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Andrea Zelinski

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

INDEPENDENT

CHICAGO, IL

Wednesday, June 1, 2005

13-TIME 2004 ICPA AWARD WINNER

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Anakin takes a turn for the worse, and our writers argue about it, **Back Page**

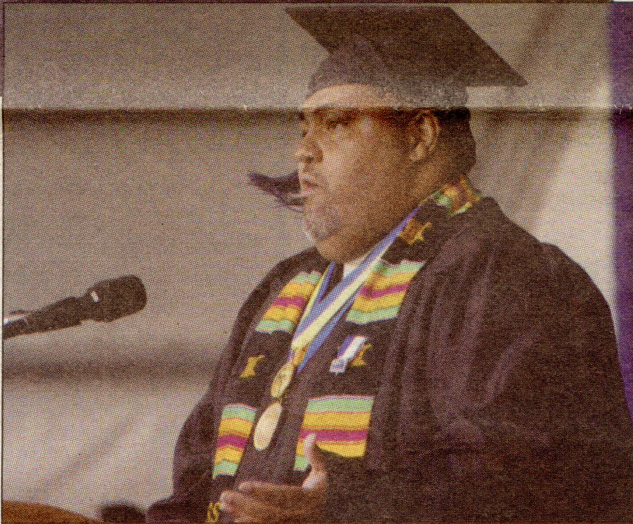
Food folks and the long story of how happy meals are made, **Page 5**

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
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Commencement 2005



NEIU's 2005 graduation ceremony took place on the Athletic Field on Sunday, May 15.



photos courtesy of Joe Davis

No pens allowed

Student confronts Beck's employee about policy

by Tom Robb
News Editor

No pens are allowed in the textbook section of Beck's Bookstore. That was the message given to graduate student Patricia Szewczyk in Beck's on Thursday, May 26.

Szewczyk claimed she was in the textbook section of Beck's copying book titles and prices of textbooks when several Beck's employees informed her she was not allowed to have a pen in that area.

According to both Szewczyk and a Beck's employee who would only identify himself as Tim or T.K., Szewczyk did not immediately comply with the store employees who told her to stop using the pen.

Szewczyk said she requested to see a posted sign stating that no pens are allowed.

Tim stated that after she made this request he hand-wrote a sign on a piece of paper stating that no pens are allowed.

According to Tim, pens are not allowed in the textbook area because Beck's has had problems with damage being done to books.

"I could show you a stack like this from today that was torn out of the shrink wrap ... stuff that was written on," explained Tim.

Tim spoke with the *Independent*

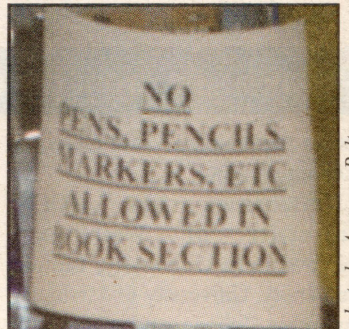


photo by Azucena Beltran

The sign that was posted in Beck's on May 27, after the incident.

and said that there were posted signs regarding the pen policy, and the signs were posted the day following the incident.

Both sides threatened to call Public Safety, but neither did so.

"She was snotty. She had three people from the store come tell her that you know, you can go by the counter, but you can't have the pen. She said, 'yes I can' ... She said 'you have to have a sign,' so we printed her a sign," said Tim.

Szewczyk claimed that by not allowing her to copy book titles and prices, Beck's was not allowing her to effectively comparison shop.

When asked about the use of a notebook, Tim stated "we have too much problem with the damage and theft of stuff; they slip the littler books in their notebooks."

Grade retake policy now in effect

by Patrick O'Brien
Opinions Editor

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Lawrence Frank announced that the Grade Retake Policy is now in effect, in a memo released to the university community on May 23.

The policy, which was originally approved by the Student Government Association (SGA) last fall allows D and F grades to be replaced by a higher grade earned in the course when calculating grade point averages (GPA's).

Grades that were posted for this Spring semester reflect the change in policy.

All grades earned for a course will be shown on the student's transcript, but only the higher grade will be used to calculate GPA.

The policy also states that D and F grades will not be counted as credits earned. This policy applies to all coursework completed by current students, prior to graduation.

Students who repeat a course and receive a grade of C or above will have both grades calculated in the GPA, but only one course will count as credit earned towards graduation and program requirements.

Any questions about the policy change should be directed to Alice Medenwald at extension 4029 or Janice Harring-Hendon at extension 4160.

Bake sale questions affirmative action

Protesters greet College Republicans, accuse them of racism

by Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor

When the College Republicans wanted to sell cookies at different prices based on ethnicity and sex to protest the inequities of affirmative action, they knew it was going to garner attention.

In the most controversial bake sale of the year, the College Republicans set up in Village Square on Thursday, April 28, and displayed their handwritten price list on a poster board.

The prices varied, charging \$1 to Asians, 90 cents to Whites, 75 cents to Hispanics, 50 cents to Blacks, and 30 cents to others. Prices for women were deducted 10 cents.

"I wasn't sure if [the College Republicans] were, you know, joking," said Aimee Dzialo, an Elementary Education student. "I think it was ... very negative, I'm

almost at a loss for words at that."

The College Republicans were met with a different set of protesters who say the club's bake sale enforced racism.

Fueled by the Socialist Club and members of the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered Alliance, their protest included about 16 people with signs.

They chanted, picketed, and protested the bake sale, gathering a small crowd of students who stopped to watch.

"Take your racist cookies and go away," yelled an anti-bake sale protester to one of the customers.

"We know in a way that we're playing in their hand," said Anne Mothkovich, one of the chief organizers of the anti-bake sale protest.

"We're not going to sit around and watch racism happen. It's not an option on this campus."

According to Brian Geier, member of the College Republicans and editor of *The 13 Stripes*, an independent Republican newspaper, the bake sale was an effort "to bring attention to affirmative action to NEIU and other schools in general."

"The reason they're charging whites and Asian Americans the most is [because] they're saying that they're illustrating that fact that they believe affirmative action is unfair ... that Blacks, Latinos, are kinda like getting an unequal benefit," said Mothkovich, a women's studies and history major.

"[The College Republicans] are protesting against affirmative action which I think is greatly needed still in this country until we've achieved equality," said Mothkovich.

The bake sale is "really a copycat idea of stuff that's been going on all

See Bake Sale, page 2

Chicago universities slash tuition, increase enrollment

by Tom Robb
News Editor

Roosevelt and North Park Universities recently slashed tuition rates at their schools. North Park slashed their tuition by one-third and expects enrollment to jump by as much as 20 percent.

Roosevelt has seen an uptake in hours of classes taken by students, according to the *Chicago Sun-Times*, and is now set to compete financially with nearby Columbia College.

Dean of Admissions Mark Olsen of North Park told the *Independent* that the cuts were to reflect the real costs of the school's tuition and that many potential students were intimidated by the \$20,000 price tag.

With aid in the form of scholarship or need-based grants, the cost was

anywhere from \$2000 to \$7000 less than the \$20,000 cost of tuition.

Olsen referred to the cuts as "tuition discounting," and said the intention was to avoid the sticker shock of higher tuition and to reflect the actual costs of tuition after aid packages were distributed.

Olson said that he is now set to compete with state of Illinois schools. "We're at the bottom end (for price) of the privates (schools)."

Olsen said that North Park did a study and found that more students and their families make \$40,000 per year at North Park (28 percent) than at the University of Illinois at Urbana. Nationally, the figure shows that only 17 percent are making less than \$40,000 per year.

Director of Marketing and Communication for Northeastern Terry Bush told the *Independent*

that in spite of the recent tuition increases, Northeastern is still one of the most affordable four-year institutions in Illinois. Bush also said that NEIU has seen steady 11 percent growth over the past four years.

Graduation rates at NEIU are less impressive than the growth of incoming students. The *Chicago Tribune* reported in a May 16 editorial that "a mere 18 percent of students at NEIU graduate within six years," one of the lowest rates in Illinois.

The same article stated that President Salme Steinberg defended NEIU's graduation rates, stating that many of the students at NEIU are graduating, but taking longer to do so. She told the *Tribune* that part-time students take an average of 8.9 years to complete their studies.

First Things First...



Patrick O'Brien
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The money pit

If you've been reading Chicago's newspapers lately, you can't help but wonder if maybe school President Salme Steinberg is losing her fragile grip on reality as she tries to spin all the bad news coming out of NEIU.

NEIU prides itself on its affordability and access, as Steinberg likes to say, but incoming freshman are being smacked with a 28 percent tuition and fees increase, according to the *Chicago Sun Times*. Students who were enrolled before the 2004-05 school year are seeing a 9.6 percent tuition hike.

Steinberg keeps talking about budget cuts, but NEIU increased tuition four times more than Southern Illinois at Edwardsville, another state school that has also faced budget cuts.

And though all the public universities in the state have to adhere to the Truth in Tuition Act, which freezes an incoming student's tuition for four years, only NEIU has decided to approve such a whopping increase in the cost of tuition.

Everyone's budget has been slashed in Illinois higher education. The problem is that Steinberg's behavior suggests that she only pays lip service to fiscal responsibility because her own President's office has more assistants and secretaries than a pop-diva prima donna's entourage.

Walk to the Beehive administration building and take a look at the listing for Steinberg's office. There's an executive assistant, a special assistant, an assistant to the president, four secretaries, a board liaison, and an affirmative action officer.

That's a lot of dead money that could be spent on professors and more courses, which leads us to the second point: nobody leaves here quickly, if they graduate at all. In an editorial published on May 16, the *Chicago Tribune* pointed out that a whopping 18 percent of NEIU students graduate within six years, a record so shameful, it's only topped by one other university in the state.

It's old news here at Northeastern that the leadership is failing us. All we have to do is look at the lack of courses being offered and the way that professors were treated during the strike, when Steinberg thought they would come crawling back like dogs.

The members of this administration that have tried to blame rising tuition and fees on the recent professors strike should take a look at how much money Steinberg spends for personnel in her office. Who needs four secretaries and three assistants?

Steinberg pointed out that our students just take longer to graduate, with most part-timers taking almost nine years to earn a degree.

I know some people who take nine years to graduate. They're called doctors.

With less classes offered, and with tuition and fees increasing exponentially each year, of course people take longer to graduate.

Steinberg's on sabbatical until January, but while she's gone, maybe she can think of some ways to cut the fat in her own office and spend some of that money on the students she's being paid to serve. Maybe I'll ask her secretaries about it.

Bake sale, from page 1

across the country," said Geier, an economics major.

Universities like UCLA, University of Washington, Northwestern University, Indiana University, University of Michigan, Columbia College, and others have been part of affirmative action bake sales throughout the last few years.

"It's a matter of showing the small, but getting stronger right, on these campuses ... we're not going to put up with this," said Mothkovich.

"I think it's important to have free speech on both sides and free

expression of ideas," said Brian Curran, an instructor who bought a donut from the bake sale.

"It's not about them selling cookies," said Mothkovich. "It's about the bigger idea that they're trying to, you know, say that minorities are somehow [getting] into colleges and somehow that's oppressing, you know, white folks."

Removed from Campus

Off campus College Republican supporter Tom Faber was removed from campus after directing profanity at Assistant Dean of Students

Anthony Jenkins.

"He was escorted off campus because he was saying some things, doing some things, that were trying to inflame the situation," said Terry Bush, executive director of Marketing and Communications.

According to Jenkins, Faber told him to "shut the [expletive] up," after Jenkins asked both sides to adhere to some guidelines, including no finger-pointing.

"That kind of behavior would make [the event] worse," said Jenkins.



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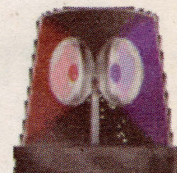
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Rack it up: Bikes have their place



by Joe Hertel
REV Editor

The Office of Public Safety has issued a warning to those who park their bikes around campus: use the bike racks.

According to Officer Kevin Connolly, Public Safety is "asking people to secure their bikes to racks only." There are currently 15 available racks at ten locations on campus, which can accommodate up to 144 bicycles. Racks are placed at all primary building locations.

"Bikes that are secured by their owners to fixtures other than racks, such as poles and railings," according to Connolly, "will be issued a warning notice on the first violation." After that, bicycles not properly secured to provided racks will be impounded by Public Safety.

Connolly explains that locking bikes to railings and non-approved fixtures damages the structures and can also block access. Through using the racks provided, Public Safety can assess their usage and what the future needs may be for additional racks and sites. They will also be able to more easily monitor the current bike population on campus.

The university encourages bicycling as a means of transportation at NEIU, stressing personal fitness, health, and environmental reasons. Increased cycling on campus is expected during the summer months, and Public Safety is urging students to be aware of the conditions for securing their bikes on campus. If you want your bike back, lock it in a rack.

C.H.A.N.G.E. in the halls of power: student government in transition

Has C.H.A.N.G.E. split up?

by Andrea Zelinski
Chief Editor

Four members of the C.H.A.N.G.E. political party in Student Government wrote a memo asking the president and vice president to stop using the C.H.A.N.G.E. party name.

The memo ousted both President Evelyn Nazario-Rose and Vice President Cesar Miranda from the group, citing "it is in the best interest of the association that President Nazario-Rose and Miranda are no longer affiliated with the association."

"If there were concerns like this ... it has never come up," said Nazario-Rose.

"We feel at this time... [Nazario-Rose and Miranda] no longer shape our views," said Michael Bonfiglio, senator and a member of C.H.A.N.G.E. who signed the memo. "We can no longer work with them any more."

The party held an intimate prayer the night of their election success, but fell apart once the election ended, according to Bonfiglio, who won the most senatorial votes this spring. "We feel that power has got in the way."

Nazario Rose "also said that there was going to be, basically, no favoritism towards anybody in our party over anybody else," said Bonfiglio. "And basically, [with] most appointments, you do take care of people that helped you get into office. And we weren't asking for all the positions. We were asking for just one, actually."

This was the Chief of Staff position, according to Bonfiglio. The SGA president has not had a chief of staff in more than five years.

"I don't want to play favoritism when it comes to Student Government," said Nazario-Rose. "I never promised anyone anything because I wanted my administration to be different."

Miranda promised the Chief Justice position to Bonfiglio in "the heat of the moment," according to Nazario-Rose. The president is the only person with authority to appoint the Chief Justice and Nazario-Rose denies assigning that seat to him.

The C.H.A.N.G.E. party was born this past spring before the SGA elections. In addition to Nazario-Rose and Miranda, the party of eight includes speaker candidate Co-Shawn Shakur, and trustee-elect Danielle Vargas. Senators included Michael Bonfiglio, Jose Ommie Ortiz, Reem Abu Hashish, and AdeBayo Isijola, who all signed the May 26 memo.

Nazario-Rose said she will still work under the party name. "Absolutely! Because that's who I represent, and I will continue to represent that group."

A new era starts with a "power giveaway"

Nazario-Rose: new position of Treasurer alleviates conflict for President

by Patrick O'Brien
Opinions Editor

The first Student Government Association (SGA) meeting of newly-elected executives took place on May 26, and the new position of Treasurer was created.

Immediately after roll call, Senator Dan Gonzalez, who is also a member of the campus radio station WZRD, moved to have the WZRD budget, in limbo since an Apr. 15 Finance Committee meeting, to the top of the meeting's agenda.

Senator Jermont Montgomery noted that the WZRD budget was being looked over by the Charter and Rules Committee, but the item was made the first priority of the meeting by an acclamation vote.

New President Evelyn Nazario-Rose was then sworn into office, along with Vice-President Cesar Miranda and Speaker M.M. Morgan, by SGA Advisor Tony Courier.

Debate then ensued on the WZRD budget, where Montgomery attempted to table the

budget, but could not find support from any senators. Rose then added that WZRD "Has been waiting quite a long time" for their budget to be passed. The new fiscal year begins July 1, and the budget would go into effect then. "This budget is definitely par for the course, and it's definitely needed," added WZRD Station Manager Johnny Happonstal.

Montgomery also accused Happonstal of dismissing members of WZRD because they were cooperating with the SGA investigation into the radio station's activities. Courier thought the budget was a separate matter from the allegations of wrongdoing at WZRD: "I don't believe [we] should hold a budget hostage while you go through the process [of investigating]."

The budget was then put to a vote, with the budget being approved by a 12-1 vote.

The office of Treasurer was created after Rose cited a "conflict of interest" in being the chief financial officer of the SGA, and called the creation of the post a way of "taking power away from myself."

The position is currently an appointed one, as

an amendment to the SGA Constitution would need the approval of the University President to permanently create the position

"Appointed positions can be very dangerous," Rose added, "as we've seen before in past administrations. I do not want to start this administration, in any way, shape or form, with favoritism to anyone." Rose indicated that more than one candidate would be brought to the Senate for their consideration, but that the treasurer could not be a senator.

"It will be several people [nominated], and I'll let the senate decide."

Montgomery described the position as a "watchdog." He went on to say that the Chair of the Finance Committee generally served as the chief financial officer as an "unofficial policy."

Rose then cited the SGA Constitution as proof that there was no precedent for who should be the SGA's chief financial officer. The vote to approve the new position was 8-2-1 in favor.

Budgets approved, minus WZRD

by Patrick O'Brien
Opinions Editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) met on Apr. 28 and approved the results of the spring elections, and new senators took their place in the Student Senate.

The Senate then approved budgets of the following organizations: *Apocalypse* magazine, the *Independent*, *Que Ondee Sola* magazine, Northeastern Programming Board (NPB), the SGA's own budget, and the budget of the Black Heritage Gospel Choir (BHGC).

One budget that was not approved was that of WZRD, which was tabled and sent to the Charter and Rules Committee, as some senators, including Jermont Montgomery and former President Kendra Young, joined an ad hoc committee to investigate the operations of the student radio station.

There was also some debate over the *Apocalypse* budget, as one audience member and several senators attempted to reinstate \$430 in advertising revenue that was stricken from the budget at a Finance Committee meeting on Apr. 15. Senator Montgomery said, "We were elected to do a job. It's our job to allocate student funds as we see fit."

After an audience member mentioned the

possibility of legal action for censorship due to the stricken funds, an amendment which would have reinstated the funds was voted on, but it was rejected by a vote of 8-7.

Two new senators, Youkhanna Sargon and Nancy Solayman, were voted in to replace Senators Farah Qadri and Carlos Rivera, with terms set to expire in Fall 2005. Sargon and Solayman are members of the Student Vision Party (SVP), and both ran for executive positions in the just-concluded elections.

The committee that approved the two for consideration by the senate was composed entirely of outgoing SVP members: President Young, Vice President Omar Otero, and Speaker Mohamedtalha Anarwala.

It was not revealed in the Commission on Appointments (COA) minutes from the Apr. 26 meeting, where Sargon and Solayman were approved, if there were any other candidates considered for the positions.

Senator and Election Commission member Frances Perez objected to ending the debate on the nominations of Sargon and Solayman, but was interrupted by Young. Perez then asked to be allowed to continue speaking, but was stopped by Otero. "Fairness is important," Perez responded, although she did not object to the nomination of the two senators.

2005 Student Organization Budgets

Apocalypse Literary Organization
2004-05: \$11,350 2005-06: \$7,920

Independent Newspaper
2004-05: \$36,068 2005-06: \$37,009

Que Ondee Sola Magazine
2004-05: \$13,480 2005-06: \$13,280

WZRD Radio Station
2004-05: \$19,462 2005-06: \$27,833

Northeastern Programming Board
2004-05: \$81,191 2005-06: \$90,000

Student Government Association
2004-05: \$68,100 2005-06: \$68,100

Black Heritage Gospel Choir
2004-05: \$13,600 2005-06: \$27,500

Event-by-Event Funding
2004-05: \$60,000 2005-06: \$88,000

The power and the peace

by Tom Robb
News Editor

The statue "Serenity" was unveiled in the Commons on Tuesday, May 3, with the sculptor, Ruth Duckworth, in attendance.

The sculpture was funded entirely by the Illinois Capital Development Board (ICDB), not University funds. Michael Dunbar, director of the Art and Architecture program of the ICDB board, said that less than half of one percent of the ICDB's budget goes to the arts.

Dunbar said that the statue was worth over \$100,000 and its value will increase. "In 20 years it (Serenity) will be worth more than that [Science] building."

Dunbar said that the State of Illinois is careful about spending money on art projects in difficult economic times. "We're not spending money when the state isn't making money."

Artist Ruth Duckworth said she was "trying

to make people comfortable and happy, relaxed." Asked about the significance of the birds, Duckworth said simply, "I love birds." When asked about the placement of the statue, Duckworth said it was "facing where people will be." Duckworth said she was happy with the installation of the work.

Serenity is Duckworth's first large outdoor sculpture in the Chicago area. "It will mean a lot of people interested in the arts will come and see it ... I love it," President Salme H. Steinberg said.

Professor Emeritus and Former Dean of the College of Education Ahmed Fareed was taken by the piece: "It gives me an Egyptian influence ... the base reminds me of the pyramid, the statue reminds me of the four statues at Abu Simbol in Southern Egypt."

Reacting to the birds on the top of the statue, Fareed said, "The Eagle is the symbol of the Egyptian flag, and the dove of peace; the power and the peace."



Sculptor Ruth Duckworth in front of Serenity.

photo courtesy of Joe Davis

Andrea Zelinski *Chief Editor*
John Bracich *Business Manager*
Elana Barron *Associate Editor*
D. Gordon Macnab *Production Manager*
Patrick O'Brien *Opinions Editor*

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Editorial

A working degree

Going to Northeastern Illinois University can be a bit of a challenge in the ego department.

Let's face it, this isn't Harvard. Or Yale. Or even Eastern Illinois.

It's a working class, middle class, balance two jobs while you whittle away at that degree-type of university, and most of us are okay with that.

Many of the students here view this place as a way station or a steppingstone. If you believe the *Chicago Tribune's* recent editorial, NEIU has become a school where people pass the time before moving on, never bothering to graduate along the way.

On May 16, the *Tribune* used NEIU as a comparison to the Chicago Public School's poor performances, referring to the 18 percent graduation rate of students within six years at this university.

Anyone who has spent enough time at NEIU can tell you that it takes longer to make it here. But there's good reason for that.

We aren't just students, we have lives. Not frat party, jello-shot, pin the tail on the coed lives. We have jobs, most of us full-time jobs.

Not jobs that we hold so mom and dad don't cut us off, but jobs that mean the difference between surviving or not.

We have candidates for Student Government who are working 40 hour weeks in between campaigning, not sipping Mai Tais by the pool.

A lot of us have kids, wives, husbands, and families of all sorts. Not mom and dad let me drop my laundry off and pick up extra cash during spring break type of families. Many NEIU students have the rent is due and I don't care if your term paper is also due sorts of lives.

And in this category, the Harvards and Yales of the world can't quite stack up.

Many of the people here would be the first college graduates in their family, if they manage to make it. They aren't living off the legacies of their parents or families' accomplishments; they're trying desperately to climb out of a work a day existence to a better life, where no one will remember that tiny school in the city they graduated from.

And like everything else in life, NEIU doesn't hand you a Bachelors' on a silver platter, you have to work for it. You have to fight the bureaucracy and the budget cuts and the high price of books and the shortages of classes and skyrocketing tuitions and paying the bills and keeping the boss, the professor, the wife, the husband, the kids, and yourself satisfied in the process.

No one at NEIU lives off a trust fund, dare we say.

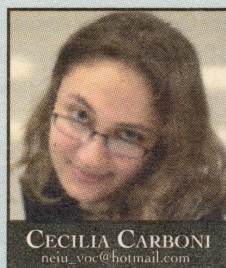
And before anyone imagines that this is an attempt to justify a graduation rate that is abysmal, let it be known that the students of Northeastern are doing all they can to get out of here, degree in hand, to face an uncertain world filled with Harvards, Yales, and *Chicago Tribune* writers who may not know what it's like to finish the night shift just in time for 8:00 a.m. Spanish.

We're not complaining, but just don't say do better and ignore the circumstances. Look closer. This is one of the hardest-working groups of college students you'll ever see.

And it does not take a *Tribune* editorial for us to realize that.

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

Baking trouble



CECILIA CARBONI
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A table of seemingly stoic individuals and donuts were surrounded by a crowd of chanting people in the Student Union. Protesters turned their backs to show their distaste for the goods on sale, and their voices chanted a message on behalf of tolerance.

I guess they don't like banana nut muffins, I thought as I passed by the angry crowd. The College Republicans peered out from behind the mass, arms crossed, and one could be heard saying to the other over the noise, something to the

effect of "What does this have to do with being gay?"

The Affirmative Action Bake Sale definitely got some attention, but I don't think it raised enough money for ... whatever they were raising money for. It was also not too successful in their intended goal of discussing the policies of affirmative action and what it means to students.

I can't say I've ever liked the College Republicans' views. All my friends, whose beliefs I identify with, were up there holding signs. In any other case, I would have known where I should be standing, without question, but now...

I don't believe in affirmative action. However, I did not agree with the points the little flyer I got from the protesters, addressing common myths and their responses to affirmative action, made. Then again, I couldn't go up there and buy a donut because I inherently disagree with the Republicans on so many facets of this issue.

I was stuck in the middle. At this point I was physically wedged between crowd and table, observing the protesters and Republicans. Pockets of discussion opened up briefly, but it was in the form of arguing. Hypothetically I asked, "What would you charge me?" Being Latina, looking white, and considering my background, I didn't really fit into any price category.

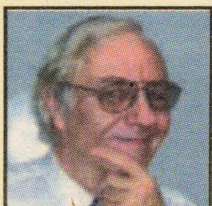
How does one recognize the problems of minorities without what seems to me as a measure that only serves to hurt us?

The College Republicans just wanted attention, people in the crowd commented. Well, yeah. You think they were expecting to get any decent funds from those stale cookies? It is not as if other groups on campus have never staged any kind of event whose reason could fall in the category of "promoting discussion." The dead bodies with coat hangers staged last year would be a good example, and while I agreed with it, what stopped anti-abortionists from protesting around that?

It would have been far more interesting to have tried to talk about it, but each side will always blame the other for being uncooperative. However, you have to realize that there are some of us who are in the middle and wouldn't mind hearing everyone's reasons—but not through the medium of angry protests.

I never thought I would defend the College Republicans, but they have just as much of a right to voice opinions we dislike. Unlike H.O.M.E., these were students, and nothing was being presented as "medical fact." I can deal with that. Just baked goods trying to disarm your perceptions and get you to question what you hold to be true. If you trust your beliefs, then why get so upset?

And if you're going to protest something, keep it to that issue. Throwing in separate issues, like gay rights, will only serve to unfocus the aim of your chants towards less sympathetic ears.



Joe Hertel
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Old Man on Campus *Birthday boy memories*

When I looked into the mirror and saw a reflection of my father, I knew I was getting old. I am celebrating my 60th birthday this June, a milestone considering my past.

Realizing that you are old is a slow process, which comes from discovering that things you remember are obsolete, dead, or in a museum. Childhood memories appear on the History Channel, comic books you had purchased for a dime, and toys you played with and broke, are now worth thousands of dollars on eBay.

And girls call you "sir."

I was born in June, 1945, just before the nuclear age began in July with the explosion of the first atomic bomb. To give you an idea of how old that is: a house cost \$10,000, a car was \$1,200, and gas was 16 cents a gallon. Of course, annual income was a whopping \$2,400!

Candy bars were a nickel and soda pop was a dime. A quarter a week allowed daily purchases at the penny candy store on the way to or from school. You could

buy two malted milk balls, a licorice whip, those little colored sugar dots on a paper roll, or two "Mary Jane's" (peanut butter candy, not wacky tobaccy) for only a penny.

Television shows were in black and white and my Dad used to take me out to watch wrestling on a set in the front window of the appliance store (there were only about 7,000 sets in the U.S. in 1945). People actually brought chairs and sat on the sidewalk to view this modern marvel.

When we finally bought a TV in 1950, I watched "Ding-Dong School," "King Calico," "Howdy Doody," and "Kukla, Fran and Ollie" in the afternoons. I still remember the Indian test pattern which preceded broadcast time. In the evenings, I would view "Our Miss Brooks," "I Love Lucy," "Mr. Peepers," "Ed Sullivan," and "Jackie Gleason" with my parents over a big bowl of heavily salted, buttered popcorn made on the stove, not in a microwave.

There were grocery stores, meat markets, and bakeries, and the drug store only sold medicine and toiletries, but it also had a soda fountain. When you purchased items at the store, they were rung up on manual cash registers, and the items were pulled along the checkout counter by the cashier with a wooden

rack, rather than a conveyor belt.

Weapons in school meant pea-shooters or a slingshot, and punishment at home was more severe than a trip to the principal's office. Students wore uniforms and "under God" was not yet added to the Pledge of Allegiance.

Milk was delivered at home in glass bottles (mom washed out the empties and placed them on the back porch for pick-up), and knives were sharpened by a guy with a pushcart in the alley. You would hear his clanging bell during the day, grab your dull blades, and run out to meet him. There was also the singing, "Rags, old iron" guy who would buy old newspapers and junk. I swear I remember a horse pulling his wagon over the cinder-coated alley.

My mom would wash clothes in an old wringer washer, the type where you pulled the clothes through two wooden rollers on top to squeeze the water out. Then she would hang everything outside in the yard on a clothesline so the entire neighborhood could see my underwear unfurled in the breeze like a small white flag.

Speaking of flags, on every Fourth of July we would buy real fireworks: skyrockets, spinners, and major explosive devices from the guy who set up shop in a vacant lot about



image courtesy of clipartreview.com

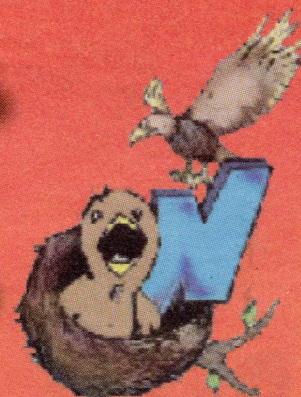
a week before the holiday. We all gathered there on the evening of the fourth when he would ignite all the unsold items in a display for the neighborhood kids.

Yeah, I guess I'm getting old. Especially when I remember that here at good old Northeastern, back in 1963 when I first attended, you could smoke cigarettes in the halls and in study cubicles, and a hamburger, fries, and drink at McDonald's was 35 cents (plus two cents tax).

But now when I look at a pretty 20-year-old girl in class, I wonder ... what does her mother look like? Geez, that's old!

Eagle's Nest

Lifestyles of the Northeastern Community



A golden jubilee for the Golden Arches 50th anniversary

by J. Louis Bracich
Business Manager

History of McDonald's

On April 15, 1955, a portly middle-aged man, along with several teenagers, stood behind a shiny service counter taking orders from an ever growing hungry crowd. The folks of Des Plaines, Illinois had never seen a place like this. Outside this small red roofed building were two huge golden arches gleaming in the sun, and onlookers were being drawn in by the enticing smell of hamburgers. "Would you like fries with that?" was asked many times, and would be asked many times over for the next five decades.

The portly middle-aged man was Raymond Albert Kroc, or Ray Kroc as everyone called him, and this place was McDonald's. This was the first official McDonald's, which is still in Des Plaines, and this month marked the 50th Anniversary of this American cultural and business legend.

Actually, McDonald's started in California, not in Des Plaines. Before there were happy meals, McDonald Land, Ronald and the fry guys, there were only the McDonald brothers,

Dick and Mac. On May 15, 1940, the brothers opened up their McDonald Bros hamburger stand in San Bernardino, California. Back then, the only items on the menu were hamburgers, cheese burgers, fries, soda pop, coffee, and a milkshake.

In 1954, Kroc, then just a salesman for Multimixer, was curious why the McDonald brothers put in an order for eight of his milkshake mixers, an unusual order amount for that time. After visiting the small San Bernardino drive-thru, he convinced the two brothers to hire him as their franchising agent. Then, on April 15, 1955, Kroc opened up the first McDonald's in Des Plaines.

Originally, Kroc had only wanted to establish the franchise system to sell his Multimixer brand shake machines, but he soon realized that there was much more money in peddling burgers.

By 1961, McDonald's Corporation borrowed \$2.7 million dollars from a series of investors (including Princeton University) to buy out the original brothers' share of the company, and Kroc seized control. The brothers were allowed to keep their original restaurant, renamed Big M, until several years later when the McDonald's corporation opened up a

McDonald's one block away, driving the brothers out of business.

Despite the competition from other fast food chains, McDonald's continued to grow and introduce new menu items. In 1968, Mickey D's gave the world the Big Mac, and in the 1970s the Egg McMuffin and the Happy Meal were introduced.

McDonald's soon began to spread, first opening a restaurant in Canada. The first McDonald's outside of North America was in Australia in 1971, which was followed three years later with one in the UK. McDonald's made Cold War history when after years of negotiations, it opened up the first (and one of the world's largest) McDonald's in USSR's capitol of Moscow.

McDonald's Controversy

Sadly, tragedy and controversy has also followed this American giant. On a blistering day on July 18, 1984, James Oliver Huberty walked into a McDonald's franchise and opened fire, killing 21 people and making it one of the worst massacres in U.S. history. In 1992, Stella Liebeck sued McDonald's for 2.9 million dollars when she accidentally spilled hot coffee on her lap. Two years later, McDonald's Corporation faced a massive revolt from its

franchises, complaining that there were too many restaurants.

For the next decade, the company would face a barrage of criticism from health critics. In 2004, the movie *Super Size Me* and the book *Fast Food Nation* highlighted the various problems with the company's food. In response, the company initiated a new health food kick, first eliminating the way fries were made by replacing it with a healthier recipe and by highlighting their salads in 2003. By 2005, the company was beating out Wal-Mart as the largest purchaser of fruit (particularly apples).

Despite the controversies and the saturation of its franchises, McDonald's continues to grow, adding more restaurants, either under its flagship name, or as Boston Market or the Chipotle Mexican Grill brand. From movies like the sci-fi flick the *Fifth Element* to magazines like *Mad* to music, McDonald's is quintessential American pop culture.

When asked outside of the country to think of America, outside of names like Elvis, rock-n-roll, Hollywood, and Coca-Cola, McDonald's often comes up. So, with this golden jubilee one has to ask, "Would you like fries with that?"

McDonald's mascots

by J. Louis Bracich
Business Manager

In 1948, the McDonald brothers, Dick and Mac, created the original McDonald's mascot, Speedee, who had a hamburger for a head. Speedee was named after the brother's assembly-line method of making burgers, the "Speedee Service System."

In 1963, after the brothers sold the franchise, a new mascot for the ever growing burger chain was introduced—

Ronald McDonald. The company's founder figured that selling to children would get more adults in.

Ronald McDonald was originally played by Willard Scott, a TV weatherman. However, the first Ronald McDonald

looked nothing like the one we have all come to know. Scott's McDonald, which was originally intended to promote the local restaurants in the Washington D.C. area, had a yellow prison

stripe jump suit along with a paper cup for a nose and a tray with food on it for a hat.

When Ray Kroc, who bought the McDonald's franchise from the McDonald brothers, decided to have the mascot go national, he dumped Willard Scott, citing "weight issues," and the now more familiar Ronald was introduced. Ronald made his big debut in 1966 in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in downtown Chicago.

Over the next several decades, many actors would go on to play the famed fire engine redhead. One actor in particular gained fame in the late '80s after revolting against the company after he converted to Hinduism.

Along the way, Ronald gained companions like Grimace (the talking milkshake), Hamburglar, Birdie, the Fry Guys, and many others. These mascots do not only represent the restaurant, but they have also been used to promote McDonald's charitable endeavors. When McDonald's broke ground on a charitable organization that would provide temporary homes for families of sick children who were in the hospital, they dubbed it the Ronald McDonald House.

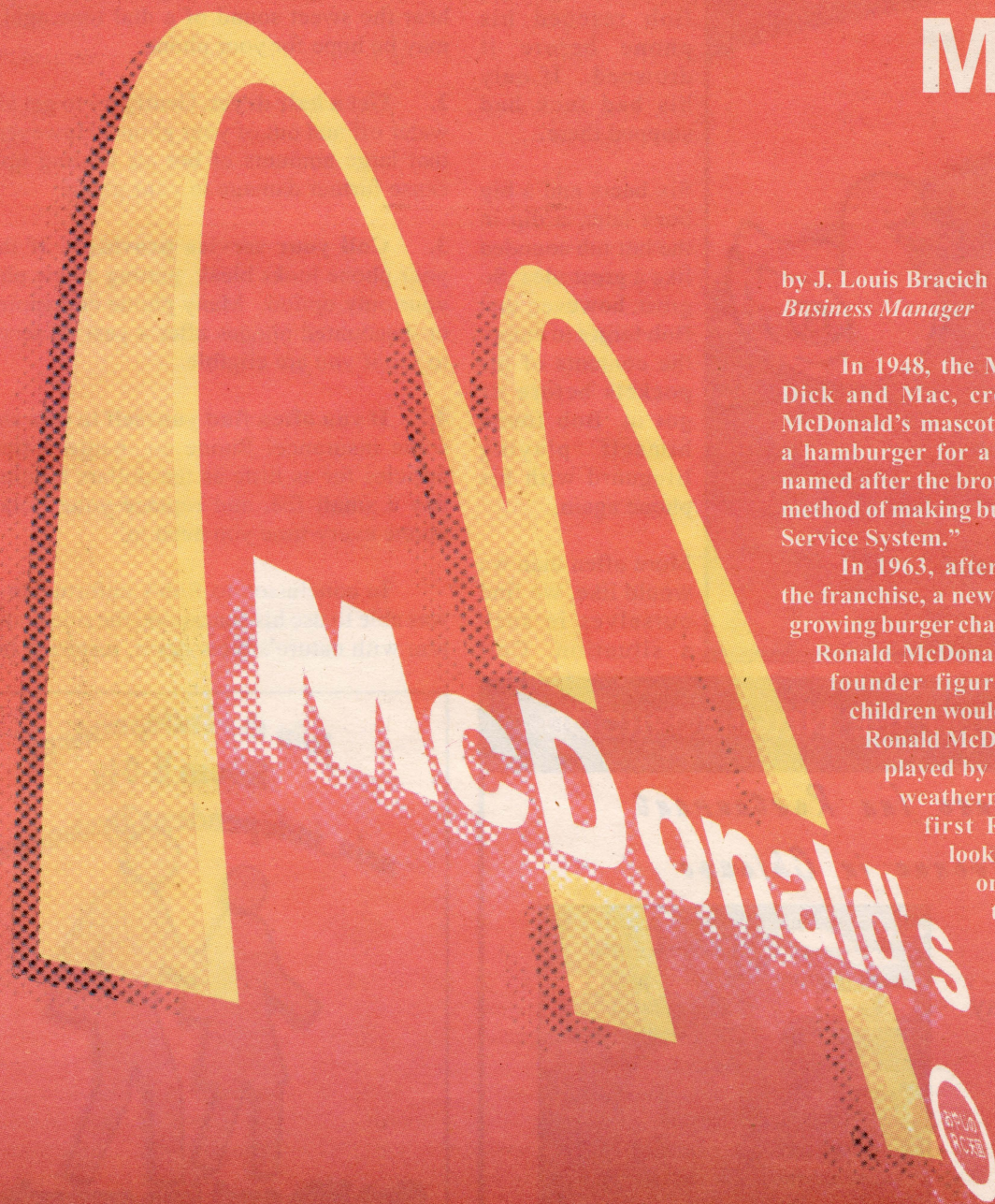


Image compiled by Cecilia Carboni

Radio Alternatives



by Dorian Barrios
Photo Editor

Chicago has one of the most jam-packed radio dials in the world. Among the dozens of megawatt titans, there are a handful of college, community, and pirate stations that push the envelope and dare to go where the mainstream will not. The coolest thing about some of these radio stations is not only that they are an alternative to the same old stations, but that they are open to and run by young people.

Northeastern's own Wizard 88.3 FM features an open format where anything goes, just as long as it isn't in the mainstream. The Wizard has a huge musical library consisting of some of the most obscure stuff in the world. From traditional Tibetan cuts to progressive Trance pieces, you are guaranteed to hear something different every time you tune in. The talent at the Wizard draws heavily from

the hippie population at NEIU, so you're not going to find the super hyped up personalities that are on other stations. The station stresses the image of the Wizard over individual personalities; you are not here to listen to any banter from the DJ, or even here the DJ say their name over the air.

Radio Arte 90.5 FM boasts being the only bilingual, youth-operated, urban community station in the country. On Radio Arte you are going to find some of the freshest sounds coming out of Iberia and Latin America. Broadcasting 24-7, with several in-house productions and specialty shows, Radio Arte features a great deal of diversity in its programming. Radio Arte's personalities come from the communities that it broadcasts to. Made up of mostly volunteers ranging from the age of 16 to the early 30s, the personalities here are some of the most unique on the radio dial.

For a sound that's a little more indigenous to Chicago, there's Chicago's Underground 88.1 FM, produced by

Columbia College's prestigious radio station. Chicago Underground is part of the college's radio communications program and is hosted by students of the program. With a format that features House, and plenty of it, with daily mixes from some of Chicago's elite DJs, Chicago's Underground puts the spotlight on the music of our city. With a top-notch production value that stands up to that of any commercial radio station, Chicago's Underground is definitely worth checking out.

With much of the talent, DJs, and performers from these stations eventually moving on to commercial stations, you should consider these radio stations for any summer listening sessions.

For more information on the Wizard, check them out in the basement of the E Building; for information on Radio Arte, go to www.radioarte.org; and for information on Chicago's Underground, check out www.wcrx.net.

When your cell phone takes a swim

by Sarah Purtee
Staff Writer

Some say, "When it rains, it pours." For my friend Bob, however, when it rains, it tends to flood. One

such "downpour" happened last summer when we were all at a party. After making his rounds, Bob made a b-line to the beer cooler. Before the beer was even in his hand, his cell phone had already made it into the icy water of the cooler. Trying to keep his cool, while

phones are expensive little pieces of plastic that don't hold up very well in water. Here's a little guide of what to do if you accidentally give your phone swimming lessons:

still looking cool, Bob rescued his phone before it drowned. If only his bad luck had stopped there...

Six beers and a big buzz later, a dip in the hot tub sounded like a great idea. So great, however, that Bob forgot to empty the contents of his pockets before he got in. Bob found himself playing lifeguard with his phone again.

More often than we would like, we find ourselves in such a situation. Cell

1. **Don't panic.** You may think you may never again hear the sweet sound of a dial tone again, but there may be hope for your phone.

2. **Get a hair dryer.** Gently try to get all the excess water off and out of your phone. However, remember that large amounts of hot air heating up water may cause further damage to your phone.

3. **Call your service provider.** If the future of your phone looks bleak, getting a new phone may be your only option. Many phone companies offer free or discounted phones after a year of service. Check to see if you are eligible.

4. **If you often find yourself in this situation,** get some insurance! Phone companies offer insurance policies for as little as ten dollars a month. You can pay a small fee, and replace your flotation-device phone every time you need to.

In conclusion to Bob's unfortunate evening, he was able to use his sunroof on the ride home to provide him with nature's blow dryer, restoring his phone.

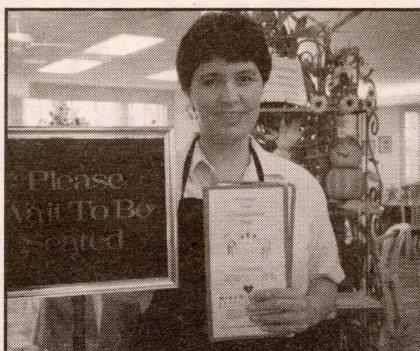


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Star Wars is a waste of time

by Dino Pollard
Staff Film Critic

A long time ago in a movie theater not so far away, *Star Wars* premiered and wowed audiences with its storyline and special effects. It also introduced the world to Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, Princess Leia, Darth Vader, and George Lucas in all his glory. It was a grand old epic hero tale set in outer space.

And people loved it.

But *Star Wars* was only one chapter of this continuing saga. The trilogy included *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*. And yes, they were both very good movies (particularly *Empire*, the best of the three). Now, fast forward about twenty earth years.

Feeling that a younger audience should experience the combination of these films, and feeling that the earlier audience should experience them "as they were originally intended," Lucas released the "special edition" of the trilogy. In other words, he wanted to make some more money.

After doing this, Lucas felt the world should experience the entire story of *Star Wars*, so he began work on three prequels, which were set before the original trilogy (i.e. he got greedy). The first of these was *The Phantom Menace*, and it introduced the world to Anakin Skywalker, the boy who would grow up to become Darth Vader.

And, it sucked. Boy did it ever suck. It was the Rocky V of the *Star Wars* saga. Some years later, we were introduced to the second installment of the prequels, *Attack of the Clones*. While not as bad as *The Phantom Menace*, it made up for it with sheer boredom. Toss in a forced love story between the monotone Hayden Christensen and Natalie Portman (whose talents have been severely wasted on these movies), and you have a film that clocks in at 143 minutes. That's right, 143 minutes of boredom. I actually fell asleep, and I never fall asleep in a movie theater.

Now the time has come for the third movie in the series. *Revenge of the Sith*. It's already in the theaters, and despite all the hype surrounding it, despite people lining up outside theaters, I have no real interest in seeing it. Well ... I have some interest, although it is more of a morbid curiosity.

I'm not talking about arranging a boycott against Lucas or anything so dramatic, because quite frankly, I just don't care enough about it. We all know what happens in this movie anyway. Anakin is seduced by the Dark Side of the Force and becomes Darth Vader, Palpatine turns the Republic into the Empire, and the Jedi are destroyed. There are no surprises.

But perhaps I'm just one of those people who just doesn't "get" *Star Wars*. Yes, the original three were fun movies, and I appreciate them for their technical advances. But the story is nothing we haven't seen before. In fact, Director Akira Kurosawa originally presented the story of *Star Wars* in his 1958 film, *The Hidden Fortress*. And sorry fanboys, but Lucas would have to sell his soul to become even half the director Kurosawa was.

In my time, I've seen films far more entertaining and far more innovative than *Star Wars*. Yes, they were cutting edge for their time, but these films don't deserve this quasi-religious status so many people lavish upon them.

Revenge of the Sith redeems first two films

by Elana Barron
Associate Editor

(Warning! Contains spoilers)

Many people have refused to see the newest installment of the *Star Wars* saga, *Revenge of the Sith*, because they were disappointed by the last two movies, *The Phantom Menace* and *Attack of the Clones*. And this is despite numerous reviews praising the film. The *Sun Times'* Roger Ebert gave it three-and-a-half stars; The *Chicago Tribune's* Michael Wilmington gave it four stars. George Lucas masterfully portrays the dark fall of Anakin Skywalker and his transformation into Darth Vader with superb acting, visual effects, and his characteristic whimsical humor. Both Ebert and Wilmington's reviews praise the film, and I will not add to them.

What is more important, however, is that upon watching *Revenge of the Sith* one is now able to greater appreciate *The Phantom Menace* and *Attack of the Clones*.

Seemingly insignificant dialogue in *The Phantom Menace* now resonates after watching *Revenge of the Sith*. When Anakin first meets Padme, he asks her if she is an angel. After witnessing the hand he had in her death and the funeral scene where we see Padme's peaceful and angelic face surrounded by flowers, Anakin calling Padme an angel hits you.

When Anakin first meets Qui-Gon Jinn and guesses that he is a Jedi because of the light saber he is carrying, Qui-Gon suggests that maybe he killed a Jedi and took it from him. Now knowing that Anakin kills off the Jedi, his innocent response, "Nobody can kill a Jedi," highlights how far he has fallen

from that innocent boy first seen on Tatooine.

The *Phantom Menace* has also been criticized as being too light and childlike. However, this lighthearted feel is vital in appreciating how the return of the Sith changed the Republic into an Empire of oppression and fear. There are no lighthearted pod races in the Empire the Sith created.

There are also scenes in *The Phantom Menace* that are paralleled in *Revenge of the Sith*. The procession of Jar Jar Binks and other Gungans celebrating peace at the end of the first film is mirrored by Padme's funeral procession at the end of the third, which is also attended by Jar Jar and Gungans. The peaceful unions of the first film are now replaced with death.

One of the major criticisms of *Attack of the Clones* is over Hayden Christensen's portrayal of Anakin. His acting has been called dry and robotic. However, this is not because Christensen cannot act—his passionate acting is seen in *Revenge of the Sith*—but because George Lucas told him to hold back in *Attack of the Clones*. The Jedi doctrine preaches against passion and fear because it leads to anger, hate, and suffering.

Anakin tries to control his feelings and reign in his passion in these films, but Palpatine gives him an easier way to deal with his anger and passion by giving into his hate. The change in Christensen's acting highlights this change and his surrender to the Sith doctrine.

The *Revenge of the Sith* is an excellent film and the last piece to the *Star Wars* saga. Through this film, everything gets tied together, both the old and new movies. Yes, we all know what is going to happen, but only Lucas can create a story that will completely entrance and mesmerize an audience, even when they know the ending.

Intimate crowd graced by incredible music

by Jonathan Gronli
Production Editor

On Thursday, April 28, Northeastern's guitar ensemble blew away an unfortunately small audience with their talent and grace.

Being a former member of the guitar ensemble, I can vouch for each and every member's power as a musical force to be reckoned with. Under the direction of Northeastern's Dr. Brian Torosian, they are even more of a formidable force, which to say the least, is a blessing to these gifted musicians. The guitar ensemble covered every little note as though it had been written for just them to play.

It opened up with the duos. Marylene Heu and Alia Jywook played *Andantino* by Ferdinando Carulli. Their performance was poetry in motion and sounded graceful and beautiful. David Chiriboga and Tony Esposito played *Fandango del Ventorrillo* by Joaquin Rodrigo, which kept an aura of mystery that pulled the audience in with each note, never letting go, as though the audience and the music were lovers. Tony Esposito returned to the stage with clarinetist

Pauline Lefebvre to perform *Bordel 1900* by Astor Piazzolla.

The duos then changed into trios. Jesus Gonzalez, David Johnson, and Joseph Paniagua came out to perform *Sonatine fur 3 Gitarren* by Heinrich Albert. This is a flat out beautiful piece, and played by these three wonderful players, it was no less beautiful. James Cornolo, Jesus Gonzalez, and Torosian (who replaced the ailing Thomas Skupien) followed with *Bad Boy* by Toru Takemitsu. This little piece was new to even Torosian, but it went off without a hitch and was played beautifully.

By this time, the heads of the audience were spinning in delight. Byran Albert, Tony Esposito, and Marylene Heu came out and played the *Four Moods* by Stepan Rak. Having heard this in class and in the auditorium, they are completely different, but both are just as equally wonderful in terms of playing quality.

The production ended with the ensemble pieces. *Three Trios* by Paul Peuerl was a wonderful transitional performance piece. The experienced hands of the guitar ensemble lovingly fingered and caressed each string to

get the right tone and bring a look of awe to the eyes of the audience. The closing piece was the most beautiful to be heard and performed piece, *Dos Piezas Callerescas* by Joaquin Rodrigo.

Directed by Torosian, the ensemble was able to expertly play this piece. With each plucked note and strummed chord, the audience was sucked into the soul of the song, giving it more power to feed on. It worked like magic and never relented until the final note faded into silence as the cheers waiting for the ensemble at the end of the performance increased.