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Andrea Zelinski

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Northeastern Illinois University

Tuesday, October 26th, 2004 Volume 21 Issue 6

INDEPENDENT

Chicago

Ten-Time ICPA Award Winner

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

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Steinberg takes on faculty union's tactics

by Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor

In a memo sent to the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) labor union, President Salme Steinberg addressed recent events involved in the current contract negotiations. The memo was written in regards to the last negotiation meeting involving mediation between the administration and the UPI.

After months of negotiations between the two parties, the UPI requested mediation from the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Both parties met for the first time on Oct. 15, ending with little progress, according to Edmund Hunt, President of Northeastern's chapter of UPI.

In her memo, Steinberg responds to allegations of "misrepresentations and blistering attacks that have been made on [the administration's] credibility and motives. We have not responded in the past to these misrepresentations and attacks because we did not want to add fuel to a situation made volatile by the UPI's rhetoric."

She identified a situation in the Oct. 15 mediation meeting where Jon Nadler, an Illinois federation of Teachers (IFT) Senior Field Representative, proposed a response to an earlier proposal and "insisted on a full response from the University, on this same day, to every issue raised. Simply put, logistics did not permit this all to be done on that first day."

and work with the federal mediator and with us to help make the mediation process a success, the UPI leadership has asserted that the process was, and is, a waste of time — after only one meeting!"

To read a copy of the President's memo, see "A Message to the University Community," on page 3.

UPI Challenged back

According to the President's memo, the administration "made it clear to the mediator that [the administration was] willing to meet any time the mediator was available — day or night, weekday or weekend — to discuss and work on the areas that were raised by the union and its proposals, and the issues raised by the University in its proposals."

"The Union's negotiating team would like to take [Steinberg] up on that offer," read a message by Nadler, which responded to the President's. "We are also prepared to meet anytime, 24/7, weekends included, to see if we can move negotiations forward," the memo read.

According to the statement, the UPI is "ready to meet as early as anytime on Saturday, October 22, 2004, continuing nonstop for as long as needed, granted we are making

progress through the outstanding issues."

"We decided to take up the President's challenge," said Hunt. "We also stand ready to bargain seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day." The proposed meeting would not include a mediator, according to Hunt.

"Now apparently there is some sense of urgency and we hope that will be carried into the negotiations," said Hunt.

The memo was addressed to Jules Crystal, negotiator on behalf of the administration, with copies to Steinberg and the University Community.

"The administration has always been our most effective recruiting tool," said Hunt. "Every time the administration does something to the faculty or staff, the union gains more membership, the union gains more solidarity, the union gets more determination."

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UPI chapter President, Edmund Hunt

photo by Dorian Barrios



University President Salme Steinberg

photo by Cecilia Carboni

According to Hunt, the union had been discouraged due to the lack of progress. "We didn't get any feedback on our proposal at all," alleged Hunt. "We got questions about it but we didn't get any indication that this is going anywhere," said Hunt.

Steinberg's memo read, "rather than roll up their sleeves

A tale of two turnouts

2.6% turnout at SGA elections

by Patrick O'Brien
Production Manager

The Student Government Association (SGA) and Northeastern Programming Board (NPB) held elections last week; voter turnout totaled 306 students over five days of voting at the Main Campus, the Center for Inner City Studies (CICS) and El Centro resulting in 2.6% overall voter turnout.

A large disparity in voter turnout between CICS and the Main Campus disguised CICS student concerns over how student fees are allotted by the SGA. On the three campuses, voter turnout varied heavily; on the Main Campus, out of 11,518 students, there were a total of 191 votes cast, meaning turnout at 5500 N. St. Louis was 1.6%. At the CICS, turnout was 18.4%, with 82 students out of 446 voting.

This rate is more than 11 times the turnout for the Main Campus,

though no candidates appeared at CICS, located at 700 E. Oakwood, and no SGA meetings are held there. The Independent observed voting at CICS on Oct. 18 and confirmed the absence of any candidate on the ballot after speaking to Trina Jones of CICS' Student and Cultural Affairs Office.

CICS students have often

complained about SGA politicians who fail to appear on campus except for election. According to Jones, when members of SGA do visit CICS, there are often contentious exchanges between angry students and SGA candidates.

CICS students are unhappy with

Continued on page



Trina Jones mans voting table at the Center for Inner City Studies.

photo by Patrick O'Brien

Computer labs now charge for printing

by Victor A. Dula
Senior Staff Writer

Beginning immediately in the library and in the Science Building computer lab, Academic Computing will implement a new quota system for printing. Northeastern students, faculty, and staff will have to "authenticate" their use of printers in the computer labs. Currently in the Science Building computer lab and fourth floor library, students must log in using a user I.D. and password to print.

Students will have \$120 on their account per semester, including summer. Pages will cost 12 cents each, allowing for a maximum of 1,000 pages before the student will have to load more money onto the account at his or her expense. Color printouts will be 75 cents per page, and duplex (double-sided) printouts are 20 cents per page.

"It's the reduction in waste that's the primary goal," said Scott Simon, coordinator of Student Client Support in Academic Computing. "We see reams and reams of paper being left at the end of the night," he said. "This is one way to prevent that from happening."

According to Simon's statistics, printing has increased significantly over

Continued on page 5

Second annual Transition festival gathers students from across the city

by Violette Green
Senior Staff Writer

On Wednesday October 13, the university hosted its second annual Transition Festival for Secondary and Post Secondary Students with Disabilities. Disabled students from public schools across the city came to NEIU for this event.

The university played host to vendors from places such as the Illinois Department of Human Services, the Social Security Administration, and the Department of Child and Family Services. Other activities included motivational speakers, workshops, and performances by the Heritage Gospel Choir, Indian Student Association, and a monologue by students from Taft High School.

Students from Lane, Roosevelt, Mather and other public schools were bused in to attend this festival in order to inform them about transitioning from high school or college out into the world and community after school. The live part of the festival had a welcome from Victoria Amey-Flippin, who is the director of the Accessibility Center. "Another one of my goals is to make sure that students and people within the metropolitan area understand what we do here at Northeastern and what post secondary schools do for students with disability" she said.

Derrick W Phillips, a professional motivational speaker from the Illinois Center for Rehabilitation and Education, came and got an enthusiastic response from the students. Toby Williams, a student here at Northeastern, also gave a speech to welcome the crowd.



Festival was designed to aid students with disabilities

photo by Mario Go

Some of the activities offered explained financial aid for college, preparing students for the future, a workshop presented by Equip for Equality, and registering for various forms of identification.

The vendors in Village Square ranged from the transition services of the Chicago Public Schools to the Illinois Department of Human Services-Division of Mental Health. The Victor C. Neumann Association has about 20 group homes that have job developers, counselors, and case managers that help people ages 18 and up train for and get jobs.

Many Northeastern students volunteered their time and energy to contribute to this event. The Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity and the Alpha Kappa Sorority held presentations.

In the end, about 200 students from 11 schools and centers received information about post secondary school and life afterwards. They had tours of NEIU, presentations and performances that were well received by them.

First Things First...



Patrick O'Brien
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"The hardest working women in the world"

Globalization was the focus on Monday, Oct. 11th in Alumni Hall, where the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (FMLA), along with help from the Women's Studies' Department and other student organizations, hosted two young women from Bangladesh who talked about factory conditions where they make clothes for discount giant Wal-Mart.

The "Human Face Behind the Sweatshops: Bangladeshi Workers' Tour, focused on two young ladies, Maksuda and Robina, who gave impassioned speeches about the conditions under which they labor for up to 100 hours a week. The speakers are part of a national tour by the National Labor Committee for Worker and Human Rights (NLC).

"Northeastern is itself very much a product of globalization," Provost Lawrence Frank remarked in opening the event. "The distinctive feature of the university is its diversity, and that diversity itself is a function of globalization."

Krystle McRoberts and Heather Kapolnek, Co-Chairs of the FMLA, introduced Charles Kernaghan, Executive Director of (NLC), who is crossing the country with the two workers, along with Sheikh Nazma, President of the Bangladeshi Center for Workers Solidarity (BCWS).

The workers both spoke in Bengali to the crowd and Rafiq Alam (translator) translated their speeches. The event was funded through the Student Government Association (SGA) and was held in Alumni Hall, where attendance topped 200 students and staff. McRoberts was emphatic about the public's role in aiding workers; "In order for change to take place, we need to stand up for people who are being dehumanized. We have to demand that human and worker rights are recognized now."

Kernaghan discussed the mindset of American consumers in relation to the people who produce our clothes and shoes: "We buy these products year after year, but have you ever heard one time, from those women in China? We never get to hear from the workers...this is the true face of the global economy."

Robina spoke first, and was overcome with exhaustion during her speech due to the lighting on the stage; she left Alumni Hall to rest for the remainder of the program.

Before she left, Robina talked about earning seven cents an hour sewing pants in a garment factory. "I come to the factory at quarter to eight in the morning, and work until ten at night. The factory is hot and crowded."

Robina also talked about being forced to sleep at her factory after a 20 hour shift, sleeping at her workstation because the factory floor was too dirty to sleep on. The living conditions away from the factory were no better, as both workers described tin roofs that leaked and not having adequate food supplies.

Maksuda was pregnant at one point while working in the factories, and according to her, she was kicked in the stomach after she stopped working for several moments due to fatigue.

Nazma then addressed the legal conditions of workers: "In Bangladesh we have very good labor laws, but they're not enforced. According to the law, they can only work 48 hours a week."

Kernaghan again: "Wal-Mart is the largest company in the world...that's the power. They're working 15 hours a day. When we asked Robina, she said they get about ten days off a year. These are the hardest-working women we've met anywhere in the world."

For more information from the NLC and the Bangladeshi Workers, go to www.nlcnet.org.

New assistant director at CICS

by Patrick O'Brien
Production Manager

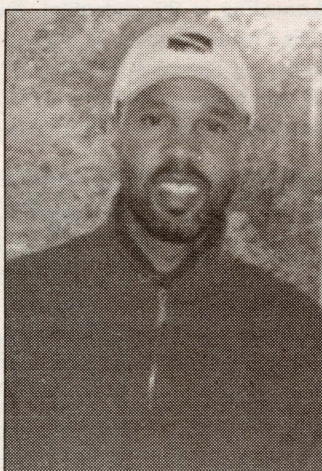
The Center for Inner City Studies (CICS) has a new Assistant to the Director, the second highest ranking official at that branch of Northeastern. CICS promoted from within the program to fill the vacant post.

Dr. Lance Williams was recently promoted from Student Recruitment to assist CICS Director Dr. Conrad Worrill.

Williams completed undergraduate work at Texas Southern University, received a graduate degree in Inner City Studies at the center in 1995, and recently finished a doctorate at The University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC).

With his previous work being done in the area of recruitment, Dr. Williams will continue to focus on that area, as well as his main duties, which will be to oversee the development of academic programs and obtaining external funding for research at the university; this includes programming for individual classes and the overall scope of academic offerings available at the center.

CICS currently is home to 446



Dr. Lance Williams, recently promoted within CICS

students, 312 undergraduate and 134 in the graduate program. Dr. Williams' job is to expand the enrollment at CICS while strengthening the external funding the center receives in the form of research grants and endowments.

CICS has been part of Northeastern for 38 years, and while the center has experienced what Dr. Williams described as a large increase in enrollment, outreach to high school students and returning adults will be undertaken to keep the center growing.

photo by Patrick O'Brien

University celebrates new academic program

by Nick Gaudio
Distribution Manager

A reception was held to inaugurate the creation of an African and African American Studies minor program at Northeastern on Oct. 12. The reception was planned to honor faculty, staff, students, and administrators who contributed to the development of the new program.

Among the attendees were the Provost, Dr. Frank, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Kate Forhan and author Barbara Neeley.

The reception was crowded with students, faculty, members of the administration, and guests to welcome the newest addition to the curriculum at Northeastern. The African and African American Studies minor is the first of its kind here at Northeastern, and so the reception marked a momentous occasion for students, faculty, and others.

Frank announced that the program was begun to educate students about the nature of African and African American studies. The program is under the umbrella of the College of Arts and Sciences and could see implementation as early as the spring semester. The program is intended to show a focus on African and African American culture.

As a minor, the program will set down a curriculum where professors knowledgeable in the subject matter can coordinate information and arrange for a specific group of speakers to come and relate information

relevant to the study material of the course.

For the time being, the minor is limited to professors of the Political Science department with expertise in the field. When asked if the program could progress to becoming a major program at the university, Frank reiterated, "It is possible but it would definitely need a lot of discussion and approval from the Illinois Board of (Higher) Education."

Frank also adds that, "The intention of the program is to generate interest in African and African American studies and now with an implemented minor the university has taken the first step in doing that."



Barbara Scott, professor of Sociology

photo by Mario Go



Left: Students, faculty, and staff were invited to ask questions of the President. Right: Steinberg answered both questions and attacks.

President's Q&A session draws combative crowd

by **Andrea Zelinski**
Chief Editor

Approximately 200 students, faculty, and staff gathered at President Salme Steinberg's Question and Answer session to inquire, comment, and debate issues, often times focused on labor contract disputes between the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) union on Oct. 12, 2004.

"It is not a we-they mentality that should govern who we are at this place," said Steinberg. "We have to remember we are all in this together. And I see this process of mediation as helping us to do something we were unsuccessfully doing for ourselves. And I see this in helping both sides."

"I hope at the end we will have a university," said Dr. Angelina Pedrosa. "It's not the administration against us, and us against Salme Steinberg. No.

Its us, asking for what is right."

An open microphone was provided for any individual to ask questions or give comment. Faculty, civil service, and students took opportunities to discuss, debate, argue, and criticize the president and the administration.

Topics of discussion consisted of issues relating to the current labor contract negotiations and mediation, the president's sabbatical leave, contact between the president and the university body, amongst others.

"I think everyone in the room needs to understand and know... going to mediation is a new thing. We are not experienced. We are blessed with a different kind of model; successful face-to-face negotiation," said Steinberg.

One professor inquired about the president's upcoming sabbatical leave to begin in summer of 2005. In response, the president explained issues

involved in requesting such a leave from the state government.

"The whole concept of a sabbatical, do you think that's an easy one to fight for in the State General Assembly? I don't think so," said Steinberg.

Questions regarding the parking facility also arose, including costs and safety, which the president insisted were inaccurate. "When you look at what appropriations the state in its wisdom has deemed what is for capital improvement, what is for operating budget, they are completely different.

"You cannot move one dollar of something that has been designated by the state... the people of Illinois have an investment in this campus... part of our commitment as a steward in this state of Illinois is to take care of this campus and we only use those dollars that are designated to that purpose."

Discussions also included affordability for

students. Steinberg stated "the dilemma is of course the tension between the affordability issue and appropriate salaries and so on..."

"Notwithstanding the economic difficulty, and the challenges that we met, we still were able, at this point in time, to show that the faculty were at that median or above who were in the tenured and tenured track and is incontrovertible because that is fact."

The president was accused throughout the event of avoiding the question. One such student said, "I have done nothing this hour and a half but hear you back talk, change positions, say why you can't give answers. There's all of these answers on why you can't answer these very important questions." Steinberg then followed this question by responding that she could not answer it, as it was a matter "for mediation."

UPI marches on campus -- again

Fifth demonstration
marched with less
participation

by **Dorian Barrios**
Staff Writer

A chill in the air and cloudy sky overcast the fourth rally of the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) local 4100. With a turnout of 153 counted participants, the demonstration marched through campus Thursday, Oct. 14 in concert with upcoming contract negotiation meetings with a federal mediator the following day.

After alleged unproductive meetings between Northeastern administration and the UPI, the union filed for mediation on Sept. 14. Federal mediator Don O'Brien has been assigned to mediate between the two parties, beginning Oct. 15.

Hopes for the mediation were mixed among the people at the rally. Mr. Cantor of the English department said his hopes for the mediation were "none, very little, I assume it'll be a waste of time." Edmond Hunt, the UPI local President at Northeastern Illinois University, said "Based on what's happened in the past it's not a very good outlook, but were going to take the optimistic viewpoint."

Near the end of the rally, Hunt spoke to the crowd and said that "an unfortunate result of mediation is that it fails, and in that case we have to take some serious steps." He went on to introduce Patrice Sterling to the crowd as the strike coordinator. She spoke to the crowd and stated, "It is my fervent hope, that rather than organizing a strike when mediation is



photo by Dorian Barrios

The turnout at the Oct. 15 rally was down to 153 from a 306 participant high

done, we are organizing a ratification vote for a most excellent contract."

Turnout at the rally was down 50% since the last one held on Sept. 7. Hunt stated that he thought the turnout was great. He acknowledged, "That's fewer than we had before, but it's a cold day, it's the middle of midterms."

He went on to state that "the thing I noticed about the group that did show up, is that they were unusually enthusiastic, so I'm going to take as a positive result."

The crowd, made up many of UPI members and a handful of students, marched their way through the campus chanting, banging pots, and rattling cans. As the marchers made their way past the office of the university president they slowed down and began to

beat on the glass. Hunt is pretty sure that the marches have shown the administration that the teachers are united and serious about their demands and the threat of a strike.

During the rally, a group of students expressed their concerns and made known their intent to support a teacher strike. The group, that is currently working to get a charter on the campus, is going by the name Students for Faculty Rights.

Headed up by Rachel Cohen, the group is passing around a petition stating the intent of the students who sign it to strike in the case that the UPI strikes. According to Cohen. "There are a lot of questions out there, that's where the petition comes in handy. It gets us out there having conversations with the people and addressing their concerns."

A message to the University Community

To: Members of the University Professional of Illinois, NEIU
From: Salme Harju Steinberg, President
Date: October 20, 2004

I am writing to you in my capacity as President to state as plainly as possible that the University seeks a fair and equitable contract with its professional employees. A fair and equitable contract must assure both quality and access while maintaining fiscal responsibility. I will do everything I can to attain a fair and equitable agreement, and I will follow a path that is financially responsible for the health and viability of the university.

I believe it is important to share a summary of recent events with you.

In mid-September the UPI requested mediation. The administration team did not delay for a moment, immediately agreeing to this request. As you know, an experienced mediator, familiar with the issues facing higher education, was assigned by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. Our first mediation session took place on October 1, 2004. Incredibly, at the very outset of the mediation, the UPI gave us notice that it would not agree to any mediation session beyond that first day.

The UPI's team leader, who is an IFT Senior Field Representative from the IFT's Springfield office, then proposed, for the first time, a response to the University Administration's comprehensive proposal that had been given to the UPI on September 13, 2004. And this same representative insisted on a full response from the University, on the same day, to every issue raised. We made it clear to the mediator that we were willing to meet any time the mediator was available -- day or night, weekday or weekend -- to discuss and work on the areas that were raised by the Union in its proposals, and the issues raised by the University in its proposals. Simply put, logistics did not permit this all to be done on that first day. Unfortunately, the UPI leadership did not accept the University's offer to continue to meet, but instead the mediator informed the administrative team that he was unable to reach agreement with the UPI to schedule future mediation sessions.

We are not oblivious to the misrepresentations and blistering attacks that have been made on our credibility and motives. We have not responded in the past to these misrepresentations and attacks because we did not want to add fuel to a situation made volatile by the UPI's rhetoric.

We always have believed that the UPI and its bargaining team would, with the assistance of a federal mediator, put aside its rhetoric and act in a responsible manner in order to reach common ground and resolve our outstanding issues. We apparently misunderstood the UPI's motives. Rather than step forward, roll up their sleeves and work with the federal mediator and with us to help make the mediation process a success, the UPI leadership has asserted that the process was, and is, a waste of time -- after only one meeting!

The UPI bargaining team is apparently willing to throw in the towel on the very process that it requested which might bring the two sides together and avoid a significant breach within the university community. Is it willing to jeopardize the paychecks of its members and the education of our students without making the effort to participate in the mediation process and permit the federal mediator to do his job? One can only speculate whether the Union leadership has a motive that is something other than reaching an agreement there is absolutely nothing to lose by letting the mediation process run its course, and everything to gain.

Today we all are faced with many challenges to higher education. Costs continue to escalate in every area. We cannot meet the wage demands of our professional employees to the prejudice of our many other employees. The demand for more equipment and services must also be met so that we remain competitive and provide out students with what they will need when they enter the workforce. I do not have all the answers. But, what I can assure you is that I will not give up on finding those answers. I have instructed the administrative team to continue to evaluate alternatives and to be receptive to any invitation to discuss a resolution to our contract differences. We will not walk away from mediation and our students; we urge the UPI to make the same commitment.

c: University Community

Speakers have oil on their minds

Invited by Alliance of Student Social workers, speaker addressed social justice in Colombia

by Amir Jamali
Staff Writer

The Alliance of Student Social Workers on campus invited a guest speaker on Tuesday, Oct. 12, to speak about the oil workers who struggle for social justice in Colombia. Nelson Quijano spoke through Spanish speaking student interpreters of the role of multinational organizations' involvement with the corrupt Colombian government.

According to Quijano, the Central Union of Workers (CUT) is the largest trade union organization in Colombia. They represent 63% of the working population there. Members of the CUT actively address a lack of social justice and problems with the government, paramilitary groups, and violence in Colombia.

Quijano said that the union is responsible for the social system, and they addresses major issues, such as human rights and shortage of food, which affects everyone.

According to Quijano, the paramilitaries are a tool of the Colombian government and are in conflict with people, commonly resorting to violence to accomplish their aims.

Quijano stated that the petroleum union ECO Petrol Publico is trying to nationalize the country's resource, while the government wants to privatize the oil for the multilateral organizations' benefit.

Quijano also contends that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank collectively aim to prevent the union from supporting ECO, dictating their own economic positions on Colombia by force while resorting to the intimidation of government officials.

"Major cases of assassinations are conducted by the paramilitary. Multinationals and the paramilitary want the destruction of the union in order to control the oil wealth of Colombia."

"While the union is a legal organization, its members are persecuted as violators by the corrupt government," said Quijano. "The union is often accused of being gorilla sympathizers. The outspoken and active union members are targeted and many have to leave the country."

"The oil belongs to Colombians and not the multinationals," said Quijano; "because the union workers work with petroleum, there is a lot at stake, and they have to take responsibility."

Quijano stated he would like students as U.S. consumers to recognize their link to this resource and its related social injustices in Colombia. "The only power we have is to boycott such Colombian products as Shell oil for the sake of the oil workers, Coca Cola for violating human rights, and narcotic cocaine that funds the paramilitary."

The *Independent* has spoken with representatives of Coca Cola who acknowledge problems of violence in Columbia but deny any involvement with any paramilitary group. The *Independent* also attempted to contact officials at Shell Oil, but were unsuccessful.

State employees to take Ethics Exam

by Elana Barron
Opinions Editor

The State Officials and Employees Ethics Act has instructed all state workers to complete a computer ethics training seminar and exam. "It's part of the whole effort of the (state) government's platform that there will be nothing similar to the former governor's," said the University Ethics Officer Murrell J. Duster, referring to the corruption charges, that plagued former Governor George Ryan's administration.

The Ethics Training Program focused on receiving gifts, bribes, solicitations, and other potential conflicts of interest. The "training" uses fictitious situations to present numerous scenarios that faculty and

staff are prohibited from participating in. The training program also offered trainees much helpful information, such as a list of family one is allowed to receive gifts from.

At the end of the program, there was a 10-question quiz that each worker and faculty member is required to take. They must answer eight of the ten questions correctly to pass. They are allowed to take it as many times as is needed.

The questions are not meant to test and grade the ethics of the staff, but to educate, said Duster. However, each staff member was instructed to not "discuss, copy, or disclose questions or answers associated with the quiz."

This exam will be an annual requirement. When asked what the consequences would be if a faculty or staff worker failed the exam, Dr.

Duster stressed that they do not expect that to happen. "Our expectation is that everyone would be successful in completing the exam," said Duster. Thus, as said above, staff may take it as many times as is needed for them to find the desired answer.

Many professors and staff treated the Ethics Training Seminar as a joke—mocking the detailed absurdity of the scenarios and the simplicity of the questions. As one professor, who wished to remain anonymous, put it, "everyone knows what answer to give," implying that the professors are simply supplying the answers they know to be desired.

Duster stressed, "It is important to take this seriously because it is mandated by the governor's office."

Campus construction continues



photo by Hanibal Tehrani

The corridor linking Buildings E and F will be closed for several weeks. All students and staff should enter either through the Classroom Building or Building E (Auditorium). When entering or exiting after hours use the doors in building E. There is no set date for completion available as of this time.

First annual Wellness Summit

by Elana Barron
Opinions Editor

The Wellness Advisory Council held the first annual Wellness Summit to educate students about "wellness" issues that greatly affect college students today. The topics discussed were alcohol use, HIV/AIDS, and sexual assault.

The session began with professors introducing HIV/AIDS, sexual assault, and alcohol abuse. They each provided staggering statistics that specifically pertained to college students.

Dr. Brett Stockdill discussed the need to have open discussions about sex, HIV, and AIDS. He said, "We live in a twisted society. Sex is everywhere—on billboards, in commercials, songs..." Yet, despite this openness, said Stockdill, "we are dishonest and prejudiced" and refuse to encourage the asking of questions. This refusal to acknowledge sex, said Stockdill, is linked to HIV and AIDS.

This "Dishonesty and silence kills," said Stockdill.

Dr. Judy Mizrahi introduced the topic of sexual assault. As did Stockdill, she stressed

the need for open communication. Mizrahi stressed the importance for discussion of sexual assault on campuses and said that a college campus with 10,000 females has approximately 350 rapes or attempted rapes each year. She continued that most acts of sexual assault on campuses are committed by acquaintances and are rarely reported—76% of rapes go unreported.

Assistant Dean of Students Anthony L. Jenkins spoke on alcohol abuse. Jenkins stressed that "alcohol is an underlying factor" in many dangerous behaviors. Jenkins said that College women are at a higher risk for sexual assault and unprotected sex when under the influence of alcohol.

Further, 60% of college women who received a sexually transmitted infection had intercourse while under the influence of alcohol.

After the speeches, the students divided into groups that discussed one of the three issues. Each group was presented with a scenario relating to sexual assault, HIV/AIDS, or alcohol abuse. The seminar concluded with each group presenting the ideas they discussed.

A magical evening

by Jessica Moen
Senior Staff Writer

Northeastern Alumni Jeff Scanlan and Ross Johnson provided "A Night of Magic" that the audience will not soon forget last Tuesday Oct. 19. No rabbits being pulled out of hats this time, instead the night was filled with mind reading and slight of hand tricks, sponsored and run by the College of Business and Management Alumni network.

Jeff Scanlan, who graduated in 1987 with a management degree, entertained the audience with great close up and slight of hand magic. The tricks ranged from card tricks to making very small baseballs appear in his hand. Scanlan says this was his first time performing the particular tricks in front of an audience. Scanlan is a professional magician that is known for performing for famous Chicago sports teams such as the Cubs, White Sox, and the Bulls.

Ross Johnson, who graduated in 1968 with a degree in speech, was next to enter the stage and simply amazed the audience with his gift of mind reading. Using random audience members, and their own personal items, he appeared able to successfully read the minds of the selected people and figure out what it was they were holding, simply by holding his hand over the object. Johnson was recently awarded the world's top entertainer award by the International Psychic Entertainers.

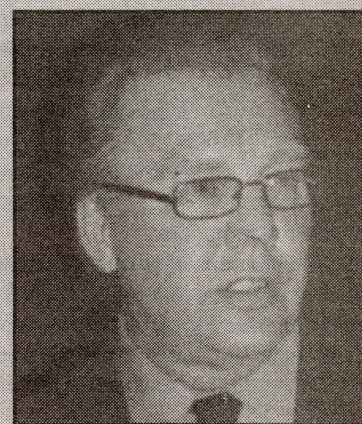


photo by Cecilia Carboni

Mentalist, entertainer and alumni Ross Johnson performed for NEIU

El Centro hosts short film festival

by Christian Ballentine
Staff Writer

The Enlance Film Festival, at Northeastern's El Centro campus, showcased four short films by Hispanic film-makers on Friday, Oct. 22. The three week festival celebrated the work of Hispanic artists in honor of Hispanic Heritage month. Approximately 25 people attended Friday's screening,

organized by Northeastern alumni Jaime Mendoza. The screening was followed by a question and answer session with each of the three video artists.

Jaime Mendoza began the evening by showing two of his films, "ASSimilation" and "El Profe," two satirical films dealing with the difficulties of forming an identity in the midst of a multi-cultural landscape.

The next film shown was Harold Mendez's, "I'm feeling you...(a condition of the mind)." Mendez aimed to, "poke fun at the illusions of masculinity," through his, "short, humorous video performance."

The final film was a video installation by Edra Soto Fernandez. Her piece, entitled "Rhythm Nation", was a video art interpretation of a live performance

of the same name. By showing scenes of a drummer, a chain smoker and a stationary bicyclist, she hoped to "help people understand what I mean by not being able to move in society."

After all four films were shown, the artists answered question about their films and the themes and ideas behind them.

Steinberg from pg. 1

Union Informational Meetings

Informational meetings regarding the mediation, negotiations, and authorization of a strike were held Oct. 20 and 21.

"The membership... gave us permission to do more mediation... hold a strike vote when that's appropriate, and to call a strike when that's appropriate," said Hunt.

After the alleged unproductive meeting, the UPI negotiation team "decided that we needed direction from our members," said Hunt.

The meeting, which was originally scheduled to host a strike vote, was held over the weekend of Oct. 16 and 17 to an informational meeting mandatory for all UPI members.

Printing from pg. 1

the past few years: approximately 2.8 million printouts in 2000, 7.1 million in 2003, and this year so far, there have already been over 7 million. "When we have our printers going from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., the maintenance costs get outrageous," said Simon.

Another goal of this print control system is to prevent unauthorized individuals from printing. "Right now, anyone can walk into the university and print," Simon added. He said that students from other universities come here to print to avoid limits at their schools because there is no limit at Northeastern. Academic Computing does not conduct I.D. checks. Simon cited repeated threats of violence incurred by his staff when individuals were asked for ID.

The software to run the print control system will cost \$50,000. According to Simon, it costs a total of \$90,000 altogether, including maintenance and training costs, with a conservatively estimated 30% reduction in printing, which will occur in 40 months—sooner if there is a larger reduction. Simon said that he looked at other schools, such as UIC, Loyola, and DePaul and considered vendor recommendations when he was researching options.

Students will have to use the usernames and passwords that they are issued with their free NEIU email accounts to use the printers in the computer labs. A student who does not know this information can retrieve it by logging on to <http://www.neiu.edu/~scs> using his or her student I.D. number and TTRS PIN or by going with the same I.D. and PIN to B-107, Student Client Support, in the B-building.

Luigi Pezzarossi, an assistant in Academic Computing, welcomes a limit on printouts. "If they have to pay for it, they'll think about it," he said. "Today, someone printed out the entire manual for the printer they have at home."

Kelly White, a senior, doesn't mind. "I think it's fine; I mean, a thousand pages? Maybe it could be a little higher," she said. "This is the first one where you didn't have to pay," she said about Northeastern.

Carlos Rodriguez, a student at large in Business Administration, disagrees. "I think they should ask for I.D., but I don't think there should be a limit," he said. "We're paying for the services; sometimes you need more, sometimes less."

SGA from pg. 1

the division of Student Activity Fees, which are paid by CICS students also, though there is only one student group on campus, the Women's Silver Dollar Club.

As reported in the Sept. 28 issue of the *Independent*, CICS students are concerned that fees paid by them are not being used to their benefit. Under the advisement of the Student Activities Office and Dean of Students Michael Kelly, the SGA controls a yearly budget which is \$420,292 for the current school year.

A review of the most recent student activities data available at NEIU from <http://www.neiu.edu/deptsao/~eventcal.htm>, corroborated the concerns of CICS students about Student Activity funding: during the 2003-2004 school year, there are no events listed by Student Activities on the school website that will be held at CICS.

At branch campus El Centro, there were 33 votes cast, and although an exact number of enrollees at EL Centro was unavailable, projecting 200 students attending class there would indicate a voter turnout of 16.5%, ten times the Main Campus turnout.

The *Independent* observed only Gregory Clark, candidate for Senator, actively campaigning for votes on the Main Campus, although since the SGA was filling ten Senator seats and four names were on the ballot, this was unnecessary.

All four candidates, Clark, Dan Gonzalez, Aaron McCoy and Carlos Rivera all were elected to one-year terms as Senators, according to unofficial election results. The Spoiled Votes category received more votes than Senate candidate McCoy did, with a 26-25 margin, and all four write-in candidates were also elected, this despite none of the write-ins receiving more than three votes.

Dean Kelly offered that SGA meetings were having difficulty reaching quorum, a necessity for conducting business under SGA rules.

For NPB, there were four seats to be filled, and the top vote-getters among the nine candidates were Gary Gaspard, who is also Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, with 62 votes, Danielle Vargas with 43 votes, Jujhar Singh with 40 votes and current SGA Speaker MohamedTalha Anarwala with 32 votes.

The NPB has control over a yearly budget that is \$81,191 for the current school year, from which the board and its members organize and sponsor events held throughout campus; NPB also employs many students who staff these events.

The SGA also plays a direct role in funding student organizations and their activities on campus; the fiscal year 2005 budget allotted \$65,000 for events sponsored by student groups, events like the Latin Dance and Coming Out Ball.

City College teachers walk out

by Andrew Valkanas
Staff Writer/Fact Checker

Under the northeast bend of the El tracks in the Loop, a picket line of professors and some students from Harold Washington College blocked the entrance of the school. With pro-union cheers and rants coming with high frequency from a bullhorn, the frequent CTA trains hoot their horns in support of the striking union.

The strike, which started Oct 18, revolves around issues of pay and health care. "They want us to teach more for very little money," said Glenn Weller, a professor in computer information systems. Entering the building, one is assaulted with the smell of fresh paint. The second floor is being completely renovated. "Much of

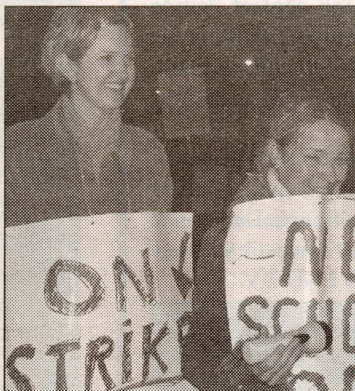


photo by Andrea Zelinski

Students from Chicago City Colleges

the City Colleges are full of patronage deals, giving companies work rather than focusing on the students," alleges Weller.

The City Colleges and NEIU, though, are not the only public universities under the cloud of labor disputes. Chicago State University (CSU), one of the Board of Governors Universities, is also engaged in labor talks over matters of pay.

The union at CSU has a contract, which runs through 2005. "One crucial difference between our negotiations and the [situations at NEIU and City Colleges] is that ours is a salary re-opener," said Laurie Walter, president of the CSU local of University Professionals of Illinois. "But frankly, the university administration says that there's no money. It hasn't been going well."

Like NEIU, CSU has recently undergone dramatic construction on its campus, erecting a new building near the main entrance to the campus. "What we're told is appropriations for new construction is separate from appropriations for everything else," said Laurie Walker.

A strike isn't an immediate issue at CSU. There are no signs around the campus showing concern for the situation, or promoting gatherings to support one side or another. "We don't want to strike, because it's hard on us and it's hard on the students," said Laurie Walker.

"But we will if we have to."

What do you want to be?

by Steven McNulty
Staff Writer

The Career Counseling Office held two different events directed by David P. Helfand and Ms. Yuki Sasatani to help students evaluate career options.

If you ever pondered what kind of job there is out there to suit you, or you ever wondered what kinds of degrees are needed to get that job, this workshop provided a guide to the

future.

The first session was called "What's Your Type." This workshop was designed to help you realize your personality type. This is meant to help you realize what job type best suits you, based on your personality.

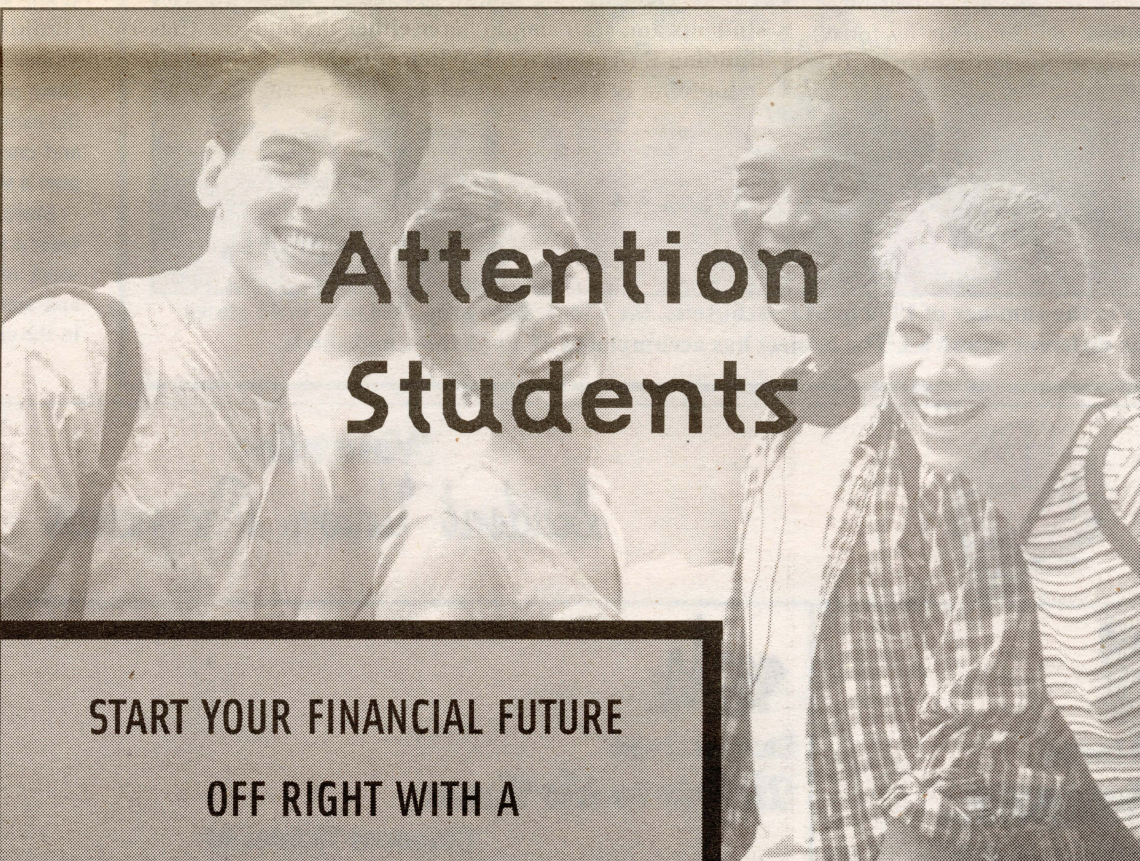
The test used was called the Keirsey temperament sorter. It asked you 70 questions about your personal reactions in a social environment. After you tallied your score, you would apply it to the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. That gives you your four letter personality code.

The other workshop was called "Identifying Career Options." This workshop was to provide an overview

of the career decision making process. After discussion, an assessment was given of career interests, based on how people felt about certain job preferences. This was a test that evaluated how you like doing certain things required in a particular job area.

The whole process can be a little confusing, but very helpful. If you were unable to go and want to know more, you can schedule an individual appointment with a career counselor in the Counseling Department.

These results are not set in stone, they are simply designed to narrow your fields and help you reach some sort of conclusion for yourself.



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Clothesline project airs dirty laundry of domestic abuse

by Patrick O'Brien
Production Manager

"If you listened to the words of the women who participated in the Clothesline Project, you cannot help but be overwhelmed." The words of student Jillian McLeod, who helped staff the annual unveiling of the Clothesline Project, which visually displayed the issue of violence against women in Village Square on Oct. 20 and 21.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month; the Office of Adult and Women Students, through its "Pathways to Peace" Program has spearheaded and co-sponsored a series of events this month that also included the Silent Witness Exhibit and the White Ribbon Campaign, among others.

Adult and Women's Services Director Patrice Prince gave the Independent an idea of the importance of the event: "According to the American Medical Association (AMA),

domestic violence is an epidemic. It is blind to color, ethnic background, religion, age, economic status, social class, sex, or sexual orientation. It can happen to anyone."

Prince focused on the fact that the Clothesline puts a human face on statistics regarding violence against women: "It [domestic violence] is also acts of emotional abuse... that create an environment where one feels worthless."

The t-shirts around Village Square symbolized the levels of violence and sexual abuse suffered by women. White shirts represent women who died of violence, written by surviving family and friends. Yellow or Beige shirts are for women who have been battered or assaulted. Red, Pink and Orange are for rape and sexual assault victims, Blue and Green are for women who survived incest and sexual abuse, and Purple and Lavender are for women who were attacked because of sexual orientation.

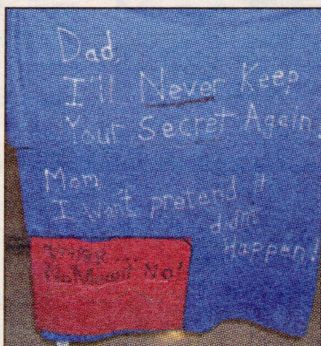
The founders of the project suggest it's a visual way of "Airing our society's dirty laundry" and "Breaking the silence" about

violence against women.

McLeod on the impact the program had on her: "The Clothesline Project has motivated me to help others who I know have suffered from sexual abuse and need an outlet for their pain, to aid them in the quest for healing."

Anyone with questions or comments can contact Patrice Prince at extension 4870, or the Women's Studies Department at extension 4550, regarding the event.

The City of Chicago Domestic Violence Help Line also offers 24-hour, multilingual assistance for victims of domestic violence at 1-877-TO END DV.



Starting in the summer of 1990 in Massachusetts, the Clothesline project is now in 41 states and four different countries. The project has accumulated 50 to 60 thousand shirts.

Dancing the night away



photo by Cecilia Carboni

The Spanish Club Sponsored the Latin Dance on Oct 15 in Alumni Hall. The dance was scheduled from 10:00 p.m. - 3:00 a.m., but was ended at 2:00 a.m. The DJ played throughout the whole evening. From Merengue to Spanish rock the DJ spun a wide variety of musical styles to the dancers' delights. Less than 100 people attended.

University participates in White Ribbon Campaign

by Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor

In the world's largest effort to encourage and support men to speak out and stop men's violence against women, the university tabled in Village Square, distributing flyers and white ribbon as a part of the White Ribbon Campaign.

Hosted by the Adult and Women Student Program and organized by Dean of Students Anthony Jenkins, the campaign is an effort to educate and encourage men to speak out on men's violence against women.

Male supporters were asked to wear a white ribbon throughout the week of Oct. 18. Students, faculty, and staff were asked to participate in the campaign.

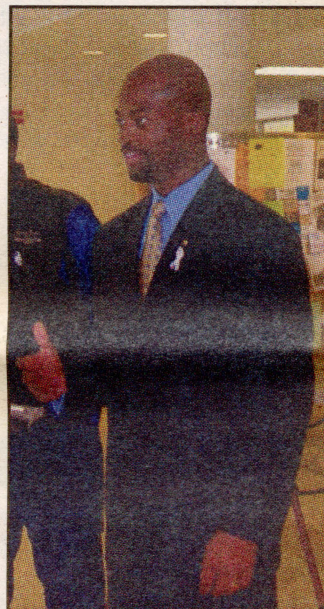


photo by Mario Go

Assistant Dean of Students, Anthony Jenkins.



November Student Union Programs



Student Union

SU Presents...

**Open Mic
Battle of the Poets
(BOP!)**

**Thursday,
November 11, 2004
5pm, SU 214**

Share your thoughts
through artistic
expression.



Student Union

Tickets to the Town

Discount Tickets to
Six Flags Great America's Fright Fest
Tickets Still Available

Ticket Prices

\$26 with NEIU Student ID * \$30 with NEIU Alumni or Faculty/Staff ID

Russell Simmons Def Poetry Jam

Saturday, November 20, 2004, 7 p.m.

Ticket Prices

\$20 with NEIU Student ID * \$25 with NEIU Alumni or Faculty/Staff ID

Ticket Sales Begin...

Monday, November 8 for NEIU Students only

Monday, November 15 for Alumni, Faculty and Staff

*While Supplies Last * Limit two tickets per NEIU ID*



Student Union

Calendar Capers

**Día de los Muertos
(Day of the Dead)**
Craft Activities

**Monday, November 1, 2004,
11am-Noon and 5-6pm**

National Teddy Bear Day

Monday, November 15
Teddy Bear Decorating Contest
Best paper bear wins a prize!

All Capers will take place in
Village Square



For More Information about these events please contact
the Student Union at (773) 442-6099 or
the Information Center at (773) 442-4290



APICS club assists in national conference

by Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor

Three students of the business club American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS) were traveled to San Diego, California, to assist organizers in operating the APICS 2004 International Conference & Exposition, Oct. 10 through 13.

From Saturday, Oct. 9 through 13, Krystyna Leja, Sandra Chavez-Cornejo, and Diana Varela donated their time to work as assistants at the conference. These women, along with 45 other students around the globe, were assigned to help organizers with convention duties. Students traveled from as far as Canada and Africa to participate.

All contributing students were assigned a mentor to maintain contact with throughout the trip. As a source for networking and relationship building, mentors provided some professional guidance, according to Leja. "It's great. My mentor right now is trying to get another contact for me from her company," said Leja, a marketing major.

"I had a very nice mentor who was more than willing to refer me to a branch of the company she works for here in Chicago," said Diana.

Students were given scheduled assignments every day which "[were not] that difficult... organizational things... not very complex at all." Assignments included passing out flyers,

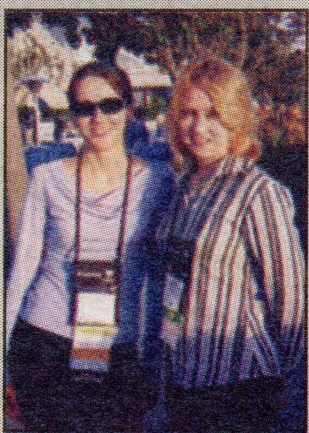


photo courtesy of Krystyna Leja

From left: Krystyna Leja joins Bonnie, a student from Africa

counting the number of votes or guests at a given presentation, giving directions, greeting, and distributing lunches.

"[The trip] was all fun. It's not everybody [being] serious, wearing suits. No... That's in the morning, but then in end we have time to enjoy it. We enjoyed the city," said Leja.

On a semester basis, the APICS student club participates in conventions, two guest speaker events, and takes a trip within the state.

According to www.apics.org, APICS is a "global leader and premier provider of information and services in production and inventory management and related areas to enable members, enterprises, and individuals to add value to their business performance."

Leja and Chavez-Cornejo are co-presidents of Northeastern's APICS club.

Blood drive overflow

"We weren't prepared for this many people"

by Victor A. Dula
Senior Staff Writer

The American Red Cross held a blood drive last week Thursday that saw more students willing to donate blood than the Red Cross staff could handle. According to David Benjaih, President of the Future Physicians Society at NEIU who helped to coordinate the drive with Health Services, they received the maximum that they could accept, about 50 pints.

"I think we could have had a hundred people," Benjaih said. "This is the largest turnout I've seen. We weren't prepared for this many people." There will be another drive during the last week of March. "We'll plan on at least a hundred people coming," Benjaih said.

Jessica Lettow, coordinator of Health Services, said that blood donations have been declining. Turnout for the last blood drive was poor. "Last time we had, like, seven [donors]," she said. The last drive was held in SU-003 at the north end of the cafeteria. "I guess people don't want to mix food and blood donations."

This time they held the drive in Alumni Hall, a much larger room adjacent to a higher volume of traffic through the Student



photo by Cecilia Carboni

The Red Cross collected 50 pints of blood, up 43 from the last drive.

Union.

"Students are a very spontaneous group," Lettow added. The ideal time it would take for a student to donate blood would be about

half-hour, according to Benjaih. Benjaih estimated that it took about an hour on Thursday.

"We're grateful to all those who gave," Benjaih said.

Apocalypse throws poetry party



photo by Cecilia Carboni

Students read their own poetry of politics and personals.

by Andrew Valkanas
Staff Writer/Fact Checker

Poet Rena Marzen started her presentation of works saying, "It feels so good to be in a room full of poets." This sentiment was echoed by all the writers and staff of Apocalypse, who celebrated the publication of *Apocalypse 11* Thursday Oct. 21, in an event open to the university community.

The majority of writers were students, reading their own works to an audience paying rapt attention. "I mostly write for myself," said Nathania Quach, poet and treasurer of Apocalypse. "But I'm gratified when others enjoy [my works]."

The works expressed diverse views, from snapshots in time and space to controversial

political issues. "I write to force you to see things from a different perspective," said Tony Crooks, an education major. "Most everything I write is tied into social commentary."

Most of the writers have been putting poems together for a long time, but some, like Joe Eldridge, have only recently picked up the pen. "I've been writing for about two years now," said Eldridge, a martial artist and an English major.

However, Apocalypse also provides an opportunity for students to be published who otherwise wouldn't have many options. "It would be great to be published in the *National Weekly* or *The New Yorker*, but it's better to get in with a smaller, independent group," said Quach.

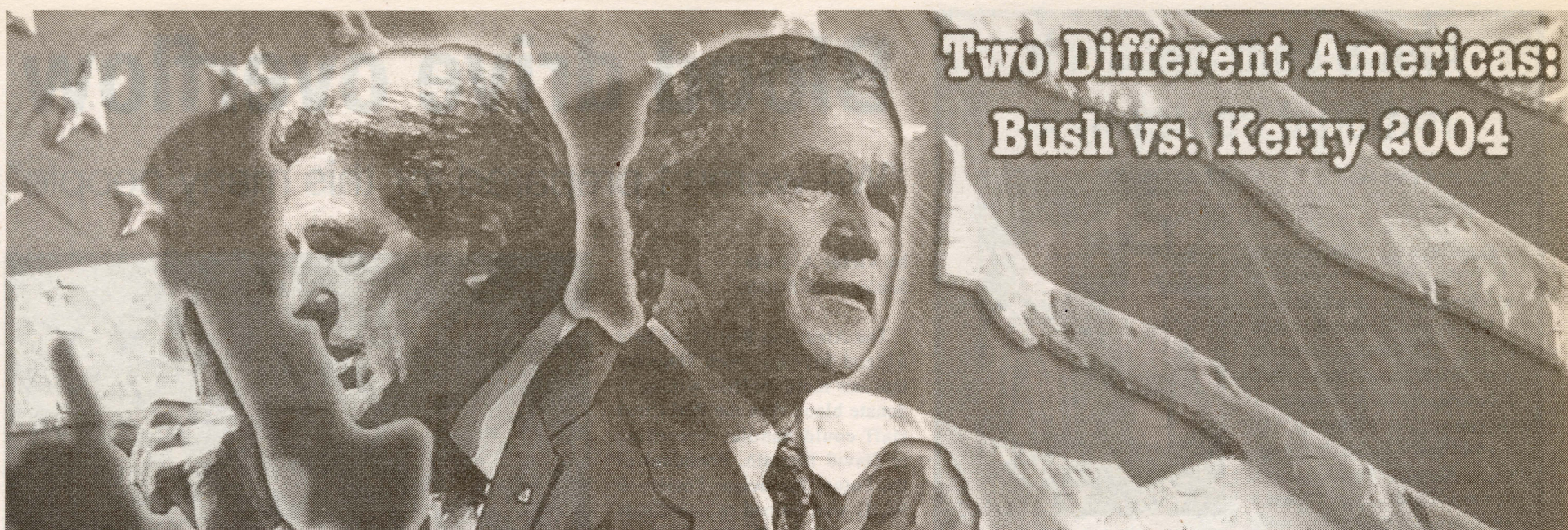
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Boo-fet...
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including drink, salad, and dessert.

Oct. 29
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Cafeteria

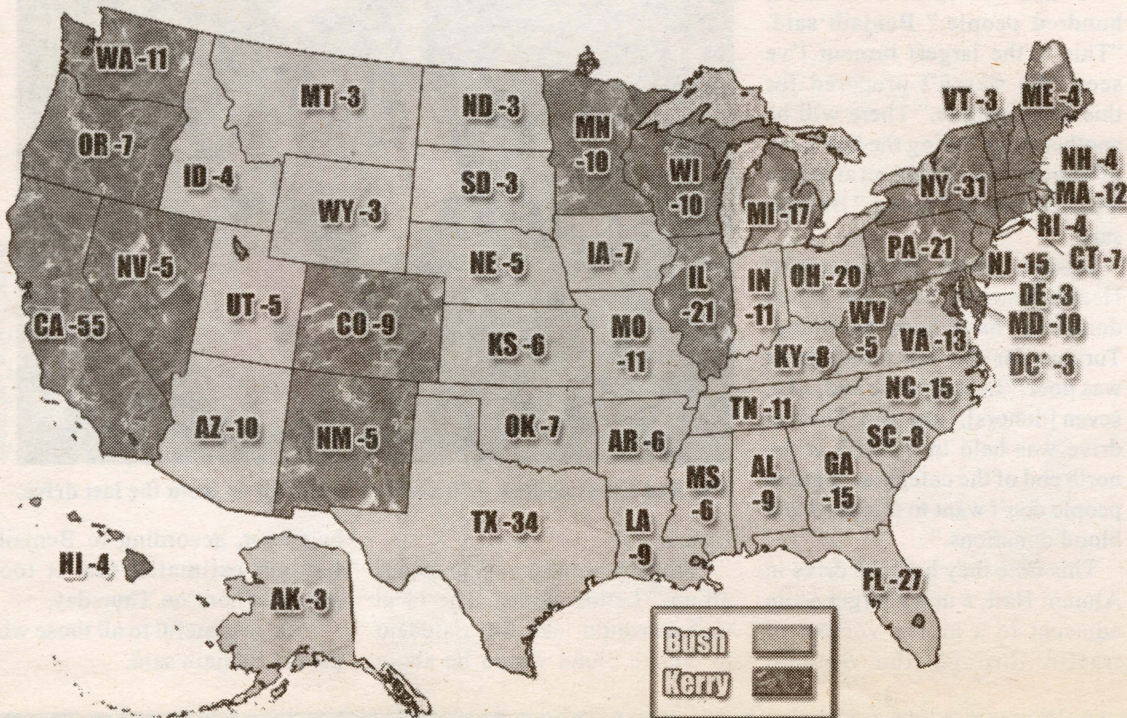
Happy Halloween
from your friends
at Sodexho!



Two Different Americas: Bush vs. Kerry 2004

The Left Will Rise Again: Patrick O'Brien's America, Kerry 276, Bush 262

by Patrick O'Brien
Production Manager



Patrick O'Brien's Electoral College predictions contain a few surprises. Notably, he sees John Kerry winning the election without Florida or Ohio's electoral votes. In O'Brien's scenario, Kerry captures the Presidency by cracking the West in Nevada, Colorado and New Mexico.

The number of pundits, analysts, and handicappers who have come up with scenarios for this year's Presidential Elections have basically handed swing states to each of the candidates, and left as many as 35 states solidly in either John Kerry or George W. Bush's column, without questioning the strength of their bases or taking into account the dynamics of American politics.

The time has come for the Democratic Party to make inroads into the western and southern parts of the United States; if they don't, they face a shaky existence in future presidential races.

The Republican Party has managed to become much stronger in the Midwest and even threatens the once-invincible eastern seaboard. With Iowa, Indiana and Ohio somehow managing to vote Republican despite their seemingly liberal-leaning demographics, the donkeys will have to crack the Solid South.

I see John Kerry squeaking by in West Virginia, where there are plenty of Democratic statewide office holders to prop up a one or two point victory. In the west, John Kerry will pull off a huge upset in Colorado, where he has been running from behind consistently.

Coupled with wins in Nevada and New Mexico, the Democrat will capture the Presidency in unorthodox fashion, given how stratified the U.S has become politically.

If the Democratic Party can appeal to the rural poor who are in abundance in the South, they would seem to have an advantage; but race politics by the right-wing have prevented otherwise Democratic voters from supporting anyone other than Bill Clinton types.

The Choice 2004: It's the economy, stupid

Making dollars and sense of the election

by John Brachich
Business Manager

Elections come and go, but the economy is always here, and its good to know what kind of direction the next President may steer this economy.

Taxes

The difference between the two candidates' tax plans essentially is very small. President George W. Bush's tax plan, and his entire economics program, centers around this concept of an "ownership society."

Think of it as a neo-conservative version of LBJ's Great Society. At the heart, Bush's tax plan is to make the tax cuts he initiated permanent and initiate new tax cuts to spur growth.

The Bush plan will eliminate the "marriage penalty," where married couples supposedly paid more in taxes than single people, and eliminating the death tax (for those who don't know, it is a tax on inheritances).

Bush favors doubling the tax credit for having kids from the current rate, and simplifying the tax code (though he doesn't say how).

Senator John F. Kerry's tax proposal uses the previous tax reduction by the Bush Administration, but eliminates tax cuts for anyone making \$200,000 or more.

Whereas Bush's plan centers on tax cuts, Kerry's centers around eliminating loopholes and some tax policies. Corporate

income taxes would be eliminated by 5%, and tax breaks that allow companies to defer taxes on foreign income would end.

It also involves establishing a New Jobs Tax Credit for manufacturing companies implementing outsourcing or small businesses, which essentially eliminates the payroll tax.

Also, Kerry wants a one-time tax holiday to allow money sitting in foreign bank accounts to be repatriated back in the country through reinvestments, as well as a \$4000 tax deduction for paying for college. Plus, Tax credits will be issued for companies to cover 50% of a worker's healthcare premiums.

The Federal Budget

In the final year of the Clinton Administration, pundits were proclaiming that there would be surpluses for years to come, and that we would even pay off our national debt.

One year later, the stock market collapsed, the nation experienced a terrorist attack, and our great budget surplus turned into a great budget shortfall.

Economists and other leading players in the financial world have warned the United States to cut its budget deficit or face a possible financial collapse.

Both candidates have made proposals to prevent the U.S from imitating Argentina,

a high profile case where a nation allowed its budget deficit to go into the stratosphere, resulting in an economic collapse.

Bush's plan in a possible second administration states a goal of cutting the deficit in half within five years.

To accomplish this, he has proposed cuts in programs that fall into the category of discretionary spending. The only parts of the budget, according to the President, which will not be touched will be defense and homeland security.

To thwart unwanted spending, the President has called for the use of a line-item veto to cut any spending items he believes will not achieve his goal of cutting the deficit.

Senator Kerry's proposal for cutting the deficit calls for repealing President Bush's tax cut on anyone making over \$200 thousand a year. The savings from this and the other tax proposals are to cut the budget deficit in half in four years.

Under a Kerry administration, budget caps that President Clinton initiated in the 1990s would be reintroduced.

These caps will reflect on programs outside of education and security, which will regulate the increases of spending to the rate of inflation. Kerry has also proposed a

freeze on the budget itself. Senator Kerry also has called for a line-item veto.

Trade

America today has become another express stop on the globalization train. With the press of a key or a phone call, goods and commodities ranging from jobs to currency to oil can be shipped/made anywhere.

President Bush's plan for a second administration revolves around opening more markets from barriers and the establishment of more free trade agreements. The largest of these agreements is the Free Trade Areas of the Americas (FTAA).

President Bush also plans on being more aggressive before the World Trade Organization in defending intellectual property rights and unfair trade barriers.

In Kerry's Administration, all trade agreements will go under a 120 day review to see if they are fair to the country. Kerry's trade agreements center around workers rights.

Any trade deal will also be pegged to labor rights and environmental policies. Companies that hire Americans or have most of their business activity in the US will get preference in contracts versus companies who don't.

Kerry will also pursue similar guidelines for service industries and eliminate loopholes that make it profitable for US companies to move factories overseas, which in turn will provide tax credit to those who move jobs back to America.

"...Leading players in the financial world have warned the United States to cut its budget deficit or face a possible financial collapse."

Nader supporters are blinded by their ideology

by Amir Jamali
Staff Writer

An independent candidate is someone who is very much needed in American politics and elections except, this time around, it can jeopardize the presidency by a repeat of the 2000 election.

Many people have claimed that Ralph Nader is responsible for Bush winning the 2000 election.

In fact, no one can be sure if the Green Party voters would have voted for Gore or stayed home that day. However, the resultant 4 years of a radical in power should now wake up the independent voters.

Nader has every right to raise issues that have been ignored by the two main parties. He can even persuade them to make promises despite their agenda. They won't keep their promises anyway.

At least, the public will become more aware of the important issues and the fact that the major parties and their candidates do not wish to address them.

However, if Nader has any respect for himself, he should pull out of the race at the last minute and denounce Bush in favor of the opposing

candidate. There is a time for defending your ideology and a time to be realistic and pragmatic. This is such a close race and with so much at stake. When you can see that Nader has no chance of gaining presidency, then any vote for Nader would likely be a vote against the lesser of the two evils currently running for president.

Therefore, you are practically wasting your vote. You may, in fact, be responsible for a Bush win thus

allowing him to continue 4 more years of what you are against. Even if Kerry does not meet our standards, he still deserves a chance.

Unless Buchanan runs for election, there is possibly no other candidate worst than Bush in America today.

If Kerry does not measure up to par, he too will be facing the same "vote out" in 2008. The American public will not stand for re-electing a man who dupes them.

Thus, this is a crucial time in history. This is no time to flinch, freeze in your boots, or to be blinded by your righteous ideology.

Once Bush is out of office, you can regain your status with a better chance of success.

"If Nader has any respect for himself, he should pull out of the race at the last minute and denounce Bush."

The Reign of the Right: Elana Barron's America, Bush 279, Kerry 259

by Elana Barron
Opinions Editor

As the official *Independent* Republican, it was left to me to predict a positive Republican outcome. However, it is practically impossible to predict this election. The entire election hinges on those individuals in the swing states who have yet to form an opinion—unlike the rest of the country.

Almost every pollster, newspaper, and news show has made predictions. In this election, people are even placing bets on the outcome of the electoral votes. However, in these swing states, in almost every poll, the difference between Kerry and Bush resides in the margin of error.

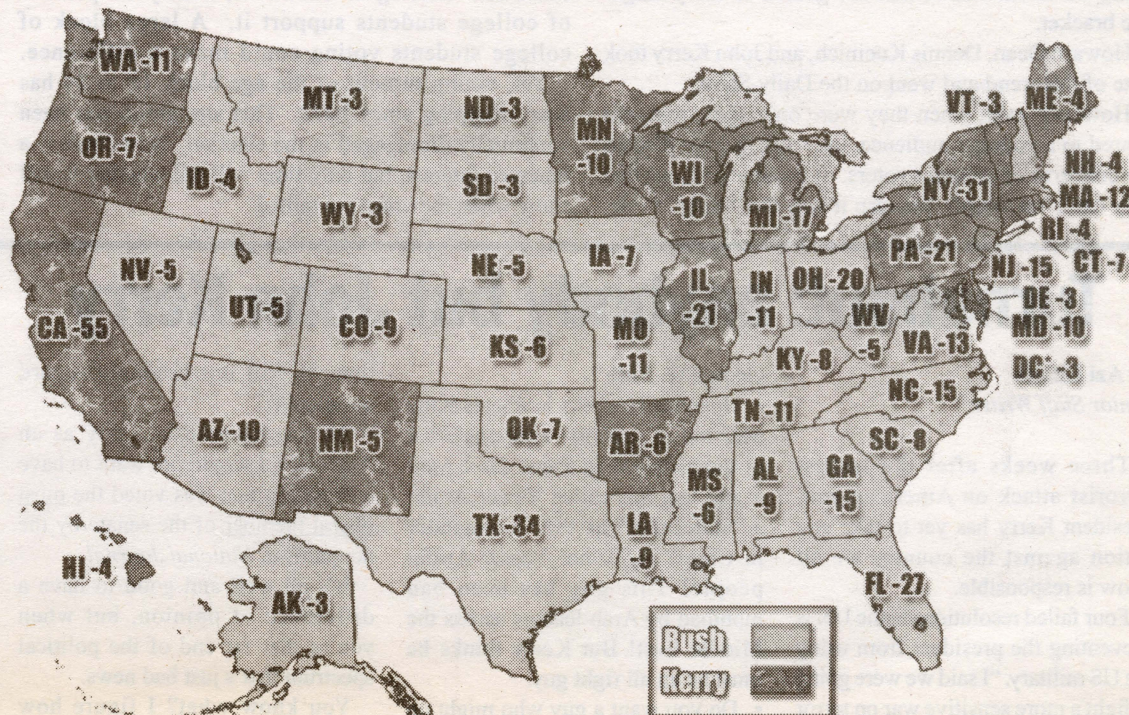
There are maps that will update themselves every 30 seconds to show a change in voter interest in the swing states.

The three swing states which are vital in this battle for the White House are Florida, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Together, these states have 68 votes. Most polls show Bush slightly ahead in Ohio.

Analysts believe that even though Ohio's economy is failing, they are more concerned about security and will thus vote for Bush. The tossup is Florida, with 27 votes, but with their booming economy, they will vote for Bush. Kerry is ahead in most polls in Pennsylvania.

Compared to my liberal associate's map, you will see many similarities. It is those swing states that will show our differences. The map below represents a likely scenario.

In my prediction, which oddly enough is quite similar to the 2000 election (which we Republicans think came out all right), Bush will win 279 of the electoral votes—one more than he received in the 2000 election. This is due to a move towards Republicanism in various states.



Elana Barron predicts that President Bush will hang onto to the same states he won in 2000. Barron does give Arkansas to John Kerry, but sees Bush cracking New England for New Hampshire's four electoral votes. Bush also dents the Rust Belt, with predicted victories in Iowa, Indiana and Ohio.

The Choice 2004: The Issues

John Kerry

Iraq

Iraq is a distraction from the U.S. hunt for Osama bin Laden, U.S. is bearing too much of the burden but must stay in now that we are there until it stabilizes.

The Defense and the Draft

States a "backdoor draft" is going on with extensions in active and reserve terms of service. Would add 40,000 more troops to the military and double the number of Special Forces trained troops.

Healthcare

Would allow citizens to opt into the same healthcare that Congress has. Would engage in collective purchasing to push down drug costs.

USA PATRIOT ACT

Would keep some of it and repeal some of it.

Gay Rights

Not for gay marriage, opposed to amendment to Constitution, for equal rights.

Education

Would fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act, would give \$4000.00 tuition tax credit to college students.

George Bush

Iraq

Bush: Stay the course. Iraq is free, the people are happy and democracy is taking hold.

The Defense and the Draft

"I will not institute a draft period". Military transformation plan will make U.S. military more agile and able to respond to situations more quickly.

Healthcare

Would set up healthcare savings accounts.

USA PATRIOT ACT

Act is critical for national security and must be extended

Gay Rights

Supports an amendment to the Constitution banning gay marriage by defining marriage as between a man and a woman.

Education

Touts No Child Left Behind Act as bringing more accountability to schools and there by a better education. Would increase Pell Grants.

Ralph Nader

Iraq

US pull out, replaced by UN Peacekeepers, elections as soon as possible.

The Defense and the Draft

Opposed to the draft and would engage in nuclear disarmament.

Healthcare

Federal single payer, nationalized healthcare.

USA PATRIOT ACT

Supports the restoration of civil liberties, repeal of the Patriot Act.

Gay Rights

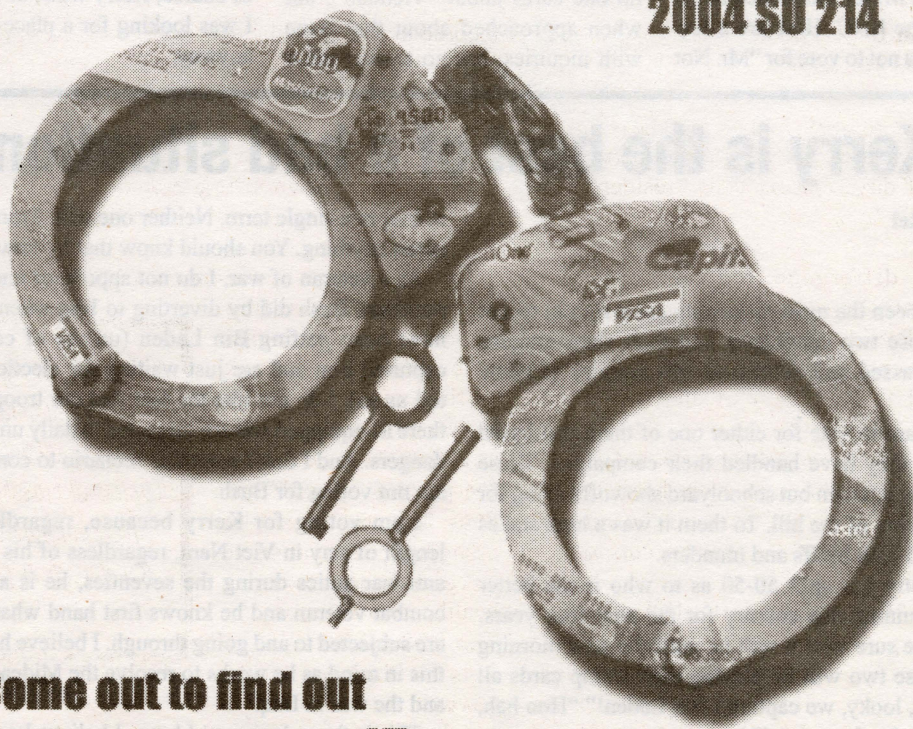
Supports gay marriage

Education

No position listed.

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The upcoming election has gathered much interest. Newspapers are focused on it. News shows discuss nothing else. Even numerous movies have been produced with the intent to influence the outcome.

Analysts hope that maybe, just maybe, this will be the year where Americans made come out to vote in droves—especially college students.

Current polls report that younger voters, ages 18-25, are more involved in this election than in previous years. Since the last election, the majority of new registered voters are college students. A survey by Pace Poll at Pace University states that since 2000, 45 percent of newly registered voters fall between 18 and 25.

However, despite this renewed interest of younger voters, many are afraid that they will still not show up to vote. Of all age groups, college students, despite this interest, are the least likely to enter a voting booth.

Because it has become apparent that this age group tends to get their news from the Internet and comedy news shows, politicians have been deviating from 60 Minutes, Dateline, and other traditional news shows, going on to the shows that are geared to the younger age bracket.

Howard Dean, Dennis Kucinich, and John Kerry took note of this trend and went on the Daily Show.

However, even when they were on a show that was geared to a younger audience, they still did not discuss the concerns of younger voters. It became obvious that they came on simply because it was the “thing” to do.

However, this is not solely the fault of politicians—the blame rests with college students as well. In the 1992 presidential race, they were given the opportunity to interview Bill Clinton on their own turf—MTV.

However, they wasted this opportunity with questions such as whether he wore boxers or briefs.

Students need to turn off the T.V. They need to stop listening to news personalities, Hollywood, and even professors, who are trying to convince them to vote one way or another. They must stop and research the issues that pertain to them.

One of the most important issues students are focusing on is Iraq. Whether or not you believe the war is justified, it is your fellow students who are going to fight.

A surfacing concern for younger voters is rumors about the draft. As discussed in prior issues of the *Independent*, the fear of a draft permeates the halls—despite the constant reassurance of each candidate to the contrary.

One of the other issues students focus on is gay marriage. Overall, 60 percent of America opposes same-sex marriages. However, nearly 60 percent of college students support it. A large block of college students voting could make a difference.

Yet, voting turnout of the age block 18 to 24 has been dropping since 1972. This age group has been continually disengaged in the election. Now there is a renewed interest, but only time will tell whether it will show when the votes are tallied.

The minimum they can do



Cecilia Carboni
new_voc@hotmail.com

We have all focused extensively on the Iraq war. Personally, I found the third presidential debate most interesting because it pertained to me on a more tangible level. Some issues discussed felt like they were being dusted off from the top shelf, and thankfully so. Not that the war doesn't affect students; those who have been called into duty and those that miss them are here at NEIU.

However, the focus on Iraq has been so strong that it almost overshadows domestic affairs.

And let's face it, economics is a key factor.

One of the big issues is the minimum wage increase. Both Bush and Kerry hold radically opposing views. Kerry and his running mate John Edwards both recently signed the Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2004. It seeks to increase the current minimum wage from \$5.15 an hour to \$5.85, and then to \$6.45 by 2005, and finally to \$7.00 by 2006—a 36 percent total increase over two years, which Bush disagrees with.

Although hesitant to raise wages on his own terms, Bush has not completely turned down the idea of doing so at some point. However, he has not specified the nature of an increase that would be phased into action at a much slower rate if proposed. In January 2001, he passed the “State-Flex Approach,” a law that stated that Congress could raise wages but individual states could lower them depending on their economic conditions.

The problem with issues like these is that they seem so black and white. If we don't think about it we can easily lapse into simply thinking:

“More money! Why not!” Well, pray tell...why not?

First of all, why so? The minimum wage has not seen an increase from Congress in the last seven years. Kerry believes it will help those living in poverty. Economic analysts feel that it can pick up some of the slack on the problem of inflation, and past studies show that employers often raise wages for those earning above the minimum wage in what you can call a “ripple effect.” It would also stimulate spending and local economies. Many supporters also feel it helps boost those in the job market who lack sufficient leverage, such as women and minorities.

Opposition lies in many forms, many of which can be countered with the spiffy newly revised economic models popping up on economics websites lately. One common argument is that higher wages will be a double-edged sword in the way of layoffs to afford those raises. It didn't occur in the last increase of 1996-1997, which directly affected 8.9% of the workforce (compared to what would be today's 5.9%). The increase had no “negative employment or economic consequences and can therefore be used as a benchmark for a successful minimum wage package,” according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Others have argued that increases drive small business into disadvantage. Studies, according to the EPI website, show that “small businesses experienced higher employment growth in states with a minimum wage above the \$5.15 federal minimum.” Companies benefit from decreased absenteeism, lower employee turnover, and higher productivity.

One of the biggest arguments against it is where it goes. Opponents claim that benefits are going to be going to the 16 year old working part-time at the video store. However, increases deeply affect adults from low-income families—families that rely on them to survive. Of those who benefited in the last round of increases, 71% were individuals 20 and older, 58% were women, and 58% of the gains went to the poorest of working households.

As students, many of you are going to be spending the next couple years pretty broke. You have to analyze how this would affect you, both in relation to how you get your cash now and after you graduate.

When Kerry and Bush argue about these points they make solutions seem so easy. The truth is they are complicated, and going to political websites is going to give you a warped point of view. I suggest you set aside the big glitzy issues if you really want to understand the candidates and go research the issues in the most unbiased way you possibly can. Trust me, both sides will wear you down. Hope you like economics!

Turnabout: anybody but John Kerry

by Azi Lifsiacs
Senior Staff Writer

Three weeks after the largest terrorist attack on American soil, President Kerry has yet to take any action against the country we all know is responsible.

Four failed resolutions in the UN is preventing the president from using the US military. “I said we were going to fight a more sensitive war on terror and, by Theresa's bank account, I meant it!” was the only comment Mr. Kerry had for the press.

Something like this is what you may see in the paper in the coming months, if the terrifying poll of students voting for president were to be the same numbers on a National level. Crazy you say? I don't think so. How many bills to help the military has John Kerry voted against? Against tanks, warplanes, missiles and everything else Democratic Senator Zell Miller mentioned in his address to the RNC. Here are a few other reasons not to vote for “Mr. Not

George W. Bush”

- Homeland security is what is at the near top of (almost) everyone's list of things to worry about. Do I want a guy that has called Yasser Arafat a “statesman” as the Commander in Chief? Heck no! Yasser Arafat people! This guy has been bad mouthed by Arab leaders across the Middle East! But Kerry thinks he must be an all right guy.

- Do you want a guy who might up and change his mind based on, I don't know, Chicago's weather? (After all, that's probably what he based his position on the Iraq war on right?)

- The absolutely sick campaign this man is running, albeit without his name on it. I.E. Michael Moore's smut peddling, and a commercial that states, “Voting for President Bush is like the Special Olympics; even if you win you're still retarded.”—You people make me sick.

- Kerry's one word platform that no one cares about “Vietnam”, but when approached about that issue with inquiries, has no answer other

than “I will not have my record questioned.”

- As a conservative... nay as an American, I would not want to have a President that was voted the most liberal member of the senate by the nonpartisan *National Journal*.

It's all well and good to have a difference of opinion, but when you're that far end of the political spectrum that's just bad news.

You know what? I figure how useless this is, when people have websites like <http://www.johnkerryisadouchebagbutimvotingforhimanyway.com>, you're not looking at two people, you're only looking at for or against one of them. All John Kerry had to say the entire time was “Look at my name, it's not George W. Bush” and you'd still have people knocking down the door to help with his campaign.

When all is said and done, the better man for the job will win. Unless of course, Kerry wins, in which case I was looking for a place in Canada anyway.

Kerry is the best of a bad situation

by Joe Hertel
REV Editor

This has been the most disgusting campaign in recent history. These two candidates and their shennanigans have embarrassed and demeaned this country at home and abroad.

I don't want to vote for either one of them just based on the way they have handled their campaigns. These two are not gentlemen but schoolyard showoffs vying for position as king of the hill. To them it was a high stakes game played with bluffs and blunders.

The country has split 50-50 as to who is the better choice in running this country for the next four years. We won't be sure who it will be until the next morning because these two will be playing their trump cards all week: “Hey, looky, we captured Bin Laden!” “Hoo hah, free ketchup for the troops!”

The debates accomplished very little to persuade us to change our vote because people are voting mostly anti one or the other. And, if Nader doesn't drop out, it is likely those will be Kerry votes lost and Bush could win the popular vote.

So who should you vote for? This old man has a thought, gentle reader, I will share with you. It is the thought that I will carry into the voting booth with me.

We have seen what president Bush has done during his term, and we pretty well know what he is going to continue to do. We really don't know what Kerry will do. Neither one can clean up the economy, social security or the mess

in Iraq in a single term. Neither one will. Promises don't mean anything. You should know that by now.

As a veteran of war, I do not approve or endorse what president Bush did by diverting to Iraq when he should have been getting Bin Laden (unless of course they captured him and are just waiting for election week to tell us so). I do not like the fact that our troops are over there ill-equipped and are subjected to daily unnecessary dangers. And I don't want this scenario to continue. So I am not voting for Bush.

I am voting for Kerry because, regardless of his length of stay in Viet Nam, regardless of his misguided anti-war antics during the seventies, he is a decorated combat veteran and he knows first hand what our troop are subjected to and going through. I believe he will keep this in mind as he works to resolve the Mideast situation and the war in Iraq.

This is the only reason I have. I believe he will handle the war better and seek an earlier resolve. I will give him the opportunity, since this war is of primary concern to me. I want it ended. Bush had his chance and blew it.

My God people, we are talking about the office of the president of the United States of America, the most awesome position in the entire world. We have to pick one and we are only given these two to choose from. Not an easy choice, not a good choice, and some will blindly vote their party ticket. We are going to make one of these losers a winner, and hope to God it was the right, no, not right, rather, the best we can do under the circumstances, choice. As a nation we do much better.

History will absolve me

by Patrick O'Brien
Production Manager

What I am about to say, you won't be able to prove until later. Only the perspective time provides will illuminate the folly of America in 2004.

Both John Kerry and George W. Bush do not concern themselves with the condition of the poorest Americans; neither will further the plight of the 40 million people without healthcare; neither will take profit out of healing.

Both Bush and Kerry will further entangle the world in a war on terror that does little but create more terrorists. Both men will fight ideological fanaticism with bombs and bullets, and both will lose this battle.

The United States will continue to lose influence abroad, as our policies under the Kerry/Bush administration will reflect the needs of the few and the whims of the connected.

The Kerry/Bush administration is the same Presidency as far as the downtrodden and discarded are concerned. The word homeless has scarcely crossed the lips of our presidents in-waiting; neither has the word peace, unless followed by the irony that peace can be won through war.

The Bush/Kerry administration will do nothing to heal the wounds of American racism that continue to undermine large segments of the population that is not white.

We are about to elect a President who will do more to destroy the future of this country than we can fathom now. But in four years, we'll know that this year, there was no real choice.

Guest Commentary

What Do You Mean They Aren't Customers?



by
Timothy H. Scherman
Professor of English

One of the principal problems in a study of ideology is that scholars seem unable to agree on a definition of the term. Louis Althusser, a contributor to this debate, claimed that ideology is not just an abstract reflection of philosophy or propaganda floating in the air, but rather always has a material existence, always inheres in particular institutions he called "Ideological Apparatuses" and for particular purposes. Its primary purpose in society, for the Marxist Althusser, was to reproduce the power relations that already exist: for capitalist society, not only to keep the blue collars in their place and the white collars in theirs, but much more importantly, to prepare all individuals to occupy their "proper" places in the workplace even before they arrive there and to lead them to expect certain power relations in society, as if capitalist relations of production were not just one particular and sophisticated form of human exploitation, but "just the way things are" in a word, "nature."

Moreover, these material institutions that get us thinking in terms preferred by the dominant class have varied over the centuries. Now in later capitalist modes, the major ideological apparatuses were the schools. It is there, certainly, where students were prepared, likewise, to listen for the bell, and to be on time; it is there where they learned to expect that even outside their homes, they will submit to authority; it is there where they learned to sit in their places, and face the same direction, and wait to be called on. It is there that they learned to expect their "work" to be graded, and to have their success or failure determined by an authority outside their control. It is also in this context that they learned that some individuals can hold power and authority, and that some are ultimately exempt from the same standards they enforce.

Students were prepared, in other words, to accept the dynamics of the capitalist workplace. The important thing to note in this Althusserian model, of course, is that this sense of ideological preparation or "becoming a subject" in the capitalist order seems to be done in only the most abstract, almost subliminal way. What is manifest or apparent in the school or university setting in the classic liberal arts model is the content of knowledges and skills being taught "the knowledge of history, the ability to multiply and divide, the ability to read a new language or use a computer" while the ideological work is being done invisibly by the form in which that content is delivered.

Where before schools and universities might be said to have received public and private subsidies only partially in exchange for the use of their site as a means of ideologically preparing tomorrow's obedient and efficient workers in corporate America, today's schools and universities are frankly treated by the capitalist State like corporations themselves, whose business is not only to give their students (now referred to as customers or clients) a "proper" corporate attitude, but to tailor the content of their curricula and the possibilities of growth for the "client's" mind to the exigencies of the marketplace. While we rarely hear any reference to "knowledge for its own sake" today we hear lots about "value added;" where it was once a virtue to have a "well-rounded" education, students are now encouraged, as early as possible, to specialize. Programs are downsized, classes and teaching loads increased to maximize "use of human resources," discussions of academic excellence give way to discussions of teacher accountability. (Add your own nasty corporate allegory here).

All of this is usually propounded--by the State and local boards, administrators, and even some faculty, as "realistic" or "practical" thinking; sometimes we hear it said that this is "Education for the next Century." Of course, to me and anyone else here with, for lack of a better word, a soul, this all seems to be an incredibly bad dream from which it is absurdly difficult to awaken. Where once those of us trying to "expose the system's guilt" accustomed ourselves to applying the most sophisticated critical techniques in locating the subtle but nonetheless unmistakable signs of exploitation in "everyday" social and intellectual life, here the suspect arrives proudly advertising his guilt in a court that refuses to convene.

With this in mind, we must clarify our mission as a university. This is not a matter, we must realize, of getting rid of our status as an ideological state apparatus, but rather choosing what sorts of social relations in society we want an education at NEIU to support. If we don't want the State to foist upon us the same poverty-stricken, dehumanized UOP definition of our students as consumers and clients that I hope you agree is patently disgusting, we will have to define what we mean to give our students beyond "work" skills and state that in a clear, united and defensible University mission statement. Oddly enough, we may end up using, in that statement some of the rhetoric of a rather conservative liberal humanism. But that radicalism should require us to sound conservative should not surprise us in a brave new world where students attending the largest university in the nation are learning not to open their minds, but to close them.

When the war hits home

A familiar tale of one that's off to war

by **Tom Robb**
News Editor

A friend of a friend named Teddy, a man I met only once at a party where we joked about bad sunglasses, boarded a plane tonight bound for Kuwait on his way to Iraq.

I spoke with him tonight and wished him well. His unit is called the Electric Strawberries; it sounded more like a bad 60's rock group than a military unit, and we laughed about that. We tried to get together the three of us, me my friend and him, to have another night out before he was shipped out, but it was not to be.

I have long known about the war, studied it extensively in political science classes, understood the different political, religious and ethnic sects, the economics and interplay between competing national interests. I could make sense of this war, and perhaps gain some distance from it by making it a thing to be studied -- not a thing

to be really felt on a personal level.

But for the first time a man whom I have met, drank beer and talked about women with in a most politically incorrect way, is going to a place that now my study and the daily television coverage have made all too real.

That academic distance, the study of the larger geopolitical conflict is no longer only academic. I can now place a face I know with all the many faces under helmets and behind bad sunglasses. I know well the people who will be affected if...

Over there, life seems cheaper and more easily extinguished. I will pray for this member of the Electric Strawberries -- that he makes it home.

Teddy has since been sent to Mosul, an area in the north of Iraq where the Iraqi Kurds meet the Sunni Arabs. It is the site of car bombings and resistance fighters, and while watching the news, Mosul now gets more of my attention.

I see a little bit of Teddy in many students who pass me in the

halls, and it scares the crap out of me. I know other student soldiers, Benny, a former editor on this very newspaper may yet go to Iraq. He is currently training soldiers who are headed over to Iraq.

Turn off MTV and turn on the news, but only for a time; too much will drive you crazy. This war will hit us all as real in different ways at different times. In spite of all my study, it did not hit me as real until I said good bye to Teddy, not a soldier behind bad sunglasses, but a guy, like that guy sitting next to you in class, passing you in the hall that is financing his or her education by being in the guard or reserves. When they are unexpectedly gone, think of them.

Last week, 19 members of a reserve unit refused to go on a supply mission because they felt it would be a suicide mission and did not have the supplies to protect themselves. Remember, you can care for and support the troops and ask questions at the same time. In fact, that is exactly what is needed.

America: A bowl of stew

by **Amir Jamali**
Staff Writer

Examining our own culture may be difficult due to a lack of reference point. Naturally, we tend to evaluate other cultures based on our own frame of reference, since all one knows is his/her cultural upbringing and trends. One's own culture may be more revealing when viewed from an outsider's perspective.

One of the things that makes this a great country is its ethnic diversity. In a world brought together by modern transportation and communication tools, we have the opportunity to experience this diversity, particularly in urban concentrations. America is an eclectic society that consists of predominantly Anglo-Saxon Europeans, Native Americans, African Americans, and many immigrant cultures that make up most of the subcultures; heterogeneous, with people of diverse backgrounds, with one another's differences largely overlooked and accepted, although still cautious of extending trust. A blending of cultures and assimilation to the dominant culture creates a mainstream culture with some unique values.

A good analogy would be a stew, in which the broth is the Anglo culture, and all the other chunks of ingredients

are the subcultures. Although maintaining their unique flavors, the chunks have absorbed the broth flavor, and in exchange, they have enriched the broth flavor as well. Ethnic diversity makes its contributions to the American culture in the form of varied perspectives, labor force, and most favored by many, consumer goods such as food.

America has been socially stratified from origin into classes. Competition and struggles of freedom and equality shaped the constitution and the principles of America's foundation. Democracy and the Bill of Rights, and their constant evocation reflect values of freedom, particularly of personal

freedom. American individualistic characteristics, culturally taught from infancy as independent training, are evident in proxemics (the study of the space between people in social settings) and other forms of nonverbal communication. The language and the media also reflect one-man-island American heroism and models ("Go head, make my day").

The urban hustle and bustle of Capitalism offers security, mainly through upward mobility in this "land of opportunity," but also by social acceptance and the American concept of success (fame and fortune). To balance the labor, much time and money is spent on recreation, as evident in sports, music and visual arts, travel, and "parties" and bars (claimed by some to be pacification offerings). Americans are also hooked on the media for entertainment. "Block Buster" movies, soap operas, advertisements, and television violence are influential images.

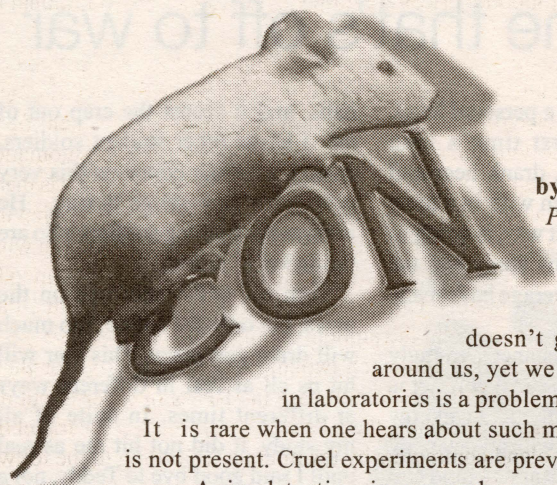
The facts that America has the most powerful military, is an industrial giant, is technologically advanced, and is the largest consumer on the planet, may boost one's delusions of grandeur beyond irreparable ethnocentricity. Although claiming that we live in the greatest country in the world

may be true, patriotism and nationalism may harm a person more than serving as helpful virtues. We cannot attain a true worldview if it is exclusive of other

cultures or ethnicities or if it somehow places us above the rest of our world family members, our brothers and sisters (rather than viewed as children or adversaries). With that in mind, America is a land of contradictions. While having the greatest diversity worldwide, racism and discrimination are still prevalent. We tend to preach world peace while having engaged in more wars than any other country since its birth while never having been invaded during this time period. We also have the largest figure of violence per capita in the world. Many other domestic issues seem to plague this internationally active superpower.

"While having the greatest diversity worldwide, racism and discrimination are still prevalent."

Animals aren't the ones to sacrifice



by Azucena Beltran
Production Editor

As the saying goes, "What the eye doesn't see, the heart doesn't grieve over," it exists and thrives around us, yet we are blind to it. Animal testing done in laboratories is a problem that stains the medical community.

It is rare when one hears about such matters, but that doesn't mean that it is not present. Cruel experiments are prevalent and deadly.

Animal testing is everywhere -- from military procedures to the shampoo we use every day. Animals are infected with diseases that they would never normally contract. Tiny mice grow tumors as large as their own bodies, kittens are purposely blinded and rats are made to suffer seizures. Experimenters force-feed chemicals to animals, implant wires in their brains, crush their spines, and more.

We are in a day in age where animal testing is no longer a necessity. Technology has gotten to a point in which there are so many other alternatives, which not only eliminate, but also can produce better results than testing on animals since the scientists are actually testing on human samples.

The renowned psychiatrist and neurophysiologist of the University of Oxford, Dr. Ryder, wrote, "Either humans and animals are so different that experiments provide none or only insufficient information to us, or the animals equal us so much that the gruesome and deadly experiments are out of the question. I don't think that the suffering I have imposed on test animals - and unfortunately they were so many - has been of any use whatsoever to humans!"

Alternatives to animal testing are out there; one just has to encourage the multimillion-dollar corporations to start using them. Some of the most common types of alternative approaches are: in-vitro tests, computer software, databases of tests already done (to avoid duplication), and even human "clinical trial" tests.

Some examples of alternatives are; Eytex, which is produced by the National Testing Corp. in Palm Springs, California, Eytex, is an in-vitro (test-tube) procedure that measures eye irritancy via a protein alteration system. A vegetable protein from the jack bean mimics the reaction of the cornea to an alien substance. This alternative is used by Avon instead of the cruel Draize eye irritancy test. EpiPack is produced by Clonetics in California; it uses cloned human tissue to test potentially harmful substances. Another is Testskin produced by Organogenesis in Massachusetts, it uses human skin grown in a sterile plastic bag and can be used for measuring irritancy -- this method is used by Avon, Amway, and Estee Lauder.

During 1976 to 1985 the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved 209 new compounds-102 of which were either withdrawn or relabeled because of severe unpredicted side-effects including heart attacks, kidney failure, liver failure and stroke.

Another factor to consider about these experiments is not only the ethics but also the economical (the US Government spends around \$10 billion of taxpayers' money each year on animal-based research). The largest single provider of funds to medical research institutions in the United States is the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Many scientist will try to reason what they are doing by saying, "they're not human." Anyone who's had a pet will surely agree that animals have emotions. Does a cat not feel pain? Does a dog not cry when it is lonely? Doesn't a mother chimp care for its young, just like any mother should? The people that make these statements are only trying to put their own conscience at peace, lying to themselves. It is time to stop this major injustice, as Mark Twain once said, "I am not interested to know whether vivisection produces results that are profitable to the human race or doesn't. ... The pain which it inflicts upon unconsenting animals is the basis of my enmity toward it, and it is to me sufficient justification of the enmity without looking further."

The necessity of animal testing

by Elana Barron
Opinions Editor

Animal protection is indeed a worthy movement -- no animal should be killed without cause. However, in medical research animal testing is necessary to ensure the safety of humans, the environment, and even other animals. Critics of animal testing claim that scientists are stubbornly adhering to an ancient barbaric tool that is no longer needed. They claim that computer models and cell cultures can replace the use of animal testing. However, this assumption that computer models and tissue cultures can accurately portray the human body greatly diminishes its complexity and diversity.

Physiologically and genetically, animals are similar to humans. Experimentation on animals is the best method available to scientists to determine the potential effects on humans. Animal research is necessary for testing medical procedures and medical treatments before they are tested on humans.

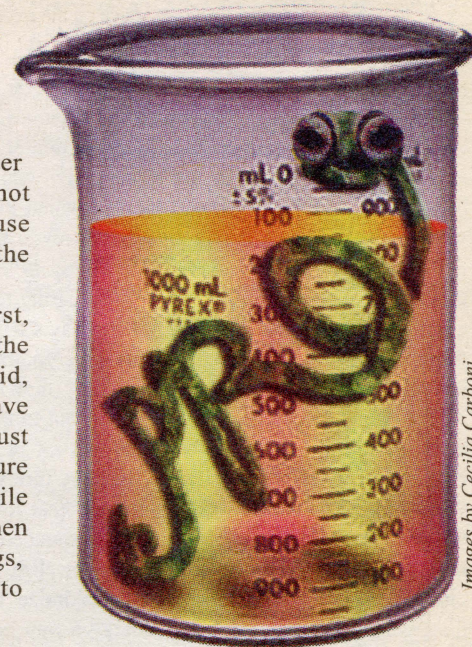
Unfortunately, as these organizations rally around animals, preaching the human failure to realize the uniqueness and importance of animals, they fail to take note of the vast diversity and complexity found in humans. The human body has over 2000 proteins -- no computer model can copy this complexity. Further, just as no two people look the same on the outside, no two people's internal structures are identical. Even identical twins do not have identical organ systems. These alternate models cannot mimic this genetic diversity. Only by testing on numerous animals can they accurately project the potential effects of a drug or medical treatment would have on the diverse human population. Scientists can only see the overall effects of an experiment after it has been tested on a large number of animals.

Another drawback of computer models and cell cultures is that they only represent a small part of the human body. Therefore, these methods provide limited and often inaccurate results. It cannot predict the effects a treatment would have in the complicated human system. The Society of Toxicology, who has strived to educate the masses to animal testing, said, "The processes in any organism are far more complicated than just the sum of the individual parts." After a drug is tested on cell cultures and computer models, when it is tested on the whole human system, an entirely different set of results can be achieved.

Frequently, while experimenting with a new drug, scientists are able to observe the effects the drug has on other parts of the body that are not the object of the experiment. Often, these side effects lead the way to new drugs. For example, while testing a drug on hypertension

in woman, scientists discovered that its side effects would be useful in another drug -- Viagra. Frequently, advances in science are due to side effects of other drugs. Experimentation on computer models and tissue cultures would not provide these breakthroughs because they are limited to one section of the human body.

According to Putting People First, a group against PETA (People For the Ethical Treatment of Animals), said, "Humans are the only species that have rights." Their platform states that just as animals kill other animals to ensure their survival, so do humans. While animal testing should only be done when absolutely necessary, as higher beings, we have the right to use animals to ensure our own safety.



Images by Cecilia Carboni

Not Again: Construction nightmare on the horizon?

by Nick Gaudio
Distribution Manager

There has been talk of yet another construction project for Northeastern Illinois University. The administration is starting to bounce around the idea of remodeling the A-Building. The first thing that comes to my mind is gagging myself with a fork.

This university has a terrible track record for construction. The biggest flop on everyone's mind is the four-story parking garage that the administration told everyone was going to be open before the fall semester started. Another example is the auditorium that opened on Saturday, October 2. The auditorium was previously

under construction for several years and, as the *Independent* reported earlier in the year, it was supposed to be open significantly earlier. So far, the university is 0 for two. Allow me to turn your attention to the concrete planters outside of Student Union. Can anyone tell when those are going to be finished and to what degree? I didn't think so.

The university's only successful building projects are the new vestibule for the Science Building and the landscaping project between the Science Building and the B-Building. Also, the new weather station for the Earth Science department that was reported in the last issue was completed on time. I measure success by the time of completion and these aforementioned projects were the only ones completed on time.

I can't see any more construction projects for a while longer because there really isn't anything more that needs to either be built or renovated, the A-Building included. So far all of these projects have caused some manner of inconvenience, some more than others, wasted tuition money, and made the student body raise questions of varying levels about the administration and its motives.

I've heard that all of these projects are to beautify the campus, but for what reason? It's unlikely that the projects, whether the completed ones, soon to be done, or future ones, are going to attract more students to the campus, but it's a modest hope. The projects certainly aren't helping NEIU's current student body.

If this project actually comes into being,

I hope someone has the good grace to try completing it on time. The student body cannot afford another extensive project that will further impair access to services at the school. It's reasonable to assume that if such a project were undertaken, then the Classroom Building will be affected by the project to renovate the A-Building. The most notable casualty will be the automatic door into the Classroom Building. This could affect handicapped students and their access to classes in that building.

Do we need another headache and a new eyesore here at NEIU? I really didn't think so. The cost of time, money, and consequences to the student body are too much for a reasonable construction project to be undertaken.

Steinberg's Q&A folly

She had words, but no answers

by Mario Go
Staff Writer

President Steinberg's Q and A in the Student Union did not help to educate students to the status of the university. She did not give any more information on the current strike situation that may have extreme effects on the outcome of the current fall classes or spring semester. Students were forced to read between the lines of President Steinberg's responses to question asked by students and staff. In doing so, the audience learned that the university is under funded and the administration is unable to meet any demands from the staff.

There were various questions that put President Steinberg in a tough spot. The first question that President Steinberg found difficult to answer was from a Fine Arts professor who was inquiring about the lawyer the administration hired for the negotiation process. The professor asked, "which account is paying for his services?" The President told the professor and the audience that she could not disclose that kind of

information while the negotiations are in process. Steinberg continued to avoid questions claiming she was unable to disclose information. One professor asked President Steinberg to justify the actions of the administration. She repeated said "That is a mediation question I cannot answer."

The President also had trouble answering questions students had about the newly imposed restriction on printing because students from UIC and De Paul have been using NEIU printers. The student questioned Steinberg on how to prevent UIC and De Paul students from using the printers. Instead, Steinberg simply said, "... We cannot support UIC and De Paul students."

The President was also asked by a student why they did not go to the to state fight for funding for the school. She avoided answering the question, saying educational fund to the state has been going down for ten years.

The overall problem that the school is facing today is due to the complete breakdown of commutation. This will affect the outcome of the negotiations and the possibility of a strike.

I-PASS(es) the grade in my book

by Johnny Billis
Staff Writer

Are you currently driving to school? Gas prices putting a dent in your pocket? Well, things are only going to get worse for you if you happen to drive on an Illinois State Highway that collects tolls. In January of 2005, tollbooth prices are going up everywhere an additional forty cents.

The Illinois tollway system has decided on the increase in an effort to force more drivers to purchase the I-Pass. The I-Pass system is a pre-paid electronic transponder mounted on the windshield of your vehicle. Driving under a booth-less toll, your payment is automatically deducted from your transponder. The advantage of an I-Pass is that you can pay your toll while traveling at highway speeds without having to stop and wait to toss your coins into a bucket or at a tollbooth worker. Drivers without the I-Pass are expected to see tolls increase up to forty cents at most booths. Under the new program, drivers with I-Passes will see no increase in the amount of toll they pay.

Governor Rod Blagojevich explained that the reason for the rate increase is to get drivers to purchase the I-Pass in order to cut down on travel times. Currently, the I-Pass lanes are cutting the travel times of Chicagoland commuters by ten minutes according to the tollway's informative website. The increase at the tollbooths are necessary to make improvements on our current tollway system. More lanes for I-Pass users are in the works as well as more lanes overall for the entire Illinois tollway System.

Not only are the I-Passes cutting travel times, but they also reduce traffic congestion at the conventional tollbooths. The effects of shorter travel times aid in the stresses of driving are also good on the environment. Air quality will also be affected long term, as sitting in your car at tollbooths for extended periods of time become a thing of the past. A car sitting in traffic wastes more gas and releases unnecessary carbon-dioxide harmful in our environment. With gas prices at an all-time high, what driver isn't interested in saving money or helping the environment?

For drivers who are unable to afford the \$50, which entails a \$10 deposit and \$40 in pre-paid tolls, Governor Blagojevich, is planning a low-income I-Pass. This lower costing, pre-paid I-Pass is in the works. The only fault with a lower amount is that it would need to be replenished more frequently by the user. The governor is also planning on making it possible to refill the I-Pass with cash, whereas a credit card is currently necessary.

I use an I-Pass and love to drive past other cars just sitting and waiting to pay their toll. The I-Pass helps me cut back on driving time and is convenient when you are late for class or work for that matter. It also helps that drivers who use an I-Pass will experience no price increase in tolls. To pick up an electronic transponder, you will need to throw down fifty dollars on your credit card to get started. A valid drivers license will be also be necessary. The Illinois toll system offers these marvels of technology at Jewel-Osco food stores, online at www.illinoistollway.com, and select Secretary of State driving facilities.

Letter bag

Dear Editor

What's up with the crackers?

A week ago I went to the cafeteria for soup and a salad. When I got to the cashier to pay for my meal, the cashier said how many crackers do you have there? She said if you take too many I will have to charge you extra. I was taken aback so I spoke with the boss of the cafeteria about changes for dry stale crackers.

She said you can only take four. All over four, you will be charged. What's up with the crackers? Perhaps the President and the Dean should of this new deal on crackers.

Letter bag

Dear Editor,

Employees at the student academic computer labs have been instructed not to allow students to print materials concerning the NEIU faculty union's struggle for a better contract. They've been told to say we can only print academic materials. But nothing is more vital to students' studies than to support the Faculty's ability to do their jobs.

One of the faculty's complaints about the contracts they were offered by the administration is a restriction on academic freedom. A clause called "academic responsibility" states that no teach may discuss in class any subject on which they are not an "expert."

Apparently, the administration wants the same restriction of academic freedom to apply to the entire university: Students collecting signature in support of the faculty in the Village Square's "free speech zone" were told to leave Wednesday, October 20th. That same day, the president of the University, Salme Steinberg, canceled a meeting to hear student concerns over the union's struggle. For weeks, flyers generated for the Students for Faculty Rights coalition, with sponsorship from chartered student organizations, have been systematically removed from the hallways. Now, we're not even being allowed to print those flyers.

These measures represent an attack on the freedom and credibility of our university, and it's time to stand up and say no. Students and faculty should have free speech right not only in the "free speech zone" but throughout the campus! And our university administration should be on our side, proactively protecting those rights.

But they don't want us to organize on behalf of our faculty's dedication to giving students a great education.

That's exactly why students should get involved with the students for faculty right movement by joining the listserve at studentstofacultyright@yahoo.com.

Ce Ce Guthrie
Student

Rachel Cohen
NEIU Socialist Club

Students for Faculty Rights Coalition



Joe Hertel
OldManNEIU@aol.com

Old Man on Campus

Getting to the meat of the matter

If I were to abstain from eating (formerly) living things, I would starve to death.

I believe that there is life in everything that exists. Oh, yeah, not just humans and animals, but also vegetables through the mineral kingdoms. This makes it very difficult for me, as I would not even be able to suck the life out of a rock for nourishment.

Therefore, I accept the fact that it is okay to not only eat vegetables, but meat as well. My only dietary concern then becomes one of balance as to what and how much of something I eat.

I realize that there will be some who object to this premise, especially vegans, who not only refuse to eat honey and milk because animals and insects are kept under prison-like conditions to produce said products, but also will not wear clothing that contains leather, feathers, and such. I understand, admire and sympathize with their concerns.

You see, I believe that plant life also has feelings. So I would not be able to pick

a flower or eat a carrot if I followed the premise that we should not eat living things or use them to produce by-products for us to utilize. So I choose rather to follow the idea that we have a food chain and that, under current conditions, according to my faith, it's okay to eat and wear certain things.

That does not mean that I keep kosher. I'm a Gentile so I do not follow Mosaic Law, but I do check out what God says about these things. Bear with me as I explain, not in a religious sense, but rather in a spiritual sense, what I believe is right for me.

The sixth commandment, in Judeo-Christian Faith, states: "Thou shalt not murder." It does not, as many believe; say "kill." There is a difference. Many instances in biblical, and other writings, point out that murder is wrong. It is the unjustified taking of a life, and the commandment does not specify what kind of life. That is why I do not step on ants, pull wings off flies, or hunt animals in order to mount their heads in a trophy room. That is murder. I can, however, justifiably kill for food, or to defend myself. Animals do this daily to each other, and, yes, I know that there are some

animals who are not carnivorous.

Reading the scriptures of my faith, I discovered that before the "fall," Adam and Eve were vegetarians. They were supplied with all kinds of fruit from various trees, and got along pretty good with the animals in the garden in Eden until they ate from the wrong tree. I also discovered that it was God who first killed an animal and made coverings for Adam and Eve. He also gave a bunch of directions on what could and could not be eaten, which included animals. I also noticed several references to milk and honey.

I do believe in animal rights. In today's society, there is much demand to be met in feeding and clothing our population. Subsequently, we must consider the "feelings" of that which we kill in order to meet those demands. Many cultures apologize to their prospective dinner before they kill it. We should be thankful that we are being fed, and likewise, thank that life form which is feeding us. We must not subject lower life forms to torture and punishment, even though humans find it difficult not to subject their own kind to these methods during times of war and ideological



Drawing by Cecilia Carboni

confrontations.

In our society, most of us have the luxury of choosing to be meat eaters, vegetarians or vegans. Clothing wise, we need not resort to fur and hides when we have textile and faux alternatives. The poor and destitute, here and abroad however, eat whatever is available and wear whatever they can find to shelter themselves against the elements. There is little room for compassion for an animal when you are cold and hungry.

The top ten horror movies of all time

by **Dino Pollard**
Staff Writer

Halloween is upon us again. And while that may mean dressing up in funny outfits and going door to door in search of candy for some, for a film buff like myself, it means it's time to watch some horror movies. But there are so many to choose from, and there is so much crap to sift through. So for those of you who don't want to go through all that, I've assembled here a list of what I think are the top ten horror movies ever made. There's also a little suggestion if you want an alternative.

10. Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror (1922)

Before Dracula hit the big screen, another vampire beat him to it. And that vampire was Count Orlok. A German expressionist film made during the 1920s, there's not much to be said about the script and acting is fairly exaggerated. But hoo boy if the visuals don't make my hairs stand on end. From the long shadows to the appearance of Orlok (played by Max Shreck), this is a film that can't be missed.

If you liked this, try: *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*

9. Night of the Living Dead (1968)

Most people have probably heard of this film,

classics, and this is no exception. *Night of the Living Dead* introduced the world to George Romero and the incredible make-up effects and music set the standard for zombie horror.

If you liked this, try: *28 Days Later*

8. SE7EN (1995)

David Fincher proved his worth with this movie about a serial killer whose modus operandi is finding his victims and killing them according to the seven deadly sins. Morgan Freeman plays an old detective on the verge of retirement and Brad Pitt plays his young partner, new to the force and eager to prove himself. The gruesome imagery and literary overtones make this movie a must-see.

If you liked this, try: *From Hell*

7. Alien (1979)

This movie announced the presence of Sigourney Weaver and Ridley Scott to the world of cinema. A movie set in the future, this deals with the crew of a space freighter who land on an alien planet and bring a deadly creature back with them. From the rattling of the chains in the ship and to the chase scene through the air ducts, the most chilling scenes are the ones where you don't actually see the alien.

If you liked this, try: *Pitch Black*

6. The Silence of the Lambs (1991)

Although the character Hannibal Lecter appeared

character come alive. Hopkins' Lecter was a man who would slash your throat and tear out your guts and he'd find a way to be polite about it.

If you liked this, try: *Red Dragon*

5. The Exorcist (1973)

William Peter Blatty's novel about a young child who gets possessed by a demon was turned into a remarkable film thanks to the efforts of director William Friedkin. The make-up effects, the demonic voice-overs, and who can forget the chilling music? Even after seeing this film several times, the crucifix scene and the head-turning scene continue to creep me out.

If you liked this, try: *The Exorcist III*

4. Audition (2000)

I hate this movie because it never fails to scare the shit out of me. A Japanese film about a man who stages a fake audition in order to find the perfect woman to be his wife. Except the woman he chooses turns out to be a fan of severe torture. A slow-burn pace to set the atmosphere provided with some of the most gruesome imagery ever to grace the screen will keep you awake for hours after watching this particular gem.

If you liked this, try: *Mulholland Dr.*

3. Rosemary's Baby (1968)

What would you do if you

That's the question which faces Mia Farrow's character in this chilling film directed by Roman Polanski. Rosemary knows what the cult plans for her child, but she cannot find anyone who believes her wild story, and who would, in reality? The ending especially will leave you with chills.

If you liked this, try: *The Omen*

2. Psycho (1960)

Alfred Hitchcock isn't called the "master of suspense" for nothing! When this film was first released, it made people across the country afraid to set foot within a shower. Even today, the story of Norman Bates and his overbearing mother stand up to any sort of gruesome hack and slash film Hollywood spews out.

If you liked this, try: *Friday the 13th*

1. The Shining (1980)

Stanley Kubrick already proved himself as a master of his craft, but with *The Shining*, he raised the bar for horror films in general. The long, ominous shots, the shocking imagery of the blood pouring forth from the elevators, and the psychotic performance from Jack Nicholson mark this as the greatest horror film of all time.

If you liked this, try: *Event Horizon*

There's my list. So this Halloween, if you're looking for something to do, rent a few (or hell, all)



Image compiled by Cecilia Carboni

This will leave you pleased stiff

by **Cecilia Carboni**
Graphics Editor

Death is a difficult matter to write about when you do it in a fashion people aren't used to dealing with. Likewise, quirkiness is an adjective not commonly found to describe a book about cadavers and "their curious lives".

Yet uncommonness has not hindered *Stiff* from becoming a New York Times bestseller. Mary Roach has taken a subject so ingrained with meaning and managed to skillfully dissect it. While incredibly humorous, *Stiff* never loses respect for its protagonists.

From the med school gross anatomy lab to the car crash simulations, *Stiff* is a frank and unique look into what happens to the meat and bones once the soul, the mind, the chi is gone.

Mary Roach herself is a constant presence as an author. The book is written in her voice, as if you're sitting over lunch talking to your morbidly funny and knowledgeable friend. In a way, that may help those readers who are not accustomed to the subject matter. Being a journalist by profession, you have to admire her gung-ho attitude into the stinky and

unglamorous field of real-life gore.

The chapters are very focused narratives with titles such as Crimes of Anatomy: *body snatching & other sordid tales from the dawn of human dissection* to Dead Man Driving: *human crash test dummies and the ghastly, necessary science of impact tolerance*.

Not only is this book well researched, but laden with a plethora of interesting tidbits. Above all, Mary Roach isn't afraid to get her hands dirty. Every chapter is an adventure, which takes her from the hospital room of an organ donation, to the Body Farm at the University of Tennessee, and which even leads to a pretty amusing trip to China in search of the infamous "human dumplings" story.

Stiff discusses the changing attitudes in first year med students when dealing with cadavers in relation to previous generations. Whereas years past it was seen as somewhat acceptable to make fun of donated bodies, today's students are being taught to respect them.

Many schools currently hold memorial services for lab cadavers at the end of the semester where students can read poems and discuss their experiences with incoming students.

Subsequent chapters, such as Dead Man Driving, follow the experience of UM 006, a

cadaver at Wayne State Univ. whose journey into the world of "impact tolerance" helps automotive manufacturers build a safer car. (With the help of donated bodies, a safer steering wheel was created).

In Beyond the Black Box, readers get in-sight into how crash investigators glean information from plane crashes when the black box can't be found by studying the injuries sustained by the victims.

By no means though, should this book be taken as just a conglomeration of gore-related sciences; the chapters that discuss the military use of cadavers to test ballistics raise interesting ethical issues. Titled The Cadaver Who Joined The Army, the author gives us a brief history of ammunition testing on donated bodies the world over, the problem of alerting donors' families to the uses of the bodies, and the taboo on testing bombs on cadavers. At the shooting range she talks about the development of ballistics gelatin to replace cadavers.

Overall, Roach manages to cover lots of ground while staying on subject. Some off beat subjects include Eat Me, which discusses the historical uses of the human body and Holy Cadaver, which talks about the scientific attempts to prove the Shroud of Turin with actual crucifixions.

A serious subject, Roach lightens the tone. Her humorous comments reflect a different perspective on the world. A good example is in the photos that

introduce each chapter, most of which have a very surreal link. Her wit is definitely what separates *Stiff* from others. It's affordable and available at any major bookstore. It's also the only book in the science section that's going to make you laugh this hard.

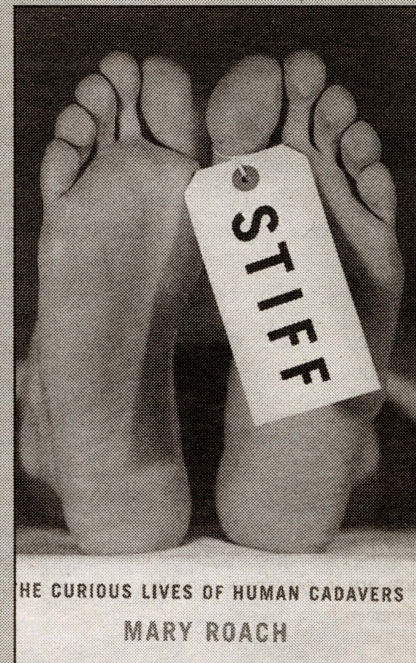


Photo courtesy of W. Norton

Mary Roach's book is a New York Times Best seller.

Emily Burton talks about the past, present and future of Fireball Ministry

by Jonathan Gronli
Production Editor

On October 9th Fireball Ministry had just finished a great show. Before Anthrax got on stage I tried getting an interview with the band. Unable to do so, I emailed the publicist of the band. It was Emily Burton (guitar) of the band who answered.

REV: What is it that inspired you to get into music?

Emily: Black Sabbath's "Greatest Hits" inspired me to start playing the guitar. I was always into music- my parents listened to rock. I was and still am a pop culture fiend and I was at that age where TV is basically your life outside of school and I would watch MTV all the time.

REV: There is a definite Black Sabbath-like influence mixed with a Judas Priest roaring sound. How is it that you get the perfect mix between those two techniques?

Emily: I think what we try to do is focus on our favorite things about the bands that we love. It's not really a conscious effort to blend those two particular bands; It's just about making the music that we would want to hear.

REV: What effects are used for the guitars other than the obvious distortion. What gear do you rely on, what brands do you hold dear, what models, what set ups?

Emily: I use an Orange amp, which is the basis of my sound. For our recordings I have always used my '79 SG. Again, Orange amps. And my guitar is a "The SG" which is a walnut model that was only made for a few years, SGs are pretty reliable as far as having great tone. Recently I began using Minarik guitars, which first attracted me because of their odd body shapes, but are really comfortable and sound great. That's what I've used live for the past few tours. I also use a Tech 21 XXL pedal.

REV: Stardom, even for a fairly established hard rock band, must seem pretty strange even if it isn't total wide scale stardom. What has changed from the time that you've all started making music up until the present?

Emily: When the band started it was just Jim and myself and we started from scratch. We moved to LA where we knew no one. Jim had always played in bands but this was my first and when we recorded our first record for Bong Load, I'd never been in a studio before or even played a show. I'd never even really played with a full band. So for me, a lot has changed. We've played in front of 20,000 people and we've opened for bands who were my influences growing up like Motorhead and Danzig. It's not like I get recognized when I go to McDonald's or anything - and who would really want to - but its cool when people come up at shows and say they saw our video on MTV and that they like the record. The industry is so bad right now, sometimes it seems like you're just treading water so you have to think of where you really were five years ago and how much you've accomplished - even if they are just small, private goals you've reached rather than the huge mansion complete with giant hot tub you envisioned for yourself.

REV: The concert at the House of Blues on October 10th, 2004 was incredible. What was it like playing with Anthrax and Dio?

Emily: Totally awesome. Dio is such a pro. We did a tour with Uriah Heep a while back and there are a lot of similarities; guys who've been in the business for as long as they have and are total class-acts are inspirational. And his voice is insane - never misses a note.

REV: What kind of things do you do to get hyped up and ready to start the show?

Emily: I usually like to have a few minutes to myself to relax and focus. I'm way more sociable post-show. And I like to have a red bull and vodka.

REV: If Fireball Ministry one day decides to disband, what kind of prospects do you have in terms of jobs if you actually have to work when it comes to that day?

Emily: Uh...we all work now. The glory days of cocaine and private jets are over. Stay in school, kids and don't get a degree in something lame that you can't use- learn a trade. If you play in a band, I recommend something that will be useful for your career, like entertainment law, audio engineering, video editing, photography, graphic design, pyrotechnics, etc.

REV: What would your ideas of the perfect concert be? Who would you love to share the

stage with and maybe come out and play along side with?

Emily: I would like to see Lucifuge-era Danzig open for Cliff Burton/Dave Mustaine-era Metallica. And I want good seats, a traveling beer vendor and whatever the guy in front of me is smoking. I would like to play along with Black Sabbath but I'd probably get too freaked out.

REV: Say I were a starting out musician and was asking for advice. What would you tell me?

Emily: Have some other skills because the chances of you being able to survive on what you make from your band are slim, unless you live at home with your parents, which won't get you many chicks. And never pay to play

under any circumstances -you will be treated how you let people treat you. Everyone wants a piece of the pie so get it in writing...and get a good lawyer.

REV: The Second Great Awakening was an incredible album. When do you think you'd be back in the studio for a new one?

Emily: Thanks. After this tour we're going to finish writing the new record and hopefully be in the studio by the end of the year.

REV: I had heard your older stuff. It was good but there were a lot of rough spots where things just seemed a little out of place and a little out of time. Even with the problems, it showed promise. With Second Great Awakening, the promise was fulfilled. What was different between the older and newer material?

Emily: When we recorded the first record, we were more of a concept than a band. We were just kind of running blind hoping it would all come together in a way that we liked. With TSGA, we had already been playing those songs out as a band.

REV: In terms of recording, there are some artists who get pissed off at record producers for various reasons i.e. Dave Mustaine and Jimmy Page. What producers have you worked with in your career and what impression did they make on you?

Emily: Doug Boehm produced our first record. We were the first band he produced and Doug really focused on the songs and their structure. Nick Rasculinez produced TSGA and he focuses more on overall vibe and sonic quality. It's really important that

the band and the producer have the same vision for a record. And you're working very closely with that person, so it's important that you get along with them on a personal level as well so everyone feels comfortable.

REV: When not on tour, practicing, or in the studio, what does your free time consist of?

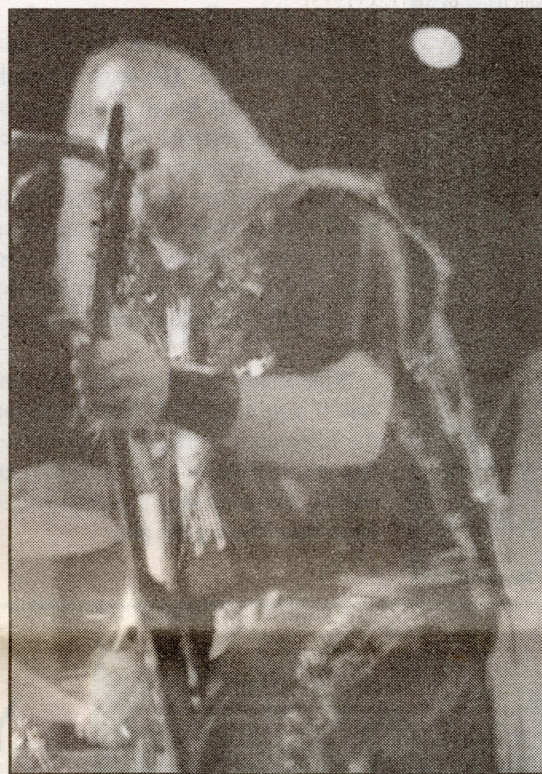
Emily: Working mainly- which isn't exactly free time - but otherwise going to the movies, petting my cats, reading magazines, making clothes, surfing the internet, doing things for the band like filling our internet merch orders, riding my Bajaj, hanging out with friends, boozing at the Rainbow, going to shows.

REV: Currently music seems to be in a slump, it lacks passion and heart-what are your thoughts on the music of today and what drives you to combat the norms of various genres of music?

Emily: I don't really think about it much. I'm not interested in lame, cookie-cutter music so I just tune it out. There are lots of good bands out there, they just don't get airplay and never will because A&R people aren't interested in quality music and they lack vision. We just play what we play and hope people like it.

REV: The past years you have been an opening act for some big name groups. Do you hope to ever try to step out into the spotlight become a headline act?

Emily: We've done small club tours on our own, but opening up for bigger acts allows you to build up your fan base enough that you can eventually headline bigger places. On this Dio tour, for example, we're going to towns we've never been before and wouldn't have gone to on our own. I think we have a little while left as a support band before we can headline places that let us have lots of pyro.



Left and above: James A. Rota and Emily Burton rocking for the crowds of their fans and of the other bands they are touring with.

Staging the mayhem

by Jonathan Gronli
Production Editor

On Saturday October 9th there was such a sight I would never have dreamt: House of Blues was holding a concert of Dio and Anthrax. The opening group, Fireball Ministry, I hadn't heard of until about two weeks before and I was going to the concert to cover them.

Well before I get into the details about the Fireball Ministry performance I will just say to the metal fans out there, yes Dio and Anthrax kicked major ass. Now for Fireball Ministry.

After hearing their CD, *The Second Great Awakening* the night before the concert, there was something to look forward to seeing. Something to judge with the performance and with the past experience with their music: which is an essential for any reviewer.

The concert started off simple enough. As the curtains opened revealing the band in a light blue light, which was so light it was barely noticeable, James A. Rota was playing the intro guitar licks to the album of *TSGA*, which is a title track instrumental. They then kicked into high gear with the first actual song of *TSGA* "King." The studio version had a lot of gut wrenching power to

it but when live it rocked even harder.

The band essentially played through the hardest hitting songs that they have in their repertoire (most of which was off of *TSGA*). I can easily say that what was played was without a doubt harder than the way the studio versions came out. The Judas Priest-like anger popped it up another notch while the darkness of the Black Sabbath-like sound just got darker and more menacing.

Even the simplistic lighting system through out their performance was effective. It seemed to float in just above the walls of artwork so that James A. Rota (Guitar and lead vocals) and Janis Tanaka (Bass) were usually in front, at just the right angle to illuminate the artwork of a devilish head and the band name on the wall behind Rota. The chillingly comical artwork on the walls was enough to capture the eyes of those who were there for the entire concert.

But, unfortunately, their time had to come to an end - time that filled at least half the people in there with energy - and they had to leave for the next group. Hey, at least it was Anthrax that followed them up and not some wanna-be hard rock band.

R.E.M. shines like the "Sun"

by Steven McNulty
Staff Writer

"What used to be important to me as a songwriter was to create something timeless. These days I'm more interested in expressing a feeling of what's happening right now; to indicate and form a record of what we're moving through in the present moment."

This was Michael Stipe of R.E.M. talking about their new album, *Around the Sun*, which is a good quote about the album if you're going through a rough patch in life. To me, the entire album was Michael whining about a broken heart and laying it out on you throughout the album.

The album, in all, wasn't bad, just extremely melancholy. When I listened to it at first in my car, I actually paid more attention to the road than to the music (which is highly unusual for me).

What turned me off is that the first half sounds like Stipe wailing some easy lyrics that even I can write, with something that sounded like glorified yet a very repetitious version of elevator music in the background. But as every great album has its follies, this one has its perks.

A good number of the songs were of R.E.M. quality: *Wanderlust*, *Electron Blue*, and their title track, *Around the Sun*, to name one. After a while the album started to grow on me.

In all, the album wasn't that bad, but it fell short of other R.E.M. albums, which made it worse than what it's actually worth. I only suggest this album if you're a diehard R.E.M. fan or if you must complete your library of their albums.

If you must have this album you won't be wasting your money, but I suggest listening to it when you're really blue so you won't be too disappointed.

Overall, the album gets two and a half out of four golden eagles.

God's "Chosen" play is golden

by Jessica Moen
Senior Staff Writer

Growing up, you were always told, "Silence is Golden." This is all too true for poor Danny Saunders as he and his best and only friend Reuven Malter struggle to understand their Jewish religion, and understand their fathers' way of living as Jews in America, in this play adaptation of the novel *The Chosen*, written by Chaim Potok.

These two unlikely friends meet each other during a ball game when Danny (Madison Dirks) hits a baseball right into the eye of pitcher, Reuven (Hunter Stiebel). The two decide to be friends rather than enemies and it is that friendship that helped them survive growing up. Reuven's father (Fredric Stone) raises his son in the ways of Judaism as any other father would, making sure his child's interest comes before his own.

Danny's father Reb Saunders (Neil Friedman), however, is a strict Rabbi who believes that it is better to not talk to his son, but rather let him figure out the world on his own. Though Reuven does not agree with this method of raising a child, he respects the fact that Danny accepts this way of life and learns to live with it. Things get complicated when suddenly they find out about the Holocaust, and Reb finds out that Reuven's father goes against his way of thinking and forbids Danny to see him ever again.

What makes this play interesting, is that adult Reuven (Marc Grapey), tells us the story of this childhood memory while the rest of the cast acts it out in sequence. The stage is simple and shows Reuven's simple house and Danny's more fancy house in the same set, which saves actors the time and pain of having to change sets.

They also threw down a sheet or pulled over a small rolling wall to give a quick scene change when it was needed. Also, they had an actor playing light clarinet music (Adam Degroot) while the adult Reuven talked, and during certain blackout scenes.

What made the play seem like an inside joke was if you watched it without understanding all the references to Judaism. If you're not Jewish, then you will have a lot of trouble understanding certain things as they are not really explained in great detail during the play.

Though they did list a glossary of terms in the playbill, it is hard to read the playbill in the dark. Also there was the slight issue of where to sit, since the theater has general seating. Since the stage is round and the actors moved all around the stage, you might have to deal with one of the actors standing in front of you and blocking your view briefly.

Despite the minor issues mentioned above, this was a very enjoyable play. The acting was wonderful, especially considering that most of the actors are making their debut at the Steppenwolf in this play.

The set and costume designs really fit the era (circa 1940's), and the small ensemble (Marc Grapey played some minor roles along with his own) made it easy to follow along in the plot. The play was quite serious, but had plenty of comedy to keep you on your feet and interested in the story. This is definitely a play for any one who doesn't understand their own life, and what to do with it.

"The Chosen" is running at the Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago, on North and Halsted, as part of the Arts Exchange Season. It will be running from Oct 12-30, Monday through Friday at 10am and 11am on Sunday. The special student rate is \$7.50. For more info, call the box office at 312-654-5639.



The Chosen is a coming of age, rebellious play rich with the Jewish culture.

photo courtesy of Michael Brosilow



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Come see ImprovOlympic: and you might laugh so hard it will hurt

Image courtesy of improvolympic.com

by Joe Hertel
REV Editor

Only 15 minutes from my apartment and yet this past Sunday was the first time I visited the ImprovOlympic Theater, a place renowned for producing comics such as Chris Farley, Mike Meyers, Andy Dick and many others, at 3541 North Clark Street.

The ImprovOlympic, located just south of Addison, by Wrigley Field, has two stages devoted to improvisational comedy and is open everyday with performances beginning at 8:00p.m. You can go to student performances on Sunday (at 7:00p.m.) for five dollars and on Wednesdays it's free! Show prices are generally a little higher at other times.

It all happened so quickly. Groups of seven to ten actors who had been studying at the Improv over the past year, were acting out their final exam and graduation exercises by performing in front of a live audience.

Groups with names such as "Dr. Everything," and "Dance Floor Mitosis," and "Room-mate Conflict Carousel" provided laugh after laugh by performing unrehearsed comedy based on suggestions from the audience.

If you have ever watched "Whose Line is it Anyway?" you get the idea of the kind of comedy you will see here. Players moved from one situation to another, supporting each other in verbal exercises that moved quickly and humorously to an unforeseen conclusion.

Every one of the actors took an active part and there was never any upstaging or breaking of trust between the actors and their lines. They always said "Yes, and..." to each other in a single group mindset.

It's hard to imagine that none of the comedy was planned; no one knew what the next sentence would be, it was all off the top of the head, the first thing that came to mind, and it provided hilarious results.

Because there were threescore actors participating in several groups, I was unable to

get names, but I did manage to speak to two of the female actors (I love a woman who can make me laugh) during the break.

The men far outnumbered the women so, in the short time I had, I chose to speak to Kaycee Alltop, the only female in her group of ten, and Katherine Gotsick who had five males in her group.

I also chose to speak with them because they were damn funny. Their portrayal of characters in the many bits they performed showcased the meaning of Improv.

Kaycee Alltop was in the "Dr. Everything" group and was endearing to the audience as the anxious wife who desperately, with her husband, was trying to sell things at a garage sale and became so distraught that she offered the garage itself to a prospective buyer. Just as funny was her loving grandmother character who bounced a 175 pound "son" on her knee.

Katherine Gotsick in "Room-mate Conflict Carousel" caused me to blow beer out my nose when she erupted on the stage as an over-enthusiastic groupie entranced with a rock group consisting of wasted, over-drugged band members.

Pot smoking, alcohol and homosexuality played predominantly in the skits, but then again, it's the times and these are all young people, with the exception of one old man on stage who, like me, should be content to stay home and watch Matlock.

But that old man on stage was having fun acting, and this old man was enjoying the show as an audience member (except for a few mocking references to Jesus).

Therefore, I recommend as an evening of entertainment for NEIU students, a trip to the ImprovOlympic. It's fun, it's cheap and only a short thirty minutes from campus. Bring a date.

Check out their website for performances and times at www.improvolympic.com or call 773-880-0199. Parking and seating can be a problem on weekends, so get there a little early. You'll be glad you did.

A gateway to Inuit culture has been opened

by Joe Hertel
REV Editor

All art conveys a sense of spirituality to the viewer through the expression of thoughts, dreams, and the storytelling of the artist. The exhibit of Eskimo art currently on display at the Fine Arts Center Gallery does even more. It speaks to us of a people.

"The Spirit of the Inuit," as the exhibit is called, is a showcase of Eskimo Art collected over a period of thirty years by NEIU Art Professor Don Bulucos and will be displayed through November 12, 2004.

As one wanders through the small gallery, the images on the walls appear to reflect the primitive cave paintings encountered on archeological tours. Simplistic and mostly one dimensional in their presentation, the richness of the colors and boldness of line reach out and enfold the viewer into the mythology, and visual language of a culture that reveres harmony with life, nature, and the environment.

This is made evident through one small carving of an Eskimo spear fishing. As the fish appears to sacrificially offer itself to the spear, the fisherman poses in a ballet-like dance position over the water.

Don Bulucos admits that his own photography has been influenced by his collecting and studying Inuit art for the past thirty years. "In the work of the Inuit, we are shocked back into a direct and honest form of seeing and expression," relates Bulucos.

The dreams, hopes, and fears of this circumpolar region

of the Arctic, the life and death related experiences through sensitive carvings and striking artwork, thrust the viewer into a world of a fragile culture which is documenting its history while at the same time interpreting its surrounding world. It is a "must see" artistic experience.

Sensitive stone and bone carvings of seals, whales, bear, and birds, although relatively small in size, convey a larger sense of ecological urgency. A miniature kayak made from sealskin, bone, wood, and cloth sits imprisoned in an enclosed plexiglass case. While nearby, a jawbone from a walrus peers out under its own enclosed space, telling us of life-death journeys of the residents of this region of our world.

The gallery is located on the first floor, on the northwest side of the Fine Arts Building. Hours are: Monday and Wednesday from 8:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m.; Tuesday from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.; Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.; and Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The gallery is also available by appointment by calling 773-442-4944 or e-mailing J-Brunetti@neiu.edu.



Photo courtesy of Mario Go

Inuit art is a deep view of spirituality.

Knock, knock, knocking on mediocrity's door

by C.T. Ballentine
Staff Writer

Kraig Kenning's marvelously bland album, *Maktub*, is really horrible. The only reason Kenning is not the worst thing to happen to music is that he's just not that important. This review could easily be one word long; that word would be mediocre.

Unfortunately, reviews have length requirements, so it's probably best to get into just what in this album makes the listener want to vomit, or at least fall asleep. Kenning, a self proclaimed slide guitar champion, bangs out some pretty obvious finger-picking, backed by a band with as much heart as pre-recorded MIDI loops.

The first track sounds remarkably like "Knocking on Heaven's Door," so much so that Kenning apologizes for the similarity in his liner notes. One must wonder, why apologize for a rip-off, when you could just write an original song instead?

The music alone is not really that horrible, but the lyrics force it into new and exciting depths of hell that Dante never once dared to imagine. Lyrics like, "I don't want to hurt, I don't want to make people cry/

I just want to live with you, before I die" make you wonder, is Kenning an adolescent boy? He sure does write songs like one.

Another idiotic couplet comes in the form of "Is this the real thing or just another phase/ I said goodbye, you said let's keep in touch." The rest of the lyrics are similar, reading like the pages of a depressed sixteen year-old's diary.

The worst thing about this album is the level to which Kenning obviously takes himself very seriously. Photographs of him kneeling on the ground with his hands crossed in prayer prove he is not only a grown man, but he imagines himself a very spiritual one as well. If he only accepted his role as a generic songwriter and owned up to it, he might not be so bad; he might almost be cute and endearing.

But, with things like, "Connect spiritual meaning of word to the group and graphic identity for mass consumption" printed in the album's inner sleeve, we can be sure that, at best, *Maktub* is a bland album dressed up with pseudo-spiritual pretensions.

At worst, it is a horrible sin against humanity. If you come across a copy of this album, I would suggest breaking it, or just not buying it.

Image courtesy of kraigkenning.com

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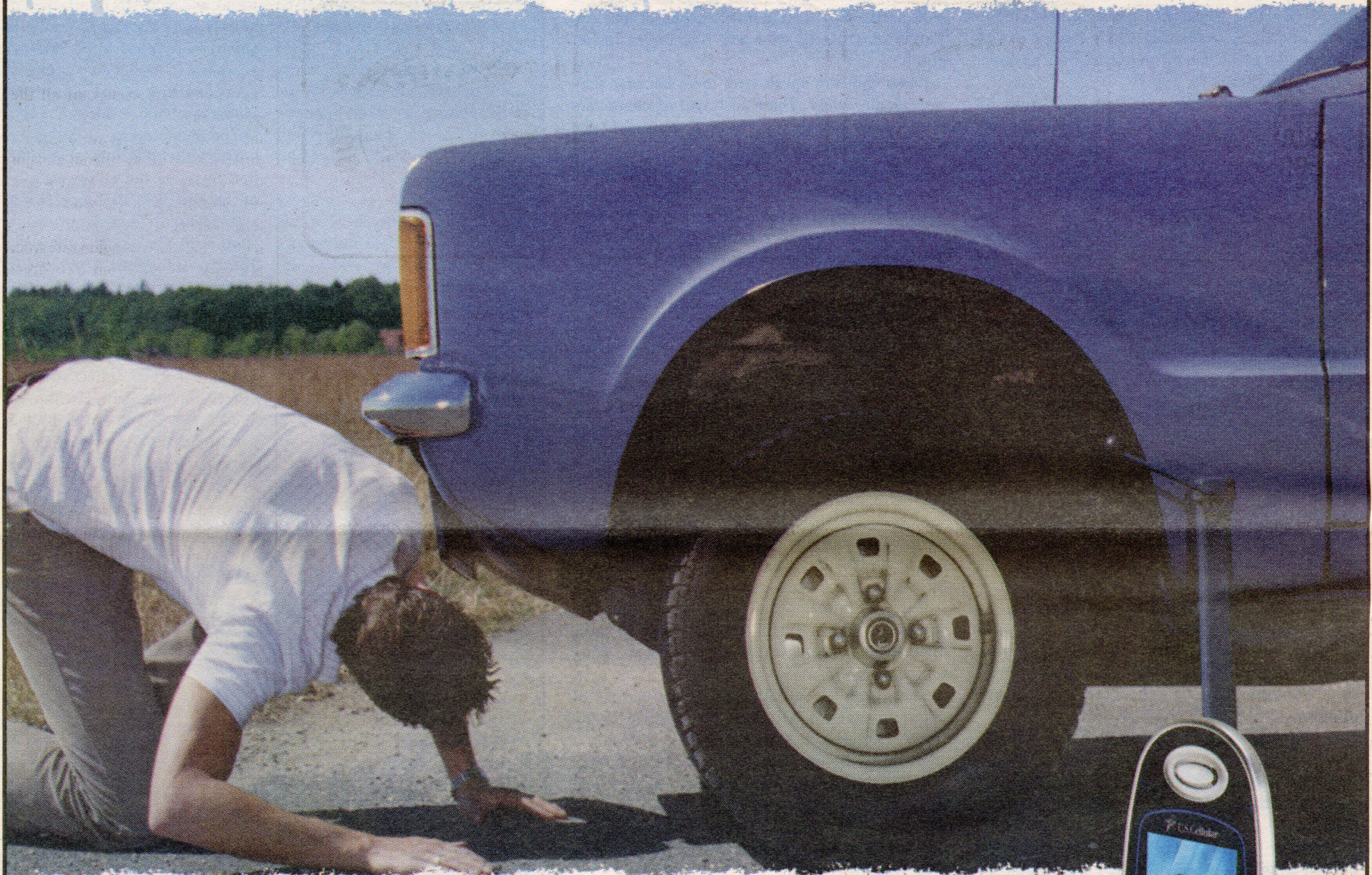
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Eagle's Nest

Lifestyles of the Northeastern community



by Violette Green
Staff writer

With any type of medication, there are bound to be side effects, and that also applies to the various methods of birth control. There are pills, patches, shots, the usual condoms, and, of course, abstinence.

The Pill is one of the most widely used medications for birth control. It contains a combination of the hormones progestin and estrogen that prevent pregnancy. The Pill has been proven safe and effective against preventing pregnancy, but it does nothing to protect against sexually transmitted diseases.

Negative side effects are rare for women on the Pill, but effects that have occurred are irregular

menstrual bleeding, headaches, nausea, weight gain, dizziness, tenderness in the breasts, mood changes and blood clots. Blood clots rarely occur, but when they do, it usually is in women over the age of 35 who smoke. The side effects usually stop after 3 months on the Pill. The positive side effects can take the form of lighter periods, less severe cramps and, on some pills, a reduction in acne.

Another method of birth control is Depo-Provera or "The Shot." Depo-Provera or DMPA is a shot of the hormone progestin given by a doctor every three months. Some of the negative side effects include headache, hair loss, nervousness, and menstrual irregularities. Some of the more severe side effects that can occur, but that do not always

occur, are dizziness, weight gain, allergies and ovarian cysts. On the up side, it is a very effective form of birth control with a 0.05% failure rate.

Another method is "The Patch," also known as Ortho-Evra. This method involves sticking the patch to one's body where hormones are delivered to the bloodstream through the skin. The patch is worn for 3 weeks, with a new patch being attached on the same day of every week. On the 4th week, there is no need to wear a patch for the medicine to be effective. The patch can be attached to the lower and upper back, abs, and butt. It is a relatively new form of birth control, so there have not been any long term studies done on the side effects of this method. But in

clinical trials, the most common side effects were the usual nausea, headache, and mood swings. Other side effects included negative reactions at the application site.

Other methods include Norplant, which involves getting rods containing hormones surgically placed under the skin. These last for 5 years and have varying rates of effectiveness. They are also expensive, costing between \$500-700 to get implanted, and even more to have removed. Nuvaring is also a newer method, where a transparent flexible ring containing hormones is inserted into the vagina, and it is then worn for 3 weeks releasing the hormones. It is not effective until it has been worn for 7 days straight, so a backup is necessary.

Justice Studies



by Krystian Zyszczyński
Staff Writer

Are you getting sick of all the crimes that are going on around the world? Do you want to make a difference? Well how about a major in Criminal Justice. In today's post 9-11 world, government agencies are looking for people that can be counted on to help keep our nation safe from not only terrorists, but also street crimes, as well as helping protect our borders.

There is a growing demand for people that can help protect our safety, including: police officers; F.B.I. agents; C.I.A.; U.S. Customs Agents; A.T.F.; and especially the new Homeland Security branch of the government. The list just goes on. Security in the U.S. today is being threatened every day, and we need a lot of new people that can cover the increase in crime.

You can get a job working for the F.B.I. Yes, you get to carry around a badge and act like Mulder and Scully. But more importantly, you can be out in the field stopping criminal activity as well as investigating national problems in corrupt businesses or being on the lookout for wanted criminals.

How about being a police officer? There is a big demand for police to keep law and order in our cities and towns across the nation. They need people that are willing to put their lives on the line to help protect the peace.

Is that a little boring for your taste, How about joining the SWAT team? These tough policemen are used when there are major problems that require force. They are the ones who lead raids against suspected criminals as well as stopping and diffusing very dangerous situations. They have one of the best sniper skills in the world.

There is also a big demand for filling in open positions in the new Homeland Security Department. This new department was created in order to combat the rising threat of terrorism in the U.S. Their job is to keep watch on suspected terror cells as well as protecting sensitive areas that may be targeted for an attack. They monitor all suspected transmissions from terror cells and target them when it is clear that they are planning an attack. They also need translators.

There are many exciting jobs in the world of justice and this is only scratching the surface of what is out there. You can get more information at <http://www.criminaljustice-degrees.com>. This will help you on your road to making the world a safer place.

Images courtesy of google.com

Domiciles of the damned

by Johnny Billis
Staff Writer

Want to have a ghoulishly good time? You can throw on a costume and head for a haunted house. Or maybe get on a hay-ride with some friends or a loved one. You can pick pumpkins and sip apple cider while watching children at the petting zoo. You can even get lost in a maze of maize or head inside to get scared by actors in costumes that could only compare to nightmares that even Edgar Allen Poe could not imagine. Are you ready for a frightening good time? There are many haunted attractions available in the area.

If you want one close to NEIU, try *Trails of Terror* at Peterson Park, 5801 N. Pulaski, which runs this Halloween weekend from the 27th to the 30th. Call for times at 312-742-7584. The cost is \$8 for ages 15 and over. It is one of the biggest and scariest Halloween attractions in the city, and closest to Northeastern, offering a half-mile trail. The Trails of Terror

consists of eighteen different spooky scenes that are designed to invoke terror. Some of the other activities offered at Trails of Terror are pumpkin patches, pumpkin decorating, a petting zoo, and hay rides.

In the area north of the city is *Internal Nightmare*, located on the Lake County Fair Grounds in Grayslake. It offers a 7000 square feet inflatable giant, of which you can explore 10 inner cavities like intestines or its brains. Also offered inside is the Dungeon of Doom. It is touted as one of the largest attractions of its kind anywhere; this Haunted house is designed to scare even the toughest and un-emotional individuals. Give them a call for their hours and directions at 262-553-9003.

South of the city you can find *Statesville Haunted Prison*, just five miles south on Weber Road and I-55 in Crest Hill. It is considered one of the best haunted houses in Chicago and costs \$25 a person. Open for boo'sness Thursday thru Sunday from 7 p.m. till 10 p.m.. Get spooked by Gacy the Clown or Hannibal the Cannibal. Thirty prison cells offer over

fifty terrifying prisoners and freaks, there to do nothing short of making a grown man cry for his mommy. Call them at 877-SCARED2 for times and directions.

If you head West of the city there is *Dream Reapers Haunted House*, located in Melrose Park, which freaks out every sense except taste. You can touch and feel your way through the dark haunted house as you hear screams and smell the scent of death. With over 22 rooms, there is bound to be something that'll make you cry out for mercy. Their motto is, "Stand back and let the real psychos show you how it's done!" They'll even give you a group discount if you bring a huge group of friends. Give them a call at 708-344-2084.

If you're willing to travel far west of Chicago, then the *Rockford ScreamFest* offers seven haunted houses located in one huge 70,000 square foot house. Get spooked in a farm, an insane-asylum, a cemetery, a 3D nightmare, and more. Take a drive out into the country and see, but before you leave, give them a call for their admission times at 815-968-4232.



Image by Cecilia Carboni



A truly burning Halloween sure to be remembered



Images courtesy of google.com

A last minute costume to last a lifetime

by Chris Valentine
Staff Writer

It's October 30th again and you're sitting in your room, half-empty bottle of wine by your side, and thinking, "Where did I go wrong?" Pretty soon, you'll stagger down to the drug store and buy one of those ridiculous ghoulish masks from the movie Scream.

When you show up at the Halloween party tomorrow, people will laugh at you. Afterwards, as you make your way home, you will firmly resolve to plan next year's costume at least three months in advance.

See, the thing is, last minute costumes need not be one-way tickets to Loserville. In fact, with a little creativity, they can make you a Halloween party superstar!

But never, I repeat never, go for the safe route. Bed sheet ghost, toga clad Olympian, none of this wishy-washy garbage will fly. It is beneath you; stretch a little further. This Halloween, consider trick-or-treating as a modern-day prophet.

Great idea, isn't it? Prophets of whatever era, as I'm sure you all know, generally prefer rags and sandals when it comes to fashion. These are really all you need in terms of your costume, and they should be easy enough to find lying around. If you're all out of humble, servant-looking rags, simply bury one of your outfits in the backyard overnight.

Of course, it's the way you carry yourself at the party that will make or break your image as a divinely inspired prophet. When you first arrive, stand casually next to a clump of bushes in the front yard and call attention to yourself. The best way to do this is yelling, "Hey! Pay attention to me!"

Now that everyone is watching, set one of those bushes on fire and proclaim the party holy ground. This way everyone will know you mean business.

So, the stage is set. You are ready to begin making prophecies. Find a particularly attractive party-goer and say, "I foresee a wild night of steamy love-making between the two of us." This may offend certain of the party's guests, but no deities have seen fit to speak through their lowly mouths, so who cares?

OK, if you're *really* shooting for the big leagues (like Moses, Jesus, and Joseph Smith range) consider dying at the end of the night. Nothing adds to your legitimacy as mouthpiece to a supreme being more than martyrdom. Bonus points if you manage to get stoned to death by an angry mob.

No matter how you go about it, you're guaranteed success and at least a few phone numbers. People of all creeds and religions have been waiting for a new prophet because, you know, it's been a while. And now, you can fill that need.

Sure does beat that stupid skeleton suit you almost bought, doesn't it?



Image by Azucena Beltran

Let the bush burn this next Halloween. Be a prophet.

Graceland Cemetery

Chicago's most famous

by Dorian Barrios
Staff Writer

It's nearing Halloween and the only place more popular than a haunted house to get some thrills seems to be a Cemetery. But any ordinary Cemetery won't do, it has to be one that has some stories. One such cemetery is Graceland National Cemetery located at 4001 N. Clark Street.

Established in 1860, Graceland Cemetery's first residents were received from the city's old cemetery.

Graceland has the distinction of being the final resting spot for many Chicago icons. Such as, Daniel Burnham, who is responsible for much of the city's layout, Marshall Field, who created Marshall Fields.

The Palmers, who created the Palmer House - which would later be bought and converted to a Hilton Hotel.

Among these historical icons are some of the most affluent families of the Chicago area, as well as several politicians.

Among the many monuments at Graceland, you will find very modest works and several very ambitious one. The Palmer's tomb is among the largest monuments in the cemetery. Designed in the mold of a Greek temple, it is a very impressive monument.

A tomb that has signs of excess and paranoia is that of George Pullman, owner

of the Pullman Sleeping Car Company. When he died, he was set in the center of a slab of concrete reinforced with railroad ties to keep people from reaching his body.

Now if you're looking for a ghost story, Graceland will surely satisfy. One of the most recognized stories is that of Inez Clarke.

The monument for Inez is enclosed in glass and contains a life sized sculpture of the six year old sitting down, holding an umbrella. It is said that at times the girl gets up and takes a stroll around the cemetery during the night.

There is also a story that goes along with the Eternal Silence monument. The draped figure resembling death has a very naturalistic face. It is said that if you look into the figures eyes you will get a glimpse of your own death.

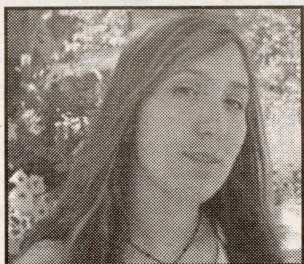
History, art, and a good amount of urban legend, Graceland Cemetery has it all. Cemeteries can be fun, but you have to remember to be respectful and safe.

There is security patrolling many cemeteries, and some even release the hounds at night. If you would like more information on Graceland Cemetery you can check out [Grave Yards of Chicago](#) by Matt Hucke, or [www.graveyards.com](#). There is parking at the entrance of the Cemetery, and the main office is a good source of information.

Photo by Dorrian Barrios

Let's Get Personal

People are just people



Andrea Zelinski

With some technical difficulties, I finally got a hold of Robin Matties. As co-chair of the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Trans gender Alliance (GLBTA), she has about as much free time as I do. So, after some time, I finally got her, and her partner in crime, on the phone.

Robin has led one of the most visible clubs involved on campus politics for quite some time now. From organizing petitions for the faculty's union and pushing to recognize GLBTA demands on campus, her and her accomplice are always in the limelight.

Her fellow "crime" fighter is Anne Mothkovich, who is also co-chair of the organization, and quite the activist. The tag-team is always involved in some

project on campus.

Robin came out when she was about 20 years old, however, insists she doesn't follow any strict roles of sexuality. "I don't label my self as gay or straight. I just see people as people."

At the age of 27, Robin is working towards a degree in Sociology and a minor in Women's Studies. She plans to graduate in spring of 2006, and has been attending NEIU for four years now.

She looks forward to a career working as the Dean of Students at a university down the line. "Maybe I'll be a Dean Kelly," she explained. However, she has a couple goals before graduation, including running for the Student Government Association. "The thought has crossed my mind," she said slyly.

As I talked to her on the phone, she excused her self for a cigarette. Smoking since she was 17 years old, she describes herself as "definitely not a light

smoker." You've seen her outside the Student Union on many occasions enjoying one or two before heading off to class.

As independent as she has led people to believe, especially given her activism, she actually struck me as the opposite while we talked.

When asked what one word would best describe her, she had to pause and desperately ask Anne for an answer. She resorted to this tactic countless times, but was never too embarrassed to admit it.

Through a loose, tomboy-type attitude, Robin spoke with a very lighthearted ease. She laughed and joked as we talked, probably while smoking another cigarette. So I asked, "If they made a movie of your life story, who would play your part?"

To which she answered, "Neve Campbell. Not because I'm boisterous, because she's hot."



Photo courtesy of Robin Matties

Co-chair of the GLBTA and a true activist on campus.



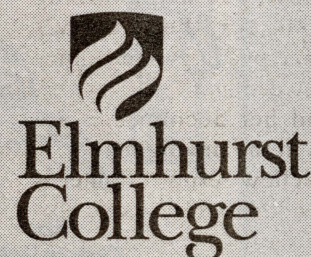
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Exploding new company is looking for health-minded individuals for promotion, advertising and other marketing areas. NO

TELEMARKETING!!! Reference 1099. Call: (773) 631-2616

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 E-mail Rob.Bunting@uop.com, call (773) 227-4011, or stop by and check us out.

Arlene Erldach 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.

Students for Faculty Rights list serve. Students, do you want to know more about the pending faculty strike? Join our list serve. E-mail iluvpippen@yahoo.com.

Tutor for ENG 101-2, ESL, test prep (IBST, TOEFL), pre-credit English. Contact Diane at kiwi_gigi@hotmail.com.

Does God matter? Video with discussion hosted by Inter varsity Christian Fellowship. Tuesday 5pm, 2nd floor student union. Contact c-aguirre@neu.edu for info.

Are you a Seventh-day Adventist Christian on campus or know someone who is? Please call Shree at (847) 414-7159 or E-mail eshree@hotmail.com. Thank you. God Bless.

Clubs

Help NEIU student Chanel Polk become the next Miss Black Illinois in November. Purchase tickets or make a donation. Call (773) 715-7198

Spring Break

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.

Spring Break with Bianchi-Rossi Tours! The Best Spring Break under the Sun! Acapulco-Vallarta-Mazatlan-Cancun & Cabo. Book by Oct. 31 = FREE MEALS & FREE DRINKS!

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Personals

I have dreams in which I am screaming into those closed off faces. Some days I gnaw my fingers so as not to scream. I clench my teeth against an acid gag of grief. My mouth is a sealed, scabby wound. La Chica Fria.

There are many people in this world, but you are the one that catches my eye the most. Thank you for knowing what I mean.

Oh, goody gumdrops!!



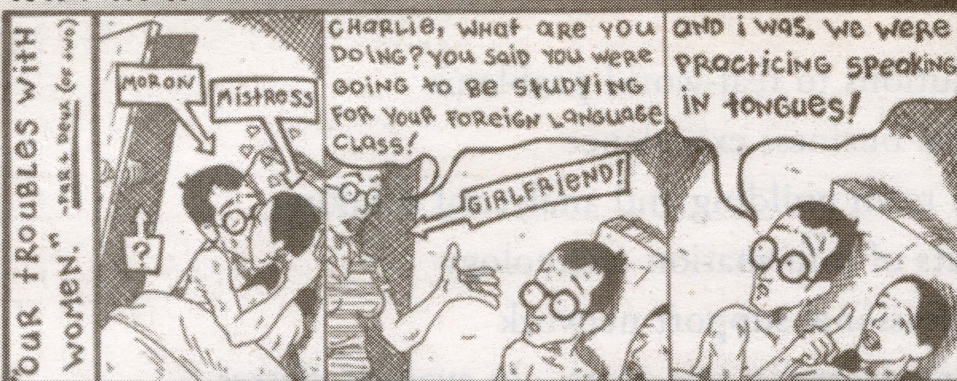
Limit one ad per person/organization per issue. Ads must be 20 words or less. There is a 25 cent charge for each word over 20 words. All classified ads must be ordered in person at the *Independent* office in E-049. For more information, please call John Bracich, Business Manager, at 773-442-4585.

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

Name: _____
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AD AS IT IS TO READ: _____

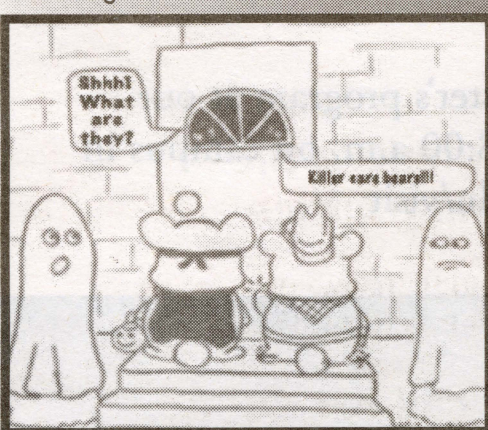
Side Splitters

Marxism

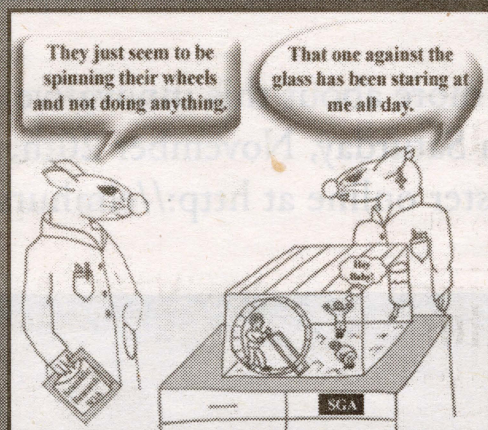


by A. R. Lopez

Lucky # 11

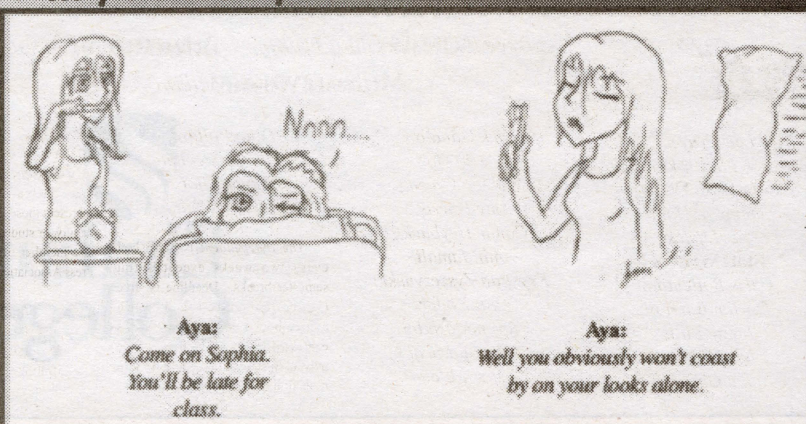


by Michelle Zelinski



by Azucena Beltran

I may be crazy...



by Jenni Lada

Josh Taber, RN
Graduate, Rush College
of Nursing

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Rush University is located in a great area of downtown Chicago, IL. We're the academic component of Rush University Medical Center, the city's only Magnet hospital serving adults and children. For more information on Rush University, visit us at www.rushu.rush.edu/nursing or call (312) 942-7100. Also, ask about our information sessions held the 2nd Wednesday of every month in the Armour Academic Center, 600 S. Paulina at 4:30pm.

**RUSH UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER**



**Stop by E-049 for
information on employment**

Around Campus

Events through: Monday, November 9th



Colombia y su musica recital

NEIU's Hispanic Heritage Committee & Arley Otalvaro, musician and instruction presents their second annual "Colombia y su musica" recital on Friday, October 29, from 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. This will be performed in Alumni Hall, the event will feature Estampa Colombiana Folkloric Dance Company, NFP. Admission is free. Also, refreshments will be served.

CICS holds lecture series

Dr. Jacob H. Carruthers Young Scholars Lecture series will feature three up and coming young scholars who were intimately mentored by the late Dr. Jacob H. Carruthers. The first of the three is, Dr. Mario Beatty a Professor of History and Women's Studies at Bowie State University in Maryland will present "The Study Group Process and African Centered Critical Thinking," on Friday, November 19 at 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.). This will be presented at the CICS Auditorium on 700 E. Oakwood Blvd. For more information call CICS at (773)268-7500.

African Forum Series 2004

Kemetic Institute proudly presents, Dr. Harvette Grey of DePaul University who will address: "The Effects of HIV-AIDS Pandemic on the African Community Here & Abroad," on Friday, November 12, at 7:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:30 p.m.) in the Student Lounge at CICS. \$5.00. For more information call (773) 268 - 7500 ext. 145.

Cornel West to speak at NEIU

Cornel West, author of numerous books in Philosophy, Race and Sociology will present a lecture on "50 Years After: Brown vs. Board of Education *The Quality of Access: Human Rights Issues*," on October 29, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the NEIU Auditorium.

WZRD Election film series

The student radio station WZRD will be presenting the film "Peace, Propaganda & the Promised Land," on Tuesday, October 26 in SU-003. Show times are 12:00 p.m. and 1:40 p.m.

14th Annual Dress for Success

Business and Management club presents their annual program for learning to wear business suits in different varieties without spending more money. Ms. Amy Mundwiler, from Old Orchard will speak on Thursday, October 28, from 1:40 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. in Almn Hall.

Celebrate NEIU in the news

Come see a showcase of NEIU news, will be on display in the Golden Eagles room on Thursday, October 28 at 3:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Yoga Conference

On Friday and Saturday, November 12 - 13 the NIEU, BMC, Yoga Club and the College of Education presents two days of yoga on "Enhancing concentration, reducing stress and cultivating peace." With special guest Swami Adhyatmanandaji. The first session will be Friday from 5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., the second 8:30 - 4:00 p.m. Both session are in SU-214.

Meet and greet fellow NEIU people

Come, and meet visiting Faculty and Students from Poland on Tuesday, October 26 from 1:40 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the lower level classroom in the Library. The visiting faculty will be Aleksandra Jarczewska and Marek Szopski. Refreshments will be served.

Two plays in one night at Stage Center

Tom Stoppard's play, *The Real Inspector Hound*, is a farce on mystery plays by Agatha Christie; and *The Way of All Fish*, a student play by Elaine May. The last weekend of performances are October 27 - 30 at 7:30 p.m. call the box office at (773) 442 - 4274 for more information.

A tribute to Joseph Campbell

Presenter, Dr. Rebecca will look at the life of Joseph Campbell and his work on Myths, and to discover its relevance to today's world and the future. It will be held on Tuesday, October 26, from 1:40 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. in CLS 1001.

Edward Albee speaks at NEIU

Playwright, Edward Albee, will speak on Tuesday, October 26 at 8:00 p.m. in the NEIU Auditorium. Author of the play, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf*, Albee will present "The State of the Arts in America."

H.O.M.E. to speak at NEIU

H.O.M.E. (Heterosexuals Organizing for a Moral Environment) will present students with medical facts about homosexuality in an hour event on Thursday, October 28 at 1:40 p.m. in CLS 1001.

Career counseling sessions

The Counseling Office will be offering two, one session career workshops. Networking Your Way to Job and Career Success (1:40-2:40pm, Nov. 16 or 18) and Identifying Career Options (1:00-1:50pm, Nov.15 or 17). Sign up in D-029 or call ext. 4650.

Battered women

Food/Toiletries & Cell Phone Drive

NEIU students, faculty, and staff: it is fall please consider donating all your surplus nonperishable food (soup, canned vegetables, etc.) toiletries (soap, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, etc.) and used cell phones (batteries and chargers needed, accessories not required) to Sarah's Inn. It is a non-profit agency that offers a range of services which assist domestic violence survivors in finding safety and security to rebuild their lives. The drive is sponsored by the Office of Adult and Women Student Programs and the SGA. Donation bins can be found in either the Office of Adult and Women Student Programs or outside the SGA Office.

Board of Trustees meeting

On Thursday, November 18 at 3:00 p.m. a Board of Trustees meeting will held at the CICS auditorium, for the recommendation from President Salme H. Steinberg to rename the Center in honor of, Dr. Carruthers will be considered.

Not Sure About Your
Major or Minor?

Schedule a Career Counseling
appointment in the
Counseling Office

(Where? Room D-029, below the Cashier
in the Admissions & Records area)

Stop in or call ext 4650

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Welcome to

The Cheap Seats

Intramurals and fitness for the Northeastern sports fan

Here's what you missed

A recap of the season

by Beshi Miraj
Staff Writer

The regular season of the Flag Football is over; the last 4 games played on Tuesday, 12th and Thursday 14th opens the way for the playoffs.

Tuesday, October 12

Game 1 Indians and Team Dynasty Tied at 34-34 (we do not have overtime for regular season games) There were Co-MVP for this game Indians MVP was Roberto Lugo, Jr. Team Dynasty MVP was Travis Johnson
Game 2: Men on a Mission defeated the Unknowns 42-12 The MVP was Jason Gach from the Men on a Mission.



Photo courtesy of Norris Narsa

Making the winning play

Thursday, October 14:

Game 1: Killer Biscuits defeated Squad 55-8. MVP was Chan Yadav.

Game 2: The Ruff Riders defeated the Trojans. The Trojans forfeited the game
Now the 8 teams are going to play against each other to win the championship and represent NEIU in the regional tournament.

On October 19th the Biscuits played against the Trojans, in the first playoffs game.
Killer Biscuits Roster: Mike Calvert, Nipun Patel, Chan Yadav, Leo Bustos, Beth Spitelli, Casey Baxley, Tim Davis.

Trojans Roster: Anthony Richards, Brian Kunz, Kevin Benages, and Erik Wicklund

The Killer Biscuits lead the game at half time 16-13 over the Trojans. The two teams took turns taking the lead in the second half until the Trojans took the lead 36-30 with less than 2 minutes to play. The Killer Biscuits rallied to score a touchdown to make it 36-36, but missed the try for extra points.

The Trojans got the ball to try for a final score, but the ball was intercepted with just a few seconds to play. The Killer Biscuits scored on the final play of the game by running a play where all 4 players touched the ball and the game ended 42-36. The MVP of the game was Nipun Patel.

Second game of the same day, Men on a Mission vs. Squad.

Men on a Mission Roster: Jason Gach, Francois Jean, Dave Yang, Michael Okoye, and Lucian Munlean

Squad Roster: Marcus Padiel, Muhammad Baseeruddin, Kevin Grizzoffi, Maharshi Patel, Adeel Asif, Maurice Davis, Malik Naaman.

This game went into Double Overtime. The Men on a Mission and Squad were tied 28-28 at the end of regulation. Each team had 4 plays to score from the 20 yd. line. Neither team scored. Squad got the ball first and scores a touchdown but did not get the extra points.

The Men on a Mission failed to score on their 4 plays and the Squad won 34-28.

The MVP of the game was Mohammad Baseeruddin.

Playoffs: Thursday, Oct. 21

Game 1: Indians vs. Ruff Riders

Indians Roster: Roberto Lugo, Jr. Lloyd Walker, Marcus Tabani, Mobin Choudury, Alex Francois

Ruff Riders Roster: Norris Narsa, Jose Sotelo, Kerubel Gaim, Omar Hussaini, Roger Sidorski, Cesar Martinez

Final result 42-12 and the Indians advance to the semi-finals. The MVP was Alex Francois.

Game 2: Unknowns vs. Team Dynasty

Team Dynasty Roster: Rudy Buford, Rubin Minson III, Vincent Klass, Omar Sidiqian, Miguel Valdes, Keron Mitchel, Rob Akindele, Travis Johnson.

Unknowns Roster: Nick Markese, Caldon Hermiz, and Josue Tellez

As you see Unknowns have only 3 players that's why they had to play short-handed, and Team Dynasty defeated them 42-6 to advance to the semi-finals; the MVP was Rudy Buford.

The match-ups for the semi-finals are: Tuesday, Oct. 26 1:50 p.m. Killer Biscuits vs. Squad 2:30 p.m. Team Dynasty vs. Indians The Championship game will be played Thursday, Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. in the Main Gym of the PE Complex.



Photo by Azucena Beltran

Getting ready to pass.

Fitness Matters

by Nancy Van Kanegan
Campus Recreation Exercise Leader

These days yoga is everywhere, not only in the health clubs and yoga schools, but in advertising of everything from housewares to autos, presumably promising to cure ones life of all that hurts or worries and to eliminate the very idea of age for the forever young practitioner. Is yoga the "next new thing" to catch the fancy of fickle Americans in their quest for endless life (and beauty!)?

Far from being new, the practice of yoga is ancient, first depicted in stone seals of the Indus Sarasvati civilization around 3000 B.C. Yoga is a Sanskrit word that loosely translated means "to yoke." In the practice of yoga, the mind is yoked to the body and the spirit in an attempt to create harmony with the self and the world.

Yoga practice strives to increase the health and efficiency of the body, leading to mental clarity and spiritual and emotional peace. The practice of yoga asanas (postures), alone or in conjunction with other types of physical training, leads to a greater sense of physical awareness and knowledge of the abilities and limitations of one's own body. This leads to a reduction of injuries and increased physical comfort, reducing the sense of stress and a calmer state of mind.

Yoga was introduced to the US in 1893 in Chicago, when Swami Vivekananda came to speak as part of the parliament of Religions. But the practice grew in the 1960s when Swami Sivananda trained many yoga teachers in the Sivananda classical tradition. In the 70s and 80s, dancers and athletes began to incorporate Iyengar yoga, which focuses on precise body alignment, to prevent and rehab injuries.

The 1990s saw the rise of other types, including "Power Yoga," based on the Ashtanga Yoga system and consisting of several series of postures and linking poses. The Bikram system of yoga consists of asana performed in the same succession each time in a very warm room, often as hot at 106 degrees. The heat is said to have a purifying effect, eliminating toxins.

The primary benefits of yoga are experienced through the stretching of the muscles and the increased flexibility of the joints. Through habitual actions, (sitting in the car, at the computer, on the couch) the body loses a range of movement, muscles stiffen, and joints seem to get "stuck." With this decline in movement range due to lifestyle and potential overuse injuries, stiffness and pain can become chronic.

With practice of yoga, the spinal column and limbs can 'relearn' the natural range of motion, and common conditions can be eliminated or greatly alleviated. In addition, while practicing yoga will not guarantee weight loss, most students become more aware of their diet and the negative effects of foodstuffs such as sugar, alcohol, and fats.

When you consider ways to reduce stress or improve health, consider the benefits of yoga, finding a style that fits you. Your body and mind will thank you.

The choice between George Bush v. John Kerry

Is like the choice between...

White House v. Waffle House

Global freedom v. Global test

Tax cut v. Tax hike

Tastes great v. Less filling

John Wayne v. Jane Fonda

Fire power v. Flower power

Bunker busters v. Spitballs

Churchill v. Chamberlain

God Bless America v. Godless America

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HOSTED BY: EMMA HENDRIETH

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