65  \$71.98  \$369.33	<b>1 \$199</b> KLIPPAN sofa  <b>2 \$4.99</b> MÖRKER lamp  <b>3 \$19.99</b> KIMME chair  <b>4 \$3.99</b> GRANAT cushion (each)  <b>5 \$4.99</b> MARIENTA RUTA RAG rug  <b>6 \$59</b> ROBIN drawers	
<b>Cramming</b>  1. Does studying cut into your talking-to-people time? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO 2. Do you practice a discriminating highlighting technique? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO 3. Do you heart studying? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO  If you answered YES to the questions above, see below: If you answered NO, for your parents sake, see below:	\$206.33  \$146.31  \$149.66  \$26.98	<b>1 \$29.99</b> KRISTER desk  <b>2 \$29.99</b> KILBY bookcase  <b>3 \$29.99</b> TRAKTOR stool  <b>4 \$9.99</b> PYRE storage	

## Total savings

### Enter to win an IKEA \$1000 Furniture Scholarship

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### IKEAnomics

Cool furniture costs you less money, thereby leaving you with excess cash (Cheddar, cake, c.r.e.a.m., dead presidents, etc.). More cash that you can spend on an ice cream float with friends. And some pizza. And chicken wings. And a burrito as big as your head. After that you can go lie down on some of that cool furniture that saved you all that money.

### Promissory Note

Promise to save: I promise to save money by going to the nearest IKEA store to buy my furniture. All savings under the terms of this Note, plus any other savings that may occur with IKEA merchandise not mentioned on this Note may increase my ability to do things other than sit in my dorm and stare at the (windowless) wall. IKEA furnishings may provide leftover money for a trip to the movies or the obligatory college tattoo. Failure to shop at IKEA stores may reduce frequency of these or similar extracurricular activities. I understand that I may cancel or reduce the size of the savings I receive at any time, by choosing not to go to IKEA stores.

My signature certifies that I have read, understood and agreed that IKEA stores are my best bet for saving money on college crib furnishings.

Signature of Financially Educated Student

Date (MM/DD/YY)

See store for official rules. No purchase necessary for entry. While supplies last. Some products require assembly.  
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# Digging up the past

by Amir Jamali  
Staff Writer

A student/faculty collaborative research study aims to dig deep into the long historical background of the NEIU campus.

Some 14 small (1x1.5x1 meter) test pits have been considered across the campus, four of which are currently in progress. This comprehensive three-part project includes archival and oral histories, physical excavations and documentary short films.

According to the information gathered thus far, including an old aerial photo, both Building A and the Classroom Building cover an area previously used for veteran housing from the late 1940s to 1955.

The Science Building was seemingly a part of an agricultural area. The WTTW and

P.E. buildings are stationed over an area that used to be a Chicago Parental School for truancy kids from about 1900 to 1973, also including a reflection pond. Further south was a Victory Garden for the "Save the food for the war effort."

The cooperating principal investigators include Dr. Lisa Davis (Anthropology), Jon Hagman (Anthropology), and Cyndi Moran (Communication, Media, and Theatre), as well as some 30 students, 10 of which will receive Independent Study or Field Work in Anthropology credits.

The archeology and uncovered artifacts will be compared with the history and documented for class use and any future related projects.

The *Independent* will follow up on the results.



photo by Auzena Beltran

Students and faculty combined to study the history of NEIU through archaeological digs such as this one throughout the campus.

# Tips to keep it on the road

from your Public Safety Officers

by Matt Paulish  
Special Contributor

At the beginning of the school year campuses across the country are littered with traffic crashes.

If you are involved in a traffic crash and would like to report it to the police, call Public Safety at 773-442-4100. After you call, one of two things will happen. If all vehicles involved can be driven, then you will be instructed to come to the Public Safety Office, or a Northeastern police officer will be dispatched to your crash site to take a report.

If you call the Chicago Police to report your accident, they will tell you to call Northeastern. At Northeastern, we have an average of one crash per week. That doesn't sound like a lot, but most people only come to school four to eight hours a week, and while on school property they are driving even less than that.

We have come up with some simple solutions for you to stop participating in traffic crashes.

## Stop at the STOP signs.

The Illinois Vehicle Code violation 625-5 11/1204(b), disobeying a stop sign is the most common citation written by our police officers.

## Don't park on the islands.

When you park on the islands, you create an even smaller aisle for people to drive in. Parking on the islands decreases everyone's view around the corners of the parking lot.

## Drive the posted speed limit

The speed limit for the campus is 15 mph, except when posted otherwise. The only other posted speed limit on our campus is 10 mph, which is located at the bend in the street near the Foster entrance.

Traffic crashes are often caused by driving too fast. People will leave from parking spaces when they leave; you driving faster doesn't make the spots open up faster.

We are asking everyone on campus to be cautious when driving. If you get into a crash, you'll definitely be late.



photo from google.com

Don't let this be you this fall when driving on campus.

# Speaker extolls Islam

by Camilla Steffen  
Staff Writer

Muslims, especially those born and raised in Islamic countries may love America, but they can still find it a source of temptation not usually seen where Islam is a way of life, not just a religion.

Abdullah Yusuf said this at a Thursday, Sept. 9, event, sponsored by the Muslim Student Association (MSA) and Sisters' Support Group.

For Muslims, religion is a public display of commitment to a code of conduct designed for spiritual success, and a Maure of earthly prosperity as well, said Yusuf. While the rules seem strict to non-Muslims, "It's not a question of oppression. It is doing what God wants from us. God says to do these things."

"You give good. You get good. You do bad, you get bad," Yusuf said, noting that living in a secular, Westernized society like America means being "tested to adhere to Islamic principles, while mastering the commandments" and "submitting to the will of God."

The purpose of Islam "is to minimize negative influences in our lives," Yusuf said. He continued "God allows suffering to show his mercy and grace...If everything were the same, what would there be to show?"

Yusuf conceded that conflicts can sometimes arise between Western secular laws and God's law, and the core code of conduct is found in the Five Pillars of Islam. This code starts with a declaration of faith that there is no God but Allah and that Mohamed is his prophet.

Those "Pillars" include praying five times a day, giving alms, fasting during the holy month of Ramadan, and making the Haj, or pilgrimage to Mecca, at least once if health and finances permit, Yusuf said.

Muslims are also required to abstain from pork, as are Jews. Muslim women are expected to wear the hijab head coverings designed to shield them from sexual predators, while Muslim men are supposed to stay as far away as possible from women who aren't their wives -- even refusing to shake hands with a female reporter, as Yusuf did before this interview.

Yusuf doesn't plan his speeches: "If I plan what I am going to say, I might miss an important opportunity to address the issues at hand."



photo by Cecilia Carboni

Abdullah Yusuf speaks about the tenets of Islam.

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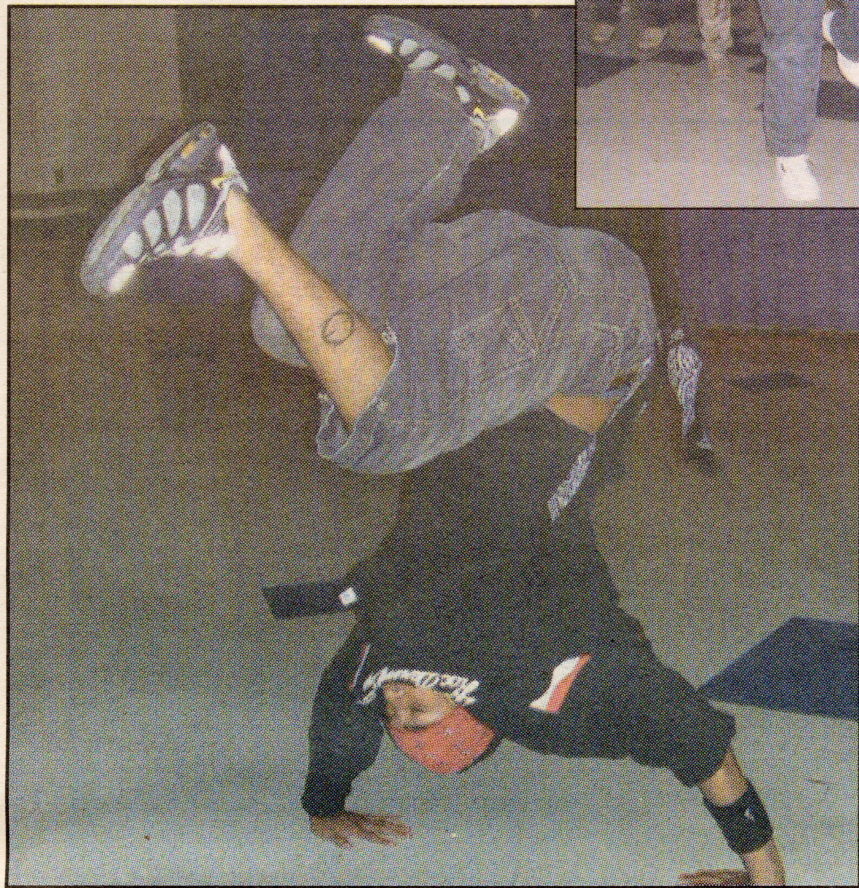
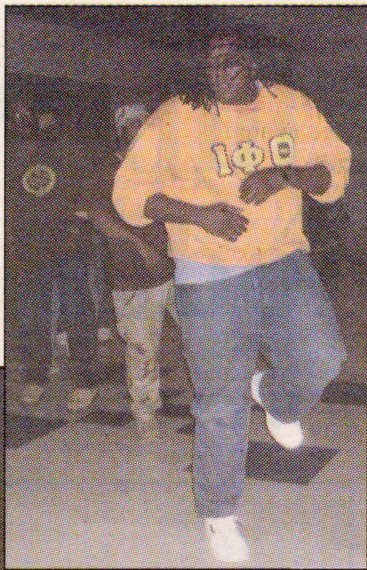


# Black Caucus hosts Back to School Party

by Andrea Zelinski  
Chief Editor

Over 200 attended the Black Caucus's "Back to School Dance" for the second consecutive year, according to Jermont Montgomery, President of Black Caucus. The dance was held Friday, Sept. 10.

Dancegoers listened to the sounds of DJ Lunatic in Alumni Hall. The dance was ended early by Public Safety officers after a fight developed. A complete report will appear in the Sept. 28 issue.



photos by Cecilia Carboni and Azucena Beltran

## Festival Parking, from page 1

rains."

University President Salme Steinberg visited the athletic field parking site last week to personally assess the situation.

A memo dated Aug. 19 from Santos Rivera, Acting Vice-President for Student Affairs, and Mark Wilcocksen, Vice President for Financial Administration, sent to all university employees, encouraged them to park in the athletic field in the "festival parking" area.

In return for turning in the level two parking permit to allow students to park closer to the school, employees will be issued a special "field festival" permit and receive an extra \$75 added one-time to their paycheck.

Employees also could leave their car at home or park in a temporary lot (40 spaces) on the northwest corner of Bryn Mawr and Pulaski; a \$75 bonus is the incentive.

No such incentive has been given to students who have been parking in the "festival" lot. According to Lt. Baker, the cost of the athletic field conversion to parking, including the rental of lights, fences, woodchips, repair and cleanup, will be "around \$40,000."

SGA President Kendra Young is sponsoring a forum to address the parking situation.

The meeting is informal where students can ask questions and voice opinions about the parking situation. The forum will be held in the Classroom Building, Sept. 16, from 1:40 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. in Lecture Hall 1001.

Young feels strongly about the parking situation. "Students pay \$8.70 per credit hour for parking," she stated. "They have a right to know how their money is being spent."

Pool Reporting by Violette Green

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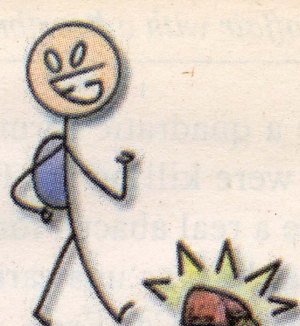
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## The Tale of Jack



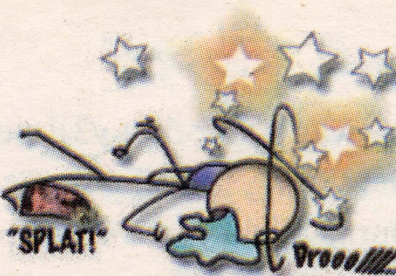
Jack is a new student.




Watch out for the rock, Jack!



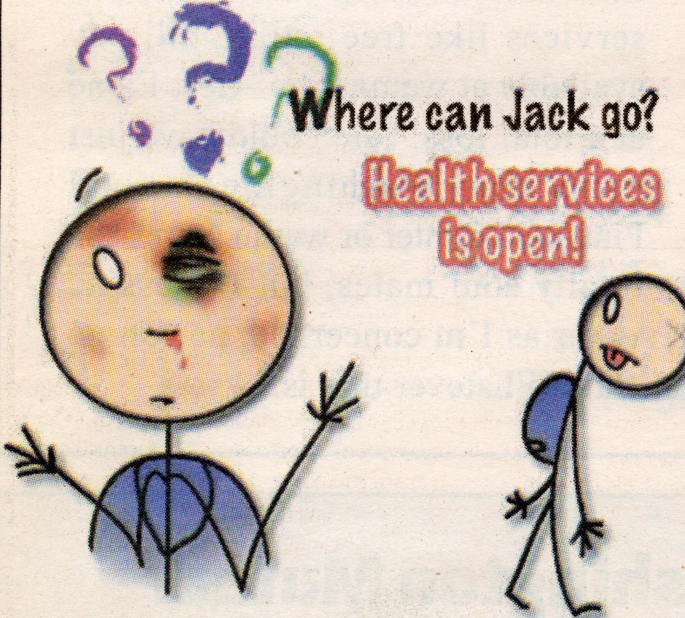
OH! NO!



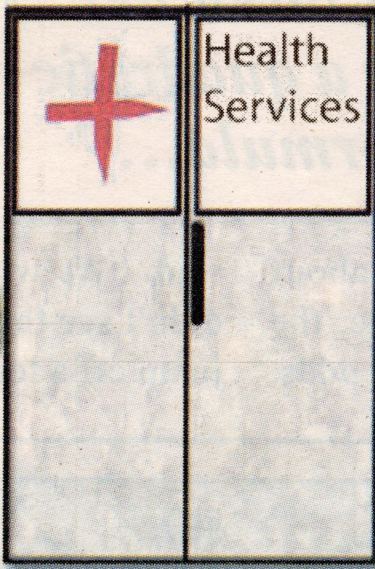
"SPLAT!"




Jack is hurt pretty badly.



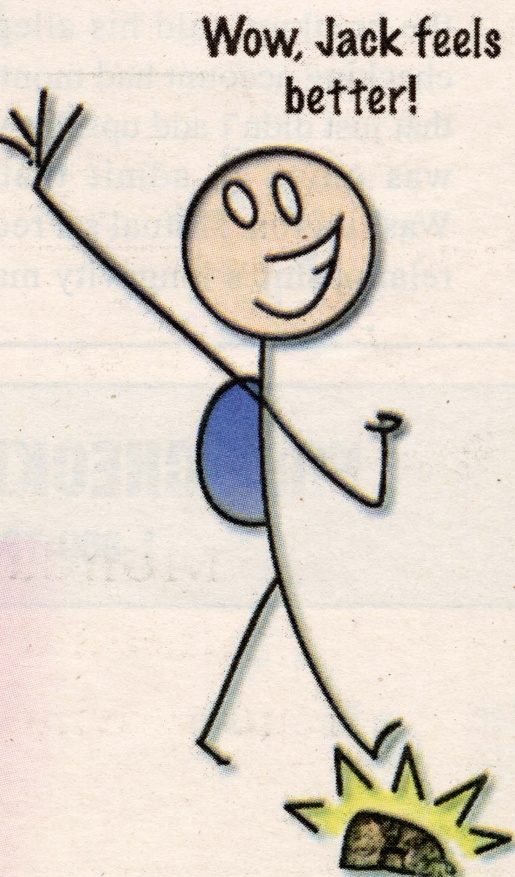
Where can Jack go?  
**Health services is open!**



Health Services



"Bye Jack..."



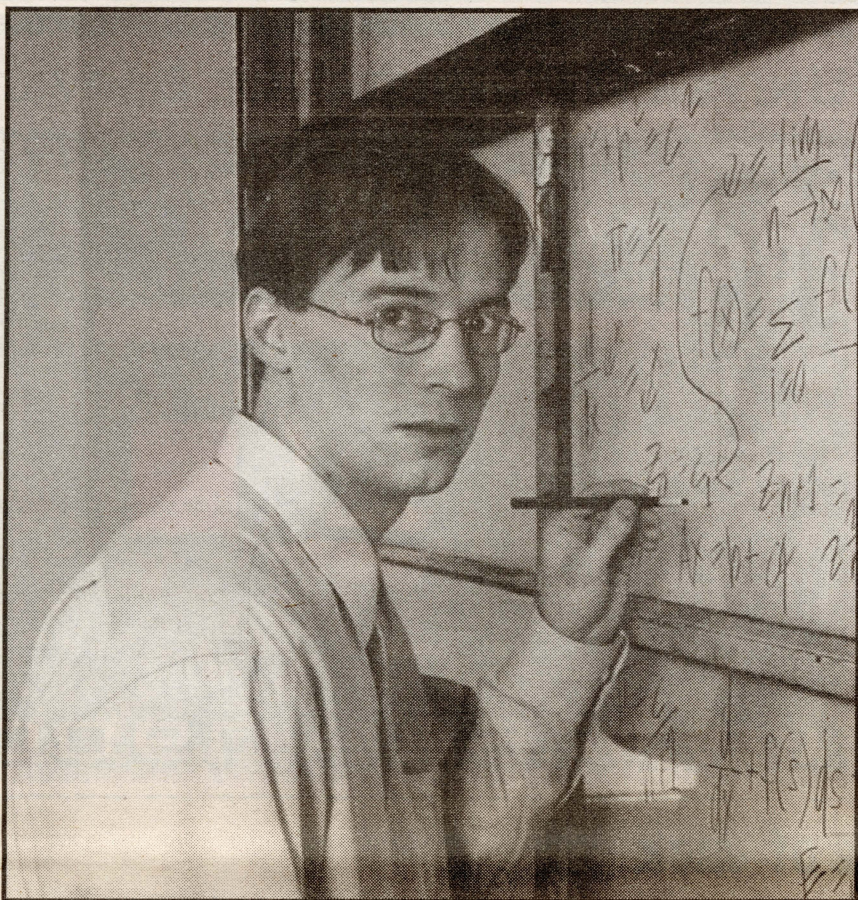
Wow, Jack feels better!

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**E-Mail: Health-Services@neiu.edu**



# College Math Club President Dumps Supermodel

*He crunched the numbers, then crushed her heart*



College sophomore Brady Burns, left, abruptly ended a six-month torrid love affair with a heartbroken Elene, right.

By JAMIE MURRY

Admitting that there was a good  $(9-\sqrt{3})^2$  percent chance that he made the wrong move, college math club president Brady Burns recently called it quits with longtime supermodel girlfriend Elene. Burns, who claimed he carefully calculated the breakup, said his alleged free checking account had monthly fees that just didn't add up. The whiz kid was quick to admit that had he known about Washington Mutual's Free Checking Deluxe, the relationship's longevity may have had better odds.

***"I loved her  
like a quadratic  
formula..."***

"I loved her like a quadratic formula, but the off-campus lunches were killing me financially," said Burns. "I felt like a real abacus for breaking things off." The fact that he was unaware of Washington

Mutual's Free Checking—an account with optional Deluxe services like free online bill pay available at [wamu.com](http://wamu.com)—left Elene at a total loss. "He could have just gone to a Washington Mutual Financial Center or [wamu.com](http://wamu.com)," she

said. "We were totally soul mates, but I guess he didn't see that. As far as I'm concerned, he can go jump off a logarithm. Whatever that is."

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# Student alleges wrongful denial to Grad program

Applicant received help from department secretary who was subsequently reassigned

by Benny Boyas  
Special Contributor

For 20 years, Steve Searle served in the Special Education department as a civil servant. When Jean Pineda, a language instructor in the Philippines, was turned down for admission to the Special Education Graduate Program, Searle intervened.

After correspondence, meetings and debates involving senior university officials, union representatives, and faculty, Searle has been transferred to another department on campus, and Pineda seeks an explanation for her denied admission.

Searle said his transfer was retaliation, while Pineda contends she was treated unfairly. Both hold university officials accountable for what they contend was illegal behavior and hope the State of Illinois' Office of the Executive Inspector General (OEIG) can help them.

## Provisional Admissions Policy

Jean Pineda came from the Philippines with the equivalent of a degree in pre-medical studies. Despite a background working with children in the classroom, having an equivalent of a 2.67 grade point average (GPA) initially made her unqualified for admission into the graduate college.

Searle contends she should have been accepted under an unofficial admissions policy where applicants with a GPA lower than 2.75 were allowed to enroll in three courses at the 300 level. After this period, applicants with a GPA of 3.0 were admitted.

From 2003-04, eight students were accepted into the Special Education Department's

graduate college under this provisional admissions program, informally executed for years, according to Searle.

Knowing this, Searle found it "bizarre" that Pineda's application was denied without explanation after she received praise during her provisional admission period.

Dr. Barry Birnbaum, professor of Pineda's SPED 501 course, submitted a recommendation for her and indicated work at an "A" level.

Pineda was baffled when her application was rejected without explanation. She enrolled in three 400-level courses, attaining a GPA of 3.0.

Pineda decided to approach Special Education professor Dr. Effie Kritikos, who had prepared her final evaluation. Kritikos initially declined to meet in person but offered to speak over the phone, or e-mail.

Soon thereafter, Pineda said Kritikos began to avoid her inquiries and allegedly left the immediate area one day when they accidentally sat at adjacent tables in the cafeteria.

## A Discretionary Denial

Pineda wrote to Kritikos and Dr. David Yasutake, Department Chair of Special Education, who responded with a letter

dated Jun. 11, 2004.

It stated that she had been denied admission because of a missed deadline; Pineda failed to provide the final grade of a course she was taking within the set dates.

This was due to the fact that the semester had not ended.

After several letters between all parties involved, Searle and Yasutake had a private conversation in their office, where Searle says

**Pineda's 2.67 GPA disqualified her for admission. Searle contends she should have been accepted under an unofficial policy.**



photo by Cecilia Carboni

**Steven Searle and Jean Pineda. Searle tried unsuccessfully to help Pineda get accepted into a graduate program in the Special Education Department.**

Yasutake told him "the real reason" Pineda was denied admission: "faculty concerns."

Specifically, Yasutake said, "a few members of the faculty" doubted her teaching ability.

## A Remedy Sought

Searle provided the Independent with department correspondence from Pineda's case, legal documents, and complaints being processed by the OEIG.

Stacks of memos, meeting transcripts, and letters pleading with department personnel to reverse their decision were distributed to University President Salme Steinberg and outside agencies, such as the Illinois Commission on Human Rights.

Pineda considered a lawsuit, though she "has faith that everything will work out just fine in due time." This whole situation is something she said she didn't expect from American higher education.

## The Aftermath

Initially, allegations of wrongdoing stemmed from Pineda's denied admission, though recently, according to Searle, the focus has shifted towards latter events involving apparent retaliatory behavior from the Special Education Department.

Searle was transferred and a subsequent evaluation

gave him one out of five points, indicating he "fails to accomplish duties in the task area or performs them so poorly that the work must be redone, and normal flow of work in the assigned unit is disrupted."

Under his union's Collective Bargaining Agreement, disciplinary action is prohibited if an employee acts as a "whistle-blower," attempting to expose wrongdoing.

Gary Hamburg, Director of Human Resources, says Searle "violated the provisions of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act [FERPA] ... [by] disclosing student education records to unauthorized third parties."

According to Searle, he asked Hamburg if anyone talked to Pineda about his actions on her behalf, and Hamburg responded, "No." According to Searle, a signed agreement had given him authority to act on Pineda's behalf.

On Aug. 16, 2004, the day he reported to the Library for an alternate position, Searle asked Hamburg for reinstatement.

## Current Status of Both Parties

Steve Searle was reassigned to University Media Services. His union's Collective Bargaining Agreements prescribe specific action when any employee has violated policies, such as written reprimand or suspension without pay—neither of which has occurred.

Jean Pineda hasn't received a response from the department regarding further inquiries made by Steve Searle on her behalf and will not be taking classes at NEIU this fall.

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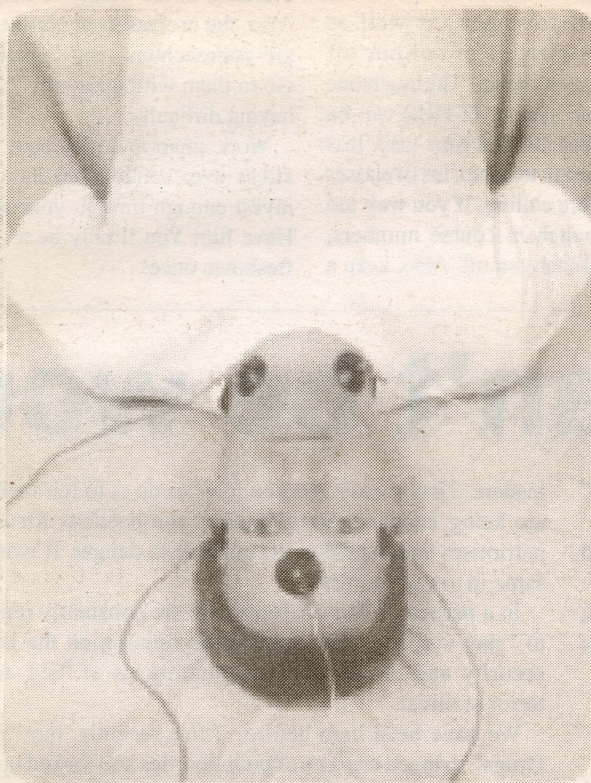
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## Editorial

# A matter of perspective

This space would normally be reserved for griping, nitpicking, and the type of complaints that we are all accustomed to hearing from one another as college students.

The common complaints: parking, lack of classes, and the possibility of a strike. They all seem to strike a chord when we voice them, but all these petty squabbles can't capture what it is to lead a hard life.

There are so many people who would love to walk a little farther to their car, just to get the education we're getting, or to wait another semester to take the class we can't get into.

One such person was Leticia Naranjo.

Funny, witty, personable, there were a lot of ways to describe her, but gone is what she is. Robbed of life at 22, she would probably love to switch places with someone who parked in the athletic field, or take a class she didn't need.

It's funny how our priorities change when our veneer of selfishness fades, and our true reasons for our actions float to the surface.

So students don't want to walk from their cars; I guess we have become so self-engrossed on this campus, and in this world, that we forget there is a brutal war being waged across the globe.

We forget that an innocent civilian or a soldier will likely die before you finish reading this sentence.

We forget what happens outside the lenses of our own worlds.

In New York City, college students are throwing themselves off buildings at the rate of one every eight weeks, but those are blips on the screen to the ambitious, the brilliant, the focused student.

Time's wasting for everyone to rush to the aid of hurricane victims, who have been ravaged by three major storms this late summer. No one is getting in line to drive to Florida to help restore power and rebuild lives, but we're all getting in line to complain about how much textbooks cost, or to criticize respective political candidates, and afterward retreating to our grades and our cars and our lives.

Some people should have such worries.

As students and friends paid tribute to Leticia Naranjo last week, as we read news accounts of homes and lives destroyed by natural disasters, and as the images of war and death flashed across our television screens, did anyone stop to think about a college student's place in the world?

Do any of us realize just how lucky we are?

## Drawing Board

by Joe Hertel



# Advice for freshmen

by Nick Gaudio

Distribution Manager

A new year brings a new batch of freshmen to school. Keeping with all of the introductions and orientations freshmen face, here are some tips for Northeastern's new arrivals.

The most important piece of advice that can be related to freshmen boils down to this: do not be late for class. You will undoubtedly miss important information regarding the class you are taking. Further, if it is the first day of class, you will lose your spot on the roster. There are always a handful of people who are waiting to take your spot.

Another obvious, yet often ignored, piece of advice is to not cut class. Cutting class does more harm than good. First, the major ramification is that you will miss a good chunk of notes and other information that will be difficult, and sometimes impossible, to obtain. Second, the professors take attendance and if you're not in your seat, it will count against you.

Freshmen should always try to get to know their surroundings early on. Northeastern has a smaller campus than most of the other colleges in the city. In addition, it is one of the easiest to navigate — once you become familiar with the campus.

Try to find a friend who has been here before to show you around. Only experienced students know where students hang out, where one can quietly study, and where every computer lab is on campus. By final time, the main computer labs fill up quickly.

Learn where smaller and lesser-known computer labs are. Further, experienced students can show you shortcuts no map will.

The most important piece of advice for freshmen, as well as upperclassmen, is to not put off registering for classes! The touchtone registration system (TTRS) can be daunting for the first time user. It is very important to have a list of classes ready before calling. If you wait too long to punch in course numbers, TTRS will cut you off. Also, keep a

list of backup classes handy. You will repeatedly find that classes are full by the time your registration date comes around. A good thing to remember is that there are other people waiting to get into classes, so when it's time, be prepared.

The last words of wisdom to be imparted are these: say no. The various clubs and organizations at NEIU are going to try and glean as many new members as possible. Get involved in only one or two activities your first semester and see what you enjoy. There is no need to do everything your first semester.

If you have trouble in a class, get help early. Most of the classes at Northeastern have tutors who are available in the library to help you. Also, the professors at Northeastern are approachable and considerate. Go to them with questions if you're having difficulty.

Work smart and play hard. Don't stress over school, but be sure to invest enough time in your studies. Have fun! You'll only be a college freshman once!

# Bush: War on Terror can't be won

by Tom Robb

News Editor

"Our War on Terror begins with al Qaeda, but it does not end there. It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped, and defeated." These were the words of President George W. Bush in an address to a joint session of Congress just after the attacks of 9/11. However, last week when Matt Laurer of the "Today" show asked Bush when this War on Terror will be won, the president replied, "I don't think we can win it."

Excuse me, come again?

Bush did clarify later that what he meant to say was that it won't be won in the traditional way wars are won; no one will sit down to a table and sign a treaty.

Still, I can't seem to get George Orwell and his book *1984* out of my head. A perpetual War on Terror keeps us afraid, on guard, and allows the government much more latitude.

Would the population have stood for "sneak and peek" warrants issued by secret FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) courts before 9/11 and the War on Terror? Would we stand for U.S. citizens like Jose Padilla being held without seeing a judge or even a lawyer for years, if we were not constantly reminded of that terrible day in September 2001? Would we have accepted it if words like "mushroom cloud" were not bandied about?

Historically, when faced with the choice of liberty or security, security usually wins. A few notable figures in history have addressed this balance between liberty and security.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt said, "The only thing we

have to fear is fear itself." There was a reason he said "fear" is to be feared.

Founding Father Ben Franklin said, "Those who would sacrifice liberty for security deserve neither."

And none other than Nazi leader Hermann Goering said, "The people can always be brought to the bidding of the



photo courtesy of google.com

leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is to tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the pacifists for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in every country."

In a perpetual War on Terror, we are constantly reminded to "stay vigilant." George Bush is running on the issue of security and is constantly reminding us of 9/11 and the terrorist threat.

We have been here before. Most recently, the "War on Drugs" stripped citizens of civil liberties and locked up many young men for too many years for non-violent offences.

The Red Scare, Hollywood blacklists, and the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II serve as historical reminders.

There usually is a bit of truth to the issue we are told to fear. However, history has shown that the threat is usually much smaller than the politicians would have you believe.

When the Mujahdeen of Afghanistan fought the Soviet Union, they were billed as "freedom fighters," helped by the United States. One of those "freedom fighters" was Osama bin Laden.

The United States won the Cold War because they won the war of ideas; the War on Terror is also a battle of ideas and cannot be won with bullets.

So Mr. President, you will understand my skepticism when I hear you say that the War on Terror cannot be won. Is it because it cannot be done, or because that is just how you like it? Remember your government's messages in the age of the War on Terror — "Stay afraid, don't ask questions, and buy stuff."



## Letter bag

Dear Editor,

I want to take this opportunity to thank all those individuals that worked so hard to make the Memorial Service on September 9th for Leticia Naranjo such a wonderful event. Special thanks to the Sisters of Sigma Lamda Gamma, Student Body President Kendra Young, Dr. Suzanne Benson, Assistant Dean Anthony Jenkins, and the Naranjo Family.

I also want to commend the Independent and its writers for their September 1st issue. The three-page dedication to Leticia was not only professional but touching and inspirational. **Great Job Andrea!**

Sincerely,  
Evelyn Nazario-Rose

## Letter bag

Dear Student Government members,

As members of the SGA we would like to make an appeal to the entire organization. Over the past few years this organization has been subject to severe criticism - and we have no one else to blame but ourselves. We are the first to admit that we have also contributed to the madness but that doesn't mean that things have to be the way they are currently. The bickering between the members of this organization is ridiculous and it has to stop.

In order for us to work as a collective unit we have to put our personal differences to the side and work together for the betterment of the overall student population. We implore this organization to please come together to resolve our differences. We do not have to have a personal relationship with each other but we do need to have a cordial atmosphere to be able to work effectively with one another.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Senator Gregory T. Clark and IBHE-SAC Rep. Evelyn Nazario-Rose

## Letter bag

Dear Editor,

On Wednesday afternoon, I went to the cafeteria to read and grab a bite to eat, and was disturbed to find that the cafeteria has been turned into a TV lounge. TV screens were blasting inane banter and music videos. Of the 30 or so people in the cafeteria, 30 of them were trying to read or study, and a few were engaged in conversation. No one was watching the TV monitors. I understand that this invasive presence is the result of some kind of financial deal between the administration of the Student Union and MTV, and that students had no say in the deal. This channel will broadcast music, news, and commercials.

One of the challenges faced by Northeastern students is finding places to study on campus. Since we are a commuter school, our students, with their challenging work schedules and family responsibilities, often need to study on campus. Any TV presence on campus should be in closed lounges only, not in a public space like the cafeteria where students do not have a choice as to whether to tune in or not. Further, broadcasting commercials to a captive audience is exploitative.

Two things: I would like the details of the financial arrangement with MTV to be made public, and I would like there to be a student referendum on this contract once the details have been revealed.

Rory Donnelly  
Linguistics Department

## Letter bag

Dear Editor,

Picture this hypothetical scenario: As the Olympic wrestlers drew lots to see who would wrestle whom, a white man was picked to wrestle a black man. The white man did not want blacks to compete in the Olympics, so he forfeited the match. His teammate commended the decision because "blacks are an inferior race." The government of this white wrestler, who had publicly discouraged all of their white Olympic athletes to compete against blacks, praised the racist wrestler for his actions. Can you imagine the worldwide uproar? Every athlete from that country would immediately be banned from the Olympics that year; everybody worldwide would condemn that government. It would be printed on the front page of every newspaper.

This was not so far off from what happened this year. When Iranian judo athlete Arash Miresmaeili was selected to spar against Israeli judo athlete Ehud Vaks, he refused to compete and disqualified himself. Prior to the Olympics, the Iranian government had told its representatives to withdraw if they were picked to wrestle an Israeli. INRA, Iran's official news agency, quoted Miresmaeili as saying that he forfeited out of sympathy for the Palestinians. His teammate, Haji Akhondzade, publicly claimed, "Israel [is] no country," meaning that Israel is actually "Palestine."

Times Sports Columnist Gary Shelton reported, "Iran President Mohammad Khatami called Miresmaeili's act 'a generous move' and proclaimed him an Olympic champion. The [Iranian] head of the judo foundation, Mohammad Derakhshan, said he would push for Miresmaeili to receive the 1-billion rial (roughly \$115,000) reward promised for medal-winners."

How many newspapers and news broadcasts reported this detestably bigoted, repugnant, and highly political Olympic action? The news networks apparently consider it so trivial, perhaps even acceptable, one would be hard-pressed to find this story anywhere in the news!

The world seems to think that there is one set of rules for Israel and the Jews, and another set of rules for everybody else. This heinous, vile double standard must be widely exposed, and permanently eradicated.

-Joey Kandelman

## Letter bag

Dear Editor,

This is a response to Mr. Hertel's article published on April 27 about Professor Hartmann. Well, I only took one of his classes, Mass Media and Society, and for me, it was enough to figure out what he's about. I grant you that most of what the writer described about him is true, and I happen to like his personality. But I do have a problem with his professionalism. Perhaps the reason he is not receiving full pay is that he does not conduct full sessions. Every session lasted only between 20 to 40 minutes. I was instructed to purchase a text for this course costing about \$100 that I never needed. He basically provided the very simple information needed for the students to memorize for the two tests. However, I did happen to take the time and read the assigned chapters (unlike most of the smarter students!), and realized that he is skipping some of the most crucial aspects of mass media and its relation to society. Things like, the dissemination of information, editorial power, propaganda, and public perception were never mentioned in his brief lectures. From his own account, I believe sometimes he was anxious to get to his daiquiri on the beach. There were rarely any student discussions, and it didn't seem to be encouraged in his class, just a superficial gesture. I was one of the few who, on my own initiative, would carry a topic of discussion, to no avail. I did not sense any of the other students having any problems with his methods. They were just as happy to be let out early, and to have very concise notes on what is going to be on the exams. But here's where I see the problem.

On an almost daily basis, I'm flabbergasted about how some graduate students or even some professors with Ph.Ds could be so stupid. After attending his class, I can see why. General courses are required so to raise the consciousness and informed level of our society. It is annoying to hear some supposedly educated people discuss things that they don't understand and not know what they're talking about. Yet, they may claim that they took a course on the subject. I don't want the responsibility of having to re-educate them on basic facts, including mass media operations. I cannot think of a more important subject that is relevant to our current conditions (even though this is not a required Gen Ed). Unfortunately, he is not the only one. Although they are relatively very few, some of the instructors here at NEIU seek to gain favor from their naive students by ripping them off from their valuable time, money, and due education. This will only hurt such students in the long run and depreciate the informed status of our future society, if such examples are to continue to be rewarded. I hope that the speech and communication department lives up to its title and hires a more competent educator to replace Professor Hartmann. I also hope that various departments would wake up and smell the coffee in view of a new day, and conduct better screening and evaluation of the staff they hire.

Amir Jamali

## VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

### Others in the cupboard



Cecilia Carboni  
neiu\_voc@hotmail.com

"Those are copper pots they're banging ladles on!" one bystander gasped with a smirk. "I wonder if their wives saw them walking out of the house with those this morning. You know how expensive copper is? They can't be getting paid that badly."

I couldn't help but laugh at the reaction. I don't think it was the one University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) was going for. But all quirky comments aside, the UPI receives a lot of attention, mostly positive, and with good cause. But

they aren't the only ones on campus struggling to make ends meet.

In the mailroom, in the cashier's office, throughout the school, we have secretaries and clerks that keep this finely tuned bureaucratic machine well oiled. They are equally important to our thriving minds but not as prominent a presence to students as those at the front of the class. Obviously, they aren't much of a presence to the administrators either.

These individuals are part of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). They have been unionized here at Northeastern for the past 20 years. Council 31, Local #1989. Impressive numbers that unfortunately have not been able to get the dues its members deserve.

For the last several years NEIU's civil servants have lived inches away from the poverty line. Offers in the realm of the bargaining table have not gone past 3 percent raises, which is simply not sufficient to keep civil servants within the cost of living index. With increases in the price of basic necessities, this poses a real problem.

According to a 2002 report by the National Association of Community Economic Development Research, Chicago was the most expensive urban area to reside in after New York and San Francisco. And yet, our professionals here at NEIU are the most underpaid.

What they want is fair enough, if not crucial. The increases that the union requests are actually based on the salary comparisons of their counterparts at Illinois State in Bloomington and University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. (NEIU falls in the middle as far as enrollment goes.) "Fair market equity" is the term this Art major just became familiar with.

Unfortunately for this union, the no-strike clause in their contract denies them visibility, something the teachers don't have a problem with either in their classrooms or in marching through campus. As of yet, the civil servants have not gone to the table because UPI holds priority with the negotiating situation.

Among the recently expired contracts you can also find the Teamsters #714, basically the janitors. There are already talks underway as this goes to print. Offers so far include a 1 percent increase the first year, 2 percent the second year, and a three percent increase the following year, with a hundred dollar incentive per head.

"I'm about to lose my house because I can't afford to make the payments on my mortgage." That statement rings in my mind as I fumble with my tape recorder. After hearing numbers being thrown around the last couple weeks, all concerning the salaries of certain people in higher authority, it just feels wrong that this situation has gotten to this point. Flyers are circulating and being the media, we get a lot of numbers to sift through.

Jean Potillo, an A&P (Administrative and Professionals), doesn't exactly make that job seem easy. "A lot of the figures that I've seen published about campus lately about who's gotten what increases in the past year. I would love to know where they're getting their numbers from because ... I just don't see it. I see a lot of what comes through, who gets what and that type of thing. I don't see those kind of numbers coming through, so I'm just wondering where they are getting their data from." I liked how she adds to that, "It's certainly not coming from me."

Now, math was never my strong point. All I know is that they can't be completely off. Something tells me no one in higher administration is worried about meeting fair market equity. Even so, 3 percent of whatever they make is a much bigger payroll enchilada than 3 percent of the paycheck that the clerk who processes 12,300 students' worth of paperwork makes. Their top-level work merits their top level pay, you say?

The supposed rates of raises in administration are obscene, ladies and gentlemen, but making the argument by pointing to their portions of the kill can be tricky business. It may seem like a sure shoot audience pleaser but it's not going to be the panacea. It's equivalent to water cooler gossip in the business world.

If the fat cats at the top can keep the hard-working people at the base of the professional pyramid happy, well fed, and economically stable, then no one's going to go bothering them. But I don't think that has dawned on them. The full weight of the unions must be placed at keeping everyone above the cost of living standard, first and foremost. And perhaps if the students are aware of the scope involved, then together we can push the administration.

NEIU simply wouldn't run without its professors, its secretaries, mailroom clerks and janitors.

And they just don't function well if they can't pay for their mortgages, their groceries, their gas and their brand new copper pots.

And for goodness sake, give them a discount on the parking.

## Letter Policy-

Letters to the Editor must be signed, contain address and telephone number for verification. Approximately 300 words in length or less. Letters are subject to editing for style and space at editor's discretion. The editor reserves the right to omit any work submitted. Published on first-come first-serve basis.



# Spirit in the school

Image by Cecilia Carboni



We may have a mascot, but it's only the name of a room.

by Jenni Lada  
Features Editor

When driving down the road, proud students proclaiming from the bumper of their cars that they are a proud member of such-and-such university is an all too familiar sight. The frequency of these appearances tends to increase when you're in the vicinity of a fairly large college campus. When was the last time you saw a student from this campus who was proud to display to the world that they attend Northeastern Illinois University?

The heart of this problem is that NEIU is a commuter school. Everyone is consumed by one notion: get in and get out as fast as you can. Both the faculty and students seem to do little to try and break free from this habit. The funny thing is, who can blame them?

The student body does have the occasional rays of sunshine provided by the Northeastern Programming Board. For example, they provide free food, games or services for NEIU students. But that really doesn't bring us any closer to each other. More often than not, people remain for a few minutes at one of these activities with people they are already friends with. Then they soon shuffle off to some exciting, exotic locale in a faraway suburb.

We don't have anything to believe in. How

can students have faith in our academic establishment when they can't even find a parking spot that won't turn into a sinkhole at the first sign of rain? How can students have pride in their school when they have no home team to root for? Of course, it might just be a blessing in disguise that we don't have any sports teams. Just imagine the disappointment there would be when a minivan is used as third base.

There is even trouble when it comes to clubs — the only possible salvation. Through

clubs, students try and reach out to their peers through common interests. Unfortunately, instead of worrying about recruiting new members, they have to worry about finding a faculty advisor to support them. The few clubs and organizations at NEIU are the only means for students to interact with each other. Unfortunately, many of them are not receiving the support they need.

If the administration of this university could learn to better organize, then maybe the school would not be producing students whose great excitement is anticipating the end of their last class. They could try, for once, getting construction done on time. If they are aware that their estimation of construction completion is less than accurate, they should tell students instead of letting them believe a fairy tale about a finished auditorium and parking garage. The administration should support faculty members who spend their free time assisting student organizations. Faculty members get nothing in return for hours they spend working to bring students together. Further, they could preserve our fields instead of turning them into barren wastelands.

Now if you'll excuse me, it's getting dangerously close to 3:40 and I really should be rushing back to the glorious suburbs before the sun sets.

## This isn't state communism-jobs will come back

by Elana Barron  
Opinions Editor

Outsourcing is one of the most controversial issues in business — and one of the most misunderstood. Criticisms from all sides claim corporations are ruining society through outsourcing. Corporations are stealing jobs from American citizens and giving them to foreigners. This criticism has led to a push to pass legislation making it illegal for corporations to outsource jobs. However, this criticism is unfounded. Through outsourcing, companies help stimulate the world economy, which in turn benefits America. Throughout the centuries, countries' economies have developed. With each development, simultaneously jobs were lost and added. It is fruitless and wrong to ask a free and innovative economy such as America's to stand still.

There are 35 states that are attempting to pass legislation banning companies from outsourcing. Presidential candidate John Kerry suggests a tax on companies that engage in outsourcing. A free economy does not regulate the workers companies' hire. In a free trade society such as ours, companies are allowed to hire anyone they see fit. There is no "moral duty" to only hire Americans.

Critics claim corporations engaging in outsourcing are "unpatriotic" because they hurt our economy. However, outsourcing in fact helps stimulate America's economy. Outsourcing enables corporations to save money. These companies do not hoard this money; it's reinvested in our economy. This creates new business and more jobs for American citizens.

Through outsourcing, companies are able to produce products at a lower cost. This enables American citizens to save money. In addition, more American products will be purchased than cheap, competing foreign products.

Outsourcing also helps expand other countries' economies, which in turn benefits our own. India's economy is expected to grow 7.2 percent this year. As India and China grow, they can better afford American products and services that were previously unaffordable. This new demand creates a larger market, creating new jobs for the American worker.

America is not the only country outsourcing jobs. Other countries have been outsourcing jobs to America as well. Companies in India, China, Taiwan, South Korea and Ireland are hiring U.S. workers, specifically consultants and Americans with MBAs. As other countries have more money entering their economy, those countries have doubled their investments in American plants and subsidiaries, which also creates more American jobs. Foreign companies are opening U.S. bases to sell their products. These companies are hiring American workers.

As jobs are going offshore, companies are simply preparing for an inevitable job shortage in America. The government estimates that when the baby boomers retire, the economy will have a shortage of 10 million workers. The Department of Education adds that in technical areas, such as math, science, and engineering, the amount of people earning degrees is not growing in proportion to the jobs needed. However, in India, the number of people earning such degrees is more than five times greater.

The economy has never been stagnant — it is constantly developing. With each innovation and change, jobs have been lost. And with each lost job, another took its place. The economy used to be based solely on agriculture. Then, in the mid-1700s, the Industrial Revolution hit. As jobs in agriculture were lost, new jobs in industry were created. When farmers lost their jobs, industries were met with criticism similar to the cry against outsourcing today. Society has faced many similar readjustments. However, with each economic change, new avenues were developed.

John A. Challenger, chief executive of a global outplacement firm, said, "There is and always has been permanent job loss. It is a fact of life when you live in a free-market economy that is constantly innovating and moving forward." Outsourcing is clearly not the evil claimed by its critics. Not only is it a smart way to do business, it also benefits the American economy.



Joe Hertel  
OldManNEIU@aol.com

## Old Man on Campus A free book at Beck's?!

What is peace but an interlude between wars? There has never been total peace; somewhere in the world, there are always nations rising up against each other.

Some years back, I had the pleasure of an Internet friendship with a veteran of the Soviet War in Afghanistan. Vladimir was a Russian soldier and, like myself, a disillusioned veteran. We shared much of the same feelings about our war experiences. It impressed me that veterans of wars, no matter who and where, share a common bond. I last spoke to Vladimir after the 9-11 attack. He expressed his concern for my safety and condemned the terrorists. I never heard from him again.

After repeated attempts to reach him, I believe Vlad just gave up the ghost, as many combat veterans do. Therefore, I decided to leave something behind, other than massive credit card debt, when it's my turn to go, something that might enlighten young people about war and the experiences soldiers have to endure. That is one reason why I am a writer.

Having been lied to by the government many times before, I became disenchanted

once again as I followed our progress (?) in Iraq. Nothing has changed. Lies continue. The current situation of our military involvement around the world prompted me to do something to express my concern and compassion towards today's youth. I wrote another book.

In the last issue of the *Independent*, you read about the possibility of a military draft. As I pondered this, I decided to share some of my war experiences and to say thank you for your loyalty and interest. I am going to offer you, gentle reader of my column, a free copy of my latest book, titled *Fragments: Scrapbook from a war*.

Even if you have called me ignorant, bigot, liar, homophobe, or racist in the past, it's okay. At least it means you have been reading my column (although you didn't understand it). You can still have a free copy of the book if you want one.

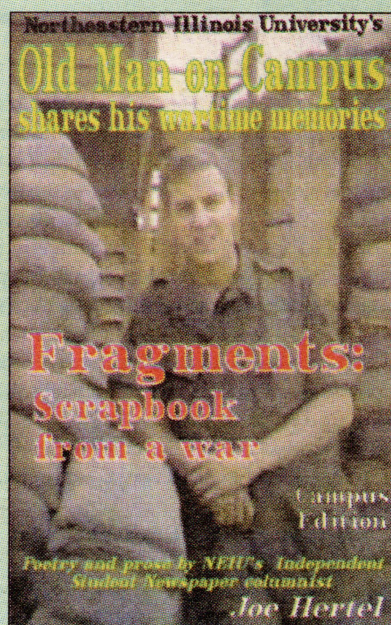
Yep, the book is free. One copy per person. All you have to do is stop over at Beck's Bookstore on campus and pick up a copy. It is a collection of poems and a short story about my Viet Nam War experiences. It is a special "campus edition," which means I got it printed cheap and has a limit of one thousand copies (of which NEIU gets 700). If I am around when you come by, I will autograph a copy for you (big deal).

I am able to do this because I went to some business friends of mine in the Vietnamese community, and Beck's Bookstore, who generously helped finance and distribute this special edition. No student or NEIU monies were used for this endeavor. I hope you will take advantage of this offer, and that by reading the book, it will give you a better understanding of war and its effect on those who are engaged in it.

Readers of this column know my feelings about wars and those who serve in them. This book will help you understand how I arrived at those beliefs. And, it might help you prepare for what is in store for you if you are drafted in the near future.

Oh, you don't think so? You don't think there will be a draft because the government says there won't be? Wake up, people! It's coming sooner than you think. "Wars and rumors of wars" — Matthew 24:6, Mark 13:7, Luke 21:9. This world is too unstable. Our government has taken on the role of protector and enforcer of democracy. For that, you need lots of bodies and we are running short of volunteers.

The attitudes, apprehensions, idealism and naiveté I witness on campus are the same as it was in the mid 1960's. You may not believe that, but it is true. I'll be sixty years old next year, so give me the



Courtesy of Joe Hertel

benefit of the doubt. Because of my experiences, this old man may know what he is talking about.

If I am wrong, God willing, about wars and the draft, what the hell, you still have a free book. Stop over at Beck's Bookstore soon and get one before they're all gone. You can read it while you're on the plane to the Mideast.



# Kerry condemns but does not confront

by Azi Lifisics  
Staff Writer

John Kerry, a decorated military veteran, served in Vietnam and was awarded a bronze star, a silver star and three purple hearts. Wounded on a swift boat amidst supposed enemy fire, he valiantly saved a cohort from the churning water. This experience was something he found especially useful later on in life, when he saved a drowning...hamster.

Serving as a senator from Massachusetts, he must have had his brushes with political campaigns before -- the lights, the cameras, the media, and yes, the mudslinging. But alas, this decorated war veteran ran crying like a little schoolgirl that dropped her ice cream when things got rough. He called for President Bush to condemn and persuade the Swift Boat Veterans for Truth to pull their ads telling their version of what happened that day in Vietnam.

I was not there, nor was I even alive during the Vietnam War. I will not begin to argue who is right or wrong. But I do know how to call a spade a spade. Why, if I may ask, did John Kerry not address those allegations? Why go crying to our great president and make those demands? Did it happen, did it not happen? (Or maybe it happened right before it didn't happen?) That's all he had to do, just address the allegations. But no, to the president he went: "Condemn these ads." He was infuriated that these ads attacked his integrity and military record. But to answer these allegations? Not a single word. There is something wrong with that. That is not presidential material.

Now I digress. Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11* is a load of the smelliest horse manure I have ever snuck into, after paying \$9 for different movie. This drivelt is an hour and a half of Bush bashing--bashing his

integrity, his military service, his intelligence, his decisions, his family. The movie included anything and everything Moore could find to sell his tall tale of a "movie." Did the Kerry campaign come out against this movie? Moore had a seat at the Democratic National Convention that was fit for a king; he was applauded and held as a hero for the cause. Millions were spent on that movie and Bush did not say a word. Less than \$200,000 was spent on the Swift Boat ads and Kerry blows a gasket.

This also applies to the smear campaign ads from MoveOn.org. MoveOn.org displayed ads comparing President Bush to Hitler. On a legal level, the Swift Boat ads and MoveOn.org are both 527s. Therefore, when Kerry asked Bush to demand that the ads be taken off the air, that would have been ILLEGAL according to campaign finance laws.

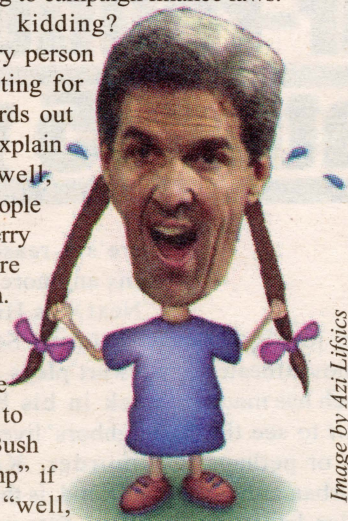
But who am I kidding?

Unfortunately, every person

I met who was voting for Kerry, the first words out of their mouth to explain their vote, was "well, because Bush..." People are not voting for Kerry as much as they are voting against Bush.

Intelligent debate is falling on deaf ears; maybe more people will listen to comebacks like "Bush is a punk-ass chump" if we respond with "well, at least he's not a big fat smelly-pants like Kerry!"

527, not just a number.



## It's a man's world reflections on sexism

by David Cavazos  
Staff Writer

We are exposed to many forms of sexism each day. It is sad how little effort is put into combating sexism in society. Unfortunately, this problem does not get much attention except when sexist acts actually take place. However, realizing and understanding different forms of existing sexism is not only important to women and men, but will prevent further sexist acts.

From an early age, sexism is taught to adolescents. Girls and boys are not treated the same. Boys and girls are told to act in certain ways. Girls are generally treated with disrespect and are often regarded in derogatory, yet accepted, manners. Through music, movies, and television, these behaviors and attitudes are learned at home, at school, and throughout society.

The way people act is largely attributed to the role models they are exposed to. One cannot be blamed for the education they receive. In order to combat the segregation of the sexes, we must start at the source of the problem. We must first try to understand these ingrained behaviors and attitudes. Then,

children must be taught to not differentiate and judge each other based on what society dictates.

Sexism is so commonplace that it can be difficult to detect it, for it has seeped into all aspects of society. Further, sexism exists to many different degrees. Occasionally, many people are subconsciously sexist. It can be as simple as a cutesy, yet implicitly demeaning comment about a woman, or deeming a woman incapable of a particular task because of her sex.

Sexism is the most threatening "ism." It goes hand-in-hand with racism. As long as the privileged white men control society, sexism and racism will coexist. There is a social caste system that further separates races because of sexism. White men are more privileged than men of color, and white women are more privileged than women of color. Some white women assert this racism in the subconscious hope that they will gain more privileges if they are supportive of this segregation and oppression controlled by the dominating white men.

A man once told me that he supports sexism because sexism means "treating men and women differently." He claimed that a man would be offended if he was treated like a woman and a woman would be offended if she was treated like a man.

This man is confusing the term sexism with unequal opportunities. The feminist movement has been misunderstood and demonized by a society who believes that feminists are asking to be treated like men. That is not the feminist objective. Feminism is the push for women to have the same opportunities

that society gives men. For example, they want to get jobs that are usually given to men. They want to receive equal pay. In some cases, they simply want their opinions to be taken into account.

Feminism has also been demonized through the stereotype that all feminists hate men. The media supports that sentiment because the government fears that giving women too much power or credibility will pose a threat to the patriarchal system in society.

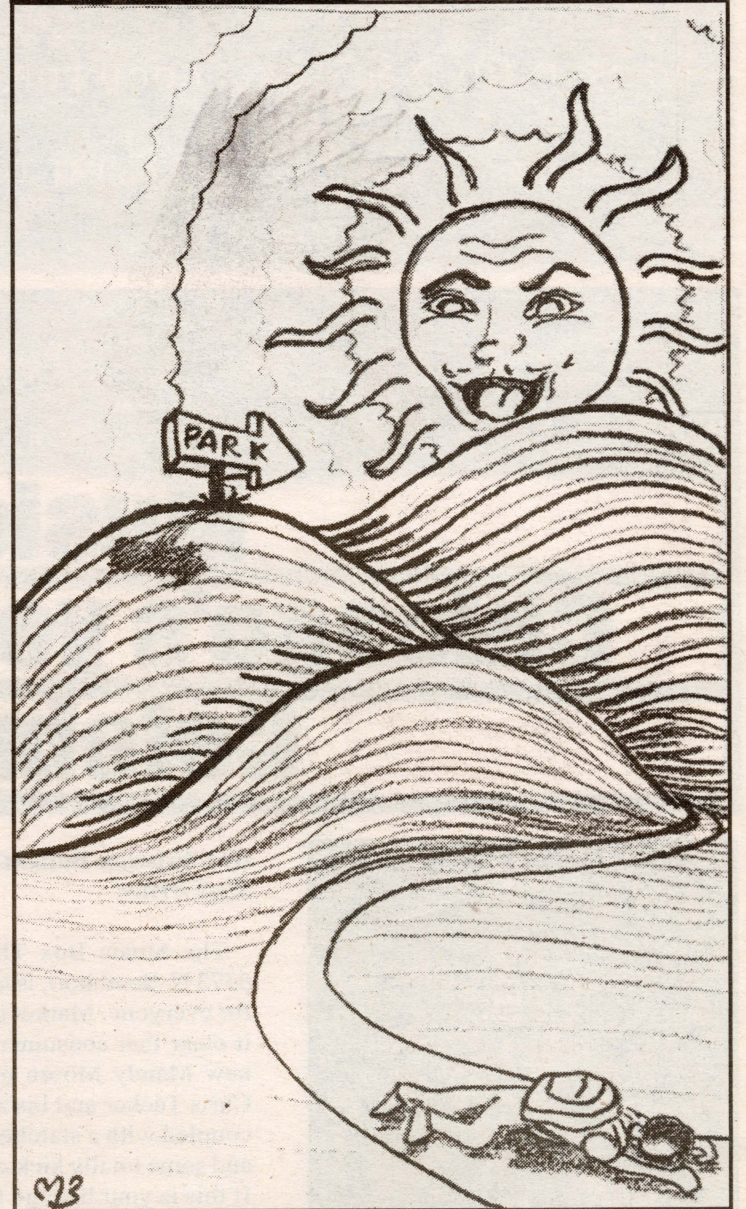
Some people claim men control everything because men are "more level-headed" and are better leaders. These assumptions must be based on all the past instances in which women were given the right to unadulterated power in high offices, right? Further, this attitude that men have the authority to "allow" women power in businesses and government is ridiculous.

Women are not naturally "inferior creatures." However, women are trained in the mindset of inferiority. They are bred inferior and are thus regarded as unable to contribute to society. In the same vein, women are openly encouraged to use their bodies and exploit themselves. This is accepted because it's all under the guise of feminism. "You're empowered by your own sexuality, so go ahead, use it." It is very competitive; women know "sex sells," so it becomes a matter of who can show more cleavage.

We are quite far from reaching a state in which sexism does not exist, or even seeing an immense decline in sexism. However, people are beginning to ask questions and speak out. It would be beneficial if we took heed of the various forms of sexism in society. The Feminists Majority Leadership Alliance is a good organization on campus that offers information on sexism and how to combat it.

## Drawing Board

by Michelle Zelinski



## Violence values nothing

by Amir Jamali  
Staff Writer

Experts concur that terrorism is a desperate act by those who not merely aim to wreak havoc, but to also raise attention on suppressed issues that they are anxious to address. But as it has proven time and time again, these horrifying acts inflame public emotions and overshadow the perpetrators' concerns and any bit of poor logic. Terrorism simply doesn't work. In fact, it is often counterproductive to a cause. Currently, the three major countries troubled by terrorism are the United States, Israel, and Russia.

### Russia

Chechnya separatists have been struggling for their sovereignty for over a decade. They gained the sympathy of the world by resisting the overpowering Russian dominance. Yet when the rebels resorted to murdering innocent victims (recently children), their efforts diminished, as well as their pride and the world's sympathy towards them. Instead, they provoked the Russian public for exacting revenge.

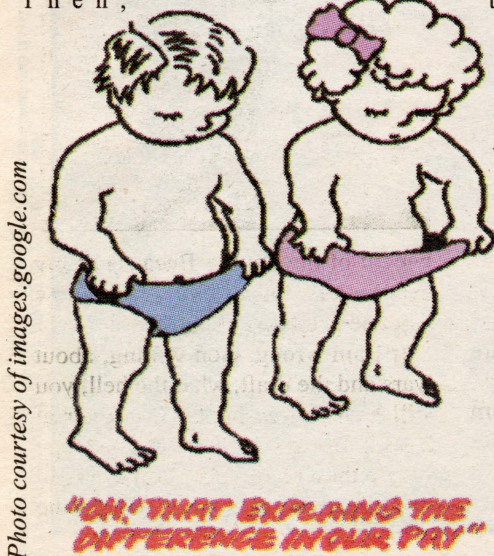
### Israel

Ever since the Diaspora, Jews and Arabs have been living amongst each other fairly peacefully. Yet, the Israeli occupation and forced Palestinian removal from their lands ignited bitter hostilities. Thus, a land dispute took on religious overtones. Of course, had these two Semitic cousins of nations practiced the same religion, this conflict would probably not have escalated as such. Examples of such similarities include the famous Kashmir dispute between Hindu India and Moslem Pakistan, or the Protestant and Catholic Irish. Now, both Palestinian and Israeli hardliners are locked in an escalating circle of murder and revenge.

### United States

Although most of the mass murderers who attacked New York were Saudi Arabian, their cause was overlooked, and two other nations were blamed. Fact is, no one knows for sure what they aimed to achieve. But what is known is that the documented struggles of Saudi activists were suppressed by their own government and U.S. support of the Saudi regime. However, by bringing their grievances to the U.S. government overseas by taking innocent American lives, the 9/11 terrorists removed the focus from their struggles and instead provoked hatred. Unfortunately, this hatred is now misguided towards Iraqis resisting U.S. occupation of their land.

In the case of these major powers, Russia, Israel, and the United States, political/economic/geographic dominance and hegemony practiced over subjects provoked continuing engagements. Two immediate and simple conclusions can be drawn from those who resort to violence as a means of a solution. Either such people do not value human life (and possibly even their own) enough to make tough efforts to resolve harsh situations, or they value their lives and comrades so much that they would be willing to sacrifice it for a cause that they believe in. Such convictions and determinations when present on both sides of a struggle can create ever-more-devastating results. Meanwhile, strong feelings can overtake logic instead of promoting it.





## Music Box Theater Chicago's year-round film festival Celebrates 75 years

by Christian Ballentine  
Staff Writer

The Music Box Theater, located at 3373 N. Southport, is *not* a movie theater for everyone. Market research has made it clear that consumers *want* to see the new Mandy Moore movie, or perhaps Chris Tucker and his zany urban antics, coupled with a starched-collar detective and some totally kick-ass special effects. If this is your bag, go to any theater you can find. But if you're in the minority who would rather watch something different, the Music Box probably caters to you, and has been for the last 75 years. From September 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>, they celebrated their 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary with three themed screenings.

Tuesday was Audience Choice Day. Voting was held prior to the celebration, and three films were selected. They provide a fairly broad picture of the kinds of films the theater shows.

The night's first film, *Metropolis*, was a silent film, interesting in the same way a museum is interesting. Giant angry mobs chasing a witch through town is neat, but in terms of plot development,

there's a reason no one makes silent films anymore.

Next was Hitchcock's *Rear Window*, with James Stewart and Grace Kelly. Stewart plays an injured photographer, stuck in his bedroom, spying on his neighbors' lives and possibly witnessing a murder. Kelly, his high-society girlfriend, is the glitz-and-glam counterpart to Stewart's gruff, Hemingway-esque machismo. Hitchcock, as usual, toys with our conceptions of the human mind, unsettling the audience without a drop of blood.

*Brazil* closed out a very late night. It's nearly three-hour length proved tiresome, but only after the two prior films. Terry Gilliam of Monty Python fame retells George Orwell's *1984*. Gilliam is certainly more creative than Orwell, and expands on his dystopian ideas nicely. The story revolves around a government clerk who is tired of ridiculous paperwork (a feeling to which anyone who has applied for financial aid can relate). He interacts with a bizarre assortment of characters. His aging mother, after extensive plastic surgery, ends up looking to be about 20.

A rogue repairman performs unlicensed duct repairs and is branded a terrorist. The film is full of the dry British wit Monty Python was known for, and with the rise of Homeland Security, the themes remain timely 20 years after its release.

Wednesday was Sing-a-long *Wizard of Oz* Night. Audience members wore Oz-related costumes and belted out their favorite songs along with Dorothy, without the slightest regard for staying in tune. Most people have seen *The Wizard of Oz*, but few have seen it in a theater where excessive noise and revelry was not only condoned, but encouraged. Things like this are, at the very least, unique.

The Thursday screening showed four films from 1929, the year the theater opened. The retro price of 75 cents also came with a piece of birthday cake. The films shown were: *Blackmail*, another Hitchcock film; *Big Business*, a Laurel and Hardy short film; and Ernest Lubitsch's first sound film, *Love Parade*. The night, and celebration, was concluded with the Marx Brothers' first film, *The Cocoanuts*.

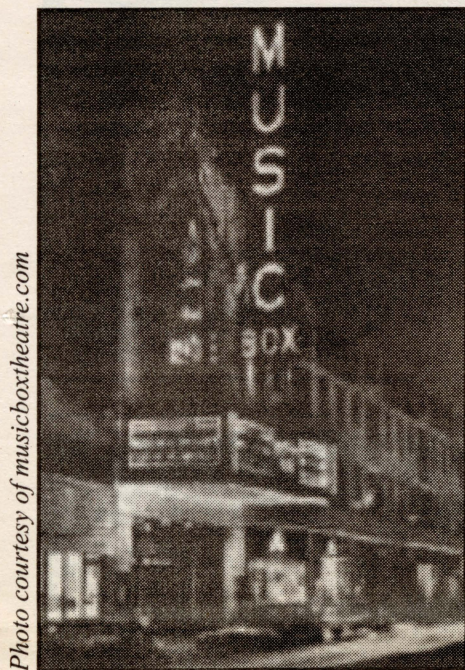


Photo courtesy of musicboxtheatre.com

Music Box Theatre is located at 3373 N. Southport Ave. Locations for parking can be found by the Southport Brown Line El station, Addison station, Wrigley Field and at the corner of Grace and Southport.

## Being honest is really hilarious

by D. Gordon Macnab  
Production Editor

"Cotton!"

A suggestion is yelled out from the audience, a word or phrase, and scene. Say the first thing that comes to your mind, make your teammates look good, be honest, and stay away from making them laugh. These are the cardinal rules in improv. Oh, and if you break these rules, your scene will vanish. This is where the "Harold" begins. Easy, right? If you're at the ImprovOlympic, the answer would be yes.

Wednesdays through Saturdays, the ImprovOlympic, at 3541 N. Clark in the "Cabaret" room, performs what is known as the "Harold," or "long-form improvisation," a technique created by Del Close, a comical genius whose life was as interesting as his love for theater.

The almighty god of improvisation, Del Close, who can be seen at the Goodman Theater in Hamlet playing the skull.

Anyway, not to get sentimental, on Wednesday, September 8th, the first team blossomed a scene out of one word: "cotton." In the presentation of the Harold at ImprovOlympic, there is competition among three teams, and each team does a different scene with a different word. As in ABC's *Whose Line is it Anyway*, they really don't compete, but where's the fun in that?

The fascinating thing is that this particular show will never be seen by you. In the same way that one life is unique, one night at ImprovOlympic is, too.

There is no way one can truly critique the plot of a scene in the Harold, only how well the actors follow the rules. This is where the competition comes in to play. The three teams that competed that night had what is known as "having an 'on' night." Each team plays off each other's lines as if it were scripted. It was magical.

As in any team sport, if they win, you can only remember the team name and score, but if they lose, you remember who blew it and who played well. So, naming each individual would be pointless and would break an improv rule: make you teammate look good. These teams or ensemble members were as near perfect as one can get.

There is only one way of describing each scene: "You had to be there!" That is how funny they all were. They even let an audience member come up to the stage. So, now you know. Go see what "real" teamwork looks like in Wrigleyville in this wonderful Windy City.

Some famous comedian once said, "If improv is like sex, then if it is good it is great, but if it is bad it's still OK." If the first part of that quote is true, then that describes ImprovOlympic on that particular night.

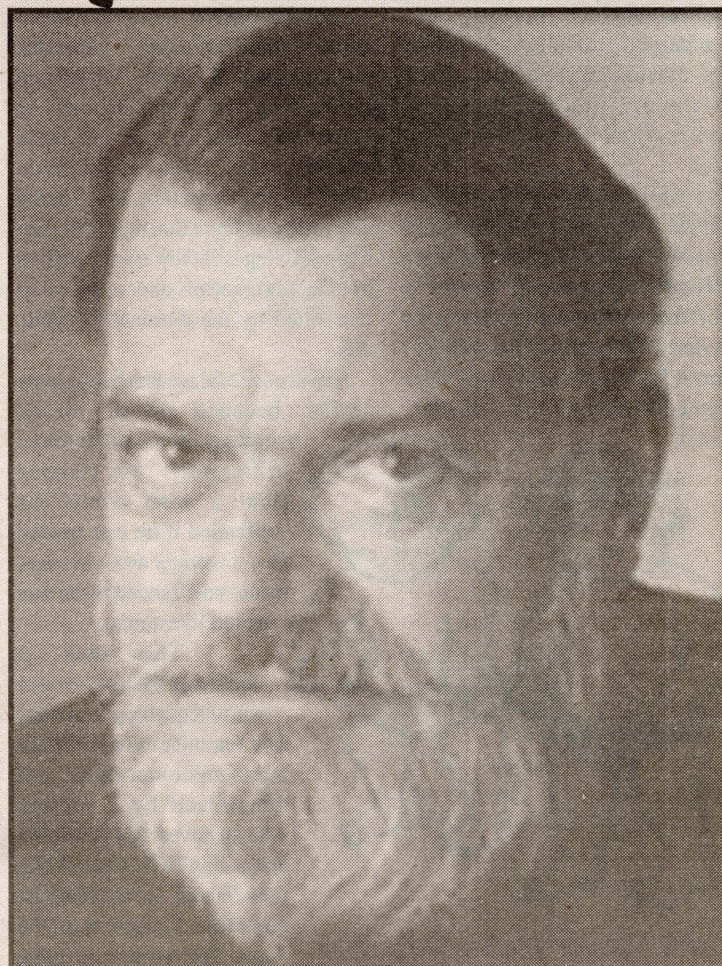


Photo courtesy of images.google.com



# Been there, heard that

## Although there's talent it's the same old thing

by Adem Tahiri  
Staff Writer

"Maybe It's Me," but these are some cheesy lyrics.

June's *Picture Show*, the latest from Memphis alt-rock band Ingram Hill, is a brooding, heavy breathing combination of what's right and wrong with music today. If you are unfamiliar with the band, their sound (and image) is somewhere between Three Doors Down and Third Eye Blind.

Lead man Justin Moore has a heavy, relaxing voice that bodes well for the band's slow, "six-hour car ride" sound. The band tries, and succeeds, on such tracks as "Almost Perfect," to provide the type of music that appeals to fans who enjoy getting a little lost. At their very best, they provide this feeling in a way you'd expect from more established musicians such as Norah Jones. This is the type of easy music you listen to when you need to avoid freaking out at someone, or when you just spilled coffee on your lap during rush hour.

At their worst, and this is not too often, they play it way too safe. All of the tracks are mellow, but a

few just don't go anywhere at all. Tracks such as "Will I Ever Make It Home" have one steady sound, guitar line, and one steady message: this isn't good, but it isn't really bad. But then, this is not a fault of their music alone. Of course we have come expect the big bands to throw out some boring, overproduced three-minute, skit song-packed album that doesn't say very much. But should we expect the same from the little guys now, too?

Maybe it's because they paid attention to which alternative bands are selling the most records. If so, they would notice those bands don't experiment very much, usually for fear of turning off mostly conservative audiences. Ingram Hill tries to give that Linkin Park-like, I-hate-my-father type of vibe, loaded with a barrel of cliché lyrics.

On the track "Maybe It's Me," they manage to squeeze two clichés — "played our song on the radio" and "thinking 'bout the good times" — into the very first line of the song. Now that's talent.

All in all, these are the same types of mediocre stunts that bands like Creed and Linkin Park have made it big on. And while Ingram Hill may have more talent than those bands, they lack appeal to the audiences that those bands generated.

# Billie's Bones

A gemstone of music nowadays



photo courtesy of janisian.com

*Billie's Bone* is a statement that champions music where emotion, truth and passion succeeds.

by Jonathan Gronli  
Production Editor

Janis Ian's *Billie's Bones* is a bit of a bittersweet rhinestone of musical pleasure. The fusion of Ani DiFranco's jazz-like style, country, folk and rock is something that was needed for this generation.

Lyrical, the CD is a sour tasting work of art. With songs of lost love, murder, loneliness and the like, it comes across as a feminine version of Warren Zevon (rock 'n roll's Ibsen). The lyrics are honest and have a feeling of urgency in their delivery. The writing is also where the folk-like country vibe comes in. With co-writing from Woody Guthrie and other star writers, it gains some more feeling of truth, which is already running through most of the CD.

Musically, this is just a gem. While it was probably worthwhile to work on, it is even more fun to listen to. There's no doubt that this might be up for a Grammy. Sure, the Grammy might not count, but any publicity is good publicity. The composition is simple

enough, pure folk rock and country with a slight jazz feel.

"Marching On Glasgow" is an instrumental (the only instrumental) that has a distinct feel to it outside the rest of the album. This instrumental, which sounds like it might be good for *Braveheart* when they are marching to battle, serves as a transitional track. It's random enough to fit perfectly with the rest of the album.

For the non-instrumentals though, the vocals unearth the honest urgency of the songs and go along with the rest of the instruments. Whether it is just Janis or her collaboration with Dolly Parton or Harry Stinson, there is a melodic feel that occasionally has a necessary dissonance to the sound. It is masterfully done, with just enough dissonance to not be overdone and supported with regular melody.

All in all, this is something that you can just sit back and listen to for the appreciation of the musical content. The music is masterful and simple at the same time. It's worth all of the money and time spent to be able to listen to the entire thing.



photo courtesy of images.yahoo.com

Hmmm... that looks like Creed, right? No, it's just the same sound.

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# You've heard it all before

## The Shore falls short of decent and inspired

by Richard Snowden  
Staff Writer

Trippy, drippy, sappy -- these are just a few of the adjectives that leap to mind when The Shore cranks it up. The two-year-old group boasts many influences, but like most young bands, the sound lacks originality.

"Hard Road," the opening cut, is strikingly reminiscent of Oasis, with its ambient slide-guitar textures, clean rhythms, and Noel Gallagher-like vocals. The orchestration that concludes the track is vintage Beatles -- who, of course, were a powerful influence on the Oasis sound.

Beatles/Oasis textures are also prominent on "Firefly," with its dreamy vocals and soaring harmonies. The slide guitars are prominent here as well, creating a whimsical vibe. "Take What's Mine" follows with sad, poppy piano lines and mellow rhythms; imagine The Strokes on Valium and you get the general idea.

"Everything We Are" also calls up The Strokes, with a healthy dose of Neil Young for good measure. The lightly country-fried guitars provide an unusual counterpoint to the bouncy pop rhythms, creating a slightly more unique sound than the other tracks.

The delay effects of "Waiting for the Sun" bring Radiohead to mind, but this track, like most on the disc, is largely forgettable. Ditto for "Different Ways" and "It Ain't Right," neither of which are particularly original or inspiring.

"Hold On" is so much like Coldplay that The Shore should pay them royalties, while "I'll Be Your Man" is essentially a bus crash between John Mellencamp and The Beatles. Finally, "Coming Down" starts out like a lullaby only to morph into another unabashed Coldplay knock-off.

On balance, The Shore is commercial fare at best; at worst, it is dull, uninspiring stuff. If you dig the aforementioned artists, you might like it, but if you're into originality and passion, you'll probably only get a good nap.

# A "hot" cover doesn't mean a "hot" album

by Adem Tahiri  
Staff Writer

Rob Dougan is a stud. Better yet, he is one beautiful piece of man beef. This may sound a little out of left field for a music review, but in his latest release, *Furious Angels*, he provides the most glorious album cover since *Saturday Night Fever* (John Travolta in full 'hustle' mode).

If you look for some of his other work, you may be

disappointed. He provided music for the *Matrix Reloaded* soundtrack, but unfortunately no album covers. From the cover alone it's obvious that he's willing to make his mark on the world. In the very first instance he compels us with somewhat of a Derrek Zoolander "blue steel" pose (just like Zoolander, it is believed that Dougan has competed for "Male Model of the Year awards," though reports could not be confirmed).

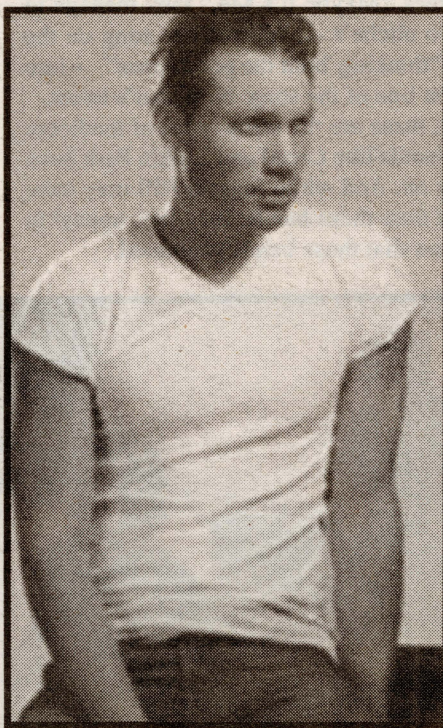
This look, which he has not named to my knowledge, is rather artistic. In one move he bites his hand and defies logic, in another instance his hair gel freezes his locks and challenges time. With one stare he forces you, the male listener, to ask a question few artists have before: "Am I truly heterosexual?"

As if his work was done, ha! I had hoped for an instant that it was, because I was so physically drained from the experience. But that's when I opened the album cover and discovered something I was unprepared for: men this beautiful can have an artistic side as well. Yes, that's right-

on the second page in some sort of gridlock of ambiance, Dougan drops four -- count em' -- four clay heads on us. Three facing forward, one to the side, one on fire; does his mastery ever end?

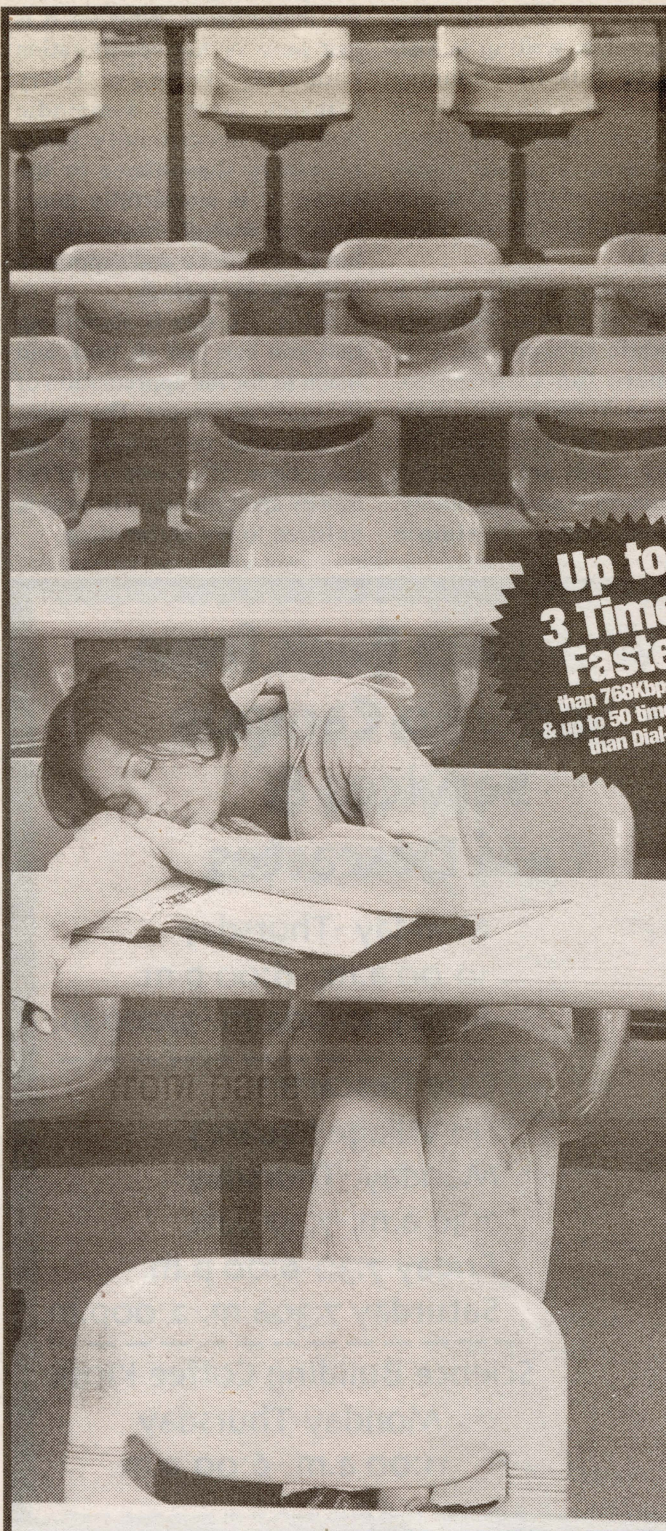
Fortunately for us, no. After the clay head experience, I didn't know what to expect. I mean, clay heads was so new to me, especially from such a stud. Not only were they clay, they had no ears and no mouths. It's as if he was conveying some message to us through his art: "Dear reader, don't listen, don't speak, just enjoy the clay heads...in all their glory." It's at this very moment that you flip the page for the ultimate revelation: one giant clay head, completely shattered!

What is he trying to say now? Don't look, don't listen, just explode? I would try to go further, but I am afraid I would just be lost in his artistic genius. I turned the page, and stared at him in his dirty, child-sized T-shirt. My goodness, what a fine male specimen. I should mention that while the album cover is fantastic, it is attached to a pretty bad CD but that's neither here nor there; the real news is that we have a new contender to challenge Pierce Brosnan and John (Uncle Jessie) Stamos for the title of "World's Handsomest Man."



So the CD was bad, but the artist is "handsome." Who cares?

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# Eagle's Nest

Lifestyles of the Northeastern community



## What Freshman Orientation could have been

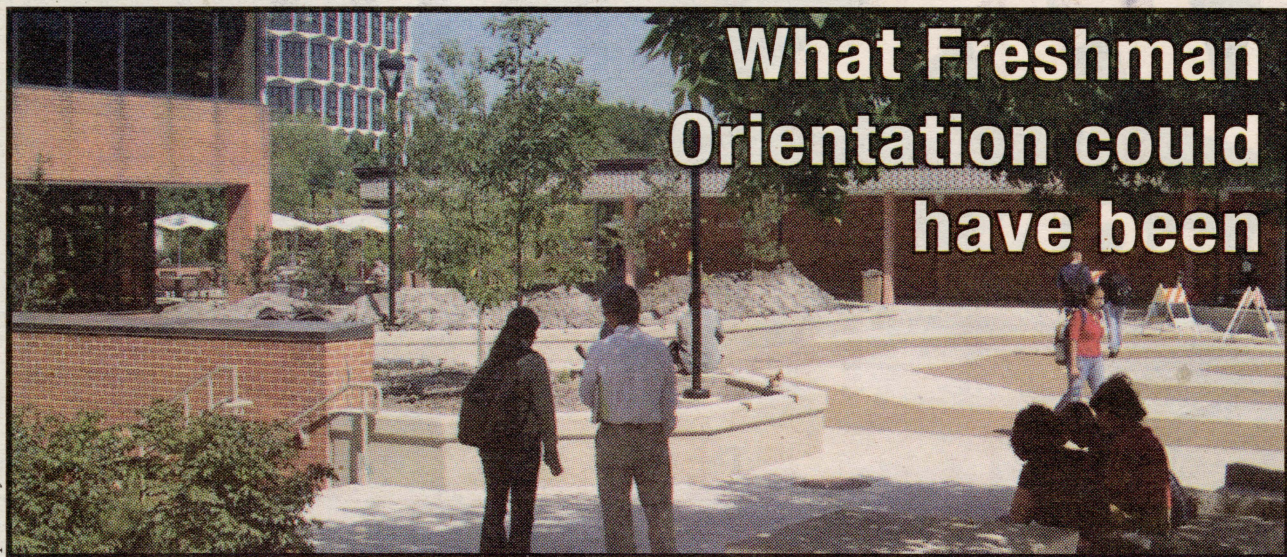


photo by Azucena Beltran

by Victor A. Dula  
Staff Writer

Welcome to Northeastern Illinois University! If you are a new student, then read this to learn a few insider secrets about your very humble university. If you're not new, it doesn't matter -- read it anyway.

Northeastern has a student-run newspaper called the *Independent*. In it, you will find information that the administration would never put in their recruitment literature; such as that concerning the current labor dispute between labor unions and the administration that has the potential to culminate in a strike and disrupt finals for those students whose professors belong to the union. Such information does not have the same ironclad credibility when it is acquired by mere word of mouth instead of print, so snatch a copy of the *Independent* from one of the various strategic locations on campus. If you are having trouble finding a copy, then just check that newspaper-like mass you seem to be holding; it should be in there somewhere.

Students are required to pay a number of mandatory fees in addition to basic tuition. The Health Services Fee funds a health services facility underneath Beck's Bookstore. When you need pamphlets describing the nuts and bolts of sexually transmitted diseases, an assortment of condoms and lubrication fluids, or a look at a five-pound fake slab of fat for motivation to lose weight, Health Services is there for you. When finals come around in the fall and spring, Health Services sets up a "stress-free zone" in one of the rooms on the second floor of the Student Union, a building for which a full-time student will pay another mandatory fee just south

of \$70 per semester. Students can go up there, furnish a Northeastern student I.D. and attempt to reclaim some of those lost fees in the forms of free food, tie-dyed t-shirts and massages.

Parking: there is a fee for this, too, though it is one of the very few that are not mandatory. If you wish to try your luck, you can forego it and park for free on the south side of Bryn Mawr, the west side of St. Louis, or on either side of Kimball, the first north-south busy street east of campus. Some do not, and will not, pay for parking at Northeastern, because when the lots are full and the only places to park seem to be those large, oblong curbs that cap the rows of parking spaces, "parking services" and a parking ticket will be there for them.

To bottle up some steam, check out Northeastern's Student Government Association (SGA). A former senator myself, I know firsthand that SGA needs to be watched by an informed and engaged student body. The amount of mischief a government will be predisposed to engage in is inversely proportional to the number of people who pay attention to it. This is especially true of Northeastern's SGA; hardly anyone pays attention, and historically, SGA has gotten itself into much mischief.

SGA will typically meet during activity hour every other Thursday in the "fishbowl," SU 003, the room at the north end of the cafeteria in the Student Union. When it comes to spending thousands of dollars of your money, such as the Northeastern Programming Board's and SGA's combined \$20,000 Haitian independence party over the summer, Northeastern's SGA (and NPB) is there for you.

To let off some steam after SGA meetings, get some exercise, and generally have a good time, take advantage of the facilities in the P.E. Building funded by your athletic fee. They include an indoor track, weight room, ping-pong tables, large swimming pool, basketball courts, racquetball courts, and outdoor athletic fields currently being used as overflow parking for vehicles displaced by the construction of the new parking garage just a few feet west of the four-floor Ronald Williams Library. These athletic facilities are fairly good holdovers from when Northeastern had NCAA athletic teams before the Board of Trustees voted to eliminate all NCAA athletics. Go Golden Eagles!

Finally, there is that Board of Trustees. It meets on a bimonthly basis in the Golden Eagles Room next to Alumni Hall in the Student Union and is the body that makes the big decisions for Northeastern. This is where many of the top administrators gather, including President Salme H. Steinberg. The Board approves major capital projects, such as a potential new building for the College of Education and the Fine Arts Building that was completed about five years ago. The juicy stuff, such as professors' tenure, property acquisition and current litigation, is considered during executive session, where no nonmember is allowed. This is where one goes to get the heads up on what's in Northeastern's future as well as free fruit, cookies, juice and soda that the board will put on their plates but much of which they will not eat.

Remember, Northeastern is "student-centered," and all of it is here for you.

## Finding friends isn't that far away from school

by Jenni Lada  
Features Editor

College is a whole new world compared to other forms of schooling, and one of the toughest parts about being at a commuter school like NEIU is finding people to spend time with outside the classroom. Now, some of you might find this hard to believe, but many people just want to sit through the class and get out of here as soon as possible. This is a viable option, but since humans are sociable animals, it does get a bit old after a while.

The best way to connect with new people is to reach out. If you look around the school, you can see many fliers going up advertising all of the clubs and their first meetings for the year. By joining a club, you are guaranteed to meet people with similar interests while also pursuing a subject that you enjoy. If you look around the walls of NEIU, you are sure to find at least one association you might be interested in, along with information about how you can attend a meeting to see if you would want to be a member.

Another good way to make friends is to get active in sports you enjoy. While some intramurals are undoubtedly on hold due to the fields being used for parking, others are very active. Plus, the gym also features a workout room, pool and fitness classes which you can easily walk in on and enjoy.

If you're a little shy of opening up to new people, the Internet is another option for meeting fellow NEIU students. The *Bughouse* (<http://bughouse.neiu.edu>) gives you a chance to talk to your fellow students in a friendly setting without having to actually work up the courage to talk to a stranger. Most topics are easy to jump into if you have something to say, or you could just watch and read to see what your peers are interested in.

While being exposed to a new environment with unfamiliar people can be a bit unsettling at first, if you try to keep an open mind and try joining new activities, then before long you'll be right at home.

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# Healthy fast food?

## Making yourself a meal to catch the bus with

by Daniel Peikes  
Senior Staff Writer

Today, everyone is on the go. No one has time to sit down and eat anymore, especially NEIU students. Many students commute long distances to school and then rush off to work. This does not leave much time for food preparation. The trick is to find something tasty as well as nutritious that takes only a few minutes to prepare.

Let's start with something cold and good for breakfast. A fruit parfait is a great fast meal that can be made quickly. Start with yogurt on the bottom of a tall glass. Plain or vanilla work well but you can also use your favorite fruit flavor if you so desire. Next add some fresh fruit. Check to see what is in season at your local market. Fresh berries of any sort work well, and peaches are another favorite of mine. Next, add another layer of yogurt and top it off with a handful of your favorite granola cereal. If you are on a low-carb diet, then skip the granola and just decorate the top with more fruit. This is great if you need something fast and you are running out the door. You can make it in a plastic cup and grab a plastic spoon to take with you on your commute. It can also be made in a parfait glass and served at a Sunday brunch or as a dessert.

For something quick at lunch that you can brown-bag, a big classic favorite is the PB&J sandwich. It

may be a bit humdrum for many people, but once again we have to deal with the low-carb revolution.

Here is one for all you salad lovers out there. Get yourself some baby spinach, which is available in pre-cut, pre-washed bags, slice some strawberries and throw them on top. Add some walnuts to give the salad a little crunch. If you like it a bit more savory, add some red onion. Finally, dress with raspberry vinaigrette that you can buy right off the shelf at any supermarket. Salads can be quick and easy, but are really only good if you have a refrigerator wherever you are going to be.

Something hot for a quick dinner is always pleasing. Behold the power of cheese and a microwave. Shredded cheddar or "pizza cheese" is a staple in my house. Try to stay away from the processed American cheese. For

those who still eat carbs, you can make an amazing baked potato in a few minutes in the microwave. Take a fork and poke a bunch of small holes in the potato. Put it in the microwave for about 4 minutes. Pull it out, cut it in half, throw in some frozen broccoli and place some shredded cheese on top. Microwave for another minute and it is ready to eat. You can replace the broccoli with peppers, onions, mushrooms or tuna if you like. A word of warning: cheese can be very hot when it comes out of the microwave, so you may want to let it cool for a minute first.

### Quick Fixes

**Fruit Parfait  
PB&J  
Salad  
Baked Potato**

## Just don't call him Duene

A profile of student VP Omar Otero

by Chris Ballentine  
Staff Writer

Omar Otero has a few concerns with how this school is being run. Like many students, he is bothered with the parking situation; he is frustrated when he doesn't get into classes he needs. As the new student government vice president, he hopes to address these issues.

Omar's political career began with frustration. "There were holes in the classes," he says, "and I kept getting parking tickets and didn't know who to talk to [for appeals]."

Student government seemed, to him, a way to gain a voice in these matters. "It's a place to get guidance and meet people who will benefit me throughout my education."

Almost four years ago, he joined student government, serving as a senator under Gary Gaspard's administration. Gaspard served as an inspiration for the first year senator. "Maybe I can follow in his footsteps," says Omar. "He made a superior impact."

Over the years, he has seen improvements, but feels there is always more work to be done. He is pleased with the new parking arrangement, but says, "I am still concerned with classes and the limited full-time faculty." The latter concern is shared by the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) union, which has recently been threatening to go on strike. Omar claims he is remaining neutral with regard to this issue. "UPI hasn't said much to me. Since I don't know, I try to stay neutral."

Omar recognizes that many students may also feel frustrated with their university community. Taking an active involvement, he feels, is the best solution. "You've got to be involved," he says. "As a commuter campus, many students feel their voice is not heard." Omar, aside from his government position, is president of the Spanish club and vice president of the Northeastern Programming Board (NPB). He is also a member of the Caribbean Club and the Muslim Student Association (MSA). But the options, he insists, are limitless. "Just get involved; if not politics, then ethnic clubs, or groups and clubs, sports, intramurals, all of that."

Northeastern still has its share of problems, but now Omar feels he is at least trying to change them.



photo by Cecilia Carboni

Vice President Duene Omar Otero

## Let's Get Personal

### Healing the student body



Andrea Zelinski

active women are busy prescribing drugs, giving pap smears, HIV tests, and treating tummy-aches for the student body.

These women are registered nurses working in the Health Services office in E-051. Found in a hidden, low-traffic basement hallway, these women provide a number of services, all free of charge to students.

"We're hard to find unless you know where we are," said Jessica Lettow, Director of Health Services. "I want students to think of us as their health-care place on campus. I know they scatter to the four corners of the world at the end of the day, but while they're here, we can help them," said Jessica.

The office not only provides services such as treating headaches, but also supplies contraceptives such as condoms, birth control pills or patches, and emergency contraception. They tend to operate by the motto that "condoms are always here and always free, limit two," and the women in the office would laugh in unison.

"I had a cute little guy come in yesterday and he says, 'Why is it only two? Suppose, um, I need an extra tonight?' But he was really sheepish and he was very cute. So I says, 'anyone who's got the class to ask before they grab can have more.'"

Whether you're male or female, don't be afraid to stop in. The women were very friendly and relaxed. They like to smile, laugh, and answer your

questions, especially Jessica, who smiled throughout my entire visit.

"What goes on in those rooms stays in those rooms," says Jessica. She is not the only nurse in the office. Kathy Kuenstler, head nurse; Cathy Schacht, advanced practice nurse; and Renee Bole, staff nurse, are also registered nurses employed by the university. Unlike the rest of the group, Cathy is an advanced practice nurse with the power to write prescriptions and perform many gynecological exams.

Her addition to the program has helped the women at Health Services care for more students and more problems. While most problems are physical ailments, the nurses also act as a set of understanding ears to listen and help patients cope with their issues.

"We've had enough pregnancy tests when it was really 'a bad thing,' when it was positive. And we've had a couple students who come back with the babies and come in during the course of their pregnancy, and

that's wonderful," she paused. "One of them was even named Jessica," she said as her co-workers laughed.

I couldn't help but feel comfortable in the company of these women. Their words are so soft spoken and soothing, it's no wonder they are the caretakers of the student body.

I walked out of their office with a feeling of warmth and ease, and asked, "Can I get two condoms, please?"



Jessican Lettow, Kathy Kuenstler, and Cathy Schacht, nurses in the Health office.

photo by Andrea Zelinski



# The story of Beck's

*Starting in '50s in downtown winding its way to Northeastern*

by **Violette Green**  
Staff Writer

As one gets ready to go back to school, there are many things to get: new clothes; new supplies; in some cases new living quarters; and, as always, new textbooks for the semester. For students at Northeastern, they head to Beck's Bookstore.

Beck's Bookstore has been serving the higher education community for almost 50 years. Robert Beck started the company back in 1955 in downtown Chicago.

The store sells to high schools, college students, college faculty and staff, and to the communities where the stores are located. The chain sells college textbooks, school supplies, food and college clothing. Beck's also has a buyback policy for textbooks. Other services available are textbook reservations and buying books online.

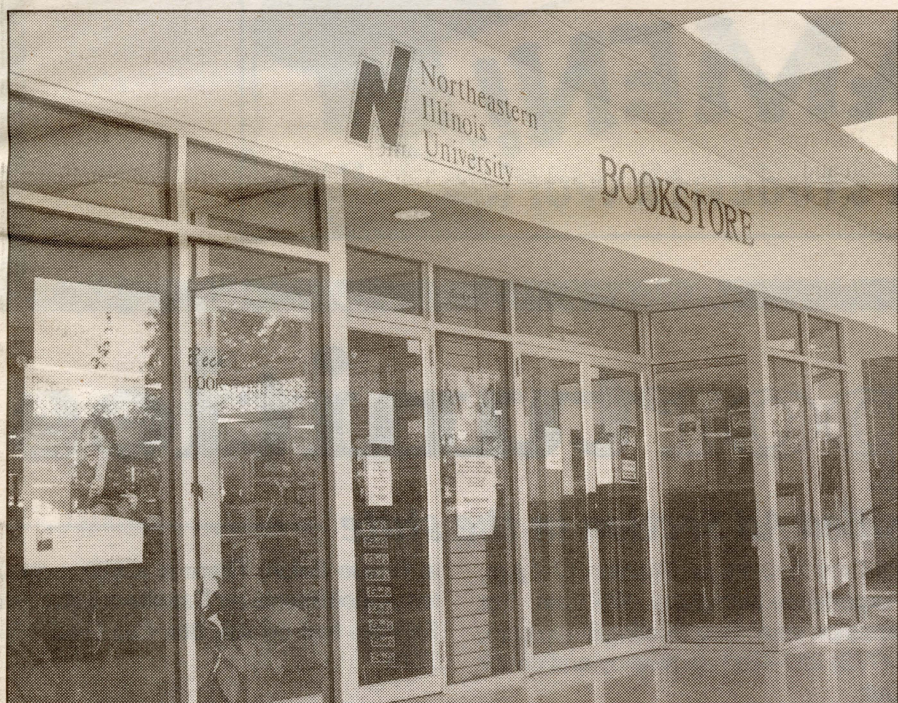
The owner, Robert Beck, served overseas during World War II, came back to Chicago, and worked at Faulkner's Educational Books. Ten years later, in 1955, he opened

the first Beck's Bookstore at 22 E. Chicago Avenue.

The store has since expanded into seven Chicago-area locations as well as an online bookstore. There are four on-campus stores and three off-campus locations that serve Truman College, Harold Washington College, College of DuPage, Loyola University, John Marshall Law School and Northeastern. There is also a Beck's Bookstore on Broadway that serves the British-American University students, faculty and staff.

In 1961, a store was opened to serve Northeastern. In 1988, NEIU requested that Beck's take over and become the bookstore for the university.

Though many people question the prices and amount of the refund they get from returning their books, Beck's Bookstore does not set the prices on the books or the refunds. The manufacturers set the prices and refunds while the bookstore's only responsibility is to enforce those set prices.



You can find seven Beck's Bookstores in the Chicago-land area.

photo by Azucena Beltran

## Turns out, you have to vote these people in

by **Jessica Moen**  
Staff Writer

The elections are close upon us and there are still plenty of young people who are not registered to vote, nor show any interest in wanting to. There are many reasons that they don't want to vote. Maybe they don't know enough about the candidates, or simply because they don't want to be called in for jury duty (which, sadly, the government now signs you up for when you get your drivers license).

Whatever the reason, it is important that everyone votes, because your vote is very important. If you don't vote, you have no right to complain about how the government is run. In an effort to get younger citizens to vote, the government is working along with television stations, radio stations and many other media outlets to help register youths to vote.

MTV is once again hosting "Rock the Vote," which is a web site designed to help you register. This is probably the best source you can use to register. You can log on to <http://www.rockthevote.com> and check out presidential stats and issues that may concern you as a young citizen. You can also donate money and talk to other voters on the site's blog, which is an online journal. They also host events at concert venues and other things that young people are likely to attend and encourage you to voice your opinion.

Another web site is [www.iwanttovote.com](http://www.iwanttovote.com). Here you can not only register to vote, but also check out a frequently asked question (FAQ) section that helps you understand how to vote and the voting process. It tells you how to change your political party affiliation if you have voted before, and what to do if you move to a different state and need to change your information. This is also a good site to go to if you are a returning voter and need a recap of what to do.

"Project Vote Smart" (<http://www.vote-smart.org/>) is another great site for new voters. It is full of voting stats and information about the candidates. It even goes into political issues state by state, so you can find out exactly where the candidate from your area stands on the issues.

### Other sites to get more info.

-[www.onlinedemocracy.com](http://www.onlinedemocracy.com)

-[www.election.com](http://www.election.com)

-[www.shapethefuture.org/voters](http://www.shapethefuture.org/voters)

-[www.easytovote.org](http://www.easytovote.org)

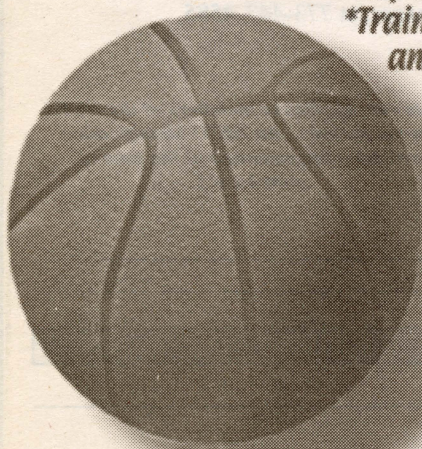
photo courtesy of [www.google.com](http://www.google.com), compilation by D. Gordon Macnab

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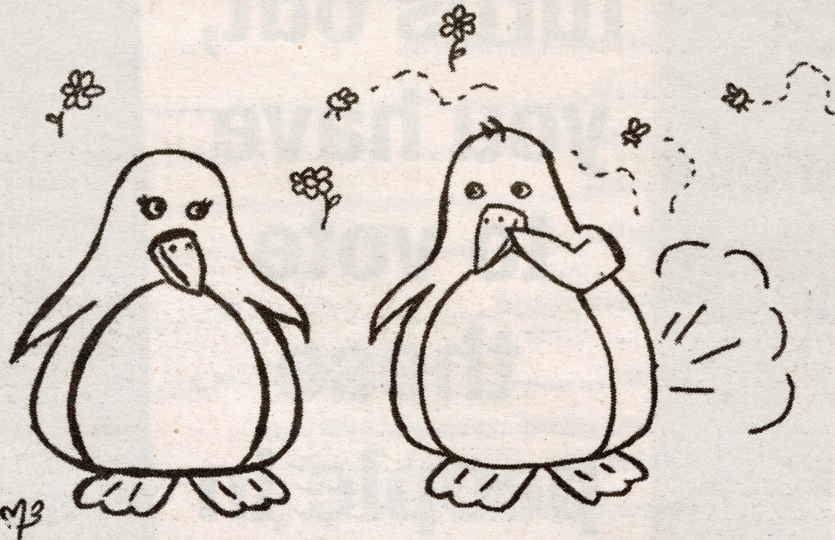
See the Sept. 28th issue for full coverage of your campus sports



## Side Splitters

by Michelle Zelinski

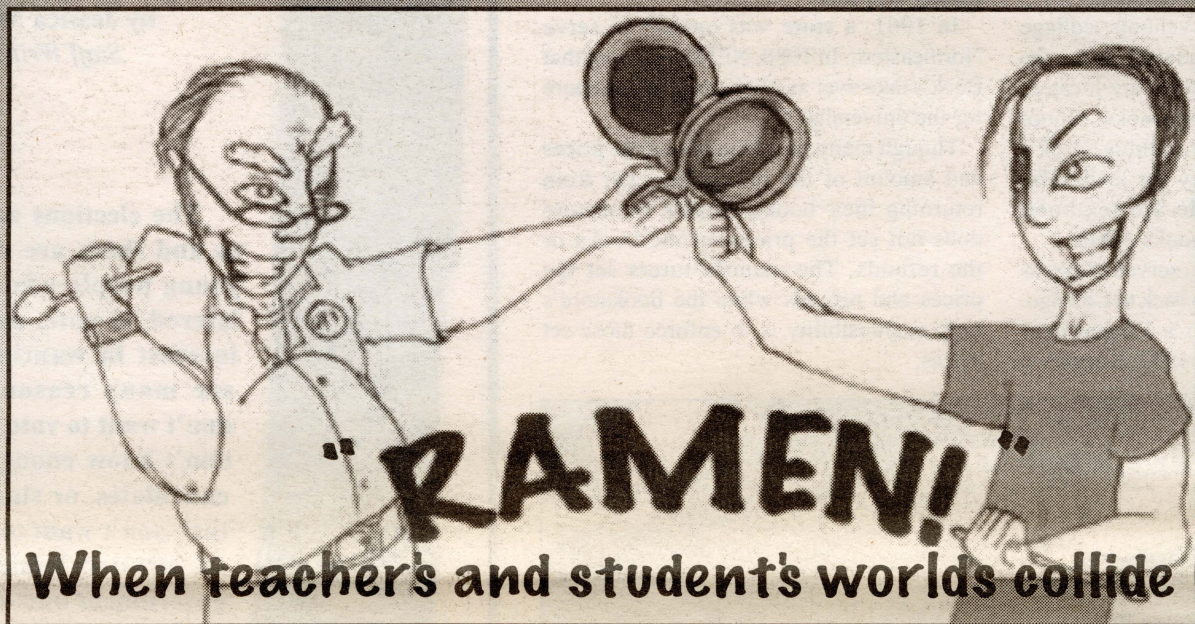
You know you're in love when his fart smells like flowers.



Like drawing cartoons?

Stop by E-049, up the hall from the cafeteria to join!

by Cecilia Carboni



# Golden Opportunities

2002 ICPA Winner for Best Classified Ad Section in the state

### For Sale

Spring Break 2005. Travel with STS, America's #1 Student Tour Operator. Jamaica, Cancun, Acapulco, Bahamas, Florida. Hiring campus reps. Call for discounts: 800-648-4849 or [www.ststravel.com](http://www.ststravel.com).

**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](http://www.plannedproperty.com)

**1991 1st Edition Wizard Magazine!** Collectable & Fair condition! Contact [kinenio@hotmail.com](mailto:kinenio@hotmail.com)

**'94 Nissan Sentra**, Runs well, well maintained. No rust or dents, 129K miles, good condition. Super gas saver. \$1850. (773) 510-1182

**Apartment:** Walking distance to

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### Wanted

**Tutor for ENG 101-2**, ESL, test prep (IBST, TOEFL), pre-credit English. Contact Diane at [kiwi\\_gigi@hotmail.com](mailto:kiwi_gigi@hotmail.com).

### Services

**"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

**Guitar and Bass Lessons**, first lesson is free. Learn any style of music! Call Keith at (773) 283-1974 for more information or email @ [szx431@juno.com](mailto:szx431@juno.com).

**New World Resource Center**-1300 N. Western Avenue. LEFT-WING BOOKSTORE, reading room, and meeting space needs help! Volunteer two 3-hour

shifts Tues-Fri 3-9 p.m.; Sat-Sun 12-7 p.m. No experience necessary. Will train. For information email [Rob.Bunting@uop.com](mailto:Rob.Bunting@uop.com), call (773) 227-4011, or stop by and check us out.

**Arlene Eridach Hair Color Models Wanted**

at Rogue Salon. There is a \$20 product fee. Appointments on Thursdays with Leah. Services free on July 8th. Call (312) 863-7678

**Crochet classes.** \$30 per hour. 773-794-8617.

Oh, goody gumdrops!!



Limit one ad per person/organization per issue. Ads must be 20 words or less. There is a 25 cent 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.

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**The University Professionals  
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contract with the University expired  
on August 31, 2004?**

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students of this university community  
without a new contract.**

**We remain firm in our commitment to  
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