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## Independent- Jul. 12, 2005

Patrick O'Brien

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

SPECIAL FRESHMEN EDITION

# INDEPENDENT

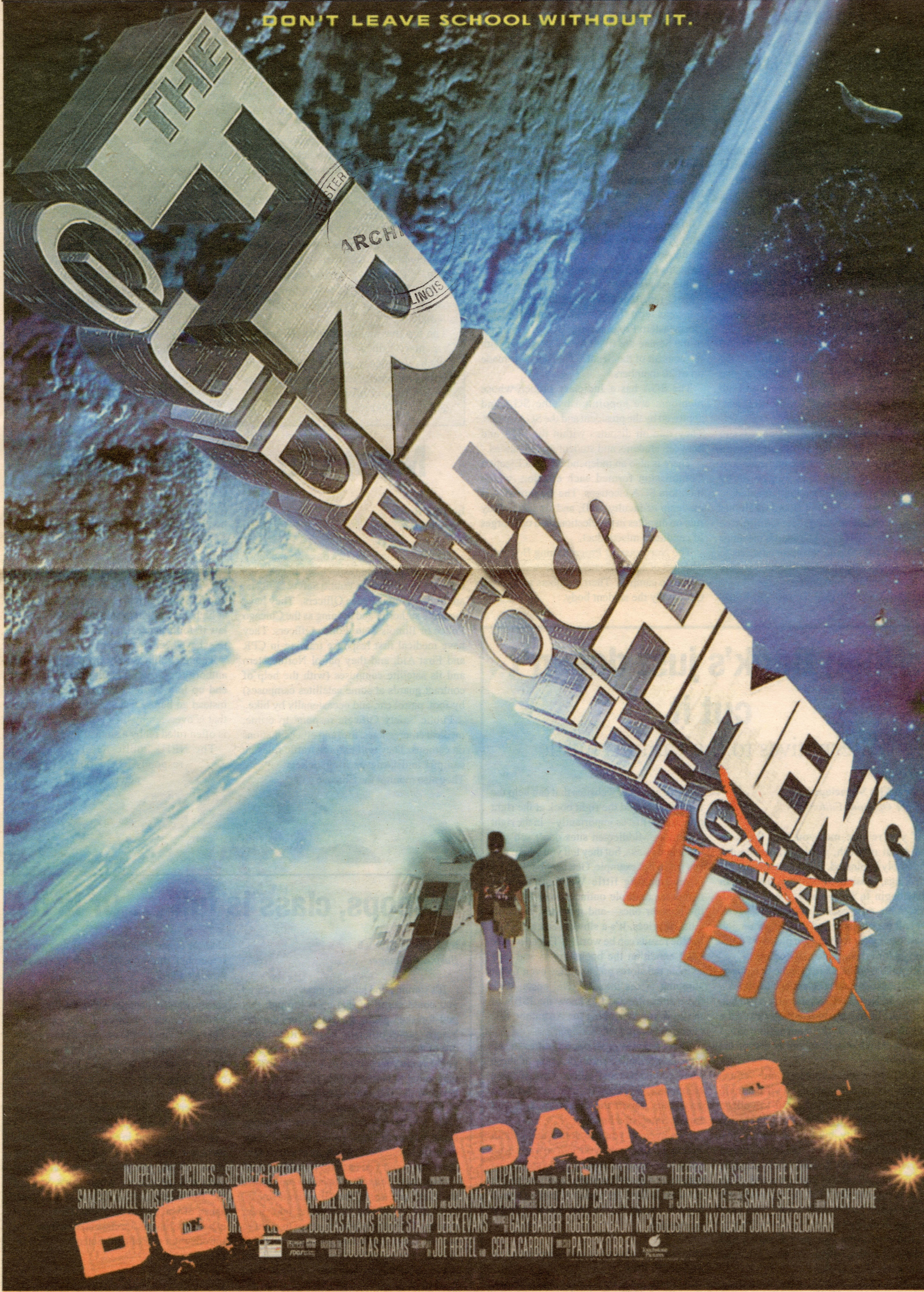
CHICAGO, IL



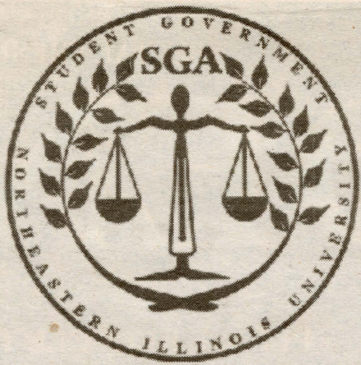
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DON'T LEAVE SCHOOL WITHOUT IT.







# Student Government: Who they are and what they do

by **Tom Robb**  
News Editor

The Northeastern Student Government Association (SGA) has a long and colorful history on campus. They are the students' elected representatives and oversee a budget of approximately \$300,000, which is spent on student organizations and events.

Five media groups, *Apocalypse* (a poetry publication), the *Independent*, *Que Ondee Sola* (a Puerto Rican issues magazine), WZRD Radio, and the Black Heritage Gospel Choir receive annual budgets from the SGA. Other student clubs petition the SGA on an event-by-event basis for funding.

While the SGA is run by students, it is still considered a State Body and is subject to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The SGA also acts as the students' representatives to both the administration and the State Government. This is performed in various ways.

The Student Government can issue recommendations to the administration on student issues. Though these recommendations are not binding, they are taken very seriously by the administration and often implemented.

The Northeastern Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Committee Representative (IBHE-SAC) attends meetings across the state, making recommendations to the Illinois Board of Higher Education, state lawmakers, and the university.

The Student Trustee is the students'

spokesperson serving on the Board of Trustees, which is the highest governing body of the school. SGA Senators, Executives (president, VP, and speaker), IBHE-SAC representative, and the Student Trustee are elected directly by the students, while the Judiciary is appointed by the president with the consent of the Senate.

Elections are held at the start of the fall and spring semesters. Half the Senate is elected in the spring election and half in the fall. Executive positions (president, VP, speaker of the senate, the student trustee, and IBHE-SAC rep.) are elected in the spring for a one-year term, along with members of the Northeastern Programming Board. Vacancies in the Senate are filled by the president with the consent of the Senate. The Senate is made up of 20 members.

The SGA has a Judiciary branch whose members are appointed by the SGA and approved by the president and the SGA Senate. They rule on disputes within the SGA and between students and student organizations.

There is also an independent SGA Election Commission formed each election, which monitors SGA elections. The Commission is made up of faculty, staff, and students. They rule on disputes in the elections and on charges of candidate misconduct.

The Northeastern Programming Board has a budget of approximately \$80,000 and brings events to campus. Their members are elected directly by the student body.

## NEIU by the numbers

The stats of "the most diverse university in the Midwest"

by **Elana Barron**  
Associate Editor

When describing Northeastern, deans and professors often succumb to the well-rehearsed statement, "*US News and World Report* called Northeastern the most diverse university in the Midwest." But Northeastern is more than just a conglomerate of ethnicities. Here are students whose lives are intertwined with this school and each other.

Unfortunately, with a student body of over 12,000, most of whom work, it is difficult to get to know your fellow students.

First, we have all heard the term "ethnically diverse," but how does it apply to Northeastern? At Northeastern, over 50 percent of the student body identifies themselves as a member of a minority group. "Diversity," however, does not apply to the gender of students—a little over 60 percent of the student population is female.

The top five majors at Northeastern are Elementary Education (it was originally a teachers college), Board of Governors, Computer Science, Accounting, and Justice Studies/Criminal Justice.

For the 12,000 students at Northeastern,

almost 2,000 courses are offered, which has been slowly increasing over the past five years, except for the number of Graduate courses, which fluctuates.

Northeastern is infamous for its slow graduation rate. For Freshmen entering Northeastern in 1997, only 18 percent will graduate in six years. In 2004, the average age of those receiving a Bachelor's Degree was 31. The average age of those receiving a graduate degree was 36.

### Characteristics of Incoming Freshmen over the past five years:

- 94.8% are 18 or 19 years old
- Approximately 66% of students are of an ethnic/racial minority
- 62% are female
- Almost 70% are first generation college students
- Almost 50% are Roman Catholic
- 70% of Freshmen are likely to return
- Over 90% live with family
- Approximately 40-43% are native speakers of English
- 70% of Freshmen plan to continue for a post-baccalaureate degree

*Information gathered from the Data Digests of the Office of Institutional Studies & Planning.*

## Meet the campus cops

by **Tom Robb**  
News Editor

They are called 'rent a cops,' 'wannabes,' and they often get no respect, but the campus cops, the Northeastern Public Safety Officers, are in fact Illinois Peace Officers. They have the same authority and training as the Chicago Police or Illinois State Police Officers. They have medical first response training in CPR and First Aid, and they patrol Northeastern and its satellite campuses (with the help of contract guards at some satellites campuses) by foot, patrol car, and occasionally by bike.

Public Safety Officers respond to crime, medical emergencies, fire, and other situations on campus. They will enforce traffic rules on campus and issue parking tickets. They also monitor the Chicago

Police radio band and assist them when needed in the neighborhoods surrounding NEIU's campuses.

Public Safety officers are not just there to bust students and others up to no good, though they will. They can be a valuable resource. Public Safety provides escorts when needed at night and will help students understand the law if, for instance, they have a stalker or feel they have been the victim of a hate crime.

Though Public Safety Officers do have the authority to arrest, not all student incidents end up in a criminal court. Many students instead go before a student judiciary process that is overseen by the Dean of Students and is often ruled on by a student jury.

The NEIU Public Safety Department responds to emailed questions at [neiucops@neiu.edu](mailto:neiucops@neiu.edu).

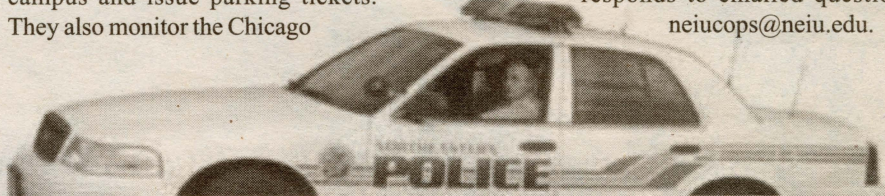


Photo by Tom Robb

## When Beck's just doesn't cut it Alternatives to the campus hustle

by **Franklin Silencieux**  
Former Opinions Editor

If you're like me, you like the look and smell of fresh, newly printed books, preferably laminated. But once you spot the price tags, those used books at the bottom shelf begin to look really good. Ripped, written on, and reeking of cigarettes, sure, but still inexpensive and able to get the job done. Lucky for us there are plenty of other sources for books, especially online.

Reputable online stores are the best places to find both new and used college textbooks. Barnes & Noble, eCampus.com, and even Wal-Mart have easy-to-use websites and a long list of titles. Of the many online stores offering books, Amazon.com is one of the most reliable.

With its wide selection and secure account services, Amazon is a virtual mall, with one large floor dedicated to college textbooks. They list the new-book price and its availability, but they also provide a list of used book prices offered by individual sellers. When buying used books though, you have to proceed at your own risk. With seller comments like "*This book is really not pretty, but is totally functional*," you have to judge how high or low you're willing to go. But with its reviews, easy shopping, and multiple shipping options, Amazon is a great place to shop for books.

There are other websites that can help the frugal buyer find the right book at the right price and—just as importantly—in the right condition. Middlemen sites don't sell you the actual books, but they tell you where you can get it. For example, Getcheapbooks.com is an amazing little WebCrawler that compares multiple online stores—not just the popular ones—and provides you with a list of prices. It's a slower search engine, but the results can be worth it. They describe what condition the books are in and how reliable the stores are, and they even factor shipping prices into the total costs. With these sites, it's good to know the ISBN of the book you're looking for. An author, title or subject search takes longer.

There are also great opportunities to sell your books online through some of these same companies and others. One of these companies, PDXbooks, lets you set your own price, report the condition, and wait for any interested buyers.

However, if you are someone without access to the web, you can always find what you need at Beck's Bookstores. Its take-it-or-leave-it pricing and you might not always have the option of buying a used copy of a book, but it's convenient and right on campus.

*Originally published in the Independent on August 26, 2003.*

## Whoops, class is full ... Or is it?

by **J. Louis Bracich**  
Business Manager

It's summer and let's be honest, you figured you could enroll in that class through that god-forsaken phone system of ours the day before classes officially began. Running to one of those shady rooms full of those phones you'd swear your parents may have used when they came to Northeastern, you managed to get onto the Telephone Registration System (TTRS) only to find out that that English class you need is full. Many start to panic, some may even curse out the school's name or themselves. Don't worry; many of us have done this—and you can still possibly get in!

Your first chance is to show up before the class and see if they'll waive you in, basically by adding your name onto their system. The people you're going to want to see are either the actual professor teaching that class or go to the department office and ask to speak to someone like the department

chair or department advisor. If they agree, remember that you still have to register through TTRS.

The best way to approach this is to sit in an empty chair (or chances are on the floor) and wait for the class to be over. If a line forms right after the class to see the professor, get in it. The professor may flat out say no. Be sure to emphasize how badly you want this class (using those big sad puppy dog eyes like you see in cartoons may work!). But in our experience, the professor will write you in. Be sure to re-register on the TTRS!

Every semester, in virtually every class, there are students who decide to drop the class. Often, the professor teaching that class will tell you if anyone drops, you are in. But be careful, as there may be others ahead of you on the professor's list. In our experience, unless the class is something like Introduction to Political Science, you'll be able to get in.





## There's more to Northeastern than St. Louis Ave.

by Patrick O'Brien  
Editor-in-Chief

There is more to Northeastern Illinois than what you see at 5500 N. St. Louis, the site of the main campus. There are two satellite campuses of Northeastern with their own histories and communities of learners.

The first is the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS), located at 700 E. Oakwood, near Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood. CCICS is home to about 500 NEIU students and offers many community-based organizations that hold events in the building.

CCICS is home to the Inner City Studies programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This program is an interdisciplinary major that focuses on urban history, racism, and the sociology of the inner city. There are also

general education classes taught in addition to the Inner City studies curriculum.

El Centro (EC) is located three miles south of the main campus at 3119 N. Pulaski in the Avondale neighborhood. El Centro is the university's outreach center for the Latino community. EC orients community residents to higher education, provides academic resources through the university, including registration, advising, and other student services. The courses offered at EC include general education courses that fulfill university requirements and other humanities courses.

Both campuses have grown exponentially in recent years and are community centers with inviting atmospheres.

For more information about CCICS, call (773) 268-7500, and for El Centro, call (773) 777-9955.

## The perfect time to choose the perfect career

by D. Gordon Macnab  
Production Editor

You finally made it through high school and are ready to move towards a career, whatever may it be. High School helps you learn how to formulate intellectual thoughts and ideas. College is supposed to teach you what to do with those thoughts and ideas and turn them into action, action in the form of a major and minor. But when exactly should you decide on your major or minor?

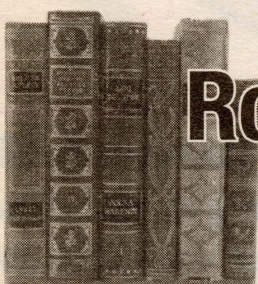
If you look in any current Academic Catalog it says "The University requires all undergraduate students to declare a major by the time they have earned a total of 45 credit hours." If you took 12-credit hour semesters and no summer classes, that wouldn't be until after your second year here.

In your first year get your math out of the way, along with as much of the general education courses (Natural Science, Humanities, Social Behavior, and Arts). Though they may be boring and seem pointless, they are not. One of them might be the deciding factor in your choice for a major.

When you start thinking about a major, choose at least three different ones and then talk to advisors in those areas. Make sure to take some general education courses that correspond to those interests. You should start narrowing down your choice during your first year, and then after talking with your general education advisor and the advisor for that major, you should declare your major at the start of your second year.

You should heed the advice of your general education advisor; listen to what they have to say. If you are not sure of what direction you want to take, log on to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), set up an account, and click on "I.D. Me." You'll take a questionnaire and learn what type of job suites you best. Your advisors are here as a guide, much like a spotter when you are water skiing, you can tell them to turn left or right, go in circles, slow down, or stop.

You are in control of everything while you are here at this university, and while it may be scary, it is your life. It is hard, but don't forget to have a bit of fun. So jump through the waves and make your own route towards a career.



## Ronald Williams Library

### The local database

by Elana Barron  
Associate Editor

Northeastern's library is the pride of the campus with numerous books spread over five floors. At the library itself one can find anything from government records to periodicals to regular books. If you cannot find what you want at the library itself, through Illinet Online or interlibrary loans you can order books and items from more than 60 libraries.

However, there is more to this library than just books.

Through the library's archives you can access old government records, newspaper articles, University documents, and old copies of the *Independent*. It also holds copies of Northeastern's budget and minutes of University meetings. On the second floor, the library has microfilm reader-printers for the more out-of-date materials.

The third floor houses the Multimedia Learning Resource Center. It has a large video library, as well as a lab with a

video editing system. Further, this floor provides a plethora of material for the numerous education majors at Northeastern. It contains numerous teaching resources, such as textbooks, children's books, educational journals, picture files, etc.

One does not have to be at school to do research. Through the library's web page you can search thousands of journals, from newspapers to magazines to academic journals. Most of the articles are available in full text form and can easily be downloaded onto your computer. To ensure the authenticity of the article, which you cannot do with simple google searches, you can request peer-reviewed articles.

On the fourth floor of the library are the Learning Center, Math Lab, and Reading Lab. Students who are looking for (free) extra help for their studies will find tutors and other helpful resources at the library.

The library can be difficult to use, but do not let its complexity hinder you from enjoying all that it has to offer. In addition to asking the librarians for help, the library offers classes in library skills.

## From teachers college to University

### The history of NEIU

by Elana Barron  
Associate Editor

While currently Northeastern is notorious for its slow graduation rate, originally it was only a six-month program. When Northeastern first appeared in Illinois in 1867, it was known as the Cook County Normal School. The original building was in Blue Island and was solely a teacher-training school. It was not until 1954, when the *Chicago Tribune* ran the headline, "4 Year Branch of Teachers College OK'd," that the first four-year program of the school opened.

Originally, the school was not run by the state, but by the Chicago Board of Education, which was gifted to them by the county commissioners in 1896. It then became known as the Chicago Teachers College. As enrollment increased, numerous branches of the Chicago Teachers College opened, mainly on the South Side. Classes were scattered throughout elementary schools, high schools, and junior colleges.

In 1955, due to increasing enrollment, the Chicago Board of Education decided to build a north branch of the Chicago Teachers College at 5500 St. Louis, the current location of the main campus. However, they did not break ground until 1960, but the school soon opened its doors on September 4, 1961. (Back then it only took a year to build a college. Today, it took Northeastern numerous years to build just an auditorium.) The school became known as Chicago Teachers College-North. It was a revolutionary idea to have "all the new developments and advancements in the field of education ... housed under one roof," reported the *Chicago Tribune* in 1961. It saw the new campus as a "nationally recognized pilot project in education."

The school's opening also marked the closing of two other branches of the Chicago Teachers College, which directed more students to the new branch on 5500 St. Louis; only a branch on the South Side remained open in addition to the new branch. Then, the school on St. Louis had 1,348 students; it was originally intended to house 2,400 students. The new school also provided a unique curriculum, the trimester, which would allow students to earn a four-year bachelor's in two years and eight months.

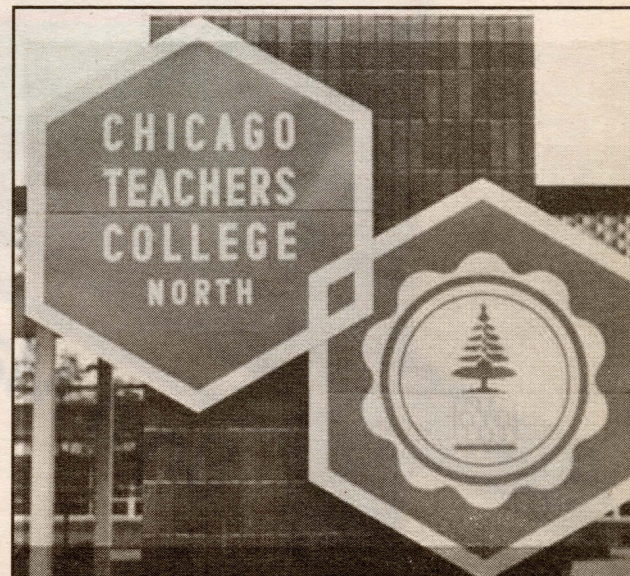
In 1964, the Chicago Board of Education handed the northern branch of the Chicago Teachers College over to the Illinois Teachers College Board (later to be known as the Illinois Board of Higher Education), as the state had been already financially helping the school.

In 1967, with the opening of a secondary education program, Chicago Teachers College North became known as Northeastern Illinois State College. This year also highlighted the offering of programs of study other than education, which many students today enjoy.

In 1971, when the number of students was about 7,000 and more studies were added, the name finally changed to Northeastern Illinois University. It began to become the University we know today: it added African-American and women studies to the curriculum; ongoing construction projects began, many of which we are still feeling today, such as the original intention in 1971 to build a parking structure; and Illinois began to cut funding.

At least there were no more name changes.

Information gathered from Northeastern's archives, Chicago Tribune's archives, and [www.members.tripod.com/histofneiu](http://www.members.tripod.com/histofneiu).



From 1896 to 1965 NEIU had a different look.



While Northeastern is still finding its way, there is a sense of direction. There are so many, unless it has an 'X' stating sometimes is the best avenue to their way around campus.

you are

Student Affairs  
Parking Office  
(pay parking tickets)  
Workout Room/Track/ Pool  
Personal Trainers' Office

- Child Care
- Ground Maintenance

### Parking Garage

\*Put car here.

Alumni Hall  
Cafeteria  
Golden Eagle  
Information  
Student Acti  
Coffee Stand

College of Arts & Sciences  
Computer room, second floor

Copy Station  
(b & w, color),  
Media Lab  
Computer room

Affirmative Action  
Dean of students  
Graduate College  
Honors Program  
International Programs  
Job Placement  
Non-Traditional  
Degree programs

### Sachs Administration

Where you s  
Sunday to get

Academic Advising  
Accessibility Center (HELP)  
Foreign Language Lab  
Project Success

Academic Affairs  
Office of Enrollment Services  
Cashier  
Counseling Office  
Financial Aid

First, the **Classroom Building** may look like this:

After searching for your classroom, you will be able to walk to any point and you will be able to walk in any direction your class is in, just pick a direction.

Stage Center

Academic Development  
College of Business Management  
College of Education  
Graduate College  
Information Commons

University Computer Service  
Women's Studies Program  
Computer room, 2nd floor  
Computer room, basement  
Pop/snack machines, basement

**Bryn Mawr Avenue**



is smaller than most universities, maneuvering oneself around campus is still a daunting task, especially for those who lack. There are some students who attempt to find their way around campus via the map on the back of the course catalog, but for navigating "you are here," the maps are useless. Getting lost causes many to break into sweats, but keep in mind that getting lost is a rite of passage to finding shortcuts. After talking to fellow students, here are some things they remembered from when they first tried to find

# Here

Union  
Hall  
ia  
Eagles Room  
ation  
t Activities  
Stand



By: Elana Barron  
Graphics: Cecilia Carboni

**Fine Arts Center**  
Art Gallery  
Box Office  
Recital Hall  
Classrooms  
Pop/snack machines  
(bottom floor)

**Building H**  
Fac. Manag.

**Building E**  
Auditorium  
Bookstore

**In Basement:**  
Health Service\*  
First Aid  
SGA  
Independent  
Small student's lounge  
Pop/snack machines

**Safety**  
you sign in on  
to get into NEIU.

Often students fall into the trap of trying to figure out where the buildings have to be logically. For example, if they are searching for Building B, they assume that if they found Building A, they have to be close. However, even though there are buildings labeled A, B, C, D, etc., it does not mean that Building A connects to Building B, or is even close to it. Building A is closer to Buildings D and C than it is to Building B.

The word on the grapevine is that the buildings were named in the order they were built.

During the winter, it is preferable to avoid walking outside. While some of these paths are not technically "shortcuts"—they are actually longer than the normal route—they can be used to avoid going outside. By going to the basement floor of the Classroom Building, you can walk to the cafeteria, the Student Union, and to the offices where the SGA (Student Government Association), the Independent, WZRD, and other student organizations reside.

From a reading room in the SU building to a Student Lounge in the basement of the E-Building, there is ample space to rest on campus. For the more nature minded, there are little grassy patches to spend a nice sunny day.

The area between the WTTW building and the P.E. Complex holds the best of the campus: a large willow tree, a fenced in "Solitary Oak," prairie grasses, and a labyrinth to contemplate.

Next to payphones and other random locations throughout NEIU, are little beige phones. These are for general in-campus communication. Got an extension number? (It's the regular number without the 442) Just dial it in and you can get a hold of any other phone on campus, for free! Don't know the ext.? Dial "0" for operator. (Ex. Public Safety: 4100; Independent: 4577; ect.)

\*Free condoms at the Health office! Ohh...glow-in-dark!

They look completely square from the outside, but that is all a facade. You will quickly find that you can literally walk in circles. Start at one point and walk all the way around the building. Therefore, if you are not sure where to go, just pick one at random and you will eventually hit your destination.

All in all, keep in mind that all Freshmen are struggling to orientate themselves. Help each other. Upperclassmen (the ones who are running to class without a map in their hands) know where they are going and can commiserate with newcomers. Ask them for help. Upperclassmen's knowledge of the campus far surpasses any information a map can give you.

Services  
gram  
floor (no printing)  
ment  
basement



## University hours

Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Sunday, campus closed but computer labs and library are open. Must sign in with Public Safety to enter classroom buildings.





# Get a Club

*If you organize it,  
they will come*

by **Andrea Zelinski**  
*Business Manager-Elect*

The opportunity to interact with other students seems fairly limited at Northeastern.

But like a diamond in the rough, little NEIU is home to over 70 student clubs and organizations. And if we don't have what you are looking for, you can start your own club. Just visit the Student Activities Office.

If you are interested in contacting a club, you can go to the Student Activities Office in SU-207, e-mail the department at [student-activities@neiu.edu](mailto:student-activities@neiu.edu), call them at 773-442-4660, or dial 4660 from any campus phone.

Clubs will also be represented at the Student Organization Fair in Village Square. The two-day fair is in the first month of each semester.

## Student Activities Office

### Office of Student Affairs

#### STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

To reach an advisor from off-campus dial (773) 442 and the advisor's extension.

#### 1. Accounting Associates

"To keep accounting students current on issues and career opportunities."

#### 2. Activists 4 Americans (A4A)

"To educate and advocate on awareness, immigration, leadership and social services that affect minorities and encourage participation in on-campus and off-campus programs."

#### 3. Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA)

"To promote unity, interest and friendship among college women. To play an active role in the community and issues that involve African-Americans and women."

#### 4. Alpha Psi Lambda

"Serve the university campus and community. Provide a supplementary educational, social and cultural experience for mutual cultivation of its members."

#### 5. Alliance for Student Social Workers (A.S.S.W.)

"To create an awareness of the diverse career opportunities in the social work profession."

#### 6. American Production and Inventory Control Society (APICS)

"To provide awareness of resource management topics and to network with professionals engaged in resource management."

#### 7. Amnesty International

"To promote human rights education."

#### 8. Anime Club

"To view and discuss past and current Japanese films and literature."

#### 9. Anthropolos

"To advance and disseminate anthropological knowledge and ideas."

#### 10. Apocalypse Literary Organization

"To publish a literary journal, sponsor literary readings on campus for students and faculty; present student workshops for creative writing."

#### 11. Assyrian Club

"To give students knowledge about the Assyrian culture."

#### 12. Black Caucus Club

"To promote unity among blacks and to strengthen and broaden knowledge of political African-American leaders worldwide."

#### 13. Black Heritage Club

"To inform and enlighten students and faculty of the life and cultural styles of African-Americans and to express these beliefs on campus."

#### 14. Black Heritage Gospel Choir (BHGC)

"To perform gospel concerts to reaffirm awareness and history of the gospel genre and to share this knowledge with the university community."

#### 15. Black Student Movement

"To organize black students, raise awareness of struggle against racism/oppression and to administer to needs and concerns of black students."

#### 16. Business and Management Club

"To develop and broaden students' knowledge of current business environment."

#### 17. Caribbean Club

"To promote unity among all NEIU and members of the community interested in Caribbean culture and affairs."

#### 18. Chess Club

"To foster the play discussion and analysis of chess among NEIU students. To teach the game of chess to beginners and organize and participate in tournaments between NEIU students and students of other colleges."

#### 19. Chimexla Student Union

"To deal with problems and issues in the Latino community through programs and activities necessary for the welfare of Latinos."

#### 20. Chinese Student Club

"To improve cultural exchanges with all other ethnic groups both within the University and the community and to encourage mutual respect for all societies."

#### 21. College Republicans

"To promote conservative issues and engage in dialogue and debate with those of other political views."

#### 22. Collegiate Music Educators National Conference (CMENC)

"To promote an understanding of the basic truths/principals that underlie the role of music in human life."

#### 23. Computer Science Society

"To unite the computer science society and community at NEIU and research new frontiers in the computer science field."

#### 24. Counselor Education Student Association (C.E.S.A)

"To enhance the professional and personal development of students in the Dept. of Counselor Education."

#### 25. Earth Science Club

"To acquaint students with the natural processes of our living Earth by having field trips to geologically interesting places; and then to present seminars at school."

#### 26. Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance (F.M.L.A)

"To provide leadership and career building opportunities for all students and to educate the community about feminist issues."

#### 27. Financial Management Association (FMA)

"To educate students to the field of finance and increase their ability to apply this knowledge to the business world."

#### 28. Free Radicals

"To develop an interest in the discipline of Chemistry among majors and non-majors."

#### 29. French Club

"To meet, share and further our knowledge of French culture and language."

#### 30. Future Health Professionals

"To provide students with insight into the practice of medicine while enabling NEIU pre-med students to interact and share information with each other."

#### 31. Future Teachers Club (FTC)

"To recruit and support students who choose a career in educational fields."

#### 32. Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Alliance (G.L.B.A)

"To promote a supportive community and create understanding and acceptance."

#### 33. Generativity Club

"To promote the study of issues of adult development by providing a forum for the examination and discussion of relevant topics."

#### 34. Geography & Environment Studies Club

"To promote awareness of geographical and environmental issues and increase enrollment for NEIU's Geography and Environmental Studies."

#### 35. Graduate Chapter of the Student Council for Exceptional Children

"To interest and involve all students concerned with the welfare of children and youth with exceptionalities."

#### 36. Green Cycle Group

"To provide the community of Northeastern opportunities to learn about sustainable land use practices."

#### 37. Hermandad de Sigma Iota Alpha Sorority

"To promote sisterhood and leadership among ourselves and strive toward the expansion of awareness of the Latina culture of our members and the community at large."

#### 38. Hillel

"Inform campus community about Jewish life, culture & concerns."

#### 39. Hip-Hop Organization

"Unifying students in order to listen and learn about hip-hop culture."

#### 40. Honors Society

"To create an environment fostering meaningful dialogue and interaction between students interested in learning and excellence."

#### 41. Illinois Education Association (I.E.A)

"To familiarize those interested in education and the teaching profession."

#### 42. Independent Newspaper

"To publish the student newspaper with news, features & information."

#### 43. Indian Student Association (ISA)

"To promote and enrich cultural & philosophical understanding within the university community."

#### 44. International Student Club

"To support international students attending NEIU and enroll in study abroad programs, promote cultural awareness & inter racial relationship, and explore different cultures by on and off-campus activities."

#### 45. InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (I.V.C.F)

"To bring students and faculty of all ethnic and social backgrounds who have interest in Christian values and beliefs together by providing a place to develop significant friendships."

#### 46. Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

"To develop and perpetuate scholarship, leadership, citizenship and brotherhood among the community."

#### 47. Justice Studies

"To promote social justice on campus among students, faculty and staff."

#### 48. Korean American Student Association

"To join together and share Korean Culture."

#### 49. Korean Campus Crusade for Christ (KCCC)

"To have Bible study and praise, to do group student outreach and learn more about Korean culture."

#### 50. Ladies of Theta Chi Omega

"To break stereotypes of many nationalities and ethnicities and educate other of diversity in the community."

#### 51. Life Catholic Student Association

"To provide open minded catholic and non-catholic students a space to share faith, study scripture, sing songs, and learn from each other's culture and life experiences."

#### 52. Marketing Club

"To develop its members through professional experience, dissemination of state of the art knowledge in the field of marketing."

#### 53. Muslim Student Association (MSA)

"To help Muslim students from different parts of the world to get to know each other and study Islam and its relevancies to contemporary society."

#### 54. Multimedia Entertainment Research Collective (MERC)

"To explore the world of Interactive Media and Entertainment and gain valuable knowledge and experience by working in a team-based environment."

#### 55. Northeastern Programming Board (N.P.B)

"To provide campus-wide programs to the University community."

#### 56. Northeastern Illinois University Polish Student Association (NEPSA)

"To serve students and to raise awareness of Polish culture and to get people involved in after school activities."

#### 57. Pakistani Student Association

"To raise awareness of Pakistani culture within NEIU community."

#### 58. Politics Club

"To promote interest and involvement in U.S. and International political issues."

#### 59. Pre-Law Society

"To promote the profession of the law and sponsor educational forums that inform us about the law and current legal issues."

#### 60. Psychology Club

"To create and foster an interest in the science of psychology among NEIU community and serving the academic and social needs all students with an interest in psychology."

#### 61. Que Ondee Sola

"To publish a monthly journal reflecting the needs particular to the Latino students with emphasis on Puerto Rican self-determination."

#### 62. Saving Our Seeds (S.O.S)

"To intervene and assist in reduction and prevention of Inner-City youths from entering the penal justice system and provide services to combat the recidivism rate."

#### 63. Seventh-Day Adventist Students for Christ

"To meet the social, emotional and spiritual needs of students, staff and faculty; and those who are affiliated with SDA church."

#### 64. Sigma Lambda Beta Fraternity

"To inform and encourage latinos to go to college and get a higher education, as well as to promote cultural awareness and to be aware of ones own roots."

#### 65. Sigma Lambda Gamma Sorority

"To promote standards of excellence in morality, ethics, and education as well as serving the needs and wants of all the people by disseminating information about the diverse culture which we all share."

#### 66. Silver Dollars Women's Organization

"To provide assistance in leadership development, planning workshops, seminars conference, special events and develop mentor organizational skills, time management, self-confidence and skills in public speaking."

#### 67. Socialist Club

"To raise awareness of students pertaining to political issues in the U.S. and the world."

#### 68. Sociology Club

"To bridge the gap between theory and practice, to build a network of student relations and to engage sociology students in social activism."

#### 69. Spanish Club

"To promote educational, cultural and social activities which provide opportunities for students to increase their efficiency in the Spanish language and culture."

#### 70. Student Association for Bilingual/Bicultural Education (S.A.B.B.E)

"To bring bilingual students representing a multi cultural background together to discuss problems and concerns and to also develop a sense of community among multicultural students."

#### 71. Student Council for Exceptional Children (S.C.E.C.)

"To promote the welfare and education of exceptional children and youth."

#### 72. Student Government Association (S.G.A)

"To represent and advocate student views and opinions."

#### 73. Union for Puerto Rican Students (U.P.R.S.)

"To promote history, culture and understanding of the struggle for the rights of the Puerto Rican students and community."

#### 74. WZRD Radio

"To train students in the proper operation of broadcast equipment, good programming and management practices. To provide a forum for worthwhile events and services."

#### 75. Youth and Students for a Democratic Foreign Policy (YSDFP)

"To mobilize and organize the youth and students as part of a proactive, anti-war movement."



# Commentary

## Editorial Board

Patrick O'Brien *Editor in Chief*  
John Bracich *Business Manager*  
Elana Barron *Associate Editor*  
Azucena Beltran *Production Manager*  
Joe Hertel *Opinions Editor*

Articles within "Commentary" do not represent the opinion of the *Independent* unless expressed within the "Editorial." Articles, cartoons, letters to the editor, staff and guest columns represent the opinion of the writer and not that of the organization.

## Editorial

### Footprints at NEIU

As you begin your college career at Northeastern Illinois University, you should ask yourself what it is that you want to do while you're here.

Are you simply wasting time before you move on to the school you really wanted to go to? Do you see NEIU as a community college that will only be a distant memory after you transfer to Big Name U.?

Or do you believe that everywhere you tread you leave footprints?

Do you believe, newcomers to this university, that what you accomplish while you're here will be noteworthy or will impact lives?

These are lofty goals for college, to be sure, unless you realize the potential wrapped up in each and every young face that walks through the doors on their first day of class.

We've got big problems in America and the world, and it makes no sense for you bright-eyed Freshmen to pretend that you are insulated from the world.

Goals that you can accomplish, lives that you can change, they call out for the sort of energy and willful enthusiasm that college students seem to have in abundance.

But do you care enough to get more than a degree while you're within these walls? Are you going to mark your time at Northeastern in a different way?

There are events swirling in an ever-demanding haze that begs for attention, for answers, for concern, and for action from those with the power to alter those events.

One such place that is in the desperate need for action is Darfur, Sudan. As the site of reported acts of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and war crimes, Darfur comes on the heels of similar acts in Rwanda, memorialized in the film *Hotel Rwanda*.

In the case of Rwanda, people of conscience mostly stood by while Hutu extremists slaughtered Tutsis, some of which occurred in front of cameras, for all the world to see.

Too many people, including college students, our most idealistic and altruistic group of citizens, stood by and ignored the carnage, living out their own lives, marking time.

So the question is asked again: what is it that you came to this university for? Did you come here because your parents made you? Are you willing to ignore the world swirling around you, while everyone else leaves his or her footprints?

Are you sure you can live with knowing that you entered these walls and went unnoticed? Unnoticed among the list of humanity that chose to open their eyes? Places like Darfur, Rwanda, Bosnia and others have made demands of our generation, fair or unfair. Can we rise to the challenge of holding this world accountable?

Northeastern Illinois University's Class of 2009, can you answer the call?

Or will you walk lightly and leave not a trace of your presence?

## VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

### The Zen of being lost



CECILIA CARBONI  
neiu\_voc@hotmail.com

**A**re you a Freshman? First year or transfer? A little lost?

This is what we call the blind leading the blind. Everyone else at this paper can give you answers, but I personally don't have too many. My only strong point comes from being a veteran of Lost here at NEIU, and you will be, too. So, just take it from me kid, your Zen will lay within the acceptance of it.

There are certain things you should learn right off: the Touchtone system is a capricious bastard, getting any paperwork done involves mass amounts of bureaucratic runaround, the classes you need will almost certainly be filled, and you have to make sure your major is accredited before you start it.

Mind you, NEIU has hardworking and dedicated teachers that always try to make up for whatever the department lacks in resources. Many classes here are complete gems. We are known, of course, as a teachers college, but I've heard high ratings on the history, English, and linguistics programs.

The thing to realize, once you've wandered around here for a while, changed majors and minors several times, is that NEIU is a very easy place to lose track and stray. I took classes on forensics, philosophy, and flamenco before I ever finished my general education courses or declared a major. The key is to find your passions and dive right in with a proper list of required classes.

Always register during early registration.

Always read the bulletin boards. There are events going on everywhere—speeches, movies, outings, etc. NEIU has many clubs you can join (and a newspaper ... hint hint). Some you have to look for because they tend to be small and don't have the visibility of many of the larger organizations. The only way they'll grow, though, is if incoming students search for others who share their own interests. Trust me, there are environmental clubs, anthropology, hip-hop, computer science, anime, feminist, and despite our lack of dorms, a flourishing Greek life. The list is huge, and you can find it at the Student Activities office, wherever it may be.

Get a map of NEIU and write down notes of where things are if you have to. There are computer labs everywhere, and for those media minded, there's a hidden lab with video editing systems on the third floor of the library.

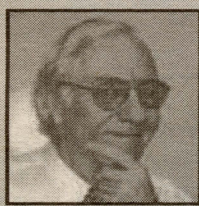
Nature lover? There's a gorgeous labyrinth in the green area between the WTTW building and the P.E. where you can contemplate the universe.

The P.E. itself has a very nice pool and a very complete workout room. You can even get free personal trainers for both the gym and pool.

Besides those, there is a whole slew of offices and departments you need to familiarize yourself with to help you streamline your headaches here at NEIU. Did I mention the free counseling?

Basically the easiest way to learn the twists and turns of the hallways is that you find an interest and its corresponding group. Those people will know how to mentor you or direct you to people that can help you. Being lost as a group is usually less harrowing.

And that's how I got here. I picked up a paper, got lost in the basement and found the newspaper gang. I'm still pretty lost, but at least I got people to trade info with.



Joe Hertel  
OldManNEIU@aol.com

## Old Man on Campus *Was it good for you?*

Your first semester at NEIU is like your first sexual encounter. It's not all you thought it would be, you wonder why you did it, it's over before you know it, and you will probably come back for more.

Welcome to college, incoming freshman! As the resident curmudgeon, I take great pride in introducing you to our campus and offer you some insights as to how to enjoy your first semester.

We are one of the most diverse college campuses in the U.S. and we want to keep it that way. We have clubs for blacks, whites, Hispanics, Republicans, Democrats, gays, straights, Muslims, Christians, geeks, and jocks. So whatever you are, whatever your belief system or sexual or political persuasions, NEIU has something for you. Separate but equal, that's us!

NEIU gives much thought to the image we portray. Just look at our beautiful campus. We spend thousands and thousands of dollars so you have nice trees and plants to help you relax or study. We just planted a whole bunch of stuff for the fall. We have, you will notice, large sculptures around campus for you to look at and enjoy. Unfortunately, none of it is student art; we rate low when it comes to displaying student art compared to

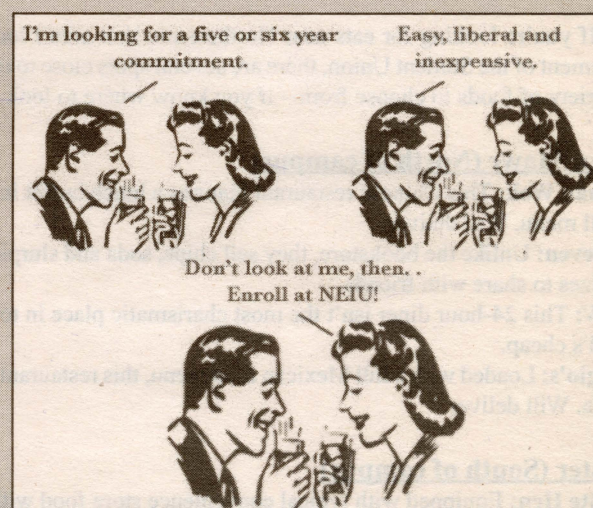
some universities.

We have excellent instructors on campus. They stay with us even though they don't get paid what they're worth. We had a strike last year so they did get a bit more. The professors don't mind though, they are dedicated to teaching, some at several different locations in order to make ends meet.

There is little campus life to speak of. We are a commuter college and therefore this place is more like a bus terminal with people coming and going, not talking to each other much; having their own itinerary and destination. We might say "hi" in the corridors if we recognize you from class, and there might be an occasional protest or demonstration on campus where you can join the other six or seven participants. But this place becomes a ghost town (not unlike the adjacent cemetery) after dark, especially on the weekends.

We have very good advisors and counselors at NEIU. You should be out of here in five or six years. Some of us take a bit longer. I started in 1963, but then, that's an exception.

A bit of advice about NEIU parking: buy a level two parking permit or you will be forever riding around looking for a spot, especially with street cleaning every two weeks. Even with a permit, if you don't get here early, you will be in the upper levels of the parking garage.



Cartoon by Joe Hertel

Most important: learn to manage your time. Read the class syllabi and stay ahead in your reading and assignments. Don't wait until the night before, or the day of an assignment to do it. It is so easy to fall behind, so take steps in your preparation even though it means giving up some of your leisure time and you will do okay.

Like sex, if you take your time and do it right, you'll find college an enjoyable experience.



# Does your professor make the grade?

by PJ Beemer  
Former Copy Editor

There are a few clear-cut criteria for choosing which class to take. Finding a class that meets one's requirements and choosing a class that fits into one's schedule are two of the most important. After these, there is the problem of who will be teaching the class. The issue of who will, in part, run much of one's life for the next three and a half months is a serious one. For some students, asking friends and other students who have taken classes from a certain professor is enough. However, for those transferring into a new university, as many students attending this school are, such a strategy can be problematic. But a solution to this dilemma has appeared: [www.ratemyprofessor.com](http://www.ratemyprofessor.com).

RateMyProfessors.com offers students from universities around the nation a chance to research other students' opinions on a specific professor. Upon arrival to the site, students are able to first select the state they live in, and then the specific school they attend. Upon clicking on Northeastern's link, one finds a list of all of the professors at the school who have been rated. Students are also offered the option of adding a professor to the list. Each professor on the list is rated on his or her easiness, helpfulness, and clarity on a 5.0 scale.

The idea for the site came to founder John Swapceinski in 1999. He said in an email that, "[While] pursuing a masters in Computer Science at San Jose State University, I took a class with a professor who turned out to be a real ogre. I decided there ought to be a web site where students could warn their peers about professors like her, so I started RateMyProfessors.com."

Currently, the site has 569,475 professors on the site; 513 of those are professors at Northeastern.

Originally published in the Independent on November 18, 2003. Information within was made current.

# Good eats between classes

by Andrea Zelinski  
Business Manager

If you're looking for eats near Northeastern that aren't located in the basement of the Student Union, there are several spots close to campus, and a variety of foods to choose from—if you know where to look.

## Bryn Mawr (North of campus)

**Hunan Wok:** This Chinese restaurant features a lunch buffet in addition to a full menu. Will deliver.

**7 Eleven:** Unlike the bookstore, they sell chips, soda and slurpies in plenty of sizes to share with friends.

**CNV:** This 24-hour diner isn't the most charismatic place in town, but the food's cheap.

**Sergio's:** Loaded with a full Mexican food menu, this restaurant also serves pizza. Will deliver.

## Foster (South of campus)

**White Hen:** Equipped with typical convenience store food with the bonus of a full service deli and custom-made sandwiches.

**Subway:** The sub chain now features wraps and toasted sandwiches in addition to their cold subs.

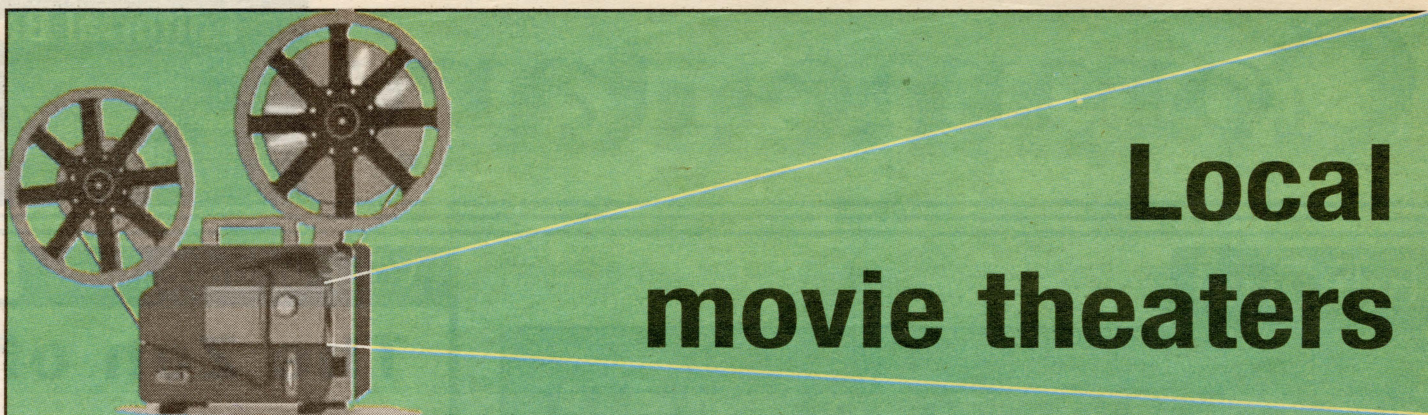
**Mexican Restaurant:** Often overlooked, this Mexican restaurant on the other side of town is cheap.

## Pulaski Road (West of campus)

**Pizza Hut:** They don't offer pizza by the slice, but there are usually coupons and promotional offers, and always Personal Pan Pizzas.

**Subway:** See above.

**Mayflower:** A full menu for eat-in or take-out Chinese with lunch and dinner specials.



# Local movie theaters

by Dino Pollard  
Rev Editor

As the *Independent's* resident film critic and entertainment editor, it seemed natural for me to provide information to incoming Freshmen on my personal area of expertise—movies, or movie theaters as the case may be. There are three movie theaters in the general area that I frequent pretty often: Facets, Music Box, and Century CinéArts.

The Facets Cinematheque, founded in 1975, is located at 1517 West Fullerton in Chicago. It has a small theater where they screen a movie for about a week. They screen a lot of foreign films, but they also screen English-language films, most of which are very controversial. Ticket prices are \$9. In addition to being

a theater, Facets is also a video store, where you can rent or buy DVDs and VHS tapes. For more information, you can reach them at 773-281-9075 or visit [www.facets.org](http://www.facets.org).

The Music Box Theatre, in addition to being a great place to watch movies, is also a piece of Chicago history. Located at 3733 North Southport Avenue, The Music Box first opened its doors in 1929, and has been around ever since.

The theater shows a variety of films, old and new, foreign and domestic. In addition to their regular schedule, they also have weekend matinees, which can include brunch, as well as midnight movies, where cult films such as *Rocky Horror Picture Show* are screened. Plus, the Music Box prides itself on the presence of the ghost of a former employee. Tickets are usually \$9.25.

For more information on the Music Box, call 773-871-6604 or go to [www.musicboxtheatre.com](http://www.musicboxtheatre.com).

The Century CinéArts, located at 1715 Maple Avenue in Evanston, may be out of the way for some people, but it's worth the trip. The theater shows mainly American independent films, but also some foreign films, at the student discount price of \$8.25. There's also a bar located in the theater with live music and walls lined with old movie posters. For those of you who like more mainstream movies, the Century 12 Theater is also located in here. For more information, call 847-492-0123 or go to [www.cinearts.com](http://www.cinearts.com).

If you're looking for something to do on the weekends, give these unique theaters in the Chicagoland area a chance.

# To the arts

## *A quick look at music, theater, and dance*

by Jonathan Gronli  
Production Editor

Many may wonder what this school has to offer in terms of entertainment—whether it is in art or performance. This school is as rich in the arts as it is in ethnicity.

For you paint and sculpture junkies, there are always things to check out. Whether it is the sculpture by Ruth Duckworth between Building B and the Science Building, or other art displays around campus, you can always find something to fill your artistic palette. If you want to display your own piece of work in any of the student art displays throughout

the semester, just find a professor in the art department for more information.

For those who love the theater, the new auditorium occasionally holds large-scale plays. They are rare, but if you keep your eyes open, you'll be able to find one. There is also the Stage Center Theater in Building F (in between the Classroom Building and Public Safety) where the majority of the plays here are held. Also, you aspiring actors can try out for roles in these plays.

The majority of what goes on at Northeastern is musical. Our school is rich with the art of music performance. We have student ensembles in dance, classical music, and jazz. Any student with enough experience (and time management skills) can participate

in the student ensembles.

In addition to the student ensembles, the school invites classically trained musicians and dance troupes who are fairly well known. Northeastern has brought in musicians Paquito D'Rivera and the Assad brothers, among others.

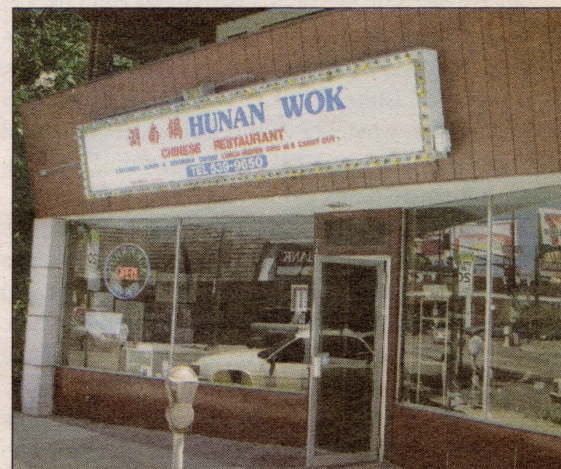
Freshmen, whatever you do, just be aware of what is going on around you. There is a world of art open to you and opportunities to be a part of—if you look.



Image courtesy of millfree.k12.or.us



While The May Flower and Sergio's deliver, Tre Kronor and Hunan Wok require a walk down the street.



Photos by D. Gordon Macnab