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Independent- Aug. 2, 2005

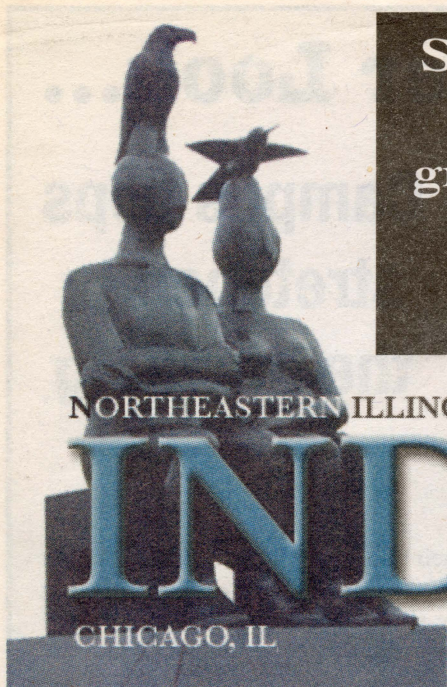
Patrick O'Brien

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Student mural
cooperative
graces walls of
Fine Arts,
page 3



Don't ask
for ketchup,
don't even
think about
it, page 5



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, August 2nd, 2005

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 1

INDEPENDENT

CHICAGO, IL

13-TIME 2004 ICPA AWARD WINNER

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Toxic mercury spill discovered

Hazardous materials team arrives for cleanup one week after initial discovery of dangerous chemical



photo courtesy of Seti Environmental Cleaning

Workers from Seti Environmental Cleaning treat a mercury spill, a week after the initial discovery near Property Control.

by John Bracich
Business Manager

Andy Saylor, the environmental project manager from Seti Environmental Cleaning, directed two of his associates to don chemical suits and go to Property Control in Northeastern to clean up a hazardous chemical spill of

mercury. This occurred on Tuesday, June 21—a week after the discovery of the mercury spill in one of the main corridors that comprises Property Control.

According to Ralph Zia, one of the administrators at Facilities Management, “initially it looked like a small amount. That’s why we had the kit.” This kit was a special

mercury cleanup solution, which was applied by long-time Science Building technician Pete Fortsas.

“Pete Fortsas was brought in to clean up the mercury. [He] used a solvent to contain the mercury, but the situation got out of control; it proved too big,” custodian Mike Alexander said,

See Mercury spill, page 2

Daring heist nets sensitive payroll information

by Tom Robb
News Editor

In a daring evening heist, burglars broke into the Office of Academic Affairs and made off with one laptop, one computer (CPU), and two monitors.

An alert was sent out to university employees because these computers contained social security numbers and sensitive salary information.

The *Independent* has learned that the laptop was issued to Associate Provost Vicki Roman-Lagunas and the CPU was taken from the cubicle of Administrative Assistant Danielle Hernandez.

Vice President of Finance and Administration Mark Wilcockson told the *Independent* that the sensitive information of concern was downloaded e-mails that were part of an e-mail list serve used among administrators to facilitate payroll of university employees. The computers contained social security numbers and other payroll information on the hard drives.

Wilcockson stated that the information

was on the stolen computers’ hard drives and that the NEIU computer network had not been hacked. Both NEIU Public Safety Chief Jim Lyon and Wilcockson stated that no student data was compromised.

According to the NEIU Public Safety police report, on the evening of Tuesday, July 12, after dumping the contents of several garbage cans, the thieves pried open a door adjacent to Academic Affairs and used the bags from the cans to make off with the computers.

Alarms were triggered at 9:43 p.m. and 10:11 p.m. An officer from Public Safety responded, but according to the report, found “negative results.”

According to the police report, several pieces of evidence were left behind at the scene, and those items were sent to a police crime lab for examination. NEIU Public Safety also dusted the offices for fingerprints.

Lyon said the District 17 Chicago Police units were canvassing pawnshops looking for the computers.

Lyon stated, “The [NEIU Public Safety]

Officers suspect that the computers were not stolen for the information, just for the equipment.” Both Wilcockson and Lyon stated that they did not know just how much sensitive information was contained on these computers.

Lyon issued a memo to university employees advising them of the theft and the fact that social security numbers and other personal information may have been compromised.

When asked what the staffing levels were on the night of the theft, Lyon stated that there were two officers and one dispatcher on duty. He asked, “How are you going to cover a campus this size with two [officers]?”

**“How are you
going to cover a
campus this size
with two
officers?”**

**-Jim Lyon,
Public Safety
Chief**

Goodwin announces retirement



photo by Cecilia Carboni

Board of Trustees President
Daniel Goodwin with university
President Salme Steinberg.

by Tom Robb
News Editor

Daniel Goodwin, chairman of the Board of Trustees and benefactor who gave \$400,000 of his own money to help settle last year’s NEIU teachers’ strike, is retiring on Sept. 1 after ten years as NEIU’s first and only chair.

Goodwin has a long history with Northeastern. He is a graduate of NEIU, was the first NEIU Student Government president, and the first and only chairman of the Board of Trustees. Goodwin was presented an award by the Board of Trustees at their last meeting for his long service to NEIU.

When asked why he chose to retire now, Goodwin told the *Independent*, “Assuming we have a four-year agreement with the union, it’s a good time for change.”

Goodwin was alluding to the unsigned contract between the teachers and administration, a contract which ended the teacher walkout and strike.

“I would prefer the contract be signed as soon as possible. When we reached the agreement based on my commitment to contribute \$100,000 per year, I assumed we would sign the contract shortly thereafter,” said Goodwin.

He made his offer of \$100,000 a year for four years to bridge the gap between the striking teachers and the administration as the number of days left in the semester were dwindling:

“You (students) have to attend a minimum number of hours. If we would have waited a few more days ... students wouldn’t have been able to get credit ... The students were the primary motivating factor to contribute to the settlement.”

In his interview with the *Independent*, Goodwin also spoke about President Steinberg’s sabbatical and her contract renewal. Goodwin stated that although

See Goodwin, page 2

A profile of Northeastern's new top cop

by J. Louis Bracich
Business Manager

Recently, NEIU said goodbye to Public Safety Lt. Jack Baker, who helped coordinate the goings on at Public Safety. As Baker enjoys his retirement, Northeastern searched for a new cop. They found Lt. C. James Lyon Jr. from Florida.

At Northeastern, Lyon has a lot of work ahead of him. Currently, Public Safety is in the process of moving their operations from their current headquarters in Parking lot D into a special office space that will be located in the new parking garage. Lyon will be in charge of the public safety at all of NEIU's campuses.

Lyon in an interview with the Independent, "Crime statistics speak for themselves. NEIU is a very safe campus. It is safe because we have a staff that is dedicated to ensuring the safety and security of

all here at NEIU. Our standards at NEIU Department of Public Safety mandates that we have three officers on duty at all times. With that number of officers, we have sufficient coverage of the campus."

Lyon proceeded to tackle the question about personnel: "However, we do have officers that are dedicated enough to the department to work overtime when a staffing shortage does occur. I am looking at several different plans at the current time to address these shortages." The changes to be made will not be made quickly, Lyon noted. "It won't happen overnight, but collectively, we can make it happen."

Lyon hails from Orlando, Florida. He began his academics and training in the United States Air Force. There, he received an Associate's degree in Criminal Justice Studies at the Community College of the Air Force in Florida.

He then received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Legal Studies and a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Central Florida.

Upon graduation, Lyon served as a law enforcement specialist for the Air Force. Lyon was then a reservist for the Air Force. Entering the civilian law enforcement field, Lt. Lyon was recruited by the University of Central Florida's Police Department (UCFPD).

In the eight years he spent there, he was involved virtually in every aspect of law enforcement, ranging from basic DUIs to patrolling in a special mountain bike division against possible drug trafficking.

Following the UCFPD, Lyon became the Assistant Director of Public Safety at Davidson College in North Carolina.

These endeavors earned him the attention of NEIU.

A Closer Look...



Tom Robb
T-Robb@neiu.edu

Campus cops stretched to the breaking point

No one would want their bus driver, fireman or airline pilot running on no sleep, so why are public safety officers running as many as three double shifts in one week? Public Safety seems undervalued by this administration, and that will come back to bite NEIU.

Let's be clear, Public Safety officers do a lot on this campus. Many only see the campus cops opening a door when someone locked their keys in the office, but the most important job Public Safety has is their role as first responders.

One has to consider what a first responder does and how those situations unfold. The first responder is the "first" on the scene. Our Public Safety officers may respond to a hazardous materials spill (see page one), or a break-in in progress (see page one) or respond to medical emergencies. They even respond to a number of crimes in the neighborhood with the Chicago Police.

In responding to these types of situations, judgments have to be made quickly and with potentially deadly or serious implications. What would have happened to Officer Galindo (who responded to the alarms activated in Academic Affairs) had he found the burglars who broke into that office last week?

What if he was on hour 14 or 15 of a shift? Would he be making sound judgments when possibly pulling a gun? Is that the kind of public relation's nightmare the school wants just so they can save a few bucks?

Beyond the sheer number of hours worked, the officers have said that this campus is often patrolled by only two officers and rarely more than three.

So not only are they running on no sleep, they are running to keep up with the calls. That does not leave room to patrol the buildings and maybe, oh I don't know, catch those burglars who stole the computers from Academic Affairs?

One Public Safety officer told the Independent last week that the alarms in the newly rehabbed Building C (Beehive) go off so regularly that officers get complacent when responding. Should we be surprised that these burglars were not caught?

Again the question is why. Why are their often only two officers patrolling the whole main campus at any given time, even during large events? Why are there still unarmed contract security guards at El Centro after a shooting outside of that building last year? The Independent has spoken to some of these officers and they are burnt out.

New Chief of the campus cops Jim Lyon is getting much praise among the rank and file officers for changes he is enacting. His officers lauded Former Acting Chief Jack Baker as doing well with what he was given, but the shortfalls that Baker spoke about and the shortfalls occurring now do not seem the fault of the Chiefs.

Baker seemed eternally frustrated by the lack of resources. Lyon also seems to have recognized staffing issues as well. He asked after the computer heist, "How are you going to patrol a campus this size with only two officers?"

How indeed? This is a big issue that needs to be fixed now before something really big happens. Remember these guys and gals deal with life and death issues, and they carry guns.

Zero to News in 60 Seconds

Check forgery foiled

A man replicated a check for \$3900 to look like a financial aid disbursement check from NEIU, drawn from LaSalle Bank.

He tried to cash it at a LaSalle Bank Chicago, but the fraud was foiled because NEIU does not have any accounts at LaSalle Bank and the forger misspelled 'Illinois' on the fake check.

Chief of Public Safety Jim Lyon stated that the offender has a long criminal history of these kinds of offences and lived in Florida.

New hires in Student Activities, Campus Recreation

NEIU has made filled two significant positions effective Aug. 1, Director of Student Activities and Director of Campus Recreation.

The new Director of Student Activities, Sharon M. Evans, hails from Columbia University in New York. Though most recently the Associate Director of Organizational Advising, Programs and Services at Columbia, she is a Chicago-area native earning both her Bachelor's and Master's in education from Illinois State University.

VP for Student Affairs Melvin Terrell described her management style as "all inclusive," and said "I am confident that she will provide strong and dynamic leadership to the Student Activities Office."

Also starting Aug. 1 is Matthew Specht as Director of Campus Recreation. Specht's comes to NEIU after holding the post of Associate Director of Recreational Sports and Programs at Southern Missouri State University.

Specht is also serves as a Parlemtarian for the National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association. He received his Bachelor of Science from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale and his Masters of Arts from Central Michigan University.

Professors who made the grade

From the Provost's Office

Promoted to Full Professor

Timothy Libretti, English
Patrick Miller, History
Venetia Stifler, Music

Promoted to Associate Professor

Anita Thomas, Counselor Education
Russell Benjamin, Political Science
Suzanne Benson, Educational Leadership and Development
Lawrence Berlin, Anthropology, Linguistics, Philosophy
Effie Kritkos, Special Education
Jianwen Liao, Management and Marketing
Katherine McKnight, Teacher Education
Shubhangee Mungre, Biology
Selina L.P. Mushi, Teacher

Education

April Nauman, Teacher Education
Joel Olfelt, Biology
Victor Ortiz, Sociology, Women's Studies, Mexican-Caribbean Studies
Roger Passman, Teacher Education
Ester Maria Santana, Foreign Languages, Literature
Christopher Schroeder, English
Andrew Shankman, History
Brett Stockdill, Sociology, Women's Studies, Mexican-Caribbean Studies
Russell Zanca, Anthropology, Linguistics, Philosophy

Awarded Tenure

Russell Benjamin, Political Science
Richard Hallett, Anthropology, Linguistics, Philosophy

Effie Kritkos, Special Education
Jianwen Liao, Management and Marketing
Katherine McKnight, Teacher Education
Shubhangee Mungre, Biology
Selina L.P. Mushi, Teacher Education
April Nauman, Teacher Education
Joel Olfelt, Biology
Roger Passman, Teacher Education
Marina Polyashuk, Mathematics
Pericles Perzas, Computer Science
Ester Maria Santana, Foreign Languages, Literature
Andrew Shankman, History
Russell Zanca, Anthropology, Linguistics, Philosophy

Mercury spill, from page 1

who was one of the first people on the scene.

Despite Fortsas' efforts, it was soon realized that this was no small puddle. The spill was much larger than they could handle.

"We had only one spill kit and found more mercury. He [Fortsas] found that we needed pros in the field," Zia said. "Once we discovered the spill, we cleared off the area as a precaution.

Seti Enviromental from Wheeling was called in Friday the 17th, and they arrived on Monday." According to Zia and Saylor, the cleanup procedure would take approximately two weeks to finish.

The contamination took a toll on Property Control. Men in hazmat suits were seen disposing of many items from Property Control. Many items exposed to the toxic spill were ordered to be disposed of.

The area affected by the chemical spill consisted of one office and a series of corridors

between the Student Union and the Classroom Building on the lower level. It held items ranging from furniture, such as desks and chairs, to computer equipment. The items on the disposal list will vary greatly. "Some of the stuff at property Control will have to be disposed, like the wooden pallets. Anything getting high readings [of contamination] will be disposed of," Zia said.

Time will tell if everything has been cleaned up. As of publication, the source of the mercury is unknown. Among the questions that many have had is if this toxic spill was only found by accident, how many other spills are out there that have yet to be found?

There is still speculation as to the source of the mercury spill. In the beginning, some believed it might have been from some old instruments that had been stored there. "Some instruments had mercury. Don't know if they dropped or the

instrument broke," Alexander said. "It had been exposed for the past two weeks."

It is believed that the leakage had been going on for some extended period of time without notice. According to Zia, an investigation will begin about the leak: "We're going to try and determine where it came from."

Saylor complimented the fast action the university took. Zia said, "because of Pete [Fortsas] acting fast, we managed to get it from going into vapor. The guy [Saylor] said we did a good job."

Though the university did indeed act quickly, the question as to the level of overall contamination from the mercury spill is still in question.

If the mercury had been exposed for such a long period of time, then the question arises if the mercury turned into vapor and joined the air system.

Goodwin, from page 1

originally planned as a one year sabbatical, Steinberg will split her sabbatical into two six month periods to maintain "continuity."

Goodwin stated that upon completion of her sabbaticals, Steinberg will be close to the renewal date for her contract. Goodwin indicated that there will be a need for a "presidential search" and that "no decision has been made on whether Salme [Steinberg] will renew her contract for this period."

Goodwin was also quick to point out that there was also no indication that Steinberg had any plans to leave her post either.

Vice Chair of the Board Nancy Masterson will serve as acting chair should an election not occur by the end of Goodwin's current term on Sept. 1.

Fredricks takes challenge of presidency in stride

by Dorian Barrios
Photo Editor

On July 1, University President Salme Steinberg began her six-month sabbatical, leaving Janet Fredericks, dean of the graduate college and director of international programs, in charge of the day-to-day operational responsibilities of NEIU.

While responsible for the daily presidential responsibilities, Fredericks will consult with Steinberg, who will remain in Chicago, about any decisions that would go to the school's board of trustees.

With management experience, two Master's degrees, a doctorate and a post doctorate under her belt, Fredericks was thrilled to take on the challenge of running the university.

"It's going to be interesting; I'm hoping that the students have a good year and that things go very smoothly," stated Fredericks about her hopes for the upcoming year. "The

idea is to keep things moving, not to miss any opportunities and hopefully not stumble into any big pitfall," said Fredericks.

With the media's negative portrayal of NEIU's low graduation rate, a teacher's contract that has yet to be signed and an increase in student tuition, Fredericks has taken over the helm of the university during some shaky times.

"I don't think that those statements really understand that nature of what we're trying to do here or what the students are trying to do," stated Fredericks about an article published in the *Chicago Tribune* that ranked NEIU with the second lowest graduation rate in the state. "And I don't think that the students efforts should be diminished."

Fredericks pointed at the diverse student population and their varying objectives at Northeastern. "We have many transfer students, we have students who stop out, we have students who for one reason or another decide that they want a program that we

don't offer. There are a lot of things that are part of this and I don't think that the *Tribune* editorial addressed all of those issues."

According to Fredericks, "the real question is are we doing what we can do to support the students so that they are in fact proceeding at the rate they want to proceed in to finish."

On the issue of the rise in student tuition Fredericks stated, "the objective is to keep the cost down as much as we can ... You have to also try to make sure that you're able to provide the programs for the students needs."

Fredericks went on to explain the higher tuition as a result of Truth in Tuition and an increase in services necessary to run a university. "There are different kinds of cost associated with going to school now than there used to be."

There's a lot more support cost ... and I think Northeastern has kept their cost down and kept it reasonable, and I think I'm kind of proud of the fact that we're a state university



photo by Patrick O'Brien

Dean Janet Fredericks, acting President for the next six months.

whose done what they've done."

Fredericks regularly expressed her high hopes for the university and her concern for the issues afflicting it. She also expressed her eagerness to get to work with University Professionals of Illinois (teacher's union) and Student Government representatives.

Interest rate hike spurs students to consolidate loans

by Andrea Zelinski
Business Manager

While most NEIU students were setting up plans for the July fourth weekend, some may have been calling their loan carriers looking to consolidate their college debt.

They may have been reacting to an interest rate hike effective July 1, trying to take advantage of 2004 rates by consolidating their loans.

"Consolidation affords borrowers of multiple loans an opportunity to combine those loans into one payment and extend over a longer period of time," said Director of Financial Aid Marshall Jennings.

According to Jennings, the average student loan debt taken out at Northeastern in the 2003-2004 school year was about \$10,900.

A student with \$10,000 loan debt, who locked in the rate before July 1, will save about \$1,152 in interest payments over the ten-year term of the loan, according to Forbes.com, an online business magazine.

The Federal Stafford rate during repayment is now 5.3 percent, up from 3.37 percent.

The rates are 4.7 percent while students are still in school, during the grace period after graduation, and deferment. Federal Plus Loans for parents are now 6.1 percent.

According to Forbes.com, the largest interest rate increase was 1.27 percent back in 2000.

Rates increased this year by 1.93 percent.

The Stafford loans use variable interest rates, according to Jennings. "The rates are adjusted annually on July 1 and cannot by law exceed 8.2 percent," he said.

"So the era of historically low interest rates on student loans has ended," said FinAid.org. "Interest rates are expected to increase by a further 1.5 percent to 2.0 percent on July 1, 2006, returning to historical averages."

According to FinAid.org, about two thirds of students graduate with some debt. Jennings said 290 students graduated from Northeastern this spring in the same boat.

Education loans come in three different types: student loans (e.g. Stafford and Perkins loans), parent loans (e.g. PLUS loans), and education loans (e.g. also called alternative or private loans).

Given these loan types, student can consolidate loans by their multiple lenders. This provides an opportunity to pay only one lender and extend the payment period to over ten years. Consolidation also provides lower monthly payments, though more interest is accumulated because the loan is held longer.

For more information on loan consolidation, contact your lender or the NEIU Financial Aid Office at 773-442-5000.



photo by Cecilia Carboni

Professor Santiago Vaca's students work on a 27 foot by 10 foot canvas in the Fine Arts Building.

by Joe Hertel
Opinions Editor

Summer semester art students are expressing their creativity on the walls of NEIU. A recently installed 27 by 10 foot canvas on the east wall of the rear corridor of the Fine Arts Building is the venue for a multi-student mural project under the direction of Assistant Professor of Art Santiago Vaca, M.F.A.

"This is a great class, and I love it!" stated art minor Abisa Kljucanin. "It's fun to work with people and everyone works together," said Kljucanin, enthusiastically. Art major Ivonne Cruz agrees. "It's a group thing; everyone contributes," she stated as students sitting on the floor or standing on ladders carefully applied layers of paint to the forming images.

Professor Vaca was also enthusiastic, explaining that "working out here in the hall is much better than upstairs in the classroom." Vaca believes that the university "needs to have a mural in the [Fine] Arts

building."

Although the mural does not currently have a name chosen by the students, it has been suggested by several students that it be named something along the lines of "Celebrating the Arts."

The students designed the mural to represent the art at the university, such as views of the music, dance, theater and art departments, including the outdoor Serenity sculpture by artist Ruth Duckworth, recently installed on campus.

Vaca believes having the students cooperatively design and work on the mural, and having it in plain view of those using the rear hallway, will be an incentive to become more involved in the many diverse courses in the arts offered at NEIU.

The gesso coated canvas was placed over existing wall boards formerly used as posting areas for various flyers and circulars promoting campus departmental and organizational offerings. Although there is still plenty of posting space, Vaca is unsure as to how permanent the mural installation will be.

Student mural takes advantage of newfound art space

2nd Annual Journalism Workshop

Topics

Journalistic Ethics
Feature and News Writing
Writing on Deadline

Learn from the professionals!

Thursday, August 18
10:00 am - 6:00 pm
Student Union 003

Dinner and refreshments will be served!

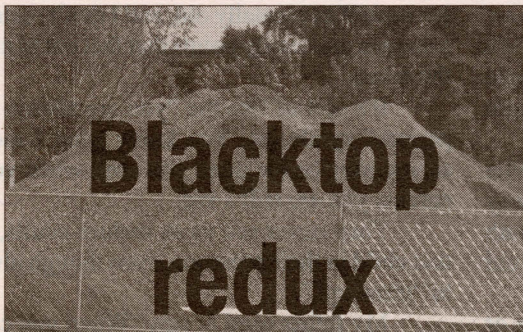


photo by Tom Robb

A pile of pulverized concrete near the Library.

by Tom Robb
News Editor

Construction is nothing new at NEIU, but recycling in construction projects on a massive scale is. The mountain of concrete taken from the surface of parking lot K that is part of the University Commons will not be hauled away and put in a landfill. It will be reused and put back into the ground as a sub-base for the sidewalks and pathways.

According to Director of Maintenance and Construction Gary Bryan, typically gravel is used a sub-base for fresh poured concrete; the pulverized concrete from lot K will

be used instead.

Recycling Coordinator Jack Kroll touted the benefits: "Hundreds of cubic feet (would be) put in a land fill ... you want to use a landfill for trash, only that's the long term goal for all recycling, reuse all we can."

"The project saved thousands of dollars by crushing tons of concrete and asphalt to stay on campus instead of hauling it away to a land fill or to be used somewhere else. Less air pollution due to having trucks come to campus or leave campus. You know how polluting diesel truck are," said Kroll.

Bryan told the *Independent* that he could not think of any disadvantages to using this method. Bryan stated that the pulverized concrete actually drains better than dirt. There is not the wear and tear on the parking lots of large trucks coming through and there is a cost savings in not having the trucks haul the concrete away.

Bryan and Kroll could not give an exact savings, however, Bryan said that hauling away clay, which is less expensive than concrete, costs \$300 per load.

Bryan said that this method is not right for every project, but works especially well for this project as the ground level needs to be raised for the commons from that of Lot K. It takes a "combination of the right place and right time."

Editorial

The truth is served

Imagine a different America.

Imagine an America where Richard Nixon never resigned because no one knew about the Watergate scandal. Imagine a world where the Enron scandal was never revealed. Nor was WorldCom's.

Imagine paying your taxes, electing your officials and having them spend your money on trucking companies owned by political contributors.

This is the world without anonymous sources: where citizens get shafted every day because no one will speak up. Whistleblowers are afraid to lose their jobs and damage their characters.

On Thursday, July 7, *New York Times* reporter Judith Miller was jailed for contempt of court because she refused to reveal her anonymous sources to a federal judge. She was jailed. Imprisoned. She is sleeping in a cold, dark cell for not revealing a person's name.

These are not the anonymous sources who slip a note under the door saying "Check out the mayor, he's up to no good!" or "The cafeteria food was poisoned last week." These are news tips that provide a possible idea for investigation. Sometimes they are true, other times they are not. Whether a story is ever written depends on the results of the investigation.

The other type of anonymous source is one who says "psst" and pulls you aside. They tell you "I've got some information on the dean, but keep my name out of it." These too are risky.

More often than not, people who slide notes under the door or pull us aside are looking to accomplish something. They are usually trying to further their own agenda, make someone look bad, or make themselves look good.

Every time reporters receive an anonymous tip or note, they research the given information to find out if it is true.

They do all the work citizens entrust them to do. If after all that work is done, and they have a real story on their hands, the citizens will be the first to know. Unfortunately, this process does not come without risks.

Again, people have their agendas, and we acknowledge that. But at the *Independent* we an agenda, too: standing up for the public's right to know. We have a responsibility to tell you, the student body, what the student government official is doing, or not doing, with their money.

We have a responsibility to tell you what the board of education is doing with your degree. And we have a responsibility to tell it to you fairly and honestly.

We promise to adhere to the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics to "Seek truth and report it," "minimize harm," "act independently" and "be accountable."

Whether the source is the guy in the shadows, the slip of paper under the door, or the good old fashioned flyer for the event on campus, we will continue to work in the best interests of the public.

We at the *Independent* promise to follow these guidelines, amongst many others, in order to be responsible journalists. This way, you can read fair stories, make your own decisions and be knowledgeable citizens.

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

Fall anticipation



CECILIA CARBONI
neiu_voc@hotmail.com

When the fall semester comes back, this ghost town will start to see more students and less tumbleweeds. We will experience new classes, lost friends, and perhaps the discovery of a small social life at NEIU.

Many should use the fall as an opportunity to investigate what NEIU has to offer. More often than not, you'll probably just attend a meeting from some club, sit around like a deer in headlights, eat the snacks, and never be seen from again, but that's a topic for another column.

Many of you who belong to some campus organization will return to meetings, rejuvenated from the long break, ready for new plans and ideas. Will the Anthropology Club plan an outing to the museum? Will the Feminist Majority bring in more sex toy demonstrations? What about the Anime club? Will they sponsor any major events?

The only ones that would be happy with less to do would be the Socialists, but they always have a cause waiting for them. I would like to see information about the Chess club's tournaments. Hopefully, we will see something new and productive from each of our organizations on campus.

And the SGA, what scandals are going to brew this semester? I know that there have been issues slowly burning within the members of the different groups, and I can just sense plenty to gossip that will abound in this upcoming year.

Did I say gossip? I mean ... yeah, it's pretty much that. Then again, we might see some actual productivity seeping out from amidst the quarreling. It might just be a charmed fall semester yet.

I think that too often really great concepts go astray because of petty differences or lack of enthusiasm from only a select number of individuals. I suggest that those who are already involved push the goals of their group past what is already expected.

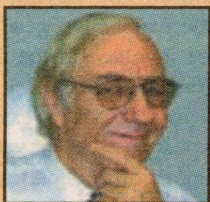
By doing so, they will surely contribute to the campus community and create the social atmosphere that is lacking.

Personally, I say we need more dances. People to attend them would be helpful, too.

If you aren't involved, try something out. There are perks to being close to campus. Even if you work, have kids, and go to classes, there is always an interest you can pursue.

If you're honest about your time commitments up front, you will be able to incorporate some of the activities NEIU has to offer in your hectic schedule.

Take it from those of us who are veterans to the school scene. Linger around just a little while after classes can change your life, your attitudes, and social circles more than you imagine when you first wander into a meeting. These experiences are whatever you decide to make of them.



Joe Hertel
OldManNEIU@aol.com

Old Man on Campus Act my age?

You gotta be kidding! Why would I want to act my age? And just what is that supposed to mean? It's kind of a generic statement that presupposes that people act a certain way at a certain stage of life. Who thought that one up?

My situation stems from military service in Viet Nam. I was 21 years old at the time. War takes away your emotional virginity. War takes away your youth and makes you accelerate from a kid to a seasoned old man in one year.

You lose your youth in a rice paddy in Asia or a sand dune in Iraq. At the same time, you become mentally trapped in a time warp.

What happened to me happens to a lot of people in war. As we get older in body, our minds noticeably refused to budge from the "just before I went to war" mentality. This means that although I am physically pushing 60 years, my personality functions are stuck at age 21.

Oh sure, I've matured in wisdom and knowledge, but not in the way I act or feel. I still think and act like I'm young. It's kind of a mental thing that your mind tries to recapture that lost innocence of youth.

Actually, I kind of enjoy acting immature. I don't

see myself as mentally old, and I don't realize I'm old until someone graciously points that fact out to me, or I look into the mirror.

It's sort of like the "you are always a child to your parents" syndrome. You know what I mean. As mature as you may be (or think you are), when you're with your parents you are still a kid.

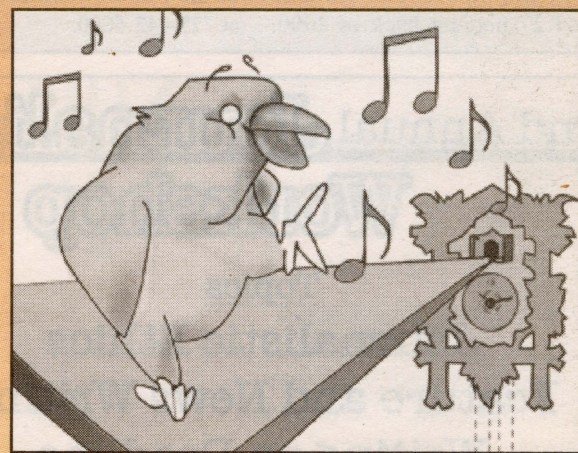
They never see us as mature adults, so we become that child in their presence, even though always being told to "grow up!"

My father used to say, "When you can beat me in a fight, you don't have to listen to me anymore." Well, when I got back from Viet Nam, not only could I have taken him in a fight, I could have subjected him to a multitude of tricks he never knew about, like the "rear take down and strangle hold."

I never did challenge him because when I returned home, I regressed into my dependent kid mode.

What is my point? You have to grow old but you don't have to grow up! The Peter Pan syndrome. Hang on to your youth as long as you can.

You don't have to accept old age as a negative factor, instead, consider it a plus. Positive outlook and a sense of humor just may keep you in a state of well-being and



graphic by Cecilia Carboni

health.

Just because getting old may mean you need a cane at times, a change in diet, or taking a few pills for ailments now and then, it does not mean you have to give up your youthful exuberance, wonder and childlike delight in discovery.

You can be a 20 year old in the body of a sexagenarian. Remember these words in 40 years. Cut this out and keep it.

And don't ever tell me to act my age. I can't do it. I won't do it.

Eagle's Nest

Lifestyles of the Northeastern community



Chicago hot dogs, a garden on a bun

Catsup an "abomination"

by Tom Robb
News Editor

At a recent backyard barbeque off Argyle Street in Chicago, this reporter observed an abomination and desecration. At least that is how Maurie Berman, owner and founder of Superdawg, would characterize the putting of catsup on a hot dog.

Chicagoans are very serious about their food, whether it is the inch thick deep-dish pizza, the 16-32 oz steaks served at Chicago's steak houses (the Chicago Chop House even has a 64 oz steak!), or big beef sandwiches dipped with peppers. Chicagoans like their food, they like it big, and are very particular about how it is done, and hot dogs are no different.

The Chicago hot dog has a few variations from stand to stand, but the generally accepted recipe, recommended by Chicago's Vienna Beef and others, is yellow mustard, bright green relish, fresh chopped onions, two tomato wedges, a kosher pickle spear, two hot sport peppers, and a dash of celery salt. Catsup is NOT to be put anywhere near the dog. Jordan Cutler, grandson of Berman, called the Chicago dog "a garden on a bun."

Catsup is one of the outstanding issues that Chicagoans have fought about for

years, according to Berman of Superdawg: "We stand true, not only to tradition, but to what we feel is an abomination; we will not put catsup on the sandwich." Berman and wife Flaurie have been selling hot dogs at Superdawg at Milwaukee and Devon in Chicago since 1948.

At New York City's Nathan's, catsup and sauerkraut are commonly used on the hot dog. According to a recent History Channel documentary, catsup's acidity interferes with the flavor of the dog. Nathan's was unavailable for comment on the catsup issue.

According to History Channel's documentary and Cutler, the hot dog and Chicago's
w a y

of preparing it gained popularity during the depression. Immigrants from Europe brought their sausages, put them on a bun and dressed them with all manner of vegetables, thereby creating a cheap meal.

Chicago's Superdawg uses golden mustard, relish, white onions, a pickle spear, hot sport peppers, and pickled green tomatoes.

Tasty Dog, in business for 25 years, uses a variation of the "garden on a bun" theme, using mustard, relish, onions, pickles, tomatoes, sport peppers, and celery salt, as do others, but adds cucumbers and lettuce to their hot dogs. Regarding catsup, Tasty Dog

Manager Robert Barton said, "If they want it we put it on; some

places don't have it."

Another tradition in Chicago is the "Maxwell Street Style" polish sausage, made with just mustard and grilled onions. According to Barton, if the polish is deep fried it should be prepared in this manner, and if it is boiled, it should be prepared like a hot dog.

After extensive research, the *Independent* recommends the following places to get a hot dog:

Tasty Dog, in business for 25 years, is at 708 W. Lake St. Oak Park.

Superdawg, in business for 57 years, is at 6262 N. Milwaukee, Chicago (www.superdawg.com).

Portillo's, started as one small stand in a trailer, now has 31 locations throughout Chicago and the suburbs. The Chicago location is at 100 W. Ontario (www.portillos.com).

For home cooking, try Vienna Beef hot dogs (www.viennabeef.com).

There are possibly thousands of hot dog stands in the greater Chicago area ever since the hot dog was introduced at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893 as an all beef sausage on a bun, according to Vienna Beef. Exhaustive research was done, but many great hot dogs may have been missed. More research is necessary and yummy.

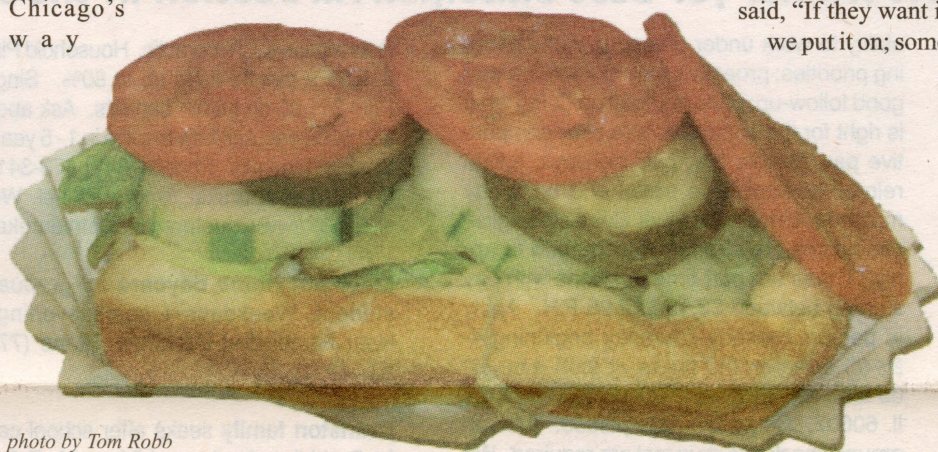


photo by Tom Robb

Dead end for drive-ins

by Elana Barron
Associate Editor

To members of the younger generation, the drive-in movie is a dead cultural phenomenon, one that we hear our parents wistfully talk about. The closest we have come to seeing a drive-in is in old movies like *Grease*. From Illinois' all-time high of 123 drive-ins in 1958, today, there are only 13 left. In the United States, there are only 419.

Richard Hollingshead invented the drive-in to expand the drive-in restaurant and sell auto parts. He first experimented by hanging a bed sheet between two trees and projecting a movie onto it. After many other experiments (such as using sprinklers to imitate rain), he opened the first drive-in in Camden, New Jersey in 1933. Drive-ins slowly began to spread throughout the States, but it was not until 1948, with the invention of the in-car speakers (originally they used a bullhorn mounted on the screen), did the drive-in catch on. In six years, the number of drive-ins rose from 840 to 3,775.

The growing popularity of

the drive-in did not last long. After two decades of drive-ins, the 1970s saw drive-ins begin to close throughout the United States. Many blame this on the increasing property value, which made the land too expensive for seasonal drive-ins. Others blame it on the creation of daylight savings time, which caused the movies to start too late. Drive-ins began to show only second-run movies and first-run sexploitation movies (that's right, these precursor porn films were shown at drive-ins), hoping to attract the growing baby boom population.

When Hollywood began to make numerous prints of first-run movies in the 1980s, drive-ins were able to pick up first-run movies. However, this resurgence of the drive-ins was short lived. With the increasing number of home televisions and VCRs and indoor movie theaters, the drive-ins became a thing of the past. By 1990, the number of drive-ins fell drastically.

Despite decades of dying drive-ins, these relics of the past refuse to die. Recently, there has been a small movement to

build and revive old drive-ins. The younger generation is discovering these old theaters that their parents frequented.

Today, going to a drive-in is not entirely stepping back into the past, as one would have thought. There are no old cars, and the movies being shown are not restricted to Cary Grant or Marx Brother films. Most drive-ins (and all the drive-ins in Illinois) show the newly released movies, from *Batman Begins* to the newest installment of *Star Wars*. Watching these modern movies at drive-ins built in the 1950s, builds a bridge between our recent past and today.

For more information, visit Drive-On-In's website (<http://www.drive-ins.com>). The website will search for the drive-ins close to your zip code and provide you with all the necessary details: addresses, times, seasonality, history of the theater, web addresses, and comments from the theater's patrons.

All information courtesy of Drive-On-In, Inc.



Around Campus



Same Time Next Year

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August 8-25
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Thursday, August 18
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Personals

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-Old Man on Campus

Stop. Motion. Anima-tion. Muses are an infinite chain that keep the world spinning. Chaos theory akin to an arrow suspended in space.
-Sophia

Oh, goody gumdrops!!



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Judas died, Judas has risen *The Priest has come again*

by Jonathan Gronli
Production Editor

Ozzy might be metal's God and Dimebag Darrell its Moses, however Rob Halford with Judas Priest was, is, and always will be its Lord and Savior. For the first time since before the early '90s Rob Halford has released an album with Judas Priest.

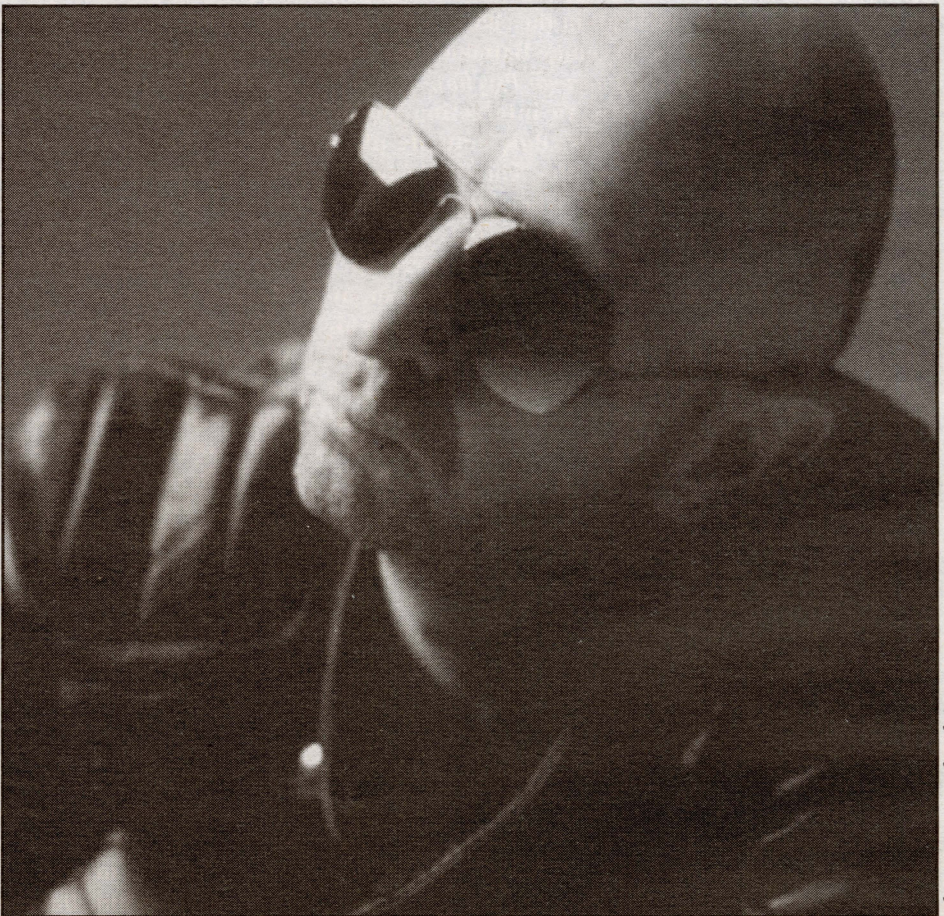
The return of Halford marks the return of the classic sound of the Judas Priest as it was meant to sound. *Angel of Retribution* is an instant heavy metal classic that hardcore, diehard fans have been waiting and praying for.

The dual-disc format allows for the CD and DVD to fit on one CD (on one side is the CD and on the other side is the DVD), which in this case has commentary from the band and concert footage of their reunion tour before they went into the studio. The DVD has the footage of the band just letting loose on how they decided to reunite and the concert footage, which are all around beautiful. The band is also caught in a rare laidback mood with jokes while remembering the good and bad times.

The music, however, is always the highlight with Judas Priest. The guitar riffs are clear, crisp, and concise. Frighteningly beautiful riffs are ripped, bit, and all around smashed through while being torn apart by these metal madmen. The bass work is just about as menacing as the guitar work, and the drums, although simple, get the heart beating.

There are some differences, but the sound is the same. The seventh track, "Angel," seems so out of place on a Judas Priest album because it, outside of the last minute and the solo, is an acoustic power ballad. Even though it is so out of place, it shows the power and versatility of these metal gods. One thing is for certain, and it is seen through *Angel of Retribution*, that the members of Judas Priest, although in their mid-50s, are yet to slow down even a step.

Seeing as they've yet to slow down and mellow out in the musical sense, diehard fans will be filled with a profound joy upon listening to this classic Judas Priest sound. It sounds as though they've picked up where they left off, and fans of the group will be filled with nostalgia while new listeners will fall in love with the music and "evil" lyrics all the same.



Leather-clad Rob Halford returns the classic sound of Judas Priest.

photo courtesy of exclaim.ca

A choppy but enjoyable portrait

by Anna Zimowska
Staff Writer

Portrait of a Shiksa is a two-act play about Adelle, a young blonde girl from Tennessee, who discovers her strong attraction to Jewish men while on a trip to the Holy Land with her mother. The action takes place in the mid 1980s.

Adelle's mother, played very convincingly by Angela Bullard, is a devout Born Again Christian who throughout the play attempts to save her daughter from the wrath of God. Her one wish before she dies is to visit Israel, and so, with the secret hope that she might change her daughter's wild ways, she convinces Adelle to come with.

While in Israel, Adelle is overwhelmed—but not by the land on which Jesus walked, but by a particular Jewish man and where the small-of-his-back meets his "buttocks" while he's praying by the Wailing Wall. This infatuation with Jewish men continues when she returns back home.

The play was enjoyable and well performed, but it seemed a bit choppy due to the quick scene changes. Even though the scenic design allowed for the scene changes to happen almost flawlessly, there was still a sense of discontinuity.

Sharon Evans, founder of the Live Bait Theater, wrote the play. The play

was inspired by her personal experiences of marrying a Jewish man, and the quick scenes resemble fragments of her memories.

The play is definitely worth seeing, if for nothing else than the "Disco Jesus" quilt, which at one point speaks to Adelle and tells her to make a peculiar life changing decision. The play is particularly suited to anyone with a mother who owns an "I Love Jesus" visor.

Portrait of a Shiksa is currently playing at the Live Bait Theater located at 3914 N. Clark (60613). You can see it on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 3:00 p.m., through August 7. Tickets are \$15-\$20. For more information, visit www.livebaittheater.org.

Religion and society clash for comedy in *Portrait of a Shiksa*.

photo courtesy of theatermania.com

Storm of biblical proportions

by Jonathan Gronli
Production Editor

Dean Koontz has yet again perfected his style, which is a literary genre in itself. His new book, *The Taking*, is one of his most accomplished stories that flows in the same vein as *Phantoms* and his many other classics.

It seems that overnight a force has turned the world upside down. Natural disasters happen in unnatural ways. People either disappear or die in absolutely horrific ways. When you just thought it couldn't get worse, there is a heavy feeling in the air acting as a pendulum, slowly lowering to cleave you and that which you know and love into two.

The story seems like a mix between Koontz's classic novel *Phantoms*, the Bible's Book of Revelations, H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*, and Konami's hit survival horror video game series, *Silent Hill*. The differences, however, in terms of *Phantoms* and *Silent Hill*, is that the growing Hell on Earth is a global issue and not just set in one location. Although the story takes place in a town sucked into the depths of Hell, the world seems to suffer from being sucked into the Netherworld for some unknown reason.

The story revolves around Molly and Neil Sloan. Molly is a failed writer with a dark past and an equally

dark, but possibly more frightening future. Neil Sloan is a failure except at being a supporting and comforting husband (he also comes through quite well with a gun). What must they do? They have to come to terms with the possible extermination of mankind ... or at least save the children, since they seem untouchable by this force of incredible evil.

Will they prevail against all odds and eventually play the holy trump card against the form of evil that plagues the world? Well, why tell you when you can experience it yourself. It's a beautiful work of literary art that's worth more than it costs.

Natural disaster brings upon the end of the world in Dean Koontz's new novel.

image courtesy of randomhouse.com

Superhero film raises the bar

You know the summer has begun when the big budget films hit theaters. After the failure of 1998's *Batman & Robin*, Warner Bros. hired director Christopher Nolan (*Memento*) to helm the film and paired him with screenwriter David S. Goyer (*Blade* trilogy). This movie starts off in the character's early days and shows how he becomes Batman, this time played by Christian Bale (*American Psycho*).

Bale's performance is an interesting one in particular. Unlike past actors, Bale actually plays three different personas in the film. There's the public Bruce Wayne, a spoiled playboy who cares for nothing but himself. There's the private Wayne, that only a few characters see, who is intelligent, yet tortured over his parents' death. And then there's the Batman, an expression of the rage Bruce feels over the death of his parents. Bale plays each of these separate personas to perfection. His Batman is particularly haunting, with a deep, gravelly voice and an intimidation factor previous actors were unable to capture. The past Batmen were guys in rubber suits who could barely move. Bale's Batman is a force of nature, and you truly get the impression that he could strike fear in the hearts of criminals. A scene when he interrogates a corrupt cop is one that sent chills down my spine.

Being a virtual unknown in a cast of renowned actors, one would think Bale would suffer the fate of previous Batmen by being overshadowed. However, the supporting actors do just that—support, and never overshadow, yet still manage to deliver incredible performances.

Michael Caine plays Bruce's loyal butler. Not simply a doting old man, Caine's Alfred is constantly pushing Bruce, reminding him of his legacy as a Wayne. Alfred is more than a stern father figure. Alfred isn't all serious—Caine injects his usual dose of wit and

charm into the role. Morgan Freeman plays Lucius Fox, an employee of Wayne Enterprises and a friend of Bruce's father who provides Bruce with the gadgets he needs to become Batman. Gary Oldman rounds out the impressive supporting cast as a young Commissioner Gordon (at this point, only a sergeant). In the past, the character of Gordon was forced into the background, with only a handful of lines and no real presence. In this film, Gordon is shown as an integral part of Batman's war on crime, and you can see the beginnings of a friendship develop in their partnership. Also of note is Liam Neeson's role as Henri Ducard, a harsh taskmaster who forces Bruce to push himself to his limits.

As far as the villains go, there are three. Cillian Murphy's Scarecrow is very creepy, with an intensity in his eyes that brings out the character's insanity. Tom Wilkinson plays Carmine Falcone, a crime boss in Gotham, but one who doesn't fit into the obvious stereotypes. The third villain is Ken Watanabe's Ra's al Ghul, a mastermind who manipulates events from behind the scenes.

The only low point of the film would be the addition of Katie Holmes as Rachel Dawes, a district attorney and a childhood friend of Bruce's. Although there is an attraction between Bruce and Rachel, the love story is very subtle and Nolan never lets us forget that this is a movie about Batman's quest for justice, not his quest for love. Holmes herself does a fairly competent job in her role, but is easily overshadowed by actors who are far superior to her.

With *Batman Begins*, Nolan has not only made the best Batman film in history, but he's raised the bar for what superhero films can accomplish. He's shown us that the material can be taken seriously and injected with enough realism to craft a movie that not only entertains as a superhero film, but can also stand on its own as a film in general.



Dino Pollard
REV Editor

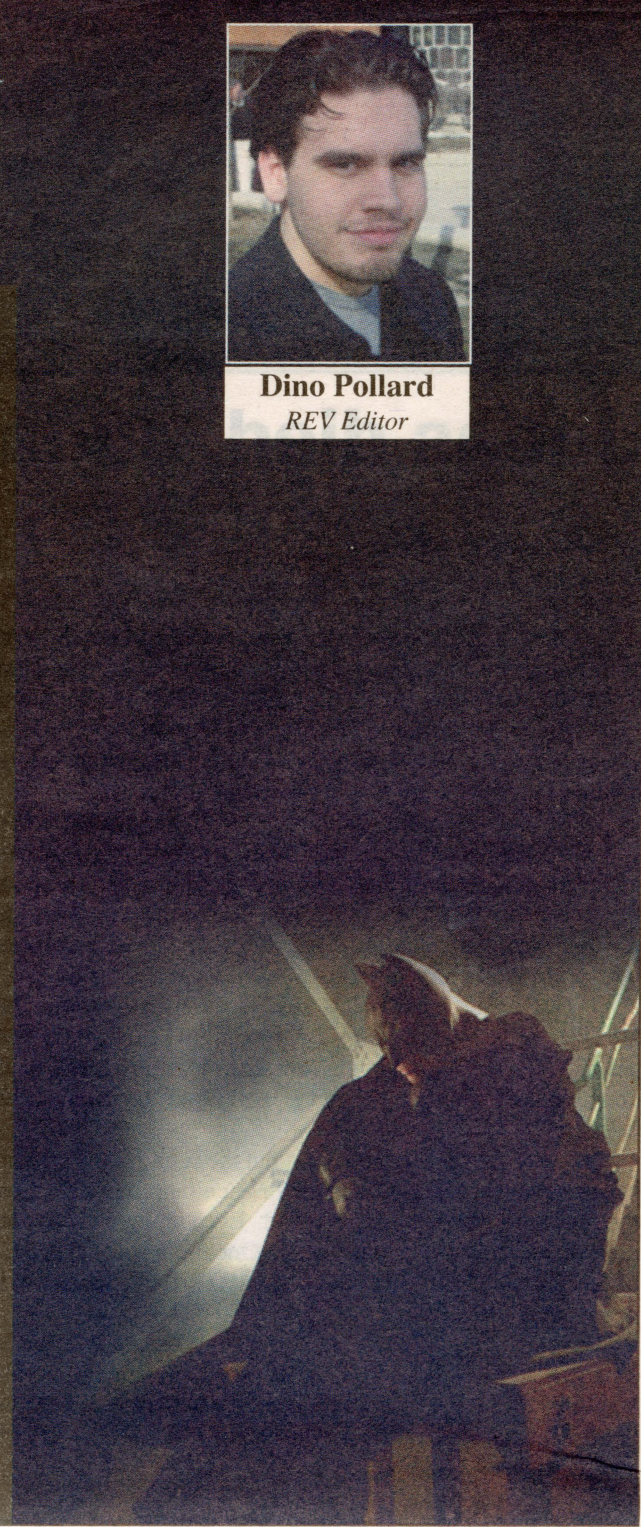


photo courtesy of batmanbegins.com

Where rock goes to die

by Tom Robb
News Editor

A t-shirt from the '90s for an old record store called the Clubhouse, located next to the Metro, read, "All my heroes are whores." The new television series *Rock Star INXS* has just proved that adage. This *American Idol* for rockers is brought to you by the makers of *Survivor*. And it sucks.

INXS surviving band members hunt for a new lead singer after the death of former bandleader Michael Hutchins by autoerotic asphyxiation in a hotel in Australia.

One can only wonder if this is the last gasp of a band who was once big and is now trying to avoid the county fair or Branson concert circuit with bands like Loverboy and Journey.

The backup band for these prospective rock stars are members of INXS, who are also judges, along with former Jane's Addiction and Red Hot Chilly Peppers guitarist Dave Navarro and E! Channel vixen, Brook Burke.

After a cover of the Clash's "Should I Stay or Should I Go," one of the judges said to the singer, "I did that song with them (the Clash) and you nailed it."

Joe Strummer's ghost should come back and smack him.

The music on the night I watched was heavily '90s post-punk anthems that rarely got airplay before the birth of Q101 and the breakthrough of Nirvana. After a cover of Nirvana's "Heart Shaped Box," I swear I could feel Kurt Cobain spinning in his grave.

The mythology of rock and roll, especially hard rock and punk, is that you get your friends together in a garage or basement, regardless of talent, work really hard and maybe make it to stardom. This is best explained by the former owner of Clubhouse, Alyse Matlak, who said, "Those who can't sing, sing rock and roll; those who can't sing rock and roll sing it any way."

If one was around the Metro and Lounge Ax in the years when Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Jane's Addiction were running around that circuit, and even now at places like the Double Door, one would know that this is not what rock is about.

At least with *American Idol* there is the dual pleasure of making fun of the horrible and praising the talented. *Idol*

is all fluff all the time. The winners go on to try to be the next Britney Spears or Christina Aguilera, who are also all fluff all the time.

The songs being sung on *Rock Star INXS* have meaning to us who grew up and hung out in the '90s with that music; the music not on the radio at that time. *Rock Star INXS* makes a mockery of that.

It is not surprising that Bono and U2 went from railing about poverty and war injustice to selling iPods, and the Clash went from one of the first political punk bands to selling cars.

Truly, video and money killed the radio star.



photo courtesy of inxsrockstar.com

Rock Star INXS makes a mockery of '90s rock.

