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## Independent- Oct. 11, 2005

Patrick O'Brien

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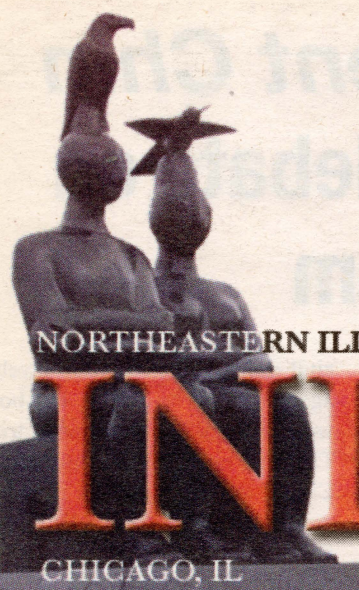
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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# INDEPENDENT

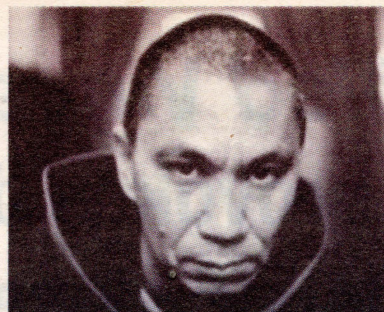
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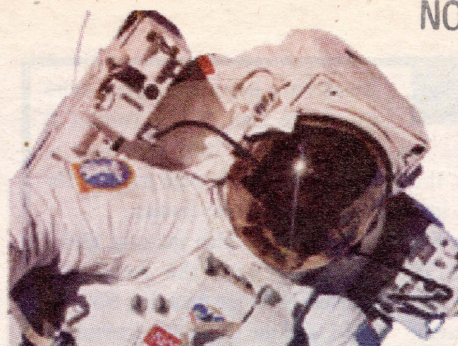
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Tuesday, October 11th, 2005

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 8



**Pollard's knowing  
eye drifts to Director  
Takashi Miike,  
page 9**

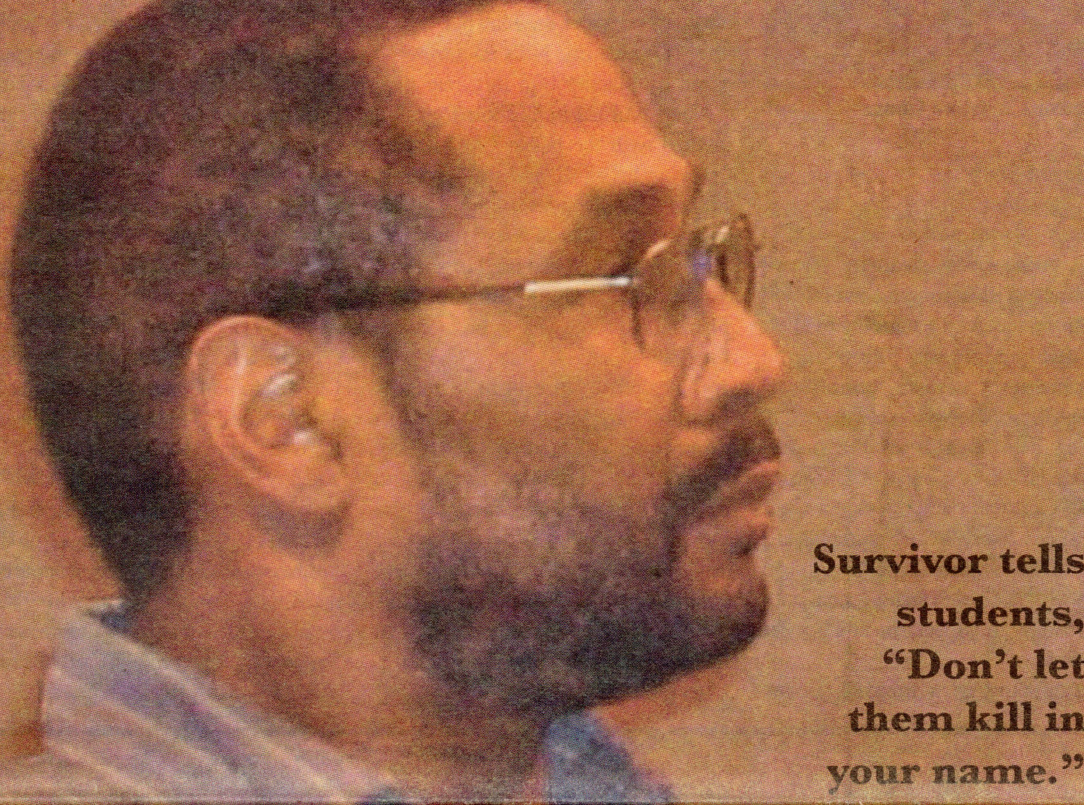


NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

OCT 17 2005

**Got \$200,000 for  
space travel,  
page 11**

## Delivered from Death Row



**Survivor tells  
students,  
"Don't let  
them kill in  
your name."**

**Billy Moore looks on during the Equity in Action event that featured himself and Madison Hobley speaking out against the death penalty. Moore spent 17 years in Georgia on Death Row.**

by Patrick O'Brien  
Editor-in-Chief

Death Row came to NEIU last week as part of the Equity in Action conference. Two men who faced execution spoke to an audience of 80 in the Recital Hall as part of the Campaign to End the Death Penalty's (CEDP) national speaking tour.

The story of Madison Hobley may have hit closer to home than most. His story began in Chicago, when he was arrested following a fire that took the lives of his wife, infant son and five others on Jan. 6, 1987.

His voice crackling with emotion, Hobley told the audience how he was beaten, handcuffed to a wall and suffocated repeatedly by Chicago Police Officers

Robert Dwyer and James Lotito, under the direction of the infamous Commander Jon Burge. Burge was the Area 2 police detective who oversaw the torture of as many as 108 suspects in the 1980s, according to published reports, for which Burge was fired by the Chicago Police Department.

Hobley matter-of-factly described having a plastic typewriter cover over his head while in a utility closet, where officers proceeded to suffocate him until he blacked out, in an attempt to force Hobley to confess, which he did not. Based on fabricated evidence, Hobley was convicted and spent 16 years in prison before being released in 2003 by former Governor George Ryan.

**SEE DEATH ROW, PAGE 2**

## Tuition increase of 7.9% proposed

Under new proposal in President's report, tuition increase over last 11 years may be as high as 115%

by Patrick O'Brien  
Editor-in-Chief

In President Steinberg's report to the Board of Trustees on Sep. 22, a 7.9 percent tuition increase for continuing students was introduced. The Board of Trustees will vote on this increase in the spring.

The increase comes on the heels of a 9.6 percent tuition increase last year, and for the second consecutive year, continuing students will pay more for their education than freshmen who initially enrolled for the 2004-05 school year.

**President Steinberg cited  
state fiscal difficulties  
as a reason for the  
proposed tuition  
increase; she is also  
asking for \$64 million  
from the state for a new  
Education Building.**

"The proposed tuition rates attempt to balance the needs of the university, the continuing commitment to keep the costs of attending the university affordable, and the ongoing fiscal challenges resulting from the lack of new state funding."

In the same report, Steinberg announced to the trustees that she wants \$64 million from the state for a new education building. The report was made available to the Student Government Association (SGA), "For review and discussion." The SGA has no authority to

block the proposed increase.

Freshmen who enrolled in the fall of 2004, and in every subsequent year, are protected under Public Act 93-0028, Illinois' Truth in Tuition Act, which guarantees four years of tuition at the same rate for newly admitted students.

As part of the report, the President revealed that over the past ten years, state funding to NEIU has increased 18.3 percent, while tuition per credit hour has increased almost three times that amount, by 53.7 percent.

According to Steinberg's report, **SEE TUITION, PAGE 2**

## Wanted: Safety Officer, apply within Officer to uphold state and federal regulations

by Tom Robb  
News Editor

Having the position of Safety Officer has been talked about for several years in the university, but in the wake of a chemical spill last June, the position has been funded and Human Resources is currently searching for a candidate. For some it is long overdue.

Director of Buildings and Grounds Ralph Zia told the *Independent* that the mercury spill last June expedited the posting of the position, which was done in August.

"He will be the czar," said Zia, referring to the safety officer's role in upholding state and federal regulations and safety standards at the university.

The position's pay is \$35,000 a year, according to Facilities Management. The requirement is a B.A. in chemistry or environmental science and requires experience with EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health

Administration) regulations.

Past incidents have shown the need for a safety officer. The university did not call the EPA after a spill of six pounds of mercury last June; the EPA stated that notification was required after a one-pound spill.

Zia told the *Independent* (Aug. 29 issue) and the *Chicago Sun-Times* (Sept. 14 issue) that he was not aware of the reporting requirement.

Further, the university has been working on an Emergency Management Plan since 2003, and both Zia and Director of Public Safety Jim Lyon said that a safety officer would have been integral to that process, which is part of the job description.

The *Independent* also spoke with Chemistry Lab Manager Luda Kogan, who stated that she has been with the university for 18 years and has the responsibility for the safety of the chemistry labs. "I think it is a great idea

**SEE SAFETY, PAGE 3**

## Dorothy Brown's struggle and victory for access



photo by Tom Robb

**Dorothy Brown, clerk of the Cook County Circuit Court, gives keynote address.**

by Tom Robb  
News Editor

Dorothy Brown said she was told by her sister at a young age, "You must be the best. You have two strikes against you: you're black and a woman." Brown graduated first in her class from college, but was not offered a job.

Brown, undeterred, said she then "came to Chicago and knocked the walls down," entering a

**SEE BROWN, PAGE 2**



## Tuition from pg. 1

That statistic, however, is misleading, because when the Truth in Tuition Act is taken into effect, incoming freshmen in fall 2006 could pay as much as \$176 per credit hour.

Ten years earlier, tuition per credit hour was \$82, meaning tuition will have increased 115 percent in 11 years, an average of about ten percent a year, which is three times the rate of inflation.

In addition, students enrolling at NEIU beginning in fall 2005 now pay more in tuition than their counterparts at Eastern Illinois and Governors State Universities,

which have historically been more expensive than NEIU. Tuition at NEIU for fall 2005 enrollees is 93 percent of the state average for Illinois public universities.

Fees would also increase under the plan, with the Academic Enhancement fee doubling from \$2 to \$4, and the Computer Resources fee increasing 62.5 percent from \$4 to \$6.50. These prices are per credit hour. Overall fees would increase 19.5 percent, or about six times the rate of inflation.

The *Independent* was unable to discuss the new proposed increases with Vice President of Finance and Administration Mark Wilcockson before publication.

## Death Row from pg. 1

"My purpose today is to sway you to be against the Death Penalty because we can execute innocent people," said Hobley.

Hobley talked about the inhuman treatment of prisoners, which he said, "He wouldn't wish on the officers who put me there." He finished by telling the audience to act and "Not let them kill in your name."

Next was Billy Moore, who was convicted of murder and armed robbery in Georgia in 1974. He brought a new twist to the death penalty debate.

Moore began by showing that wrongful convictions could happen to anyone, simply by "Being in the wrong place at the wrong time. If you don't have the money to get a good lawyer, you could be totally innocent and end up on death row," said Moore.

However, Moore admitted that he did commit the murder and armed robbery he was convicted of. He plead guilty to avoid being executed, but was given a death sentence and scheduled to be executed two months after his brief trial.

After years of legal wrangling and stays, including being seven hours from execution in 1974, Moore's sentence was commuted to life in prison. While in prison, Moore corresponded frequently with the victim's family, developing a friendship with them. They eventually advocated for Moore's release, along with Mother Teresa. Moore was released in 1991.

Moore talked about being taken to look at the electric chair by prison guards when he was awaiting his execution: "I wondered, is the first jolt going to kill me, or the second?"

When asked what kept him going when death seemed imminent, Moore, an ordained minister, answered quickly: "Prayer, and not focusing on myself, but on other people's situations and trying to help them."

Alice Kim of the CDEP emphasized that Moore's story was not unique, and that the campaign had embraced the guilty as well as the innocent in advocating against the death penalty.

The CDEP is having its national convention in Chicago from Nov. 12-13 at the University of Chicago's Kent Hall. For more information, visit CDEP's website at [www.nodeathpenalty.org](http://www.nodeathpenalty.org) or call 773-955-4841.

## Brown from pg. 1

career in politics, ultimately beating the powerful Chicago Democratic political machine in 2000, getting elected to two terms as clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County.

Brown spoke last Wednesday as the keynote speaker at the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Equity in Action Conference, entitled "A Call for Enlightened Leadership."

She spoke about having a passion for public service, following Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream, and the promise of equality in the Declaration of Independence that all men, including women Brown added, are created equal. That promise, said Brown, was fulfilled by the U.S. Constitution and its 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment with its Equal Protection Clause.

"Next to freedom and justice is education," she said. "The key to reducing the prison population is education."

"We need to look at the education system. More education funding and less prisoners," suggested Brown. She said that while 12 percent of the population is in the U.S. prison system, 44 percent of that population is African American.

Brown pointed out the challenges she sees in living up to those promises that still need to be addressed in the government at the local, state and federal levels. She pointed to government problems, such as the response to Katrina, FEMA and its former Director Michael Brown, the nomination of a judge to the U.S. Supreme Court with no judicial experience, the dangers of poor citizens of New Orleans being denied rights, and the corruption case against former Congressional Majority Leader Tom Delay.

She was infuriated at some of the present attitudes regarding race, citing a recent statement by Bill Bennett, the former secretary of education for the Reagan Administration, who said, "If you wanted to reduce crime ... you could abort every black baby in this country, and your crime rate would go down."

Brown said that young people should not lose hope: "What they're (young activists) doing today may not help them today, but it will help their children and their children's children." She referred to the women's rights struggle, which started in 1848, and in some ways, continues to this day.

# Who Killed Vincent Chin director provokes debate on justice system



photo by Jason Shaw

Director Christine Choy.

by Jason Shaw  
Photographer

Christine Choy, Academy Award nominated director and acclaimed educator, received a standing ovation at NEIU auditorium following the presentation of her stark documentary, *Who Killed Vincent Chin*.

The Film examines the brutal murder of a 27-year-old Chinese-American man named Vincent Chin in 1982. Chin was celebrating his last days of bachelorhood at a Detroit strip club when he got in an argument with Ron Ebens, a supervisor at Chrysler Motors.

According to witnesses, Ebens

and his stepson, Mike Nitz, hurled ethnic insults at Chin, who they had mistaken for Japanese, blaming him for the loss of jobs in the then depressed American auto industry. This led to a physical confrontation in which Chin, a slight man of 5'5", was the victor.

Immediately after Chin left the strip club and walked to a local McDonald's. Infuriated by the humility of defeat, Ebens and Nitz pursued Chin via pick-up truck, this time armed with a baseball bat. When they found him, Nitz encumbered Chin by placing him in a rear bear hug while Ebens took four full swings with the bat to Chin's head, cracking his skull, and spilling brain matter onto the sidewalk.

Four days later Chin died. In the ensuing trial, the assailants plead guilty to manslaughter and were placed on a three-year probation and fined \$3,000.

Outraged by the light sentence, members of the Asian-American community claimed that the killing was racially motivated and discrimination was a factor in the lenient sentencing.

Devastated by her loss but determined to see justice done, Chin's self-effacing mother spearheaded an unprecedented nationwide protest.

Eventually, federal charges of

civil rights violations were leveled against Ebens and Nitz, but both were exonerated in an appeals trial. The final images of the film are of Chin's mother engulfed in tears, outraged that her son's killers were never brought to justice.

After the completion of the film, Christine Choy addressed the audience and asked how they felt. The overall consensus from the crowd was depressed, however one student's reply was of disgust.

When Choy asked why, his reply was "Disgusted for the simple fact that this Asian brother was killed and the justice system, which is full of crap, didn't do anything about it. Had Vincent Chin been white and the assailants non-white this case would have been tried very differently."

Choy replied, "That is exactly right."

Choy was trained as an architect, receiving her Masters degree from Columbia University. Afterwards she earned a Directing Certificate from the American Film Institute.

Choy has produced and directed 70 works, receiving over 60 international awards. Choy has an equally impressive history as an educator, teaching not only at NYU, where she resides as the Chair of Undergraduate Studies, but also at Yale, Cornell, and Volda Film Institute in Norway.

## Art treasures saved at CPS

by Jessica Wacker  
Production Assistant

Pablo Picasso once said, "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life." One might say the Chicago Conservation Center washes away from art the dust of everyday life.

Nearly ten years ago, after an engineer at the school had suggested to staple it back on, Flora Doody, a teacher at Lane Tech, called the Center about a mural done in the early 1900s that was falling off the wall.

The discovery of multiple murals throughout the school, including 11 of only 12 Frescos in Chicago, inspired an effort to locate and restore the murals of Chicago's public schools.

"The reason why we came [to restore the art] is because people stopped seeing the importance in the murals. It's important to keep them in the curriculum," said Megan Ann Jones, vice president of Client Services for the Chicago Conservation Center, while presenting

Tuesday to NEIU students.

Many of the murals had been painted over because the principals had no other idea what to do with them, according to Jones. Some were locked in back rooms.

Having the murals restored within the schools gave teachers the opportunity to integrate hands-on art directly into the curriculum, according to Jones.

Jones focused on the ongoing effort to restore 437 murals located in various public schools through out the Chicago area. It is the largest mural collection in the country, documenting everything from the settlement of America to the Age of Modernization, explained Jones.

The murals were originally done by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) during Franklin D. Roosevelt's presidency, and mark an unprecedented peak in American culture's interest in art. Already 412 murals have been restored, and the Conservation Center hopes to complete the remaining 25 within two years.

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# Moratorium on H.O.M.E. disappears

by Tom Robb  
News Editor

As reported in the Oct. 3 issue of the *Independent*, H.O.M.E. (Heterosexuals Organized for a Moral Environment) was in the Free Speech Zone of Village Square on Sept. 26, despite a moratorium barring H.O.M.E. from Village Square. This ban was imposed after their November 2003 appearance on campus.

Former President of the GLBTA (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Alliance) Robin Matthies, in reaction to H.O.M.E.'s reappearance on campus, said that she believed there was a moratorium barring H.O.M.E. Further, Matthies believed there was an agreement that the GLBTA was to be informed by the administration prior to H.O.M.E. returning to campus.

Regarding the moratorium, V.P. of Student Affairs Dr. Melvin Terrell said, "It existed in 2003; this is 2005. I can't tell you when it ended."

Terrell said that H.O.M.E. again applied to return to campus next week, a request that he denied. "The point is I'm moving ahead. They were allowed on campus, they had a right to be on campus. [This] does not mean I support any of these ideas ... I'm looking ahead."

Terrell said he has suspended future outside groups from using the Free Speech Zone until a committee, which he is setting up, can study the Free Speech Zone policy.

Terrell, Dean of Students Michael Kelly, and University Legal Council Jeff Brown told the *Independent* that they were not aware of any legal action or threat of legal action by H.O.M.E.

The first appearance of H.O.M.E. in November of 2003 caused a major disruption on campus, including several major student demonstrations. The GLBTA issued the administration a list of demands and held more than ten weekly meetings between the GLBTA, Socialist Club and university officials, along with several other public meetings. All these events were previously covered by the *Independent*.

Former VP of the GLBTA Anne Mothkovich and Matthies said that they were in Terrell's office in early 2004 when he called the Student Activities Office and told them that there was a moratorium barring H.O.M.E. from tabling in Village Square.

The *Independent* spoke with Felicia Keelen of the Student Union Office who said that in the aftermath of H.O.M.E.'s 2003 appearance on campus, "The only change was me reviewing the paperwork," referring to the paperwork for off campus organizations wishing to table on campus. "The policy has not changed," she said. When asked if she was aware of any moratoriums regarding H.O.M.E., Keelen said "No."

Keelen said she consulted with Dean of Students Michael Kelly and University Council Jeff Brown prior to allowing H.O.M.E. back on campus.

Kelly and Terrell said that debates are beneficial to a college campus. Kelly added that H.O.M.E. presents a difficult legal challenge for the university: "They walk right up to the fence, but they never cross it."

H.O.M.E. had previously returned to campus in Spring 2004 as guests of the College Republican Club, speaking in a classroom with a handful of attendees, but there were no protests.

**"It (the moratorium) existed in 2003; this is 2005. I can't tell you when it ended."**

**V.P. of Student Affairs Melvin Terrell**

Safety from pg. 1

to have a safety officer," said Kogan. She also stated that she has not received any training in safety, besides her own research. Zia stated that Facilities Management does not provide training to lab managers. Kogan is also a professor of chemistry.

Kogan said she received no guidance in how to store chemicals in the lab. She studies the labels of chemicals and groups them accordingly, such as separating acids and bases.

According to the job description obtained by the *Independent*, the safety officer would be responsible for developing on-site safety, environmental plans, University Emergency Operations Plan, monitoring hazardous chemical use and storage, administering employee health and safety programs, providing consultation on health and safety issues to faculty and staff, inspections of all campus buildings, input on new construction, among other duties. The safety officer would also be responsible for making sure the university was in compliance with state and federal regulations, including those of the OSHA and EPA. In maintaining all these duties, the safety officer would report to Facilities Management.

**The Independent is  
always looking for staff.  
E-049  
neiu\_independent@yahoo.com**

## Sex crime prevention: what to know

by Mario Go  
Staff Writer

"Sex crime is the most under reported crime and one of the most prevalent crimes," said Jae Jin Pak, an employee from the Community Counseling Centers of Chicago (C4). He gave a lecture to the student body, entitled "What You Need to Know About Sexual Violence and Prevention," which was sponsored by Student Union.

In this presentation last Wednesday, Pak, a prevention specialist with 17 years of experience of handling sex crime cases, began his lecture by defining

sex crimes.

According to Pak, sex crimes can be defined as "forced sex without consent." This led Pak to discuss what defines consent. Age, intoxication level, and choice, said Pak, define consent, which in turn determines whether the act will be considered a sex crime.

The age of legal consent in Illinois is 17 years and older. Anyone younger than 17 answers "no" by default. To also have consent, one must be sober, meaning not under the influence of any form of drugs or alcohol. Lastly, one must be able to make the choice without any kind of influence, both psychological and

verbal.

Pak also talked about the mental state of a sexual offender. The offenders commit sex crimes for the power rush and the idea of controlling their victim's fate, explained Pak.

Towards the end of his lecture, he talked about the mindset of a victim and how people can help sex crime victims, such as listening to them, helping them find a counseling center, and saying "It's not your fault."

For more information on sex crimes, visit: [www.icasa.org](http://www.icasa.org), [www.mencanstoprape.org](http://www.mencanstoprape.org), [www.sisterleasd.org](http://www.sisterleasd.org).

## Clarifications and Corrections

In the Oct. 3 issue, Professor Dan Milsky's quote was taken out of context, changing the meaning of the quote. The full quote, referring to H.O.M.E., was "They certainly hold the chance. But chance is way too vague a term. I may have a chance at being offended when a bird craps on my head. Is this reaction rational? That is the relevant question."

In the Sept. 26 issue, it was incorrectly stated that the janitorial staff, who is responsible for the Student Union and cafeteria, works for Facilities Management. They are actually supervised by the Director of the Student Union. Further, the *Independent* did not intend to imply that Assistant to the Vice President for Facilities Management Joe Kish's retirement will adversely affect the maintenance of the university.

The *Independent* regrets these errors.

COLLEGE SURVIVAL TIP

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For more information, including pre-registration, suggested attire, what to bring, what to say to employers and more, check out the next ad!!  
Questions? Contact the Placement Office/Office of Student Affairs at  
773.442.4686 <http://www.neiu.edu/CarServ.htm>



## **Northeastern Illinois University/UPS Community Job Fair Information and Advice**

### **When and why should I pre-register for this event?**

You can pre-register for the event by dropping off your resume at the Placement Office, B-119 beginning Monday, October 10, 2005. The final day for pre-registration is 4:00 pm, Friday, October 21, 2005. If you pre-register for the event you will receive a Job Fair Kit that will provide you with information on how to successfully work the job fair, a pre-printed name tag at the job fair and express entry into the event. In addition, you'll also be automatically entered to win a leather planner.

### **What should I wear?**

All attendees should dress for success. This means that you should wear a suit, polish your shoes and carry a portfolio, planner or briefcase rather than a backpack. If you do not have a suit, then dress business casual in khakis, a button-down shirt and a tie for men; Women should wear a knee length skirt or dress pants, along with a button-down shirt. Remember, you only have one chance to make a good first impression and to convince the employer to hire you

### **What should I bring?**

Employers expect job seekers to have plenty of resumes in hand. How many is plenty? Enough to give each employer attending 2 copies! Resume examples are available at our website. You will also need your Student ID to enter the event.

### **What else should I do before the event?**

Make sure you research the employers before the event! After getting the list from the website, visit each employer's web page to find out a bit about the company including what they do, who they serve and any current company news. Jot down a few facts on each company in your portfolio to review the day of the event. The goal of this exercise is to be able to impress the employer and to answer the following question well: Why do you want to work for us?

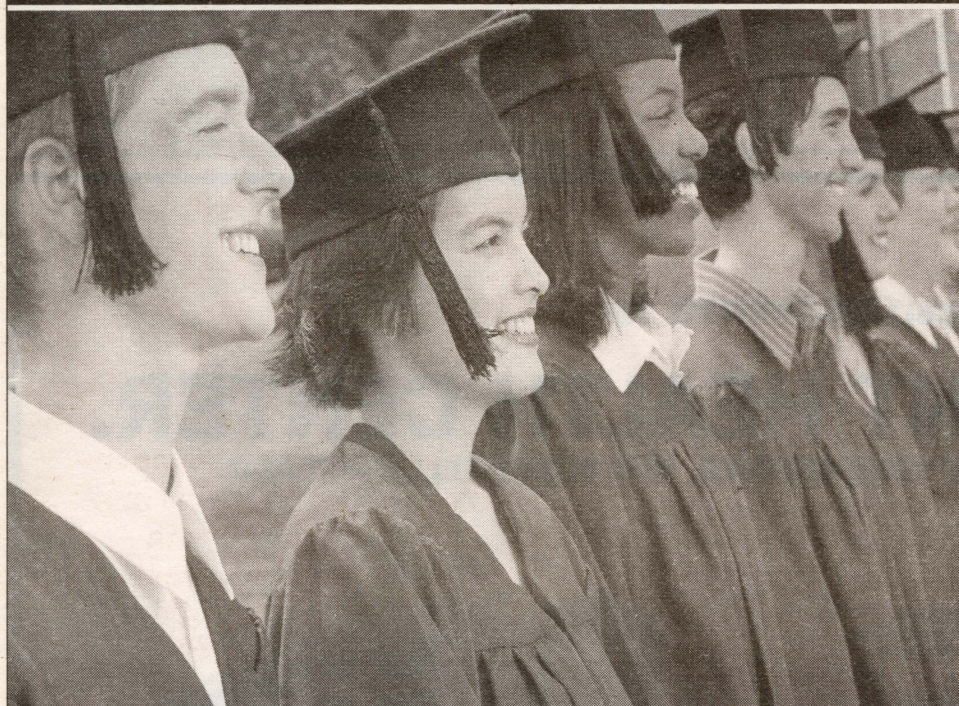
### **What do I say to employers?**

When speaking to employers at job fairs, you generally only have between 1 - 5 minutes with them. Use this time wisely by clearly communicating your skills, education, goals and what you know about the company. Practice a 'commercial' that highlights all these things such as "Hello, my name is Tanya Shields. I'm a sophomore majoring in marketing and I am interested in working for a major retailer such as your company. May I give you my resume?"

The event is free for all applicants!

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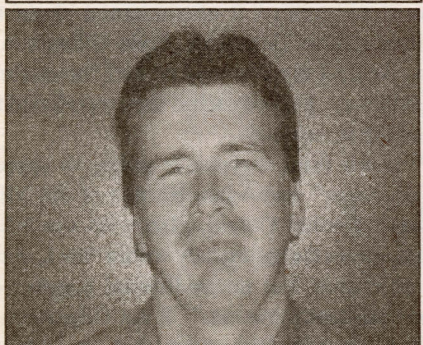




NEIU Alumni Jeremy Mangan:  
Bachelor's Degree; Communication:  
UPS HR Specialist, has also worked as  
a package handler.



NEIU Alumni Dave Carerra: Bachelor's  
Degree; Physical Education:  
UPS Early AM Operations Manager, has  
also worked in security and as a  
Driver/Service provider.



NEIU Alumni Joseph Buck:  
Bachelor's Degree; Liberal Arts:  
UPS Full Time Driver/Service Provider,  
has also worked as a package handler.



## What Can Brown Do For You?

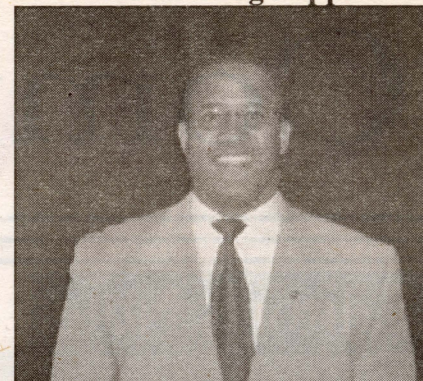
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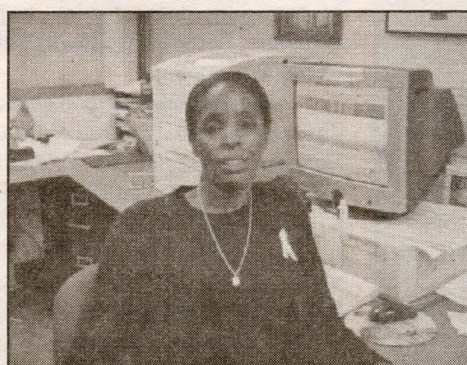
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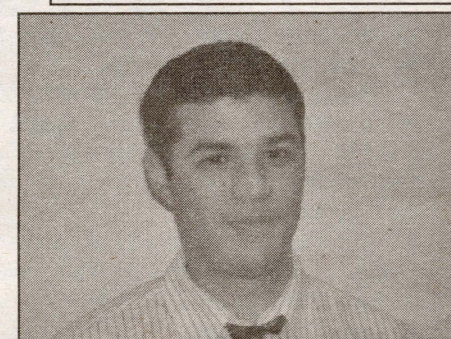
NEIU Alumni Geoff Ramsey:  
Bachelor's Degree; Finance  
UPS Labor Manager, has also worked as  
a Finance supervisor.



NEIU Alumni Cristina Bordabeheres:  
Bachelor's Degree; Biology and  
Communications  
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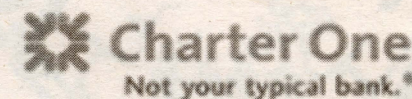
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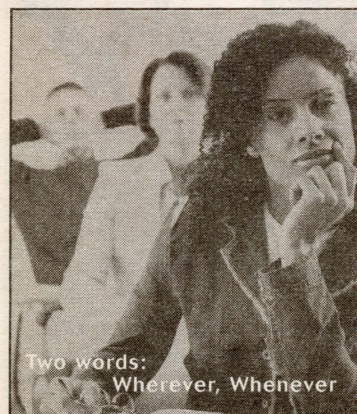
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## Editor's Note

### Nothing ventured, nothing gained

For the last six weeks, the *Independent* has been a weekly newspaper, not that anyone has noticed, judging by the tepid public interest in the experiment we had undertaken.

Producing quality content every seven days can be quite a daunting task, and even our most senior staff members couldn't envision the sacrifices and stress of doubling our output, maintaining quality all the while.

In the end, our collective academic, journalistic and professional performance was not up to the standards this staff has maintained in the past several years, and for that reason, we have to consider our adventure in weekly publishing a lesson learned, learned through living in the shoes of some bigger college papers, even for just a few weeks.

The tradition and quality we have established here at the *Independent* in the four years under our current leadership has been sustained through hard work, and we abhor the idea of taking our mission less seriously in an attempt to "prove" that we can keep up with the pace of making a paper happen every seven days.

The newspaper that this current group of editors has produced has evolved beyond even our wildest dreams of what a commuter campus newspaper could achieve. Look back at issues of the *Independent* over the past four years. The difference is more than subtle, in appearance and in substance.

The evolution from what we were to where we stand now is the reason we had to make this decision. We don't want to go back to the dark days of this publication when it barely functioned. The evolution must continue unabated.

The difference between every seven days and every fourteen days is a matter of quality over quantity, as the saying goes. We have decided to go with the former. Therefore, with this issue we will go back to our biweekly schedule, with issues appearing every second Tuesday.

We doubt you will notice the difference in frequency, but we hope you notice the difference in quality, as we strive to spend the extra time in between issues honing our craft and teaching the next generation of student leaders, both on our staff and across campus.

Patrick O'Brien, *Editor-in-Chief*  
 Elana Barron, *Associate Editor*

## Spurious George

by Richard Anderson  
*Staff Writer*

Judging a cause by its worst adherent is often unfair. Still, British Member of Parliament George Galloway's appearance a couple weeks ago at Northwestern Law School troubled me. NEIU students had promoted the event and NEIU Justice Studies Professor Loretta Capeheart, who lost her nephew in Iraq, served as moderator. Galloway, traveling the U.S. for the anti-war Stand Up and Be Counted Tour, made big news in May when he lambasted the Iraq War in testimony before a Senate committee.

The committee was investigating allegations that Galloway illegally profited from the United Nations' Oil for Food program in Iraq. The program was designed to mitigate draconian UN sanctions by providing money for Iraq to purchase food and medicine. For years Galloway's charity campaigned to end the sanctions.

Though Galloway contended that incriminating documents were forgeries, he conceded that the Baghdad representative of his charity did sell Iraqi oil. Galloway claimed vindication last year after winning a libel suit against the London Daily Telegraph. The judge, however, did not rule that the documents were fakes, only that the Telegraph had been insufficiently "neutral" in reporting the allegations.

The neutrality of Galloway is also suspect. His several visits to Baghdad, including one Christmas spent at the home of the Deputy Prime Minister, resembled publicity stunts. Galloway's boast of his "access to the highest levels of the Iraqi regime" underscores my reservations about him. I am not convinced he scammed the Oil for Food program. However, in his zeal to oppose American and British policy, Galloway compromised his message by associating with shady profiteers and a brutal dictator.

The audience who gave Galloway a standing ovation on Monday made a similar compromise.

Indicting the war as a "blunder," Galloway argued for immediate withdrawal. Presuming to speak for the Islamic world (and assuming unanimity of opinion), Galloway described the war as viewed by Muslims. Americans, he said, must "grasp the central truth" that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has poisoned any hope of a constructive relationship between the East and West. For Galloway, this explains and exculpates any and all manifestations of anti-Americanism, including the Iraqi insurgency. Framing the war as an anti-colonial struggle, Galloway asked, "Are you with the foreign occupation or are you with the right of the Iraqi people to be free?" In a speech last week, Galloway added the addendum, "and to resist the foreign armies." The implicit endorsement of the insurgency vitiates Galloway's message.

After the event I spoke with three NEIU students, each very smart and compassionate opponents of the war. Like many I interviewed they were uncertain but unconcerned about the allegations against Galloway. Kyle Gilbertson of Students Against the War said he had "no qualms" about Galloway. I asked each if they repudiated the tactics of the insurgency.

"I don't think anyone is going to support killing civilians," said Adam Norden of the NEIU Socialists. Rachel Cohen, also with the NEIU Socialists, views the insurgency within "the Leninist model of critical but unconditional support for national self-determination." Kyle Gilbertson of Students Against the War argued that "our job here in the U.S. is to point out the crimes of our own government." Condemning the insurgency, he said, helps justify the continued occupation.

My classmates had challenged me. I have no confidence in George Bush but no doubt that the insurgents promise more misery for Iraq. "My words have been harsh," wrote Galloway in 2003, "but that's because I'm expressing the views of millions." I hope he is wrong. I hope that a principled left will stake a position somewhere between two ignoble men named George.

## Another point of view by Joe Hertel

I thought there was a moratorium on outside groups setting up on Campus.

There is, but currently there is a moratorium on moratoriums.

Huh?

Go home.



## Old Man on Campus

Mom didn't even trust the newer frozen foods; she liked everything fresh. Dining was at the kitchen table and while we ate, if anything, we listened to the radio.

At breakfast in the early 1950s, I listened to a morning radio show that played a series of story segments called "Little Orley." I went off to school remembering the adventure, which began my day with imagination. I only remember there being a dozen episodes, so they were often repeated. I didn't seem to mind.

The radio adventures allowed my imagination to run on about the exploits of Little Orley, and even though there may have been repeats, each adventure conjured up new images. It wasn't like watching reruns on TV where nothing changes.

"Little Orley" was a five-minute adventure relayed to us wee listeners by Uncle Lumpy. Yeah, that's right, Uncle Lumpy. It consisted of Uncle Lumpy, in his southern drawl, telling the story of a backwoods farm

boy named Orley, accompanied by music and sound effects.

I enjoyed hearing the exploits of a little boy who found a magic bass fiddle, a strange musical haunted house or meeting a chicken who blew bubblegum so large it rolled over the farmland, picking up animals and people who got stuck in its path until it finally exploded.

When I had my tonsils out, my father bought me the entire six-record collection of the "Little Orley" tales. I was so proud, I took them to school to show everyone. The teacher made me put them in the coat closet at the rear of the classroom. When we returned after lunch, the records were missing. The thief was never caught. I was devastated. That was in 1954.

I never forgot "Little Orley," and last year, on a lark, I went on eBay and searched and found the series in a two-record set—and it had the bubble gum and haunted house stories, my two favorites. I bid seven bucks and won. For the first time in 50 years, I would again

## Little Orley

hear the voice of Uncle Lumpy telling me a story.

As I listened to the stories again, I asked myself what was so special about these dumb tales that made me like and remember them so. I realized that it wasn't the stories, but the circumstances.

It was a time when life was simple and secure. Mom making breakfast. Dad grimacing as he swallowed his shredded wheat and coffee. A big tall glass of Ovaltine and soggy corn flakes for me. Mom's fresh baked bread sitting on the kitchen counter and the chirping of birds outside the kitchen window as the scent of lilacs from the garden wafted through the screen door.

Yeah, it wasn't just the stories, but the stage they were presented on. That's the part we miss the most. "Little Orley" just reminded me of those special times when we shared his adventures together. We were both nine years old.



# Conservatism and the war in Iraq

by John Tait  
Staff Writer

Among the many untrue beliefs on college campuses in regard to conservatism is that the American military intervention in general, and support for the Iraq War in particular, are bedrock principles of the aforementioned political philosophy.

As the war began, we were told that the main reason for entering was to protect our nation from weapons of mass destruction. War supporters claimed that it was a "pre-emptive strike" against a dangerous foe.

A pre-emptive strike is a military strategy which has been used successfully for over a millennium, dating back to at least 10<sup>th</sup> Century England under Edward the Elder. Unlike George Bush, Edward faced an enemy who desired his land and represented a genuine threat to the people he was obligated to protect.

As time progressed, the Bush administration realized that the American people were not foolish enough to believe that a

country which spends \$1.3 billion on a second-rate military could possibly pose a serious threat to any individual American, or our collective well-being.

A far different reason for the war emerged which resembles a Wilsonian foreign policy. It became America's duty to spread liberty and democracy throughout the world. Iraq, it seemed, was the first step in a long and glorious mission to rid the world of evil.

This type of idea which developed within Bush's close circles was evident as the 2000 election and pre-inauguration events unfolded. Several key members of the administration, including Vice President Cheney, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, and his former Deputy at the State Department, Paul Wolfowitz, all signed the original *Statement of Principles* for the interventionist group *Project for the New American Century*. Members of this organization believe that we have a responsibility as a nation "to challenge regimes hostile to our interests and values" and should play

"a vital role in maintaining peace and security in Europe, Asia, and the Middle East."

Members of this organization are of the opinion that creating distant democracies with our values is worthy of American blood. It is, they believe, our way of life which is best for everyone.

Of course, they fail to acknowledge that the best form of government depends on a nation's history, customs, and culture which varies from people to people. A principled foreign policy recognizes that people have a different concept of the ideal society based on their own past. What is the point of having separate countries if a nation's culture is rendered meaningless by the most powerful who force their form of government on the world?

In 2000, then Governor Bush issued a conservative statement promising a more "humble" foreign policy with the best interest of the United States and the American people at the forefront of every decision. If only he had kept his word.

## MAILBAG

### When English professors attack

Dear Editor,

O.K. H.O.M.E. Boys. If you know so much about sex and morality, can you tell us ignorant sinners what sexual offense is found in the Bible to be worse than all others?

A few hints: It is a capital offense punishable by death. It is so offensive that it makes up 20% of the Ten Commandments. And here's the big surprise, boys. It is not, I repeat, not homosexuality.

Give up?

It's violating the marriage contract: "Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife." Exodus does not warn us to "not covet thy neighbor's well-hung son." It says "wife." It's the kind of thing heterosexuals shouldn't do. Of course the Tenth Commandment also tell us not to covet thy neighbor's "ass." And I know this will come as a big disappointment, but the reference is to the donkey.

The only thing that comes close to these offenses is fornication with a betrothed woman (need I add for your edification, a woman with a MAN) or rape (of a woman by, yes again, a MAN). These are also what no other sexual offenses are—capital crimes.

As for the New Testament: Jesus Christ (remember him?), he said all sins are forgiven. What a wimp! You certainly wouldn't want someone like

that to be a member of H.O.M.E. And by the way, there is no passage where Jesus adds, "All sins are forgiven, except for homosexuality." And guys, why didn't he ever marry? Or St. Paul for that matter. Could it be ...? Who knows? Who cares?

"No more queers. No more Jesus." That should be your motto.

Of course we do know, 'cause the Good Book tells us so, that David (remember him, the king from whose loins the Messiah is supposed to be descended), apparently utilized his God-given loins in more ways than one. For the Bible tells us, David loved Jonathon with a love surpassing that of a woman. Have you ever seen Michelangelo's statue of David? If David looked anything like that, Jonathon probably had a surpassingly great time being loved by the king-to-be. And you do know about Michelangelo, whom the Pope told, "Go paint me a ceiling," well, he was a Christian, a painter, and a you-know-what.

How 'bout: "Down with David, Jesus, Queers and the Sistine Chapel?"

One of the consequences of politically correct speech is that hate groups like H.O.M.E. are allowed on campus (which they shouldn't be!) because they offer "polite" information as a way of making their hateful agenda appear respectable. And so Professor

Dan Milsky responds to them politely: "They certainly hold the chance of offending people," he notes.\* Christ man, you're a professor, can you do no better than that? That's like saying, "I read Mein Kampf, and it certainly holds the chance of offending Jews." (By the way, can anyone name a group other than Jews whom the Nazis placed in concentration camps? Hint: we have no evidence that they did anything in the prison showers except be gassed to death.)

There has to be something more appropriate that we, as members of the Northeastern community, can say in response to H.O.M.E.'s message. Let me offer these words which I believe to be more to the point. What H.O.M.E. says is bullshit!

And they should all go \*\*\*\* themselves—and I hope it hurts when they do and that they catch a disease and puke all over themselves and die, horribly, somewhere near Clark and Diversey where four off-duty male nurses, all clad in black leather, remove their bodies to a nearby hospital where they are cleansed, disinfected, dressed in women's clothing and dumped into a sewer.

Harry White  
Professor of English

\* Please see correction of  
Dr. Milsky's quote on page 3.

## MAILBAG

### "To protest or not to protest"

Dear Editor,

Of course we all know, whether some of us admit it or not, that the "objective statistics" that H.O.M.E. (Heterosexuals Organized for a Moral Environment) present as evidence for their homophobic arguments are absurd. Yet each time they've come here there has always been a demonstration to counter their absurd claims.

The demonstrations and debates that spring up every time H.O.M.E. comes to NEIU are the most rational reaction to their presence here. On a campus such as ours, where many races, sexual orientations and religions converge, such a presence can be

anxiety provoking, if not downright terrifying. Their message conjures up a long history of violence, of racist genocides, homophobia, sexism and classism that is known all too well to many of us at NEIU.

H.O.M.E. negates the right that gays as individuals have to exist. But when we try to assert that right through demonstrations and debates with H.O.M.E., aren't we perpetuating the idea that a people's right to exist is subject to debate? Aren't we also negating the right that gays as individuals have to exist by making their existence a topic of debate? Perhaps a better strategy to employ the next time H.O.M.E. comes to campus,

and I'm sure there will be a next time, would be to choose to act indifferent. Why become trapped in a self-negating debate?

If we come across H.O.M.E. again we must choose indifference as long as their message remains passive. But if H.O.M.E.'s message evolves into a call to action, then we must prepare to defend ourselves and our environment as best as we see fit.

I would like to give peace a chance just as much as the next gal, but in a reality structured on violence, that might just be a pipedream.

Atoor Lawandow  
Student

## VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

### 1,2,3,4 ...who do we most abhor?



"The chants were reused from the last time it happened. No one had forgotten them, and they rang familiar as I walked into the Village Square. There, a group of students surrounded the table with the two old men

and a hated sign.

H.O.M.E., otherwise known as the Heterosexuals Organized for a Moral Environment, was back, and I still didn't know how to approach them.

I don't agree with them at all: their statistics, their arguments derived from nature, the sheer frustration one gets from talking to them. The first time they ever appeared on campus I argued with them, softly, trying to take in and understand their argument so I could counter it efficiently.

(Why would I not want to appear ignorant in front of their ignorance? Maybe it's my pride.)

Once everyone caught on to their message, we had the screaming matches, we had Public Safety putting up barriers, and inflamed students. The goal was, it seemed, to run them out with noise, as you would chase off rats with a fire hose.

So began the arguments, even between H.O.M.E.'s own opponents. Was this hate speech to stifle, or was it covered by freedom of speech? Unpleasant as it might be to many of us, did they have the right to be sitting there?

Maybe it's because I write in a public forum, but I feel they can sit there and pile as much of their anti-gay literature on that table as it takes to collapse it. It doesn't mean I think any of it isn't flawed or downright horrible, it just means that I don't think the way of dealing with it is to be screaming at the tops of our lungs.

When we yell we appear uncivilized. We appear like seven year olds with their hands over their ears, singing, and that only gives them a sense of having won. By reacting so obnoxiously, we prove to them that we don't want to confront their "truth."

I believe in debating. And if one doesn't, then you can simply ignore them. Without the screaming crowds, they'd just be two lonely men sitting at a table.

What about the people who are going to believe them? Well, those that stop by their table to willingly guzzling down their statistics, never questioning, are probably people who already agree with them. No one that honestly rationalizes on their own is going to get brainwashed by reading their single page (and badly written) pamphlet.

But what about this hostile environment that they create? One person I spoke with asked me if I would like to feel like crud every time I walked past a table. Well, I wouldn't like it, but the truth is, being bisexual myself, I don't. If you feel that being gay or bisexual is who you are, then why would you allow the schoolyard bully to knock you down because of it?

I would understand it more if they were standing in front of the table and yelling at passing students, pushing their pamphlets into their hands, then that would seem hostile to me ... but then again, so would the BankOne people.

Others say that allowing H.O.M.E. on campus legitimizes them. In a public school we can't do anything about it because technically the U.S. government has already legitimized them by threatening to sue NEIU if it doesn't let them in. Regardless, H.O.M.E. thinks they're a group, and talking or not talking to them isn't going to change their views.

So why talk to them? It's interesting to see why others think a certain way, and sometimes the only way to diffuse the threat is to start creating holes in their arguments. Yet, I know that's not for everyone's taste.

All I'm sure of is that at some point they might be back, and I'll just walk past them quietly because when I talked to them the first time, I saw they had nothing to offer me for my time.

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## ATLAS SHRUGGED:

### AN OVERRATED SHRUG

### DON'T SHRUG IT OFF

by Dino Pollard  
Rev Editor

by Elana Barron  
Associate Editor

Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* is a book that has received divided opinion, with supporters praising it as Holy Writ, to detractors referring to it as adolescent power fantasies. Based on Rand's personal philosophy of Objectivism, the novel can be summed up in one word: overrated. It is neither one of the best, nor the worst, books ever written. Instead, it falls somewhere in the middle.

Set in a dystopian future where socialists have taken over the world, the capitalists, choosing not to remain in such a world, essentially go on strike. Once the capitalists leave, the world falls into ruin, with the socialists (or "looters" as Rand calls them) unable to support their ideal world.

There's nothing wrong with a writer using her views as the basis for a novel—it has been done for centuries. Rand's problem is that her novel is too long. For the first few hundred pages, the novel and the characters are intriguing (particularly Francisco d'Anconia, perhaps the most interesting character in the novel). But few writers are able to keep a book's plot and characters engaging for 1168 pages. Sadly, Rand was not one of those writers. Halfway into the book, the characters become caricatures: the capitalists are described as supermen—supremely intelligent, moral, and without fault, while the socialists are described as whining idiots who are pure evil. This lack of balance alienates the reader from any sort of sympathetic view with any characters, either the capitalists or the socialists.

In having her philosophy drive the book as opposed to the characters or the plot, Rand spends the second half of the novel standing on a soapbox. The socialists exist only to whine and complain, and the capitalists exist only to spew Objectivist catchphrases. One of these characters has a monologue towards the end of the book basically repeating what Rand has been saying the entire time. This monologue proceeds to go on for 60 pages and becomes tedious and repetitive.

Rand can't seem to decide whether she's writing a novel or a textbook, and that's where her fault lies. She was a talented writer, as she proved in the first half of the novel. But in the second half of the book, she lost control of her book and things like characterization and plot went right out the window in favor of soapbox speeches. What begins as a promising and thought-provoking tale trudges through a mediocre and improbable middle before ultimately collapsing with an under-whelming climax.

*Atlas Shrugged* may not be the best novel ever, but it's not the worst. Supporters of Rand's Objectivist philosophy are likely to enjoy the book. But for some, it may not be worth the effort.

"Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*? It's a waste of time," a professor of mine once said. I slouched in my chair, hoping that it was not apparent that not only had I read the novel repeatedly, but also loved it.

Since then, a fellow editor decided to negatively review the book. Alas, I was forced to come out of my Libertarian/Capitalist closet to praise *Atlas Shrugged*, and I hope my liberal professors will forgive me.

*Atlas Shrugged* has been criticized for its philosophically capitalist preaching and its plastic inhuman characters, which undoubtedly it has. However, anyone who argues that this is the novel's failing does not understand its greatness.

*Atlas Shrugged* is a novel in which the plot is based upon Rand's philosophy, "Objectivism," although her non-fiction books discussing her philosophy were not written until later. The core of her philosophy, as Rand explains, "is the concept of man as a heroic being, with his own happiness as the moral purpose of his life, with productive achievement as his noblest activity, and reason as his only absolute." This view of life sets the plot of *Atlas Shrugged*. The novel may be philosophically driven, but all great works of literature are based on an author's philosophy.

Rand views man as great, and her characters are nothing less in *Atlas Shrugged*. As she writes in her *Romantic Manifesto*, which expounds her view of art, literature should present the ideal—the way man could and should be. Each of her main characters portray a part of Rand's vision of the ideal man: bright, individualistic, value-driven people who place man's mind on a pedestal.

In *Atlas Shrugged*, she presents a world that hinders the productiveness of such great men—a world where the government steals the products of men's minds in its quest for equality. Rand writes a devastating futuristic account of what happens in a world that does not value its great thinkers and takes advantage of them: these great thinkers will go on strike.

Many view the laissez-faire economy in *Atlas Shrugged* as one in which the powerful tycoons abuse the working class. Such readings are based on Marxist beliefs that have led readers to believe that any capitalist society will lead to the abuse of the lower classes. *Atlas Shrugged* shows that in a socialist-driven society, the thinkers, the creators will be abused. As stated by John Galt, the novel's protagonist, "The political system we will build is contained in a single moral premise: no man may obtain any values from others by resorting to physical force."

In Rand's ideal world, society allows man to freely pursue his own endeavors. The characters' greatness is hindered by socialist society's demands. It is their personal strength and brilliance that allows them to function morally in such a hostile setting. They are only allowed to flourish freely when they start a capitalist society.

Some may call these characters unnatural, but I would rather read about characters portraying the ideal way man should act. *Atlas Shrugged* has thrived because readers are hungry for the inspiration of lives that are directed by principles and values.

These characters are not unrealistic—they are the ideal. Unfortunately, society has moved so far from the individual in its quest for the collective that it has forgotten how great man as an individual can be. Rand's literature and philosophy ensure that we never forget.

## Heartfelt stories from the front

by Tracy Bielecki  
Staff Writer

When Chief Petty Officer John Finn awoke on December 7, 1941, he had no idea that Japanese bombers would interrupt his morning activities. He was so angry, he ran outside, found an unmanned .50 caliber machine gun next to the airstrip, and started shooting back. Although wounded many times, he did not leave his post until he was specifically ordered to do so. For these actions, he was awarded the Medal of Honor. When asked about his courage on that day, he said it wasn't courage or bravery that prompted his actions; he was just "mad as hell."

Stephen Lang's new one-man play, *Beyond Glory*,

opened last week at the Goodman Theatre. Adapted from the book of the same name by Larry Smith, the play offers the stories of eight Medal of Honor recipients who served in World War II, The Korean Conflict, and Vietnam. They are all men like John Finn, who found themselves in circumstances that tested their courage and resolve. These heroes range from Korean War veteran, Hector Cafferata, who downplays his actions, simply saying, "that's what marines do;" to James Stockdale, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam for seven and a half years; to Vernon Baker, an African American, who did not receive his medal until 1997—52 years after earning it.

The one connection these men have is that none think their contribution was any more or less than their fellow soldiers'. We are offered not just a glimpse of what happened

to cause them to be recognized, but also a look into their lives, who they were before and who they became afterwards.

Lang's performance is remarkable, as he seems to effortlessly transform from one soldier to the next. Every change of his shirt brings on each soldier's individual personality. His honest portrayal of these men will bring a tear to your eye in one instant and have you laughing in the next. The soldiers' matter-of-fact stories are all told in their own words. You are offered a poignant look at war, without comment, and are left to your own opinions.

Fresh off an international tour of military bases, this moving play is showing at the Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn, until Sunday, Oct. 9. Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$35, depending on the seats and the time of the show.



# Pollard's Picks

## Takashi Miike: A different kind of director

**B**lood-splattered walls, body parts scattered on the ground, cow-headed demons, extreme depictions of torture—these are not scenes people conjure up when considering a traditional definition of a brilliant director. But in the case of Japan's Takashi Miike, nothing he ever does is traditional.



Miike attended film school at the age of 18, primarily because there were no entrance exams. By his own admission, he was a very poor student who rarely attended classes. When a local television company went to the school, Miike got the position because other students were too busy working on their class projects to even notice it was offered. After almost a decade of working in various roles in television, Miike eventually found his break as a director through Japan's direct-to-video market in the early '90s.

Despite his undisciplined nature as a student, Miike is one of the most productive directors in the world. Since his directorial debut in 1991, Miike has directed over 60 films for television, video, and cinema. While many of his films focus on the Yakuza (Japanese mafia), he has branched out to other arenas, such as history (*Sabu*), horror (*One Missed Call*), and even musicals (*Happiness of the Katakuris*).

Most people have become familiar with Miike's work through *Ichii The Killer* and *Audition*—two films that earned international acclaim through success at various film festivals. The use of extreme depictions of violence and sexual taboos has become a staple for Miike's films, and such depictions are often found to be too disturbing by many viewers. Miike himself has said that his films have a tendency to "screen out" people with fragile sensibilities, due to the increase in intensity of graphic violence.

At first glance, many who are exposed to Miike immediately think of him as a shock director with little to no substance. A closer examination of his films, however, shows subtle use of various elements such as satire, mythology, and recurring themes of family, nostalgia, sexuality, and the search for a partner. Combined with the use of ambiguous and bizarre plot twists and endings, Miike has frequently been compared to Quentin Tarantino (*Kill Bill*), but a more accurate comparison would be David Lynch (*Mulholland Dr.*) or Darren Aronofsky (*Requiem for a Dream*).

Despite having over 60 films under his belt, Miike's creativity has yet to diminish. In fact, the quality of his films and his abilities as a director have only improved over the past 14 years, and he shows no sign of slowing down just yet. His movies still remain some of the most original and provocative ever made.

A fair warning to those who may consider introducing themselves into the world of Takashi Miike—his films definitely are not for the faint of heart. If you are the sort easily offended by graphic violence, sexual taboos, or bizarre situations, he may not be the director for you. However, if you are willing to look outside the box and find something truly different in the world of cinema, track down some of his movies. Many of them have been released on DVD in the United States and can be found through various stores, as well as Internet vendors, such as Amazon.com. You may be shocked at what you find, but you won't be disappointed.



photo courtesy of olivier.roller.free.fr

Show your worst face  
and the Independent will reward you for it.

Halloween Costume Contest  
12:00 at the B Courtyard  
All Hallows Day



## Fall 2005 Student Elections October 24, 25 & 26

Monday, October 17 – Friday, October 21  
Absentee Ballots Available at Student Activities in SU 206

Tuesday, October 18, Debate/Candidate Day  
1:40 PM – 2:40 PM, Village Square, Main Campus

Elections, October 24 – 26  
Monday, 10:00 AM – 7:00 PM, CCICS  
Tuesday, 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM, EI Centro  
Wednesday, 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Village Square, Main Campus

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Northeastern Programming Board

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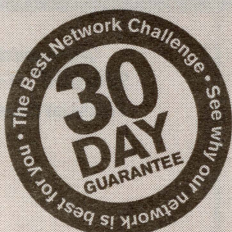
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# Eagle's Nest

## Lifestyles of the Northeastern Community



### Houston, I have a problem ... I need \$200,000

Tourism in space soon to be a reality

by Elana Barron  
Associate Editor

A recent article in *National Geographic* reminded me of my childhood dream to fly into space, as it probably did for many others. Sidetracked by more realistic pursuits, it seemed that the dream to fly into space, well, flew out the window. However, for many individuals, it may soon be a reality—or at least for those with money.

Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen, aircraft designer Burt Rutan, Virgin Airline President Richard Branson, among others, are working to fly spaceships full of ordinary citizens into space. The first flight is planned for 2008, with Branson's father, in his 90s, on the maiden flight.

The space odyssey branch of Virgin Airlines is called Virgin Galactic, whose website claims that "By the end of the decade, Virgin Galactic—the most exciting development in the story of modern space history—is planning to make it possible for almost anyone to visit the final frontier at an affordable price."

According to *National Geographic*, the "affordable price" for such a ride is currently \$200,000,

although Will Whitehorn, who is president of Virgin Galactic, told *National Geographic* that "I could see it getting down to \$40,000 after a few years." That is still quite steep for anyone planning to work in education.

Despite the large sales tag, 35,000 people have already signed up on Virgin Galactic's website for these future flights, once they put down a \$20,000 deposit.

For \$200,000, individuals will have three to six days of training, including medical tests. In this two-hour flight, which technically costs \$1,666 a minute, passengers will reach 400,000 feet, allowing passengers six minutes of weightlessness. Everyone will have a window seat, for it would be a shame to drop \$200,000 and only have a view of one's neighbor.

Once the spaceship reaches its maximum latitude, the spaceship will maneuver so the passengers will be able to see earth in its entirety from their window. "The view will be over a thousand miles in any direction ... You will see the clarity of the solar system and the harshness of the sun," explains Virgin Galactic's website.

Rutan has created a spaceship that is made out of a high-tech carbon fiber composite, opposed to the metal alloys used on past spaceships, which avoids the usual problems that spaceships have on re-entry. Further, Rutan's spaceship will be able to be reused. Virgin Galactic's spaceship will also not use a vertical liftoff, as used by NASA. Instead, it launches from a "mother ship," which is 50,000 feet in the air.

While some this may seem like a futuristic dream, Virgin Galactic is only one of many companies preparing for this space adventure.

Anyone have \$200,000?

**Bragging rights  
for only \$200,000.**

Image courtesy of www.bay13.net

## Horses in the city

by Violette Green  
Senior Staff Writer

Ah, to answer the call of the wild on horseback out somewhere new. Probably not what one would think of doing around Chicago, as the majority of the horses around here are either police horses or pulling the carriages for tours. However, just outside of Chicago, there are a number of stables that offer trail rides and riding lessons for a fun Fall, or even year round, activity.

Opportunities to ride in Illinois include Freedom Woods in Morton Grove and Forest View Farms in Tinley Park. Such Western and English pleasure riding on trails are less than 20 miles from the

city.

Fair Chance Farm in Libertyville offers riders a chance to take care of the horses and the equipment themselves. With 100+ miles of trails there are rides for those whose backside can only deal with a short ride and those who can handle an all day excursion.

Fields & Fences School of Horsemanship in Wadsworth, about 45 miles northwest of the city, off of I-94, gives lessons, shelters, trains hunting horses, and maintains their own private trails.

Fitzjoy Farm is considered the premiere stable in the Southwest suburbs of Chicago. Their location in Palos Park makes them adjacent to Cook County

riding trails. They won numerous awards in 2003 for their show team.

Horseback riding can be a wonderful activity for everyone. It provides a chance to see nature from a slightly different view. Children as young as five can begin taking lessons at most stables, and most stables have lessons for riders of all ages. While some stables may not offer lessons, they still provide other services, such as breeding, short and long-term stays, and training. Some things to consider when looking at trail rides are the length of the ride, difficulty level, and the minimum age for riders.

For information on prices, services and more locations, check out [www.stablesdirectory.org](http://www.stablesdirectory.org)

### Fitness Matters: Beyond Vendo-Land

by Michelle S. Thall  
Special Contributor

For the sake of argument, let's just say you *have* decided to make this the year you get healthy, and you *are* willing to go the extra mile to avoid the crap offered in vending machines. Still, what should you be eating to maximize your health and right-size your girth?

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently released a new Food Guide Pyramid. Not that it's going to tell you that pizza and French fries have suddenly become the healthiest foods known to man, or that green vegetables make you fat, but there are some interesting tidbits. Let's take a look.

The bread, and cereal group is now called "Grains," appropriately shifting importance from the food products made from grains to the grains themselves. The difference? Before grains get over-processed, they are a whole lot healthier. To take advantage of this, look for the words "Whole Grain" on food label ingredient lists. The higher the content, the more fiber it will have, the longer it will take you to digest it, and the longer you will stay full. Whole grains are also higher in vitamins and minerals, and some are quite high in protein.

The USDA is now recommending that people focus on both dark green vegetables, as well as orange vegetables, like carrots and sweet potatoes. They are high in vitamins, minerals and fiber, and of course, low to moderate in calories. The advantage is you can eat a large portion, feel full, and still not have consumed too many calories. With fruits, the focus is to eat a variety, not just one type, and to try to get your fruits in their natural form, as opposed to canned in syrup or as a juice. Again, the message is, the less processed the better.

The key focus of the Milk Group is to make sure that people get enough calcium at all ages. Choose lower fat options, if you can, and try eating yogurt or other milk products as snacks. Don't skimp here, especially if you are feeding children as well as yourself. Poor calcium intake in childhood can result in serious bone health issues in middle adulthood.

The Meat & Bean Group includes non-meat-based protein alternatives in your diet. Beans, nuts, seeds and vegetarian substitutes like tofu and seitan add variety and provide different vitamins and minerals your body needs. When choosing meats, try leaner cuts, and bake, broil or grill them to avoid adding additional fats. And don't forget the fish!

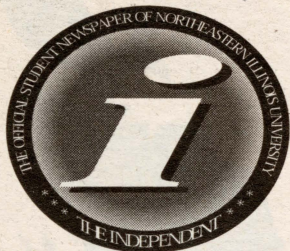
To learn more, go to "MyPyramid.gov." You can create personalized pyramids for your age, sex and activity level. There are also guides to measuring quantities for determining appropriate portion sizes, as opposed to the typical American "Super Size."

Of course, the USDA also says we should be getting more physical activity, but that's another story entirely, so I'll stop here.

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



# Around Campus



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The Editor-in-Chief 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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**Tuesday, October 11**

**Equity Issues in Central-Eastern Europe**  
Presented by Dr. Arthur Malinowski of Loyola University, Anna Kuroczycka of Warsaw University, and Pawel Czarnecki of Warsaw University.  
1:40 - 2:40 p.m. Golden Eagles Room

**Day Labor Worker's Rights**  
Loretta Capeheart, Associate Professor of Justice Studies & Mexican Caribbean Studies at NEIU. Analia Rodriguez, Organizer, Latino Union of Chicago, Albany Park Workers' Center  
10:50-12:05 p.m. Golden Eagles

**"Tapping the Best of You and Tapping the Best Within You!"**  
**The Intersection of Ethics and Intentionality**  
Janet Fredericks, Dean, Graduate College, NEIU  
Hermene Hartman, Publisher, N'Digo and Savoy Magazine  
12:15-1:30 p.m. Golden Eagles

**A Round Table Discussion with Hermene Hartman**

Murrell J.H. Duster, Dean, Academic Development; Affirmative Action Officer, NEIU  
1:40-2:40 p.m. SU-214

**A Video Presentation and Discussion: The Children We Sacrifice**  
5:40-6:50 p.m. SU-214

**"Undocumented Students: In Search of Equality in Higher Education"**  
6:00-7:30 p.m. El Centro, NEIU

**"Renaissance 2010 Project: Impact on CPS"**  
5:40-6:55 p.m. Golden Eagles

**Thursday, October 13**

**"Politics of Race and Class at Katrina: The Face of Distributive (In)Justice"**  
12:15-1:30 p.m. Golden Eagles

**A Round Table Discussion-NEIU's Mission Statement**  
1:40 - 12:50 p.m. SU 214

**Jamaica: Views on Equity & Education**  
7:05-8:30 p.m. CLS-3003

**"Standing on your own: Making your case without Becoming an Outcast"**  
Hear Carol Gerber's inspirational words  
Sponsored by The Business and Management Club  
FA-152 1:40pm

**Friday, October 14**

**"The Digital Divide"**  
Presented by Netiva Caftori  
11:00-11:50 a.m. SU 214

**"From Outcaste To Chief Economist of the Reserve Bank of India"**  
11:00-11:50 a.m. Fine Arts Recital Hall

**Ensamble Español Spanish dance Theater**  
8:00 p.m. Auditorium Gen. Admission- \$25

**Thursday, October 20**

**"Images of America: Puerto Rican Chicago"**  
Free evening Discussion  
7:00 p.m. SU-214

**Friday, October 21**

**Polish-American Heritage Month Alumni Celebration.**  
6:00 p.m. Alumni Hall

**JewelBox 2005 presents Camerata Chicago**  
8:00 p.m. Recital Hall  
For more info call (773) 442-4636

**Tuesday, October 25**

**Presidential Lecture Series: Khaled Hosseini**  
Free lecture and book signing  
8:00 p.m. Auditorium

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Rev Editor/Pollard's Picks  
Cecilia Carboni-  
Graphics Editor/ VOC  
Joe Hertel-  
Opinions Editor/  
Old man on campus  
Andrea Zelinski-  
Business Manager/  
Let's get personal

**Judged on:**  
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**Winners will have a color picture published in the Independent along with a profile!**

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