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Andrea Zelinski

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photo by Cecilia Carboni

Graduate Dean to temp for President

by Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor



photo courtesy of neiu.edu

Dr. Janet Fredericks, dean of the Graduate College, will be temporarily replacing President Salme Steinberg when she takes her six month educational leave beginning July 1, 2005.

Dr. Janet Fredericks will be temporary president.

The announcement was made after a unanimous vote and a resolution by the Board of Trustees to extend Steinberg's employment on Apr. 7. She will be returning to the university Jan. 1, 2006.

Fredricks "will provide operational leadership in the Office of the President," according to a letter from Daniel Goodwin, chairman of the Board of Trustees. Steinberg will be available to provide any needed assistance to Fredericks.

In addition to her time as dean, Fredericks also serves as a Professor of Educational Leadership.

Obama works to "grant" college students' hopes

by Stephanie Tichenor
Staff Writer

On a Mar. 28 news conference at the University of Illinois Chicago, U.S. Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) announced his first bill as senator that would expand the grants available for college. The Higher Education Opportunity Through Pell Grant Expansion Act, or the HOPE Act, would increase Pell Grants from the current limit of \$4,050 to \$5,100 and continue to raise it in the coming years.

"This bill is so significant for a number of reasons," said Marshall Jennings, director of Financial Aid at Northeastern Illinois University. "Growth in Pell Grant funding has never increased from the time it was established. An increase in funds would help keep tuition affordable."

During the 2004-2005 school year, approximately 5.3 million students received Pell Grants. At Northeastern, about 3,400 students received Pell Grants, which is approximately 25 percent of the student population.

Only undergraduate students seeking their first Bachelor's Degree are eligible for Pell Grants. To apply, students must fill out the FAFSA (Free Application For

See Obama, page 9

NEIU jumps into Asian American Heritage week

Full coverage of Asian American Heritage week, page 7

Tsunami thrift store raises \$900

by Deborah Goldbaum
Staff Writer

The Tsunami Army Thrift Store event on Apr. 6 and 7 in Village Square raised about \$900 for tsunami relief, officials said.

According to Robin Matthies, who is on the Tsunami Relief Committee, the group asked for donations of gently used items, such as clothing, books,

See Tsunami Army, page 9



photo by Mario Go

The thrift store sold all sorts of goods, including clothes, books, and shoes.

IN EVERY ISSUE...

First Things First, page 2
Staff Editorial, page 8
Old Man on Campus, page 8
Voice of the Campus, page 9
Letters to the Editor, page 10
REView, page 11
Pollard's Picks, page 12
Let's Get Personal, page 17
Golden Opportunities, page 18
Around Campus, page 20

News

Networking for Dummies

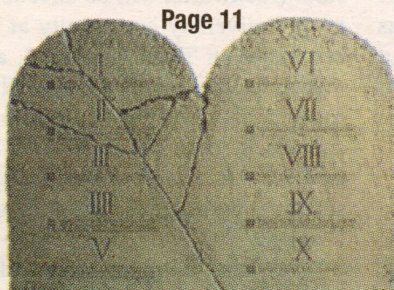
Page 8



Commentary

Whose tablet is it anyway?

Page 11



REV

You can't forget this Hotel

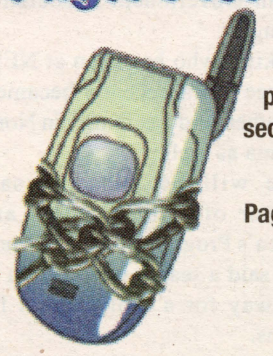
Page 13



Eagle's Nest

Cell phone security

Page 18



Invasions of old come back to haunt foreign policy

How the Middle East was lost 26 years ago

Elana Barron
Associate Editor

"Who cares?" was the question often asked by Irving Birkner as he talked to students about invasions and revolutions that occurred over 26 years ago in Asia.

At the 10th annual Asian American Heritage Conference, Birkner, the associate director for the Center of International Studies at the University of Chicago, spoke of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the Iranian Revolution and how the world is still feeling the effects of those two devastating events that occurred in 1979.

Birkner began by explaining why the U.S. helped Afghanistan fight the Soviets. "Then," Birkner said, "we were much more scared of communists than people running around in the mountains with side arms."

America sent money and weaponry to the area, but "We are not paying attention to where all these people are coming from. And they are all running on American money and weaponry ... coming together to fight."

In addition, America sent

money to help refugees, which was partially spent on education provided by the Saudis. "There are three million of these people," said Birkner, referring to the refugees, who "the Saudis teach Islamic law ... the people who are trained this way go on to become the Taliban."

"The Islamic doctrines then spread all over the Middle East ... the idea of Jihad ... [and the idea] that all former Muslim land must return" to Muslim hands, said Birkner.

One of the many famous students who came out of the Saudi schools was Osama Bin Laden. Another lesser-known example is how this idea spread to Palestine through a Saudi student, said Birkner.

"The fight before was nationalist: 'We want the land back because it is our land,'" explained Birkner of their original fight. However, this changed with the spread of the idea of "fighting infidels off of Muslim land."

Birkner then spoke of the Iranian Revolution, and the connection it has to today. "Of course," admitted Birkner, "It's my job to say that all history matters."

The Iranians, said Birkner,

"Were worried about losing their independence and identity ... due to the rapid modernization by the Shah," as the Shah introduced an increasing amount of Western culture into Iran. They thought that the best way to combat this modernization was to "return to Islamic roots," said Birkner.

This led to massive revolts against the Shah. The Shah used U.S. tanks and helicopters to combat the revolts, further infuriating the Iranians, explained Birkner.

Due to these hard times, said Birkner, the Shah decided to "go on vacation," and in his absence, the army deserted him.

When America let the Shah into the country and froze Iranian money, Iranians seize the American embassy and take Americans hostage.

Again, as happened with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, this affair in Iran led ideas to spread throughout the Muslim world. It also greatly influenced American policy in the Middle East today, said Birkner.

Frequently, said Birkner, the events occurred because "we kept looking at the short term."

Student government saves you money

by Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor

Coupons advertising everything from fast food to flowers are now available for free to students, faculty, and staff of the university. The coupons will "allow the students, faculty, and staff of Northeastern to save up to a thousand dollars a year with these merchants," said Young, Student Government president.

Thirty-three local vendors, of multiple locations, are listed on the coupons. The storefronts, on average, are less than a mile and a half from the university, anywhere between .51 miles and 3.25 miles.

The project was initiated by Young and the executive members of the Student Government, including Vice President Omar Otero, Speaker Mohamad Talha Anarwala, Finance Committee Chair Jujhar Singh, and Charter and Rules Committee Chair Gregory Clark.

The coupon card advertises for 33 local vendors in several categories, including food and drink, personal services, computers, florists, telecommunications, health/fitness, optical, copies/shipping, furniture, clothing/apparel, dry cleaners, and lodging.

To redeem a coupon, a student ID and the coupon card must be presented to the merchant, said

See Coupons, page 8

Zero to News in 60 Seconds

Campus news briefs for the busy student

Compiled by Patrick O'Brien, Violette Green and Mario Go

Jenkins moving on to UNC-Wilmington

Assistant Dean of Students Anthony Jenkins will be leaving NEIU shortly after the spring semester to take the Associate Dean of Students position at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, according to Dean of Students Michael Kelly, who made the announcement to the April 7 Student Government Association meeting.

Jenkins, who has been at NEIU for three years, recently became a new father, and has family in North Carolina as well.

"He will be missed," said Director of Adult Student and Women's Programs Patrice Prince. Kelly said a search would soon be underway for a replacement for Jenkins.

Student Activities Director search underway

The process for hiring a new Director of Student Activities includes a list of 36 candidates, according to Dean of Students Michael Kelly, who said the position would be filled this summer. The Search and Screen Committee also includes SGA President Kendra Young.

The position was held until June 2004 by Dr. Walt Sommers, who left for a similar position at Fort Pierce Community College in Washington state. The Director of Student Activities oversees the nearly 70 chartered campus organizations on campus and acts as an advisor to the student government, a role that Kelly is currently fulfilling.

Contract not official for union and NEIU

Four months after the end of the

University Professionals of Illinois' (UPI) strike, the contract that was agreed to by UPI and the school has not been signed, according to David Jonaitis, assistant vice president of finance and administration. He described the contract as "a very complex document," but would not provide further comment.

Sources within UPI, a union consisting of faculty and support staff at NEIU, said the contract would be signed within a week.

Statue unveiling set for May 3

"Serenity," a bronze sculpture by Ruth Duckworth, will be unveiled to the university community at a ceremony on Tuesday, Mar. 3, at 5:00 p.m. The statue is centrally located between the B Building and the Science Building. It will be the first freestanding Duckworth sculpture permanently installed in Chicago.

Duckworth's project was made

possible by the Illinois Art-in-Architecture Program, which pays funds directly to the artist. The two-story tall sculpture will be mounted atop a stone-faced pyramid.

Duckworth studied art in England after fleeing Nazi Germany. An exhibition looking back on her work, exhibiting approximately 80 of her pieces, will be at the Chicago Cultural Center from April 30 through July 10.

Two cars stolen

Two Toyota Camries, both made in the early '90s, were reported stolen

from Northeastern's parking lot last month, according to Acting Chief of Police Jack Baker.

Both cars, according to Baker, belonged to Northeastern students. NEIU's Public Safety does not yet know the specifics of how the cars were stolen. The names of the victims of the theft were not disclosed.

Baker stressed the need to contact the police if any suspicious activity is seen.

He said he would rather have "one hundred false alarm calls in a day" than "let one true call get away from us."

First Things First...



Patrick O'Brien
firstthingneiu
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Georgia peach makes good at NEIU

Northeastern owes Atlanta big time, and after meeting Patrice Prince, you'll know why.

Prince is the Director of Adult and Women Student Programs, and she has been more than busy putting her new home school on the map. A native of Shaker Heights, Ohio, Prince came to NEIU last fall to replace Jacqueline Harper, a longtime NEIU community member. Even with those big shoes to fill, Prince has gotten right to work.

She's a whirlwind; in the hour I was in her office, she fielded phone calls, did Internet research, and had just finished giving a former student a job reference. And she managed to interview the interviewer while answering all the questions sent her way, with a smile befitting a southern lady.

Prince has both a Bachelor's and a Master's Degrees from Bowling Green State University in Ohio, and is currently enrolled in a doctoral candidate program at the University of Georgia.

Prince hit the nail on the head when she identified one of the biggest challenges in higher education: commuter students. We talked at length about how to create excitement about campus life. Prince stressed, "The one thing about a commuter campus is how do you meet people?"

"The thing about student affairs, you gotta love students," Prince said at least a half-a-dozen times during our interview; enough times so that the enthusiasm she generated seemed natural, an extension of warm, southern hospitality, you might say.

Prince seems to revel in being a resource, a person whom any student can turn to for advice. The approach seems to work. By the end of the interview, Prince had already given me enough research on potential graduate schools to busy me for a week. "That's what makes me happy in the morning, getting up and seeing one of you guys in the office. You just want to help everybody."

The whole interview, Prince was so busy setting up contacts for me and talking history and campus events, she almost forgot to talk about herself. It seemed she was interviewing me, trying to find out what makes me tick, trying to help me.

It's written all over Prince's face: this has never been a job for her. She mentions a colleague who had become a university president, and Prince seemed to almost lament the idea of not interacting with students. "I couldn't ever leave the students ... and be happy."

When she talks about her mission in her new job, she beams. She talks about the 200 new first-time adult students her program has enrolled this year, and her energy fills the room. "Is there a choice though, not to serve students? Then I don't really want to be here. I love the students, and why else?"

Prince has a grant proposal submitted to the Justice Department for monies to find ways to reduce violent crime. If she put as much energy into the proposal as she does everything else, the money may come in by the barrelful.

Prince is also working on the university's Academic Honors Program and Take Our Daughters to Work Day, scheduled for April 28 on campus. The opportunity to instill some hope in young women makes her smile all over again: "I want women to explore their possibilities."

As for returning adult students, Prince has another goal, one that should register with students who don't like the cold, business-like feel of NEIU's commuter campus. "I want to make this program, this school, a home; somewhere they can be comfortable."

This hard-working Georgia peach is well on her way.

A most diverse school considering multicultural center

by Tom Robb
News Editor

Several student groups and some administrators are meeting to propose instituting a multicultural center at Northeastern.

A petition now being circulated by supporters of the center lays out some of the services they envision. The center will foster communication and provide diversity training to staff and students at the university, raise public awareness of issues, and provide resources.

When asked why NEIU, the second most diverse university in the United States (according to *US News and World Report*) would need a multicultural center, Dean of Students Michael Kelly replied that in many cases the different groups on campus may have a tendency to stay within their own groups and

not have cross communication between ethnic communities. A multicultural center would create more cross-cultural discussion.

According to Kelly and Assistant to the Vice President of Student Affairs Kris Pierre, the impetus for the center was discussions between the administration and students in the wake of an anti-gay group whose presence on campus in 2003 was felt throughout the campus.

In November of 2003, a group calling themselves H.O.M.E. (Heterosexuals Organizing for a Moral Environment), staffed a table in Village Square to inform students of their anti-gay message. There was a strong negative reaction by students to H.O.M.E. The GLBA (Gay Lesbian and Bi-Sexual Alliance) threatened to contact the American Civil Liberties Union if several demands were not met by the administration, addressing anti-gay

discrimination.

Among those demands was a call to establish a cultural center for Gay Lesbian Bi-Sexual & Transgendered groups and allies and a resource center with a fulltime coordinator" (see *Independent* 11/10/03 & 12/2/03).

Robin Matthies and Anne Mothkovich of GLBA are two of the primary individuals driving the effort. Matthies and Mothkovich are working with Kelly, other members of the administration, and representatives of several other student organizations to craft a proposal to the administration.

Matthies said she envisions a fulltime staffer for the center who could provide resources to students who might not otherwise have them. When asked about funding for the center and staffer, Mothkovich stated that she believed that the university should provide the funding and that it should not come from student activity fees. Mothkovich said that the university gets a lot of money in the form of grants for its diversity and that students should not have to pay for it.

Matthies said she has been in contact with members of several student organizations regarding support for the center. The GLBTA, Social Work Club, SLUG (now the Green Cycle



photo from Independent archive

Anne Mothkovich, supporter of multicultural center.

Group), FMLA, Alpha Psi Lambda, and WZRD Radio are among those.

Pierre said Kelly is the official administration contact but others including herself, Shelly Banister, assistant to President Steinberg, and Felicia Keelen, director of the Student Union. Kelly stated that he would ideally like to see a committee of six or seven people to work out the specifics of the proposal.

Kelly and Matthies did clarify that the administration has not approved the multicultural center but they are "moving forward" with crafting a proposal.

Chief Justice recommends changes to student government

by Dorian Barrios
Photo Editor

Conspiracies, favoritism, and privacy are among the matters addressed in the judicial findings of the Rose vs. Young trial. The findings acknowledge the conflict of interest present as Chief Justice Gary Gaspard conducted the trial, despite his political relationship with Student Government Association (SGA) President Kendra Young. The findings also take aim at inconsistencies in the student government constitution.

The results were released after the March 10 verdict that found Young not guilty of violating SGA bylaw Chapter VII, Section III. The findings say it would be inappropriate for a student taking fewer than nine credit hours in a semester to be president.

Among the recommendations are several that would have disqualified Young from holding the office of President, if these new recommendations were SGA policy.

The findings recommend that SGA members should not receive a stipend if they are enrolled for less than nine credit hours during a semester, since "according to university policies no student who enrolls for less than six credit hours during a regular semester can receive funds for employment of student aid or work study including scholarship recipients." Recommendation five states that no part-time student should be allowed to hold the office of president of the SGA.

Privacy is addressed in recommendation eight: "any student who is sensitive about his grade or registration [being] brought to the SGA business should not consider running for office or hold any position in the Student government." Recommendation nine states, "upon filing and signing a certification of an election packet, an applicant is considered automatically waiving his/her student privacy's rights."

The Judicial findings acknowledge the apparent conflict of interest that resulted from Gaspard hearing the case, given the close relationship between Young and Gaspard. In order to remedy any conflicts in the future, recommendation twelve suggests that the power to appoint a Chief Justice should no longer be vested in the president of the SGA. Furthermore, recommendation thirteen suggests that "no student who is a close friend of the Student Government President should hold the position of the Chief Justice of the Student Judiciary Branch."

According to Gaspard the conflict was present long before the trial; he believed it was present since he was appointed Chief Justice by Young. "The constitution doesn't say whom should you appoint as a justice," stated Gaspard. "It doesn't say you can't appoint your mom, your dad, or your friend."

While acknowledging the conflict, Gaspard heard the case. "I was in a hard situation to be in that place, and in the same token I think I was the right person to do it."

Strike survey results troubles sociologist

by Joe Hertel
REV Editor

The results of a survey conducted by the Sociology Department on the effects of the 2004 faculty strike prompted Professor Keith Johnson, who oversaw the project, to declare that the majority of students responded that they "Want to forget [about the strike] instead of facing the fact that we had a serious disruption of differences ... between faculty and administration."

Four classes were involved in the project as a requirement for Sociological Analysis and distributed the questionnaire primarily in classes, asking a total of 17 questions. The results are based on 97 responses from Fall semester students.

According to Johnson, the questionnaire produced "a degree of variation [of] response," which "as a sociologist, it's a concern." Johnson indicated that the survey shows that there is little sign of healing and a diverse level of feeling which may have produced a "business as usual" attitude after the strike.

Sixty-nine percent of the respondents were upper level students (junior-senior) and 60 percent have only attended NEIU, while 40 percent transferred from another school. The NEIU students, according to Johnson, were more "in stride with the strike," while those that transferred found it more disruptive.

The survey results are as diverse as the students who responded, and little cohesiveness on the strike's effects on the student body as a whole has been

determined.

The most prominent category was the "Silent Majority," who reported "mixed feelings" about the strike. They were basically noncommittal, didn't get involved in the strike, and "took it in stride." The most common emotional response, according to the survey, was "worry," followed by "curious, upset, nervous, and angry."

According to the survey, only one student reported joining the picket line. While 60 percent came to campus during the strike, 35 percent supported the strike and stayed away. Half the respondents had "no opinion" about the results of the strike. Almost 50 percent saw a need for the strike, while 60 percent agreed that the faculty was underpaid.

Other results: 48 percent work fulltime, 33 percent work part time, while 18 percent do not work; 49 percent of students live with their parents, 25 percent with spouse or significant other, 7 percent live with a roommate, while 19 percent live alone; 62 percent attend NEIU fulltime and 22 percent attend NEIU part time.

Interestingly, according to Johnson, "25 percent of students surveyed work full time at NEIU." Sixty-three percent of respondents were female. Also, 24 percent were 21 years of age or lower, 44 percent were 22 to 25 years old, and 12 percent were 26 to 30 years of age. Thirty-four percent were white, 22 percent Hispanic, 17 percent black, and 14 percent Asian.

A report on the survey responses and results can be obtained through Professor Johnson.



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2005 SGA Elections

Editor's Note: All Candidate Statements are listed in the order appearing on the Official Ballot.

Statement from Evelyn Nazario-Rose: Candidate for President

My fellow students,

My name is Evelyn Nazario-Rose. I humbly ask for your support as your next President of the student body. Since 2002, I have been extremely active, inside and outside of NEIU, to ensure that the quality of education we, the students, are receiving at NEIU benefits the student body *as a collective*. Thank you all for your support.

I ask for the students to allow me the chance to plant a seed of change. The only thing that I can ensure to you all is that my word means everything to me. Without it, I am nothing.

Students have to share in the governance of our education. I believe that I am the most formidable candidate to represent the students of this university because I have not only been a part of the social struggles that we have faced at NEIU as of recent, but I have quite an extensive background with my involvement in the IBHE (Illinois Board of Higher Education), the entity that determines how much state funding is appropriated at our respective institutions of higher learning and which capital projects are approved, in order of importance.

Together, we can change the direction that SGA is going. I represent the student coalition of C.H.A.N.G.E.—The Student Association for Higher Trust, Growth, Effective Communication & Networking through Excellence. This is a serious group of students who are ready for brighter days. I ask that you support my candidacy for President and that you support those representing C.H.A.N.G.E.

Statement from Robin Matthies: Candidate for President

I feel there is a need for a change on our campus on many different levels, and I am excited at the opportunity of becoming the President of the Student Government Association at Northeastern Illinois University. It's time that students' voices are not only heard, but that someone does something about our concerns.

I am confident that Team REAL is ready to step up and take that challenge. We are already working on implementing a multicultural center on our campus and a library initiative that will allow students who are already financially overextended the option of not buying textbooks, but loaning them from the library instead. I also feel that it is extremely important to extend both the hours and resources at the CCJCS and El Centro libraries.

Ultimately, my number one goal as student body president would be to create a general atmosphere where all student concerns are recognized and *actually addressed*. I believe in equality for all students, women's rights, AIDS awareness, and meeting with administrators, professors, and students. As a student, I am genuinely invested in this school, other students, and in improving the quality of our education and campus life. It is my goal to make sure that all students are recognized as equals at NEIU and we can ensure that the university that is coined "The most diverse University in the Midwest" lives up to its name.

Vice President

Statement from Anne Mothkovich: Candidate for Vice President

It's time for things to change at Northeastern. A general feeling of discontent is prevalent among students who are trying to register for classes, graduate on time, waiting for financial aid, etc. As student body Vice President, I hope to improve conditions for all students at NEIU. I've actively worked for positive change at Northeastern for four years. While I enjoy being part of the NEIU community, I feel that the services the university has to offer could definitely be enhanced.

We are a diverse campus, full of individuals who work fulltime, care for children, and in between, attempt to obtain a quality education. I believe that it's time for the SGA at NEIU to step up and meet the challenges that our student population faces. Students deserve more than what they have been receiving from the SGA.

With the other members of Team REAL, I am ready to tackle the important issues that concern NEIU students. We feel some of these issues are:

- improving the resources available at all three campus libraries
- getting textbooks for students who cannot afford them
- more courses offered each semester so we can graduate on time
- greater access to financial aid and scholarships
- more collaboration with students from the Main Campus, El Centro, and CCICS
- developing a Multicultural Center on each campus

Although those are the issues Robin, Danny, Morgan, and I have discussed and are ready to work on, we are also aware that students need to be heard. If you have concerns, or feel that certain aspects of NEIU can be improved upon that I haven't mentioned, we would want you to bring them to our attention. Team REAL is ready to listen and empower the student body to create positive change at NEIU.

Statement from Cesar Miranda: Candidate for Vice President

As your Vice President I am prepared to work closely with your elected representatives to establish that quorum is established at our meetings. It is crucial for the SGA to have a fully functional Senate in order to take care of the issues that are on hand. Being the VP holds the responsibility of making sure that every student concern is heard and taken seriously. Whether I agree with it or not, every student opinion will be respected.

My main concern and goal for the upcoming academic year is to keep our SGA budget balanced. The money being spent on enhancing the student campus life experience at NEIU should benefit the **entire student body**.

It's about time that we change the direction as to where the SGA is going. I represent the student coalition of C.H.A.N.G.E.—The Student Association for Higher Trust, Growth, Effective Communication & Networking through Excellence. Allow us the opportunity to try to restore the student body morale on our campus. I ask that you support my candidacy for Vice President and Evelyn Nazario-Rose for President. Vote for C.H.A.N.G.E.!

SGA approves three charters, international trip

by Patrick O'Brien
Opinions Editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) met on April 7 and approved the charters of three new student organizations, funded an overseas trip for the Assyrian Club, and named a new student Senator, Farah Qadri, who joined the Senate as a voting member during the meeting.

Senator M.M. Morgan was acting speaker, and Speaker MohamadTalha Anarwala acted in Vice President Omar Otero's place until he arrived.

Qadri was interviewed by the Committee on Appointments and was approved by a 6-0-3 vote. Young added that she was happy that Qadri "looked beyond all the articles that have been printed in the *Independent* this year," referring to several articles critical of her administration.

After Qadri was seated, President Kendra Young presented three charters for the Senate's approval. The Anime Club, represented by Steven Cymbalisky,

was approved with little debate. Cymbalisky described the club as a group of students interested in Japanese cinema.

With the approval of the Senate, The Sustainable Land Use Group (SLUG) had their name changed to the Green Cycle Group.

The charters of the Black Student Movement (BSM) and the African Student Association (ASA) were also approved after some wrangling over BSM's status, which was eventually resolved.

BSM was a preexisting club on campus, according to Young, and was reapplying for active organization status. The application was submitted by students from the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS).

The BSM and ASA representatives were unable to attend the meeting but President Young and Senator Jermont Montgomery spoke on the organizations' behalf, asking their fellow senate members to approve the clubs' charter. At this point in the meeting, Otero arrived.

The meeting proceeded without conflict until the funding proposal

of the Assyrian Club came to the table. The group was originally requesting \$6,491.88 from the SGA for a trip to London for the Assyrian Youth Conference from May 7-15. The conference is designed to teach the students Assyrian culture and history.

The club's president, Orianna Albazi, told the senate that the group had "slashed expenses" by arranging to stay at a YMCA.

Debate ensued around the amount of money the club could be awarded, by the Event-by-Event (EBE) fund. EBE documents, dated April 7, showed that the SGA had only \$1,044.70. Dean of Students and SGA advisor Michael Kelly asked Young if the SGA had enough money to consider the Assyrian Club's proposal. Young replied, "Maggie has made a huge error," referring to the Student Activities Office Manager Maggie Dones.

The error Young was referring to was not clear, although Kelly said that Young looked over the EBE fund budget and pointed to a Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS) event, scheduled for Feb. 22, and

said the event did not take place, giving \$1,500 more to the fund.

Student Activities' records, obtained from that office by the *Independent*, show that the UPRS event, the Batey Urbano College Tour, did take place on March 8 in the Golden Eagles room. The event cost \$1,500.

Since this \$1,500 was spent, it is unclear how much is left in the EBE fund. Kelly told the *Independent* that earned income from other events would give them enough money to cover the Assyrian Club event.

Speaker Anarwala motioned that the proposal be reduced to \$5,200, the amount that the SGA said was the maximum amount the club could be allotted.

Debate was quickly ended when Anarwala called for a vote, though senators Dan Gonzalez and John Chintala repeatedly rejected the vote, saying that no debate had occurred. The vote was called before any discussion on the proposal, and the trip was approved of for \$5,200 by a vote of 7-0-3. Gonzalez abstained from the vote,

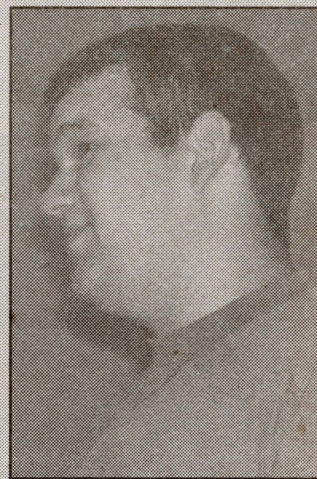


photo by Patrick O'Brien

Steven Cymbalisky of newly approved Anime Club.

commenting, "I can't work with these amateurs anymore."

The Senate then voted to make Thursday, April 28, a regular meeting, to certify the election results.

As the meeting was winding down, the senate also voted to approve a change of purpose in the 2004-05 SGA budget, taking \$3,500 from the Student Organization Conference, which wasn't scheduled this year.

According to Young, the money will be spent on SGA's end of year banquet.



Candidate Statements

Statement from M.M. Morgan: Candidate for Speaker

Greetings:

As we end this semester and prepare for the upcoming year, I think it is imperative that progress and growth occur in order for this institution of higher learning to remain the beacon of hope it has established itself to be.

I am Senator M.M. Morgan, a current member of Student Government. What many do not know is my decision to run for Speaker of the Senate. I am seeking the support of the students of NEIU on behalf of myself and my colleagues of Team REAL.

As Speaker of the Senate, my intentions include continuing the current trends set between the students of NEIU and the administration of NEIU. As students, it must be understood that our voices, concerns, and dreams be heard, met, and most importantly, encouraged. I am asking the NEIU community to allow me to serve as your voice and liaison to the administration.

Team REAL has been both active and vital in many of our recent endeavors as a community seeking changes. Team REAL is reflective of the diversity the NEIU community takes great pride in. If given the opportunity to serve as your voice and representative, I have every confidence that the aforementioned (dreams, concerns etc.) will not only be addressed, but also leave definitive marks of growth within the NEIU community.

Again, I am seeking your support, favor, and confidence in TEAM REAL and myself as your "next level" leader.
Senator.

Statement from Co'Shawn Shakur: Candidate for Speaker

My name is Co'Shawn Shakur and I am asking the students to support my candidacy for Speaker of the Student Senate. I am currently in my third semester at NEIU, studying at the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS), NEIU's South Campus. I am an extremely active student and would like to see more involvement in our satellite campuses. I feel that our satellite campuses are often unnoticed and I would like to be the catalyst to change this. They pay the same student fees as everyone else.

My contributions to the Student Senate would be to prepare myself in proper parliamentary procedure so that our meetings function without incident. I also would like to see more student involvement on campus; we can only succeed by reaching out to the students. Please allow me that opportunity.

I am an extremely active student who is concerned about improving the quality of student life. Together we can change the direction that SGA is going. I represent the student coalition of C.H.A.N.G.E.—The Student Association for Higher Trust, Growth, Effective Communication & Networking through Excellence. This is a serious group of students who are ready for brighter days. I ask that you support my candidacy for Speaker of the Student Senate and that you support Evelyn Nazario-Rose for President.

Statement from Reem Abu Hashish: Candidate for Senator

My name is Reem Abu Hashish and I am interested in becoming a Senator for the Student Government Association. As a Senator, I promise to listen to you, the students, because the decisions that we make as senators affect the entire student body. I believe there are many things that can be done to make NEIU a much better school, such as improving the environment and the everyday activities that take place here.

The many students who know me see me as a person of honesty, integrity, and loyalty. For those of you who do not know who I am, I am asking that you put your trust in me and allow me to represent you in the Student Senate. I have many good personal qualities to offer our student body. I would like the opportunity to show that I can help to make NEIU a better university than it already is.

I thank you for your time and promise to work hard to do every thing possible to enhance your student experience here at NEIU. I want to ensure that we get the best education, along with beautiful memories that will remain with us forever. I represent the student coalition of C.H.A.N.G.E.—The Student Association for Higher Trust, Growth, Effective Communication & Networking through Excellence. Allow us the opportunity to try to restore the student body morale to our campus. I ask that you support my

candidacy for Senator and Evelyn Nazario-Rose for President. Vote for C.H.A.N.G.E!

Statement from Michael Bonfiglio: Candidate for Senator and Northeastern Programming Board

My name is Michael Bonfiglio and I am running for the positions of Senator and NPB member. NEIU's reputation is that of the most diverse institution in the region. I would like to see this institution's diversity continue to grow, most significantly in our curriculum. It is extremely critical to our educational experience to be knowledgeable of other cultures, and most importantly, knowledgeable of other student perspectives. I am majoring in political science and will utilize the skills I have obtained in my classes to better represent your overall concerns.

I have a great concern regarding campaign reform. If elected, I will bring those concerns to the Student Senate. Having been a part of previous elections, I believe that we can improve the way that our student representatives go about getting *your* vote. Ultimately, it is you, the student, who decides.

I am a dedicated, vocal student who is genuinely concerned about the student body. I am committed to making sure that the students' requests are heard and voiced. Together, we can change the direction that SGA is going. I represent the student coalition of C.H.A.N.G.E.—The Student

Association for Higher Trust, Growth, Effective Communication & Networking through Excellence. This is a serious group of students who are ready for brighter days. I ask that you support my candidacy for Senator and NPB, and that you support Evelyn Nazario-Rose for President.

Statement for Jose Ommie Ortiz: Candidate for Senator

My Fellow NEIU Students:

My name is Jose Ommie Ortiz and I am one of your candidates for Senator in the upcoming SGA election. As your senator, I will work hard to bring a new atmosphere to the SGA. I believe in unifying our different perspectives because that in turn will create TEAMWORK! Also, I will be extremely vigilant on issues regarding tuition increases. I want to ensure the student body that if elected I will take all of your concerns seriously. I will be your voice.

I ask that you consider my candidacy for Senator. Together, we can change the direction that SGA is going. I represent the student coalition of C.H.A.N.G.E.—The Student Association for Higher Trust, Growth, Effective Communication & Networking through Excellence.

This is a serious group of students who want to work for YOU, the student. I ask that you support my candidacy for Senator and that you support Evelyn Nazario-Rose for President.

Statement from D. J. Gonzalez: Candidate for Student Trustee of the NEIU Board of Trustees

My vision for Northeastern Illinois University in the future is one where we excel at what we do best. This will be done through cooperation with my team, and the help of the most important people here at NEIU, the students. We will accomplish this by working together on all levels for a common goal.

Some of the projects that Team REAL and I are working on are keeping our library updated with the textbooks that we need to study, creating a multicultural center to learn more about each other's origins, assisting our community through aid drives, promoting the wonderful programs that everyone here strives so hard to make a success, and creating wider awareness of ethical and social issues.

Together, we can turn NEIU into North-Excellence. As Student Trustee, I will accomplish this by being an active voice for the students on our campus. Communication has for too long been a hurdle within Student Government, and it will be my duty to remedy this by raising our voice when it needs to be heard.

Some of the great things that I believe this campus does an amazing job at are offering a higher education to those who seek it, maintaining an illuminating library, allowing opportunities to those who are striving to succeed, and always being open to people of all ethnicities, cultures, lifestyles, and political thoughts. I personally will strive not only at improving these facilities, but creating new ones as well in order to make our campus a hotbed of cultural, philosophical, political, and economic activity.

Statement from Danielle Vargas: Candidate for Student Trustee of the NEIU Board of Trustees

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for taking time out of your busy day to read about our plans as student leaders. Tough my words may be few, but they are strong, for I am strong. I have been serving as a senator since the spring of 2004. From my experience as a senator, I make sure the voices of the students are heard. In doing so, as your Student Trustee I would like to establish stronger communication that will strengthen our community here at NEIU—not just the students, but also the administration and faculty. Communication and commitment are the key ingredients in making NEIU a place where everyone's needs are fulfilled. Let's work together and make this a reality.

OFFICIAL BALLOT – Spring 2005
Northeastern Illinois University – Main Campus
Student Government – Wed., 4/20 & Thurs., 4/21

Place an "X" by the name of your choice of candidate (ONE ONLY) in each section (seven sections). To write in a candidate's name, print your choice on the blank line provided and place an "X" in the box.

PRESIDENT (Vote for One):

- ☐ NAZARIO-ROSE, Evelyn
☐ WILLIAMS, Tonio
☐ SARGON, Youkhanna
☐ MATTHIES, Robin
☐ _____

SENATOR (Vote for One):

- ☐ ABUHASHISH, Reem
☐ BONFIGLIO, Michael
☐ ALI, Tariq
☒ ORTIZ, Jose Ommie
☐ GABRIL, Jacob
☐ CORDERO, Alberto
☐ SHENO, Piter
☐ LEJA, Szymon F.
☐ RAMIREZ Jr., Efrain
☐ BARKHO, Ninos
☐ ISIJOLA, AdeBayo
☐ AHSANULLAH, Saad
☐ _____

VICE PRESIDENT (Vote for One):

- ☐ MOTHKOVICH, Anne
☐ MIRANDA, Cesar
☐ SOLAYMAN, Nancy
☐ _____

SPEAKER (Vote for One):

- ☐ MORGAN, M.M.
☐ ANARWALA, Mohamad Talha
☐ SHAKUR, Co'Shawn
☐ SINGH, Jujhar
☐ MONTGOMERY, Jermont
☐ _____

TRUSTEE (Vote for One):

- ☐ VRANJES, Marko
☐ GONZALEZ, D.J.
☐ VARGAS, Danielle
☐ _____

IBHE (Vote for One):

- ☐ LINH
☐ ALCOTT, Kelli-Ann
☐ _____

N.P.B. (Vote for One):

- ☐ ALI, Tariq
☐ BONFIGLIO, Michael
☐ YOUNG, Kendra
☐ ALCOTT, Kelli-Ann
☐ _____

Official Spring 2005
Student Government
election ballot.

image courtesy of Student Activities

BOT approves President's action items

Includes asbestos removal at CCICS, Commons rehab, tenure, and labor agreements

by Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor

In a short 30-minute open meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the asbestos removal project at the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS), the University Commons rehabilitation project, and a labor agreement.

The board approved these action items in President Salme Steinberg's report to the Board of Trustees. The first item involved the CCICS Asbestos Abatement project, which will remove deteriorating wood floors and asbestos floor tiles on levels one, two, three, six, and seven.

According to the President's report, only one contractor submitted a bid on the project. "After detailed review by the architect, the bid received for this project was determined to be reasonable within the context of the architect's cost estimate," stated the report.

The project cost for the CCICS Asbestos Abatement project totaled \$496,300 and will be funded by the University Permanent Improvement Fund.

The second item on the President's list included the final phase of the University Commons Rehabilitation project. The project includes removing Lot K and replacing it with landscape. The area will, in the future, be

used for large public events, like graduation ceremonies, stated the report.

The project, totaling \$774,436, will be funded through the University Auxiliary System, Parking Repair and Maintenance funds and Permanent Improvement operating funds included in the Facilities Management budget.

The Board of Trustees discussed, in executive session, the labor agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police. The contract involved a two-year agreement, which will expire on June 30, 2006. The contract was approved.

Also in this executive session, the board discussed tenure recommendations.

Little woman, big voice

by Marylyn Adler
Staff Writer

Music has the ability to bring a diverse audience of people together, which happened on Mar. 31 in NEIU's Village Square as 50 students attended Michelle Citrin's free vocal and guitar concert presented by the Coffeehouse Series. Craig Wilson, an accomplished musician, accompanied Michelle on the guitar.

Citrin, singer and songwriter, plays the piano and guitar. Citrin's maternal grandmother, a World War Two Holocaust survivor, influenced Citrin to pursue music.

The songs that were presented include "If I Fall," "Dark Refrain," "Who I am," "Seal it With a Kiss," "Oblivious to You," and "Lover's Plea," which Citrin compared to NEIU's diverse student body.



photo by Linh Voh

Citrin, vocalist and guitarist, was brought to Northeastern via the NPB Coffeehouse Series.

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ROBIN MATTHIES

VICE PRESIDENT

ANNE MOTHKOVICH

SPEAKER

M. M. MORGAN

TRUSTEE

D.J. GONZALEZ

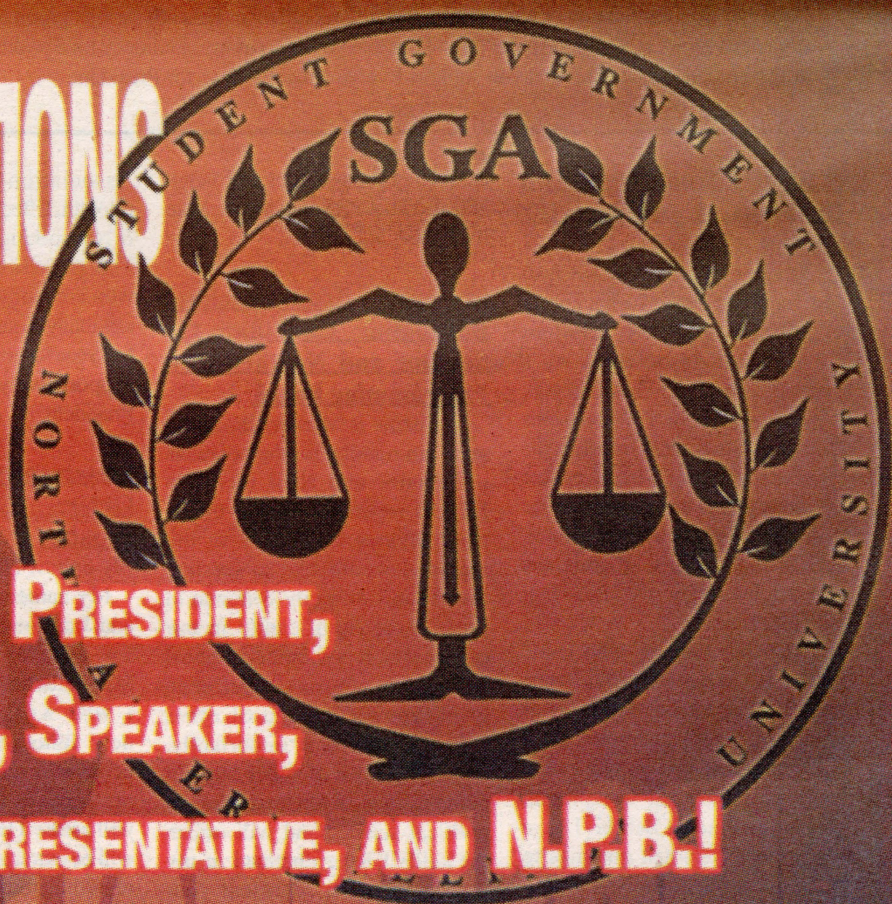


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SATURDAY, APRIL 16, MAIN CAMPUS
MONDAY & TUESDAY, APRIL 18-19, EL CENTRO
MONDAY & TUESDAY, APRIL 18-19, CICS
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY, APRIL 20 - 21, MAIN CAMPUS
CANDIDATE DAY AND DEBATES: APRIL 11

Asian Heritage Conference 2005

Kill Bill's samurais strike swords on campus

by Jonathan Gronli
Production Editor

Swords clashed on Apr. 5 in Alumni Hall. On the opening day of the Asian American Heritage Conference, the Kamui, a Japanese martial arts troupe, held a demonstration of martial arts for Northeastern students.

The Kamui martial arts troupe tries to keep the ancient Japanese martial arts fresh. Their specialty is samurai weapons. One of their very own was part of the "Crazy 88s" in the movie *Kill Bill Vol. 1*'s fight scene in the club and choreographed the battle between Uma Thurman and Lucy Lu in the film.

Japanese music swirled through the speakers as the Kamui came out dressed in traditional samurai training clothes and holding katanas, swords used by Japanese samurai. They took their time with the first demonstration of their skills and concluded by thanking the crowd.

They then dropped the katanas off to the side and pulled out wooden training katanas, asking for volunteers to teach basic sword skills. In each session, male and female students were chosen. They were shown some basic moves

and they tried to keep up with the movements of their teachers. When the lesson was done, the students performed for the audience.

After the instructional lesson, the audience saw a scene from the Kamui's DVD, *Zansetsu: The Eternal Duelists*. The Kamui then changed some of their weapons; two of them kept the katanas and the other two took up melee weapons that had a longer reach. The music changed to that of the DVD. After their demonstration, they played the DVD which showed that very performance, so they could get ready for the last part of the demonstration, samurai fighting—*Kill Bill* style.

They came out dressed in suits with *Kill Bill* fight music blasting through the speakers. The swords glinted in the light as they showed their prowess yet again through shadow sparring and actual sparring with each other.

At the end of it all, they bowed, thanking the audience and expressing their hope to see them again in the future. As consolation for those who did not partake in the samurai lesson, they were able to buy a copy of *Zansetsu: The Eternal Duelists*, get a Kamui t-shirt, and get the autographs of the troupe.



photo by Cecilia Carboni

Athleticism, skill, and art form come together in a demonstration of samurais' skills on Apr. 5.

Impact of ethnic mass media



photo by Andrea Zelinski

Micha Materre, news anchor for WGN-TV, spoke on the battles fought in newsrooms.

by Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor

Three distinguished reporters from WGN-TV, India TV, and Brandweek lectured on the impact of ethnic mass media Wednesday, April 6 in the Golden Eagles room.

Almost every seat was taken shortly after 9:00 a.m., with a turnout of 65 people. The experienced news anchor, co-host, and reporter shared their individual experiences in covering ethnic news and issues within their designated news medium.

"Battles are fought everyday," said Micah Materre, news anchor for WGN-TV. "If we don't fight those battles," we cannot fall asleep at night. The battles she referred to

regard the coverage of ethnic stories. It is an issue of concern that men and women of color share few seats as decision makers, said Materre.

The co-host of India TV, Kruti Purohit, spoke of ethnic television stations as a method of community building.

Consumerism and Asia's influence in perpetuating sales growth, including the use of anime, were topics lectured by Mike Birne, senior reporter for Brandweek.

The panel discussion was moderated by Susan Colon, an instructor in the Department of Communication, Media and Theatre. Students Becky Aguilar and Diana Manzanares gave a "vote of thanks" to these guest speakers.

East meets West in the classroom

by Patrick O'Brien
Opinions Editor

A fresh-faced schoolteacher, armed with imaginative lesson plans, all the newest innovations in how to reach students, and enthusiasm enters a typical classroom. However, some students, who may be among the smartest in the class, will rarely participate in class discussions, often closing themselves off to the rest of the class as well.

This challenge to educators was the subject of a presentation on April 4 that kicked off the Tenth Annual Asian American Heritage Conference at NEIU. This event, led by Yasmin Ranney, assistant dean of Academic Development, and Teddy Bofman, professor of Linguistics, was titled, "Asian Cultural Patterns: Classroom Implications."

The speakers and an audience of 35 teachers and education students compared Asian students and Western students in the classroom, and explored reasons for the acute behavioral differences between students raised in traditional Asian families and American students. They specifically looked at the way these two groups of students approach being part of a classroom.

Ranney described the personality of the Asian student as "wearing a mask," and that traditionally raised Asian students believe "It's shameful to ask for clarification" from an instructor.

This avoidance of classroom interaction is especially frustrating to teachers in the West. Bofman added, "It's hard to understand because we want that exchange."

Ranney, who is originally from India, and still visits her family and teaches there every summer, says her upbringing encouraged her to remain reserved in the learning environment: "In Eastern culture, we are

taught to keep quiet, and that transcends our private life."

Bofman described the literal translation of a compliment in Thai, which means a hard heart, but its practical meaning is to have a clam exterior, which is valued highly in Asian culture.

Educators in the audience expressed some frustration over how to deal with students who seem to have all the tools to succeed in most cases, but mostly wish to refrain from classroom discussions and any display of knowledge.

Bofman, who taught in Bangkok, Thailand in the 1970s and is fluent in Thai, says that rote memorization is the dominant learning style in most Asian classrooms, leaving little room for dialogue, which leads to an elevation of the instructor's status. "The teacher is the master," said Ranney, explaining the perceptions Asian students have of their teachers.

Ranney explained the difference between the two cultures in terms of classroom management and added that the pressure facing Asian teens in their home countries, where education is more difficult to obtain, leads them to treat the educational experience differently, while also opening them up to the "model minority myth," which Ranney describes as a societal pressure.

Bofman and Ranney agreed throughout the talk that the Western focus on the individual, versus the Eastern view that the collective is more important, accounts for most of the difference between the way Asian students learn and interact in the classroom.

To Ranney, the fundamental difference was that in the East "The relationships come first, the business [of learning] is secondary."



Networking for dummies

Guest speaker
Gloria Peterson
discusses the
power of
self-marketing

by **Andrea Zelinski**
Chief Editor

"You have to walk your talk," said Gloria Petersen, an etiquette specialist at the Marketing Club's second annual "Marketing Yourself as an Entrepreneur" workshop series on March 31.

Petersen's speech was not just about how to market yourself in business, but "It's how to market yourself in life, too," said Giancarla Scalzitti-Acevedo, president of the Marketing Club.

According to a survey in the *Journal for Education in Business*, the etiquette of college graduates is lacking. Over 40 percent of those surveyed believed business etiquette skills of college graduates had worsened over the past 10 years. College campuses are breeding grounds for uncivil professionals, said the *New York Post*.

Petersen, along with two other speakers, lectured on various aspects critical to becoming a successful innovator of a small business and becoming your own boss. Related topics at the Marketing Club's workshop series included research, finance and credit, and networking.

Petersen presented a lecture on "Enhancing Your Networking Skills." She is the founder and president of Global Protocol, Inc., a professional performance enhancement and etiquette lecture organization.

"You have to self motivate,"

Peterson said to the group of 26 people of mixed academic disciplines. She focused on features that make a person attractive in a "mix and mingle" networking event.

Her speech emphasized the need to establish a connection with people through networking. Her tips and advice focused on that goal, which included different methods to establish a presence, charisma, and connection, in addition to conversation etiquette.

"What I'm teaching you is simple, simple, and very powerful," she said.

The Entrepreneur Series also held a seminar on researching the opportunities for beginning a small business. The lecture, titled "Important Aspects of Researching a Business Opportunity" examined aspects of research and creating a marketing plan.

Small Business Counselor Thomas Ullman presented professional advice for future entrepreneurs who may or may not know what business they want to start. He provided the audience with an 18-page packet outlining marketing plan development to research resources.

Vernon Lam of 5/3 Bank presented a lecture discussing "The Importance of Your Personal Finances." The lecture emphasized the importance of establishing and keeping good credit and its impact on developing a small business.

Dog tag memorial removed

by **Patrick O'Brien**
Opinions Editor

Whispers in the Wind, the memorial to fallen Iraqi soldiers that was made into a temporary display of military dog tags outside the cafeteria, has been removed by the artist, NEIU student and Viet Nam veteran Joe Hertel.

The display was removed at the behest of Joe Kish, vice president of Facilities Management and also a Viet Nam veteran, who described himself as "a supporter of this project," but expressed concern over the effect that the memorial was having on the surrounding plant life.

The memorial features over 1,500 dog tags, each one representing a soldier who has died in the ongoing Iraq War. The art installation, which Hertel originally said would be temporary, will be permanently displayed elsewhere on campus, likely within a "Peace Garden" concept that will include sculptures by art students.

Kish asked that the tags be removed because they were "interfering with plant growth" in the area and to prevent the tags from being tangled in the vines that grow on the wall adjacent to the cafeteria. Kish was also concerned that any sculpture that would be included as part of the Peace Garden project would cause people to climb into the foliage and damage the root system on the hill overlooking the cafeteria.

Kish and Hertel met and discussed the Peace Garden project, and Kish thought the plan for a "place of reflection," as Hertel described it, would be better suited to another location on campus. Students and staff on cigarette breaks often use the area where the dog tags were displayed, which Kish described as "not a very reflective area."

Hertel was concerned that moving the memorial near the P.E. building may not be viable. "The energies in the garden area (near the cafeteria) and its accessible location prompted me to believe it to be the ideal place for honoring the dead from all wars and reflection, plus a venue for student art," said Hertel.

Hertel is circulating a petition to reinstate the display and designate the area as a permanent memorial garden.

Student volunteers for Gay Games

Event will bring 12,000 people to Chicago

by **Tom Robb**
News Editor

Student Reginald Sawyer has been appointed to the Hospitality and Travel Scholarship Committee for the Seventh Gay Games Sports and Cultural Festival.

Sawyer will help coordinate logistics for an event that will see some 12,000 participants from 70 countries come to Chicago in July of 2006.

"This is a glorious event that celebrates the gay athlete," said Sawyer. "It will feel damn good to see this city flooded with beautiful gay brothers from all over the world."

The games will feature sports as diverse as sailing, power lifting, and billiards, and will feature traditional Olympic sports like track and field, swimming, and figure skating.

Opening ceremonies will be held at Soldier Field, medal ceremonies will be at Millennium Park, and closing ceremonies will be at Wrigley Field, along with art events throughout the city.

Sawyer is aware of the challenges, controversies, and dangers that participants may face at the games.

"Be aware and don't be surprised if Fred Phelps [an anti-gay activist] and the religious right show up to protest; don't be surprised, just ignore them."

Sawyer expressed concern about the unsolved murders of three gay people last year: "I don't want them [athletes from out of town] to go home with someone they don't know, and the next thing you know we get a call from the police saying someone was found dead."

Coupons, from page 2

Young. Offers are only valid at locations listed on the card.

The coupons come at no charge to the students, SGA, or the University, said Young. "This is totally free to us ... we don't pay a dime," which includes everything from the cards to the promotional posters in the halls. "No monies were exchanged at all. That's one of the reasons we're so proud," said Young.

The coupons are sponsored by the Student Savings Club, a national organization, which met with members of the executive board late in the summer of 2004.

Northeastern has received 4,000 cards and can place unlimited additional orders at any time. Orders may take as long as one month to arrive.

Young believes they will run out of the first shift of cards by May. The offers on the card expire August 31, 2006.

However, the Student Savings Club wants to make sure the cards are being distributed, said Young. "They want for us to document the way in which we are distributing them."

The cards are located in 12 different locations on campus, including Beck's Bookstore, the Information Center, Dean of Students office, and the cafeteria.

The Student Savings Club provided the SGA letter templates to send to local merchants. The executive board chose the businesses themselves and mailed them the requests. One business out of 34 declined the offer.

Sponsoring merchants received certificates from the Student Savings Club indicating participation with Northeastern Illinois University.

"It's great to know if you only have a couple of bucks in your pocket you can still have a nice meal to eat," said Young.



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Blood drive turns students away



The American Red Cross Blood Drive was forced to turn people away Thursday, Mar. 31, when they lacked the physical capacity to accept more donors. See "Voice of the Campus" on page 11.

Obama, from page 1

Federal Student Aid) form.

"The amount of money a student receives is contingent on a number of things," explained Jennings. "The number of siblings currently enrolled in college in a student's household, parents' income, student's income, whether they are dependent or independent, are all factors that affect how much money is awarded."

Every year, college tuition prices are increasing at a rate of 10 percent. At Northeastern, tuition will increase as much as 9.6 percent in the coming years.

"In addition to taking a full load of classes, I also work, and it's hard," said Mike Wilson, a senior communications, media, and theater major. "I'm happy someone is finally taking steps to make it

easier to finance a college education."

Obama also said that he would pay for the HOPE Act by closing loopholes that guarantee private lenders and banks an additional two billion in taxpayers' subsidies every year, on top of the interest that college students are paying on their loans. The bill would end the guarantee of a 9.5 percent rate of return that is paid to private lenders in subsidies.

"Grants keep down debt for students. It is important to provide assistance to keep college affordable," said Jennings.

If the bill is passed, the HOPE Act would go into effect in the 2006-2007 school year.

"I know we can work together to get this done and I look forward to doing so," concluded Obama.

Tsunami Army, from page 1

CDs, etc. These donations were used to create a thrift store in Village Square. All the proceeds went to the charity organization.

My Helping Hands Tsunami Relief Fund will benefit the villages of Udavum and Karangal. The organization is a "certified welfare organization with more than two decades of experience," states their website, myhelpinghands.org. The organization says its four key goals of the fund are: "1. Emergency Relief. 2. Residential care. 3. Long-term rehabilitation and 4. Livelihood Rehabilitation."

The NEIU Tsunami Relief Committee is also planning a Karaoke event in April and a citywide art auction, either in April or May.

The donation bins were located in Village Square by the information center. The proceeds will benefit a village in a number of ways. With a collection of \$500, a family can be adopted and they will be provided with medicine, food, clothing, utensils for cooking, and construction of a new home. If \$350 is collected, a new house can be built. With \$250, the initial basic care will be provided for an entire family. For \$200, all of a child's necessary medical and educational assistance will be paid for. Finally, \$100 will provide basic medicine, food, and clothing.

The NEIU Tsunami Relief Committee is made up of students Robin Matthies, Anne Mothkovich, Angela Vidal-Rodriguez, Dennis Sagel, as well as Dean of Students Michael Kelly and others.

Hotel Rwanda audience teary eyed and silent after screening

by J. Louis Bracich
Business Manager

Though there were plans for further discussion on *Hotel Rwanda* after it ended, once the last of the ending titles stopped, the room fell silent. Indeed, it appeared that no one was quite the same after watching *Hotel Rwanda*.

On Friday, April 1, students had the opportunity to see and discuss the Academy Award-winning film, which is based on actual events that took place in and around the Hotel Mille Collines in Rwanda during a conflict between ethnic Hutus and Tutsis in which over a million people were brutally murdered. The movie revolves around the life of the hotel manager, Paul Rusesabagina, who saved over a thousand refugees.

This powerful film was shown to highlight the current plight in Darfur, a region of Sudan. After the film, Robin Matthies of the Student Union talked about the upcoming event dealing with Sudan.

"My hope [is] that it will bring a sense of connectivity and awareness with the rest of humanity," said Marylene Whitehead, one of the audience members and advisor to the Black Heritage Gospel Choir.

In several cases, students (and in one case, an administrator) appeared teary eyed after the screening.

As people were slowly leaving the Golden Eagles room after the screening, there was talk by some students about raising awareness about Sudan.

The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated and the Student Union sponsored the event.

Caribe in concert

by Dorian Barrios
Photo Editor

Caribe, the Latin Jazz ensemble, and the NEIU percussion ensemble performed for an intimate crowd of several dozen in the auditorium on April 6. The performance lasted close to an hour and featured plenty of ensemble pieces as well as many solos.

An added treat to attendees was a piece performed by Dr. Brian Torosian, professor of music and dance at Northeastern, which was accompanied by a dancer.

The Latin Jazz ensemble and the NEIU percussion ensemble had the opportunity to perform independently, but the crowd particularly enjoyed the joint effort between the groups.

The mellow performance was appreciated by the attendees and provided some uncommon midweek entertainment for the NEIU community.



An intimate crowd saw Latin Jazz guitar.

C.H.A.N.G.E.

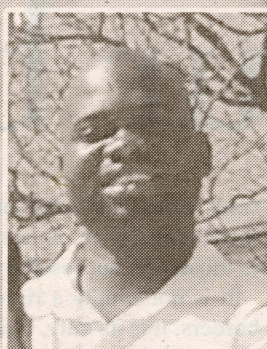
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This is a coalition of NEIU students looking to make a difference for you!

Editorial

A call for SGA reform

It's April and spring is in the air, but so is the stench of politics. Twice a year, they swarm together and cause a ruckus. Though the faces may change, there are still the usual suspects. They're all here: would-be politicians, opportunists, naive idealists, and that weird kid who couldn't find any other club to join.

As of this issue, the speculation is that there will be as many as four candidates to choose from for Student Government Association (SGA) president. It won't matter who wins for there is much work to be done to get this SGA back on track for whoever comes out on top. The SGA has been so compromised, were it a country, the UN would have declared it a failed state many times over.

Time after time, the SGA has failed to meet even its basic requirements. How many times must students endure cancelled meetings at the cost of other student organizations? The March 17 and February 15 meetings, just to name a couple, could not meet quorum. Either introduce more flexible quorum requirements or more stringent attendance policies.

How many times must student monies go to pay an SGA leadership that has shown a lack of fiscal responsibility? The Senate Finance Committee on January 25 reported that its Event-by-Event Fund, which begins with approximately \$60,000, had been basically depleted. (See 2/8/05, 2/22/05, 3/8/05 and 3/29/05 issues for more details on these stories.)

SGA reform is necessary now more than ever. Conflicts of interest, such as Chief Justice Gary Gaspard presiding over SGA President Kendra Young's recent trial, despite their political relationship (both are members of the Vision Party and in the 2003 election they ran on the same ticket), and having members of the SGA serve on two committees whose functions clash. Often, those who make requests for funding to the SGA are the same people who are in charge of funding approval.

Executives in the SGA should not be permitted to be executives in other organizations, like the Northeastern Programming Board. This would also help reach quorum for often these groups schedule meetings for the same hour, causing conflicts for double dippers.

Fiscal reform is another issue. Every meeting does not have to be a catered event. This paper is calling for the SGA to establish the position of Treasurer. It is now clear that an executive position for bookkeeping must be separate from the other executive positions.

Proper representation of all students is a must. In the past, only lip service and ethnic and racial tokens were given to the idea of diversity. There is a race problem in this country, and the SGA should not make a mockery of the situation for the sake of appearances.

On a final note, the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) and El Centro are a part of this institution. Do not only visit this campus when gathering votes during election time, hold meetings there as well. Listen to their concerns, which until now has mainly been voiced through letters to the editor in this paper from CCICS students. For too long our sister campuses have been neglected. If you feel that this is an inconvenience, then perhaps candidates should not inconvenience these students for their votes.

Drawing board by A. R. Lopez and Tom Robb



Contempt of the court

by Tom Robb
News Editor

Judge Joan Lefkow's husband and mother were killed by Bart Ross, a man who held a grudge against Lefkow because she ruled against him in a medical malpractice suit. Ross blamed Lefkow personally for her judgment.

Similarly, white supremacist Matt Hale tried to kill Lefkow because she upheld and enforced an appellate court's ruling. In Alabama, an accused rapist killed a judge that was going to hear his case.

How has it become permissible to cross the line and blame judges who make rulings? Maybe it is because blaming "activist" judges has become a convenient way to play politics in some circles.

When the Massachusetts Supreme Court legalized gay marriage, President Bush rallied against what he called "activist judges" who make laws from the bench. This made his base on the religious right happy, but it had a disturbing side effect; it created a contempt for the court system and the role of the judiciary branch.

When years upon years of court cases finally resulted in a court removing Terry Schiavo's feeding tube, Congress met at midnight on a Friday and passed a law requiring another hearing. Did Congress and the President know something the courts did not? Or was

it politics—the Republicans sacrificing the separation of powers to appeal to the "right to life" conservative base?

Thomas P. Robb, my father, knew the late Michael Lefkow for 20 years. He was called to Joan Lefkow's side the night she discovered her husband and mother were slain.

"The politicians have reduced the Judicial Branch from an equal branch of government. With their statements to remove activist judges they make it permissible to target a judge. Every time a politician makes a sweeping negative statement about the roll of judges, that politician is pulling the trigger on my best friend," said Robb.

The U.S. Constitution does not speak of political parties, but it does speak of checks and balances—of three EQUAL branches. There are those who try to subvert these checks by using tests on issues like abortion or even having Congress threatening to lessen funding for the courts. These people should be ashamed because they show contempt for the democratic system that has stood for over 200 years.

Most judges are not "whack job ideologues" or rabid activists. They are quiet, thoughtful somber people who hear all arguments and make thoughtful rulings like Judge Joan Lefkow. They do not deserve to be scapegoats or targets.

Act now and control our borders

by John Tait
Staff Writer

Congressman Tom Tancredo, chairman of the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus, estimates that 18 million alien invaders have successfully passed through our southern border. The Minutemen Project, composed of roughly 1,000 patriots, has gathered along the Arizona-Mexico border in an attempt to assist our insufficient border patrol agency.

In March, President Bush met with the current leaders of our neighbors to both the North and South. When questioned about the Minutemen, Bush said, "I'm against vigilantes in the United States of America. I'm for enforcing the law in a rational way."

Mexico President Vicente Fox stated, "We totally reject the idea of these migrant-hunting groups. We will use the law, international law and even U.S. law to make sure that these types of groups, which are a minority... will not have any opportunity to progress."

Don't worry Vicente; just think of them as undocumented border patrol agents.

The Mexican government published a 32-page comic

book, which aids in the survival and success of those invading the United States. In addition to this act of war, Fox refers to those who successfully break into America as heroes.

It is not simply a right of our government to protect its borders, it is its duty. President Bush refuses to act, despite criminal acts committed against Americans. According to the Federal Bureau of Prisoners, 16 percent of all inmates are illegal invaders.

Illegal immigration has allowed for a transformation in America in which our rights gradually erode. For example, in Colorado hundreds of Mexicans blocked a legal parade honoring Christopher Columbus. His discovery, which makes him a hero to millions of Americans, was the first step in the creation of the United States. However, American citizens were stripped of their First Amendment right to honor Columbus.

Contrary to popular belief, America did not allow just

anyone willing to make the voyage across the Atlantic a citizen. A restrictive immigration policy was in place. Those who were a threat to American citizens were not free to stay, and justly so. Potential immigrants were tested for various

diseases. Those who were disease free stayed. The diseased ridden were sent back. It was the duty of our government to protect American citizens, and they did. The consequences of Bush's decisions are remarkably similar to those of British Statesman Neville Chamberlain's at the Munich Agreement in 1938 with Hitler. Chamberlain's refusal to confront aggression led to the death of almost 400,000 British in the ensuing war with the Nazis.

In America today, thousands every year suffer from Bush's refusal to act. Both men believed they were ensuring peace between involved nations while only at the detriment of the people they were supposed to protect.

It was imperative for England to have a great leader to solve the problems caused by appeasement. We must now wait for our Winston Churchill.

Forcing kids to eat healthy

by Andrew Valkanas
Senior Staff Writer

The U.S. has several phenomena that are unique in world history. Two are particularly troubling.

First, according to controversial research by S. Jay Olshansky, a longevity researcher at the University of Illinois at Chicago, our average life spans are now shrinking, thanks to our collectively growing guts. Lifestyle is overtaking medicine.

Second, the U.S. has fat poor people. Historically, this did not happen. Poor people lacked the means to get food rich enough to enlarge them. Now, though, 99-cent shooters of grease are the only foods available to those in poverty, be it a bag of chips or an order of fries.

In an attempt to halt the trend, the research institute, founded by the author of the South Beach Diet, is experimenting with kids in six schools in the Orlando area. He's not putting them on his radical weight loss scheme. Rather, he's putting healthier foods in the schools' cafeterias. For example, instead of pancakes and sugar-encrusted cereals, the kids get whole-wheat toast, fruit, and cheese for breakfast.

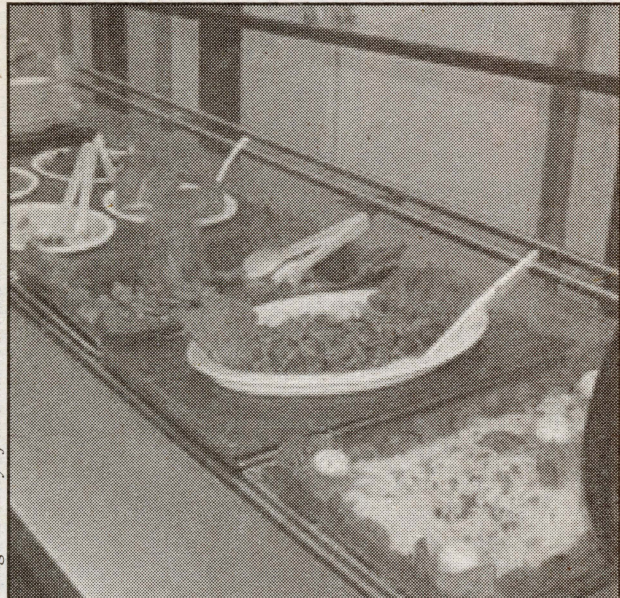
Principal Holly Willis of Mill Creek Elementary School in Kissimmee, Florida said in a CBS interview, "It is based on high fiber and low carb, and ... watching sugar."

These kids get the best meal of the day at school. At this school, 65 percent of the students receive free or reduced-cost lunches. But does the eating habit spread to the home?

The big question is whether the kids can cajole their folks to forgo the fried chicken and splurge on salads instead. The parents may not have the wherewithal to pull that off. Whatever's on sale or a cheap frozen dinner may be what's for dinner.

The program is a good idea, though. If these kids can be taught what makes a proper weight loss plan, they ironically will be bad customers for fad diets like the South Beach.

In addition, dieting won't be so hard or as necessary. Let's face it, eating healthy is hard. Everyone has a favorite food and there's a lot of inertia holding most people back from doing what needs to be done. Learning how to eat as a kid makes it less likely that, as an adult, one will be super sized.



Teach kids to eat healthy when they are young.

The Constitution is godless

by Andrew Valkanas
Senior Staff Writer

Former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore said in an interview with CNN, "Without acknowledgement of God, we have no justice system, according to the Constitution."

Last time I checked (two minutes ago), God doesn't have a cameo in the U.S. Constitution ("We the People" supposedly came up with the idea). However, there's no shortage of people who think that the Ten Commandments and the U.S. Constitution are somehow related.

Let's compare the two. The Ten Commandments break down into two major sections. Regardless of your interpretation—because as a Jew, a Catholic, a Protestant, or a non-believer, your view on what the commandments is different—it breaks down into "the stuff about God" and "the stuff about people." The U.S. Constitution can also be interpreted, but unlike the Commandments, the text doesn't change because of someone's reading of the document.

The second portion of the Ten Commandments has next to nothing to do with the U.S. Constitution. It says, in short, don't lie, don't steal, don't cheat on your spouse, don't murder,

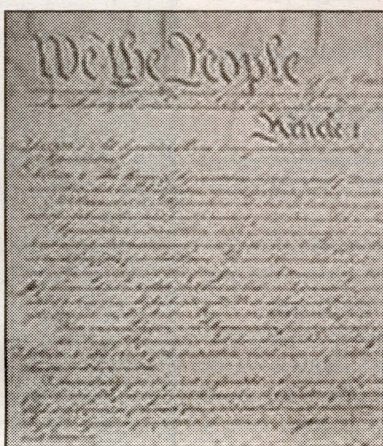
don't desire, don't think about doing these things, and respect authority. The closest the Constitution gets to copying these prohibitions is punishing treason, bribery, and "high crimes and misdemeanors."

The first part of the Ten Commandments relates to God, and the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution deals with Him, too. Simply put, the First Amendment says that worship isn't a part of the deal when you're dealing with the country on an official level.

fundamentalist doctrine coming out of Calvinism.

Calvin's theology says we're all damned unless God chose us before time began. We're basically evil, and you don't know if you're saved unless you show signs of salvation. Signs like defending the faith and suffering for it.

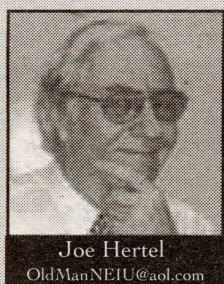
We're dealing with people determined to impose their brand of religion on the rest of society. These people want to change the basic rules of society, by pressing their read of the Ten Commandments onto the backend of the Constitution.



images courtesy of hist.umn.edu and sculpturegallery.com



So what's the deal with a surge in these defenders of the Commandments? These people tend to share two characteristics, one minor and one major. The minor characteristic is that they tend to be white. The major characteristic is their brand of religion, specifically the



Joe Hertel
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Old Man on Campus

Looking war in the face

The current number of those who have died in the Iraq war is close to 1,550. What we seldom hear on the news is that the wounded list tops 11,764. Let's look at that number again: 11,764. This does not include the inordinate number (9,524) in the Army alone who have been ill enough to be evacuated from Iraq due to "disease."

Up until the Viet Nam war, field extraction of wounded personnel was difficult and, therefore, mortality lists were higher. During the Viet Nam war, "dustoffs," as they were called, allowed helicopters to enter into a hot zone and remove wounded personnel to evacuation hospitals where they were quickly treated. In many cases, they were shipped to major rehab centers in places like Japan. Wounds, which formerly would have been lethal, could now be treated in time, avoiding death.

Soldiers who would have normally died from their wounds on the battlefield were now saved through these evacuation methods, thereby reducing the number of those killed in action, while increasing the number of those surviving critical wounds.

Hospitals throughout the United States house severely disabled veterans (who would have died in earlier wars) who will

spend the rest of their days in a hospital ward with severed spines, multiple missing limbs, and severe brain traumas.

The current war in Iraq reflects the advancement made in protecting troops from mortal wounds. Although soldiers' bodies are mostly protected from exploding mines and rockets, limbs and appendages are still vulnerable to wounding and separation from the rest of the body. Especially high, in this war, are head and brain injuries.

An article for the Army News Service, stated that among the 105 casualties assessed at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center between June and October of 2003, "doctors discovered about two-thirds, or 67 percent, to have brain injuries," according to Dr. Laurie Ryan, assistant director for research. This is much higher than the norm of 20 percent that was expected, according to Louis French, assistant director for clinical services at the brain center at Reed.

One of the reasons cited for head and brain injuries is the Kevlar helmet that does little to protect soldiers from concussive impact, and that roadside bombs exploding upward under the helmet causing the head to ring like a clapper in a bell.

While touting the fact that our death toll in Iraq is minimal, we are not being told about the devastatingly wounded. We are unaware of the thousands of men and women who are returning to their homes limbless, brain dead, immobile, and unable to lead a productive life

or any life whatsoever.

Although the Terri Schiavo case has brought national attention to one brain damaged individual on life support and the heart wrenching decision faced by her husband and family, we have not been made aware of the scores of "vegetative state" casualties from Iraq who are returned to their families who are then faced with the same decision countless times over.

This practice, subject to review by the military after feedback from families, according to the *Washington Post*, "assumes that loved ones will find value in holding the soldier's hand before confronting the decision to remove life support."

Over 21,000 young men and women currently bear the scars of war. We should not only mourn for those who have died, but also for those thousands, yes, thousands, who are returned to us with parts missing, minds gone, and lives shattered.

These figures also do not include the hidden mental trauma each one of these brave men and women have endured while serving in Iraq. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, prevalent among Viet Nam war veterans, will also be a major factor in the treatment of returning combatants, maybe not now, but definitely in the not so distant future.

Advanced technology keeps our soldiers from dying, but don't be fooled. The horrendous cost of war is not just the body count, but the terrible, life-altering wounds inflicted on the



drawing by Cecilia Carboni

human body, making a large percentage of those returning wounded, saved by improved methods in armor and medicine, and kept alive by feeding and breathing tubes, better off dead.

Sources: Operation Iraqi Freedom: U.S. casualties, www.globalsecurity.org; Karl Vick, The Lasting Wounds of War, WashingtonPost.com, April 27, 2004; Spc. Chuck Wagner, Brain Injuries High Among Iraq Casualties, Army News Service, www.4army.mil, November 24, 2003; Gregg Zoroya, Key Iraq Wound: Brain Trauma, USA Today, www.opendemocracy.net/forums, March 4, 2005.

Letter Bag

Dear Editor,

Regarding John Tait's article ("Minimum wage limits the freedom of business") in the March 29 edition of the *Independent*:

If an extraordinary climate change occurred that would provide a balance, I might be supportive of an anti-minimum wage proposal. The free-market zealots, however, don't want to encourage a balance to freedom. I'm referring to the honored tradition of peaceably assembling to redress grievance—to form and maintain unions in the workplace to freely negotiate the terms and conditions of employment. How come the anti-minimum wage people, in the name of minimum government interference in the marketplace, don't jump on this same bandwagon against the failure of the government to protect this freedom to unionize?

For example: the Taft-Harley law permits states to pass laws forbidding two parties to a labor agreement to freely enter into an agreement ensuring union security. Isn't this an example of state government interference of business and labor to negotiate freely? Isn't this a case of government interfering in the market bargaining process?

Another example is the arduous path to forming a union in the workplace. Employers are free to fire anyone suspected of union organizing, even though the law says differently. If caught, a slap on the wrist of no consequence is applied to the employer. If someone gets fired for organizing and sues under the law—a process than can take years—all they are entitled to is to be "made whole." Any income they had during those years is deducted from what the company must pay. Very few workers can maintain a no-income status for years awaiting an uncertain outcome. Rent and groceries are important.

In Canada, a simple majority of employees need only

sign a card requesting union certification. In the U.S., even if an overwhelming majority indicates this preference, the employer may still stall—for years—requesting an election, protesting unit verification, and other legal maneuvers to forestall union recognition.

Should the employees finally prevail, the employer can further undermine the bargaining process by refusing to agree to a contract. Simply requiring mandatory binding arbitration after the failure to reach an agreement within a certain period would shut off this avenue of union avoidance.

The individual alone is powerless in the face of giant corporations whose only concern is the bottom line. Wal-Mart was willing to close a very profitable store rather than face the prospect of having to negotiate with a collective. Imagine the fear and trembling this produced amongst all the other Wal-Mart employees. Yet corporations are free to engage in this unethical practice. The individual must still come up with the rent and grocery money. "If you don't like the job, quit," is the mantra of these free marketers. But it isn't that easy. Years ago, the United States Supreme Court ruled that labor, unlike other market commodities, was not fungible: being of such a nature that one part or quantity may be replaced by another equal part or quantity. Hence, labor was exempt from the anti-monopolists bills passed previously.

Mr. Tait states that "The minimum wage is an act which limits the freedoms that every American should enjoy." By the nature of the legal burdens placed on labor unions, we have imposed limits on the freedom of association guaranteed as well. Would he and his associates be willing to work for these freedoms as well?

When workers are free to choose their associates and to bargain collectively, not individually, then we might consider the freedom to abolish the minimum wage.

Robert Kastigar

Regarding John Tait

Letter Bag

Dear Editor,

After I read the comment left by Gimbu Kali (letter in March 29 issue), I said to myself: "What a joke." Mr Kali, you were so upset about Tait calling Jesse Jackson, Farrakhan, and others of the same ilk racist? You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out these men are as racist towards white people as any white supremacist would be towards a black person, and you know it, Mr Kali. It is just much easier to say otherwise if you are on their side.

Here are some prime examples of their racism. Wasn't it Jackson who referred to Jews as "Hymies" and to New York City as "Hymietown?" Wasn't it Farrakhan who called Jews "bloodsuckers," and justified that remark by saying that they "suck the life from you to sustain their life?" Who also came up with the following gem, "The Jews don't like Farrakhan, so they call me Hitler. Well, that's a good name. Hitler was a very great man." Also, didn't he say, "It is an act of mercy to white people that we end your world."

Response to letter on racism

Being Jewish and white, I can assure you I find those comments pretty racist and offensive.

What about Cynthia McKinney, the woman who, if white and a male, could pass for David Duke? It seems like you yourself have a pretty big tooth against white people. My advice: "get over it." What about all these white people who died defending your ancestors from slavery? There is a vast percentage of white people in this country who came from other countries and their ancestors have never even seen a black person in their life, let alone enslaved or persecuted them. I guess mine were too busy getting roasted in the ovens and getting poisoned.

Finally, your own quote: "America needs to be crystal clear that the thinking of people like John Tait is one of the primary reasons that September 11th occurred." No, Mr Kali, it occurred because there is someone out there who hates the freedoms and choices we have. Another 9/11 HAS NOT occurred because we decided to combat that someone.

Natalia M.

Letter Bag

Dear Editor,

As a student at Northeastern Illinois University-CCICS (Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies), I feel obligated to say something to ensure some sense of change for myself as well as my classmates. Here at CCICS, many of us feel inconvenienced by the minimum amount of services rendered here. As a functioning branch of the "Main Campus," why must we be burdened with having to conduct all business on the "Main Campus?"

To begin with, sure, we have a financial aid office, but unfortunately, it is not equipped with all the necessary equipment to assist us. Is it because our staff is not deserving of sufficient materials to serve students yearning for education? Next, the process of registration is quite simple, especially for those persons on the "Main Campus;" all they need to do is go

to the registration office before or after class. But what about us, the students at CCICS, who have to deal with the hassles of just trying to make it to register on time, that is only after our paperwork has mysteriously been misplaced.

Finally, the array of classes offered here are too often the same in each semester. When the schedule of classes is printed out for the respective semester, I tend to look for classes here at CCICS that will assist me in the completion of my major, especially my general education courses. But how can I meet these requirements for my major if the same classes are going to be offered and I can't get the other classes that are necessary.

In closing, we, the students at CCICS, only ask that we be offered some type of equality when we need specific services rendered.

Jenelle Ross

CCICS is NEIU too

Letter Bag

Dear Editor,

Until last week, thousands of blank dog tags hung from a commemorative display, remembering the soldiers whose lives were lost in U.S. wars in Iraq and elsewhere. Over the course of several months, money, effort and time was invested by members of the NEIU community to construct a memorial space, including a peace garden to be cultivated outside the Cafeteria. The space was designed not only to allow students to display original art work, but also as a reflective refuge focusing on the human costs of the War both at home and abroad. Recently, these plans have hit an unexpected roadblock. The members of NEIU Students Against the War feel it is crucial for our university's community to show their support for the peace garden project.

As a diverse and working class campus, NEIU has long been a prime target for military recruitment. Recruiters are allowed to come to campus to tell lies and half-truths in effort

to convince students to be shipped across the planet to fight and die in an unjust, immoral war for oil and empire. In short, the dog tags previously displayed commemorates students like us; they are a symbol of what can happen to students who feel forced to turn to the military for financial aid. Meanwhile, tuition at universities across the state continues to rise to offset the costs of ongoing wars from Iraq and Afghanistan.

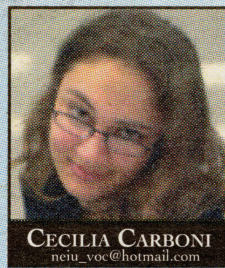
The construction of a peace garden on our campus is just one way members of the NEIU community can show the strength of its antiwar majority. By supporting the peace garden project, we begin to take a stand for bringing the troops home now, ending military recruitment on campus and demanding money for education, not for occupation. Look for petitions in support of the of the peace garden at our next table, and join the NEIU antiwar movement. For more information, contact us at NEIU-anti-war@yahoo.com.

NEIU Students Against the War

Give peace a chance

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

Bloody Dancing



CECILIA CARBONI
neiu_voc@hotmail.com

"No, I don't remember having sex with anyone from Tanzania in the last six months. I expressively waited ... it was when I got my Winnie the Pooh tattoo last month ... with that prostitute; it was my birthday, you know! ... So how much blood are you guys going to be taking?"

I'd love to overhear that while at a blood drive, but, alas, to no avail. They would have undoubtedly been turned away, as I have for lesser offenses, such as not meeting the levels of iron required.

The last blood drive at Northeastern rejected a lot of our students before they even sat down to the screening process. Apparently understaffed and short on space, what should have been a bloodier affair than last year, turned out to be somewhat of a disappointment for some, and it was not for the lack of student enthusiasm.

Students were arriving in large quantities, only to be told that they would only be seen with appointments, many of which had been filled by the early part of the day. If you had gone at 2:00, you might not have found an opening for another two or three hours. Consequently, only approximately 70 students were actually able to donate. The event truly could have been further exploited.

I can understand last year's problem. They were looking at the number of students who walked in the previous year. Then, they collected only 43 pints of blood, and last year it went up to 50. But now they knew what to expect.

So who or what put the tourniquet on this Blood Drive's major artery?

Due to last year's shortage, the Red Cross did bring in more nurses, even though it may have seemed like that wasn't the problem. Due to space constrictions, only four students could be seen at a time, considerably cutting down the number of donors in the day.

I spoke to the Nurse in charge, only to be told that the culprit all along was that Alumni Hall hadn't been booked! Yes, it is difficult to hold an event without a place to hold it in. I don't like to shake my head at people I like, but with a smile I must say I'm a little disappointed.

Thus misplaced, they were moved to Golden Eagles at the last minute and was ultimately saved by the trucks brought in by the Red Cross. (Can we call them car-pulses?)

It is unfortunate, however, that an event that obviously holds enough student interest to potentially flourish is constrained by its very organizers.

In a school where the problem always lies in student apathy, I recall a saying I heard a long time ago, which translates badly into, "Why does god give bread to those with no teeth?" Yes, indeed; why is it that the one event that can really impact peoples' lives in a very tangible way is the one affected by such a small detail?

Most of all, I'm worried about students being discouraged by being turned away and not bothering to return in the future. Next time they see the ads in the paper or around school, they might disregard them because why should they take the time to go when they'll be turned away anyway?

A colleague of mine was turned away. What she was told by a volunteer was different than the official story I received: "She [the volunteer] said that the Red Cross did not expect to have so many people come, that is why the Red Cross was understaffed. Besides that, the university screwed up their room reservations, so not only were they understaffed, but they were crammed for room." Regardless of what you want to believe when it comes to the nitty-gritty details, it doesn't seem like an invitation back.

"I wanted that t-shirt," she said with a sigh. Apparently there were shirts with dancing drops of blood being given away to donors. Bloodstained shirts are normally disdained, but I guess that here it was an incentive—maybe it's because they weren't homemade.

All I have to say is give them another chance. I'm hoping next year will be the year that things run smoothly.

Yet, I don't want to make it sound like a disaster. They did get slightly more donors than anticipated, but the point is that we didn't go above and beyond our expectations when we could have easily done so.

And that is the trend at NEIU that I'd like to avoid. Dancing blood drop t-shirts or not.

"Letter to the Editor" Policy

Letters to the Editor must be signed with an address and telephone number for verification. Submission must be approximately 300 words in length or less. Letters are subject to editing for space and style at editor's discretion. The editor reserves the right to omit any work submitted. Published on first-come first-serve basis. Send letters to: *Independent*, E-049, 5500 N. St. Louis, Chicago, IL 60625 Or neiu_independent@yahoo.com

For you D&D fantasy-based fanatics, pg. 14

Sin City heaven for all, pg. 15

REV REV REV
ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

Hotel Rwanda: Humanity has forgotten the world's shame

by J. Louis Bracich
Business Manager

On some placards and walls in Jewish Holocaust remembrance museums and in textbooks written about this dark period are the words "Never forget" inscribed. Yet watching the recent movie, *Hotel Rwanda*, I believe we have forgotten. Today, the horror of genocide is taking place at the birthplace of humanity, Africa. In the film, these atrocities are shown almost in a sequential manner in the country of Rwanda.

The film's true story begins with the ongoing dealings of Paul Rusesabagina, played by Don Cheadle (of *Oceans Eleven* and *Boogie Nights*). Paul is the manager of the popular four-star luxury hotel,

the Hotel Mille Collines.

At first we see that Rusesabagina is at the top of his game with the hotel. Then, almost overnight, things begin to change for the worse. In Rwanda, there are two major ethnic peoples in the nation, Hutus and Tutsi. For much of the nation's history, it was under the colonial control of Germany, and later Belgium, who used the Tutsis to run the country. Following independence, the power began to shift towards the Hutus. This leads us up to the movie, where a Hutu nationalist movement is beginning a pogrom against the Tutsis.

Paul wants nothing to do with politics, as he is a Hutu who has married a Tutsi. His wife, Tatiana, played by Sophie Okonedo (of *Dirty Pretty Things* and *Ace Ventura*), has born him several children.

To the Hutu nationalists, the children, along with all the other Tutsis, are regarded as "cockroaches." Things begin to fall apart following the assassination of the President. The army, along with machete-wielding goon squads, start the slaughter of the Tutsis. Paul comes home from the Hotel Mille Collines to find his family and neighborhood Tutsis hiding in their bedroom.

For most of the remaining movie, we see Paul bargaining for his family and Tutsi neighbors by bribing the various Hutu militias, mainly with cash and booze from the hotel.

The Hotel, where Paul brings those he initially found, soon becomes a Tutsi sanctuary. Every so often, the Hutus would show up, and in a remarkable fashion similar to the way Oskar Schindler dealt with the Nazis in *Schindler's List*, Paul was able to defer any mass slaughter of these new residents at the hotel.

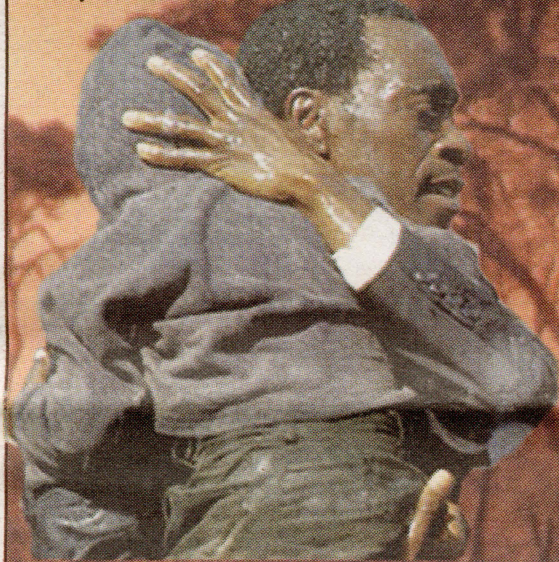
During all this, we see the work of an ongoing Canadian UN Peacekeeping force, led by Colonel

Oliver, played by Nick Nolte (of *48 Hours* and *Hulk*). We find that the UN can't really do much to prevent the brutality because of various regulations placed upon them.

We also see the near apathy of the mass media, from ironically, an American journalist played by Joaquin Phoenix (of *Gladiator*). It seems no country wished to get involved. The U.S. didn't want another "Somalia;" the Europeans (except the French who in some instances were selling weapons to the Hutus) did not want to get involved. One is led to believe the world just didn't care about what was happening in Africa.

I won't divulge the bittersweet ending to you. Please, if you have a chance, see this movie, it will open your eyes. They tell us to never forget, but just as the genocide that took nearly a million lives in Rwanda has ended, we see a similar one happening in southern Sudan.

Hotel Rwanda is one of those films that once the ending credits roll by, you may find tears going down your cheeks. They say that if one does not learn from the past, you will repeat it. For Rwanda's case, and today in Sudan and other spots in Africa, it seems the world hasn't learned a thing.



Get wrapped up in *The Jacket*

by Jonathan Gronli
Production Editor

What would you do if you found out you were going to die in a couple of years? You'd probably try to steer clear of your normal actions or at least moderate them to prolong your life. And what if you found out that you were going to die in a couple of days? The movie *The Jacket* goes to answer this question without relenting.

The main character, John Starks (Adrien Brody), is an amnesiac gulf war veteran. A war injury, a bullet to the head, would've killed him if he wasn't lucky, but it ruined his memory. Since he doesn't remember anything besides what's on his dog tags, when he's sent home from the war, he becomes a drifter. What else can you do when you have absolutely no idea what your past life was even like before getting shot in the head?

He gets framed for murder, and since he is an amnesiac, he

is sentenced to time in the Alpine Grove mental institution where his doctor (Kris Kristofferson) has this odd treatment of pumping his patients full of anti-psychotics and putting them in a morgue drawer that acts as a sensory deprivation chamber. In there he realizes he was framed, but he also somehow heads into the future and discovers when, where, and in vague terms how he is going to die.

The lighting in this dark film of trying to change fate enhances the already emotional experience. Lighting also shows the demeanor of the characters, showing that no matter what you see, there are skeletons in their closet. There's always darkness to see, but as with

reality there is also a glimmer of hope within each character, whether it is recovery or just coming to accept the demons of the past and future.

Camera angles led to a hidden intensity within each character. They bring out the emotions in the actors' and actresses' eyes, posture, and just general being. Everything lies out in the open as everything is concealed as well. You see every character that's nervous,

frightened, depressed or joyful; it is portrayed and depicted well enough that you can feel it down into your blood and bones. It's the sign of truly powerful lighting, acting, camera movement techniques and mise-en-scene (even if it is simple).

The acting in this movie is a marvel to see. The dancing through various genres (romance, thriller, crime, mainly crime and thriller

though) reveals aspects of a character as you would find things out about a real person, no matter how hard they try to hide it. You see love and hate collide. You see past and present with a little bit of the future mixed in, God and Satan (in a sense), sanity and insanity, life and death, and many other aspects of life all collide with each other in a culminating bang that will leave your head spinning, although the ending is a bit of a downer as it dwells on mankind's desire to influence everything inside and outside of their world. In some aspects, failure is unstoppable. Then again it is okay to fail. We are, after all, human.

All in all, *The Jacket* is an incredible movie. It is one of the most visually simplistic yet stunning and all around fulfilling films that came out so far this year.



John Starks races against time to save his own life and save his lover's soul.

Showing our Gratitude

by **Dino Pollard**
Staff Film Critic

Lucky for me I was going to see this concert anyway and had purchased online tickets in advance; it was a disappointment to find that the media passes promised by my editor were cancelled, along with the interview with the band Gratitude. Despite the lack of free tickets and bonus interview, a good time was still had and is worthy of report.

Located on Kedzie, the Logan Square Auditorium is not the usual venue you might go to for a concert, at least not a concert headlined by Straylight Run, as well as Minus the Bear, Honorary Title, Gratitude, and Spitalfield. Logan Square Auditorium's classic atmosphere added a nice touch, even though it did not necessarily reflect the music that was playing.

It's difficult to try and classify them all into one category, as all the bands seem to transcend genres. Spitalfield seemed more like the punk-type of music, whereas the other bands, with more mellow tunes, seem to drift more into the indie genre. Spitalfield opened the show, providing fast rhythms to get the crowd going—and it worked.

Gratitude followed Spitalfield, with one of the finer sets of the evening. Whereas Spitalfield's music had a faster pace, Gratitude's music tended to be a bit on the mellow side. However, the band was anything but. From the lead singer to the guitarists to the drummer, they were an extremely energetic group, jumping all around the stage and dancing. The lead singer in particular would come stage and dance with the crowd.

I had heard some of Honorary Title's music prior to the show, so I was a bit disappointed with their set. They were the low point of the evening, and their vocals appeared to be off.

The real stars of the night were the members of Minus the Bear. One of the guitarists especially had me mesmerized by his harmonics, as he switched between them, strumming. They did a great job of combining music technology with musical talent, implementing the use of synthesized music with the classic rock style of guitars and drums.

This is not to say that Straylight Run was without their charm. They definitely earned their place

as the show headliners and there are some talented people in the band—particularly their keyboardist. Her solo songs were sung with great precision, and she has a beautiful voice. The band front man would switch instruments during the show, moving from electric guitar to acoustic to taking over the keyboard, and then back to electric.

Although Minus the Bear was definitely the highlight of the evening, all of the bands did a decent job. Too often these days, people get wrapped up in the music scene or different genres when concerts should simply be fun and entertaining.



A range of music was displayed at Logan Square Auditorium.

image courtesy of gratitudemusic.com

Swords and sorcery still rules imaginations



image courtesy of Wizards of the Coast

This is the area that is in danger of a brutal takeover.

by **Jonathan Gronli**
Production Editor

How many memorable swords and sorcery fantasy-type novels stick in your head? One of them better be the *Lord of the Rings* trilogy; others better be based on the *Dungeons and Dragons* (D&D) campaign based novels and series.

Under the publishing aspect of Wizards of the Coast, the company who currently owns the rights to D&D (which includes the *Greyhawk* world) and Magic the Gathering playing cards, here's a new memorable story. Based on one of the earliest offshoot campaigns of D&D and recent computer game, *The Temple of Elemental Evil* is a chilling novel telling of an attempted aversion of war.

It starts off with the bad guy Hedrack, a mage of an evil deity, trying to figure out how to free a demon in a temple. Next thing you know, you meet the main character, an elfin wizard and his mentor, who are on their way to Hommet, a town near the temple. Sadly, in books like this, when a mentor and his student head off somewhere for a reason not yet known, the mentor always dies in an attack of some sort.

The death of the mentor leads our hero, Shanhaevel, on a quest for revenge, which doubles as a quest to stop open war on the small communities in the surrounding areas of the temple. How does he try to prevent open war? By going up against a conspiracy of a chaotic evil deity's cult. It is a necessary journey into the heart of evil and back to save that which is good. From what? A cult and its monstrous minions that aren't above killing just about everything that is within a 20 mile radius of its way to mold the world in its image (in fact they would probably do it laughing like giddy schoolgirls).

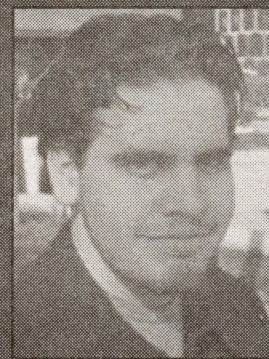
You also meet other characters that just make you fall in love with the story, like Elmo, a drunken axe wielding fool (well, maybe. You have to read to find out whether or not that's true), and Shirral, a half-elf druid apprentice struggling to come to terms with her half-blooded heritage, her limitations because of the ignorance of humans and the arrogant elitism of elves, and to try to understand the growing love between her and Shanhaevel among the rich cast of characters.

The characters lead to something so grand in a story. They seem so out of this world until you read into them, and find you relate to most, if not all, of the characters in one way or another. In fantasy, this is the thing that makes them even more relatable because you see them on their own in peacetime and in war. You see them band together. You see them love. You see them with faults that a normal person would have. Lastly, just when you seem to have understood a character or love them, they slip beyond the mortal coil. You see all of this in *The Temple of Elemental Evil* and more.

If you're looking for a real page-turner with an enthralling story and beautifully developed characters that you'd love—even the villains—this book is perfect for you.

Pollard's icks

Sin City: film noir at its best



Dino Pollard
Staff Film Critic

Film noir, which translates to "black film," was a term given to American crime films by French film critics in the 1940s. In the post-Depression era, during and after World War II, was when film noir first came into popularity as a sub-genre of crime and detective films. Some examples of these films are *Double Indemnity* and *The Maltese Falcon*.

More modern, or post-noir examples include films such as *Chinatown*, *L.A. Confidential*, and *Memento*.

What these films all have in common is the bleak atmosphere. There are dark characters living in dark worlds—the ones who have fallen through the cracks of society. Betrayal, corruption, paranoia, and

just plain old pessimism are common elements found in film noir. No place exists for the white hats in the world of film noir; just gray and black. Hard-boiled characters of questionable morals populate film noir. People with shady backgrounds with dark secrets who will do almost anything to get what they want—and those are the heroes.

So, why the brief history lesson on film noir? Because you're going to need it when you watch *Sin City*, the latest film from writer/director Robert Rodriguez (famous for his work on films such as *El Mariachi*, *Desperado*, and *Once Upon A Time In Mexico*). *Sin City* is an adaptation of three *Sin City* graphic novels, the brainchild of writer/artist Frank Miller.

After a bad experience with Hollywood in the early 90s, Miller refused to allow film adaptations of his creator-owned properties. Rodriguez filmed a short segment, translating a short story from the *Sin City* collection to film, and sent it to Miller. The creator loved it and granted Rodriguez permission to make the film. The segment serves as the film's opening. Rodriguez remained so true to Miller's vision of the stories that he insisted Miller receive a co-director credit, an act that prompted Rodriguez's resignation from the Director's Guild of America.

The story of *Sin City* is set in the fictional Basin City, where corruption and crime rules, and telling the good guys apart from the bad guys becomes extremely difficult. The film is broken up into four different stories all set in Basin City. All the stories are adapted from three of Miller's graphic novels, *The Hard Goodbye*, *The Big Fat Kill*, and *That Yellow Bastard*. Many characters cross over between the different scenes.

One story focuses on Marv (Mickey Rourke), a nearly

unbeatable ex-con who is framed for the death of a hooker named Goldie (Jaime King). In another story, Dwight (Clive Owen) tries to stop the drunk and violent Jackie (Benicio Del Toro) from hurting the hookers who follow Gail (Rosario Dawson). The third and final segment deals with Hartigan (Bruce Willis), a good cop who is framed for raping Nancy Callahan (Jessica Alba) when she was a child.

Sin City is one of the most visually stunning films to come forth from Hollywood in quite some time. The film was shot entirely in front of a green screen (meaning the sets are all digital) with high-definition digital cameras, allowing for a very interesting effect. Much of the artwork in the *Sin City* graphic novels would be nearly impossible to recreate using conventional sets, and the use of digital back lots solves that problem. The novels are also very monochromatic—black and white with the occasional splashes of color. Rodriguez is able to translate this extremely well, with either black and white, or very dull colors. And, just as in the novels, there's a splash of color here and there, such as Dwight's sneakers, the blue eyes of Becky (Alexis Bledel), or the skin tone of the Yellow Bastard (Nick Stahl).

I know we're not very far into 2005, but I can safely say that *Sin City* is the most entertaining and visually stunning film I have seen this year. This is film noir at its best—gritty, violent, and uncompromising. From the characters to the dialogue to the scenarios, the movie is unapologetic all the way through. It grabs you and refuses to let go until the satisfying conclusion—a conclusion that will leave you immensely satisfied.

Latino film fest hits Chicago

by Azucena Beltran
Production Editor

Although it started on a concrete wall in 1985 with 14 films, it now presents more than 100 films at theaters, community centers, and universities throughout Chicago to over 25,000 people. The 21st Chicago Latino Film Festival continues to break borders and language barriers. This yearly cultural event is organized by the International Latino Cultural Center of Chicago and is going on now.

The festival features films from every corner of Latin America, Latino works from Chicano directors and filmmakers, and works from Spain and Portugal. The festival features everything from dramas to comedies, and even animation, to give the opportunity to discover and break through the cultural lines that keep many blind to the outside world beyond the stars and stripes.

Breaking through border seems to be the goal for the festival. This year, it will include two gay and lesbian films from Mexico and Colombia. Musicals, documentaries, and plots based on true stories, the heart of the festival resides within the real life events of many Latinos. A total of 24 women directors are featured in the festival and their efforts are greatly honored, getting sponsorship from Nordstrom.

Gala events include dinner, receptions, and meeting with directors whose films are featured that night. The closing event will feature a Brazilian fiesta with music, food, and cocktails. It will also include a special appearance by Producer Renata de Almeida Magalhães and the 2005 Gloria Lifetime Achievement Award Presentation to Director Carlos Diegues. This will be followed by the screening of their film *Deus é Brasileiro* (*God is Brazilian*).

The films are now showing at Landmark's Century, Facets Cinemateque, and Pipers Alley. All films are shown in Spanish or their original language, unless otherwise noted. For a complete list of films and times, visit www.latinoculturalcenter/filmfest. The festival runs through April 20.



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When sex sells what talent can't

by Jonathan Gronli
Production Editor

Music has come a long way from Bach and Beethoven. Technology has changed with the times. New instruments and techniques have been developed to add to the sound. Bubblegum pop. Ah the glory of ... wait a minute. That's the problem.

Bubblegum pop is a genre based on sex appeal. How is that a step forward? How is bubblegum pop an actual form of music when it comes across more as a fashion? How is bubblegum pop a legitimate form of music when it has released such musical atrocities as the Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears? Why is it that sex sells this cliché without even an original presentation toward this music for the talent-impaired?

First off, music is an effort. The people that are a part of this form of music should stop paying attention to their image and put more of a focus on the music and the lyrics. Currently they treat the music like an unwanted stepchild. A group in the music business, no matter what the genre, should treat their music as a child born of hard work. Born from the blood, sweat, and tears of a group that should support each other through the development of the music.

People: play the music; get into the music, and most importantly, CREATE

THE ACTUAL MUSIC YOURSELVES!

Second, there are no original ideas anymore, only a focus on an original presentation of the music. However, if it weren't for the music, they'd probably be unknown, so they should take much care with the music so they don't come across as some carbon copy. If you want to know what I mean, just look at the hair metal/glam rock bands of the 80s. Some of them were good. Some of them just sounded too much like Def Leppard, Bon Jovi, Poison, White Snake, and Van Halen (Yes, Van Halen formed in the 70s, but their popularity kicked into high gear in the 80s). Why was this? They saw the look and they saw what worked. So they decided to focus on the image and musically became a carbon copy of another band.

New "musicians" and "songwriters," if you want to come up with something original that will last longer instead of being the flavor of the month, at least try to sound different. Your looks aren't going to write these upcoming possible masterpieces for you. You have to do it ... gasp ... well I guess you have to do it on your own. Shucks.

Next off the list are these wannabe pretty boy rockers. You're a wannabe for a reason. You're not good enough to be a rocker even if you can act it. Why? Most of you wouldn't know the first things about rock so you just make it a fashion statement ... like Marilyn Manson with

Goth, only he was good with the music and lyric writing as well. So yet again there are people trying to act like musicians, but rely on their looks and not their talents to make the music.

Why do you have to have sex appeal to become a famous musician? I respect the desire to come out with new music. However, if you just focus on the image, the music will suffer. That's part of the reason why the boy band fad faded and we are left with the dwindling remnants currently. Leave your imagery for art. Leave your music for the art form, hmmm ... yes, now what was it called, oh yes, leave your music for music. This might be a shocking new concept for you, but if you try you'll find it quite easy.

The music industry is in dire straits because sex is what sells the music. People, look into your hearts and do it on your own. Don't rely on others to write while you sit looking pretty. Don't try to come up with new lingo that'll be dead in a month. Try to come up with something that will last a lifetime. Make an impact on someone with something meaningful. Don't make an impact with your looks, which may disappear with age or drug consumption. Don't make an impact hitting more than just

the charts, go for your listeners' hearts and ears. Just play. Don't just press play. Just write and play. Just create. Also, enjoy the craft that you are a part of.

Part 2: A late tribute to the late Dimebag/Diamond Darrell Abbott. We knew ye well, grand axe-slinging rock god.



image courtesy of uk.movies.yahoo.com



"Lost Boys" in art exhibit

by Deborah Goldbaum
Staff Writer

Senior Art student Geoffrey Aldridge is displaying his "Lost Boys" exhibit on the second floor of the Fine Arts building. The exhibit was the artist's senior art thesis. It will run from April 4-16. His exhibit includes both drawing and paintings.

According to Aldridge's profile, he first took "pictures of families in familiar settings: boys who appear effeminate or androgynous." He then "focused on outward appearance and superficiality." He did this by "removing figures and objects from the original context and isolating it on vibrant background." This was meant to "make the viewer create personal associations, presumably about gender roles and expectations."

The focus of his exhibit was "exploring relationships between gender identities and pre-assigned stereotypes and to challenge the perception of appropriateness and boundaries," as detailed in his portfolio.



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A good time at the Goodman

A Chicago landmark

by Elizabeth Rodriguez
Staff Writer

Enter Charlotte von Mahlsdorf, an East German transvestite.

As unlikely as it may seem, such a character is featured in Doug Wright's Pulitzer Prize-winning play, *I Am My Own Wife*, a recent production by Chicago's own Goodman Theatre.

Founded in 1925, the Goodman Theatre was built to honor Chicago playwright Kenneth Sawyer Goodman. It has since changed locations from the stout building on a landfill behind the Art Institute to the state-of-the-art facility located in the lively Chicago theatre district at 170 North Dearborn. The Goodman is internationally recognized as a leading source of innovative theatre and is often a contender in the Tony Awards, which is no small task for a theatre not based in New York.

A jewel of Chicago's pulsing theatre community, the Goodman is a staple of the Chicago experience. Its annual production of *A Christmas Carol*, which began in 1978, is a holiday favorite for people of all ages. Theatrical productions range from classic to contemporary, as evidenced

by recent productions of an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* just this year, and *Finishing the Picture*, the final work of the late Arthur Miller, in 2004.

The Goodman also boasts star power. Former actors to grace its stage include John Malkovich, Christopher Walken, James Earl Jones, and Brian Dennehy, who are only a few stars amongst many. The Goodman not only has a history of superior acting talent, but also of equally excellent work in all theatrical realms. Such work includes premiering the momentous efforts of playwright David Mamet during the 1980s to showcasing the inventive staging of Tony-award-winning director Mary Zimmerman, a current member of the resident artistic staff.

By choosing diverse, groundbreaking productions and employing the absolute crème of the theatrical crop, the Goodman takes the theatergoing experience from the stuffy, soporific chore of yesteryear to an exhilarating, worthwhile encounter with truth and art.



photo courtesy of oak-park-journal.com

From classic to contemporary, the Goodman theater offers prime performances of many fruitful colors.

by Elana Barron
Associate Editor

The Second City, established in 1959, has been a trademark of Chicago, offering entertainment, education, and the ability for every Chicagoan to point to various comedic talent today and say, "He was trained in my hometown."

And for those who make up the past generation, they can point to actors and comedians, such as Bill Murray and John Belushi, and reminisce about the days that they saw them perform for only a couple dollars.

While The Second City was originally "an opportunity to mouth off, and a place to drink coffee with friends," says Donna McCrohan in her book, *The Second City: A Backstage History of Comedy's Hottest Troupe*, it became a revolutionary piece of theater and comedy.

Berni Sahlins, one of the founders, remarked on the innovative style of The Second City: "It's unique in theater history that a group of people from the classical theater applied classical techniques to the popular art forms ... We were Shakespeare actors, we were Brecht directors."

They applied these techniques to comedy and improvisation. This style has been imitated for the past 50 years. As the *Chicago Tribune* once said, "There are few things we find funny that can't be traced back to some Second City source."

The shows range from political satire, such as John F. Kennedy about

to address the Democratic National Convention and realizing he has no clothes on, and his brother, Bobby, telling him, "Never mind. Go out there and show them your boyish charm," to societal satire. No matter the topic, each show offers a fresh and humorous perspective to current events and issues.

Currently playing is the show *Red Scare*, which The Second City calls an "explosive exploration of the country's current political and cultural climate ... examining a collection of the political and societal elements including Republican robots, disgruntled leprechauns, and the sadness of a teacher's paycheck."

While many comedy shows no longer offer free shows, The Second City still offers free improvisational performances after their shows. In these, The Second City members try out new material. While the audience who paid and attended the previous show has first dibs on seats, anyone from off the street is welcome in, as long as seats are available. These free shows are Monday through Thursday at 10:30 p.m., on Saturday at 1:00 a.m., and Sunday at 10:00 p.m.

In addition to providing entertainment, The Second City also offers various training and educational programs. It offers classes on improvisation, writing, and acting. Each eight-week class is \$260. While this may seem expensive, budding comedians should keep in mind that comedic icons, such as Saturday Night Live's greatest, John Candy, Dan Aykroyd, and Tim Meadows; The Daily Show's Stephen Colbert; and The Simpsons' Dan Castellaneta (Homer Simpson), all graduated from the Chicago branch of The Second City.



The Second City

@

Chicago, the home of comedy

For tickets to The Second City, visit their website (secondcity.com) or call (312) 337-3992. They offer numerous shows at a variety of prices, ranging from free shows to \$20. For information on their classes, call (312) 664-3959.

image courtesy of ksu.edu

iPod, iTalk, iRiver, I want

by Dorian Barrios
Staff Writer

It has been over four years since Apple unleashed its iPod to the world. Since then, the iPod has gone on to dominate the portable mp3-player market. The small player, capable of holding anywhere from 5 to 60 gigabytes of music and data, has revolutionized how people incorporate music into their daily lives.

Since its initial release, the iPod has gone through three designs that have continually improved all aspects of the player. There have also been spin-off products, such as the iPod mini, the iPod shuffle, and the latest and greatest iPod Photo, which allows you store pictures and view them in color. There have also been several accessories released that expand the functionality of the iPod.

The Griffin iTalk and Belkin Media Reader are some of the more useful add-ons for the iPod. The iTalk allows you to record audio to your iPod and play it back through a built in speaker. This is a great feature for students and aspiring journalists.

The Media Reader allows the transfers of files from various removable media sources into the iPod in order to free up space on a memory card and continue productivity. This would be useful when out on a photo shoot when free space is needed on a memory card.

The iPod was not the first in the game and it faces stiff

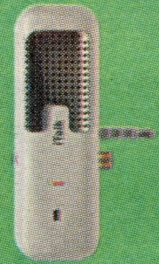
competition from companies that offer greater battery life with more built in features and at lower prices than the iPod. The iRiver has a strong lineup of players, featuring products with built in voice recording and an FM radio. Sony has some great products, such as the Network Walkman, which also features a long battery life and the Sony name.

While the iPod has been constantly improved upon since its release, it is just an mp3 player. Sure you can see your pictures on it, but why would you want to see your pictures on a two-inch screen? The greatest thing to arrive since the iPod is the portable media player that features a screen that is twice as big as the iPod and lets you watch videos, flip through your pictures, as well as listen to your mp3.

The Apple has secured its place in pop culture with the iPod, and there seem to be few serious challengers to its position at the top of the mountain. But just let a competitor come out with a player that has the good looks of the iPod and doesn't scratch so easily, and then the iPod might have a serious challenge on its hand.



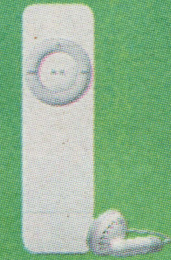
iPod Mini



iTalk

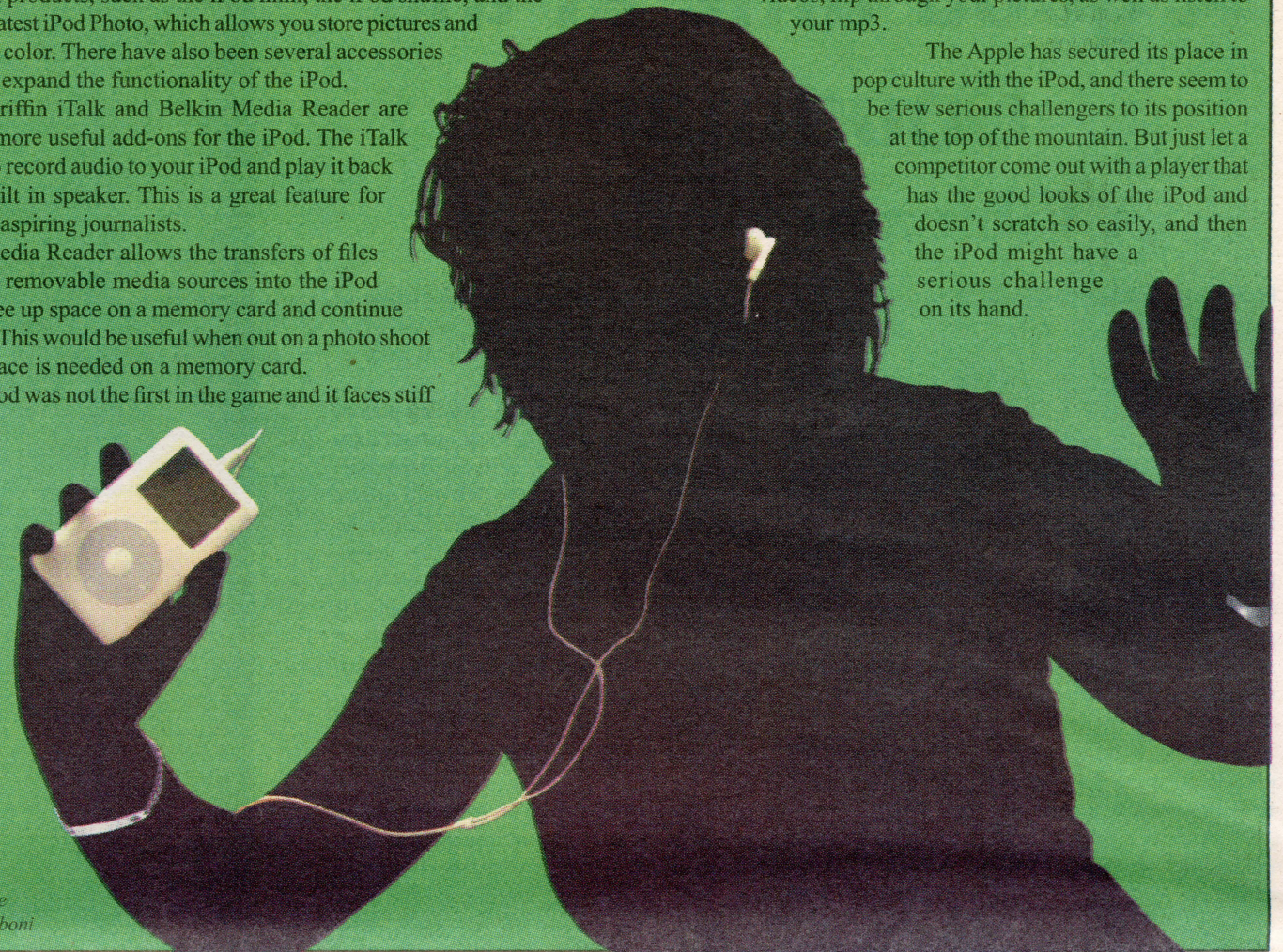


iRiver



iPod Shuffle

graphic concept by Apple
compiled by Cecilia Carboni



Invading cell phone privacy

by Franklin Silencieux
Staff Writer

A troubled friend tells you she has a problem with hackers. You comfort her, but remind her how easy it is for criminals to hack into computers. "Not my PC," she tells you—"they've hacked into my phone!"

Cell phone security has been an issue ever since cell phones became popular in the early '90s. Because cell phones use radio waves, anyone can listen in and/or pick up information stored in the phone. Decades of technical improvements later, we're a lot more secure with our phones. But when a website claimed to have published info hacked off the T-Mobile SideKick of Paris Hilton, the issue of security became relevant once again.

T-Mobile has been dealing with security issues for months, according to Brian McWilliams of *Wired News*. In Hilton's case, someone was able to use her pet's name to gain access to her system. Her information was then posted online: phone numbers, pictures, and email addresses of other two-bit celebrities, including Ashley Olsen, Ashlee Simpson, and Vin Diesel.

This invasion of privacy cannot be dismissed as more Hilton antics. Are there real privacy concerns here?

Companies are concerned about the risk cell phones have. The digital technology (PCS and GSM) offer plenty of security, according to the Chicago Crime Commission (CCC), but hackers forever trail the technology like gremlins, looking for ways to pester, pillage, and plunder any data. The first recorded cell phone virus was discovered a year ago. Businesses are concerned with illegal recording and photo-taking with cell phones. They've invested in "cell phone jammers," says an article in *Wired*, that block service in an area. College professors may want

this for their classrooms.

But jammers are illegal in America. In Europe, it is used, but Europe has its own troubles—guns that look like phones, cell phone stun guns, cell phone detonators for bombs...

What can we individual users do to protect ourselves?

Lock up your phone. Secure your phone with a password and security key (like an answer to a question) no one else will figure out. If it is locked, even if the phone is stolen, your data is secure.

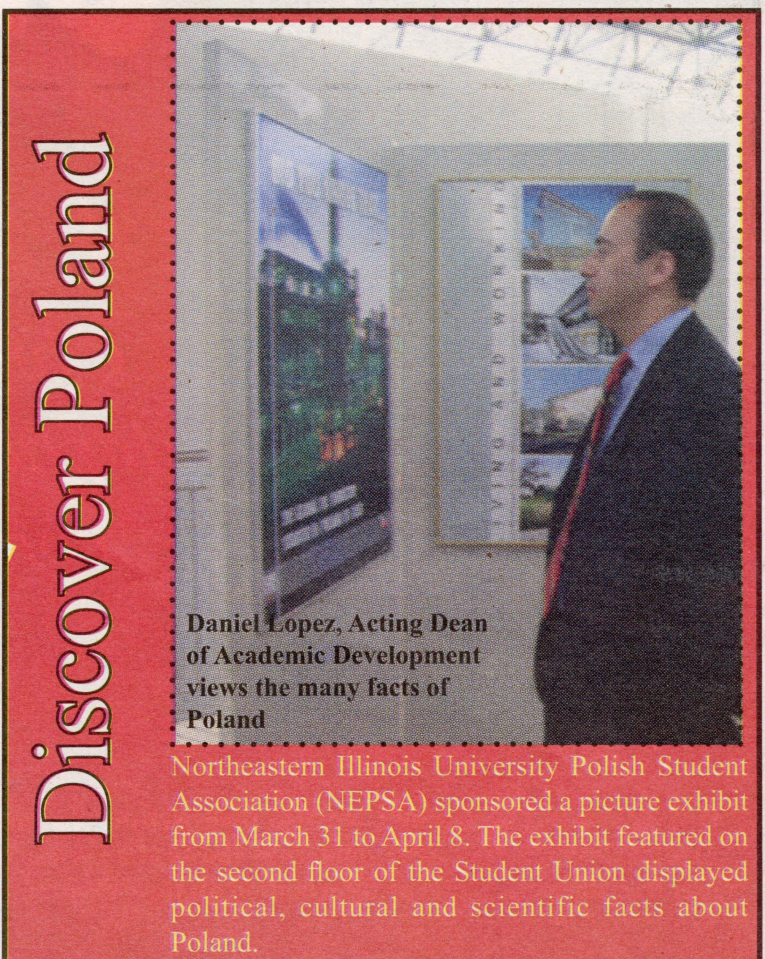
Turn off your phone when you're not using it. Think of a phone as an Internet hook up that is always on. The CCC warns us that the phone is constantly sending out information to radio towers. The data is encrypted (unless you're roaming), but they're still vulnerable to savvy hackers.

Don't be a high-risk celebrity with such a public life that attracts the peeping-tom interest of hackers.

Unfortunately, it's not just celebrities who are targeted. As our phones become more like computers and computers have more access to phones, identity thieves and tech-savvy gremlins are forever looking for ways to take advantage of our hi-tech comforts.



graphic by Cecilia Carboni



Daniel Lopez, Acting Dean of Academic Development views the many facts of Poland

Northeastern Illinois University Polish Student Association (NEPSA) sponsored a picture exhibit from March 31 to April 8. The exhibit featured on the second floor of the Student Union displayed political, cultural and scientific facts about Poland.

A magical trip to New Zealand

Volcanoes, gorges, and glow worms

by **D. Gordon Macnab**
Production Manager

New Zealand is an island country "somewhere in the South Pacific," a quote one might find on T-Shirts throughout the country. It is more than that, though; it is home to the not so cute flightless Kiwi bird, was the stage to Peter Jackson's *Lord of the Rings*, home to Sir Edmund Hillary (first man to summit Mt. Everest and return alive), experienced some of the most destructive volcanic eruptions in history, and was recently called home by Northeastern students for 15 days last March.

From March 11-26, 16 eager students, as part of

the Earth Science class "Volcanism of the Ring of Fire," left Chicago and pointed their sails towards New Zealand. Professor of Earth Science and Graduate Advisor Dr. Karen Bartels, who taught the class, led the trip, along with Professor Jean Hemzacek, professor of Earth Science.

The group of students left Chicago on March 11, but arrived in New Zealand two days later. Okay, now you are probably thinking, "How does that work?" To fly to New Zealand, one must travel 16 hours on two planes, across the International Date Line. (It gets even weirder on the way back.)

The students began running as soon as the plane landed, taking a trip to the Maritime Museum, where they were treated to a "Haka," the Maori traditional battle chant, characterized by grown men making faces and widening

their eyes. It is seen mostly today when rugby teams from New Zealand play.

The class also visited Mt. Rangitoto, an inactive volcano that last erupted 200 years ago. Teetering on a narrow path up a mountain was frightening at first, but the path was quite steady. Staring into a dormant crater of the volcano was scary, but the park's service carefully monitors the volcano, ensuring that no groups are peering down into it when it might erupt, which is a very comforting concept. However, the heat was definitely still a factor.

The next day brought the students a day of luxury as they tramped through a rain forest north of Auckland. They also went to a wine tasting in Kumeu that was close to the rain forest.

The Te Toto Gorge, a valley that opens up into the Tasmanian Sea, was different than anything the students had ever seen. Students looked for Olivine rich xenoliths, a foreign rock that was brought up from the mantle, rocks that are cooled within the lower crust and have been uplifted to the surface. Hiking down to the bottom was very grueling, especially when the students knew they had no choice but to climb back up the Gorge.

After painfully finishing the Te Toto hike, which was quite rewarding, the students went to see Glow Worms—worms that glow when they defecate (stop laughing).

In the next issue, read about Mars-like terrain, big catastrophic eruptions, a White Island that's not white, and other fun things your fellow students saw in New Zealand.



Muriwai Beach, one of the many stops on the trip; a black sand beach with a peppering of the mineral Olivine in the sand.



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CELEBRATION DAY CELEBRATE GLBTA HISTORICAL FIGURES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS.	NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE**	TRANSGENDER DAY
INFO TABLE VILLAGE SQUARE 10AM - 4PM	INFO TABLE VILLAGE SQUARE 10 AM - 4 PM	INFO TABLE VILLAGE SQUARE 10 AM - 4 PM
FILM SCREENINGS (SU 003)	GLBTA CHALK TALK 12 - 2 PM B-WING COURTYARD	PANEL DISCUSSION "My Story" 12:15 - 1:30 PM SU 003
"THE L WORD" 1:40 - 2:40 PM	GLBTA PERFORMANCE PIECE 2 - 3 PM VILLAGE SQUARE	FILM SCREENINGS (SU 003)
AFTER STONEWALL 2:50 - 4:05 PM	FILM SCREENINGS (SU 003)	BOYS DON'T CRY 1:30 - 3:15 PM
BUT I'M A CHEERLEADER 4:15 - 5:40 PM	MA VIE EN ROSE 4:15 - 5:40 PM	NORMAL 4:15 - 5:40 PM
	IT'S ELEMENTARY 6-8 PM	
	NIGHT OF NOISE! CITY WIDE RALLY @ THOMPSON CENTER 6 - 8 PM	

**The national day of silence is a student-led day where those who support making anti-LGBT bias unacceptable take a day-long vow of silence to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment -- in effect, the silencing-- experienced by LGBT students and their allies.

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your friends think
you can hear.)



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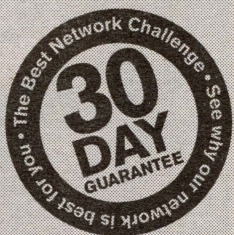
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Homeless in Chicago

A problem that plagues the city, organizations flow to the rescue

by **Violette Green**
Senior Staff Writer

You know the guy selling *Streetwise* or the woman asking for change? Do you ever stop and give them change, buy a paper, or wonder how they ended up out on the streets?

There are many reasons that people end up on the streets, and they find ways to survive. Remember, "homeless" does not necessarily mean living on the streets. There are a number of resources available to them and there are ways people can help.

Homelessness knows no age, race, gender, or familial boundaries. Families, individuals of all ages, couples, and children on their own can be homeless. Military veterans often find themselves on the streets. Some people end up homeless just by circumstance. A divorce, a lost job, or an abusive relationship can leave one in dire straits and homeless.

Many people survive on the streets by grouping together and finding old abandoned buildings to sleep in. Others build themselves lean-tos out of cardboard. Still, many people sleep on park benches, in doorways, and in the public parks. Other people who don't live on the streets sleep on friend's floors, live in cars, or temporarily reside in shelters. Churches sometimes provide food along with the Chicago food depository.

There are a number of resources available to homeless people. The Chicago Department of Human Services funds 125 temporary shelters. There are also a number of other private organizations, such as The Harper House-Center for Street People in Chicago. Cornerstone Community Outreach, another program, is a church mission that provides services to people in need in the Uptown area.

There are ways that people can help the homeless because a number of shelters that need volunteers. It's true that many people do volunteer and help out right around the holidays, but the shelters need help from people all

year round. Donations in the form of money, toys, clothes, and other supplies are always appreciated. Some churches and shelters provide hot meals as well as bag lunches.

Something else that can be done is writing to government officials about low-income housing, shelters, and group homes. For those who feel really ambitious, they can contact a public housing office or Habitat for Humanity and help renovate and/or build low-priced housing.

Homelessness is an issue that affects thousands of people. But it is not a lost cause.



On any given night in Chicago, 15,000 homeless people compete for only 5,000 shelter beds.

image courtesy of howardview.com



Andrea Zelinski
letsgetpersonal_neiu@yahoo.com

He is 38 years old, though he looks more like 28, and is an Assistant Professor of English at the end of what is now his fourth year at NEIU. Brad Greenburg is the Shakespeare connoisseur of the department and has grown quite a fan base.

Though Greenburg teaches the class for his undying love for literature, particularly Shakespeare, some students take him for additional reasons. According to ratemyprofessor.com, Greenburg has the most "hot" ratings than any other at NEIU.

But, I'm not sure he knows that considering he spends so much time with his nose in a book.

When it come to literature, "You have to love it," he said. "You can't just like it. You have to really feel like you can spend your whole life with it."

He continued: "It really is having a lifelong relationship" with literature.

Let's Get Personal

A connoisseur

"Especially its vastness—v-a-s-t," he spelled out. "Its vastness ... How much you never feel like you, even when you've read it all, you really don't feel like you've read it all."

Greenburg has spent a lot of time working on his degrees. Originally studying political philosophy, Greenburg made a switch. "I decided that my lifelong love of literature was crowding everything out," he said coyly. If he was going to get a PhD, he might as well get it in something he loved. "So literature it was. Took a little extra time, but it was worth it," he said, leaning back in his chair. He tilted his head towards the wall, reflecting on this statement.

Although he didn't stick with political philosophy, the teacher that bestowed the greatest impact on him taught political science while he was working on his Bachelor's.

The teacher told him "the key to politics, and also life, is that you have to try everything. You have to take all different kinds of courses and try to experience as many things possible in order to learn anything about those kinds of profound ideas," said Greenburg, paraphrasing this teacher's words.

"Take a writing class," his professor said to him almost 20 years ago. "Take drawing classes, take art classes, take everything you can. Don't just take political classes necessarily."

"I'm a very curious person by nature so that was good for me," Greenburg said. The

professor's lesson "made me a much better student because he let me know it was okay to do that. I think that's really the key."

Though Greenburg is a native of the Hoosier state and initially wanted to be a cowboy—around the time he was playing little league baseball—he's been a resident of many areas, including Georgia, New York, and Toronto, while working on his education. He finally made his way to Chicago in 2001 to work at Northeastern.

"Don't think I'm just saying this," he said, but the happiest day of his life was "the day I found out I got the job here ... I don't want to sound like I'm sucking up," but "I worked towards that goal for so long."

It's obvious that Greenburg enjoys his work at Northeastern. His students enjoy his classes, not just for his dashing good looks, but for a chance to sample his undying enthusiasm for literature.



Greenburg speaks of literature with unbridled enthusiasm.

photo by Azucena Beltran

Golden Opportunities

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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.

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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

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, 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.

Are you a Seventh-day Adventist Christian on campus or know someone who is? Please call Shree at (847) 414-

7159 or E-mail eshree@hotmail.com. Thank you. God Bless.

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.

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Personals

Aunt Jean,

Happy birthday, our issue came out on your birthday. I thought this would be a neat thing to do.

-Duncan

Support the Memorial Garden Project. Sign the petition. For more info contact oldmanneiu@aol.com

-Old Man on Campus

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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AD AS IT IS TO READ:

Side Splitters

Joe Clipart

Day after day.
What's the meaning;
our purpose?

Why are we
here?



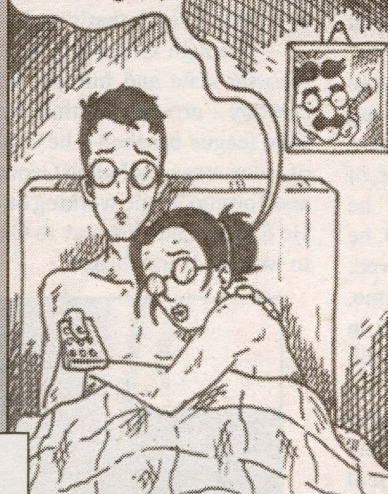
Are you speaking of
life? God? Destiny?

No, I mean eating
in the food court.



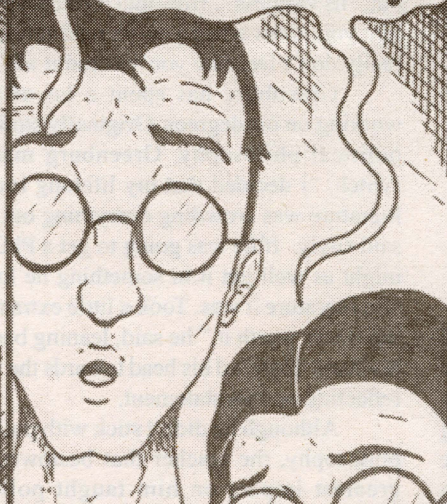
Marxism

What if I told you I'll
never sleep with you
again, if we don't get
married?

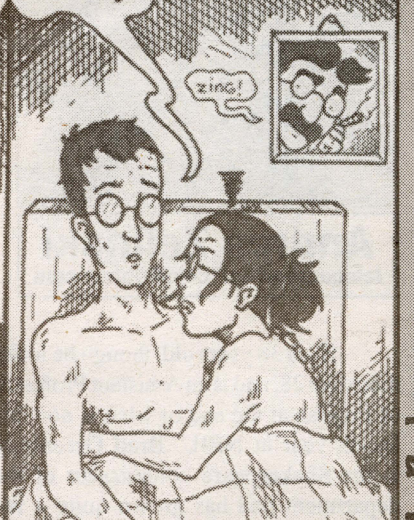


Then I guess I'll have to
start saving up.

For the wedding?

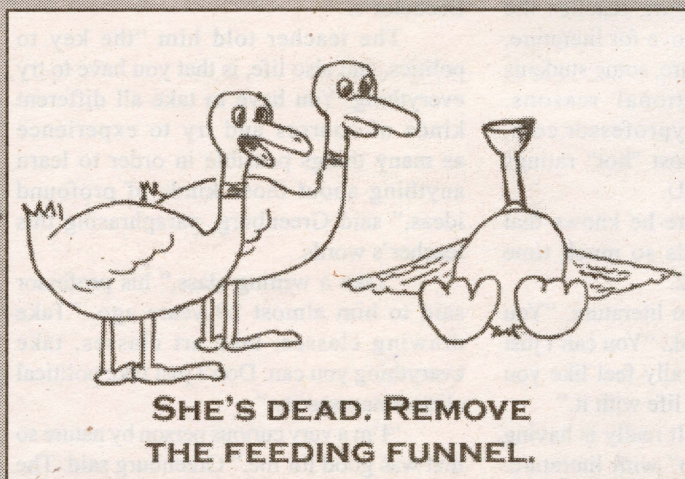


No, for hookers. They
don't come cheap, you
know?



A. R. Lopez

Joe Hertel



Joe Hertel

Around Campus

Events through: Tuesday, April 26th



U.S. hands off Latin America and the Caribbean!

Organized by Youth & Students for a Democratic Foreign Policy. Focuses on the U.S. invasion and occupation of Haiti, counter-revolutionary violence and destabilizing campaign against the constitutional government of Venezuela, direct military presence and counter-insurgency war in Colombia, and the tightened illegal blockade of Cuba. Located in E-050A on Thursday, April 14 at 1:30 p.m.

Legendary Italian Guitarist

The Complete Lute Suites of Bach performed Oscar Ghiglia. Performance also features Anne Waller, Mark Maxwell, and Brian Torosian. Performance date Wednesday, April 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. \$10 for those who are not a part of the NEIU community. Free for NEIU faculty, staff and students with I.D.

The music of Bill Holman

Jazz legend, Bill Holman conducts the Northeastern Illinois University Varsity Big Band Jazz Ensemble. Also featuring the NEIU Jazz Band directed by Mayo Tiana. Thursday, April 21 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium. It's free.

Documentary

Nice Bombs: A Journey Back to Iraq. Filmmaker Usama Alshaibi joins us to share footage from his unfinished documentary on his return to Iraq. Pizza and refreshments will be served. Event will happen on Thursday, April 14 at 1:40 p.m. in CLS 1001

Love Your Body

Presented by Women's Studies and the Feminist Activism Class and co-sponsored by the FMLA. An event to educate and entertain the women of Chicago about their bodies and their well being. Join us for workshops on belly dancing, self defense, rape prevention, women's health, global body image, and much more. The fun begins at 12:00 p.m. on April 19. Bring a friend, it's free!!

The Lovers: The Victims

A documentary on AIDS in Iran. Screening and discussion with Director Mohammad Ehsani. Tuesday, April 12 at 7:00 p.m. in SU-003

Tuesday Talk Series

Learn about NEIU's Participating Grant with the University of Hawaii and Faculty Opportunity to study about Asia participating NEIU faculty. Tuesday, April 19 in SU-215 from 1:40 p.m.-2:50 p.m. Presenters: Dr. Teddy Boffman, Dr. Rasoul Rezvanian, Dr. Najma Adam, Dr. Kyu Young Park, and Dr. Narender Rao. If you need any addition information, contact Alice Pennamon at a-pennamon@neiu.edu

13th Annual business etiquette seminar and dinner

Presented by the Business and Management Club. Saturday, April 16 at 6:00 p.m. It is in the Purple Hotel at 4500 W. Touhy. \$15.00 for NEIU students. \$35.00 for non-NEIU students. Please contact Ms. Lynn Payer at (773) 442-612 or go to her office in CLS 0044A

NEIU Opera Workshop

Presenting *The Magic Flute* by Mozart. Directed by Professor Ronald Combs. Orchestra conducted by R. Shayne Cofer, Chairperson of the department of music Friday, April 15 and Saturday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, April 17 at 2:30 p.m. Auditorium Free to NEIU students, faculty, and staff. \$5.00 general admission.

Chamber singers and chorus

Michael Melton, Director
Haydn and Mozart: Music for Choir, Strings, and Organ
Tuesday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m., Recital Hall
Free

Faculty Recital

Rose Sperrazza, clarinet
with faculty artists Shayne Mizicko, percussion and Mikhail Yanovitsky, piano
Thursday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m., Recital Hall
Free

Senior Recital

Bryan Albert, guitar
Tuesday, April 26 at 7:30 p.m., Recital Hall
Free

Be an informant to the press

Know something that's going on around campus? Let us know. Stop by the Independent office, E-049 or call 442-4577.



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Welcome to

The Cheap Seats

Intramurals and fitness for the Northeastern sports fan

And now there are two

A basketball recap

by Kerubel Gaim
Special Contributor

In the NCAA tournament, many fans have seen their brackets ruined by teams such as Michigan State, West Virginia, and Villanova. But here at Northeastern there hasn't been any big upsets yet.

On March 29, the Killer Biscuits, led by Nipun Patel and Dave Merrill, manhandled the United Assassins. The Biscuits won the game 38 to 18. With that win, the Biscuits advanced to the Final Four.

The Mighty Nutz and Pimpjuice also met that day. This match up had more significance, since both teams were previously undefeated. However, that changed real quickly with the Nutz's tenacious defense and marvelous offense. Wining the game 53 to 32, the Nutz entered the Final Four without breaking a sweat.

On March 31, the undefeated Trojans ran the Bulls off the court. The Bulls started the game with only five players and ended the game with three playing; two Bulls players fouled out. The Trojans won 58 to 49, making them the second undefeated team to advance to the Final Four. The last team to advance to the Final Four was Squad Up. Squad Up defeated Team 39 to 28, even though Team led at the half.

These four teams have a combined record of 19-3. A case can be made for all of them, predicting a championship. They are four greatly skilled teams. Nipun Patel (Killer Biscuits), Dorian Santiago (Mighty

Nutz), and Corey Brown (Squad Up) have already won championships in the coed league when they played together on the Ballsdeep team. Dorian Santiago has the most pressure of the four team captains, since he has previously claimed he is best basketball player in NEIU.

And then there were four...

In the final four match up, The Killer Biscuits played the undefeated Mighty Nutz. This was their second meeting of the season. Their first meeting was a nail biter; Mighty Nutz beat the Biscuits by one point in overtime. At halftime of their Final Four match up, the Biscuits led 35-34. In the second half, the Biscuits had no answer for Omar "The Goat" Sidiqian. His brilliant play helped the Nutz rout the Biscuits 66 to 53. The Biscuits played without veteran sharp shooter Dave Merrill, and Kerubel Gaim didn't play due to the team captain's decision.

The undefeated Trojans played a Squad Up team who believe they are the best. On April 7, Squad Up proved their boasting to be correct, beating the Trojans 48 to 44. Squad Up started the game hot, taking a 15 to 0 lead. However, the Trojans fought back, but ran out of gas at the end. "We will beat the Nutz in the championship game," Squad Up team captains Cornel Buckner and Curtis Atkins declared after beating the Trojans 48 to 44.

Do not miss the exciting championship game, between Squad Up and Mighty Nutz, which will be held in the P.E. Complex on Tuesday, April 12.

Fitness Matters

False ways to weight loss

by Dejan Slavnic
Special Contributor

Everybody is tired of hearing about obesity and the health risks associated with it, but it is an epidemic amongst us. Due to obesity, people are suffering from high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, certain forms of cancer, and low self-esteem. Many of the people will choose diet pills or fad diets as the primary solution for weight loss. The truth is, not many of them work.

If the diet pill is "all natural," it does not go through the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) to get approval. Therefore, the manufacturer may write false information on the label in order to attract buyers. Some diet pills are addictive and many cause insomnia, vomiting, heart arrhythmias, heart attack, stroke, and more. The "magic pill" has not been developed yet; therefore, unless it is prescribed by a physician, a diet pill should not be taken.

In addition to diet pills, fad diets are another option people choose for weight loss. Fad diets are those that guarantee drastic results, such as losing over two pounds a week. Through clever use of marketing and advertising, these diets are made to appeal to people suffering from chronic obesity. Individuals experience great weight loss in the beginning because it is mainly water and lean muscle weight that they are losing instead of fat weight.

Most of the diets have a strict food menu; therefore, after some time people stop following them and end up regaining all the weight they have lost. The best diet is the one that includes a great variety of foods, predominantly whole grains, vegetables, and fruits.

Also, it is important to cut down on high

calorie liquids, like sodas and alcohol.

Losing weight should be a long-term goal. It requires determination and consistency. One should watch his diet by eating well and not missing meals, especially breakfast. Also, the most important factor is exercise. One hour a day of exercise at a moderate intensity—preferably on all days of the week. An individual should do resistance training at least twice a week and aerobic four to seven days a week. It is extremely difficult to keep such a schedule, but once a person adjusts to it, it will become a regular everyday activity, just like going to work or school.

If it is hard to stay motivated, then the person should join one of the group exercise classes at Northeastern. At the P.E. complex there are a variety of activities offered to student without any additional charge. Personal trainers are standing ready to help people achieve their goals. Group exercise classes, ranging from yoga to total body conditioning, are offered six days a week.

There are swimming instructors and intramural sports where everyone can participate. People pay hundreds of dollars for such services at commercial gyms, whereas at NEIU, the cost for all of that is one small campus recreation fee, which is included in the tuition.

All it takes is an effort to reward yourself with a better and healthier lifestyle.

Dejan Slavnic is a personal trainer at Northeastern.

Sources:

U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2003). *The Facts About Weight Loss*. Retrieved on March 6, 2005 from <http://www.fda.gov/>

American Academy of Family Physicians. (2004). *Fad Diets*. Retrieved on March 6, 2005 from <http://familydoctor.org/>



Student Union
SU
Presents...

**Open Mic
Battle of the
Poets (BOP!)**
5-7pm

**April 21, Golden
Eagles**

Share your thoughts
through artistic
expression.



Student Union
Tickets to the Town

**Scheduled Ticket Sales for
Spring 2005**

**Six Flag's Great America
Gurnee Illinois**
Tickets good May 1- August 28, 2005

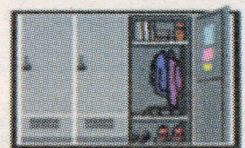
Ticket Prices
\$15 with NEIU Student ID
\$20 with NEIU Alumni or Faculty/Staff ID
(compared to 30.50 for general admission to Six Flag's Great America)

Ticket sales begin
Monday, April 18 for NEIU Students only
Monday, April 25 for Alumni, Faculty and Staff

Limit two tickets per NEIU ID.



**Stop Genocide in
Darfur.**



**Renew Your
Locker!**

**Begins: Monday,
April 18, 2005**
**Ends: Friday,
April 29, 2005**
**Information
Center**
Renewal Fee - \$5

*Renters that do not
renew by April 29 will
forfeit their deposits
and must clear lockers
by April 29 or a \$5
storage fee will be
assessed.*



Event and Dates Subject to Change.
For More Information please contact the
Student Union at (773) 442-6099 or Student-Union@neiu.edu
the Information Center at (773) 442-4290 or Info-Center@neiu.edu.

