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Patrick O'Brien

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INDEPENDENT

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New Education Building: \$64,273,700

State will consider Steinberg's proposal early next year

by Patrick O'Brien
Editor-in-Chief

At the Board of Trustees meeting last week, President Salme Steinberg proposed that a \$64 million Education Building be constructed, probably on the site of the athletic field on Foster Avenue. This decision was made despite university statistics that show growth in the College of Education (COE) has slowed down and COE awarded fewer degrees in 2004 than it did four years ago.

If approved, the building may be built on part of the Athletic Field.

SEE EDUCATION BUILDING, PAGE 3

photo by Paul Degen

Students resettle at NEIU after Katrina

by Jessica Wacker
Assistant Production Editor

Northeastern is enrolling eight new students in an effort to help aid hurricane Katrina victims. Seven of the students will attend the main campus of NEIU; one student will attend the Jacob H. Carruther's Center for Inner City Studies.

The students come from various universities and colleges that were forced to shut down due to the hurricane.

NEIU came to the decision to take in stranded students during an executive meeting held shortly after the hurricane hit the coast, according to Dr. Janis Herring-Hendon, executive director of Enrollment Services.

"The announcement the governor sent out regarding Illinois helping students identified what kind of action needed to be taken," Herring-Hendon said. "Janet Fredericks pulled a team together involving the provost and vice president and we made the decision to help." In addition to Acting University President Fredericks and Provost Lawrence Frank, several other administration vice presidents were also involved.

Marcia Boyd, associate director of Enrollment Services, is working directly with the students to help confirm classes. "My goal in working with the students is to help them continue with their academic plans," said Boyd.

Boyd has been working to achieve that goal by helping the students one-on-one to get financial matters,

classes, and even housing taken care of.

Two students already enrolled, Monique Hunter and Ariel Arnold, expressed their gratitude towards Boyd. "Marcia has gone way out of her way to help us," said Arnold. "She's been working really hard to make it as easy as she can."

Hunter and Arnold were students at the University of New Orleans. They had evacuated to Atlanta for what they thought would only be a short time.

"We only packed three days worth of stuff," said Hunter. "We thought we'd be back right away."

SEE RESETTLE, PAGE 2

CCICS Director visits Katrina ravaged areas

by Tom Robb
News Editor

Dr. Conrad Worrill, director of Northeastern's Jacob H. Carruther's Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS), traveled to New Orleans and Baton Rouge to see the devastation left in Katrina's wake.

During his stay he met with African-American leaders and activists to ensure that African Americans affected by the hurricane were not neglected.

"It's one thing to witness Hurricane Katrina on TV, it's another to see it on the ground; it's a war zone. I haven't seen this kind of destruction of a city since Viet Nam," said Worrill.

Worrill spoke of heroic black mothers: "At the height of the flood many black mothers sacrificed themselves for their children. That's one of the many factors why there are so many displaced children."

Worrill told of hearing first-hand accounts from activists from New Orleans of displaced families and displaced children in the East Bank area of New Orleans (the 9th Ward) and an inadequate federal response: "They're not even trying to keep families together," said Worrill of those who came to help.

"Black people who live in New Orleans are now in 30 different states; they have been devastated."



photo by Tom Robb

Director Worrill visited hurricane victims.

Worrill criticized the Red Cross and other aid organizations that sent white relief workers into Black communities without proper cultural understanding.

Worrill toured New Orleans and met with a new group of activists at Southern University in Baton Rouge. The groups Black Activists and Organizers Coalition on Katrina (BAOCK), the National Black Social Workers, and the National Black Psychologists looked at issues affecting the African-American community due to the hurricane.

When Worrill toured New Orleans on Sunday, Sept. 18, he said he observed "no blacks in the clean up. None." In a meeting of the BAOCK organization on Sept. 14 at Southern University, activists and leaders said they would be looking at contracting

SEE DIRECTOR, PAGE 2

Katrina death hits close to home

by Tom Robb
News Editor

More than half of the 60 residents of the St. Rita's Nursing Home in St. Bernard's Parish, Louisiana, died after Hurricane Katrina ravaged the area. One of those residents was the great aunt of student and *Independent* Staff Writer Sarah Purlee.

As Purlee's family copes with loss and resettlement of other

SEE CLOSE TO HOME, PAGE 3



Part of Katrina's destruction.

Los Angeles Times photo by Carol Guzy

RESETTLE, FROM PAGE 1

Hunter, who was born and raised in New Orleans, remembered thinking first and foremost of her family when she found out the devastation of the hurricane.

"I was thinking about my family in the area, immediately. There was no way to call or find out how they were. Even now house phones are out, and cell phones are inconsistent."

Arnold, who is from Oak Park, Illinois, came here after the hurricane. Hunter followed shortly after.

"I suppose it wasn't as bad for me because I wasn't from there," said Arnold. "I have family here." Still, Arnold works to come to terms with the devastation. "It is a feeling of just sheer disbelief. I keep thinking, is this a movie on TV?"

Hunter and Arnold came to NIEU after Arnold's mother suggested the school.

"NIEU has been willing to work with us even though we don't have all of our transcripts," said Arnold. "We looked at a few other colleges, but they weren't willing to take us

without our transcripts."

Northeastern is one of a handful of colleges here in Illinois willing to consider students without transcripts on hand, according to Boyd. "When you've lost most of everything, you can't give me an official transcript," said Boyd.

The University is asking that the students only provide proof that their institution has been affected by the hurricane.

"The mayor (Richard Daley) is setting aside housing for 1,500 displaced families and we're working on getting in touch with these companies to give the students somewhere to live," said Boyd.

"You want integrity and you want to have expectations, but sometimes you have to be flexible to get things to work," said Herring-Hendon on the matter.

Hunter, who needed only six more credits to graduate, is hoping to take her classes her and see if the University of New Orleans will accept them once the school becomes active again. Arnold is not yet sure of her plans.

DIRECTOR, FROM PAGE 1

and employing blacks in the rebuilding efforts.

Worrill said he would be working with St. Xavier University, Dillard University and Southern University, who, Worrill said, "For all practical purposes were destroyed."

At an event at CCICS days before he left for New Orleans,

he raised concern that the federal government would use "eminent domain"—the ability for a government to take land for "the public good"—to take land and give it over to developers who would create what Worrill called "Casino Playgrounds."

Worrill also mentioned that one student from a hurricane-affected area would be starting classes this semester at CCICS.

Time to pay the price

University only acts when forced



The recent reinstallation of the "Whispers in the Wind" memorial turned out to be an unlikely victory for the university. Student and Vietnam Veteran Joe Hertel had been petitioning the university unsuccessfully for months to reinstall the "Whispers in the Wind" display, which commemorates the fallen soldiers of the Iraq war, in the garden outside of the cafeteria.

The university addressed two separate issues when they finally agreed to the reinstallation of the memorial. First, it avoided the heat it could have received from the Gold Star Families for Peace, an anti-war group, during their visitation to the university. Second, it added another public art display of which the university has so few of. But this victory proved once again that the university will not act to address student concerns unless provoked by an outside force.

It took a report by an outside contractor who assessed the school's Art Department for the university to begin considering department updates. The report was requested in order to help Northeastern improve the art program, thereby allowing the Art Department to be inducted into the illustrious National Association of Schools of Art and Design. The accreditation process is expected to initiate in about a year, and much work to be done. There are already some new areas on campus that are suddenly hosting student's artwork, such as "Whispers in the Wind." This is one step of many that are being taken to meet the requirements of the National Association of Schools of Art and Design. Although grateful for the improvements, why did a report have to be made before action was taken?

We also now have the recently created position of safety officer. It was only created after several incidents that compromised the safety of NEIU

exposed the university's lack of preparedness for an emergency. Somebody will be in charge of safety at the university, but it took a mercury spill and a small fire in the Science Building before something like this came about.

This trend of outside forces causing change was seen last year when the teacher's union went out on strike after unsuccessful negotiations. The resolution came just before the semester would need to be extended into the New Year—and with a donation from recently retired Board of Trustees Chair Daniel Goodwin for \$400,000.

It is disturbing that outside organizations have more influence over the decisions of the administration than the students of the university do. For five months Hertel petitioned the university to have "Whispers in the Wind" installed, but to no avail. But minutes before the Gold Star Families for Peace held a rally on campus he was allowed to reinstall the memorial. Mere coincidence?

I'm sure we all have a few moments that we would rather pretend never happened, but when you're responsible for the education and safety of thousands you must be able to stand up and take responsibility for your actions or inactions. We have put our education and our safety in your hands. All we ask is that when dealing with the university, treat it as if your children were attending classes here.

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Avoiding the Military Draft: A Practical Guide

by Steven Searle © Sept, 2005
(s-searle@neiu.edu)

Listen carefully. What I'm about to say might save your lives. If you vote to elect me as the next President of the United States, I promise to get rid of the military draft. Right now, as I speak, draft boards are being created just in case Congress votes to reauthorize the draft. If Congress does that, I will veto that legislation. If Congress passes a draft by overriding my veto, I will use my power as Commander in Chief to override Congress.

If a draft board orders a young man into the army, he should appear before that board to be sworn in as a soldier. However, I will issue a blanket order for all such newly-drafted soldiers to stay home and not follow any orders from any member of the military. In addition, I will order all military officers not to have any contact with newly-drafted soldiers. Since the President outranks all members of the military, I can even order generals to leave newly-drafted soldiers alone.

If these generals attempt in any way to undermine these orders, I will fire them. The President can do all this, as Commander in Chief, without having to consult with Congress. And I will do more than just promise to do all this.

I am running as a candidate of a 3rd political party, known as the **Best Party Available**. All Best Party candidates run for office by listing their campaign promises in a written contract. According to my contract, I lose my office if I violate any of my written promises. It's true that such contracts are not legally-enforceable in a court of law. However, rest assured: If I would violate any of my promises to you, the Congress, which is dominated by hostile Republicans and Democrats, would definitely impeach me.

Vote for me, Steven Searle, the Best Party Available, for President of the United States. Thank you.

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CLOSE TO HOME, FROM PAGE 1

relatives, owners of St. Rita's have been charged with 34 counts of negligent homicide.

Purlee said that her family did not know for five days if her great aunt, who was in her 80s, was alive or dead. "Our family is devastated," said Purlee.

According to Purlee, "20 to 30 family members lost their homes," and up to 40 members of her family are being housed in the New Orleans area by a single relative.

"I would encourage people in the Chicago area to open their hearts and homes for people who need somewhere to go," said Purlee.

According to Purlee, the nursing home where her great aunt lived received three days notice to evacuate, but warnings were "blown off" by residents.

"The pathetic thing in this case is that they were asked if they wanted to move and they did not move ... They were warned repeatedly."

Attorney General Charles C. Foti told Bloomberg News Service, "Thirty-four people drowned in a nursing home when it should have been evacuated ... They didn't follow the standard of care of what a reasonable person would follow."

Salvador A. Mangano and Mable Mangano, owners of St. Rita's, were charged with 34 counts of negligent homicide after turning themselves into authorities, stated Foti at a news conference, as reported by Bloomberg News.

Rescuers were able to save 32 residents, but were unable to fit any more in that first trip. Rescuers told the remaining residents they would return, but they did not make it back before the floodwaters overtook the nursing home, said Purlee.

A New York Times account, printed on Sept. 7, tells how the residents put up a fight, attempting to barricade windows against the rushing waters. They did not make it.

Purlee kept the disaster in perspective. "I do not think it was handled well; I think there was a lot of politics involved, but now that the tragedy has happened, we need to keep our eye on what's important. That is helping people in need."

"I don't know if they'll find a body, but arrangements will be made for a service," concluded Purlee.

Purlee is exploring options to volunteer with an organization to go down to Louisiana to help rebuild. Her family is talking to relatives in Louisiana about the logistics of relocating and housing some of those family members in Illinois.

Kick-off event starts two months of Viva Espanol

by Delia Bleahu
Photographer

Dr. Christina Gomez, a Sociology professor at NEIU, strongly affirmed, "everyday is Hispanic Heritage day." She said this month is dedicated to reminding everyone of how diverse America is.

The Hispanic Heritage Month kick-off event took place last Thursday in Village Square. Gomez was the keynote speaker and student Adrian Miranda, who played the guitar, and Ensemble Espanol provided entertainment.

Gomez pointed out that an important mission of this celebration is "educating the community about the current issues that the Latino community is facing." Also, it is very important for others to acknowledge this country's diversity: "we are part of America," said Gomez about the Latino community.

Gomez said that during these two months Northeastern will be celebrating the Latino community. Students will be spreading understanding and acceptance through events and discussions: "We will all prove that 'Si se puede!'"—it can be done.

"We all have to realize that we live in a diverse world and we need to be accepting of everyone around us." Gomez talked about diversity and 26th street, which is mostly a Latino neighborhood.

Jaime Mendoza is an academic advisor at Northeastern and was one of the event's organizers. He believed that the main focus for this month is to pull into the light the Latino community which is part of the diverse student population.

Spanish Professor Carlos Lebron, who is of Puerto Rican descent, believed that during these two months



Performers at Hispanic Heritage Day.

photo by Delia Bleahu

the Latino minority will "establish a presence that will show others that we are all the same." He said it is important to "correct some of the misunderstandings" that some people have about the Latino community.

Upcoming events include: Latino Market Day on Tuesday, Sept. 27, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Noche de la Familia (Night of the Family) on Friday, Sept. 30, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Latino Potluck on Tuesday, Oct. 11, from 1:40 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and NEIU Alumni Evening Discussion on Thursday, Oct. 20, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., where both students and their families are welcomed to join in.

There is also an essay contest that students at Northeastern can write about their experiences as Latinos in Chicago.

These and other events will take place throughout September and October.

EDUCATION BUILDING, FROM PAGE 1

In the first meeting without recently retired Board of Trustees Chair Daniel Goodwin, Nancy Masterson was elected Chair position, Carole Balzekas moved from secretary to vice chair, and Trustee Jin Lee became secretary. All trustees present approved of the Education Building project, which was included in the President Report to the Board, outlining university priorities from 2007-2012.

Steinberg prefaced the Education Proposal by mentioning

"the tremendous fiscal restraints in the state of Illinois." Of the allocated \$64 million, \$4,736,900 will be used for the planning of the building and \$59,506,800 for construction. The money is coming from the Capital Development Board, which receives its money from the state.

During the meeting, Provost Lawrence Frank was asked by the Board which areas of the school were showing the greatest amount of growth. According to Frank, the academic area growing fastest was the College of Business. Frank described the growth of the COE as "stable." From 2000-2004, the

COE grew from 2,845 majors to 3,245 majors, an increase of 14 percent.

In the same time period, the College of Business (COB) grew from 1,002 majors to 1,469, an increase of 46.6 percent. Overall enrollment at Northeastern has also remained virtually flat from last year to this year, with 12,164 students enrolled in Fall 2004, and 12,187 students enrolled this fall. With two days left for students to be enrolled, overall enrollment has increased 11.4 percent since 2000.

Additional figures echo Frank's statement that growth in the COE has been stable, but slower than the COB.

Degrees awarded by the COE actually decreased, from 641 in 2000 to 586 in 2004—a decrease of 9.4 percent. At the same time, the COB had seen an increase of 53 percent in degrees awarded, from 140 in 2000 to 215 in 2004.

In her report to the Board, Steinberg boasted of the degrees awarded by the COE in 2004, stating the 586 degrees were "consistent with Northeastern's historic role in teacher preparation." There was no mention of the decline of degrees awarded from the COE.

Another point made by the proposal was that the Chicago Teachers Center would be housed in the new Education Building, not at its present location at 770 N. Halsted, where it has been located for 20 years.

Upon hearing of the construction and future location of the Education Building, student Robert Kastigar remarked, "What a waste of green space."


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Editorial

Frogger: NEIU style

Although it's bad enough when ten minutes before class cars in the outdoor parking lots appear as a swarm of killer bees seeking out a precious empty space, it's even worse in the parking garage as the ramps are filled with what seems like auditions for the next Grand Theft Auto game.

Carreening around corners and swooping down on hapless pedestrian traffic—although a few minutes before, these same pedestrians were also behind wheels of destruction—it has become a "real life Frogger game," as described by one of our editors.

Another editor grieved over the years taken off his life as he was headed up a ramp and was met head on by a cell-phone gabbing, high-speed driver who apparently was not aware of two-way traffic. Just inches separated the two vehicles from being totaled and causing the occupants to either miss class or possibly the rest of their lives.

Another instance of a vehicle actually backing up and swerving at 20 miles per hour or more in reverse, cutting off a severely traumatized student as it backed up into a space previously missed, prompted us to write this editorial.

Students who drive vehicles to school should make certain they have ample time to ride around the lots in search of a space. It is common knowledge that finding a spot isn't that easy, and commuters should allow for the extra time needed to locate a spot so they can reach the Student Union in time to hang out with their friends.

As if the bad driving was not enough, we also have stalker problems in our lots. Anxiously waiting just off to the side, these vehicles pounce on any student walking towards a vehicle with keys in hand, almost nudging them in their rear end with the front bumper, in an attempt to hurry them. Or, they wait at the end of the aisle, and as the student reaches their vehicle, the waiting auto accelerates to mach two, reaching the about-to-be empty space, cutting off any other less attentive, slow-moving vehicle in the way.

Those 15-minute intervals between classes can be a heart-pounding exercise in fear and trembling as cars enter and leave the parking garage. We here at the *Independent* urge students to act responsible, act courteous and take their time when seeking a parking space. It can be frustrating, but a little common sense and time management can prevent traffic altercations, road rage and the possibility of missing an entire semester due to hospitalization just because someone was in too big of a rush.

It's better to be careful. You may miss a six-foot space for your car, but you will avoid a six-foot hole in the ground for yourself.

Parking headaches

Free-for-all parking, even level one

by Dino Pollard
 REV Editor

The parking process used to be fairly simple. Go to the school, pay the bill, and they give you whatever sticker you asked for. But, since it was so simple, NEIU had to change it and make things complicated—because that's how things work at this school.

Over the summer, parking services decided to change this very simple process. Now, instead of getting your permit in person when you pay your bill, they figured it would be better for everyone to register their vehicle online, and then, parking services wastes money on postage to send you the parking permit in the mail. According to the website, students should receive their permits within one to two days.

My registration was completed on Aug. 15. I didn't receive my permit until Sept. 14, almost a month later. During the first week of classes, I called to ask what the problem was. Apparently, they lost some of the information they needed, but they never notified me of this missing information. I was on campus at the time, so I asked if I could simply pick up my permit.

The response? "No, we have to mail them out." Think about that for a moment—even when a person is on campus, *they still can't pick up their permit in person!*

This is yet another prime example of how backwards this school is run. Online registration for classes is apparently impossible, but we have to register online for our parking permits. And when we register for our permits (assuming they don't lose our information and don't tell us), we have to wait forever and a day for them to finally arrive.

Since parking management screwed up mailing out permits in a timely fashion, the parking lot is now a free for all, with people who haven't even paid for



photo by D. Gordon Macnab

permits parking in level one spots. Because parking services screwed up, those of us who actually paid for our parking are being screwed over.

If parking services wants to make things more efficient and save themselves and the students a lot of hassle, they should just return to the old system. Remember the old KISS acronym—Keep It Simple, Stupid.

Another point of view

I hear we have a new safety officer position.

Yeah, they already hired a guy from Springfield.

Here he comes now.



by Joe Hertel



Old Man on Campus

The first time I met Joe Kish he was walking out the rear door of the Fine Arts Building while I was spraying a charcoal sketch on the sidewalk. He chewed me out for getting the fixer spray on the concrete, which according to Kish would discolor the walk.

Here I was, 60 years old, and this guy, not much older than that, was chewing me out like my father used to do. ("What, were you raised in a barn?")

Today, I walked outside the food court into the garden area to have a cigarette and noticed trash all over the ground. There was half-eaten food, cups

and napkins on tables and the ground.

The wind was swirling newspaper pages and assorted wrappers into the bushes and plants. It was messy.

I returned through the cafeteria and noticed table after table left un-cleaned by the former occupants. I walked up the stairs and across the Student Union towards Village Square and saw more trash, empty bottles and pizza cartons on the floor and tables. Trashcans were only within a few feet of the debris.

It reminded me of 1975 when I returned to this campus to participate in antique shows at the time. I was mortified by the amount of graffiti and trash that I saw as I walked down the hallways of my old alma mater.

Later, getting a cup of coffee, I went back outside into the commons area, sat down on a concrete slab and looked around. It was then I realized the impact that one man can have on an environment.

Since 1988, Joe Kish, as vice president

of Facilities Management, worked to improve the look of this campus. If Chicago is a city in a garden, then Northeastern Illinois University is a garden in the city, thanks to Kish.

Trees and carefully manicured lawns, wild-prairie areas, tiered gardens and idyllic outdoor study areas are here, but Kish walking back and forth on a daily stroll through his garden, is not. I once saw him bend over and pick up a piece of paper as he strolled across the campus lawn.

I dare say he was proud of this transformation of a sloppy campus into a well-maintained showpiece of nature and man-made enhancements. I remember what it looked like back in 1975 and 1980. Kish deserves a lot of credit for the facelift this campus received.

He was tough in his insistence to keep things neat and clean. But that was part of his job, and I think it was the part he might have liked best. That's what I felt as I looked out upon the newly created grassy knoll area near

A wish for Kish

the library.

Student art will now grace certain areas of the landscape, and if this copy somehow makes it to Kish, I want him to know, from one old soldier to another, that I appreciate what he has done for this campus' appearance and that the art displayed will only enhance what he maintained.

We cannot allow such sloppiness to return to campus, which has already begun. Not after 17 years of Kish's dedication and accomplishment in making this place look really beautiful.

It is up to all of us to keep this campus neat and clean. So let's pick up after ourselves, let's be careful around the plants, bushes, trees and grass. Let's have pride in our school and respect for our campus. And, if we see some sloppy students too lazy to clean up after themselves, let's remember the works of Joe Kish and tell them, "Hey, clean that up!"



photo by Dorian Barrios

Trashy indifference

by Elizabeth Rodriguez
Staff Writer

Garbage. On the floor. Cluttering tables. Napkins and wrappers and straws. A ball of aluminum foil skittering across the floor. Trash.

"Your mother doesn't work here!" seems too pithy a statement to apply. Not only does it fail to address the root of the issue, but it also raises the question, "Who are these mythical mothers willing to dispose of their children's haphazard debris?"

The issue really is not all of the garbage that is left littering various locations in the Student Union: on tables in the cafeteria, in the garden area south of the cafeteria, and near the tables and chairs on the first floor. That is not to say that having the aesthetics of the campus marred by something

as trivial as random refuse is not thoroughly annoying. It is obnoxious. Rather than asking "Who will clean this mess, if students will not clean up after themselves?" consider why they fail to do so.

Surely, their actions are not intentional. A crushing course load left them so pressed for time that they had mere seconds to scarf down a bit of sustenance before rushing off to their next class, having barely enough time to breathe, let alone be able to walk to a trashcan. Or perhaps there are just not enough trashcans on campus. Students are desperate to get rid of their garbage, but the receptacles are so few and so diabolically hidden that it is nearly impossible to locate one.

This must be the case. It cannot be that students are so lacking in school pride and plain decency that they will not take simple steps to clean up after themselves. It could not be laziness or carelessness or indifference on their part. Could it?

All sarcasm aside, it is indifference that creates the mess in the Student Union. The trash itself is merely a symptom of the dangerous sickness of indifference. Yet when this apathy festers, it is not just the self-righteous student or frustrated custodian who suffer. Full-blown apathy causes suffering on the global level, from the damaged ozone layer to the African AIDS epidemic.

Picking up trash will not solve any crises in the world. But it is a start. The only antidote to indifference is action.

The blog invasion

by Christina Ciupuliga
Staff Writer

Up until this year, having an online daily blog was considered to be childish, as it was mostly limited to teenagers in elementary and high schools. Today, online sites like **MySpace.com** are extremely popular, even with college students. In fact, as I recently discovered, almost 1000 students from Northeastern have an account on My Space.

This being said, I couldn't help but wonder, is this the new "in" thing that students everywhere find exciting?

For those of you who are unfamiliar to this concept, let me explain what a site like My Space is all about. To create an account you need to log on, create a profile, and seek "friends" who match your interests and personality. You can comment on other member pages, add pictures, and invite your Internet friends to events and groups. You also have the ability to post blogs.

After talking to a few students about their Internet guilty pleasure, a lot of them told me that the site is like an addiction they don't have to give up. Students told me that having an account on My Space is a great way to meet new people, get to know people that attend your

school, and socialize. Since most of my friends have an account, I decided to try it myself.

Not long after, I found myself turning on the computer at 7 o'clock in the morning to check my site. My little act of "desperation" made me wonder one thing. Are we using sites like My Space as a way to communicate to our friends what we don't want to tell them in person? Or better yet, are we using the Internet as a substitute for actual social interactions?

The answer to that question lies within each individual. While having a site like My Space is harmless, it's important to know how to prioritize your time.

The choice is all yours. While for some, it's more convenient to communicate through these sites, others don't seem to take interest in them. After all, nobody can tell you what's "in" and what's "out."

If these sites are not for you, or if you have better things to do than sit in front of your computer for hours (no offense but we all do it, and quite frankly, sometimes it's a waste of time), then you shouldn't feel like you are missing out on what others seem to enjoy. It's entirely your right to choose how you want to spend your time. Plus, I bet that the history paper due tomorrow could use some work.

What it means to be Latino



Walking to the newspaper office I scanned the flyers on the walls like I usually do. Events, clubs, war protests ... it's a fragment of what's on our school's collective mentality. Today, though, I found something I didn't really

expect: a question. One that I actually had to think about.

The question? "What is it like to be a Latino/a in Chicago?" Well, I should know, but if I know, why did I immediately disqualify myself as an applicant to the contest? I can string sentences together and I speak my native Spanish, so what's my problem?

I remember going to a one-woman play about growing up Puerto Rican. A lot of its stereotypes I could relate to: the overprotective mother with a temper, the intricacies of cultural misunderstandings, and the occasional flair of Santeria occurring over the refrigerator. But at one point of the play she brings up me, abstractly of course, the Argentinean. We were Hispanic, but you know, *not Latino*. And the crowd laughed ... because it had a ring of truth for them?

Overlooking the serious fault in etymology on which the joke rested, its nature became dark to me. It singled me out as strictly European. I have no issue with that, personally, for it has no connotations. However, there's sometimes this feeling that comes along with being labeled "European." There is this undertone present at times in people's speech. It's the idea that you're "white," a quality possessed by a being somehow devoid of any personal culture with the exception of looking down on others.

How does an Argentinean commit suicide? We climb to the highest point of our ego ... Is this just my problem, I wonder?

...and we jump off.

In my relations with group identity, I think this has always been a ghost for me. I consider myself Latina but I don't fit into being that in other Latino's eyes. Isn't the whole sense of considering yourself some sort of nationality or otherwise, a way of being part of a community? This obviously doesn't fit the purpose then.

What about being "white?" Well, I look peach-ish to me. Others who often referred to as "white" don't vary in peach-ness much, but the countries they link to their cultural identity do. Some choices are very apparent. Habits and customs of a certain type are dominant, and for others it's not so much. How many times have I actually heard someone bring up an Irish heritage as their reason for excessive drinking? That 25 percent Irish, which apparently was the cause of you getting blasted at that one party, I'm sure helped you embrace your Irish heritage just as your great-great grandmother would have pleased.

So what's it like being Latina in Chicago? I don't know, I still haven't figured out what it is to be Latina past what the dictionary says. And in a couple generations, it won't even matter. With pride I will say that I couldn't care less if my bloodline and my culture continues forth, because one way or another, everything changes and evolves. The culture I pass onto my kids will be but a semblance of what was given to me, because undoubtedly they will begin to create their own version of it.

Twelve generations ago my family could have been in Hungary, and in 12 generations more it can be in Asia. Being "Latina" now won't make much difference to my future relatives. It will be just another percentage to throw out along with Irish, French, Cherokee, Chinese ... and they'll tell stories of some old relative who had a thing for tango.

What is stopping you ?

by Joe Hertel
Opinions Editor

Over the past few years, as a Communications, Media and Theater major, I have wondered why so very few of my fellow students who are interested in writing, photography and graphics have not joined the staff of the *Independent*.

It is a golden opportunity to put into practice what we are being taught in your various classes. I have turned many class assignments into an article for our campus newspaper and not only received a grade, but cash payment for my homework.

You don't have to have the ability of a Hemmingway or Allende to become a writer for the *Independent*. You just need a desire to write. Every week, assignments are listed and you can choose one or more

from the list of each section: News, Opinions, Features and Rev (our own entertainment review section). You can adjust your participation according to your schedule.

You can become a cub reporter, interviewing and reporting on the movers and shakers of administration. You can present your views on campus controversy or activities and reach thousands of readers. You can design graphic representations for articles, submit a cartoon, or present ideas for designing Halloween costumes. And you get paid.

So, what's stopping you from joining the *Independent*? There are students on campus who enjoy photography, but do not take advantage of having their photos published in the *Independent*. There are students who are writing assigned articles for their media classes and yet miss the

opportunity to publish the article in the *Independent*. And for those seeking to build a resume, here is an opportunity you to build a portfolio.

The *Independent* is a student organization. No members of the staff are professional ... yet. We are all learning. It is a stepping stone to a career in writing, either in media or corporate settings. Even management.

Yep, we have people working the business and advertising end of the newspaper. So what is stopping you from beginning your career path now by joining the *Independent* and gaining real life experience in dealing with people working together to produce a quality informative publication each week?

Potential employers will look at your resume when you are applying for a job as a reporter or writer or

photographer. They will see among the applications that you have had courses in writing, photography or business management—just like all the other applicants. They will be looking for that extra something that causes you to stand out.

They might even wonder why, after four or five years working for your degree in Communications, Media or Business, you never joined the student newspaper on campus to gain experience in production, photography, and writing. So what's stopping you from joining?

Wouldn't it be better to walk into the employment office and show a portfolio of published work you built up while attending college? Some of our staff over the past few semesters have such a portfolio, and right now they will have an advantage in the job market.

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor must be signed with an address and telephone number for verification. Submissions must be approximately 300 words in length or less.

Letters are subject to editing for space and style at editor's discretion. The editor reserves the right to omit any work submitted.

Published on first-come, first-serve basis. Send letters to: *Independent*, E-049, 5500 N. St. Louis, Chicago, IL 60625 or neu_independent@yahoo.com

Good authors come in small packages

by Anna Zimowska
Staff Writer

I must admit that I was a bit worried when I entered the Neo-Futurarium, which looked like a mixture of a Chicago Public School and a Chicago Park District Field house.

I came to the Neo-Futurarium to see a play, *That's Weird, Grandma*, by the Barrel of Monkeys in their "Celebration of Authors 2004-2005." I had heard of the theater company before, but hadn't seen any of their work, so imagine my surprise when I found myself in a waiting room full of extremely energetic children and their parents.

Now imagine my surprise when I found out that those same energetic kids were the authors we had gathered there to celebrate.

It turns out that Barrel of Monkeys is a company of not only actors and musicians, but of educators who go into Chicago Public Schools to conduct creative writing workshops for kids in grades three through six. They then take the scripts, sketches and poems written by the children and create a very high energy, fast paced comedy show.

I will admit with all honesty that during the first couple of sketches I almost wet my pants. Unbelievable. The sketches really were something that only kids could

make up, and the actors were full of energy and enjoying every minute of it.

Each sketch was about two minutes long, with minimal costuming, no make-up, and great energy. Transitions between sketches were barely there, only a quick shout from one of the actors pointing out the author of the sketch grinning in the audience.

The sketches were accompanied by a couple of the actors on a keyboard, who switched off in between sketches. The music and sound effects were very fitting, and the musical numbers put on by the cast were very well done. There were also some great voices in the bunch, and to my ears' delight, they were nicely in tune.

So what were the sketches about? A dog that likes to bite a man's pajamas, a man who got "stinged" by a skinny bee in Chicago, a room full of food and men, a witch and her chicken who wanted to destroy Florida, and two friends who got a Cadillac truck with 54-inch spinners and their "bling" stolen, to name just a few.

You can catch a show by the Barrel of Monkeys every Monday at 8:00 p.m. at the Neo-Futurarium, located at 5153 N. Ashland (corner of Ashland and Foster). Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children.

The show lasts about an hour and changes from week to week. If you'd like more information or would like to volunteer or donate, visit www.barrelofmonkeys.org.

image courtesy of www.barrelofmonkeys.com

Fame Our best shine brightest

by Michael Sy
Staff Writer

Fame, NEIU's annual talent show, premiered on Thursday, Sept. 15, and featured some of the most talented students, professors and staff members on campus.

There were many different performers who had their own unique acts. Possibly the most singular of all of them was the performance group called Remember the Maine.

They put on a comedic musical bit, reminiscent of the late Danny Kaye's later years. The success of their performance was likely due to their presentation and audience appeal.

Dorothy Slater, a student from the Music Department, put on a beautifully sounding performance. The opera style song, "La Wally," was sung with such precision and style that it brought several audience members to their feet in a standing ovation.

There was a classic old time music performance of "The French Suite," by the Con Espiritive Clarinet Quartet, which consisted of the music students Kyu Lee, Pauline Lefebvre, Julie Weinberg, and Robin Koelsch. Their music style was very light-

hearted and full of classic appeal.

Thaddeus Harper's original rap solo, "A Fall Star," had a few mistakes starting off, which can be attributed to a beat box malfunction, but it came together for the rest of the performance.

Violins Gone Wild surprised many by their unexpected performance, combining classical elements with an electric guitar. They used the tunes and some lyrics from the song "If I Were a Rich Girl." This scored well in talent, audience appeal, and presentation.

Before the show's conclusion, Terry Bush of the Marketing and Communications Department made a special appearance. He sang songs about things of a simpler time, such as "Chocolate is Love" and children who had magical toys that "Zipped, Bopped, Whirled."

The winner of the talent show, who scored highest in talent, originality, audience appeal and presentation, was the Con Espiritive Clarinet Quartet. Violins Gone Wild received second place, and third place went to Remember the Maine.

Each of these performers represented different aspects of the NEIU community. They proved that they are more than just passing faces in the hall heading to class, grown tired by the constant day-by-day book learning.

They are people with personalities, creativity, passion, humor, grace, style, expression, and most of all, heart. They have proven that they not only have the skills to make it in NEIU's talent show, but they also have unique gifts that will take them as far as they choose to go.



Winners Con Espiritive Clarinet Quartet made the crowds dance.

photo by Deliah Bleahu

Pollard's Picks

Blowing apart *Napoleon Dynamite*



My first exposure to *Napoleon Dynamite*, the so-called "cult" hit film of 2004, came about this past summer. The word "cult" here is used lightly. MTV and Hot Topic, with their endless merchandising and promotions, kept pushing this as a cult film, and somehow, it became true.

Halfway into the movie, I was begging for a power failure, a scratch on the DVD, or a meteor shower. Something—anything—that would end my suffering.

Comedies, especially stupid comedies such as *Dumb & Dumber* or *There's Something About Mary*, are always useful as a cheap laugh and an entertaining way to waste 90 minutes. I have nothing against these movies, and I love some of those stupid comedies. There is, however, a fine line between a stupid comedy and just plain ridiculous. *Napoleon Dynamite* not only crossed that line—he break danced on it.

For those of you who were fortunate enough not to have seen it, the film centers on high school outcast Napoleon Dynamite (Jon Heder) and ... well, that's pretty much it as far as plot is concerned. In fact, there actually isn't much of a plot whatsoever. If not for the fact that this movie was made by Mormons, you would think the cast and crew were higher than Cheech and Chong all throughout production.

In fact, one wishes there was some form of substance abuse behind the scenes because at least that would explain the sheer amount of outright stupidity in this movie.

With *Lost in Translation*, writer/director Sofia Coppola proved that a film with little plot could still be very good, as long as there are strong characters. And even stupid films like those made by the Farrelly brothers have characters, although they are not well developed, they are at least fun to watch and are driven by a fun

plot. *Napoleon Dynamite* failed in this respect because the filmmakers chose to sacrifice both plot and characters in favor of endless one-note in-jokes.

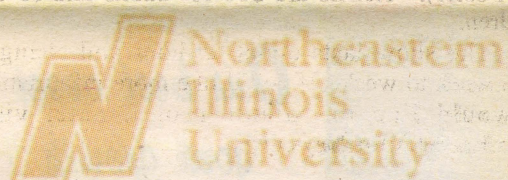
Every single character in this film is completely one-dimensional. Not one of them is appealing in any sense of the word, and when watching the film, you pray for someone to just put these poor bastards out of their misery. The biggest perpetrator of this is Napoleon himself, who is supposed to be the cliché archetype of the tortured teenager who faces abuse at the hands of his schoolmates. But with Napoleon's abrasive attitude and voice that holds all the appeal of nails grinding on a chalkboard, you understand and accept the fact that some people just deserve that sort of treatment.

From half-baked student campaigns to Internet romances, nothing in this film makes any sense, and it's just completely random and insulting to the viewer's intelligence. I literally felt dumber by the time the credits rolled by. The filmmakers try (and fail) to ape the likes of Wes Anderson, Jim Jarmusch, and other independent filmmakers, and MTV tries to disguise this film as "deep" and "arsty." It's an attempt to appeal to the outcast teens—the ones who think they're being individual by shopping at Hot Topic instead of Abercrombie.

But there are those of us who know that while you can paint manure any color you like, it'll still be a pile of crap when you're done.



photo courtesy of www.rotten tomatoes.com



Student Union Programs

Sept. - Oct.

SU Presents



Movie and Munchies. Featuring Rize.

co-sponsored by Pi Nu Chapter of
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
Thursday October 6th, 6:30 pm
CCICS campus: 700 East Oakwood Blvd.
Friday October 7th, 5:30pm
Main Campus, Golden Eagles room

Darfur Education Table
Village Square 1pm-4pm
Tuesday October 11th

Open Mic
Battle of the Poets (BOP!)
Thursday September 29th
SU - 214 @ 5pm

Tickets to the Town



"Wicked" Tickets

Student ticket sales begin
Monday, Oct. 3rd
@ Information Center

Wicked (show date: Oct. 20)
1st ticket \$15, 2nd ticket \$20
Limit 2 tickets per NEIU ID

Calendar Capers



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Events Subject to Change.

For more information about an event, please contact the Student Union at (773) 442-6099 (www.neiu.edu/~sudept)
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Administrative Office: student-union@neiu.edu



Advertisement

Telling Emily Rose's story

by Michael Sy
Staff Writer

The Exorcism of Emily Rose was based "around" real life accounts and "supposed" supernatural events regarding the death of a young woman and the trial of her religious advisor, Father Moore (Tom Wilkinson), who performed the exorcism, which resulted in her death. He is being accused of negligent homicide. This matter brought about the conflict between and amongst government, medical science and religion. It's practically a witch-hunt, only the holy man is the accused and the community persecuting him is the modern secular man.

The limited success this movie will find isn't likely found in the possibility of these events being true, but because it is a dramatically written story with good special effects that do not exaggerate physical limits. If anything, the dialogue seems more dramatically exaggerated and the special effects are more realistically compelling in this movie.

Moore and his defense attorney, Erin Brenner (Laura Linney), are often seen in a lot of preachy dialogue, usually with each other. If it weren't for their experience as skilled actors, they would appear as completely unconvincing characters.

Moore seemed like the most genuine character in the story, considering that Brenner's character was less believable. As an agnostic, Brenner seems far too easily swayed by Moore's warnings of demons and dark forces being involved in this case.

The prosecutor, Ethan Thomas (Campbell Scott), seemed the least genuine character of all, claiming to be a religious man, but whose character was written to show no belief of spirituality. He still showed more compelling evidence in the trial, based on medical science. He seemed the most indignant of the characters in opposing and discrediting the witnesses called by Brenner. The one character that didn't carry herself in the same way as the other characters listed above, was Emily Rose (Jennifer Carpenter) herself. Since she had died before the start of the movie, her state of mind and what led to her fate was left to speculation and testimony.

Despite the character inconsistencies, this is an intriguing story. If you can take something from this, it shouldn't necessarily be doubt, belief, inspiration or fear. One would benefit more from this as a philosophical example of the moral conflict between mankind's sense of the spiritual and the logical. If not, then at least consider how neither science nor religion was able to help Emily Rose.

A different kind of Mormon

by Jenni Lada
Features Editor

It is albums by groups like The Mormons that make you wonder if you're getting old and should be switching your car presets to Adult Contemporary and Easy Listening stations. Punk is great, but only when it's done by musicians who really know what they're doing. The Mormon's debut with their lackluster lead singer makes you wonder if, as a band, they know what they're doing.

The group's debut album, *Statement of No Statement*, is mind boggling to say the least. It looks appealing, with tracks titled "Entertainment as a Chore," "Leaf Blower Amada," and "Karaoke Death Machine." Seeing the title tracks and hearing the opening instrumentals shows that the band obviously has imagination and potential. The problem with the album as a whole is the indecipherable lyrics and mismatched vocals.

The worst part is that the search for some sort of explanation of the music leaves the listener with no answer. The insert of the CD only has some excerpts of the lyrics, and none of them seem to make any sense. The press release with the album isn't kidding when it (proudly even) boasts that the lead singer's vocals and energy "makes audience members seriously consider running into a wall." Trying to even comprehend any of the words does start making that bricks next to you look really good.

That's really the only problem with the entire album, and quite possibly, The Mormons as a whole. If you can, by some miracle, ignore the vocals and lyrics, then the rest of the band is a joy to listen to. If this were an instrumental album it would easily be a must-buy disc. The vocals and lyrics, however, are far too irritating and get in the way of a potentially enjoyable listening experience.

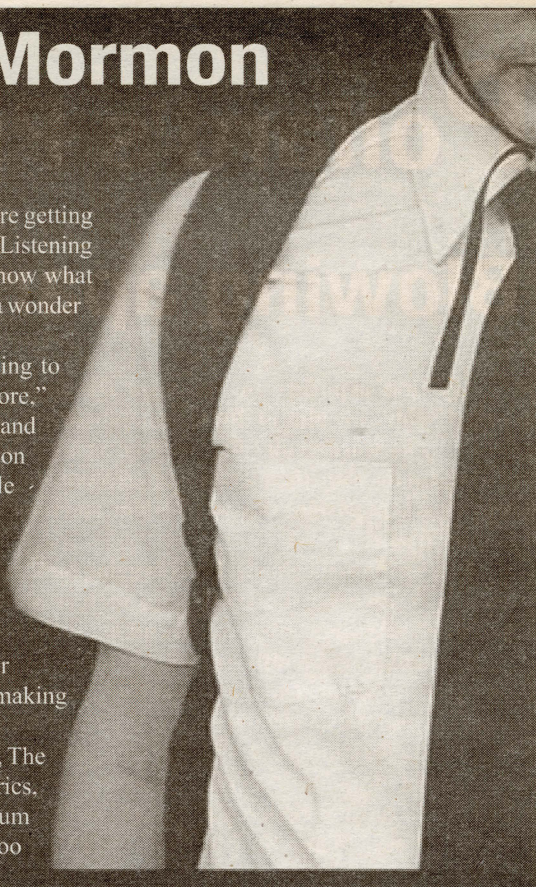


image courtesy of <http://home.comcast.net/>

Puppies on parade

by Jenni Lada
Features Editor

Remember your old Tamagotchi? The one you begged your parents for, and then after a few days worth of fascination, it was left to die and rot in the bottom of a backpack? Chances are that won't be happening with Nintendogs, the latest pet simulation game from Nintendo for the Nintendo DS.

This is, quite honestly, probably the first must-have game for the system. The premise is deceptively simple. There are three versions: Dachshund & Friends, Lab & Friends, and Chihuahua & Friends. Each version starts with six different breeds of dogs. You start the game by visiting the kennel and purchasing your first pup. You name your dog, train it, take care of it, enter it in competitions, and walk it. You earn money from the competitions and from selling spare items found on walks to buy more puppies, more supplies, and better apartments. That's pretty much it.

But at the same time there is so much depth to those few activities that it keeps you coming back. There are two secret breeds that you can unlock, rare toys to find, and accessories galore. Your puppy can go on 'play dates' with friends' dogs through the wireless feature. Plus the contests get more challenging and involving. Your puppies become real to you, as though they are actually pets dependent on your love and attention, rather than a cluster of computer chips.

The key to this game is the fact that it is completely

Nintendo improves Tamagotchi

played with the touch screen and your voice. Your puppy knows your voice and responds to it. When you want it to sit, you tell it to sit. You whistle, and they clamber to run from the top screen to the bottom so they can be near you. Plus, the first time your puppy wins a major contest or brings you a rare toy like a Mario-kart, you can't help but feel a swell of pride for your little digital baby.

The only real downside is the timing issues, which are set in place to make the game seem more realistic. Each puppy can compete in only three competitions per day and you have to wait a half hour between taking each one for walks. Of course, since you can have a total of eight puppies in your game, you have plenty of opportunities to spend time on the virtual town. It's really the first near perfect DS game for any player.

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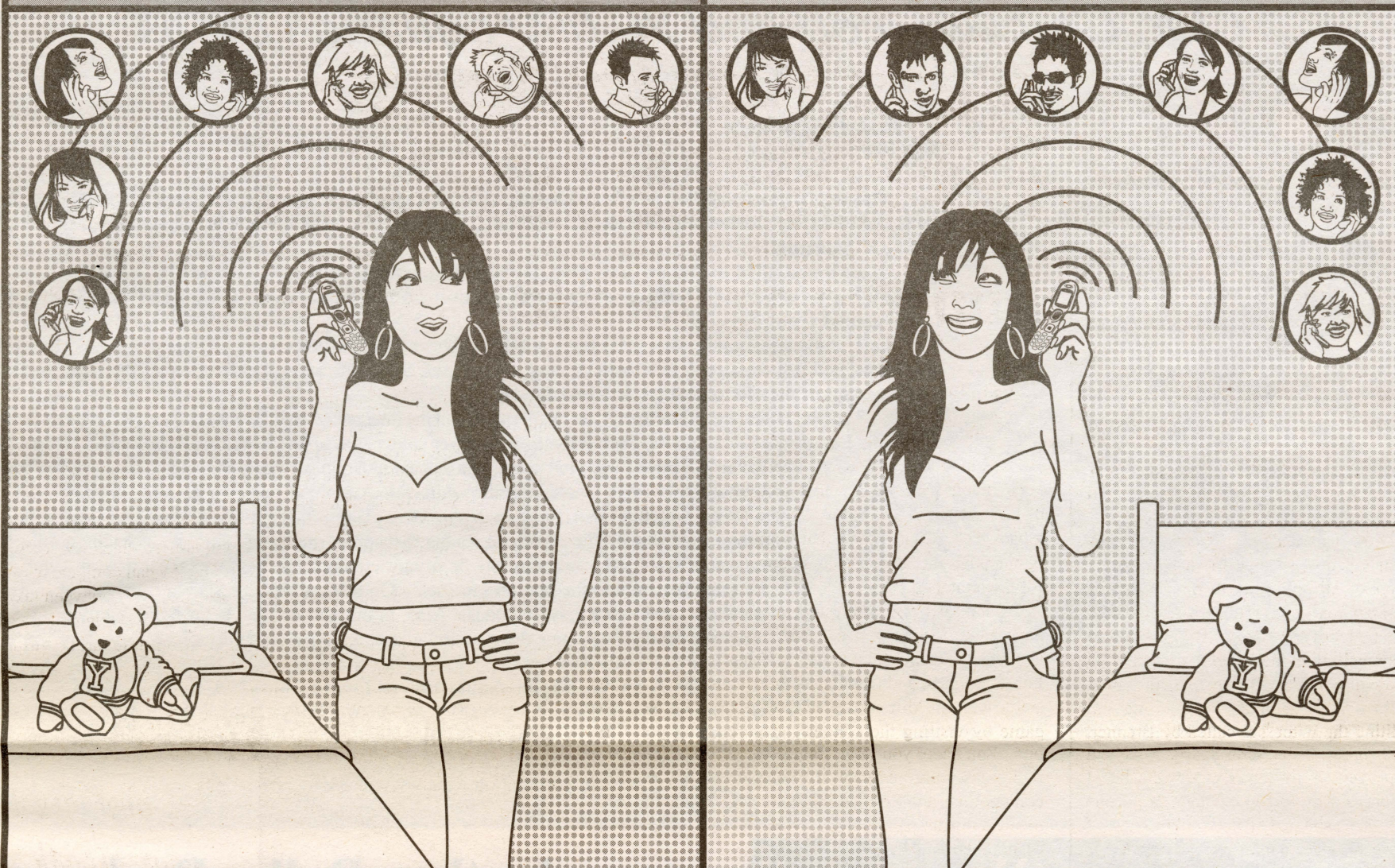
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Eagle's Nest

Lifestyles of the Northeastern Community



Dive into the Shedd Aquarium

One Chicago icon and 20,000 aquatic visions

by Elizabeth Rodriguez
Staff Writer

This year, over two million people will face fierce sharks, giggle at scampering sea otters, and marvel at colorful coral. All of this excitement not only exists under one roof, but is also available at a hallmark of Chicago: the John G. Shedd Aquarium.

Since it first filled its fish tanks in 1930, the Shedd Aquarium has been the world's largest indoor aquarium. Today, it houses more than 20,000 aquatic animals and over 1,500 different species of fish and other animals found in and around water.

One of the aquarium's main attractions is the Caribbean Reef, which allows visitors to witness sharks, eels, sea turtles, and fish coexisting in a replication of a coral reef. Several times daily, divers enter the water to risk life and fingertips as they hand feed the different animals.

The Shedd Aquarium has many other galleries to suit the interests of anyone with even a mild interest in marine life. For local wildlife lovers, there is the Illinois River Gallery, complete with a replica of the sandstone bluffs of the Fox River. For those interested in animals that are more quintessentially cute, there is the Oceanarium that accommodates beluga whales, Pacific white-sided dolphins, harbor seals and penguins.

The Shedd Aquarium also has several interactive exhibits that allow visitors to take their exploration into their own hands. The "Amazon Rising: Season of the River" exhibit, according to the Shedd Aquarium's website, "takes guests on a journey along the banks of the Amazon River during the rainy season into the flooding forests." On this journey, guests will see a variety of jungle dwellers—from piranhas to iguanas. Also, in the new exhibit "CRABS!" guests can view the crustaceans that "combine the mobility of a tank, the adaptability of a Swiss Army Knife, and the heartiness of a hard hat."

The John G. Shedd Aquarium is located at 1200 S. Lakeshore Drive. Its hours are 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, and 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on weekends. Tickets cost \$23 for adults and \$16 for children and senior citizens.

For more information, visit www.sheddaquarium.org.

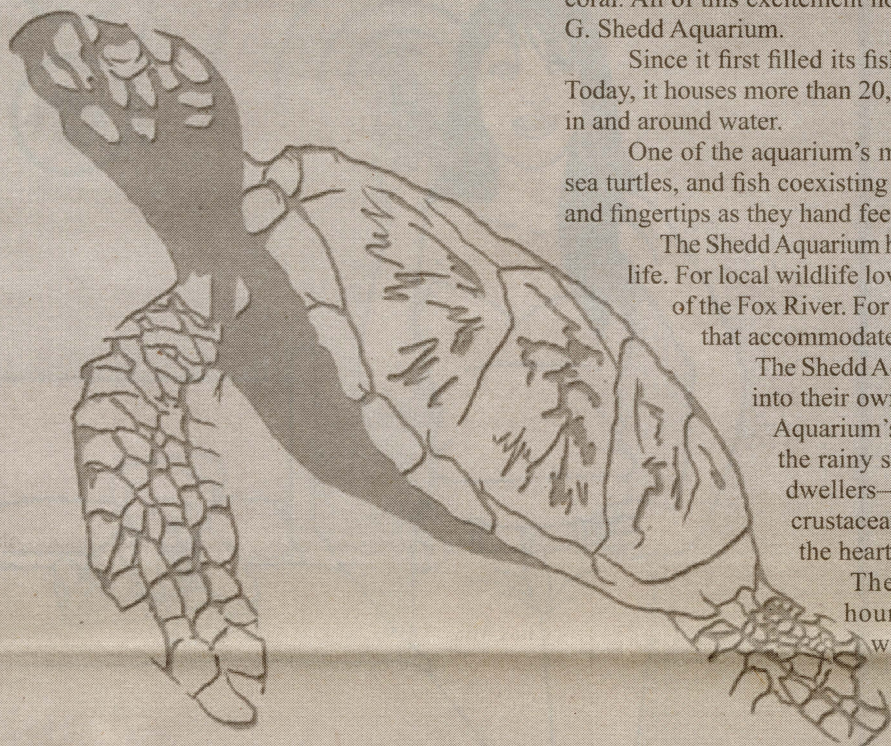


image by Cecilia Carboni

Women roll over each other, Roller Derby-style

by Ben Merrell
Staff Writer

When Jackie Trip'Her slapped her in the face, Dayglo Dago could have slapped her right back. Instead, she waited until the jam had started, and as they were rounding the first curve she grabbed Jackie's injured leg and knocked her over.

Both women dropped to the ground and exchanged blows until the referees pulled them apart. Such scenes are not uncommon in the sport of roller derby.

As Ann "Queen of the Penalty Box" Cavello remarked back in the '50s, Roller Derby "ain't tiddlywinks." It's a contact sport, and while the names aren't real, the bruises and the broken bones certainly are. Teams are made up of five girls each: three blockers, one jammer, and one pivot—all on skates. Jammers score one point for each member of the opposing team they pass.

Last Sunday at the Congress Theater, all four Windy City Roller teams met for a "School Daze Showdown." The match up everyone was talking about was the one between the undefeated Hell's Belles and their challenger, the Manic Attackers.

Player Quiet Storm of Hell's Belles was able to rack up several points in the first minute with two quick loops around the track, but her third attempt to weave through the pack resulted in a ten-girl pileup.

Tensions ran high after that, culminating in the first fight of the evening, between Belle Penny Royalty and Attacker Sidney Vicious. Royalty and Vicious then faced off in a penalty round, in which the women zipped around the track pummeling

each other with pillows in a race for an extra point. Despite a dazzling performance by jammer Quiet Storm ("the Hell's Belles gazelle") the Manic Attackers were ahead at the half 37-34.

Backstage at halftime, Hell's Belles' Captain Athena DeCrime discussed strategy with her teammates. "We talked about what we had learned from the play in the first half," she said later, "and what adjustments we needed to make. We observed some of their more common plays, and made strategic adjustments to reduce the effectiveness of those plays."

Despite DeCrime's best efforts, the Manic Attackers maintained a comfortable lead for most of the second half. Jammers Ying O'Fire and Tex Ann kept putting points on the board while their blocker teammates kept Quiet Storm in check. With two minutes to go, the Belles were still behind by five points.

In the last 20 seconds, Quiet Storm and Mo Vengeance whipped around the track at blistering speeds, passing blockers as if they were statues in the park.

The buzzer sounded, and the points began to appear on the scoreboard. "Those few seconds were among the longest in my life," DeCrime remembers, "and the feeling afterwards was absolutely crushing in its glory." The final score was Hell's Belles 79, Manic Attackers 78.

Later that night at the Liar's Club Bar, Jackie Trip'Her and Dayglo Dago turned back into their mild mannered alter egos Rachael Folk and Kate Sanderson.

Taking turns buying each other rounds of Rolling Rock, the two friends laughed about what a few hours earlier had been deadly serious.



photo by Ben Merrell

Eagles find going rough on diamond in two lopsided losses

by **Andrea Zelinski**
Business Manager

In the first games of the season, the Eagles baseball club was slaughtered by the University of Wisconsin at Whitewater in a sweaty double header on Sunday, Sept. 11.

Playing on their home turf, the Eagles led 4 – 3 until the top of the fifth when their starting pitcher, Devin Rosen, gave up four hits, and eventually four runs. By the end of the sixth inning, U of W had scored another eight runs, ending the game at 15 – 4. The Eagles ended up forfeiting their half of the last inning.

The Eagles played their second stringers in the second game of the double header, losing again, this time 22 – 2.

They blamed their loss on their numerous errors

in both games. Further, Sunday's game was the first time they actually played together.

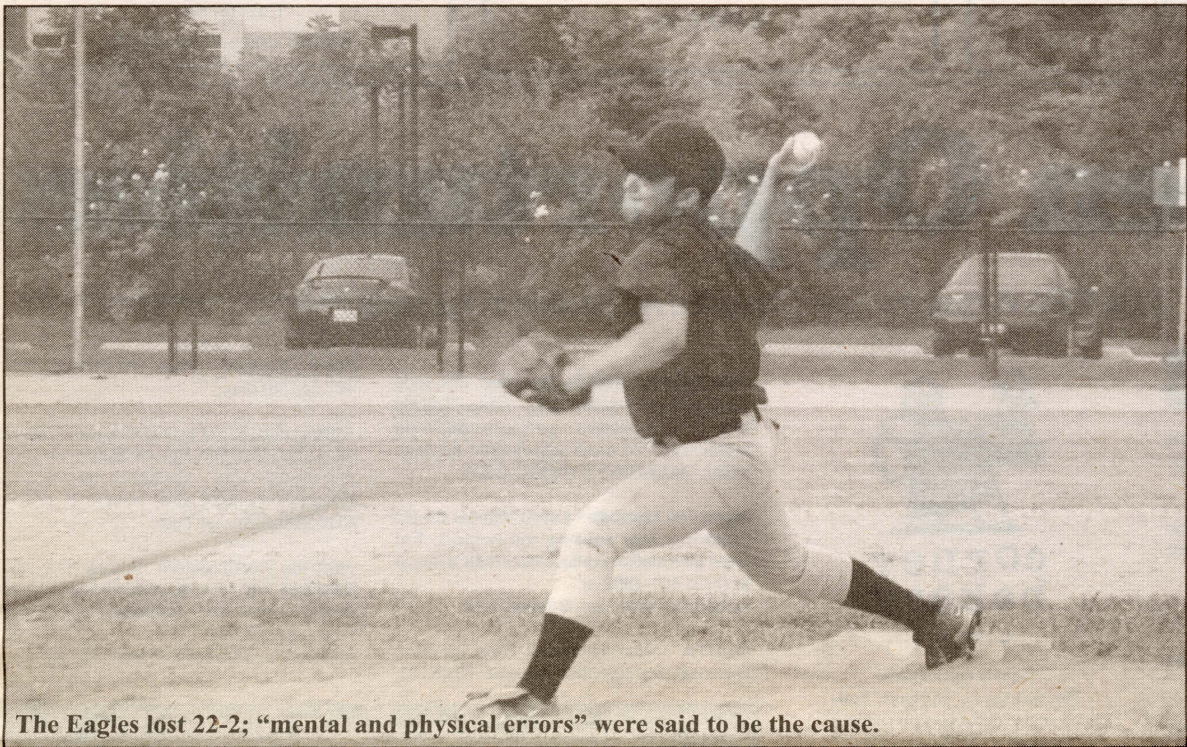
Too many "mental and physical errors," said third baseman Cruz Angon. "We would have won if those stupid errors never had happened."

The team of 21 has a lot of new members, according to Eduardo Arabu Jr., and outfielder. Some believe they are still getting used to each other.

"We don't have the chemistry yet," said Alfredo Martinez, an outfielder. We have to bond together ... and play baseball."

The temperature topped off at 90 degrees that afternoon, according to the Weather Channel, leaving both NEIU and U of W to play games from 12:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a half-hour break in between.

The Eagles intend to play throughout the fall on an exhibition basis.



The Eagles lost 22-2; "mental and physical errors" were said to be the cause.

photo by Dorian Barrios

Telenovelas

*Passion, crime
and secrets*

by **Deborah Goldbaum**
Copy Editor

Soap operas are considered daytime television, but that is not so for telenovelas, the Spanish soap operas. On Telemundo, Channel 44, they start as early as 9:00 a.m. and go as late as 9:00 p.m. On Univision, Channel 66, they also go as late as 9:00 p.m.

On Channel 44, the earliest telenovela is "Señora del Destino," which is about a woman named Maria del Campo who slowly learns about her daughter Isabel. She learns the whole truth through a man named Dirsieu, while he comes to grips with his struggles with her. Also, on this channel are "Amor Descarado," "Amarte Así," "Los Plateados," "El Principe Azul," "Decisiones," "La Tormenta," "Pasión de Gavilanas," and "El Cuerpo del Deseo."

The telenovelas that pull the viewer in the most are "Los Plateados" and "El Cuerpo del Deseo." In "Los Plateados," Camila is arrested and in jail, receiving occasional visits from her husband Gabriel who she is trying to liven up.

This endeavor keeps her from revealing her true feelings. Passion is rampant between Isabel and Salvadore in "El Cuerpo del Deseo." Also, in this telenovela things are uncomfortable between the lady of the house and her employees.

On Channel 66, one of the first evening soap operas is "Inocente de Ti." This show is about two twins, Rebeca and Raquel, who hate each other. Raquel is a millionaire who will do anything to keep her family from getting her fortune. She leaves the inheritance to a flower vendor.

At 7:00 p.m., "Contra Viento y Marea" is on. This Spanish soap opera stars Natalia, an orphan whose hate for her uncle changes into dirty passion when she becomes a beautiful young woman. She escapes her uncle's nasty intentions but gets sold to a brothel. She manages to escape the brothel with the help of one of her captors. Much later, she ends up in romances with two brothers, unbeknownst to her.

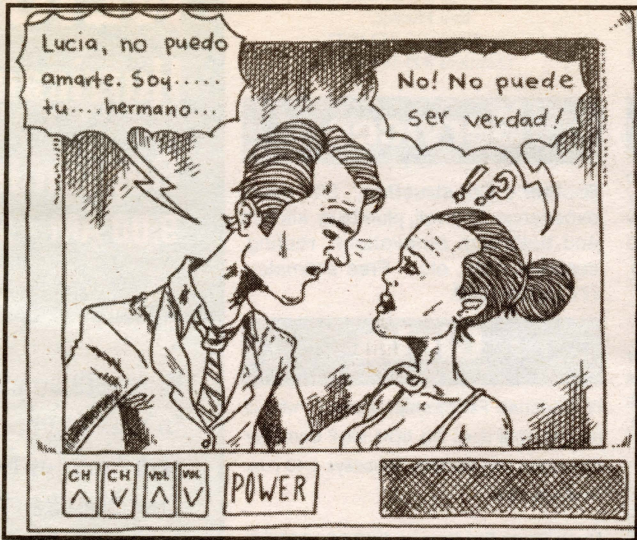


image by A. R. Lopez

Fitness Matters

Vending machine heaven ... or hell

by **Michelle S. Thall**
Special Contributor

Someone suggested I do a nice little piece on vendo-food. No problem, I thought, a piece on what to eat if you didn't plan ahead and wanted to choose your snack wisely. Instead, I feel like I'm writing an expose from the frontlines of a nutritional war zone.

There is no "healthy" choice in vending machines; there is only the lesser of a lot of evils. When I say healthy, I do not mean what is lowest in calorie; I mean nutritionally sound. You may remember I did an article last semester detailing the harms of trans fats. Trans fat's natural state has been chemically altered in pursuit of a miracle fat. It comes from a plant, acts like butter and increases the shelf life of food products. The problem? Most dieticians and health professionals agree it is worse for you than saturated fat.

So what's the number one ingredient to avoid when you play vending-machine roulette? Partially hydrogenated-vegetable oil, A.K.A. trans fat. The other problem I noticed with almost all snack options is the high sugar content combined with a lot of simple starch—flour. This means the snack will be quickly digested and result in a temporary boost of energy. Definitely not enough to get you through an entire chemistry lecture.

But, if you decide to traverse the landmines, go informed:

Potato Chips

More than 50 percent fat, high in sodium, calorie dense and probably won't fill you up unless you eat multiple bags. Further the plain chips are trans-fat free, but the flavored ones are not, so buyers beware.

Fritos

About the same details as chips, but you're eating corn instead of potato, which is hardly worth noting from a nutritional standpoint.

Animal Crackers & Vanilla Wafers

Lower in fat and reasonable in calories, but contains the evil trans fats.

Peanut Butter Sandwich Crackers

Close to 50 percent fat because of the peanuts, which is okay, but they are also loaded with trans fats, so no-go here.

Chex Mix

I had hope here. The label touts "60% less fat," but yet again I found partially hydrogenated vegetable oil.

Welch's Fruit Snacks

Juice is the first ingredient, there are no trans fats, and they are high in Vitamins A, E and C. The downside is lots of sugar and no fat or protein, which will produce the crashing effect noted above.

Goldfish

The carbohydrate/fat/protein ratio is better than the rest, which means it will keep you full a little longer. They're trans-fat free and low in sugar, but high in sodium, so if you are at risk for high blood pressure, tread lightly.

How do you win at vending-machine roulette? Don't play. Do plan ahead. Choose foods that travel well, don't spoil and keep you full. Try fresh fruit, baby carrots, cut up celery, nuts (no or low salt), pretzels (trans-fat free) or meal-substitute bars that aren't all sugar. You can do this. Yes, it takes time, but isn't your health worth it?

Michelle S. Thall, M.S., is an instructor & graduate advisor, Department of HPERA.

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if you're buying or selling your home:*

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Around Campus

Monday, September 26

Latino Political Behavior and Public Opinion

Presented by Dr. Elaine Rodriguez
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
SU 215

Future Teachers Club

First meeting
Introduction and refreshments will be served.
1:40 - 2:40
FA 203

Israel Beyond the Media

Hillel presents Eytan Schwartz, winner of Israeli T. V. show the "Ambassador." Discusses Israel in the media as an Israeli.
6:30 p.m.
Golden Eagles

Tuesday, September 27

Hispanic Heritage Month "Market Days"

Alumni Author and photo Exhibit (vendor table)
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Village Square

Caribe Band

1:40 - 2:30
Village Square

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

Small Group Bible Study Kick-Off
1:40 - 2:40
FA 152

Being an Effective Role Model

Presented by Tony Courier
1:40 - 2:40
SU 215

Tuesday, September, 27 cont.

Understanding My leadership Style: Get In Where I Fit In

Presented by Sharron Evans
3:00 - 4:00 p.m.
SU 215

Wednesday, September 28

Graduate College Open House

Speak with graduate college representatives, get info. about degree programs and ask about funding opportunities
SU 214
6:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 29

Hispanic Heritage Month Alumni Display Case

"Hispanic alumni and students around Chicago"
September 29 through October 7
North Display Case, Village Square

Interviewing for Success

Presented by Allen Shub
1:40 - 2:40 p.m.
SU 215

Friday, September 30

Hispanic heritage Month Alumni Celebration

"Noche de la familia"
6 to 10 p.m.
Student Union, Alumni Hall



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The Chief Editor is responsible for the content of the Independent and views presented do not necessarily represent those of the administration, faculty, or students.

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Golden Opportunities

2004 ICPA Winner for Best Classified Ad Section in the state

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Walk to school! Kimball/ Foster. Great big 2br/ 6 rm. apt. Available 10/1. \$865 inc. heat. Call Mary (773) 216-1353.

Close to campus. Big, 3br apartment near Pulaski/Lawrence. Available immediately. \$950, includes heat. Call Yevette (773)463-4265.

For Sale - 1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee - 85 K miles, perfect cond. inside out. For more info call (773) 934-0425.

98 Chevy Monte Carlo - V6 3.1 L, excellent condition, \$5500 OBO. Call Karen (847)-826-8813

For Rent - Charming first floor 2 br apt. in vintage two flat. On Kimball between Irving & Addison. (773) 539-7347

Wanted

Swim coach needed. Great part-time opportunity for current/ex swimmer! State Championship Masters Club looking for talented coach with experience. Up to 10 hrs/wk, up to \$22/hr, based on experience. Respond ASAP! E-mail: sulli560@comcast.net; ktbmail@sbcglobal.net

The INDEPENDENT is looking for writers, photographers, editors, cartoonist and designers who are looking towards advancement. Will pay. For more information, e-mail neiu_independent@yahoo.com.

Roommate Wanted (Female preferred), just remodeled apartment, spacious kitchen/living room & wonderful bathroom. Logan Square area. Available Now! (708) 781-5765.

Spring Break 2006 with Student Travel Services to Jamaica, Mexico, Bahamas and Florida. Are you connected? Sell trips, earn cash and travel free! Call for group discounts. Info/Reservations 800-648-4849 www.ststravel.com.



Hourly Open House
Interviewing for All Hourly Positions & Shift Supervisors in the downtown Chicago area Thurs. Sept. 29th 3-6pm (No Appt. Nec.). Interviews @ Corner Bakery 35 East Monroe. Directions 312-372-0072. Questions 800-594-7036

Services

Brother's Construction. 20+ years experience. Drywall, plumbing, kitchen and bathroom renovations, roofing, concrete work, etc.. Free estimates. (773) 394-1649.

Clubs

IV Christian Fellowship! Jesus ... who is he and what does the bible say? Come for discussion and worship. Tuesdays 1:40 p.m. Fine Arts 153.

Rush Theta Chi Omega. 9/19/05 - 9/23/05. Join us for a different event on each day. Mon-Fri. For more info, contact Georgia at (847) 732-8125.

Join Union for Puerto Rican Students! All Boricuas welcome. For more information: QOS office located in Student Union building E-41.

Classified Ads are FREE!



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

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

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Join Sigma Lambda Gamma! Enhance your college experience, make lifetime friends and sisters, and unforgettable memories! For more information contact: NEIU_GAMMITAS@YAHOO.COM

Alpha Psi Lambda - Latino Interest Co-Ed Fraternity now seeking the noblest. For more information contact Wildfredo Velez Jr at (773) 401-4302 or alphapsilambda_neiu@yahoo.com

GLBTA - Northeastern Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Alliance (GLBTA).

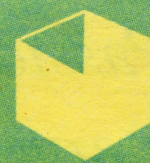
Every Thursday in Fine Arts building room 107 at 1:40 p.m..

Chemexla! NEIU's only Chican@/Mexican@Latin@Organization! Enhancing our knowledge and expanding our culture through university and community action! CHIMEXLA@gmail.com

Join the Northeastern Illinois University Baseball club. For general info and game dates, e-mail neiu_baseball@yahoo.com. To join the team, e-mail neiu_baseballclub@yahoo.com

NEIU for Humanity Hurricane Katrina Relief Drive

September 13 - October 7
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM



Bins will be placed around campus to accept your donations. There are two bins for two relief efforts. You may choose which effort to support.

• Adopt Ocean Springs, Mississippi

Donations for Ocean Springs will be accepted until October 7 or when trailer is full

• Gulf Coast Evacuees in Chicago

You can also donate your time. Please see below for details.

Donations include: financial donations, water, clothes (in decent condition), underwear-very important, baby items (such as diapers, bottles, formula and clothes), non-perishable food items, cat and dog needs, bleach, toys for kids, towels, toiletries (especially feminine products) and any other needs for basic human survival.

If you would like to volunteer to help Gulf Coast evacuees staying in Chicago, please contact Tina Gulley-Augustus from Salvation Army at 773.205.3525 or SGA President Evelyn Nazario-Rose at neiusgapres@yahoo.com.