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## Independent- Mar. 29, 2005

Andrea Zelinski

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# INDEPENDENT

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## Provost lifts GPAs up by the bootstraps

Student government and faculty committee combine on plan to recalculate Grade Point Averages

by Joe Hertel

REV Editor

with Patrick O'Brien

Opinions Editor

On March 10, the Faculty Council on Academic Affairs (FCAA) voted unanimously to recommend a change in the method of calculating Grade Point Averages (GPA) at NEIU. This recommendation was approved on March 15, by Provost Lawrence Frank, and will affect students currently

enrolled at NEIU.

All students who repeat classes in which they originally received an "F" or "D" grade will no longer have those earlier grades calculated into their cumulative GPA. This policy was part of a bill passed by the Student Government Association (SGA) last fall.

In a memo dated March 11, 2005, Audrey Reynolds, chairperson of the FCAA, wrote, "Specifically, the Faculty Council recommends that the transcript will

continue to show the original grade and the later grade(s) earned in any repeated courses, but that the calculation of the student's Grade Point Average will only reflect the higher grade."

According to Frank, the SGA had earlier approved the change to only be applicable to "F" grades; however, the FCAA expanded the change to also include "D" grades.

Student Government President Kendra Young rejected the proposal that included "D" grades by vetoing it and sending it back

to the Student Senate, where the original proposal was passed again. It was not known why the FCAA included "D" grades in its recommendation.

Frank told the *Independent* that the system will be in place and operational "by the end of this semester." Frank added that this policy change will affect all current students of NEIU who retake classes, but will not be applicable to former students

See GPA policy, page 2

## Anti-war protest met a sea of blue Downtown on Page 3



photo by Tom Robb

Approximately 1,500 anti-war protesters marched amid a heavy police presence on the second anniversary of the Iraq War. The march followed the route specified by the city, after the marchers were told they could not march on Michigan Avenue. -- See March Madness, page 3

## SGA President cleared of all charges

by Dorian Barrios

Staff Writer

Applause broke out as President of the Student Government Association (SGA) Kendra Young was found not guilty of violating the Spring 2004 Election Packet on March 10.

A late petition from the plaintiff, Evelyn Nazario-Rose, an IBHE-SAC representative (Illinois Higher Board of Education-Student Advisory Committee), was cited as the reason for the ruling.

The verdict was reached after two contentious hearings that went on for several hours, followed by two hours of deliberation by the justices.

During the hearings, Rose made the argument that Young was in violation of the Spring 2004 Election Packet (article III, Section 1), that states that in order to hold the office of president, a student must be enrolled in nine credit hours for the entire semester.

"When you consider the last day to drop out of classes was November 12, 2004, so the last day to file is February first. So we have to go with the constitution," said Chief



photo by Dorian Barrios

SGA President Young.

Justice Gary Gaspard, explaining the Justices' verdict. Associate Justice Sawen Aziz quoted the SGA bylaws (title 1, chapter 7) that state that any petition for a hearing must be submitted within seven days of the alleged incident.

**"I had trust that the justices would have considered all of the evidence presented, and I had faith that I would come out on top." -Kendra Young**

Gaspard continued to state that Rose had not provided any witnesses that could testify that Young had dropped her credit load:

"We feel that no witness in favor of Evelyn Nazario-Rose comes with a strong opinion to say that 'I know that Kendra Young

See President cleared, page 7

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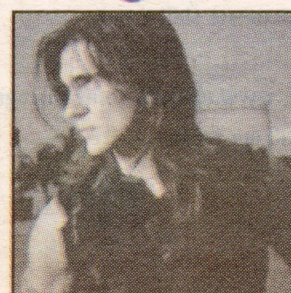
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# Senate loses quorum, again

## Student groups wait for funding and answers

photo by Andrea Zelinski



Student government leadership at the March 17 meeting.

by Andrea Zelinski  
Chief Editor

Debate on the Student Government Election Packet was the only topic heard at the Senate meeting on March 17, as several clubs waited to discuss their finance and charter proposals. The Student Government Association (SGA) called an emergency meeting for March 29 to discuss those student organizations' requests after the Senate lost quorum an hour into the meeting.

After a 30-minute late start, the Senate spent the rest of the hour debating and discussing alterations to the Spring 2005 Election Packet. The changes included a proposal to strike several clauses in reference to "Penalties and Disqualifications" under the section of candidacy for the Student Government spring election.

The clauses included disqualification of students for physical abuse or conduct that endangers another person, slander, libel, or patterns of extreme disruption.

"How many of us are certified to deal with those kinds of issues?" asked President Kendra Young. She proposed clauses three, four, and nine, which deal with

these disqualifications, to be removed. The Executive Board decided these clauses were outside the jurisdiction of the SGA, said Young.

"Does it mean somebody who can ... harm another person can run for election?" asked Senator John Chinthala in the debate.

After discussion, the amendments failed by a vote of eight to zero in favor of keeping the current document as is. One senator abstained.

Officials called for a five-minute recess to change rooms due to the late start of the meeting. Three senators did not return to the new room, leaving attendance at nine senators, one shy of a quorum. The meeting was unable to

conduct business, which included the evaluation of the student organizations' requests.

This was not the first time quorum could not be established while organizations sought decisions on finance proposals.

On February 15, four student clubs attended a Senate meeting that could not establish quorum. Members of the clubs sought out other members of SGA in the Senate Resource Room to establish quorum.

Vice President Omar Otero, president of the Senate, did not attend either of the two meetings but was sought out and found in the Senate Resource Room as the February 15 meeting went on.

Speaker MohemadTalha Anarwala assumed Otero's seat in the Senate for the March 17 meeting because, again, Otero was not present.

Ten minutes after the meeting was called to start, only 3 out of 20 senators were present. Many senators entered after 2:00 p.m., as pizzas and sodas were delivered.

Several student clubs were represented at the meeting, including Que Ondee Sola, the Hip Hop Club, and the Assyrian Club.



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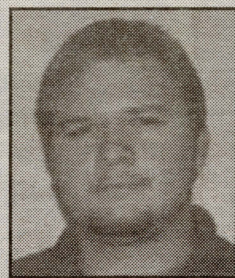
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## First Things First...



Patrick O'Brien  
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## Dying with dignity is a personal matter

President Bush tells us that in cases such as that of Terry Schiavo, we should "always err on the side of life." Let's look at what quality of life really means, in concrete terms.

I have a younger brother, Kalin, who is developmentally disabled, has epileptic seizures, and cerebral palsy, a condition that causes him to have little to no control over his motor functions. He has to be cared for around the clock in a special home suited to his sometimes intense medical needs.

According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, there is no cure for cerebral palsy, and I doubt one will come along in Kalin's lifetime.

All of my brother Kalin's conditions result from bleeding on the brain after he was born four months premature in 1988, two years before Terry Schiavo slipped into what many doctors have called a "persistent vegetative state."

Kalin lives on a routine of medications that regulate his body, and without those drugs in his body he can succumb to a massive seizure. Even though he suffered profound brain damage, and suffers increasing damage when he has additional seizures, he seems to enjoy his life, and has more mobility than Terry.

Kalin smiles, Kalin responds to visual stimuli, and Kalin recognizes the voices of family members and trusted nurses just as well as someone with a totally functioning brain. He loves eating, has an affinity for Italian food and chocolate cake, and enjoys listening to music.

He can even squeeze your hand, and when I look into his eyes, I believe that there is something there that the doctors have missed, that no test can detect, and that sustains him. Quality of life isn't an objective fact, and it's often more difficult to determine.

I've asked my mother what she would have done, given the choice when Kalin was born: to allow doctors to aggressively keep him alive or to let him go. She said she would have let him go, if only to release him from the daily physical pain that his tiny body was experiencing.

Kalin endured indescribable pain while seizures racked his body early on, and he spent the first five months of his life in the hospital hooked up to ventilators and every conceivable machine to preserve his life.

I am glad now that she didn't allow him to pass away, but that's a selfish motive, one that any loved one is understandably guilty of. And the Schindler family is no different by trying to keep their daughter alive.

If it seems that I'm telling an overly personal story, it's because death, life, and the attending decisions to prolong or end it, are deeply personal, and should be beyond the scope of the federal, state, or local government.

That it has taken 23 courts over seven years to allow this woman to die in peace and with dignity, says something about the grief of loved ones and how difficult it is to let someone go. Still, this is a personal decision, one that politicians should make for their own families, not others.

Does respecting life mean simply celebrating it and protecting it, or should we know when the person who's afflicted would want to go quietly and with dignity? Kalin can't speak to tell us when he's had enough, when the struggle to survive is more than he can endure, but people close to him will know, as I believe Michael Schiavo does.

Their eyes will tell you what the rest of their body cannot. No law can know what the human heart already does.

"We just hope that Terry can hang on," her sister Suzanne said. Is the goal here to survive, or to live with dignity? If the time came and I had to decide, I would choose the path that would cause Kalin the least pain, emotional or otherwise. I hope that Michael Schiavo has done the same.

### GPA policy, from page 1

who have already graduated or those who transfer credits from another institution.

Frank pointed out that NEIU is implementing a method of calculating GPAs that most other colleges and universities already employ. Although there are variations in calculating cumulative GPAs, Frank pointed out that this change takes into consideration that there are often times when students' grades may suffer due to stress or difficulty in any particular semester.

By allowing students to retake courses later and be credited for the higher grade, a student's cumulative effort will be rewarded, as well as recognizing academic improvement.

When the system is implemented, those students retaking courses will have their GPA automatically upgraded. Students should, however, make certain the grade change is reflected in their GPA in case there has been any name or numeric change in the course they have retaken.

Transcripts, however, will still reflect both courses taken, with both the higher and lower grade appearing.

# March madness: protesters met wall of blue at rally

1,500 marchers denied access to Michigan Avenue, marched peacefully on Dearborn, Clark streets; Thayer arrested

by Tom Robb  
News Editor

On March 19, around 1,500 antiwar demonstrators marked the second anniversary of the start of the Iraq War with a march and rally amidst hundreds of riot gear clad Police. Protesters planned to march down Michigan Avenue, but the Chicago Police Department (CPD) had other plans.

The CPD did not allow the march, saying the march would disrupt the traffic on Michigan Avenue. CPD offered an alternate route on Clark Street, initially rejected by protesters.

NEIU student Adam Norden, at the rally, said: "It's not a war for democracy ... it's just a war to establish a military and economic footprint in the Middle East. Frankly even if that is their plan, I don't think that will work."

At the start of the planned march at Oak Street and Michigan Avenue, Andy Thayer, march organizer with the Chicago Coalition Against War and Racism (CCWAR), was arrested by police as he began a press conference.

"The city of Chicago is clamping down on free speech because people are turning against this war," Thayer said.

Before Thayer's arrest, a CPD deputy chief stated over a megaphone, "It is our honor and responsibility to protect your right to demonstrate ... assembly at Oak and Michigan is unlawful. A march down Michigan Avenue is unlawful. If you violate the law you will be arrested and will miss the march."

CPD offered an alternative route to Federal Plaza. Protesters, flanked by police, moved to the CPD sanctioned Bughouse Square where an hour-long standoff ensued between police and protesters over which street to take to Federal Plaza. Protesters reluctantly agreed to dual marches on Dearborn and Clark streets.

Forty-ninth Ward Alderman Joe Moore spoke with the *Independent* at Federal Plaza about the city's refusal to allow the march on Michigan Avenue: "I'm not sure I understand it, simply from a pure logistical point of view, the amount of officer time that was used [for] penning people in ... if they had just allowed the march to proceed it would have lasted 40-45 minutes."

The *Independent* obtained a March 16 alert to the Greater North Michigan Avenue Association (GNMAA), written by GNMAA President and CEO John Maxson. The alert states: "This is believed to be the same group that organized the march two years ago that resulted in 10,000

people damaging property and disrupting traffic on Lake Shore Drive."

It advises businesses to "Remove anything from in front of [their] store that could be used as a weapon or tool for breaking windows."

Moore reacted to the GNMAA allegations: "I'm not aware of any damage done in past

demonstrations. Listen, if Mickey Mouse can march down Michigan Avenue on the weekend before Thanksgiving to open up the holiday season, it would seem to me that people who

**"Mickey Mouse can march down Michigan Avenue on the weekend before Thanksgiving ... people who are opposing this unjust war, who are simply trying to exercise their First Amendment rights, should be able to do the same."**

**-Joe Moore  
49th Ward Alderman**

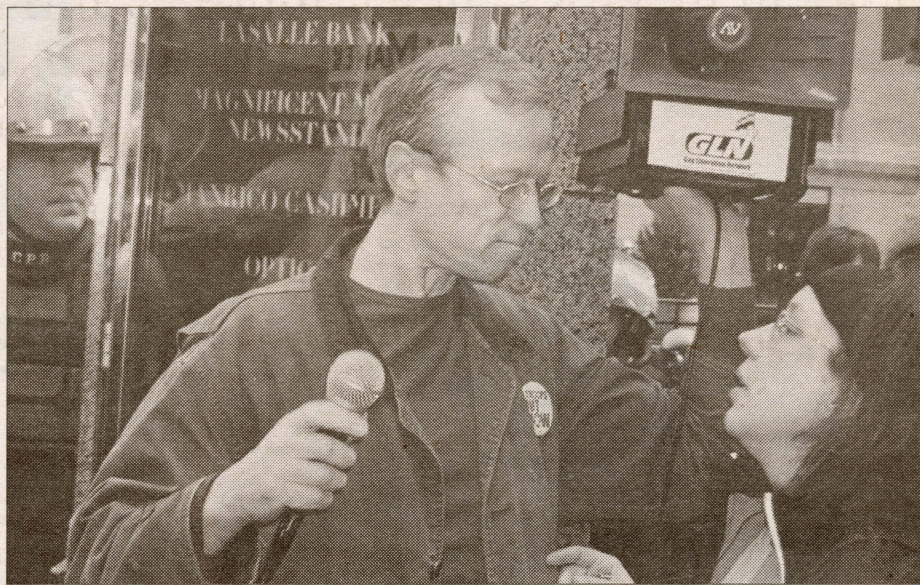


photo by Tom Robb

**Anti-war activist Andy Thayer holds a short press conference at Michigan and Oak before he is led away by Chicago Police.**

are opposing this unjust war, who are simply seeking to exercise their first amendment rights, should be able to do the same."

The march followed months of legal wrangling between protest leaders and the city over a permit to march on Michigan Avenue. City attorneys rejected the permit, arguing the march would disrupt business and traffic.

Protesters argued that the Festival of Lights Parade (FLP) is a much bigger disruption. In court, former CEO of GNMAA, Russell C. Salaman, stated that the FLP attracts between 750,000 and 800,000 people to Michigan Ave.

Charles Nissan Sabbath represented the demonstrators in their appeals to the permit denial: "Do people have the right to demonstrate on Michigan Ave. in Chicago? We obviously have the right to do it in Beirut, Lebanon. They have the right to do it in Kiev in Ukraine. They have the right to do it everywhere except in

Chicago."

Protesters lost their permit battle with the city in federal court, but attempted to begin their march at Michigan and Oak anyway.

The *Independent* spoke with U.S. Navy sailor Joseph Tomicelo, on the street in uniform. As the march passed by, he said, "A lot of people here are concerned about our troops and I think that's good, but I think what we're doing there is a good thing and as long as it doesn't get out of hand it's the right thing to do."

Among those speaking at Federal Plaza were Georgia Congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, Fred Hampton Jr. (son of the slain Black Panther) and Lillah Lipscomb, featured in Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 9/11*.

There was a small counter-demonstration of 70 to 100 people who chanted pro-troops messages and carried American and Israeli flags.

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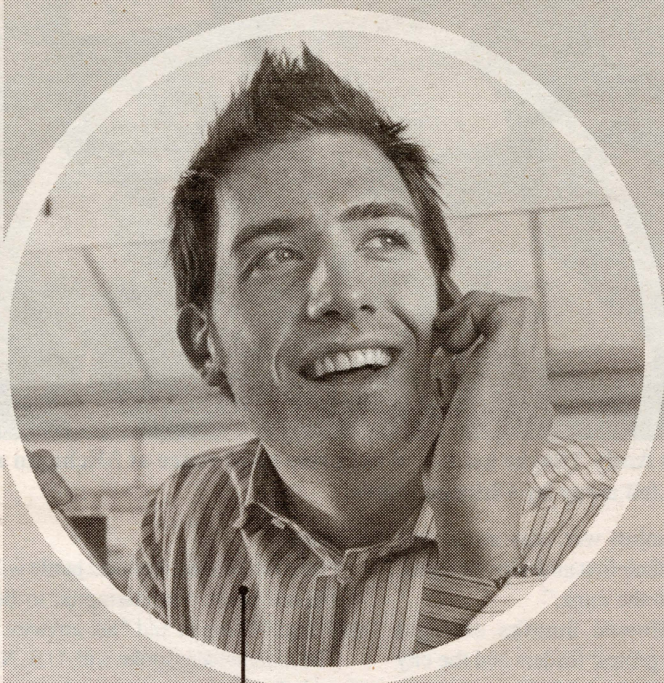
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# Windy City Film Fest made for NEIU

by Stephanie Tichenor  
Staff Writer

The Windy City International Documentary Film Festival came to Northeastern on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, March 15-17, in the Golden Eagles room.

The festival featured films based on the themes of sacred traditions and spiritual practices. "We wanted to expose people to ideas that are foods for thought," said Martha Foster, director of the festival.

The festival opened Tuesday with films focused on the idea of transcending cycles of violence. *Satya: A Prayer for the Enemy*, a film out of Tibet and winner of a National Educational Film Festival award, revealed the struggles of Tibetan nuns who, during the Chinese occupation of Tibet, preached nonviolent social reform.

"Our goal was to choose films, old and new, that were of different lengths and perspectives," said Media Professor Cyndi Moran.

The films highlighted on Thursday were centered around ancient wisdom in modern times. *Daba is Singing*, a Chinese film that had its North American debut at the festival, let viewers into the heartbreak that one monk faced as he realized his tradition of passing down sacred songs will be crushed if he translates and transcribes them.

"It was a battle to get this film here," explained director Martha Foster. "We started developing a relationship with China Central TV back in 1997 to initiate the process of getting *Daba is Singing*."

"The films made connections between lofty ideals and everyday life. Open minds plant ideas," said Lesa Davis, a professor of anthropology.

Also shown was *Hiding and Seeking: Faith and Tolerance After the Holocaust*, winner of the 2004 Best Documentary Film at the Jewish Image Awards. The film highlights the emotional journey

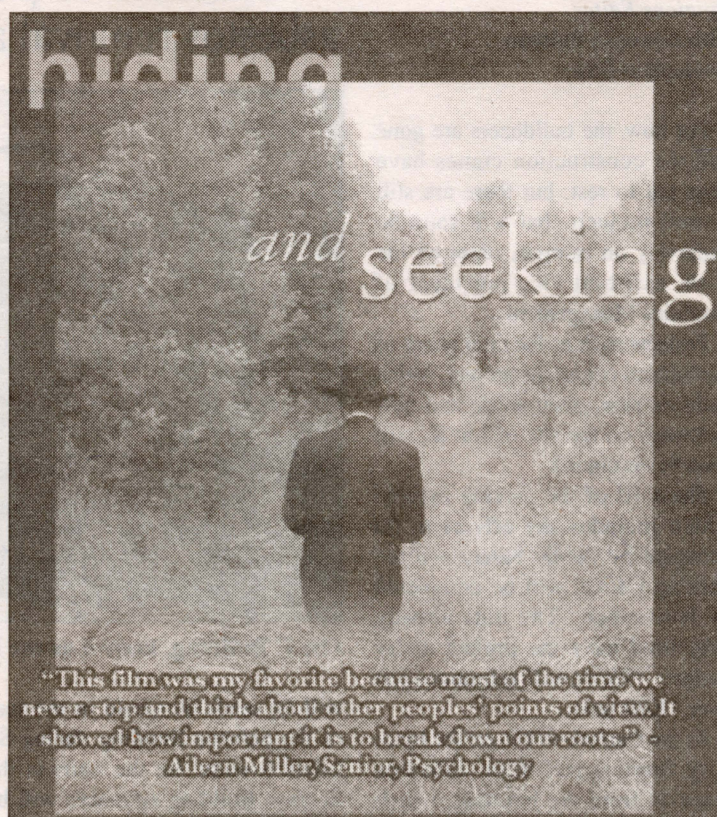
taken by a father and his Orthodox Jewish sons, which ultimately leads to a greater understanding of other faiths.

Aileen Miller, a senior psychology major said, "This film was my favorite because most of the time we never stop and think about other peoples' points of view. It showed how important it is to break down our roots."

On the following evening, Azim Khamisa, whose son Tariq was killed by a gang member, set the tone for the night by addressing the audience about the importance of forgiveness and the desire to end the unnecessary violence that snatched his son away from him.

His words correlated with the theme of the evening's films: perspectives on indigenous religions. *Divine Horsemen: The Living Gods of Haiti* explained the facts and myths of the voodoo religion.

See Film festival, page 6

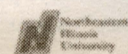


Student Aileen Miller comments on one of the featured films.

photo courtesy of auburnsem.org/images

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All attendees should dress for success. This means that you should wear a suit, polish your shoes and carry a portfolio, planner or briefcase rather than a backpack. Remember, you only have one chance to make a good first impression and to convince the employer to hire you. Visit the Placement Office and ask for a "Dress to Impress" flyer for more information.

#### What should I bring?

Employers expect job seekers to have plenty of resumes in hand. How many is plenty? Enough to give each employer attending 2 copies! Check out our website a few days before the event to get an exact count of participating employers.

#### What else should I do before the event?

Make sure you research the employers before the event! After getting the list from the website, visit each employer's web page to find out a bit about the company including what they do, who they serve and any current company news. Jot down a few facts on each company in your portfolio to review the day of the event. The goal of this exercise is to be able to impress the employer and to answer the following question well: Why do you want to work for us?

#### What do I say to employers?

When speaking to employers at job fairs, you generally only have between 1 - 5 minutes with them. Use this short time wisely by clearly communicating your skills, education, goals and what you know about the company. Practice a commercial that highlights all these things such as "Hello, my name is Tanya Shields. I'm a marketing major who is graduating in May, 2005 and I am interested in working for a small consumer products firm such as yours."

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# Construction continues

by Patrick O'Brien  
Opinions Editor  
with Azucena Beltran  
Production Editor

## Phase III of parking facility and asbestos removal at CCICS underway

For now, the bulldozers are gone and the construction cranes have been put to rest, but there are still several projects that will soon be underway on campus, reported Joe Kish, assistant vice president of Facilities Management.

Projects such as the final phase of the campus commons project, which includes new green areas, and new pathways on the site of Lot K, will soon be continued.

Phase III of the parking facility, which includes the offices to be occupied by Public Safety and the Parking Office, will be completed by November. The bids already submitted have the project under budget. "We've still got money left over," Kish said.

At the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS), asbestos removal from the building, which was built in 1904, will begin this spring and will continue through August. Floors one, two, three, six, and seven all require floor tiles with asbestos to be removed.

Kish stressed that the project will be done in phases, as not to hinder programming activities and classes. Kish described this project as involving "subfloors, not the whole building." He also added that some offices will have to be moved temporarily during the project.

As part of the campus commons project, handicapped parking spaces

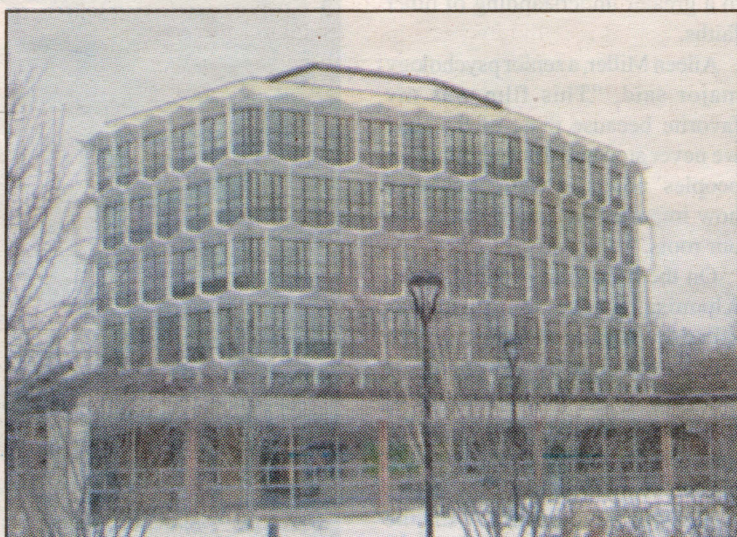


photo by Azucena Beltran

The C Building, known as the Beehive, will soon be occupied.

will be made available in the rear of the Science Building, facing St. Louis Avenue. All the stairs at the Science Building entrances will be replaced to make them accessible to people with disabilities. Walkway seating will be part of the project as well.

Landscaping will also be completed near the parking facility this summer, and work on Building A, which Kish describes as a "complete renovation," will begin as well. The logistics of relocating offices for Building A remains to be established.

As far as future building projects, a capital request has been submitted to the Illinois Board of Higher Education for funds to begin work on a new

Education Building, which would be located in one of two potential locations: south of the W T T W - Channel 11 building or on Foster Avenue, on the spot that now contains the athletic field.

This project is still in the planning stages and has not received any funding yet.

## Forum on tuition hikes addressed state funding methods

by Mario Go  
Staff Writer

On March 10, the Northeastern Socialist Club held an open forum, titled "Why Teachers are NOT to Blame for NEIU Tuition Hikes." The forum was intended to combat the common belief that the tuition hike is due to the raise teachers earned through their strike.

The forum was led by Dr. Loretta Capehart, justice studies professor and the constituency representative of the College of Arts & Sciences for the Northeastern chapter of the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI), and Doug Lee, a student and member of the Socialist Club.

Capehart addressed the issue by stating that the current school administration is to be blamed for the 9.6 percent tuition hike.

"Long before the talks about the strike, the state had already begun cutting funding to higher education," Capehart said. "The administration did nothing but lobbying in the state capital" and did not "take the extra mile to request for funding from the state."

After Capehart and Lee's opening remarks, the remaining time was given to the audience to share their thoughts and ask Capehart and Lee questions. The common theme discussed was the need for the faculty and students to unite, which both Capehart and Lee strongly agreed with.

Capehart looked back on the last semester's strike where, she said, "students and faculty were more united than ever before." Lee added, that the "only way to get what we really want is for both faculty and students alike [to] work together and seek out a common goal."

## Film festival, from page 5

Next, *Healers of Ghana*, which garnered a Cine Golden Eagle award, displayed the medicinal techniques of the Bono tribe of central Ghana.

The festival wrapped up with *A Thin Place* that explores the isle of Iona and its connections with Celtic Christianity.

The films were chosen by a committee comprised of professors and experts from the Communication, Media, Theatre, Linguistics, and Anthropology Departments.

"Having members from different departments promoted fresh and interesting

perspectives," noted Foster.

The Campus Recreation Committee, Student Union, and NEIU Foundation provided funding. NEIU was chosen as the home for the festival for many reasons, mainly because "This campus is one of the most diverse in the country," said Foster.

"The festival fits with NEIU, so it was a natural choice. We have a diversity of disciplines—linguistics, media and anthropology that cross over to a diversity of staff, students and community," summed up Davis.



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dropped her classes.”

During the trial, Rose provided copies of the *Independent* as evidence, which the justices didn’t believe was strong enough to find Young in violation of any regulation.

When questioned about the verdict, Gaspard admitted that even if Rose had provided evidence or witnesses proving Young had dropped her credit load, Young would still have been found not guilty, because the petition was filed past the deadline.

The final hearing preceded the announcement when the two parties made their closing arguments. Rose was first, making a subdued statement, claiming she had laid out her case, and that she had nothing more to add.

Young followed, insisting she was not in violation of any law and adding the trial was a violation of the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Young said Rose had not presented any evidence that she had violated any constitutional laws, and that she has done everything to fulfill her duties as president.

After the verdict was announced, the *Independent* spoke with Young, who repeatedly refused to comment on the

allegations that she had dropped two classes, causing her to drop below nine credit hours last fall.

“I had trust that the justices would have considered all of the evidence presented, and I had faith that I would come out on top,” Young told the *Independent*.

Young also added the trial wasn’t necessary, since “Rose did not file her complaint within the required time limit for a petition, then I don’t think that her petition should have been considered at all.”

The Election Packet, to be used during the spring elections, states that a student must be enrolled for nine credit hours during a semester to hold office, while the constitution still reads that a student must be enrolled in nine credit hours during an

academic year.

Young stated that there would be measures taken to make sure that all SGA documents contain the same information.

Amendments were proposed at the March 17 SGA meeting to correct the Election Packet.

**No witness came forward with definitive evidence that President Kendra Young dropped her course load, said Supreme Court Chief Justice Gary Gaspard.**

## Public Service Announcement

# Giving blood is good for you, too

by David Benjaih  
Special Contributor

We all know the benefits to everyone else in the world when we drain a pint of the good “red stuff,” but few of us are also aware that our own health benefits through the process of giving blood.

Adult males (20 and up) store about 1000 milligrams of iron in their bodies, yet pre-menopausal females only store about 300 milligrams. Apparently, that excess of iron is a leading contributor to an increased risk of heart disease in men (20 and up).

Women only suffer from this risk in their post-menopausal years when they also accumulate more iron. This excess iron has been shown to speed the oxidation of cholesterol, which may damage the arteries and ultimately lead to cardiovascular disease.

Iron overload toxicity, though not actually a major health concern, is something of which everyone should be aware, both men and women. High tissue iron concentrations have been associated with the development and progression of several pathological conditions, including heart disease, liver disease, pancreatic

disease, certain cancers, diabetes, and hormonal abnormalities.

Also, brain iron accumulation has led to various neurological (brain) disorders, such as Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson disease, type I neurodegeneration, and other disorders.

The good news (yes, there is good news) is that we can avoid the excess iron by draining a little blood now and then.

Research indicates that giving blood at least once every three years is sufficient to keep one’s iron levels in check. Research also indicates that giving blood more often helps the immune system.

Give, yes give; i.e., share your blood. The Red Cross will be on campus accepting blood donations from those of you who recognize the value to others and yourselves by draining a pint of that precious life-saving commodity that is only produced in the human body. Remember, at least 80 percent of us will be requiring transfusions sometime during our lives.

Come see us on Thursday, March 31, between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. in the Student Union to drain a pint and save a life—maybe even yours.

David Benjaih is a member of the Future Health Professionals, in association with Tri-Beta, the International Students Club, FMLA, and NEIU Health Services who are helping to organize the blood drive.

## Sodexho at center of legal storm

by Nick Gaudio  
Distribution Manager

“Sodexho is facing potentially the largest racial discrimination lawsuit ever brought involving managerial promotions against a private employer,” said Clayola Brown, director of the Civil Rights Program at UNITE, in an article in *civilrights.org*.

Sodexho provides food services to Northeastern and institutions around the country. Sodexho Alliance, the French parent company of Sodexho Inc., employs 120,000 employees in the U.S.

In February 2001, 10 black Sodexho employees filed suit, accusing Sodexho of hiring and promoting on a racial basis.

The petitioners claim that Sodexho denied African-Americans advancement in the company, while white employees with less seniority or less experience were advanced. Sodexho denies these charges.

The number of plaintiffs as of October 2003 stands at 2600, including both current and former black managers. The case was filed as a class-action lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

The company sought to block the lawsuit, but was refused by the U.S. Supreme Court. The case is currently in litigation and will go to trial on May 2, 2005.

The *Independent* contacted Sodexho spokeswoman Leslie Aun, who stated, “We believe that we have compelling evidence that will help [vindicate] the company and its image.”

Sodexho provides other services, such as laundry, custodial services, and grounds keeping to more than 6,000 clients in the United States and Canada.

Sodexho also provides services to the U.S. Marine Corps, prisons, hospitals, hotels and other corporations.



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**Physical Education Complex**  
**2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday**  
**March 29, 2005**  
**"It's a Family AKAffair"**  
**Games & Potluck**  
**5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. B-152**

**Wednesday**  
**March 30, 2005**  
**Study Tables**  
**Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS)**  
**12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

**Thursday**  
**March 31, 2005**  
**Financial Planning Workshop**  
**5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Student Union 214**

**Friday**  
**April 1, 2005**  
**Dinner and Movie "Hotel Rowanda"**  
**5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Co-sponsored by Student Union Golden Eagles**

**Saturday**  
**April 2, 2005**  
**Ivy Reading Academy**  
**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Faraday Elementary School**



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## Editorial

### Can teachers save lives?

For many who will read this, the subjects of teaching, education for our children, and the coverage for mental health will be a non-issue. But for those who are going into the teaching field, or have children in school, this issue will hit home.

This past week, while many school children and teachers were returning from a week of Spring break fun and catching up with their classmates, for the folks at Red Lake High School, it was something entirely different.

This new school shooting in Minnesota is now being labeled the second worse school shooting in America since Columbine, where a student went on a rampage killing 10 people, including himself. This comes only 18 months after another shooting at nearby Ricori High. This, along with a shooting at a church in Wisconsin, is another example of an epidemic hitting America.

For Northeastern students training to become tomorrow's teachers, this is a new factor that they must comprehend.

Sadly, at the root of this tragedy is our nation's lack of a proper system for mental health. In Columbine, as with the shootings in Wisconsin and Minnesota, depression and poor mental health served as a catalyst for what transpired.

In the Red Lake case, the signs were plainly visible: the young shooter had a web site on MSN detailing his goals and rage against the school. He had thought of himself as a neo-Nazi (even though he was a Native American), using the name "Todesengel," which is German for Angel of Death.

But he is only one example of students with such problems. For students who are dealing with these problems, taunts by his peers and other pressures only add to their anguish.

While there were some programs set up following Columbine, there is yet no national initiative in establishing proper mental health programs for children. Programs like Head Start do not reach that far, and so far in the Bush Administration, any program that could meet such needs may face the veto ax.

There needs to be a comprehensive program that helps students; a system where there is help for students' mental needs. If there are problems with the family, as was with the shooter at Red Lake, or personal issues like sexuality, then there needs to be some sort of intervention.

Sadly, many often view suicide as their only avenue of escape. As for children who are found to be a potential threat to the rest of his or her classmates, they need to be weeded out and separated. In time, these children will be rehabilitated and returned to the mainstream of society. These preventative measures will save future tax dollars in prisons, and most of all, lives.

For our fellow readers who are taking classes in education, and to our professors who are teaching such classes, we pose a question to you. Is it time to start training future teachers for future Columbines? If so, what can be done? It is obvious now that while our future teachers are being trained to attend to students' academic needs, someone needs to be available to attend to students' psychological ones.

Red Lake was the second worst school shooting in America; let us try and make it the last one.

## For the Sudanese, their skin is their sin

by Tom Robb  
News Editor

There has not been much discussion of the Sudan in the media recently, but two million people have died in the last ten years, and the killing shows no signs of slowing down. The United Nations does not seem to want to act, so it seems that it is up to the U.S. to stop what can only be called mass genocide and a crime against humanity.

But it's Africa, so who cares? People should care. It is genocide on a massive scale. Whether genocide happens in the Sudan, Rwanda, Bosnia, or Nazi Germany, it is still the highest crime against humanity and we, the world community and the U.S., have a responsibility to see it stopped—even if it is not within the U.S.'s interest and there is no oil under the land.

The *Independent* spoke with Samuel Atuk, one of the "Lost Boys of the Sudan." When Samuel was eight years old, a group of Northern Arab Sudanese attacked Samuel's village in the Christian South of the Sudan.

"When my village was attacked, I ran to the place where I saw a lot of people were running to and I followed the same direction, until I reached Ethiopia ... They started taking villages so whoever, any child that is a boy, can be killed or can be taken into slavery." It took Samuel three months to reach Ethiopia. He left in a group of 23,000 boys. When they reached Ethiopia, 7,000 boys had been killed.

Samuel explained the reason the Northern government backed Janjaweed militia's attack on children: "Leaving these kids to grow up now,

in time coming will be some other soldiers and they will fight against [the Janjaweed]."

The U.S. went into Bosnia and saved people there from an ethnic cleansing because it was the necessary and humane thing to do. Edin Ramivoc, now living in Chicago, was in Srebrenica, Bosnia as Serbian forces were attacking that city. Edin said his life was saved when American jets bombed the Serbs as they attacked the town he was in.

That was the right thing to do in Bosnia and is the right thing to do in Sudan. Is the U.S. only going to step up to its responsibilities when the people involved look like us or have oil?

In spite of over two million dead (as stated by Jesse Jackson at NEIU after a recent trip to the Sudan), and in spite of the fact that Human Rights Watch (HRW) has found evidence that

the Sudanese government backs the Janjaweed militia who are committing this wholesale slaughter, the United Nations will not call what is going on a genocide, and is therefore, not impelled to act. The U.S. Congress passed a resolution calling it genocide, but the resolution is not binding.

HRW also stated "A key element to reversing ethnic cleansing is removing the threat of violence posed to internally displaced persons by the Janjaweed."

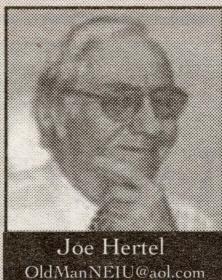
The report also states that military and civilian members of the Sudanese government and the Janjaweed militia (which HRW also found was government backed) were involved in war crimes and other criminal acts.

Military force can save lives in these situations. It may not be Iraq, but we cannot ignore genocide because it's not convenient.



image courtesy of red.wn.com

**There's two million dead and more dying. One can only wonder when someone will do something to stop this genocide.**



Joe Hertel  
OldManNEIU@aol.com

## Old Man on Campus

*God: Opiate or Omnipotent*  
*Conclusion of a three-part series*

Religion, like mankind, evolves (not in the Darwinian sense), and there are true believers for whatever one's religion deems to be an accurate history of its genesis (pardon the reference)—from space invaders to cosmic creation.

For the sake of these articles, I have defined the Creator, the Supreme Being, and Spiritual Entity who is known by many names in various religions, generically as "God."

We have the choice of believing the folklore, history, and genealogy of religion, but with that history comes hypocrisy.

Although we believe in God and the message of love preached throughout the world's religions, we seem to apply it only to those who fit our description of what kind of "neighbor" it is we are to love.

Growing up in the 1950s, I saw firsthand blatant racism, severe segregation, and inequality that you only hear and read about. Although hidden nowadays by laws and affirmative action, inequality and racism are still around. Laws don't stop hate; they only regulate it.

Although things are better than before, we still have a long way to go in being one big happy family.

Let's face it. We hate. In this country, we hate because of skin color. And if we were all the same color, we would hate because of religion or politics. Factually, this occurs anyway.

How many years in Ireland have Protestants and Catholics been killing each other? How many times have ethnic militias in Africa been at it? What did Saddam Hussein and his followers do to their own people? We have seen the evil, the hate expressed all over the globe, and even here at NEIU.

We've had speakers here on campus (some we have paid money for) and listened to the venom seething from their lips. You can sense the underlying hatred every now and then in various articles written in campus magazines, flyers, newspapers and Bughouse. It's there.

We just don't want to call it hate; it is masked under such headings as self-determination, liberalism, conservatism and ethnic pride. Sometimes, a kinder word, distrust, is used when speaking of hate.

In times of war, we adapt to hating entire nations of people. There is a contemptuous anger, a loathing for someone different than us.

We have seen it and heard it and experienced it from individuals within certain ethnic and

religious groups. And if someone speaks out against it, they are labeled troublemakers. Let's just admit that we all are guilty in our hearts and start from there.

This is where religion comes in. It can only control hate or promote it. If you believe you are serving God through your religion and yet you have hate in your heart, you do not know the God whom you serve, and labor in vain.

The proof is in the fact that you are not at peace with yourself, your "neighbor" or God. We are anxious, fearful and uncertain—we have heard about campus suicides and random student murders occurring around the country. Why? Religion is not helping because we have left God out of it. Most of us have done so. One cannot love God and hate his creations.

Our religion is empty unless we know God. On campus, I have talked to people who wonder about the afterlife (we should be more concerned with the present one), wonder about God's existence, and have questioned various religious beliefs. I have heard people knock other religions, joke about race, and yet seek answers to the question as to what life is all about.

Life's about discovering the truth. And that will only happen when we release ourselves from the shackles that bind us to this world and seek the spiritual world, which is all around us. It's about knowing God, and it ain't difficult because He is right there with

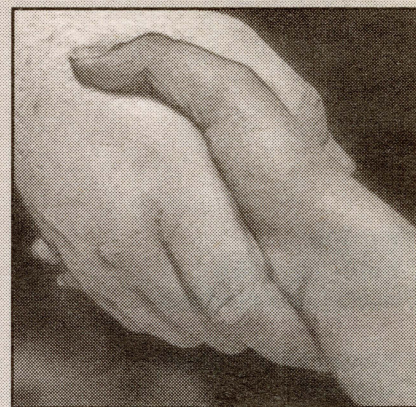


image by Cecilia Carboni

you, although perhaps not in the context you may think.

God is not some benign cosmic benevolence floating on a cloud somewhere. God is a spirit, dynamic energy, a force, which can be felt in the spiritual, and sometimes manifest in the temporal world. As His creation, we can tap into this power, yet we fail to do so.

If we seek enlightenment, peace of mind, or a feeling of self-worth, or if we want direction and assurance, then we must call on God to guide us.

Whatever our religion, whatever our beliefs (it doesn't matter), if we do not stop hating each other, we will perish.

Only God can remove the hate from our heart and replace it with love. We only need to ask.

# Campus political witch hunts

by Krystian Zyszczyński  
Staff Writer

Allow me to begin by stating that yes, there is a political bias on most, if not all of the university campuses around the U.S., not to mention in our high schools and even grammar schools. And all of the biases are leftist.

In a recent study reported by Fox News, a researcher from Santa Clara University found that among social science teachers and humanities teachers, the Democrats outnumber the Republicans eight to one. By golly they're right.

How many teachers do you know that are a Democrat? How many of them badmouth Bush or other Republicans?

Read the articles from Campus Report Online and you will see teachers just spewing left-wing rants. One professor insists his student use double-quotation marks when they say "terrorism."

How about Colorado University Professor Ward Churchill, who compared the people who were killed in the 9/11 attacks to "little Eichmanns," and then defended it as free speech? These are our professors? Aren't they supposed to be smart and fill our heads with facts, not political views?

Recently, there has been a growing trend of backlash of liberal ideas by professors and politicians everywhere. Just listen to Sean Hannity on AM 890, Monday through Friday, from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Now, before you go and start calling him a liar and a right-wing nut, listen to his stories.

Almost every other show has a college student calling in about a teacher or a professor spewing his liberal views on the students and belittling any Republicans in the class. They even have recordings of these classes.

One story had a teacher who told a student, who was a Republican, to get some psychological help just for being a Republican. If my teacher told me that, I would have socked him right then and there.

The classroom is for learning facts and history, not giving one side of the political spectrum and making fun of those who do not conform to their ideas.

A few weeks ago I was in California and toured the University of California at Berkeley. I think I actually felt the ground leaning to the left there. I really wanted to bring my Bush-Cheney '04 bumper sticker and stick it on my backpack. Boy, that would have ticked a lot of them off.

It was kind of scary walking through there. I picked up the college paper and in it I saw an article where the students held a protest against the Army recruiters for their recruiting policy on gays and lesbians. Oh, come on!

There was anti-Republican sentiment everywhere. Even the Republican Club looked uneasy at their recruitment table. On the streets they were selling bumper stickers that just oozed with anti-Bush, anti-war, and just plain anti-Republican sentiment.

And they say there is a lot of open mindedness on our campuses. Please! If they say that our colleges do have an open-minded atmosphere, then why is the right side always being blocked or criticized or censored whenever they open their mouths?

If you need any more proof, read this book: *Brainwashed: How Universities Indoctrinate America's Youth.*

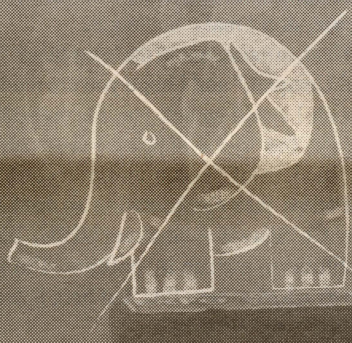


Image by Cecilia Carboni

# Minimum wage limits the freedom of business

by John Tait  
Staff Writer

On March 7, the United States Senate voted against two proposals that would have raised the minimum wage. The Democrats' plan would have increased the minimum wage in three steps, from \$5.15 an hour to, ultimately, a whopping \$7.25. The GOP bill hoped to enact these raises in two steps of 55 cents each. Both proposals were despicable attempts to penalize American businesses, despite providing goods, services, and jobs to and for the American people.

Supporters made an attempt to legislate that certain individuals would earn a higher wage. However, they made no effort to legislate that those same people would become more productive. In our relatively free market economy, wages are generally related to a worker's production. In regards to minimum wage, the government sets the value of certain workers as opposed to the market. This creates several drastic consequences for employers, employees, and consumers.

Employers pay individuals based on their abilities and value. For example, a quality brain surgeon is particularly valuable to a hospital. He has worked hard over the course of many years to accomplish a feat that few attempt and far less do so successfully. Therefore, only a small amount of people possess the ability to perform that task. This makes a brain surgeon very difficult to replace.

On the other hand, a cashier at the hospital gift shop is easily expendable. The necessary credentials include the ability to

add and subtract, count money, and show up for work on time. That includes almost anyone with a grammar school diploma. Due to the vast disparities in skill and value, the surgeon makes far more money.

The main problem lies when someone such as the cashier is not as productive as minimum wage states they should be. Assume that the cashier produces only \$3 worth of work but must be paid \$5.15 per hour. That is not much of a bargain for those who are providing an American job and service for hospital visitors.

The employees who are supposed to benefit from such government interference suffer from the negative effects. Many are then offered fewer hours, and some lose their job entirely. They often pay higher prices for groceries and other items necessary for their own subsistence. This makes the money they do have more difficult to manage.

Minimum wage increases have detrimental effects upon consumers. A company must compensate for the increase in employee wages. This generally results in higher prices or a decrease in the quality of service. The latter is caused by terminating or cutting the hours of employees. In short time, fast food restaurants would no longer live up to their name.

The minimum wage is an act that limits the freedoms that every American should enjoy. It does so when the right of an employer to pay an employee an agreed upon amount is taken away. If, for example, they agree upon a wage of \$4 an hour, why should the government have the right to prohibit such an arrangement?

## VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

## Coupon heaven



CECILIA CARBONI  
neiu\_voc@hotmail.com

So who doesn't like saving money? Okay, that guy right there doesn't count. But I'm sure you do. A couple cents saved here and there can be helpful, especially on those nights when other staff members and I drive to Burger King with a handful of quarters

to get dinner. We will thoughtfully look at the apple juice, stare down at the few cents we have left, and ask, "Can we afford it?" The people behind the counter smirk as we ask, "Two straws please," and point to the child-sized juice box.

With each carefully timed out sip, we wished that we had a card or coupon, stating "Buy any Large Sandwich, get 21 oz. Drink Free." But alas, the time of the Student Saving Club Card had not yet dawned.

But now, signs have started to pop up, and suddenly, there is a little card to accompany them. Apparently I have been living under a rock, and in the words of my chief editor, a rock devoid of food, haircuts, and florists. Even faxing.

Where was this coming from and what was it?

The SGA, in conjunction with their executive board, has spoken with local merchants and organized loads of savings for NEIU students. Have you ever been to Charcoal Delights over on Foster and Bryn Mawr?

Well, now you can go and get a 10 percent discount. There's also Quiznos, Subway, and Dominos. Some more international treats include Ken's Mandarin Restaurant, Viceroy of India, and Cafe Victoria Family Restaurant.

I am disappointed to see none of my favorite local restaurants on the list, such as Hunan Wok, the 24-hour place on the corner of Bryn Mawr and Kimball, or Sargentos, the Mexican Pizza place. That's not a criticism; it's just a shame that I won't be saving money on my frequent buys. It is, after all, the vendor who accepts the contract.

There are also discounts at Supercuts, Computer Zone, Beau's Flowers and Gifts, Wireless Toyz, Smile Design Dental Care, For Eyes, FedEx-Kinko's, Mid-America Furniture, Blue Street, Cleaners Depot, and Holiday Inn.

And all of this is free because of the SGA. The discounts, printing of posters, the little cards ... I don't even know what to start complaining about. You can find them all over campus; just read the fliers and they'll tell you. SGA President Kendra Young hopes that every student and faculty member will pick one up. That's 12,000 cards, folks. What if they run out?

It will take a month for a new shipment to come in ... but I don't think it will be needed. I doubt all 12,000 students and faculty members will bite for it because students tend to overlook things like this.

The problem with me and others like me, is having to walk out of our way to seek this thing out. They will be passing them out, but you know it will be quizzically looked at and then shoved into books, into back pockets, thrown in garbage cans, and left on tables. Many will say, "This is a great idea," and then forget it.

Heck, even if I know it's here, even if I have it in my pocket, I know that three out of five times I'll forget to whip it out at that moment. I'm just lazy like that. Those other two times, I won't have my ID with me. I loathe coupons; did I mention that? I have never even seen my NEIU email.

So the number of students actually looking for one, in ratio to those leaving them on tables, will even out. If you can't find one in the bookstore, you would know where to look ... and then go get yourself a nice lunch and a haircut between classes.

## "Letter to the Editor" Policy

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neiu\_independent@yahoo.com

# Moral high ground goes both ways

by Nick Gaudio  
Distribution Manager

The war in Iraq, though officially ended last year, still makes the news, but now in less savory ways. To kick this off, let's look at the Abu Ghraib prison scandal.

The prisoners, pardon my political incorrectness, detainees, were seen being mistreated across all forms of media.

Some prisoners were made to stand for long periods of time on boxes with electrical wires in their hands. Some were watched by guards as they performed sexual acts for what appears, more appropriately what the government has deemed, the guards' enjoyment.

Some of the guilty parties are Charles Graner Jr., Lynndie England, and now Sabrina Harman. According to Fox News, the former two individuals have already been convicted of charges ranging from indecency to sadism.

According to Wikipedia, Graner was sentenced to 10 years in prison for his crimes against the detainees at Abu Ghraib.

England is looking at a reprimand or punitive discharge with a 38-year prison sentence for her part in the scandal. The events at Abu Ghraib only tell part of the story

relating to America's "moral war" in Iraq.

The U.S. entered into the Middle East in 2001 to hunt down and eliminate Al Qaeda from Afghanistan. Having successfully deposed Al Qaeda's Taliban aid in Afghanistan, the U.S. turned to Iraq to depose Saddam Hussein under the guise of finding weapons of mass destruction.

While the campaign in Afghanistan was publicly supported, the Iraq campaign was and still is met with powerful opposition. For instance, President Bush has been labeled a warmonger for his intent on stamping out terrorism—a fact of life that will never be completely gotten rid of, short of the arrival of the Apocalypse.

The Bush administration has since been labeled a theocracy, a state ruled by religion, for Bush's use of evangelical Christian methodology in making his decisions concerning the Middle East. It is this very statement that has prompted the loss of "moral high ground" for American forces in Iraq, as one scandal after another comes to plague the democratization effort in Iraq.

The guards at Abu Ghraib did what they did because they were part of an occupation force. Throughout history, we've seen similar trends amongst other nations when they've occupied



image courtesy of thememoryhole.org

**Torture is the cross that all parties involved have to bear.**

others during or after war. This does not excuse their actions, and the American people are outraged that our soldiers have stooped to the level of those we seek to rise above.

It isn't right. It also isn't right when Americans and people from other nations are

videotaped being tortured or executed to try and persuade American forces to withdraw from Iraq. Unfortunately, this issue will continue to persist as long as either side is still entrenched in this conflict. Time heals all wounds; perhaps it can heal these as well.

## Letter Bag Let's pretend America's not racist

Dear Editor,

Reading John Tait's ridiculous so-called counter point on the reparations issue from the February 10 edition of the *Independent* reeks of an old time-tested White supremacist game called "Let's Pretend." It is a game where those insignificant, annoying things like **truth, facts, and evidence** can all be ignored in favor of what the player wants, imagines or pretends things to be.

Tait begins his game of "Let's Pretend" with a completely unsubstantiated accusation of Jessie Jackson, Congressman John Conyers, Louis Farrakhan and the entire (since he makes no distinctions) Congressional Black Caucus of being racist. He offers no supporting documentation whatsoever, only his say so.

Tait next states that neither Whites in general nor Americans in particular who were involved in the slave trade should bear any responsibility for slavery. He ignores the **fact** that America participated in the Slave Trade for 246 years. The **fact** that slavery was a practice recognized and protected by U.S. law; the **fact** that millions of Africans were bought, sold, traded, bartered, rented, gambled away etc.; the **fact** that families were sold/split apart, men, women, and children were raped and tortured on a daily basis both physically and psychologically; and the **fact** that millions of African lives were lost while America made approximately 4.1 trillion dollars in profits.

Tait's most racist statement of the day suggests that Blacks in America benefited from slavery!!! He says, "If their ancestors had not been brought here, they would still be living in the poverty stricken continent of Africa," yet he conveniently forgets to state why Africa is poverty stricken. I wonder how poverty stricken the North American continent would be if some ruthless bandits came in and stole approximately one billion dollars a day in natural resources every day for the last 500 years. Do the math folks, that's one billion, times 365, times 500. I don't know if a name even exists for that figure. How would the technical arrest affect America if over half the adults were removed from the country and just young people and old people remained. How would an event like that affect the economy, education, health care, etc.

Again in touting the so-called benefits of slavery, he suggests, "Blacks now get to live in a rich free nation which has allowed some Blacks to become extremely wealthy." Perhaps that is how some Whites view Blacks living in America, but for many a Black person, it means leaving your house everyday hoping you won't be the next Rodney King, or Abner Louima (the Haitian man sodomized with a toilet plunger by New York Police), or Amodu Diallo (the Senegalese man shot 19 times and shot at 41 times in front of his front door by New York Police), or James Byrd (the Black man dragged to death behind a Texas Klansman's truck).

Tait seems to forget that four out of five Blacks captured died before reaching the stage of chattel slavery. Tait forgets that the 3000 free Black "slave owners" had to **"buy" their mother, or father, or child, or brother, or sister etc. from their owners**. That's why free Blacks "bought" slaves; it was the only way to secure their relatives' freedom at that time. That is holistically different from buying another human being to exploit them for their manual labor, sexual desires and the psychological need to be better than someone else by artificially making their condition worst than yours. That's what Tait is suggesting, but again, only because his racist imagination wants to believe it.

In conclusion, John Tait is one of the most overt and obscene white supremacists I have come across in a long time. Unfortunately, he represents the thinking pattern of a substantial segment of the American population. America needs to be crystal clear that the thinking of people like John Tait is one of the primary reasons that September 11, 2001 occurred, and why America can expect more September 11's in the future. America seems to feel it does not, should not, and will not have to account for its actions or decisions and since they have more money and guns than anyone else—"who cares if they don't like it." After all, why deal with those annoying little things like truth, facts and evidence when you can play "Let's Pretend" instead.

*This rebuttal is being submitted by Gimbu Kali, Unit Coordinator, Office of Admissions, Records, Recruitment and Retention at the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies.*

## Letter Bag Free Speech under attack

Dear Editor,

Recently, the administration blocked an "Affirmative Action Bake Sale" by the College Republicans. At these events that take place all over the country, cookies are sold for \$1 to white males, \$.90 to white females, \$.75 to Hispanics, and \$.50 to blacks. Affirmative Action Bake Sales are designed to provoke a dialogue on affirmative action. This is clearly a matter of freedom of speech.

The feminists, a few years back, held a bake sale where they charged men and women different prices for cookies. When the College Republicans attempted to do the same thing,

it was suddenly considered discrimination. NEIU can best be described as a democracy of the angriest. Those who express the most anger have the most rights.

In the 1960's, around 90 percent of the student body was white. Today, the percentage of whites admitted to NEIU is somewhere in the 30's. The policy of affirmative action attempts to drive this number even lower. Is this tolerance?

We are fighting the ban on the bake sale. I predict that an Affirmative Action Bake Sale will take place.

*Brian Geier  
NEIU College Republicans*

## Letter Bag Comments on SGA and others

Dear Editor,

I would like to start by commenting on the last issue's comments made by Mr. Robert Kastigar who wrote to the *Independent* a letter titled "Just the Facts," in which he claimed that the *Independent* was not covering the facts of an accident that happened on February 22. Mr. Kastigar, boohoo. Tell me of a newspaper in the nation that covers an event based on the facts? I understand what you are saying, but then again, the *Independent* covering the facts? Please, don't make me laugh.

Next, to the author of the letter titled "Separate and Unequal," and I hope you are reading this. I wish I could smack you for publishing that article, but in the U.S we have such a thing as freedom of speech and everyone's points are taken into consideration so here is mine, Mr. Co'Shawn A Shakur. NEIU, like other institutions, are run by politics. I'm sure you are shocked to hear this, but here is something else.

The student body has such a thing as THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT representing the majority of the students' interest. This is not always the case, as it is with the current SGA administration. I don't know if you were here last year or not. I don't care, but last year when the elections were taking place, the party that is currently in power proposed that they were going to hold at least three meetings per semester at CICS and El Centro under their agenda if they got elected, therefore, rather than complaining to the *Independent*, why don't you nag someone like Kendra Young who is the current president of the SGA. Tell her that the title doesn't mean anything if nothing is being done for the students.

Next, I know in what situation CICS is in, and I agree. CICS and El Centro should not be seen as an extension campus, but rather as part of NEIU as a whole. The bathrooms at CICS stink like piss and are falling apart, but there is no SGA interest in that and the students attending the main campus don't care about it because they don't attend CICS. Who cares? Not the president. Neither the SGA nor NEIU's own president care about CICS, at least at this time. Money needs to be invested in the repair of the Science Building; don't you see how it is falling apart? CICS can wait. If something falls on a student at CICS, we have lawyers in place for the lawsuit, or we will just sell CICS and get

rid of the problem. In the end, Mr. Shakur, don't feel bad because CICS has no representation, and students at the main campus don't have it either. Have you read the paper? The SGA is busy covering their backs much less having time to represent CICS or the student body.

As far as the SGA goes, Mr. Gary Gaspard and Ms. Kendra Young, you have outdone yourselves along with your goons. The publicity stunt for this year's election has started already with the *Independent* in front covering the latest scandals. I have to hold Mrs. Evelyn Nazario-Rose responsible too, but she is getting her fair share of advertisement.

In politics, they are all playing a well played out part. Gary is suppose to graduate this semester, but watch him pull a stunt out of his pocket like he always does and extend his stay at NEIU. Here is the plan people, I don't know about Young, but I know for sure that Nazario is running this semester for president, and if you remember last year's elections, hold on to your hats because this one is promising to be even more amusing since other candidates who are yet to be declared are running, and the word is that they don't like the Vision party and the Vision Party doesn't like them.

Here is the catch: in the last publication by the *Independent*, the names of these players appeared more than once. Only one term for that: free advertisement—before the election packet is put out and the elections take place. Let's be honest, most of us vote because a name sounds familiar and not because we know they are going to do a good job. In the last publication their bios were published, and only the good things not the bad things were stated.

The whole game of Young versus Rose in the end is for publicity and power rather than anything else. What power? Good question. The elected president gets paid for their work, they get a private office and a computer, as well as other benefits. The same goes for the vice president and the treasurer.

It must be a lot of work being president of the SGA, but in reality, when it comes to education, they only care for their individual principals. In the end, with elections coming, a word of advice: see what the candidates have done in the past and what they are looking to do. Listen before voting or don't complain later.

*Senor X*

## Letter Bag Thank you, UPI

On behalf of the workers of Sodexo Cafeteria, we wanted to put an article in the school paper to let everyone know what a bunch of unselfish teachers we have here at Northeastern because of their strike.

They did not just think of themselves. They thought of us, the workers in the cafeteria who were laid off for a while.

The teachers did not have to think of us but

they did. They made 15 people very happy with a financial blessing that they did not have to do.

So we wanted everyone to know what a great bunch of teachers we have at Northeastern. So this is our way, all of the union members of Sodexo cafeteria, of saying thank you and God bless you all.

*Virginia Warren, Union Steward*

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new '007', pg. 12

Soel: a little of  
everything, pg. 14

REV REV REV  
ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

# A game series for the disturbed

## Sticks and stones may break bones, but chains and demons are exciting

by Jonathan Gronli  
Production Editor

The game *Silent Hill* started in the year 2000 and unleashed Hell on Earth. It was one of the most graphic and disturbing game series ever created. The first game in the series exposed us to the invasion from Hell, starting in one small American town.

You play Harry Mason, a man who recently has come to terms with the death of his wife and is now living with his only daughter. On the way to their favorite vacation spot, Silent Hill, a ghostly figure runs out in front of the car, causing Harry to swerve off the road.

As with most horror movies that start off with a car crash, the one thing that matters to the hero is gone when he awakes from unconsciousness. In other words, Harry's daughter has disappeared when he comes to, in a town filled with fog, demons, and ... hmmm, snow in July.

Being the good father that you are playing, you go looking for your daughter. You are dragged into a metaphysical conspiracy of a dark cult trying to bring about the end of the world and the beginning of Paradise.

Graphically, the game is disturbing. There are scene shifts into Hell, decapitated or disemboweled dogs, and skinned and/or mummified bodies hanging from chain-link fences or old racks.

There is enough blood in this game to constitute itself as a vampire's wet dream. Surprisingly though, the amount of blood isn't even from the demons you bludgeon/slash/stab/chop/shoot. It is from Hell's versions of certain places and Hell/Nowhere itself.

The enemies that are disturbing, outside of the final boss, are the Mumbler children, who look like skinned toddlers that have a love for knives (Hey, it's Hell; what do you expect?) and the Demon Cybil, a cop who gets possessed near the end.

A quick comment on the controls—they were simple but occasionally really stiff. Other than this flaw, the original game is incredible.

### Second round: *Silent Hill 2*

The second game in the series is more like a side story; it has little to do with the cult encountered in the first game. The game has a confusing story line that starts off with you, playing James Sunderland, trying to figure out what's going on in the restroom of a rundown building just outside Silent Hill.

His/your wife, Mary, has sent him a letter telling him to meet her in their special spot in the town. However, she has been dead for three years. You are drawn to the town trying to find whether your wife is actually dead or not.

You meet a handful of people who ended up in the town for their own mysterious reasons, but are tortured by their mind, hearts, and souls throughout their stay, until they escape—usually through death or disappearance.

You can see more of the effects of the darkness that has spread into the town, as well as a lot more blood (with the occasional murder victim here and there). The lighting is even more realistic, which makes the shadow effects even more realistic. The disturbing images seemed to have multiplied, too. For example, you either watch one of the characters die twice, or find her dead with half her head smashed in. All this is after you try to protect her because she reminds you of your dearly departed wife.

The enemies and bosses are even more disturbing than those of the original *Silent Hill*. Also, there are the "pyramid" head enemies/bosses, which are demons with the head or maybe it's a helmet in the shape of a pyramid and have a natural fondness for massive swords, knives and spears.

The controls are a little smoother for this game than the original. However, the combat features remain stiff and clunky. Other than that, *Silent Hill 2* is a wonderfully demonic

game, playing on the broken psyche of a tormented man.

### Then there were three: *Silent Hill 3*

The third installment is the only *Silent Hill* game to have a defined link between any of the games in the past. It is also the only one to feature a female lead protagonist. You play Heather Mason, daughter of Harry Mason. Yes, obviously she is the same daughter from the original *Silent Hill*.

After the end of the first game, he changed her name to try to hide her from the cult. The game starts off in a nightmare because you nodded off in a shopping mall. You awaken once a roller-coaster car hits you. When you awaken, you call your dad to say that you're on your way back, but a detective approaches you, saying he has information about your past. You also meet Claudia, a member of the cult introduced in the first *Silent Hill*.

This game isn't as disturbing as the previous two games. However, it does have its moments. Some of the monsters are just sick. Creatures take on small forms like the Numb Body, a big eye with legs, and bigger forms like the Insane Cancer, a massive creature like a walking tumor. The bosses are pretty interesting, too. The split worm takes the basic creature from the movie *Tremors* and makes it all the more menacing.

Missionary is one big evil dude with blades protruding from the back of his hands. There is also the disturbing Memory of Alessa, a little demonic mirror image of our heroine.

The combat features are still clunky. The game is ridiculously short in terms of the scare factors. Other than these two problems, the game is still a knockout.

### Now there are four: *Silent Hill 4—The Room*

*Silent Hill 4* is by far the most original, eerie, and disturbing game in the series. In this latest installment, you play Henry Townshend. Four days before the opening of the game, chains appear on the door not allowing him to leave, along with the bloody message written on his door and signed, "Walter." After four days, a mysterious portal opens up in your bathroom. Not wanting to stay in the room any longer, you go into the portal. However, nearly everyone you meet in the portal dies in reality. The only person you have the chance to save is your next-door neighbor, Eileen Galvin, and yourself.

*Silent Hill 4* is by far the most disturbing game. The alternate realities and Hell have a surreal look to them and the enemies have an all around new and even sicker and more disturbing look. Death ravages the reality you know through the alternate realities you dwell in. There is the talking head of the dead former tenant of your apartment. Ghosts, demons, and cultists run rampant in the game.

*Silent Hill 4* still has the same clunky combat features of old. However, in this game you don't have to pause to check your health. If you have a Dual Shock control, you don't have to worry about a vibrating controller telling you when you need to heal yourself.

In this game, the game uses a lot of camera angles, as well as darkness and fog. It plays like a good old-fashioned horror movie ... no, not an American horror movie. Its style is much like that of an Italian slasher flick, which are some of the scariest slasher flicks known to man.

Get the series. You should start off with the first one for Playstation. Even if you're a graphics fiend that wants to see something that has the style of the current generation systems like PS2 or X-Box, you still wouldn't be let down. Let your evil side roam free through the exploration of a spiritually destroyed town and the broken psyche of mankind.



image courtesy of xbox.com

# Pollard's icks



Dino Pollard  
Staff Film Critic

## Who will be the next Bond?

I grew up with a British father, and one of the things my father loved above all else (and still does) was the classic gentlemen rogue characters, such as Simon Templar of *The Saint* and, of course, none other than 007 himself. *Dr. No* and *Goldfinger* were two of the first movies I ever saw when I was a child, so being a Bond fan is in my blood.

With the exception of Sean Connery, my favorite Bond actor is definitely Pierce Brosnan, who starred in four Bond films: *GoldenEye*, *Tomorrow Never Dies*, *The World Is Not Enough*, and *Die Another Day*. Although only under contract for four films, Brosnan was asked by the producers to return for a fifth movie, which he agreed to.

However, in the middle of negotiations, everything just stopped. The producers didn't want Brosnan anymore. Rather than try to change their minds, Brosnan just stepped aside. As he said in an interview with *Hello* magazine in the U.K., "It was good while it lasted. I wish them well, I wish the next man

well."

So sadly, Brosnan will no longer be playing Bond.

And this isn't like when Roger Moore or Timothy Dalton were replaced; Brosnan has left some pretty large shoes to fill.

Martin Campbell has been selected to direct the 21st Bond film, and this marks Campbell's second Bond flick, *GoldenEye* being the first.

The film will be *Casino Royale*, an adaptation of Ian Fleming's very first Bond novel. It will take a "back to basics" approach to Bond, showcasing him in his early days as a spy. Naturally, the Cold War elements will have to be reconfigured so the film can fit in with modern times. In an interview with the *New York Daily News*, Campbell said, "*Casino Royale* will be a grittier, tougher and more realistic Bond movie. We'll be getting away from the huge visual effects kind of films."

Personally, I think this is great news. *GoldenEye* was among the finest of Brosnan's

Bond films, so Campbell definitely has the skill to pull this off. In addition to that, I've wanted to see a closer resemblance to the literary Bond for some time now.

The director has been chosen, and the screenplay is either finished or in progress. Supporting actors Judi Dench and John Cleese will reprise their roles. The film is scheduled to begin shooting in January 2006. And yet, one of the most important factors is missing from the equation—Bond himself.

Ever since November when it was announced that Brosnan wouldn't be returning, the rumor mill has been going crazy with speculation as to who will play the next Bond. The following are just a few of the names that have been linked to the role: Hugh Jackman, Jude Law, Ewan McGregor, Ioan Gruffudd, Colin Farrell, Dougray Scott, and even Sarah Michelle Gellar and P Diddy have all been linked in some way or another, be it in a serious vein or tongue-in-cheek.

Clive Owen of *King Arthur*, *Closer*, and

the upcoming *Sin City* is my top pick for the next Bond. He's definitely got the dark and mysterious look about him, which is necessary for Bond. Plus, if director Campbell really intends to go with a grittier, tougher, and more realistic Bond, then you'd need someone with Owen's intensity to pull off the role.

Will it happen? According to the British Press, Owen is now one of the top contenders for the role, along with Daniel Craig. *The Mirror* reported that Julian McMahon of *Nip/Tuck* has met with the producers for a final audition. "They told me to expect a decision in a couple of months and they said it was between me and one other person," said McMahon.

What are Owen's chances? Apparently he doesn't even know. "This Bond story has been circulating for months now. I haven't received any offer, and I'll deal with it if and when it comes," Owen told *ContactMusic*.

I'm rooting for Owen, and here's hoping the producers are as well.

Free cookies...

Free juice...

Feel good about yourself...

...And all without having to beat up a fifth grader for their lunch box.

# NEIU Blood Drive

Thursday, March 31st 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM Alumni Hall

For more info, or an appointment please log onto [www.givelife.org](http://www.givelife.org) (code 3493) or contact Student Health Services @ 773-442-5800

Sponsored by Student Health Services, Office of Student Affairs

Remember to eat a healthy meal and drink extra water prior to donating!

Photo ID Needed.  
Appointments preferred.  
Walk-ins Welcomes

# Juanes

## Sangre, sudor y lágrimas

by Cecilia Carboni  
Graphics Editor

One could see that the UIC Pavilion was filling quickly, and could sense the enthusiasm pouring in. Soon it would be as crowded as it had reportedly been in every other city of his tour, with fans of every age and couples holding hands.

In the photo pit, the security guards grumbled to the photographers that he was a half hour late, but few cared. Some were here from as far as his native Colombia just for this concert, and in talking to them the different Spanish accents all intermingled, rose into the roar of the anxious crowd, and disappeared.

Juanes, born Juan Esteban Aristizabal, is now facing Chicago, the tenth stop on his trek through the U.S. promoting his latest release, *Mi Sangre* (My Blood). It is the third CD from this versatile guitarist, known for his insightful lyrics that appeal to both mind and emotion.

Having risen from his metal days in Colombia to a Latin pop sensation in a short time, he has taken much of his American audience by surprise. Poetic, sexy, and down to earth, it's no wonder he has caught the attention of both critics and fans alike.

His debut album, *Fijate Bein* (Listen Closely), forced critics to do just that after it scored him seven nominations at the Latin Grammy awards. Having been initially overlooked, the recognition brought Juanes deserved attention.

A background in the traditional sounds of boleros, tangos, Colombian vallenato, combined with an interest in rock, and several years spent in the Colombian metal band, Ekymosis, has helped Juanes craft a sound that is melodic, and yet, sharp, witty, and energetic, without all the saccharine.

His songs ranged in selection, from the 2002 release *Un Dia Normal* (A Normal Day) to his newest songs, to even a nostalgic track dating back from his days in his former band. There were favorites like the up-beat "La Paga" (The Payback), "La Noche" (The Night), "Es Por Ti" (It's For You), "Mala Gente" (Bad People), and the Nelly Furtado duet, "Fotografia" (Photograph), as well as new songs like "Nada Valgo Sin Tu Amor" (I'm Worth Nothing Without Your Love) and "Volverte a Ver" (To See You Again).

"Tu Guardian" (Your Guardian), a track from the new album, is a lullaby to his daughter and proved to be a sweet moment in the concert, especially when he dropped into the crowd amongst the fans: "And your guardian I shall be/ your whole life/this night/ I shall promise you that they won't come/

**I'd give anything to see you again ... I'd give my life and my rifle, my boots and my bible**

**That's why when I'm alone in the trenches ... Your eyes are my light and your glow fills my heart**

**To dodge all the bullets and survive ... Your love is my hope and my ammunition That's why getting back to you is my only mission You're all I have ... I don't want to die ... Without being able to see you again.**

**-To see you again**



**Sueño libertad para todos los que están**

**Secuestrados hoy en medio de la selva**

**Y sueño con la paz de mi pueblo desangrado**

**Y con el final de esta injusta guerra**

**- Sueños**

Neither dragons, nor ghosts, to bother."

It also served as a strong contrast to the very racy "Dámelo" (Give It To Me). "What do I have to do to have/Your beautiful little body in my hands? /What do I have to do to have/A little taste of yours?"

The highlight of the night was, by far, the energetic "A Dios Le Pido" (I Ask God), a favorite that got the whole crowd to join in. With a plea to end conflict in his war-torn country, this song has become not only an anthem for many but also a love song for all.

"And for the days I have to live/And for the nights that still don't come/I pray to God /For the sons of my sons/And for the sons of your sons/I pray to God/That my village not shed so much blood/That my people rise up..."

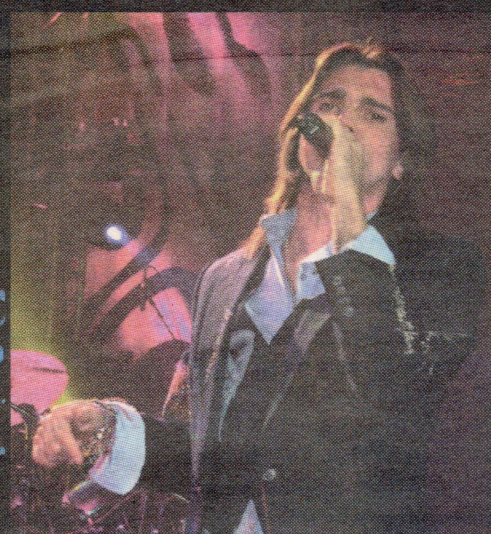
With lyrics ranging from social consciousness to love, family, and everything worth appreciating, Juanes has truly shown an evolution from his slightly darker debut album *Fijate Bein* (Listen Closely). More than anything, he continues to demonstrate an ability to fuse musical styles to create a unique sound. With nine Latin Grammy awards, songs topping the charts, and a loyal fan base, the fact that Juanes produces all of his material sets him apart from many of the superstars out there today.

Being able to move a whole mass of people not only emotionally, intellectually, and yes, even getting a couple guys in the audience to dance- is quite impressive.

After what was thought to be a full night, he came out for six encores. Putting full energy into the performance, Juanes truly makes the audience feel as if he is there for them, for he has the quality of a man that is at home on the stage but hasn't been changed by it. One could describe him as being humble in the face of fame, still retaining the raw feel, uninhibited quality, of a singer-songwriter with his guitar in the subway- only the subway has gotten a lot bigger.

Exhausted from dancing and singing along, the crowd huddled out at the end of the night and quickly congregated around the (soon to be sold out) t-shirts stands for a piece of what proved to be an unforgettable night.

**Blood, sweat and tears**



## Bio

-In 2002 *Un Dia Normal* reaches platinum and multi-platinum status in numerous countries including Colombia, Mexico, Spain and the U.S. Latin market. The album debuts at #2 on Billboard's "Top Latin Albums" chart and goes on to spend a record-breaking 92 weeks in the chart's Top-10. *Un Dia Normal* sold over 800,000 copies in the United States, and well over two million units worldwide. In its two-year chart run, it becomes the best-selling Spanish language album of original material in the world.

- In 2003 he earned six "Billboard Latin Music Awards." Of special note, he is the only performing artist nominated for "Songwriter of the Year."

-Juanes sweeps the Latin Grammy Awards, winning all five categories in which he was nominated: Album of the Year, Song Of The Year, Record of the Year, Rock Song of the Year, and Best Rock Solo Album. This marks the most Latin Grammy Awards won by an artist in a single year. He has also now won more Latin Grammy Awards (9) than any other artist.

-*People* magazine features Juanes in their signature "Sexiest Man Alive" issue, where he has the largest photo layout of any artist in their look at "Sexy Singers."

-Early May 2004 sees Juanes begins recording songs for his planned third album - *Mi Sangre* (My Blood).

-October 24th, Juanes performed to thousands at a special ceremony in Bogota as the Colombian army destroyed its stockpile of over 6,800 landmines. Juanes joined the President of Colombia, Queen Noor of Jordan, numerous dignitaries and over 400 landmine victims - including many injured children.

-Mid-December, *Mi Sangre* had already reached the quintuple (5x) Platinum mark in Colombia and had also received multi-platinum certifications in the U.S. Latin market and numerous other countries.



photos by Cecilia Carboni

# Imani Winds teaches NEIU

by Marylyn Adler  
Staff Writer

The Jewel Box Series presented a masters music class with critiques by members of Imani Winds on March 18 in the NEIU Recital Hall. The students performed three chamber music compositions, which were each followed by a critique from members of Imani Winds. Imani Winds also performed at NEIU later that evening.

Valerie Coleman, Toyin Spellman, Mariam Adam, Jeff Scott, and Monica Ellis, all of African or Latino descent, formed the wind quintet, Imani Winds, in 1997. Imani Winds explores African, American, and European music and produces innovative and original pieces that are a mixture of various musical styles.

The students began with a flute trio performing *Bells*, by Louis Moyse. Pianist Takako Hironaja accompanied the trio. In the beginning of *Bells*, the flutes sounded smooth and coordinated. The piano accompaniment, however, sounded interruptive rather than meshing with the dulcet tones of the flutes.

In the critique that followed the flute trio, Coleman reminded the students that "body language is

important." She told the students to maintain good posture and to look at their feet rather than at the audience when they bow. Ellis told the students that "musical enhancements should be precise to avoid sounding like mistakes." The students repeated the last few measures of *Bells* with noticeable improvement.

The next musical number, a French Suite by the ConEspiritu Clarinet Quartet, was performed by Robin Koelsch, Pauline Lefebvre, Julie Weinberger, and Kyu Lee. The quartet played well together, in tune with each other, and aware of each other's musical presence.

In her critique following the

piece, Adam asked the students to replay part of the French Suite with "a nice crescendo" and Scott asked the students to emphasize each note.

Upon replaying, the composition sounded more spirited and lively. Spellman instructed the students to not "rush through quarter notes; to apply more accent on top of the notes." The students replayed the French Suite and the audience applauded at the significant improvement.

Students Pauline Lefebvre, Kevin Gawthorp, and Michael Perkins performed *Trio Op. 54* by composer Swan Hennessey, which was monotonous and uninteresting in the beginning. The middle part contained more variety.

In the critique of *Trio Op. 54*, Ellis instructed the students "to bring out the fun pattern in the composition." Scott said "the trio needs to framework, to build musical notes to enjoy

what they play." As the three students replayed *Trio Op. 54*, Scott conducted part of the composition. Then, Adam instructed the students "not to play louder when they play faster." The trio replayed *Trio Op. 54*, and displayed increased continuity and togetherness.

Imani Winds participates in various educational programs such as this. They have often entered the classroom to teach others about one's cultural history,

frequently exploring African and Latino heritage and interweaving it with traditional Western culture. They have produced two CDs, *The Classical Underground* and *Umoja*.

Rose Sperrazza, the coordinator of the woodwind department, and Christine Vohs, the coordinator of the Jewel Box Series, put together this event. Additional information about the Jewel Box Series is available at the recital hall box office.



NEIU students learned from these masters of music.

## Soel: a taste of everything eclectic

by Franklin Silencieux  
Staff Writer

*Memento* is the debut CD of Soel, the West-African name of Pascal Ohsé, a Parisian composer and trumpeter. Influenced by the American music of the 60s and 70s, soul, and jazz, Soel has created an eclectic album that churns the spoken word and hip-sounding music into an often-sumptuous plate.

The opening beats of the first track, "Le Victomte," told me this: "Prepare for some great driving music." The music gives the impression of strolling into a 70s nightclub (or into the movies *Ocean's Eleven* or *Get Shorty*).

Flashy covers and disco lighting are reflected in the bass and synth sounds. And if you've never heard a brass sound like a drunken, manic hyena, check out this first track.

Where the first piece was a stroll, "Shining Pains" is a Fred Astaire walk with its percussive groove and a catchy melody that creates a playful, funky moment. Halfway through, it breaks down into a jazzy bass line. You want to dance like Travolta to this one. It makes your insides vibrate. A singer laughs at the end, as if knowing what a pleasure this piece was to you.

With the next few tracks, the fun is gone and we're settling in for some background music. In "My Singing Soul," a man's low voice speaks fluff poetry with an air of importance. The groove is still there, but stale. That great driving music settles into elevator music.

"Black Women" takes us to an artsy open-mic club where a man describes the perfect world he wants to create for "you, black woman!" His world is abstract and silly, "naked and unashamed ... where poetry is you."

"The Earth Mother" has an ear-busting bass line, but the music is more of the sullen, abstract poetica, though it takes you musically into a painter's vision of Earth. "To This World" pontificates the question, "What's happening to the world?" Gone is the "let's party, gentlemen" attitude that began the CD. It's as if the introduction of higher themes and the subject—and voices—of women made us lose the erection that started the CD.

But begin the next track, "The Way U R," and our heads are bopping again. A male voice recites a poem, "I love the way you are," and the music backs him up with playful grooves and sweet transitions. The church organ adds to the playful, soulful, and finally sexual mood. We've dispensed with the elevated talk; now we're back in the club, flirting, or back in the car, driving.

The CD teases us with some hip, sexy grooves, but refuses to stay there. Soel has higher aspirations than a simple good time. Some of the more serious tracks are a bit compelling and exotic, but flaccid. The more funky tracks are so good, they leave us hungering for more.



A mixture of styles makes Soel an incredible artist.

## Chan's cool copper caper

by Mario Go  
Staff Writer

The newest Jackie Chan movie, *New Police Story*, directed by Benny Chan with a well-constructed cast, is an excellent sequel to the *Police Story* series.

In this film, Nicholas Tse Ting-fung, Charlie Yeung Choi-nei, Charlene Choi, Daniel Wu Yin-cho, Dave Wong Kit, Andy On Chi-kit, Yu Rong-guang, Timmy Hung Tin-ming, Carl Ng Ka-lung, Terence Yin Chi-wai, Coco Chiang Yi, Hayama Go, the Jackie Chan Stunt Team, and of course Jackie Chan, have created one of the best of Hong Kong's action-pack movies.

The movie has a very easy plot to follow. Jackie Chan plays a character

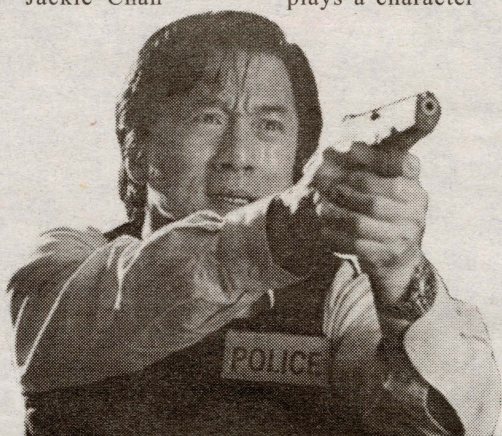
based on the *Police Story* series, Inspector Wing. In this film, Inspector Wing suffers the loss of his entire team, including his future brother-in-law, when an arrest of cop-killing bank robbers goes dreadfully dead wrong. A year after the event, a rookie cop, Ting Fung (Nicholas Tse), convinces the miserable alcoholic inspector to come back and work on the case.

The spectacular stunts that Jackie Chan carries out are enough to leave you breathless throughout the entire movie. Right about now you may be asking yourself what kind of stunts can this 50-year old actor, who has broken almost every single bone in his body by doing his own stunts, do? I won't say anything about the stunts because I do not want to give away the surprise of how far he and his stunt team go. His martial art skills are still at their peak.

Director Chan (no relation to Jackie Chan) is fairly new in the business, but has shown that his movie making skills are equal to any top ranking Hollywood director. Overall, the finished movie, which can be currently purchased on DVD, is the best \$19 I have ever spent.

Unfortunately, the movie is only in Mandarin and Cantonese, with English subtitles. Also, as every hardcore fan of Jackie Chan knows, the outtakes at the end of his movies are always a humorous spectacle to watch.

*New Police Story* gets five stars out of five stars, hands down.



# Eagle's Nest

Lifestyles of the Northeastern Community



## Killer vegetables: *and you thought they were good for you!*

by Dino Pollard  
Staff Writer

Everyone remembers the anti-drug messages they received when they were kids, especially those promoted by the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) programs. Schoolchildren across the nation are warned of the harmful side effects of drugs such as marijuana, heroin, cocaine, and lettuce.

Wait ... back up a minute ... lettuce?

A little known fact about lettuce is that it produces a white milk-like substance that hardens upon contact with the air whenever lettuce stems are cut. The chemical is called lactucarium and is often referred to as "lettuce opium."

In 1911 the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain studied lactucarium and discovered that it can be used as a cough suppressant and a mild

sedative according to [www.wildlettuce.com](http://www.wildlettuce.com), a website dedicated to lettuce.

Apparently, lactucarium can be used for more than just a bad cough.

According to [ibiblio.org](http://ibiblio.org), an Internet-based public library, "Lactucarium has the effects of a feeble opium, but without its tendency to cause digestive upsets, nor is it addictive."

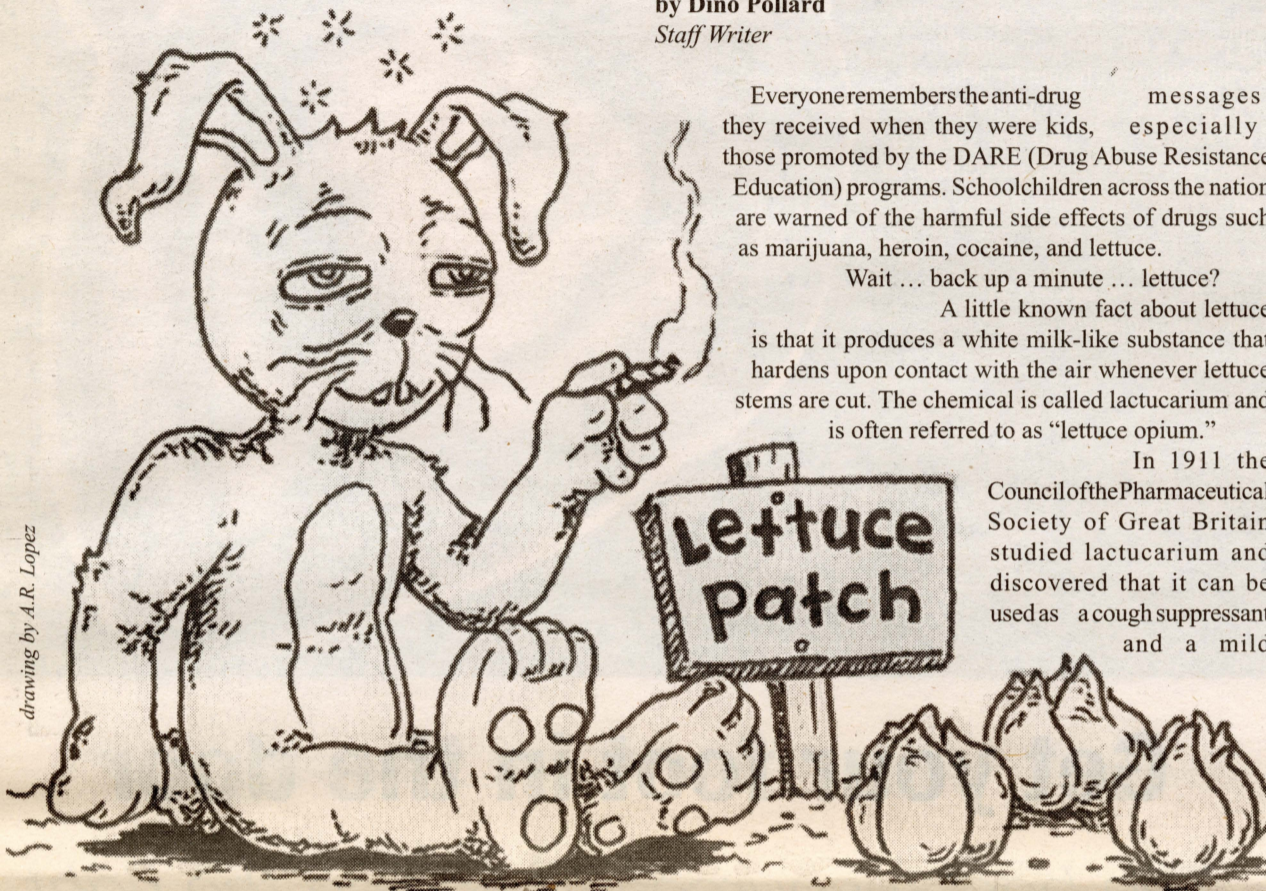
An article in the *Chicago Reader* also discussed the drug properties of lettuce. According to the article, although lactucarium appears in all species of lettuce, the one with the strongest concentration is *Lactuca virosa*, or what's known as wild lettuce. Lettuce opium use in America was popular in the 19th century, but by the time the 20th century came along, the use wasn't as widespread—at least not until the mid seventies when it was brought back by hippies in an attempt to use it as a mind-altering drug.

The *Chicago Reader* article also points to a study done by the journal *Science* in 1981, which claims "lettuce contains 2 to 10 parts of morphine per billion. To put that in perspective, the usual therapeutic dose of morphine is .05 to 50 parts per thousand, roughly a million times as much."

So, could lettuce be used as a drug? Possibly, but it seems a high dosage would be necessary. And therein lies the problem, because a high dosage could potentially be lethal. The

*Chicago Reader* mentions that a 22-year-old woman in Morocco died in a coma after eating wild lettuce.

Best keep it in the salad bowl.



## Kool-aid? Not kool

*Healthier options for growing kids*

by Johnny Billis  
Staff Writer

Kool-Aid banned in schools ... report at eleven.

Our nation's attack on fat, or lack thereof, has now gone to our preschools. Preschools are banning juices made with sugar, claiming that these drinks are causing students to become obese adults. Instead, schools are offering students water or milk—but not chocolate milk. These poor students must endure the celebration of their childhood without drinks that will lead to hyperactivity. Perhaps the hyperactive part is why some of us are skinnier today. While one's physique is partially due to genes, promoting a healthy diet is still important.

Snacks once given to us as children are now no longer allowed. Sugary drinks lead to rotting teeth and overweight teens. Even animal crackers aren't good. So, what can we let our children eat? Serve them veggies, fruit, water, and milk. Take time to make sure that the food given in schools is low fat, and you'll be on your way to a slimmer preschooler. Here are some ideas to keep in mind when heading to the store:

**Drinks:** Select only juices made from 100 percent juice. Each juice bottle has ingredients listed on its label. Make sure to read the label closely because looks can be deceiving. Also, don't purchase soft drinks.

**Snacks:** Limit intake of bad snacks. Cookies, doughnuts, and candy are usually what kids tend to grab. Try introducing peanut butter and celery or air-popped popcorn. Granola bars are always a winner.

Be strong and don't let the Kool-Aid guy bust through your wall. Television is always pushing some new drink or snack with a hyperactive cartoon. Turn off the television or computer and get your child off the couch. Become active with your child. Go for walks or play outside. If we teach our children early what it is like to eat healthy and live healthy, then maybe we won't have so many obese adults in the future.



Too much sugar makes the children go boom.

# Heart attack prevention for Gen X

*Victims of heart disease getting younger*

by Jessica Moen  
Senior Staff Writer

There are an increasing number of reports on the various causes of heart attacks. Younger generations are now at a bigger risk for heart attacks than they were years ago.

Heart attacks occur when the coronary artery hardens and gets clogged by cholesterol plaque. There are many reasons and causes for this to happen.

The American Heart Association stresses the importance of a healthy diet preventing heart attacks. Eating too many fatty foods, trans fats, that is and not exercising properly will likely lead you in the direction of a heart attack. It is very important that you keep your blood cholesterol level under 200 milligrams/deca liter. Between 200-239 milligrams/deca liter is considered borderline to high risk; anything over 240 milligrams/deca liter is high risk.

Another possible cause of heart attacks, in addition to a poor diet, is smoking. Recent studies, as reported by the American Heart Association, show a correlation between smoking and heart attacks.

Vascular inflammation can also lead to heart attacks. This occurs through the constriction of the inner layer of blood vessels in arteries. This is a result of both mental and physical stress. Over exercising and living an overly active lifestyle is what causes vascular inflammation. This is why a lot of athletes and people with stressful jobs are more likely to die from heart attacks. According to a study conducted by the National Fire Protection Association, one of the main

causes of firemen's death is a heart attack due to the heavy exertion and stress they suffer.

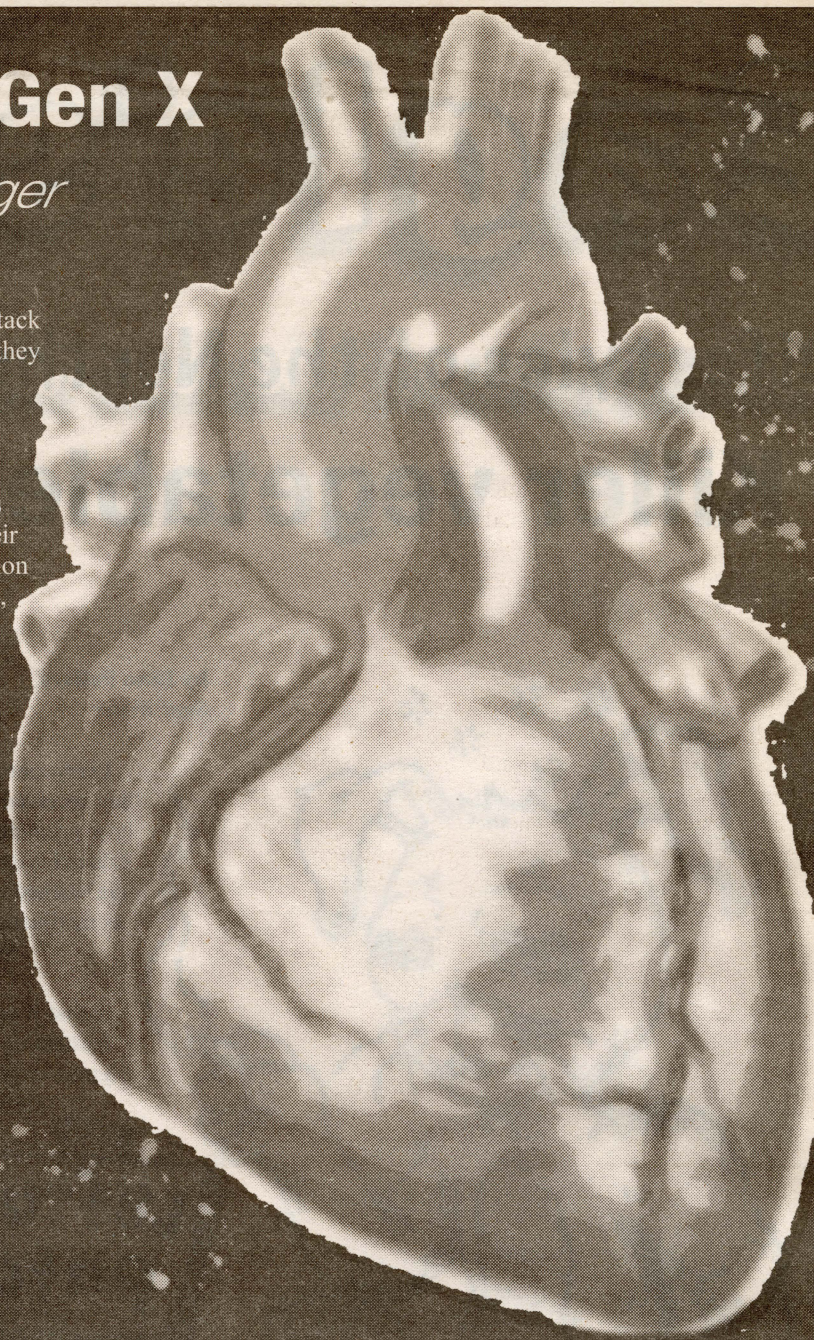
These are the main reasons why people today are having heart attacks at a much younger age. Face it, people are overworking themselves and overeating; they don't care about their health anymore. The younger generation frequently eats out at McDonalds, smokes, and drinks—all more than any human should.

People are overly active and party a bit too hard sometimes. Because of this change in behavior (as opposed to how younger people acted many years ago), the younger generation is now more susceptible to heart attacks and heart disease.

*Additional Source:*

[www.americanheart.org](http://www.americanheart.org)

[www.healthyheartmiracle.com](http://www.healthyheartmiracle.com)



graphic by Cecilia Carboni

## Get your foot in the door

*The best resources to finding the right internship*

by Deborah Goldbaum  
Staff Writer

The steps to finding an internship are similar to those for finding a paying job.

The first step is gathering resources. Websites such as [www.monstertrak.com](http://www.monstertrak.com) and [www.quintcareers.com](http://www.quintcareers.com) (Quintessential Careers) offer helpful information for finding internships. When searching for an internship, be aware of application deadlines because many are early in the year.

Quintessential Careers' article on "Internship Resources for College Students" gives step-by-step instructions on how to locate an internship. They provide the following list of helpful steps. "Determine your internship goals, prepare/polish your job search skills, and find/track down internship sources."

MonsterTRAK also lists the "Seven Ways to Land a Great Internship." Monster-Trak specifically focuses on sources, whereas Quintessential Careers not only includes sources such as periodicals and books, but helpful steps, such as those previously listed.

Both articles list career services at one's "home" university as the first resource that should be utilized in an internship search. They also both list the alumni network as a source within the home university.

Web searching is another method that both articles recommend. Networking with other

students, family, friends, and acquaintances is another common resource mentioned. Another place to start an internship search is with professors or a major or minor department advisor or chair.

Monster-TRAK also offers an internship directory, which would be located in career services as a resource for obtaining an internship. Similarly, Quintessential Careers recommends attending internship and career fairs and using cold contact, where a company is contacted directly and asked for an internship. Once these sources have been used and a person has applied to the internship, it is necessary to follow up with a phone call or a letter.

Quintessential Careers recommends the following books to help find internships: Michael Landes' *The Back Door Guide to Short-Term Job Adventures: Internships, Extraordinary Experiences, Seasonal Jobs, Volunteering, Work Abroad*; Mark Oldham and Samer Hamadeh's *America's Top Internships* by Princeton Review; and *Peterson's Internships 2003: The Largest Source of Internships Available*.

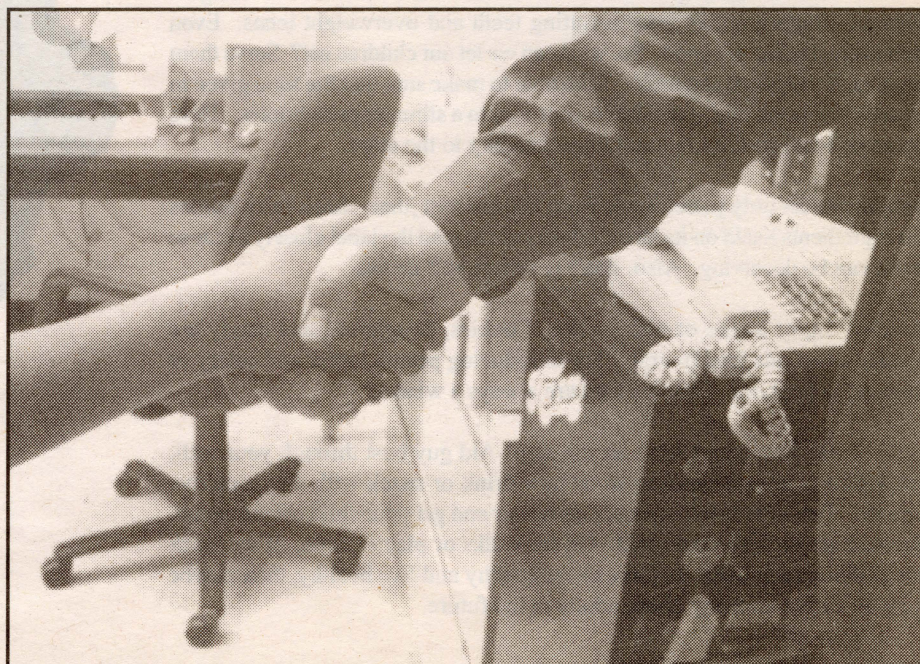


photo by Cecilia Carboni

**A friendly smile and nice clothes is not all it takes to snatch that dream job.**

## Tax day around the corner

by Jessica Moen  
Senior Staff Writer

As you all know, it's tax season. April 15 is coming. No one actually wants to do them, but you also don't want to go to jail, so here are some sources to help you do your taxes.

Since America seems to rely on the Internet for everything anyway, why not get some help, or do our taxes online?

There are several websites that can help you do your taxes. The IRS website, of course, allows you to do your taxes online, and is probably the best site to go to for information regarding what you have to do. Other great sources are [www.taxclue.com](http://www.taxclue.com) and [www.1040.com](http://www.1040.com), which provide the forms you need to fill out and information about federal taxes.

For those who have never done this before and have no clue what to do, they might want to get some software to help them out. There are several software programs, such as those produced by TaxAct, which are available on their website ([www.taxact.com](http://www.taxact.com)) and in electronic stores. Their programs range from personal tax help to a program that will actually do the majority of the work for you.

Quicken is always a good program to help you manage your bills and to organize your life. Of course, the newest program out is TurboTax. TurboTax also has lots of different kinds of programs, depending on how much help you need, or simply how much money you want to shell out.

If you are just dead set against doing them yourself, your best bet for outside help is to go to H&R Block. They have a website (of course), [www.hrblock.com](http://www.hrblock.com), and they also have offices in Sears. By going on their website you can find the office nearest you.

So now you have no excuse to not do your taxes. Don't delay. Less than a month is left!

# Illinois College Press Association Competition:

*The Academy Awards of student newspapers*

by Joe Hertel  
REV Editor

What does winning an award at the Illinois College Press Association (ICPA) Convention mean to the staff of the *Independent* or any student newspaper in Illinois? This year, it meant deserved recognition by the Association and our peers as the *Independent* won award after award, until finally there were 13 of them piled in front of the editor-in-chief, Andrea Zelinski.

It is not easy winning an award, as members of the *Independent* staff will attest. Last year, the paper came home with only one honorable mention.

Our total in years past amounted to ten awards overall. This year, your student newspaper exceeded all expectations as we received more awards in this one year than ever totaled in the past. So pardon us if we act a little cocky for a while, we're entitled! Thirteen awards! Woo hoo!

The ICPA convention was

sponsored this year by the *Chicago Tribune*, Illinois Press Association, *The Daily Herald*, and *Calumet Photography*. The Association is comprised of 37 college newspapers, including *The Columbia Chronicle* (Columbia College), *The Chicago Flame* (U of I-Chicago), *The Daily Northwestern* (Northwestern University), *The DePaulia* (DePaul University), as well as papers from Wheaton college, Northern Illinois, Northwestern, Knox, Elmhurst, Roosevelt University, and others.

Therefore, it is no small matter when the *Independent*, your humble student newspaper with headquarters in an oversized storeroom in the basement, beats out colleges with impressive journalistic programs with professional equipment and supplies. We have trouble finding a red pen, staples, or scotch tape!

We are proud of our accomplishments this past year and, even though you sometimes disagree with some of our writers, you should be proud of your newspaper too. This tiny band of aspiring journalists, graphic artists, cartoonists,

and photographers have overcome the shortcomings of a meager budget, lack of supplies, and equipment (we don't even have a copy machine, decent fax, or a color printer), and received more awards in one year than ever before, topped only by Columbia college with 15 awards.

Understand that many of the schools we compete with have large staffs on campus. We bring sleeping bags and camp on the floor on layout (hmm, appropriate wording) weekends in order to finish the paper on time for our readers, many times working until the wee hours of the morning.

To us here at the *Independent*, these awards mean a lot. They give us recognition for our hard work and determination to continue to make NEIU's student newspaper one the student body and faculty can be continually proud of.

Thirteen is now our lucky number!

*The Independent* brought home a total of 13 awards.



photo by Azucena Beltran

<b>3rd Place -Michelle Zelinski</b> <b>Honorable Mention- A. R. Lopez</b> (Other cartoon, strip or panel)	<b>Honorable Mention- Cecilia Carboni</b> (Ad campaign)
<b>2nd Place- Cecilia Carboni</b> (Ad less than full page)	<b>Honorable mention-Staff</b> (In-depth reporting)
<b>2nd Place- Production staff</b> (Classified section)	<b>2nd Place- Tom Robb</b> (Headline writing)
<b>2nd Place- Staff</b> (Special supplement)	<b>3rd Place- D. Gordon Macnab</b> (Sports photo)
<b>2nd Place-Production staff</b> (Front page layout)	<b>3rd Place- Cecilia Carboni</b> (News photo)
<b>2nd Place- Editorial board</b> (Editorial)	<b>Honorable Mention- Staff</b> (General Excellence)

## Ask a Cop:

## Break the cycle of domestic violence

by NEIU Public Safety  
Special Contributors

### Orders of Protection

An Order of Protection is a legal order from a judge used to help protect victims of domestic abuse. It contains "remedies," which orders an abuser to take certain actions or prohibit them from taking certain actions.

The abuser, listed as the "respondent," can be arrested for violating certain remedies listed in an order of protection. A protected person cannot be arrested for violating an Order of Protection.

### How to Obtain an Order of Protection

An order of protection is available to family or household members who have suffered domestic abuse. The abused can request an Order of Protection by contacting a local domestic violence program and asking for help. To locate the nearest program, call 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or going to the local circuit court clerk's office to ask for help, ask an attorney to file a petition in civil court (such as divorce court), and request an order after criminal charges have been filed.

### Staying in the abusive relationship

Staying in an abusive relationship can be dangerous, however, if the decision is to stay, consider these safety tips: change the locks; install a security system and pre-program emergency numbers into the telephone.

### Leaving the abusive relationship

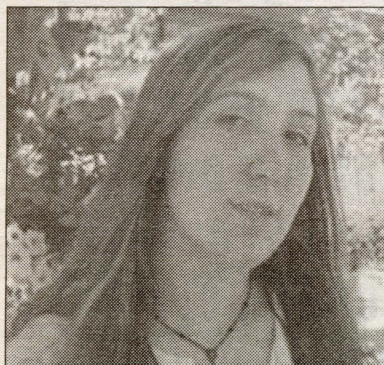
Leaving an abusive relationship, can be difficult and dangerous. Leaving can be made easier and safer when you involve police and victim advocates. Upon leaving, remember to bring along the following items: money, checkbook, credit cards, and ATM cards. Also bring identification (for self and the children). Other papers that should be brought are divorce papers, school records, insurance papers, work papers, and lease, rental agreement, or house deed. Also, if you have an Order of Protection, keep it with you at all times.

Other items that should be taken from the home are medical records, medications, keys, change of clothing, address book, mortgage/rent payment book, current unpaid bills, items of sentimental value, and children's favorite toys and other items.

It can also be helpful to tell neighbors and ask that they call the police right away if they see the abuser. Also, notify work to try to arrange for your calls to be screened. Remember to report any violation of the Order of Protection right away. Call 911.

The Northeastern Police can be reached at 773-442-4100 or at [Neiu-Cops@neiu.edu](mailto:Neiu-Cops@neiu.edu). Also visit us on the web at: <http://www.neiu.edu/~psafety/home.html>.

## Let's Get Personal



**Andrea Zelinski**  
[letsgetpersonal\\_neiu@yahoo.com](mailto:letsgetpersonal_neiu@yahoo.com)

While he doesn't enter into situations on campus with both barrels blazing, Acting Chief of Police Jack Baker kindly resembles Yosemite Sam with his bright red mustache. But there's nothing cartoonish about Northeastern's retiring sheriff.

After nearly four decades with the university, as a student in 1967, a Public Safety student aid in '75, an officer in '76, and chief of police on and off since 2003, Baker, 54, will be hanging up his badge to sell Scottish and Irish Celtic music at his family-run store in Villa Park. He insisted that it's enough to keep him occupied.

"I like to work for myself, I really do," he said. He and his wife have been running the business for 19 years with the help of both their children, which he said is the smartest thing they've ever done. "Even when they were small, they'd come up with great ideas." But he'll miss the little things, like trying to start the old patrol vehicle, which back in the day, was a 10-year-old van that only worked part of the time.

"There has never been a typical day" in public safety, he insisted. "You'll never know what you're going to get—like a box of chocolates," he

mimicked. "Part of the problem is trying to be ready to handle whatever happens ... with whatever people you have on hand." He's also had his share of union strikes, including one in the '70s.

After Baker's service with the military, his career shifted toward police work. The military "taught me to walk around with a gun and a cup of coffee and act like I knew what I was doing," he said. "Perfect for this place!"

Some people consider it lucky to meet one's spouse at their place of employment. Jack Baker has managed to do it twice. His second wife left Northeastern to run the family business. Once he retires, he'll join her as a "junior partner," he said. They have two children.

He's a lazy man, he said, when asked to describe himself. Seriously lazy may be more accurate. But he wants to be remembered as "someone who sincerely cared." He cared about the welfare of not only the University during his

## Baker's days are numbered

tenure, but said he sincerely cared about the welfare of the students, faculty, and staff.

He counts his days to retirement like he counts the wonderful people he's met at Northeastern: carefully and happily. A digital ticker in his office counts the days until June 31, when Baker will walk into the sunset to seek new and exciting challenges.

Until then, his days are numbered.



photo by Azucena Beltran

97 days, 10 hours, 7 minutes and 12 seconds are left, no wait 11, 10, 9...

# Golden Opportunities

2004 ICPA Winner for Best Classified Ad Section in the state

## For Sale

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

**Bryn Mawr/Western** 2 Bedroom apt. 2nd floor. Laundry facility. Available now. Call Marianne Lee at (773) 761-0236

**Apartment:** Walking distance to NEIU, near blue & brown line. 3 BR Heated. 955.00. Call Mabel at (773) 517-2102

**Pulaski/Bryn Mawr.** Two bedroom apt. for rent. Walking distance from NEIU. Laundry, facilities available. No pets. \$750 + utilities. Available now. Call 773-616-5178

**'96 Pontiac Grand AM** for sale. Good condition!! \$1,500. Call Omi (773) 426-9459

## Wanted

**Looking for a roommate** for apartment near lake. \$350 includes all utilities, female, easy going. Available immediately, e-mail for more info. [yasodhara\\_saj@yahoo.com](mailto:yasodhara_saj@yahoo.com).

**Be a mentor.** Make at least \$270 a week. Great kids. Start ASAP, flexible hours. Call (847) 489-1975.

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

**Info needed.** I am currently researching the spectacular career of Daniel Goodwin, president of the NEIU Board of Trustees. Mr. Goodwin's parlay of a \$1,000 investment in the 60's to a billion dollar

enterprise today is truly remarkable. However, my initial research sheds no light on how he did it. If you have any clue, contact me, Steven Searle, at [s-searle@neiu.edu](mailto:s-searle@neiu.edu)

## Services

### "HEALTH and FITNESS\$"

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

**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 info e-mail [Rob.Bunting@uop.com](mailto:Rob.Bunting@uop.com), call (773) 227-4011, or stop by and check us out.

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

**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](mailto:eshree@hotmail.com). Thank you. God Bless.

**Evanston family** seeks after school care for 2 middle school age children. M - F, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Must own car to transport kids. Please call Atlee at: (847) 967-0288.

**Brother's Construction.** 20+ years. Experience drywall, plumbing, renovation, roofing. Free estimates. (773) 394-1649.

**Aj Brick Paving Maintenance & Repair.** Brick sealer and power washing Free estimates. Call Diego Aguero. (312) 446-7217

## Spring Break

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### Hourly Open House

Interviewing for All Hourly Positions & Shift Supervisors in the downtown Chicago area Tues. March 22<sup>nd</sup> 3-6pm (No Appt. Nec.). Interviews @ Corner Bakery 35 East Monroe. Directions 312-372-0072. Questions 800-594-7036 [www.cornerbakery.com](http://www.cornerbakery.com)

## Oh, goody gumdrops!!



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

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

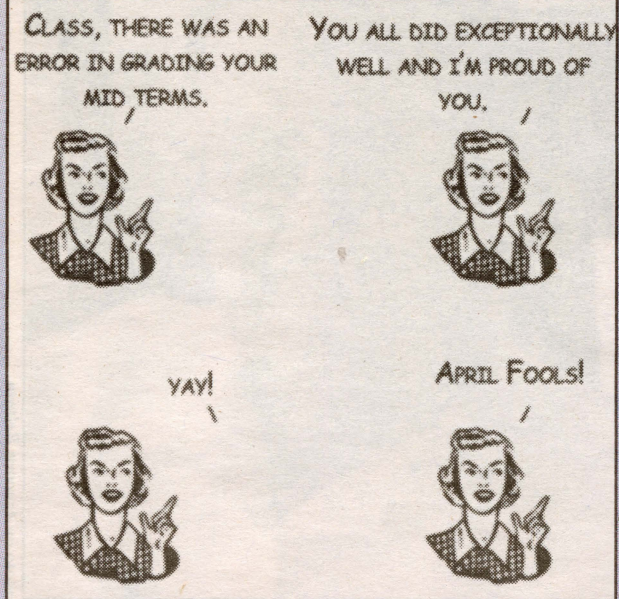
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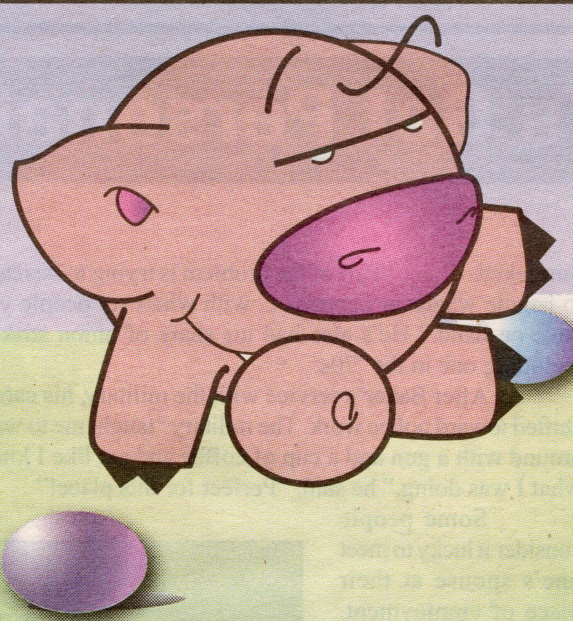
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## Side Splitters

### Joe Clipart



Joe Hertel



I tried setting up an Easter Egg hunt for the kiddies one year, but the damn trains kept running over the prettiest ones before the kids could get to them.

Cecilia Carboni

### Marxism



A. R. Lopez

Welcome to

# The Cheap Seats

Intramurals and fitness for the Northeastern sports fan

## Sports recap



Coed Basketball champions-  
Ballsdeep



Soccer champions-  
Four Wise Men

Our sports writer  
is leaving...  
position now  
open

Requirements-  
Be able to walk to  
the P.E. building.



Delivering the news  
From Chicago to  
San Francisco.



The Independent's world project

## Basketball and soccer tournament results

by Beshi Miraj  
Staff Writer

The circle of teams is getting smaller in the Basketball Tournament. Sixteen teams entered the playoffs; now there are just eight.

The last games played during the regular season were played on March 8. The results were: Pimpjuice beat the Hogs, 38 - 32; Bulls beat TEAM, 23 - 19; Killer Biscuits beat Squad Up, 41 - 32. These games determined that Pimpjuice, Bulls, and Killer Biscuits would play in the playoffs against the Hogs, United Assassins, Patriots, The Funk, Buzzkillers, Waterboys, and TEAM, who already earned their spots in the playoffs. The Mighty Nutz, The Trojans, and Squad Up will bypass the first round of the playoffs and play in the second round because they were the first-place teams in their respective leagues. The playoffs began with all 16 of these teams, which decreased to 8 during the first round.

### Results of the first round of the playoffs on March 15:

Pimpjuice 35 - Hogs 26  
United Assassins 43 - Patriots 36  
The Killer Biscuits won due to The Funk's forfeit

### Results of the first round of the playoffs on March 17:

Bulls 46 - Buzzkillers 18  
Waterboys 16 - TEAM 41

### Schedule for the second round of the playoffs:

March 29 at 1:50:  
Mighty Nutz v. Pimpjuice

United Assassins v. Killer Biscuits

March 31 at 1:50:

Trojans v. Bulls

TEAM v. Squad Up

### Coed Tournament

Ballsdeep played a good game against the Den Mothers on March 9, winning the Coed Tournament. The game started at 5:00, and it became exciting as the minutes were counted down. In the beginning, both teams were shooting three-pointers and playing fast, but later the game took a more fluid rhythm. The final score was Ballsdeep scoring 66 over Den Mothers' 47. Congratulations to Ballsdeep.

### Soccer Tournament

On March 12, the indoor soccer tournament began. Five teams were looking to be named champions of the Four-on-Four Indoor Soccer league.

March 12 Soccer Tournament results:

Invisibles 4 - East Europe 2  
Four Wise Men 7 - Invisibles 4  
Pumas 8 - Team Miller 1  
East Europe 8 - Team Miller 4  
Invisibles 7 - East Europe 2  
Four Wise Men 3 - Pumas 0  
Pumas 3 - Invisibles 1

These are the results of the games preceding the final game. In the final game, the Four Wise Men played the Pumas. In the exciting final game, the Pumas only scored once in the Four Wise Men's goal, while the Four Wise Men's scored six times. This final score, 6 - 1, gave the Indoor Soccer Championship title to the Four Wise Men.

### 2nd Annual MARKETING WORKSHOP SERIES "MARKETING YOURSELF AS AN ENTREPRENEUR"

THURSDAY MARCH 31, 2005  
Student Union Room 003

#### Session I.

10:30-12:05 PM: "Important Aspects of Researching a  
Business Opportunity"

Presenter: Tom Ullmann, MBA, PhD  
Jane Addams Hull House Small Business Development  
Center

#### Session II.

1:40-2:50 PM "The Importance of Your Personal Finances"

Presenter: Vernon Lam  
5/3 Bank

#### Session III.

5:40-7:00 PM "Enhancing Your Networking Skills"

Presenter: Gloria Petersen  
Global Protocol

# Around Campus

**Events through:** Tuesday, April 12th



## Socialists' Women's Forum

The Fight for Women's Rights: "We Won't Go Back"  
Wednesday, March 30th in SU-219 at 7:00 p.m.  
Sponsored by the NEIU Socialist Club

## Classical music recital

Leonore Pagsanjan and Pauline Lefebvre  
perform Beethoven, Copland and more.  
Thursday, March 31st in the Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m.  
Free admission, parking available in Lot F

## Chicago-Moscow dance exchange

Featuring the Moscow New Ballet Company  
Friday, April 1st in Auditorium at 8 p.m.  
Tickets are \$20 (student/senior  
discounts available), at NEIU Box Office  
Additional performance on Saturday, April 2nd

## Hotel Rwanda showing

The Academy Award-winning film starring  
Don Cheadle will be showing as Dinner and a Movie  
Friday, April 1st at 5:30 p.m. in Goleadn Eagles Room  
Sponsored by the Student Union and  
Pi Nu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

## Tenth Annual Asian American Heritage Conference

"Overview of the partnership Programs"  
Introduction by Dr. Janet Fredericks, Dean,  
Graduate College NEIU

Panelists: Kyu Young Park, Asian Programs,  
NEIU; Bok Hee Yoon, Professor of Early Childhood  
Education, Kongju Communication Arts College;  
Faculty Exchange Program Report, Elyse Mach,  
Professor, Music Department, NEIU  
Tuesday April 5 from 2:50 p.m.-4:05 p.m. in SU 214

## Gentrification in Chicago

Guest Speakers: Jeffrey Edwards, Roosevelt  
University; Jessica Webster, Business & Professional  
People for the Public Interest  
April 5 from 12:15 p.m.-1:30 p.m. in SU 215

## The Kamui Performers

Featuring Teturo Simaguchi one of the "Crazy 88's" &  
choreographer of "The Duel in the Snow" in A Quentin  
Tarantino Film Kill Bill Vol. 1 Tuesday, April 5 from 10:50  
a.m.-12:05 p.m. & 12:15 p.m.-1:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall

## GCEC Monthly Meeting

Susan Nussbaum of Access Living, Center for Service,  
Advocacy, and Social Change for People with Disabilities  
will speak Wednesday, April 6 at 5:30 p.m. in SU 219

## Tsunami Relief Coalition

"Tsunami Army" thrift boutique  
April 6 & 7 in Village Square

## Caribe

Wednesday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium.  
IT'S FREE!

## NEIU Jazz Combos

Thursday, April 7 at 7:30 in the Auditorium.  
IT'S FREE!

## Fourteenth Annual Computer Science Career Panel

Friday, April 8. Panelists will discuss their educational  
background and profession experience in the computer  
field and answer questions from the audience.  
This will happen at 1:00 p.m. in SU 214

## NEIU Songwriters concert

Thursday, April 8 at 8:00 p.m. in the Auditorium.  
IT'S FREE!

## Coffeehouse series

Michelle Citrin will perform Thursday, March 31 from  
4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. in Village Square.  
Come for the coffee, stay for the music!

## English Competency Exam Workshops

Remaining Workshops:	Date	Time	Place
#9	Monday, April 4	11 a.m.	CLS 2046 (lab)



## The Independent Staff

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Michael Wilson Media Advisor

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9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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# INDEPENDENT

SCANDALTOWN, USA

We win the award for best rag every year

PLEASE EAT THIS PAPER



\*\*\*\*\*IT'S SATIRE STUPID!!\*\*\*\*\*

## Gourmet dining at Sodexho



by Jimbo Laya  
Food Critic

Beginning in the fall semester, a new line of gourmet dishes will be offered on the food court menu, according to Sodexho Spokesperson Minh Ority. The change is due to an agreement reached between the Biology Department and the food court, deciding to recycle dissected pig fetuses, sheep brains, and cow hearts, rather than discarding them as in the past.

"Up until the summer semester, the Biology Department would just throw those carcasses and organs in the trash," said Ority. "We persuaded them that the students could benefit through the offering of prepared specialty dishes at greatly reduced prices."

After realizing that epicureans pay high prices in fancy restaurants for the same goodies that the Biology Department has been throwing out, NEIU administration encouraged the two departments to "work it out and come to an agreement and a plan that would reduce waste management costs while benefiting the students," reported a source within the administration.

According to Sodexho, a few of the planned dishes will be: *Rindfleischherzen gegrillte* (grilled beef hearts), *Les cerveaux frits d'agneau* (fried lamb brains), and *Rene del maiale e torta del fegato* (pig kidney and liver pie).

In addition, prepared items will be available "to go," such as *pigs in a blanket* (a gutted fetal pig wrapped in a tortilla shell with tomatoes, onions, and sour cream). Also, pig intestines and sheep cerebrums will be added to the salad bar. Other internal organs will be combined in a savory *cream of guts* or *spicy noodle suprise* soup every Wednesday.

"We think this will work out fine," said Ority, "because it will introduce students to a whole new range of delectable delights at affordable prices." A special area will be designated for gourmet diners, which includes cloth table coverings and real silverware. Music will be provided in the area on Wednesdays and Fridays with the cello playing of Dr. Virginia Spaeth, a biology department professor.

## Budget fallout: SGA outsourced

Otero: "I don't want to work in India!"

by C. Sanders  
Staff Know-It-All

In a stunning development, Northeastern announced that among the many budget cutbacks, members of the Student Government Association (SGA) will be laid off and replaced by lower-cost workers.

Memos from the office of Finance and Administration confirm that the university was mandated by the State Budget Oversight Committee to find a way to trim their budget.

The top items on the list to be trimmed is the President's chauffeur, the whiskey distillery which is now located near the Student Union's kitchens, the proposed satellite to broadcast WZRD radio's new leftist television news network across the globe, and the SGA.

Items that did manage to stay on the budget were the proposed coffee bar and lounge for UPI members and the construction of new parking facilities on what is now Bohemian National Cemetery.

"We had to look things over and cut the budgetary fat, and well, SGA was the biggest piece of lard," said Mark Wilcockson, vice president of finance,

who holds another job at a local Shell Gas station.

While washing a customer's windshield with a squeegee, Wilcockson admitted that even though the university needs to cut costs, the students still do need a political body to aid their clubs. "It turns out the answer was staring us in the face all along. We took a page from what corporate America is doing," said Wilcockson.

Starting in the Fall Semester, members from the Sri Bhagawan Mahaveer Jain College (SBMJC) Student Government Association in Bangalore, India, will be handling the duties of our current SGA.

"Look, if Microsoft and General Electric can save money by shipping non-essential jobs there, then so can we! Heck, by outsourcing the Speaker alone I saved enough money to buy this cappuccino machine," President Salme Steinberg said, as she was preparing for her spring trip to Monte Carlo.

But the entirety of the SGA will not be shipped to India. In a move to save even more money, the Executive membership of the Student Government Association will be outsourced to the new Correctional Rehabilitation Action

Program (CRAP), a federal initiative between the nation's federal prisons and businesses who hire prisoners to do work.

Currently, CRAP uses inmates for customer support for credit card companies, Bally's Total Fitness, and AOL. "Yes, CRAP and SGA go hand in hand," Wilcockson said as he was refilling the snack counter. The executive members will be paid the equivalent of \$40 a semester.

Currently, the program is being operated at the Federal Correctional Institute in Greenville, Illinois. Already, CRAP has found someone to replace SGA President Kendra Young. Starting in the fall, former Worldcom chief, Bernie Ebbers will be entered into the federal program and replace Young.

With the power of telecommunications, the 300-plus members of the SBMJC Student Government and Ebbers will be able to communicate in real time using AOL instant messenger.

"Today, Northeastern enters the 20<sup>th</sup>... er 21<sup>st</sup> Century," Steinberg said as she was ordering butlers to pack bags for her trip.

## Tsteinberg's tsunami tsyle

by T. Idal Rush  
Staff Water Boy

Northeastern President Salme H. Steinberg has decided to alter her hairstyle in support of the Tsunami Army charity drive. She has dyed her hair to resemble a typical tsunami.

After a five-year stint of a "beehive" sixties-style hairdo, she felt it was time for a change. She plans to display her "wave" on April 1 at a press conference in Alumni Hall.

"I think it is quite attractive," Facilities Manager Joseph Kish said. "It really adds quite a punch to the tsunami charity drive, especially with the sea green color and the off-white tips to resemble the foam," Kish added.

"This tragedy affects us all," said Dean of Students Michael Kelly. "This is Steinberg's way to express her feelings for the victims affected by the tsunami."

"After the charity drive is over, I will cut off the 'wave-do' and auction it

Steinberg sports her tsunami style hairdo.



image by Cecilia Carboni

on eBay," said Steinberg. She will donate the money earned to the Red Cross to aid the cities destroyed by the tsunami.

Though she will be almost bald, she will then support the female troops in Iraq,

"with a more military style cut, which I hope will encourage more women to join the army, if they want to, of course. After all, it is their body. They have the right to do anything with it," Steinberg concluded.

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### News



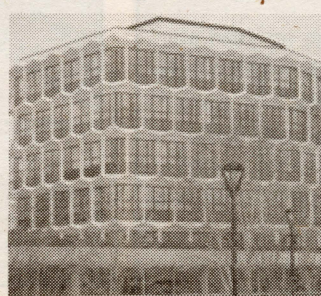
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### Commentary

We love Bush Pg. 123



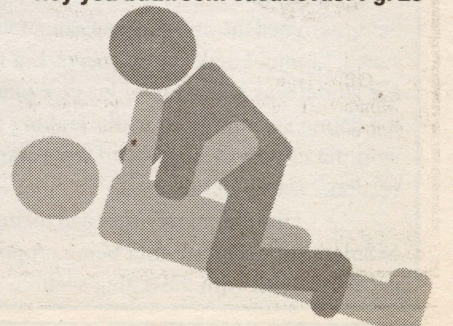
### Rev



Pollard reviews "Escape from the Beehive." Pg. 24

### Eagle's Nest

Hey you bathroom casanovas! Pg. 23



# Parking Facility extended to CLS building

by Bill Din Parks  
Staff Writer

In a landmark decision, state funds were allocated to raise the roof of the Classroom Building in order to build another parking lot. However, it is not just the roof that will be raised. The *entire* classroom building will be lifted in order to make space for the new parking lot on the first two floors.

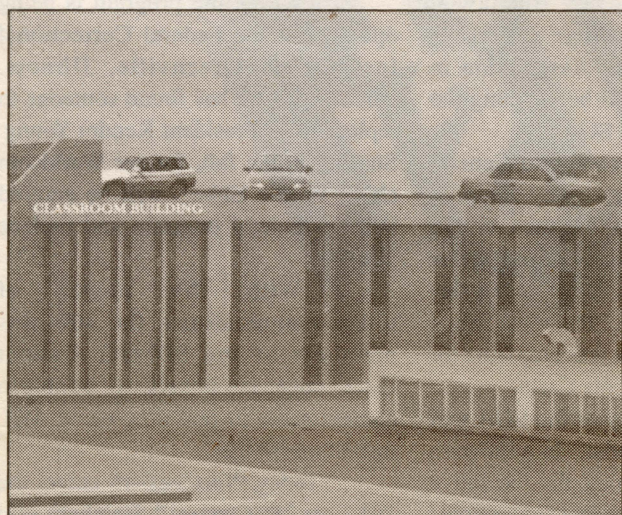
In a recent student poll, 20 percent were thrilled to see more parking available. The other 80 percent asked typical questions, such as, "What about my education?"

When interviewed, T. Rex, an anthropology student said, "I'm so glad they're building another parking lot; it feels like I have to park in the Jurassic era. I have had to park by the P.E. building every day, and all my classes are in the Classroom Building, so this new lot is ideal for me."

Kay Lastima, a Spanish major, opposes the new parking lot. "My tuition is increasing 9.6 percent for this," she asked. "What about using the increase for new instructors to add sections to our classes, or to lower the prices of textbooks, which would make more sense."

Again, students ponder the option of whether to build a new parking lot that will provide easier access for students and cut down on tardiness, or focus on academics.

Lifelong success or temporary comfort, who decides? Not the students.



graphic by Azucena Beltran

A conceptual look of the Classroom Building parking lot. How the cars will get up there we'll never know.

# Commie rag now glossy mag

by J. Edgewater Forbes  
Staff Gossiper

Facing an onslaught of stiff competition from other newspapers on campus, such as the *Thirteen Stripes* and the *Socialist Digest*, the *Independent* will change to a slick magazine format in the summer.

The announcement came three days after the mysterious disappearance of Chief Editor Andrea Zelinski. The *Independent* will continue its biweekly schedule and will be printed on spiffy photo-quality paper. The new format will feature new sections, such as gossip, fashion, and dating, as well as the usual rev section and a condensed news section.

"I think this was the best move for the *Independent*, considering the lack of demand for news in NEIU's community," stated Media Advisor Michael Wilson.

Former News Editor Tom Robb resigned after being assigned the title Gossip Editor. On the way out Robb stated, "I might make up the news, but I don't do gossip." Joe Hertel was ecstatic over his new placement—editor of the dating section. "I'm really looking forward toward to working closely with some of my colleagues for the new section," stated Hertel.

John Tait, staff writer and token Republican of the *Independent*, resigned after being propositioned by Hertel to "assist" him with the dating section.

# Pee Wee Herman talks about self-abuse

by Richard "Dick" Handy  
Staff Writer

World famous children's entertainer Pee Wee Herman will speak at NEIU's symposium on self abuse this Saturday at 7:00 p.m. in the Golden Eagles Room.

"We have heard about spousal abuse and child abuse, but not too much has been said about self abuse," stated Student Government Association President Kendra Young. "That's why we invited Pee Wee to come."

Herman will give first hand accounts of his experience with self abuse. "Too often, people do not understand what triggers this reaction in adults, as well as young people," stated Herman. "Self abuse is at an all time high, and we need to firmly grasp the situation if we are to succeed in our endeavors."

Dean of Students Michael Kelly expressed that "Too often we allow situations like this to build up to where the pressure is just too much. This seminar, hopefully, will relieve the pressure."

"We need to help people understand self abuse," said Herman. "It is the only way to handle the situation." Herman is expected to cite personal experiences and ejaculate the signs to watch out for in victims of self abuse. "A sure sign of things getting out of hand is when victims express



image by Cecilia Carboni

Getting to the meat of the matter.

a desire to 'choke chickens (among males)' or 'play in the garden (females)."

Young was able to arrange Herman's visit to NEIU through an invitation mailed directly to his playhouse. "You might say I put out the bait to catch the master," stated Young. There is no doubt, with the prominent speakers that SGA has procured in the past, that they are master baiters.

Admission is free for those flashing student identification. Refreshments, including corn dogs and apple pie, will be served.

# Whoa! Neo totally went Matrix on Pollard, dude!

Staff film critic position now open

by Donald Lipor  
Staff Fill-in Writer

*Independent* Film Critic Dino Pollard was found dead on campus last week. In the last issue of the



Police mug shot of Reeves after the murder of Pollard.

*Independent*, Pollard wrote a negative review of Keanu Reeves' latest film, *Constantine*.

Upon receiving his regular edition of the *Independent* by mail on March 8, Reeves was reportedly furious with Pollard's review, which referred to the actor as a "deadpan action hero cliché." He immediately flew out to Chicago on his private jet and stormed into the *Independent* offices, demanding to see Pollard according to police.

"I'm a well-respected actor," said Reeves. "I was Neo for crying out loud! I gave new meaning to the word 'whoa!'"

Reeves came out in full *Matrix* dress, combined with sunglasses and a long, black trench coat witnesses said. He also carried a shotgun with a large cross on it (apparently appropriated from the *Constantine* set). He claimed he came to Chicago to "deport Pollard back to Hell." The next day, Pollard's body was found in a tree by the PE complex, with used cigarettes (some still smoking) shoved into various orifices.

"It's a sad way to go, but really, the less pompous film critics the better," said one detective at the crime scene. "We're not charging Mr. Reeves for any crime. The consensus is that Reeves was justified in his actions. Besides, I liked *Constantine*."

"Great, now how am I gonna fill my section," asked REV Editor Old Man Joe. "Sure, he was a crappy critic, but at least he took up half a page!"

When asked about Reeves' response to the negative review, Old Man commented, "It would have been far more interesting if he [Pollard] had gotten a reaction from [Mel]Gibson about his review on *The Passion of the Christ*. It woulda been more than just cigarettes up the [expletive deleted]!"

Reeves declined to comment on Pollard's death, stating, "Wait for the movie version!"

# Eagle's Nuts

## Perversions of a glorified high school



### If hitting the books isn't enough

by Ceci Carbonado  
Office Wench

With all the stress plaguing students, especially around midterms, they need to find a way to unwind. Taking a little time off from the books to play a rousing game of basketball, read a novel, or maybe even a bubble bath can help, but nine out of ten doctors—and even one dentist—agree that nothing can beat the mid-semester blues like sex.

But when? Between biology tests, Spanish classes, and philosophy papers, students barely have the time to see their own bed, much less someone else's. The answer for the pragmatic pupil is quite simple: they can find the necessary places on campus to suit their needs.

The vending machine nook in the basement of the Classroom Building can be perfect for nooky. Find a slow time of day, preferably a Friday evening, and for only 65 cents you can get Nutrageous! Push some buttons and get a Ramen Cup-A-Noodles, pop one in the microwave, hit the timer to two minutes, and you can have a post-coital meal ready to go. You'll be in and out in no time!

The Student Union's second floor has several meeting rooms that may or may not be occupied. Give those handles a jiggle and get jiggy, but be careful not to get caught by an incoming administrative committee.

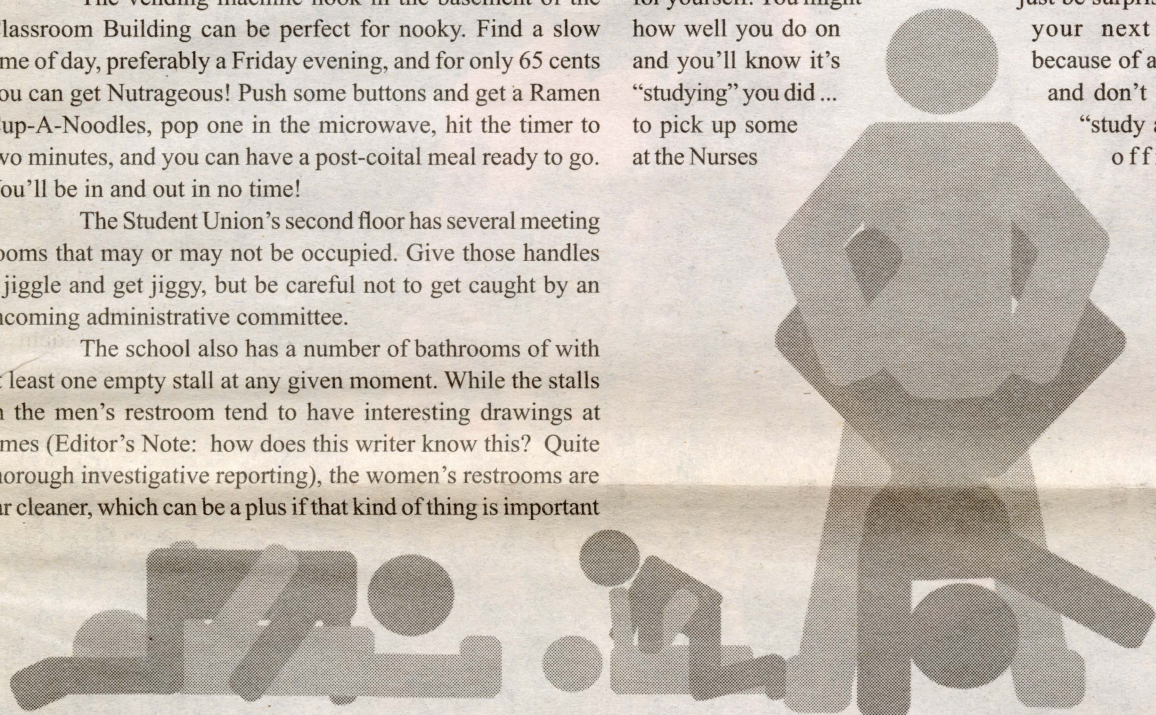
The school also has a number of bathrooms of with at least one empty stall at any given moment. While the stalls in the men's restroom tend to have interesting drawings at times (Editor's Note: how does this writer know this? Quite thorough investigative reporting), the women's restrooms are far cleaner, which can be a plus if that kind of thing is important

to your sex life.

For the more adventurous outdoorsy types, there's the grassy swamp area around the PE Building. Be kind to nature; throw the condoms in the garbage can, or do you recycle them?

Since the Administration spent so much money on it, we might as well put the glass elevators in the parking garage to good use. Nothing will spice up campus life like an artistic sexual display, except maybe for the young naked couple running away from the Public Safety officer in the middle of the day.

So go on you crazy kids, take your lover by the hand, figure out your class schedule, scour the Library and Science building, and soon you'll find the perfect spot for yourself. You might just be surprised on how well you do on your next test, and you'll know it's because of all that "studying" you did... and don't forget to pick up some "study aides" at the Nurses office!



graphic sex by Cecilia Carbonero

### Butter off dead

by Ima Fatass  
Staff Grease Stain

Are you a skinny type trying to put a little meat on your bones? This new diet, started by the state of Wisconsin where no one weighs less than 200 pounds and anyone who is below such a weight is considered anorexic, is for you.

Milwaukee resident Homer Simpson, no relation to the cartoon character, discovered the diet by adding butter to various foods or by making food just using butter. He presented this to the Wisconsin state government. The government liked it so much that the state motto was changed to "Butter it."

This butter diet isn't without its fans outside of Wisconsin. Patrick O'Brien, opinions editor of the *Independent* said, "Oh, Wisconsin's butter diet was great. I gained 100 pounds in a month. Sure my heart hurts on occasion, but it stops a short while after I pry myself from the dent in the chair I was sitting in."

There are many foods people can have on the butter diet. For you health nuts, you can always butter some fruits or vegetables. For you meat and fish eaters, you can butter up that sausage after wrapping it in bacon. Also, you can butter up steak, fish, and ham—whatever you want. For those with a sweet tooth, you can make a good flan of just butter, vanilla, and caramelized sugar, or make a cake by sugaring up about 10 sticks of butter and adding the icing of your choice. Don't forget milk duds floating in melted butter! You can have everything that was a part of your previous diet; just add butter, butter, and more butter.

Is this a safe diet? No one has reportedly died from it. The FDA found it safe, although there are the risks of increased chances of heart failure and other assorted heart problems, such as high blood pressure and blocked veins and arteries. You might have to have a limb removed because it hasn't gotten blood since starting the diet. Also, leaving oily butter stained areas behind you may put other people at risk of slipping and hurting themselves.

The surgeon general stated, "If you are already overweight, don't try to use the butter diet, especially if you have heart problems—unless you have a death wish."

## Now Old Man can hit on himself

by Joe, Johnny, Prince Valiant,  
Ethyl, and Snaggletooth Hertel  
Staff Writers (we only pay one)

(Joe) Multiple personality disorder is one of the strangest disorders faced by the medical profession today. It includes ... (Ethyl) Pardon me for interrupting you, but I need to say something here about ... (Johnny) Oh, she's always saying something about whatever. Why can't you just ... (Joe) HEY! I'm writing this piece. Now simmer down and let me continue.

(Ethyl) Yeah, he is always the one who continues. I never get a chance ... (Prince Valiant) Chance? You want a chance? When was the last time I surfaced? Do you remember that? ... (Snaggletooth) Oh, sure, you guys can complain. Ever since he started going to that doctor, I have been repressed. Do you know what it's like to be in regression? ... (Ethyl) You? You have no idea how I have just been pushed aside!

(Joe) People, people! It's hard for me to concentrate with all these voices in my head ... (Johnny) Well then, "Mr. I'm getting normal again," why don't you let us out like before? ... (Prince Valiant) Yeah, let us out. You're hogging the whole body for yourself! ... (Ethyl) Yeah, what's the matter? Afraid to let your feminine side have a go at it?

(Joe) Please, people! We discussed this at the last session. You must let me have control over my own body; I'm the dominant personality here! ... (Johnny) Yeah, until he wants to pick up chicks, then it's my turn! ... (Prince Valiant) I never did like you, Johnny; you know we prefer male companionship! ... (Ethyl) Well, I sure do, heh heh.

(Joe) I'm afraid I can't write this article if you people are going to continually interrupt ... (Snaggletooth) Oh, well, excuse us! Like you think you can be funny without me? ... (Johnny) Can't we all just get along? ... (Ethyl) Yeah, we can

get along if you two will shut up! ... (Johnny) Screw you! ... (Prince Valiant) My, my, aren't we a little testy today!

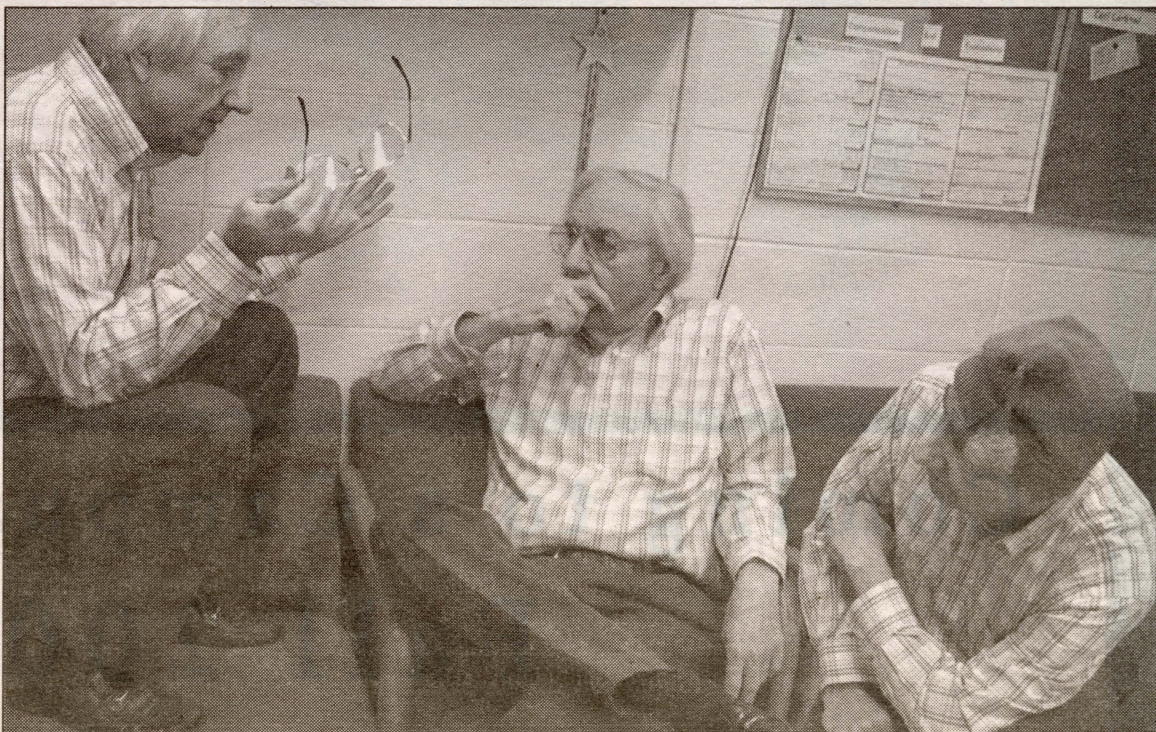
(Joe) No. No! You people are just manifestations of shortcomings in my own personality, and I am trying to make up for it by allowing you access to my life! ... (Johnny) Oh, listen to him paraphrasing his doctor! Mr. Know-it-all, he's become! ... (Joe) Shut up, people!

(Snaggletooth) Wait a minute! He ain't supposed to be hearing voices! We are an alternate personality. I think Joe's psychotic! ... (Ethyl) You know, I think you're right, Snag!

... (Johnny) You mean, we ain't personalities, but rather just voices in his head?

(Joe) Will you people stop talking all at once! ... (Snaggletooth) Well, one of us has to tell him he's getting the wrong therapy, and it won't be me! ... (Prince Valiant) Neither me; I want to hang around a while ... (Ethyl) Let's wait until he's asleep and we can talk about this later ... (Johnny) Sounds good to me.

(Joe) I give up. I can't write this article with all these interruptions.




You can play with yourself ... chess I mean.

graphic by Cecilia Carboni

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