

1-10-2006

## Independent- Jan. 10, 2006

Patrick O'Brien

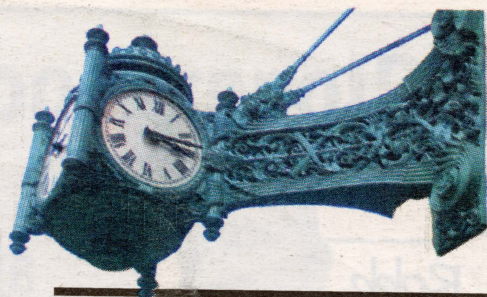
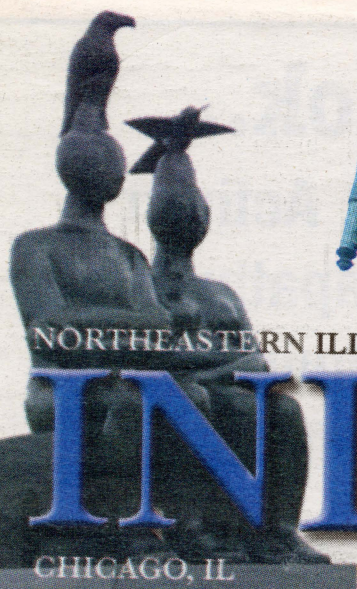
Follow this and additional works at: <https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent>

---

### Recommended Citation

O'Brien, Patrick, "Independent- Jan. 10, 2006" (2006). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 341.  
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/341>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the NEIU Student Newspapers at NEIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Independent (1988-present) by an authorized administrator of NEIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [neiudc@neiu.edu](mailto:neiudc@neiu.edu).



Chicago landmarks no more, pg. 5



A smoke free Chicago, pg. 12



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, January 10, 2006

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 15

# INDEPENDENT

CHICAGO, IL

13-TIME 2004 ICPA AWARD WINNER

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS PAPER

Serenity

North Campus---Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies---El Centro

Maa Kberew

## Library closed until mid-February

**\$1.6 million cleanup may keep Ronald Williams Library inaccessible even longer**

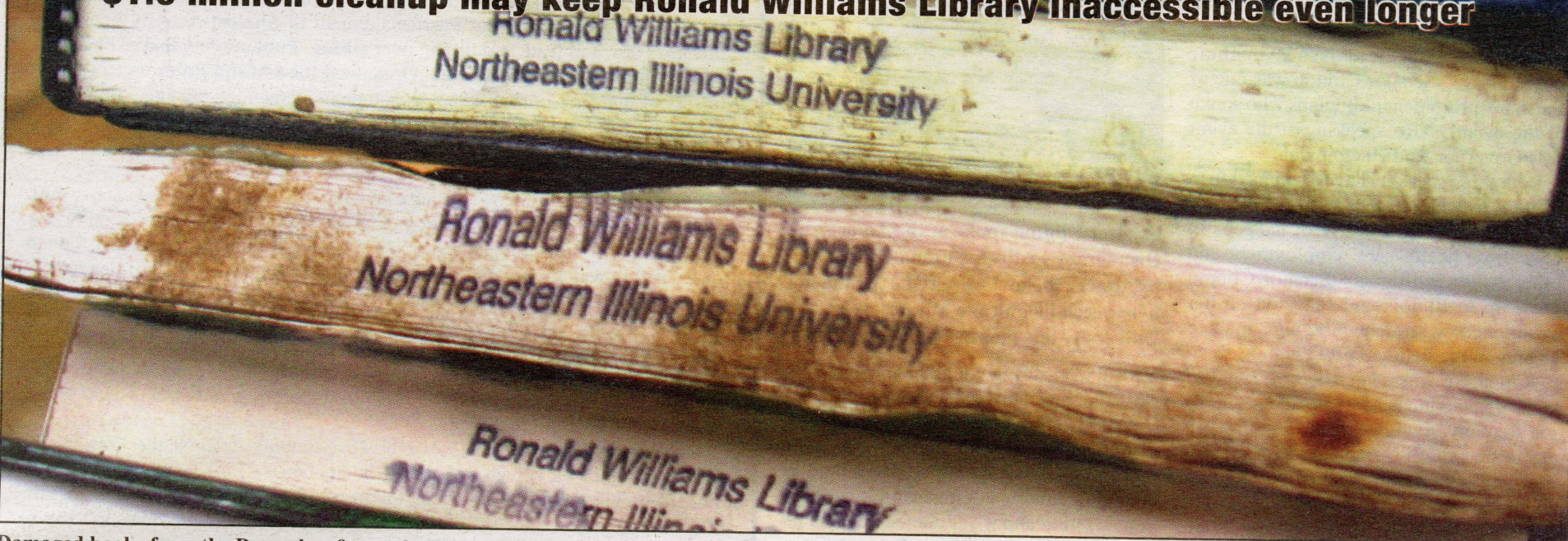


photo by Andrea Zelinski

Damaged books from the December fire at the Ronald Williams Library, where more than a million books were hand-cleaned by Brouwer Brothers Steamatic.

by Tom Robb  
News Editor

The carpets have been removed and all the bookshelves are covered in clear plastic as the smell of soot still lingers in the air.

The Ronald Williams Library will remain closed until at least mid-February and possibly longer, according to Dean of Library Services Brad Baker, as clean-up efforts continue from the fire that occurred at the end of the past fall semester.

Director of Buildings and Grounds for Facilities Management, Ralph Zia told the *Independent* that the university has so far committed \$1.6 million to clean the library,

but more may be spent. Zia said that the university's insurance will cover the bulk of the clean-up, minus deductibles. Zia did not know the value of those deductibles or if the university's insurance rates would be raised as a result.

"In addition to cleaning every surface in the library," said Baker, "the company that was hired to do the clean up, Brouwer Brothers Steamatic, cleaned one million plus books and other items in the library's collection."

The fire started in an elevator mechanical room in the basement of the library. Though the library was not damaged by fire, the library and its collection were damaged by smoke and soot.

Baker listed for the *Independent* the work to be completed before the library can be reopened. The carpeting, the library can be lower level was damaged by the water, and new carpeting will be installed at the end of January.

Ceiling tiles on all five floors of the library have been removed and discarded. A contractor has been hired to replace the ceiling tiles with an estimated completion date late in January.

All electrical systems and controls in the mechanical room must be carefully checked and any damaged items replaced. This work has been underway for the past couple of weeks and will require a few more weeks

to complete.

"The library's mechanical system sustained significant damage. Work is underway with those repairs, but completion will require a few more weeks," Baker said.

"Once all of the above repairs are completed, the university will bring in an industrial hygienist to certify that the library is fully safe and ready for occupancy," according to Baker.

A Jan. 5 memo sent to the university's Dean of the Library stated that additional computers would be set up in Student Union room 123 across from the library's temporary location on the first floor of the Student Union.

## Military recruiters' access to colleges challenged in Supreme Court

Protests greeted recruiters for the armed forces at NEIU job fair last fall

by Amy Scoma  
Staff Writer

The Solomon Amendment mandates that universities receiving federal funds must grant students access to military recruiters.

Law schools challenged this amendment because the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy is discriminatory. The U.S. Supreme Court will hear the case; a ruling should be made in the beginning of the new year.

Colleges and universities have the right to ban companies and organizations with discriminatory employment practices from

recruiting students, though the status quo declares that colleges cannot ban the military from

**"If [students] are serious about changing policy, they have to go to the top level. I have to do my job."**

**-Barbara Cosentino, assistant director of Career Placement, addressing students who protested the presence of military recruiters at NEIU.**

on-campus recruiting if they receive money from the federal government.

Northeastern Illinois' hiring policies show a commitment to equality. According to the Equal Opportunity and Affirmative

Action General Policy Statement, the university strives to "Recruit, hire, train, and promote persons in all job titles, without regard to age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or gender."

These guiding principles are in conflict with the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on homosexuality.

Federal funds keep universities from infringing on students and employees' civil liberties. Universities do not want to break the law and have their funding revoked or

See Recruiters, page 3

## Run Johnny Run: Grad student for Congress

by Tom Robb  
News Editor

Graduate student and long time WZRD DJ Johnny "Hap" Haptonstall is on the ballot and running for the U.S. Congress in the 5th Congressional District democratic primary against current incumbent Rahm Emanuel.

"I am in this race because the voters of the 5th District deserve a choice, and I believe the incumbent [Emanuel] is out of step with the constituents of the District," said Haptonstall.

"It is the people's house. It belongs to us, not to professional politicians, and certainly not to special corporate interest. We must encourage all citizens to be aware and to run for office, and to refuse all Corporate PAC (Public Action Committee) money. To quote Rep. Emanuel from a *Rolling Stone* interview "We need candidates that don't look like career politicians,"

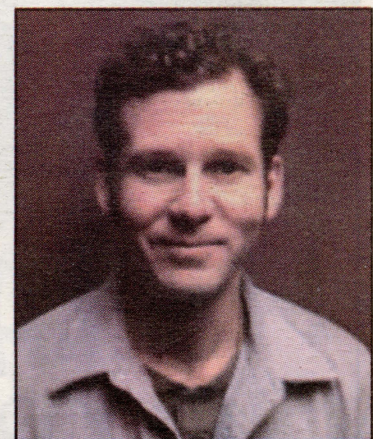


photo courtesy of Johnnyhapforcongress.org

**Grad student Johnny Hap, running for Congress in the 5th District.**

said Haptonstall. Now on the ballot, Haptonstall is in the process of building a campaign organization and will hold his first fundraiser on Tuesday Jan. 10, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. It will be held at Webster's Wine Bar,

See Johnny Hap, page 4

# Hillary's speech in Chicago full of irony

*As she espouses the value of debate and dialogue, protesters are removed from crowd at Roosevelt University*

by Deborah Goldbaum  
Copy Editor

Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) is the honorary chair of the American Democracy Institute (ADI), which held their First Leadership Development summit on Dec. 3, 2005 at Roosevelt University.

The ADI's goal, as stated on its web site, is to encourage youth to "address and debate important issues in their community." Senator Clinton was one of the many prominent politicians who spoke at the event. Also speaking at the event was Governor Rod Blagojevich.

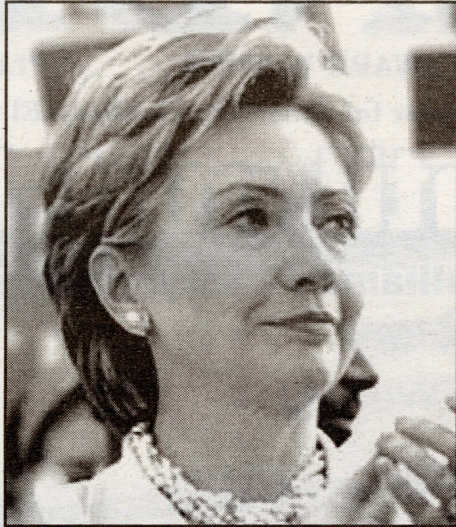
Both these speakers have a connection to Illinois, as well as other states. Governor Blagojevich determines what happens in education, health care, employment and other issues in Illinois. Senator Clinton grew up in Illinois and reflected on her experiences while encouraging youth to engage in the political process.

"Chicago is where I first became engaged in the democratic process as a teenager. To see so many young people going through the same process, excited about getting involved in their communities and thinking about how they can affect change locally, nationally and beyond, is inspiring," said Senator Clinton.

However, not everyone at the event supported Senator Clinton's presence. event chanting "Hillary supports the war" and "troops out now."

Senator Clinton acknowledged the protestors and said "I am happy to discuss that issue with you at the end of my speech." "However," she also said, "I don't think these people want to hear from you right now." The protestors were then escorted out of the building by security and did not return.

In her speech Senator Clinton talked about ADI and the role young people have in politics: "Young people have a voice and the power to make this country and world a better place. Organizations like ADI are



Senator Clinton spoke at the American Democracy Institute Summit. Several protesters (below) were removed during her speech in Chicago at Roosevelt University last month.

critical in ensuring young people have the skills they need to affect change."

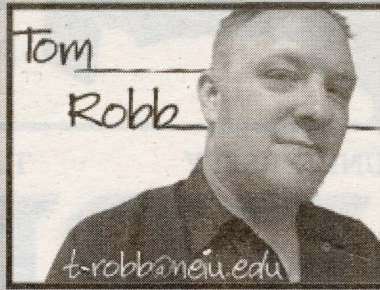
ADI also provided an overview of their organization and the summit. In their press kit, ADI said, "We're committed to engaging American citizens in a national conversation about our democracy and its meaning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century."

ADI also said what workshops were available and what they hope to accomplish "Workshop topics include skills-based sessions on civic engagement through technology; community activism and advocacy, and issues-oriented sessions on electoral reform; faith, values and public policy; the role of media in politics and the environment and policy.

Through these workshops and panels, the American democracy institute will identify programs, ideas and emerging progressive leaders for further training through our leadership development program."

For more information on the American Democracy Institute, visit their web site at [www.americandemocracynstitute.org](http://www.americandemocracynstitute.org).

## A Closer Look...



### Activist apathy lets administrators off the hook

A new semester is upon us and the lack of action last semester by some of the campus leaders and usual rabble-rousers was a real disappointment. Many of those campus leaders are graduating and looking beyond this place, going out into the real world to either change that or go get a job—and not make waves.

NEIU saw aggressive campus activism last year and the year before, which culminated in a strike. One day President Steinberg's office was put under siege. On another day one group of students cornered Steinberg after the State of the University Address about gay rights.

At the same time, things so got heated in a Student Government meeting that students speaking out about mismanagement of Student Activity Fees were breaking down in tears and diving over tables. Public safety had to be called.

When H.O.M.E. (Heterosexual Organized for a Moral Environment) came to school that first time in 2003, the students demanded changes. Policies in the form of the student code of conduct and employee training were changed along with the policy on outside groups speaking in Village Square (or so many believed).

Positive change happened because students stood up loudly and clearly said, "We're mad as hell and we're not gonna' take it anymore."

That was last year. Last semester was different. Graduation happened, though many had to watch it on TV from a separate room due to a lack of tickets.

Some letters were written and students were upset, but Acting President Janet Fredericks said that she couldn't change the schedule as students proposed. Students suggested to break up the graduation by college, thus allowing more guests to attend, but Fredericks refused, stating she was only an "acting" president. Apparently graduation was not important enough to discuss in her weekly phone call to Steinberg.

Recently, the group NSAW, or NEIU Students Against the War (many members are also involved with the NEIU Socialists Club), were told they could not pass out flyers questioning the military when they were at a recruitment fair. This is a huge issue for the anti-war community and the members of NSAW and the Socialists.

One of the individuals directly involved told the *Independent* that there was a meeting with the VP of Student Affairs Melvin Terrell to discuss the matter, but

H.O.M.E. came back to school after many believed a moratorium had been imposed in direct response to their 2003 visit. Terrell said "It (the moratorium) existed in 2003; this is 2005. I can't tell you when it ended." Unlike in 2003 and early 2004, there were no large scale demonstrations protesting H.O.M.E.'s presence. Again, the administration's answer seems to have been accepted.

EI Centro still has absolutely no parking. Even though parking is charged by credit hour, they pay full price for services they don't get. There are not even any letters to the editor regarding this issue, much less protests.

Bureaucracy hates change, so unless students pressure the administration, no changes will be made.

So, as the new semester begins, what will be heard in the halls? "We're mad as hell and we're not gonna' take it anymore?" Or "Oh my god, did you see 'American Idol' last night?"

I shudder to consider the answer.



At her speech last month in Chicago, protesters greeted Senator Clinton with signs denouncing her stance on the Iraq War.

## NEIU tops in diversity in Midwest

*U.S. News and World Report* annual college edition ranks Northeastern

by Tom Robb  
News Editor

*U.S. News and World Report* released its annual America's Best Colleges 2006 edition. In past years, the publication ranked Northeastern first in racial diversity in the Midwest and second nationally. While the current issue still lists NEIU first for diversity in the Midwest, the university has slipped nationally.

Last year, *U.S. News* ranked NEIU second nationally for racial diversity, and though NEIU is only ranked regionally in this issue, 13 schools had higher racial diversity scores than NEIU nationally. Northeastern had a diversity index score of 0.68 out of

See Ranking, page 4

# Build it, and they will exchange their books on it

The Student Government Association's online textbook exchange is up and running after years of waiting

by Elana Barron  
Associate Editor

Over the past few years, college students throughout the country have been banning together to fight the high prices of textbooks. Students have started protests in Washington D.C., influenced congressional members, and conducted studies, all with the aim to make textbooks more affordable for students.

Northeastern's students have recently launched a web site that will allow students to sell each other textbooks for a cheaper price.

## The book exchange web site

Graduate Computer Science Student Abdul Basit created the web site under the guidance of Professor of Computer Science Marcelo Sztainberg, at the suggestion of Student Government Association (SGA) President Evelyn Nazario-Rose.

The recently launched web site, <http://www.sgabookexchange.com/>, gives students the opportunity to buy and sell textbooks. One of the main benefits of the web site, explains Basit, is that the buyer "can schedule a meeting with the seller," thereby allowing the buyer to see the textbook before purchasing it, which is not feasible through Amazon.com or eBay.

The web site will not take any money from the students, but will instead serve as a forum for students to interact. The intention is not to harm Beck's Bookstore, stressed Basit, but to give students more options when it comes to buying textbooks.

The web site is not strictly for selling and buying textbooks. Basit also incorporated a tutoring exchange board, or what he refers to as a "knowledge exchange board." Basit created this service based on his own experience:

"Last year, I was not good at mathematics

... I offered to teach programming for three hours and they will teach me mathematics for three hours."

After Basit personally experienced the success of this knowledge exchange, he decided to share his idea with the student body. On the web site, explained Basit, "you put in the subject you want to learn and what you are willing to teach." In addition, this exchange of skills does not necessitate the exchange of money, added Basit.

In addition to selling and buying textbooks and exchanging tutoring services, the web site also has a feature to help students establish study groups.

Basit worked on the web site as a "purely volunteer project. No one is going to make any money off it," he explained. While Basit and his two fellow computer science classmates created the web site to fulfill a requirement for a graduate class, their project will continue to serve the student body at Northeastern.

**"It was up for over a year. Not even one student used it."**

**-Gary Gaspard, former SGA president, explaining why a previous version of the book exchange web site was not successful.**

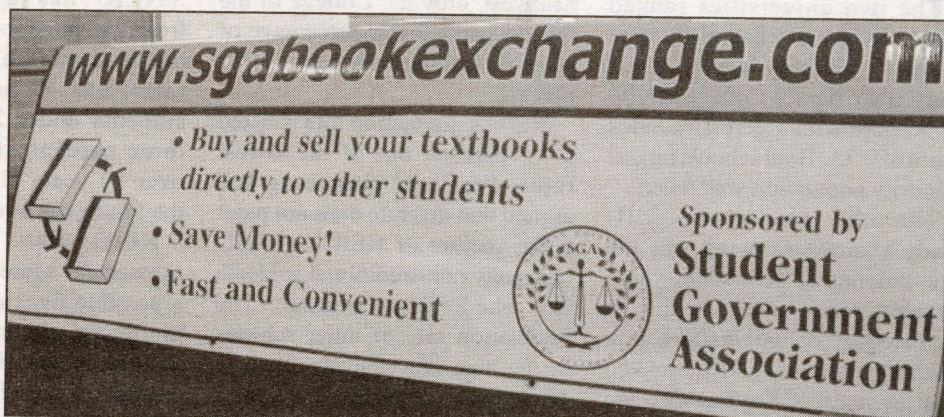
## The evolution of the book exchange

Originally, the book exchange was started under former SGA President **L u k a s h Dobryzinski**. Over two

thousand dollars was spent on it, according to current SGA President Nazario-Rose, but it was eventually terminated.

When Gary Gaspard succeeded Dobryzinski as president, the book exchange fell to the wayside. When asked about the termination of the book exchange, Gaspard told the *Independent* last year that "It was up for over a year. Not even one student used it."

Throughout Gaspard's presidency, Nazario-



SGA President Evelyn Nazario-Rose hopes a new web site will help students find cheaper textbooks.

Rose fought to have the program reinstated, for she personally witnessed numerous students ask for its reinstatement.

Now four SGA presidents later, Nazario-Rose made the phone call to the Computer Science Department that led to the launching of the book exchange web site. "All it took was a phone call," Nazario-Rose explained.

Nazario-Rose has worked on the issue of textbook prices throughout her years in the SGA and as previous IBHE student advisory

committee representative.

As previous vice president of the SGA, she helped Cuyahoga Community College circulate a petition that culminated in a protest in D.C.; she personally collected 3,000 signatures in one week.

Due to student criticism and protests of textbook companies over the past few years, such as the one initiated by Cuyahoga, the federal government released a study by

See Book Exchange, page 4



photos by Dorian Barrios

Empty aisles like this one at Beck's Bookstore could become more frequent if students begin to utilize the book exchange web site sponsored by the SGA.

## Recruiters, from page 1

decreased, but they do want to be able to voice their opinions freely in regards to on-campus recruitment.

Career Placement Assistant Director Barbara Cosentino said, "If [students] are serious about changing policy, they have to go to the top level. I have to do my job" when questioned about on-campus opposition to the Solomon Amendment. Northeastern cannot maintain itself

without federal funding, and the military claims it could not survive without on-campus recruitment.

The *Wall Street Journal* reports the military's recruitment goal is 180,000 per year with the looming pressure of the Iraq war. If the Solomon Amendment were struck down, the multi-billion dollar per year recruitment budget would greatly increase.

Price and participation may vary.  
© 2006 McDonald's

**DOUBLE  
CHEESEBURGERS  
YOU WON'T  
HAVE TO  
GIVE ANY  
PLASMA  
FOR.**

**Dollar M Menu**

i'm lovin' it®

Advertisement

## Ranking, from page 2

a possible 1.0, with its largest minority listed as Hispanic (30 percent).

The two universities ranked highest in diversity nationally were Rutgers University in New Jersey and CUNY Baruch College in New York, both with a diversity index score of 0.73. Both schools largest minority population was Asian.

The other area where NEIU made a strong showing was the low amount of debt with which students leave school with. In its category of universities with master's programs, NEIU ranked fifth in students leaving with the lowest debt, with only 29 percent of students having any debt, with that debt averaging \$10,941. That

percentage of students leaving school with debt (29 percent) is the sixth lowest nationally. In the Midwest, only the College of the Ozarks had a lower percentage of students leaving with debt—at 21 percent.

NEIU's graduation rate is listed at 15 percent, one of the lowest rates. President Steinberg has argued that this rate does not paint a fair picture of NEIU as NEIU has many non-traditional students who take longer to graduate. The graduation rate of other schools in the area are Chicago State at 16 percent, Columbia College at 27 percent, UIC with a predicted rate of 55 percent and actual rate of 45 percent, and Northern Illinois

University with a predicted rate of 47 percent and actual rate of 51 percent.

NEIU has a 70 percent freshman retention rate, a 17 to one student faculty to student ratio, has 43 percent of its students under 20 years old, three percent of its students over 50 years old, is listed in the fourth tier of schools.

NEIU also has a peer assessment score of 2.5 out of a possible five, and has one of the lowest alumni giving rates at three percent (it is not known if alumni and former Board of Trustees Chairman Daniel Goodwin's \$400,000 gift was calculated into this figure).

## Book Exchange, from page 3

the Federal Government Accountability Office (GAO) in July of 2005 that investigated the high price of textbooks.

In response to the GAO's report, Illinois Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn began pushing an initiative to make textbooks more affordable and the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) student advisory committee released a report replete with recommendations to help students better afford textbooks.

Nazario-Rose had previously stressed to the *Independent* her desire to implement IBHE's recommendations at Northeastern. Her continuous work and research regarding exorbitant textbook prices has culminated in the launching of this web site.

While according to Nazario-Rose the first book exchange did not succeed due to lack of advertisement, both Basit and Nazario-Rose expressed their hope that student interest will help the book exchange web site succeed.

## Correction

In the Dec. 6 issue, the *Independent* incorrectly stated that Alpha Kappa Alpha Pi Nu sorority was started in 1981. It started in 1908.

The *Independent* regrets the error.

## Johnny Hap, from page 1

1480 W. Webster in Chicago.

Haptonstall worked for several years for Northeastern's WZRD Radio, serving for a time as general manager. He also worked for WBEZ's World View program and filed news reports nationally for the Pacifica Network's Free Speech Radio News.

Haptonstall also has a history in Central America, visiting El Salvador several times. Haptonstall first went to El Salvador as part of a course taught by former Justice Studies Professor Renne Golden. Students stayed in local's homes in remote villages—not in hotels.

Haptonstall later returned to El Salvador on his own to be an international election monitor. Haptonstall says he has seen the negative impacts of U.S. trade policies first hand in Central America.

Haptonstall talked to the *Independent* about his policy positions and ideas. "The first thing I will do as the representative of the citizens in the 5<sup>th</sup> District is proudly join the ranks of Representatives Schakowsky, Kucinich, Gutierrez, Jackson, Barbara Lee, and the other 60 plus members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Together we will work towards achieving the goals of the Progressive Promise."

Haptonstall said his goals in office would be "Fighting for economic justice and security in the U.S. and global economies, protecting and preserving civil rights and civil liberties, promoting global peace and security, environmental protection and energy independence."

Haptonstall also listed universal health care as a priority, as well as fairness in U.S. trade policy.

Haptonstall wants to work with U.S. Rep. Murtha who has called for the U.S. to get out of Iraq and is critical of Emanuel who is not. "It is an unjust and illegal war sold to the American people on a pack of lies ... Representative Emanuel continues to support the war in Iraq. When Representative Murtha came out for re-deployment of troops last November, calling for complete re-deployment in six months, Representative Emanuel stated, 'When the time is right we will have a position.'"

"The voters I talk with overwhelmingly say the time is now. The Chicago city council voted 29-9 calling for a troop withdrawal becoming the largest city in the U.S. to do so. On 'Meet the Press' in 2005, the incumbent [Emanuel] said even after knowing there are no weapons of mass destruction he would have voted yes on the Iraq invasion," said Haptonstall.

Rep. Emanuel worked as a policy advisor to President Bill Clinton before replacing Rod Blagojevich in the 5<sup>th</sup> District when Blagojevich ran for Illinois Governor. Emanuel's office did not return calls for comment from the *Independent* as of press time.

For more information on Haptonstall's campaign, go to [www.johnnyhapforcongress.org](http://www.johnnyhapforcongress.org).

# Beck's Hours

|                     |             |
|---------------------|-------------|
| Monday Jan. 9th     | 8:30 - 8:30 |
| Tuesday Jan. 10th   | 8:30 - 8:30 |
| Wednesday Jan. 11th | 8:30 - 8:30 |
| Thursday Jan. 12th  | 8:30 - 8:30 |
| Friday Jan. 13th    | 8:30 - 7:00 |
| Saturday Jan. 14th  | 8:30 - 3:00 |
| Sunday Jan. 15th    | CLOSED      |
| Monday Jan. 16th    | CLOSED      |
| Tuesday Jan. 17th   | 8:30 - 7:30 |
| Wednesday Jan. 18th | 8:30 - 7:30 |
| Thursday Jan. 19th  | 8:30 - 7:30 |
| Friday Jan. 20th    | 8:30 - 5:00 |
| Saturday Jan. 21th  | 8:30 - 1:00 |

Last say for full refund is Tuesday January 17, 2006  
Receipts are required for all refunds, returns, & exchanges

**THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF THE TEAM THAT CHANGED THE GAME FOREVER.**

WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS A JERRY BRUCKHEIMER PRODUCTION

# GLORY ROAD

WINNING CHANGES EVERYTHING

WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH JERRY BRUCKHEIMER FILMS "GLORY ROAD" STARRING JOSH LUCAS, DEBBIE LUNKE AND JON VOIGHT. WRITTEN BY BOB BARDAM. PRODUCED BY TREVOR RABIN. DIRECTED BY JOHN DAHL. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS JOHN TOON, A.C.C. PRODUCED BY JOHN TOON, A.C.C. PRODUCED BY JEFFREY L. WINDALL, A.C.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MIKE STENSON, CHAD LOMAN, ANDY GIVEN. PRODUCED BY JERRY BRUCKHEIMER. WRITTEN BY CHRISTOPHER CLEVELAND & BETTINA CHLOIS. DIRECTED BY JAMES GANTNER.

PG PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED  
SOME MATERIAL MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN  
RACIAL ISSUES INCLUDING VIOLENCE AND EPITHETS, AND MILD LANGUAGE

disney.com/gloryroad

**BASED ON A TRUE STORY**

FEATURING NEW MUSIC FROM ALICIA KEYS: "SWEET MUSIC" AND THE CLASSIC "PEOPLE GET READY" DUET WITH L'VEE JENNINGS

SEE THE MOVIE...READ THE BOOK "GLORY ROAD" AVAILABLE NOW WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD

**OPENS FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, AT A THEATRE NEAR YOU**

# Commentary

## Editorial Board

Patrick O'Brien *Editor-in-Chief*  
Andrea Zelinski *Business Manager*  
Elana Barron *Associate Editor*  
Azucena Beltran *Production Manager*  
Joe Hertel *Opinions Editor*

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

## Editorial

### Getting to know you

Getting an education not only involves attending required and elective courses, it also requires participation and involvement in those activities important to our campus life.

If we are to survive in the world, then we must be aware of those factors that mold and govern the way things are and the way they work in the world in which we live. That includes our current situation on campus, which is a microcosm of the diversity that exists in our society, a society you will hope to succeed in after you graduate.

Many times our ignorance of ethnic or other groups causes misunderstandings or even offense, simply because we are unfamiliar with how our actions are perceived.

Because some of us are not black, we do not concern ourselves with issues important to black people. The same holds true for Latinos, Asians, Muslims, immigrants, homosexuals, and any other group you care to mention. If we do not belong to that specific group, chances are we do not care too much what their specific problems or complaints are. However, society, the world, is made up of these diverse groups and it is ignorance that keeps us from working together. Understanding is the key to success.

Society is made up of so many different groups that we mostly follow our own course, hoping to graduate and move on in the world without ever having experienced the opportunity of knowing other students of diversity here on campus. Thus, we enter the marketplace with knowledge proclaimed by a degree, but little common sense and understanding.

We sit next to someone in class perhaps, but that is not getting to know them. Joining a campus organization, club or attending an event is paramount to understanding those who are different than us. If you do not take advantage of our diversity here on campus, you will lack so-called people skills in your future occupation.

By joining an organization, or at least attending campus events, you will come in contact with students who share a common bond and yet come from various backgrounds, cultures and experiences. You will enter into a social atmosphere that you will not find in your neighborhood of friends, and you may even develop new and interesting friendships along the way.

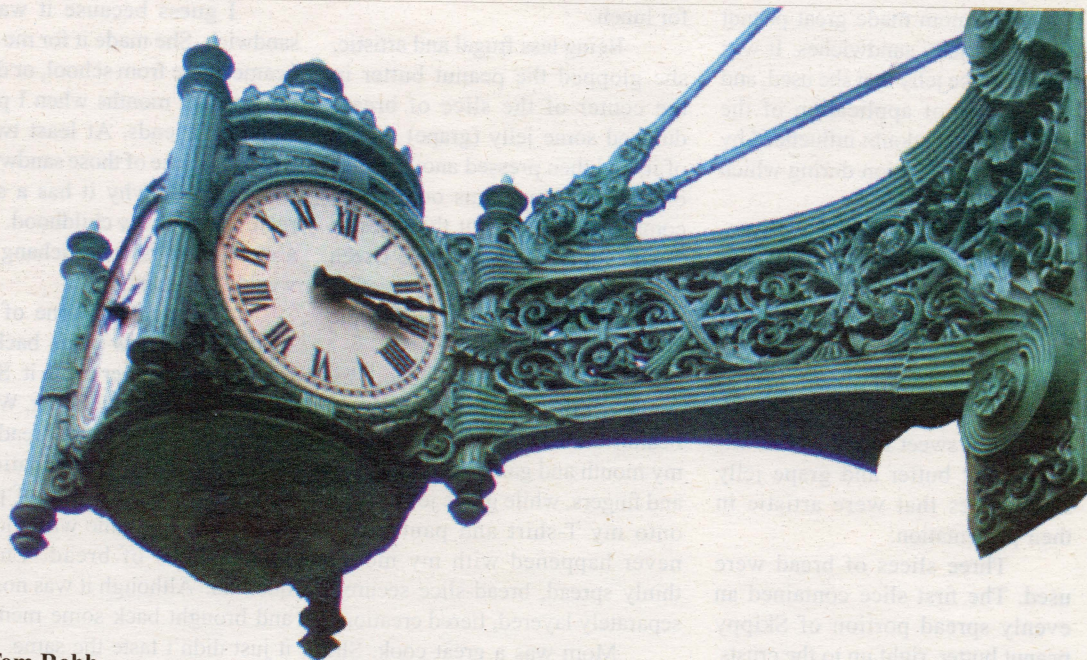
By participating in events such as the GLBTA (Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Alliance) annual Coming Out Ball, or any other organizational activities throughout the academic year, you will enrich your understanding of others and yourself.

Immersing yourself in studies makes you no different than hundreds of thousands of other students around the country with whom you will one day compete with in the job market. Your involvement with fellow students through campus activities will give you an edge most people miss.

Northeastern's diversity will enrich you—if you will take advantage of the opportunities presented by joining student organizations or participating in their scheduled events. Not everything you need to know is found in your textbooks.

## Let the homogenization begin

*Chicago loses landmarks that make this city great*



photos by Dorian Barrios

by Tom Robb  
*News Editor*

Chicago has long been known as the Second City, as in second to New York. If the latest trend keeps up, Chicago will not shed that title anytime soon. The recent announcements that Marshall Field's will be replaced with Macy's and the closing of the 107-year-old Berghoff restaurant are two examples of this recent trend of losing Chicago landmarks.

Seventy year old owner Herman Berghoff, grandson of the founder of the century old Chicago restaurant, is retiring. His daughter, Carlyn Berghoff, plans to use the restaurant space for a catering and event company. She will also drop the Berghoff name, according to the *Chicago Tribune* and CLTV News.

"It's hard to believe," Rich Melman, head of Lettuce Entertain You Enterprises, told the *Chicago Tribune*. "I feel such a personal loss for Chicago. It's like losing the Cubs or something."

The 107-year-old restaurant is not all Chicago is losing. Chicago's Marshall Field's is also passing away. Field's will become Macy's, a name familiar to New Yorkers, but not Chicagoans.

So what is lost by this? Who cares who owns the stores or restaurants, as long as the food is good, the prices are cheap, and the sales frequent?

The whole city should care, and one only needs to look at Chicago history and the names on our streets and museums to

understand why.

How would the Target Museum of Natural History sound or the Toyota Aquarium? Comiskey Park has already been lost and is now U.S. Cellular Field, a term most White Sox fans refuse to use, calling it simply "Sox Park."

Chicago's elite used to invest in Chicago and participate in city functions. Until only a few years ago, Mr. Marshall Field III was chairman of the board of the Art Institute of Chicago. However, this trend seems to be changing, with the possible exception of the Pritzger family and a few others.

At the turn of the century, Marshall the Columbian Exposition and World's Fair. Not to be outdone, John G. Shedd bankrolled the Shedd Aquarium, and another man named Adler opened a planetarium. All these buildings fit nicely into Daniel Burnham's city plan and his "front yard" of Grant Park.

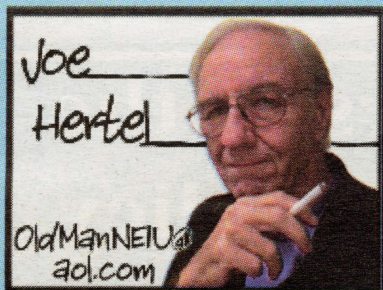
It appears today that there are very few who look to Chicago and want to make it better. It seems that big faceless corporations want to come in, many from New York, and get the best marketing placement for their product or company name.

There is one notable exception who follows the old Field, Shedd and Adler model. Donald Trump has plans to build a skyscraper in the space that once held the *Chicago Sun-Times*, but then again, he also is from New York City...



## Old Man on Campus

### Broken Resolutions (as usual)



My resolutions for the coming year have already fallen through. I broke every one of them by the evening of the first day. I also think I broke at least six of the Ten Commandments in the process. You would think at my age I would know better, but no, I keep sticking the fork into the electrical outlet thinking this time will be different.

As usual, my column was turned in late to my editor (Resolution #1: hand column in on time). Nursing a hangover (Resolution #2: no more excessive drinking) from New Year's eve, there was no way I could write a column on New Year's day that made any sense, much less find the letters on the keyboard to enter my

thoughts into the computer. Instead, I just sat there with a cigarette dangling (Resolution #3: stop smoking) from my lips, staring at a blank document on Word Perfect.

I had met my friends the afternoon before at my neighborhood pub (Resolution #4: stop hitting on the cute bartenders at the pub) for a few beers (Resolution #2 again) before heading out for the evening's festivities.

I had spent New Year's Eve at my favorite Bistro (Resolution #5: curb unnecessary expenses), playing the drums in a makeshift combo (Resolution #6: stop making an ass of yourself in front of people). When I got home after midnight, I opened a bottle of champagne (Resolution #2) and personally toasted the New Year (Resolution #7: know when to call it a night) and went to sleep.

The following morning I had a small breakfast (Resolution #8: no more mixing Cheerios and beer) and meandered around the

apartment until late afternoon (Resolution #9: begin effective time management). Unable to think of something to write (Resolution #1), I decided to head out in the early evening and see a few friends at another nearby drinking establishment (Resolution #2 ... again. I also think Resolution #4 is applicable here, even though this is a lesbian bar).

The place was more crowded than usual and I had to wait a while after ordering a BLT on toast sandwich (Resolution #5). While waiting for the sandwich, I finished my friend's plate of refried beans with cheese (Resolution #10: watch your salt intake). The sandwich finally came as our little group relocated to the other side of the bar room for karaoke.

It's always fun sitting at the table with six or seven young ladies (Resolution #11: Stop hitting on your lesbian friends—it ain't gonna happen!), drinking (Resolution #2) and singing a few songs (Resolution #6) on karaoke night.

I went home around eleven and had another beer (Resolutions #2 and 7) and then retired for the evening.

Now, here it is, the day after deadline, and I'm still working on the column (Resolution #1) but this time it is beginning to take shape and should be finished in time to hand in by late afternoon. I want to finish it before this evening since I am meeting my male friends at the pub tonight (Resolutions #1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7) as I do every Monday.

It is evident, recalling the last two days, that making resolutions for the New Year is a bit futile at my age. I think I'll restart by just making one resolution this year, and that is to not make any more resolutions and just do the best with what I got. As Popeye the Sailor said, "I 'yam what I 'yam, and that's all that I 'yam."

Happy New Year!

# Goobers and grapes

by Joe Hertel  
Opinions Editor

You will discover as you age that the seemingly unimportant aspects of your childhood will have the most influence on your memories. Little things you took for granted will become the nostalgic stuff you miss the most.

My mom made great peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. It was always grape jelly that she used, and her method of application of the spreads was no doubt influenced by the Great Depression during which she grew up.

There were some carry-overs from the 1930s that my mom utilized, such as a single slice of white bread, lightly spread with room-temperature softened butter and sprinkled with sugar. This is what I got instead of a candy bar to satisfy my sweet tooth. But it was the peanut butter and grape jelly sandwiches that were artistic in their presentation.

Three slices of bread were used. The first slice contained an evenly spread portion of Skippy peanut butter, right up to the crusts. Then, the second slice was placed on the peanut butter and coated with grape jelly, which was then topped

with the final slice. The sandwich was then cut into quarters.

When my cousin was often over playing, we would have these sandwiches for lunch, giving us energy and filling our stomachs for the rest of the day of play. Once, and only once, when we were at my cousin's house did we ask his mom to make us a P & J sandwich for lunch.

Being less frugal and artistic, she glopped the peanut butter in the center of the slice of bread, dumped some jelly (grape) on top of it, and then pressed another slice of bread on top, thus oozing the combined mixture out the sides of the bread. Never before had I seen the two ingredients mixed together in a brown-purple-colored cowpie sandwich.

The portions were, by comparison to my mom's, generous. Peanut butter stuck to the roof of my mouth and gathered on my chin and fingers, while grape jelly oozed onto my T-shirt and pants. This never happened with my mom's thinly spread, bread-slice secured, separately layered, tiered creation.

Mom was a great cook. She was a traditional homemaker. She made apple and cherry pies from scratch, using the fruit from the

trees that grew in our back yard. She made standing rib roasts, leg of lamb and other culinary delights around holidays and special occasions. Sunday meals always took hours of preparation, beginning after the breakfast dishes were done. So why then is her peanut butter and jelly sandwich so predominant in my memory?

I guess because it was my sandwich. She made it for me when I came home from school, or during the summer months when I played with my friends. At least twice a week I had one of those sandwiches. Maybe that's why it has a strong relationship to my childhood. It was a stabilizing factor, unchanging; a weekly constant.

I tried making one of those sandwiches a few years back, just the way my mother made it. Skippy smooth style peanut butter, Welch's grape jelly and Wonder bread. I did it exactly to her specifications: a thin, evenly spread line of peanut butter, and the same with the jelly. Three slices of bread. Cut into quarters. Although it was nostalgic and brought back some memories, it just didn't taste the same. It was missing one ingredient.

It wasn't made with her love.

## VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

### Friends as enemies



**“W**hy can't we be friends?”

This is the proverbial Kiss of Death to many guys in love, like, or lust. If you're the one who usually says it, you'll almost inevitably be scorned. Mutual friends will say, “Are you crazy? Of

course you can't be friends.” It's the general consensus, ladies and gentlemen, that men and women can't talk to one another without attraction getting into the way.

Anybody who holds this view will tell you that being a friend (with a roll of the eyes) is the equivalent of being thrown into a wasteland. Akin to castrating a man, this label on a relationship makes it worse than non-existent.

All the good times spent as a friend raises the question, “Why aren't we dating?” All the bad times spent as a friend lead to statements such as “This is why we're not dating.”

All the while, the one who wishes to maintain a friendship becomes some oblivious monstrous person who chooses to overlook what they have right in front of them. In wanting to talk, converse, share, or hang with a peer, this person is really imparting their regards of worthlessness towards the other ... manifesting their utter disgust towards you, the rejected.

Rejected. Rejected? Being friends with someone you like is not like having a time-out or a punishment. A friend under any definition is someone you care about, share interests with, and enjoy spending time with. While some titles bearing the word “friend” may include physical acts of intimacy, those are not the ones we're talking about ... and that may be what started this whole thing in the first place.

At one point, in a land faraway called high school, I was invited to get some Subway and watch a movie by a boy I frequently spoke to in the confines of school. We had similar interests and he seemed like a fun guy to spend an afternoon with chatting. So we got food, walked to his house, and put on a good movie. Halfway through, he told me he liked me and asked me out. Surprised, I politely said that I wasn't considering a romantic relationship, but was really happy with the day we had spent and would like to hang out more often. Five minutes later he dropped me off at home. He politely told me that he had no interest in talking to me then. “Fine, now I know exactly why I shouldn't have dated you,” was my response. I didn't want to be with anyone who didn't value my company sans the kissing and the girlfriend title.

And later on I found out he was a bad kisser regardless ... but I digress.

Some would say he was smart for not involving himself with a relationship that wasn't going anywhere. So, I ask, where is it supposed to go? Do you initiate friendships with girls who you find nothing in common with and can't stand? Wouldn't you only be able to hold friendships with those opposite of your sexual preference? And if not, they would have to be incredibly unattractive. Then again, I have met people who will only talk to people who are attractive. I would imagine that would prove difficult considering the implications so far.

So, if men and women can't be friends unless they are absolutely not interested in talking to each other, does that mean we all need to hide away in our homes for fear that we may run into someone of the opposite sex? Would we have to play six degrees of sexual preference every time we threw a party? Or maybe should it be considered that such prescribed points of view, concerning friends and the sexes between which it occurs, are just plain bitterness?

### MAILBAG The Festival of Lights is important

Dear Editor,

I was extremely disappointed to read what should have been a light-hearted piece on the Jewish holiday of Chanukah (“Chanukah, the Festival of Lights”) in the December 6 issue of the *Independent*. The story's assertion that the rebellion that inspired Chanukah is only popular because of its proximity to Christmas, is all wrong. There is nothing ironic about a holiday, which celebrates the Jewish people's ability to keep their religion intact, becoming more popular with American Jews who live in a Christian dominated society inundated with everything Christmas. It is Chanukah's example of religious perseverance that has helped make it the perfect holiday history lesson for Jewish people. Celebrating “The Festival of Lights” gives us a chance to reaffirm why we are special for *not* celebrating Christmas.

The article's other claimed irony is that there are Israeli sports teams which go by the name of “Maccabees.” This is supposed to be ironic because Maccabee was the last name of the leaders of the Jewish revolt (Chanukah) that overthrew Greek Hellenism, and now Jewish athletes wear the name while participating in sports with Greek roots. The story of Chanukah is about the fight against religious assimilation and has nothing to do with cultural things like sports. To infer that this is somehow ironic is just as ridiculous as the story's first assumption. In my opinion, this article not only misses the religious significance of Chanukah, but it distorts and demeans a holiday that is important to millions of people ... including a number of students at this university.

Adam Salamon  
Student, History Major

They've been intriguing, angering, amusing and entertaining you for a few years now.



They're graduating soon. Join the *Independent* and be a part of the next generation of award-winning columnists, reporters and photographers. Our office is E-049, next to the cafeteria. Or email us at [neiu\\_independent@yahoo.com](mailto:neiu_independent@yahoo.com)

### 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 [neiu\\_independent@yahoo.com](mailto:neiu_independent@yahoo.com)



# “Over There,” a war story on two fronts

by Tom Robb  
News Editor

War stories are nothing new to television or movies, but “Over There” gives a complex view of the battlefields, both “over there” and back at home. Characters are forced to make the best among nothing but bad choices.

These difficult choices are equally made by the soldiers and their civilian

friends and families. Steven Bochco of “NYPD Blue” created this series, which airs on the FX network.

The situations have the same tension as “NYPD Blue,” but they are heightened as this is the war zone of Iraq and death can come at any instant to anyone.

“Over There” is gripping television. Comparisons to the real war in Iraq, as seen on the news every night, are unavoidable. This can be distracting and at the same time adds weight to the context of show.

“Over There” follows one infantry unit through a different mission or duty each week. One week it may be manning a checkpoint; another week may show them doing guard duty at a prison or protecting contractors doing reconstruction.

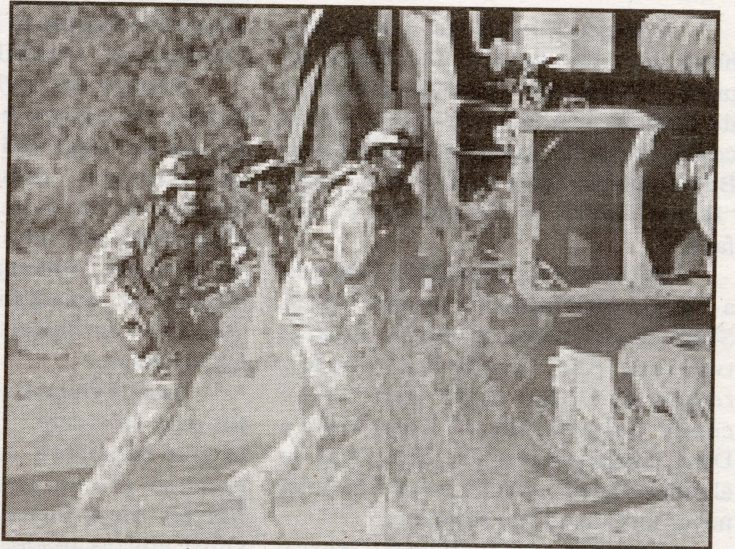
What makes “Over There” different from other war dramas is how the show connects the war with the struggles at home. One soldier’s wife spins into alcoholism and rampant sexual promiscuity.

Another soldier loses his leg and the show follows his assimilation from soldier back into married civilian life.

Brenda “Mrs. B” Mitchell, played by Nicki Aycox, even goes AWOL (absent without leave) from Iraq to Los Angeles, only to discover she is having trouble adjusting to civilian life and goes back to her unit.

In one episode, a young boy is having trouble carrying two buckets of water from a well. A soldier wants to help, but the sergeant tells the soldier that helping the boy can cause more problems than it will solve. The soldier helps the boy anyway, causing the Imam to become irate.

The characters do not directly comment on the rightness or wrongness of the war as they did in the 1970’s



Through each mission, these brothers in arms and their families back home feel the constant strain of war.

movie and television series “M\*A\*S\*H.” They do comment on the situations they find themselves in and how much of a “SNAFU” (situation normal, all f\*\*\*d up) things can be.

“Over There” gives a Hollywood take on what life might be like as a soldier in Iraq. Much like “NYPD Blue,” it is raw and shocking at times, and from a civilian’s point of view, it may have some sense of what life is like in the combat zone.

Whether veterans of the war find it realistic or not, “Over There” is an intense drama that tells the story in a surprisingly non-political way, yet it still manages to convey the human costs of war as told through the experience of one unit and



Truth is stranger than fiction, but fiction can be as real as truth.

# My big ol’ stupid heart

Reverend Kenny’s CD, like country music was intended

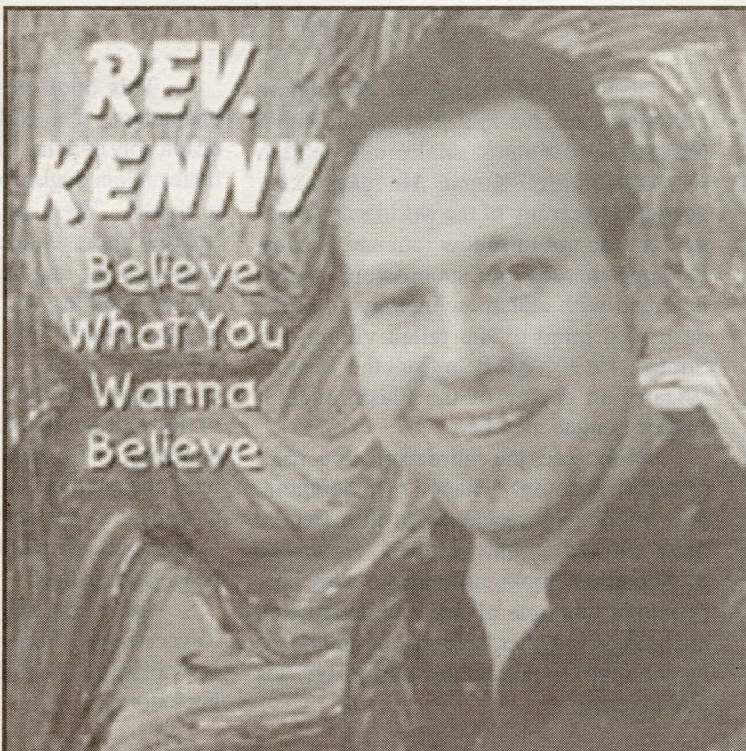
by Joe Hertel  
Opinions Editor

Listening to Reverend Kenny’s CD, *Believe What You Wanna Believe*, is like closing your eyes and imagining yourself in a 1950’s Nashville recording studio. This stuff, unlike today’s electronically hyped up country “rock,” is really old fashioned country and western music, as it was originally meant to be.

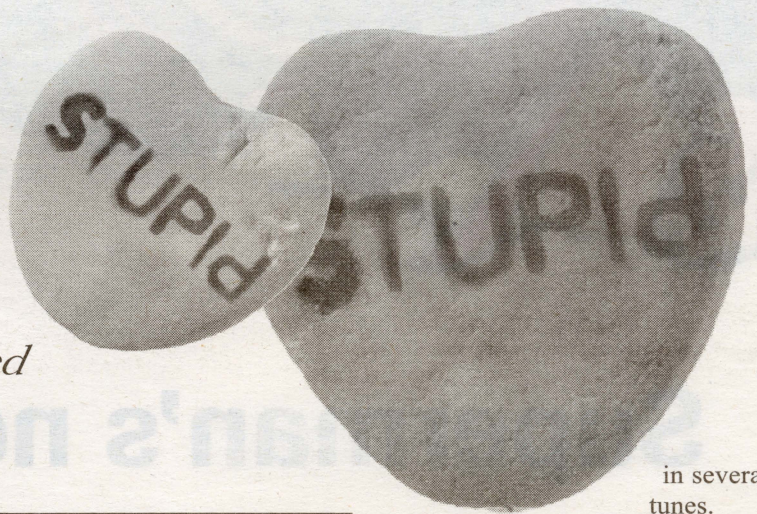
Kenny D. Kozlowski, an ordained minister in the Universal Life Church of Modesto California, has produced a CD consisting of 13 songs, all written by Kozlowski, with the exception of “A Cheetah and A Cheater,” which is co-written by Taylor Kozlowski. The CD reminds one of the roadside honky-tonks in which we hear this type of unadulterated music. Rev. Kenny also composed the music for all the songs, except for one composed by John Kozlick in “Don’t Do Me This Way.”

Classic two-step songs, modulating between fast and slow tempo, are well supported with the driving electric guitar of Dave Mick and steady drums of Brian Chinino. Also included on the cuts are the banjo, mandolin, keyboard and accordion of Kozlick.

Rev. Kenny’s wailing, sometimes effectively strained voice, is also accompanied by Larry “Fish” Bevignani on bass, Jesus Edwardo Florido on violin, Nelson Santana on percussion, and Kozlick on acoustic guitar. In addition, the floating background vocals of Liz Berg can be heard



Reverend Kenny’s CD is country as it was truly meant to be.



in several of the tunes.

From the foot stompin’ “If Hard Liquor Could Cure Me” and “Long Freight Train,” to the more personal “My Big Old Stupid Heart” and “I Wanna Love You Tonight,” Rev. Kenny sings in a style reminiscent of Hank Williams or others of the Grand Old Opry.

The CD, which is issued on the Music Loft label and is available at all of Rev. Kenny’s gigs, is what one might consider a family effort (he thanks his wife and family in the introduction sheet). Stop into Star Gaze (5419 N. Clark in Chicago), an alternate lifestyle establishment, on Sundays at around

8:00 p.m., when Rev. Kenny hosts karaoke. Meet a warm-hearted individual who advises you to “Believe What You Want to Believe.” You can also visit the web site at [www.revkenney.com](http://www.revkenney.com).

When you hear his collection of songs on this CD, you will believe that Reverend Kenny should keep on writing and composing his music.



# Deal's Gone Bad and Lord Mike's Dirty Calypsonians rock Midwest Skafest 2005

*Ska is far from dead and has a sense of humor*

by Tom Robb  
News Editor

A large, Jolly Roger pirate flag hung over the stage at the Metro as pints of Guinness were raised high in the air to the nearly unintelligible words coming from the mouth of Deal's Gone Bad Guitarist Dave Simon as he sang "Dread Rock" to the crowd of Ska fans.

Midwest Ska Fest 2005 featured a varied ensemble of music—from Skapone and Mustard Plug's punkish two-tone Ska, to the rock steady reggae of Deal's Gone Bad, to the comic Calypso-Ska of Lord Mike's Dirty Calypsonians. The show was an alcohol-fueled raucous good time that never took itself too seriously.

The show also marked the release of Deal's Gone Bad's latest CD, the *Longest Happy Hour*, a compilation of music from their three CDs: *Large and in Charge*, *Overboard*, and *Guide to Boat Drinks and Cruise Cocktails*. If a

pirate theme seems apparent, it is. The CD combines the Irish influences of the Pougues and Flogging Molly with the old school Ska Reggae of Laurel Aitken and a strong punk sensibility.

Though the styles of Ska varied widely, the energy both in the crowd and on the stage did not. It was high and constant, though a bit more frenzied for the more punkish Mustard Plug, who put on a musically solid set of music, although it was not that original or remarkable. The strongest sets were definitely Deal's and the Calypsonians.

Deal's Gone Bad has been around for over ten years. Their horn playing used to be slightly out of tune, but the great song writing and Guinness and Makers Mark fueled antics and pirate spirit always made for a good show. The highlight of Deal's set came when former front man Mike Park, with his lower baritone, joined new vocal leader Todd "Corndog" Hembrook for a rousing version of "Pirates."

I had never seen a conga line at a Ska show until seeing Lord Mike's Dirty Calypsonians. The band featured much of the same alcohol fueled pirate spirit of Deal's Gone Bad, and many of Deal's former and current members. The difference between the bands is that while Deal's has a more straight-ahead punk sensibility, the Calypsonians are all about the theatrics.

The band all wore white slacks and red Cuban shirts, and they featured "the Two Carmens," two dancers dressed like Carmen Miranda. Musically they were generally tight, with a Hammond B3 sounding keyboard, congas, and a large horn section. Mike Park's crooner baritone voice fits many of the old calypso covers the band does.

Though many people may not think Calypso and Ska go together, there is a good deal of historical precedent for it. Ska luminary Laurel Aitken told the *Independent* that Calypso was one of his big influences back when he first came to England from the Caribbean

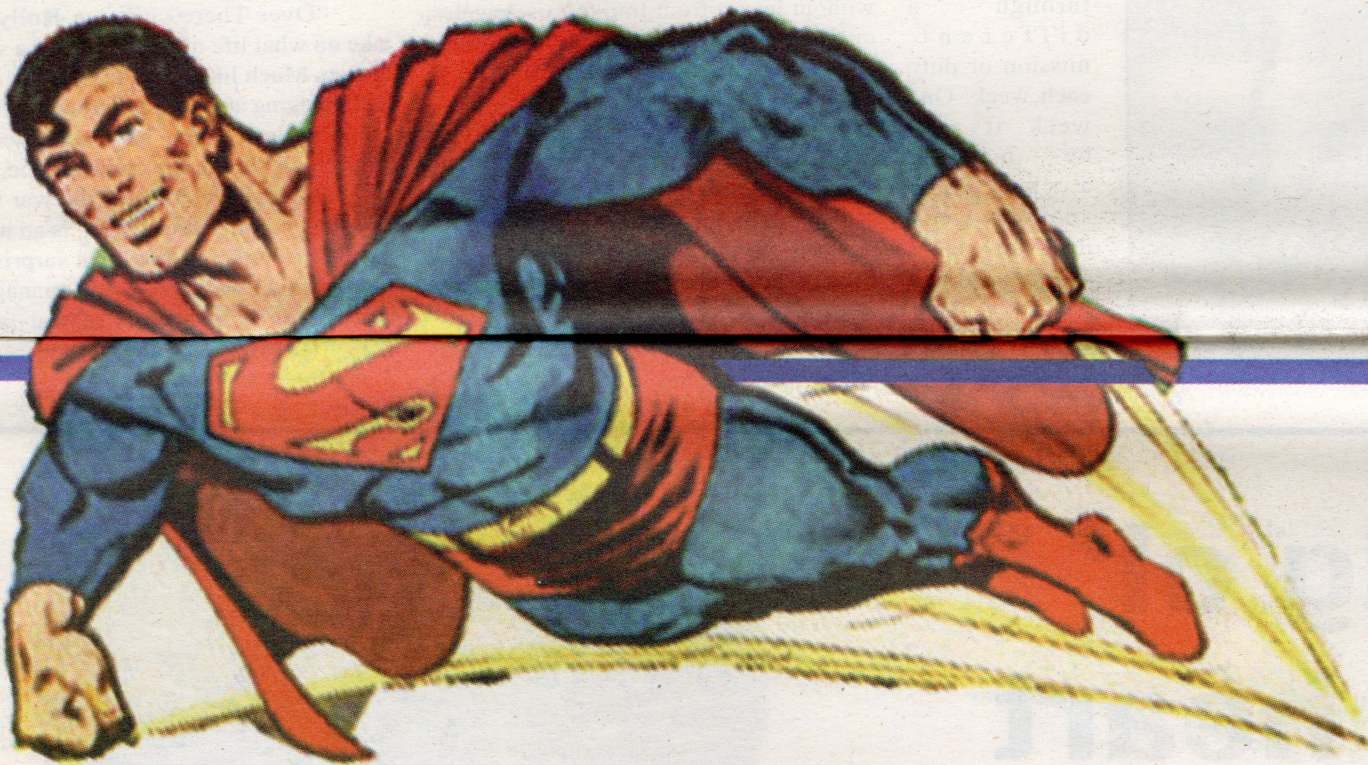
and started playing music—before it was even called Ska.

Chuck Wren, founder of Jump Up records, a local label which many of Chicago's Ska bands are signed to, said he got the idea to put Mike Park in a calypso band shortly after he left Deal's Gone Bad.

Wren described Lord Mike's Dirty Calypsonians as "the retirement home for Deal's Gone Bad," stating that as Deal's has increased its touring schedule nationally, some members of Deal's who do not want to tour as much have joined the Calypsonians. The Calypsonians include members of The Sonnets, Deal's Gone Bad, The Drama, Situation Normal, The Business, and the Max Weinberg Seven.

Midwest Ska Fest 2005 has proved that Ska is far from dead—and that it has a sense of humor.

Find out more about Chicago Ska at [www.jumpuprecords.com](http://www.jumpuprecords.com), [www.dealsgonebad.com](http://www.dealsgonebad.com), and [www.dirtycalypso.com](http://www.dirtycalypso.com).



## Superman's never ending battle

by Michael Sy  
Staff Writer

*Superman: The Never Ending Battle*, one of the six novels published by Pocket Star Books on the Justice League of America series, stars none other than the greatest super hero in American history, Superman. The book, written by Roger Stern and based on the character created by Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, came out last year in June of 2004.

This story regarding terrorism and natural disasters follows the exploits of the Last Son of Krypton and the Justice League. Together, they solve the mystery of the abnormality behind the weather related mass destruction that seems to be targeting the League members' hometowns and destroying most of the United States.

It soon reveals that the destruction afflicting America is a plot by the super terrorist and fanatic snake cult leader, who calls himself Kobra. He plans to lay genocide upon any of the world's countries that choose not to follow him and exhaust the super heroes into submission. Kobra is armed with stolen technology from the destroyed mind of the fallen villain, Dr. Stratos. He also has help from the Weather Wizard, an enemy of the Flash, another Justice League member.

Kobra sees the entire world as corrupt sinners whose only chance of redemption is to pledge subservience to him (where have we heard that before). However, as Superman looks around, he sees how people in this time of fear and destruction are brought together, helping one another as he continues to protect the world from this global terror.

This book is full of great characters. The bad guys are so despicably evil that they are almost believable enough to be considered terrorists. There are also good-hearted men, women, heroes and civilians, emphasizing the innate goodness in people's hearts. Even if this book is a fictional work, it is still an example to the reader of how great mankind's capacity is to care and help one another. It is a testament to our desire to seek out and uphold peace and justice.

*Superman: The Never Ending Battle* is available now in most bookstores.

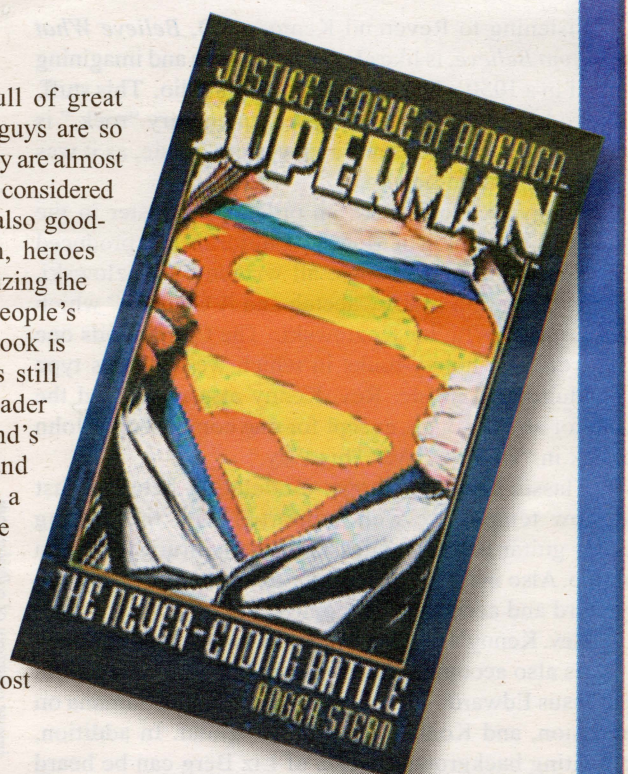


image courtesy of starnel/database.com

# Pollard's Picks

*Tripling the cinematic fun*



## Aeon Flux is no Catwoman

Critics band together to hate Paramount's latest flick



If the critics are to be believed, Charlize Theron seems to be following in the footsteps of Halle Berry, an Oscar-winning actress who performs in an action film that turns into a flop. While *Aeon Flux* was far from the blockbuster Paramount had probably hoped it would be, it

is by no means as bad as Berry's horrid *Catwoman*.

The movie is loosely based on the MTV cartoon created by Peter Chung. Much has been changed concerning the story of *Aeon Flux*. In the original MTV series, Aeon Flux was a mysterious and amoral secret agent from the country of Monica. Episodes featured very light dialogue, lots of action and violence, and frequently ended with Aeon dying at the end of the episodes.

In the film, Aeon (Theron) is still a secret agent, but the Monicans are now a group of rebels trying to overthrow the government on a futuristic Earth. When Aeon is sent after the Chairman Trevor Goodchild (Marton Csokas), she discovers another mystery concerning her past, as well as the nature of the world she finds herself in.

Critics seem to have united against the film, and most of this hatred seems to deal with spite towards Paramount as opposed to being an actual examination of the film itself. *Aeon Flux* wasn't screened for critics, something they find annoying. Almost from the beginning, critics went into the film expecting to hate it, thus the excessive number of negative reviews.

However, *Aeon Flux* is nowhere near as bad as the critics would have you believe. The film certainly has its flaws. The dialogue in the movie is very stiff at times and comes off as a bit forced, and some of the secondary characters are not given enough development. With that being said, the film itself seems to suffer from the fact that it was marketed as a typical sci-fi action movie, which it is not.

There is quite a bit of action in the movie, but that is not where it ends. Director Karyn Kusama has created an intriguing world with *Aeon Flux* and brings up interesting scenarios. Drug-induced higher planes of existence, cloning and existentialism are very prevalent themes in the film. If anything, this film is more of a thinking man's sci-fi, comparable to films such as *Gattaca* and *Equilibrium* or the novels of Philip K. Dick.

There are interesting revelations as the film runs its course, and the one thing it suffers from more than anything else is a short runtime. The film would benefit immensely from an extra half hour or so because it barely begins to scratch the surface of the potential of the themes it explores.

Ignore the negative reviews and give *Aeon Flux* a chance. It is not what you will expect, so go in without any expectations. The film is rated PG-13 and is currently playing in theaters. Although at this point, you may have to wait for the DVD release.

## Syriana:

*Everything is connected to oil*



In *Traffic*, Screenwriter Stephen Gaghan teamed with Director Steven Soderbergh to portray the war on drugs through the use of several short stories, which were all connected through drugs. Now, Gaghan has applied that same formula to the oil industry in the movie *Syriana*, loosely adapted from Robert Baer's book, *See No Evil*.

Like *Traffic*, *Syriana* focuses on several characters in small stories that are all somehow connected. Connex, an oil company, once had control over the oil fields in an unnamed country, until the country's foreign minister, Prince Nasir (Alexander Siddig), granted the rights for natural gas drilling to the Chinese after they outbid Connex, a move that upset America. Connex then initiates a shadowy merger with Killen, a smaller oil company that has drilling rights in Kazakhstan. After Connex loses the drilling rights to the Chinese, a migrant worker named Wasim (Mazhar Munir) is laid off and has difficulty finding work.

The Connex-Killen merger attracts attention from the Justice Department, and Bennett Holiday (Jeffrey Wright) is assigned by a Washington law firm to ensure that no reasons are found to block the merger. Bryan Woodman (Matt Damon), an energy analyst based in Switzerland, is hired by Nasir to become his energy advisor. Nasir wishes to break away from

American interests so his country can be fully independent. Bob Barnes (George Clooney) is a CIA field operative who witnesses the theft of a stinger missile while trying to pursue Middle Eastern arms dealers.

The stories intersect at different points in the film, and the use of such a technique shows how connected the entire oil industry is to terrorism. When this film was first announced, many immediately denounced it for being too liberal, without even seeing it. Quite the contrary. Gaghan does a great job of painting a broad picture of the oil industry, and although politics definitely play a part in the film, the movie never takes a liberal or conservative stance. The temptation for such a stance is obviously there, and there are points that can benefit either side of such a large debate. However, to simply denounce *Syriana* as being a liberal film or a conservative film misses the entire point of the movie.

A film with such a great cast as this one makes it difficult to select the best performance, but George Clooney truly shines in this role. One can only hope that this is the film when Clooney finally gets the recognition he has deserved. Although the nominations have yet to be released, one is confident that *Syriana* will be a contender for the upcoming Academy Awards.

*Syriana* is rated R and is currently playing in theaters.

## Memoirs of a Geisha



The recent film from Director Rob Marshall (Chicago), *Memoirs of a Geisha*, has acquired quite a bit of controversy. Most of the controversy is due to the choice to cast Chinese actresses Ziyi Zhang, Li Gong and Michelle Yeoh in a movie centered around Japanese characters before, during and after World War II.

Adapted from Arthur Golden's novel of the same name, *Memoirs of a Geisha* is the story of Chiyo (Suzuka Ohgo), a poor girl from a small fishing village. With her mother's health failing, Chiyo and her sister, Satsu (Samantha Futerman), are sold off by their father. Satsu is sent to a brothel, but Chiyo is sent to an okiya, where geisha live and train.

The film follows Chiyo's life from childhood and the trials she faces in the okiya, particularly from the okiya's most prominent geisha, Hatsumomo (Gong). After an attempted escape, Chiyo's debt to the okiya's Mother (Kaori Momoi) is so great that she must be condemned to the life of a maid, since she's not worth the investment of becoming a geisha. One day, while depressed, an act of kindness from a wealthy businessman named Chairman Iwamura (Ken Watanabe) gives Chiyo new hope.

From there, Zhang takes over the role of Chiyo and the story follows her attempts to become a geisha in hopes of once again crossing paths with the Chairman. Hatsumomo's chief rival, Mameha (Yeoh) takes Chiyo under her wing and trains her to become a geisha, eventually changing her name to Sayuri.

Despite the controversy surrounding the casting of Chinese actresses, Marshall did indeed make solid decisions when he chose these actresses. Zhang, Gong and Yeoh are all extremely talented and they bring a lot of

passion into their performances. Zhang's interactions with both Yeoh and Gong are perfect, particularly during a heartfelt scene where Mameha tells Sayuri that they do not become geishas to pursue their own destinies. The passion exuded by the two actresses in this one scene is enough to bring a tear to one's eye. Watanabe, although lacking the same amount of screen time as the other three actresses, provides the same stellar performance, perfectly exemplifying the kindness and good nature of the Chairman.

The film is more or less a very faithful adaptation of Golden's novel. The novel is more in-depth than the film, obviously, going into more detail about Chiyo's life before she became a geisha, as well as describing what happened to her after the events of the film. Also, the relationship between Sayuri and the character of Nobu (Kôji Yakusho) is downplayed in the film, whereas it was a very large focal point in the novel. There are some other small changes and alterations between the novel and the film, which seem almost meaningless and without any logic behind the change.

While much of Golden's lyricism in his prose could not be preserved in the movie, Marshall instead conveys it through the beautiful cinematography. Of particular interest is Sayuri's dance scene, as well as the beauty of the gardens and the kimonos in the film.

In the end, Marshall found a good way to bring Golden's novel to the big screen, and while it is not a perfect adaptation, he still manages to capture the spirit of Sayuri's story, while preserving the beauty and majesty that made the book so popular in the first place.

*Memoirs of a Geisha* is rated PG-13 and is currently out in theaters. The novel by Arthur Golden can be found in most bookstores.

# Eagle's Nest

## Lifestyles of the Northeastern Community



### What you know could fill a book

by Elizabeth Rodriguez  
Senior Staff Writer

Using a web-based encyclopedia has its perks, especially when writing a research paper the night before it is due. The internet encyclopedia Wikipedia brings free, though controversial, articles to the masses.

Its slogan, "The free encyclopedia that anyone can edit," gets to the heart of Wikipedia's purpose. Once registering with the web site, truly anyone can submit an article to be reviewed by the anonymous editorial staff. No credentials or degrees are required. Once articles make it into the encyclopedia, "anyone with access to a web browser" can add or change material to any existing article, explains Wikipedia. Therein lies the controversy surrounding Wikipedia.

Critics of Wikipedia charge that the lack of accountability in both the writing and editing of the resource often leads to unreliable and biased material on the web site. Furthermore, since articles can be so easily and anonymously edited, "vandalism" of the web site is a common occurrence. However, a maxim of the web site, "out of mediocrity, excellence," exemplifies the confidence that constant editing of the encyclopedia will ultimately lead to its betterment.

Despite criticism, Wikipedia continues to grow. As of December 2005, it contained over 886,000 articles and has editions in over 200 languages. Wikipedia operates under the GNU Free Documentation License, which use, alter, and distribute the work.

The content of Wikipedia is expansive

### Uncyclopedia is unbelievable

by Jessica Moen  
Senior Staff Writer

Many people are familiar with Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia that you can add to. Not many people have heard of Uncyclopedia, which has a concept similar to Wikipedia, yet at the same time is completely different.

Uncyclopedia is an encyclopedia made entirely of lies and misinformation by its readers. Nothing in there has even a speck of truth to it. This is a site where a seemingly plausible entry is actually a complete fraud intending to amuse rather than educate. This site is not recommended for helping with research papers, unless a professor has a great sense of humor or someone wants to fail the class. It has quickly become The Onion of online encyclopedias.

### A wicked controversy over Wikipedia

and varied. One can find an entry on nearly any topic, from the Franco-Prussian War to the McDonald's marketing character, the Grimace.

The popularity of the encyclopedia also continues to grow, not just with internet users but even with governments. In fact, Wikipedia was listed in a "further reading" list on the Parliament of Canada's web site to provide further information regarding same-sex marriage. It appears that Wikipedia's influence in culture will only continue to grow.



image by Cecilia Carbone

"I like what you wrote, but I'm changing it anyway."

Uncyclopedia lets any reader add articles and even edit existing articles. Although the site is made up of anything and everything, they do have rules. If an article goes too far (for example if it is simply more insulting than funny) or contains too many facts, the page will be "Baleeted!" as they put it.

It has some rather interesting articles in it as well, such as what Betamax really was or how the group Depeche Mode was truly formed. Some of the articles in there are so ridiculous you'll wonder just how much "kitten huffing" the authors did!

For a good laugh and little misinformation, go check out the site <http://uncyclopedia.org>. An important thing to remember, though, is that most of the articles on the site are not G rated!



## Who

is  
that  
**Oprah  
Winfrey  
anyway?**

by Elizabeth Rodriguez  
Senior Staff Writer

Some see her as an angel. Others see a media giant. Others elevate her to cult icon status. When it comes to Oprah Winfrey, one thing is certain: when she talks, millions of people listen.

Oprah, as her fans call her, has come a long way from WVOL radio in Nashville, the birthplace of her career. Today, she hosts the nationally syndicated talk show "The Oprah Winfrey Show," where she connects with 49 million viewers a week in the United States alone.

A hallmark of her talk show includes Oprah's Book Club. Certain episodes feature literary selections and include book discussions with the author and viewers who have read the book. Oprah's Book Club's fall selection is *A Million Little Pieces* by James Frey.

Another episode that viewers often look forward to is the one featuring Oprah's Favorite Things. These episodes, especially those that occur around the holidays, display

a number of products that Oprah herself uses and loves. Some items from her Holiday 2004 list include a wide variety of products from Bundt cakes to wide-screen television sets.

Aside from chatting with everyone from Tom Cruise to Bill Clinton on her enormously successful talk show, Oprah serves as editorial director of *O, the Oprah Magazine*. With a monthly circulation of 26 million readers, Oprah lends her distinct style in the matters of beauty, fashion, and lifestyle.

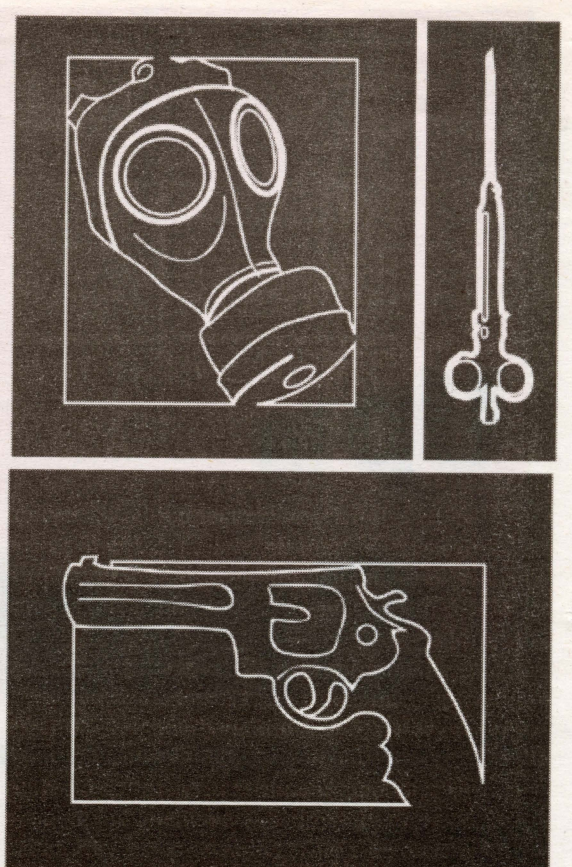
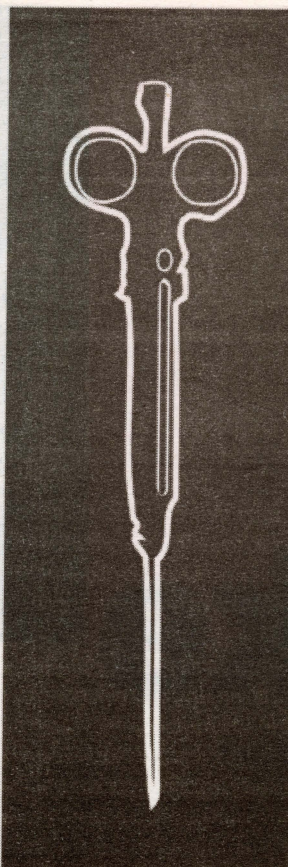
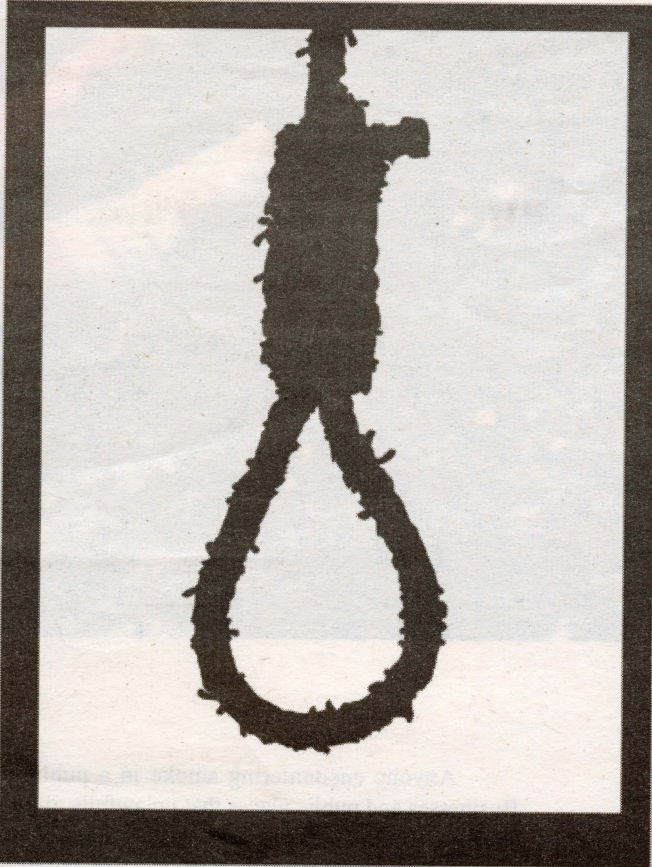
Oprah is also an avid philanthropist, working particularly through her charity, Oprah's Angel Network. Founded in 1998, the charity has raised more than \$35 million with all funds going exclusively to the charity programs.

Named one of the 100 Most Influential People in the 20<sup>th</sup> century by *Time Magazine* and the Most Important Person in Books and Media by *Newsweek*, Oprah's influence is felt across the world. With all that she has accomplished, this is certainly no surprise.

# To kill

# or not to kill

image by Cecilia Carboni



by **Holly Dzewulski**  
Staff Writer

The death penalty is an issue that sparks a lot of debate among people. Some people view the death penalty as being cruel, yet others view the death penalty as being justified. In an October 2005 Gallup Poll, 64 percent of Americans supported the death penalty.

Currently, the death penalty is accepted in 38 of the 50 states: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

The other 12 states, which are Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin, have declared the death penalty to be unconstitutional, therefore outlawing

it.

The state that has the highest number of executions in the U.S. is Texas, with a whopping amount of 355. Illinois ranks sixteenth in the amount of executions with a number of 12 executions. Since 1976, there have been 1,004 executions in the U.S.

The death penalty not only affects adults who have committed serious crimes, but also juveniles who have committed serious crimes. There have

been 22 executions of juveniles in the United States since 1976. On March 1, 2005, case *Roper V. Simmons* stated that the death penalty for juveniles should not be allowed.

Women are also affected by the death penalty. As of July 5, 2005 there were 54 women on death row, which is 1.58 percent of the total death row population. Since 1976, only 11 women have been executed.

There are several methods of execution. The main methods of execution are lethal injection, electrocution, gas chamber, hanging,

or firing squad. Thirty-seven states use lethal injection; 386 people have been executed by this method. Ten states accept electrocution, and 152 people have been executed through this manner. Five states use the gas chamber, and 11 people have been executed with this method. Two states use hanging, with a total of three people executed this way. Only two states use the firing squad, and have used this method to execute two people.

with potassium chloride, which stops the beating of the heart.

Electrocution was first used in 1890. With this method, the inmate is strapped into a chair with electrodes attached to it. Then, the executioner pulls a handle and sends a supply of power between 500 and 2000 volts that last for about 30 seconds. This method continues until the inmate is dead.

The gas chamber was first used in 1924. Through this method, the inmate is strapped to a chair in a chamber that leaks in gas.

For the firing squad, five men are armed with a .30 caliber rifle. The armed men then fire at the inmate's heart that is marked with a circular white cloth. The inmate ends up dying of blood loss. The most recent execution by firing squad was in 1996.

Up until the 1890s, hanging was the most commonly used method of execution. In this method, the inmate is hung with a rope by the neck and then pushed off of a platform, leaving the inmate to hang in the air.

Source:  
[www.deathpenalty.org](http://www.deathpenalty.org)

## A variety of execution methods equal to 1,004 deaths

In Illinois, the main method that is used is lethal injection, or electrocution if lethal injection would be declared unconstitutional.

Lethal injection was first adopted in Oklahoma in 1977. It was not until Dec. 2, 1982, however, that this method was first used on a death row inmate. With this method, the inmate is injected with sodium thiopental, a drug that is used to put the inmate to sleep. Then the inmate is injected with pavulon or pancuronium bromide, which is a drug that paralyzes the inmate. Finally, the inmate is injected

## It's bear-ly believable

### Chicago Bears make it to the playoffs?

by **D. Gordon Macnab**  
Production Editor

Chicago professional sports are full of "long" stints of disappointments with only a few short-lived excitements.
















The past year, 2005, is one of those exciting years. It started with the Chicago Bulls, who with an apparent fluke of a season faced the Washington Wizards in the National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs. Only a couple of seasons ago both the Bulls and the Wizards were the two worst teams in the NBA.

Then came the anticipation of the baseball season and the hope for those "wait 'till next year" loveable losers, the North Sider Cubs, who seemed to have everybody to make to the playoffs, but injuries and a weak plate performance ruined all hope. At the same time, the South Siders were having a fun journey of a season, and they never stopped believing that they were the best of the best, eventually winning the World Series. It was the first time the Chicago White Sox (or any Chicago team) won the World Series since 1918.

The Chicago Bears' 11-5 season gave them a first round bye and home field advantage for the first game in the playoffs. Hopefully, the Bears will bring the finale to the awesome 2005 sports season, as they will play the Carolina Panthers at home on January 15<sup>th</sup>. This will be their second mach-up in this season. The Bears defeated them 13 to 3 on November 20<sup>th</sup>, when Chicago's defense really showed their worth.

However, this is the playoffs, and the Panthers flashed through the New York Giants in a 23-0 blow out. So, the Bears' characteristically weak offence needs to come together. This will be a defensive game.

## Duncan's Super Bowl XL picks

|   |   |   |   |               |   |
|---|---|---|---|---------------|---|
| <br>23 | @   | <br>27                                 | <br>10 | @             | <br>6  |
| <br>20 | @   | <br>23                                 | <br>13 | @             | <br>24 |
| <br>21 | @   | <br>17                                 | <br>20 | @             | <br>45 |
| <b>LOSER</b>  | <br>21 | <br><b>DETROIT</b><br>FEBRUARY 5, 2006 | <br>38 | <b>WINNER</b> |   |

If the Bears win Sunday to make their first NFC Conference Championship appearance in 17 years, they should be rooting for the Washington Redskins to win, even though the Redskins beat Chicago on

September 11<sup>th</sup> with a low scoring affair. Our defense is stronger and Rex Grossman has had more rest and more playing time this round, hopefully enabling them to make their first Super Bowl appearance since 1985.

images courtesy of nfl.com and sportstogoo.net

# Up in Smoke



## Chicago to go smoke free

by Jane Kolkevich  
Staff Writer

A nearly unanimous vote sealed the fate of Chicago smokers on December 7, 2005, as the smoking ban was approved. Following the lead of other major U.S. cities, the recent ban prohibits smoking in most public places of the city as of January 16, 2006.

Complications are bound to hunt a Chicago smoker. A \$100 fine (at most) will penalize one puffing at a CTA train platform or in a condominium lobby. Lighting up outside requires one to be at least 15 feet away from the entrance of any public building where smoking is prohibited. Coincidentally this now includes almost every building in the city.

A major portion of competing lobbyists and public interest groups are dismayed with a victory they feel is partial. Amid the support of Mayor Richard Daley, a compromise was made excluding bars, restaurants attached to bars, and taverns—until July 1, 2008. Unless a proper air filtration system is provided, which the officials say is unlikely, within the two and a half year period bars will also be putting their ashtrays away.

Anyone encountering smoke in a public non-smoking place is liable to dial 911. Businesses and public places that unlawfully allow smoking will face fines of up to \$2,500 as well as a suspension or revocation of license for repeat violations.

Today, more than a quarter of the nation's population lives in a smoke-regulated community. Bans preside in Washington state, a number of cities in Texas, Ohio, Delaware, New York and California. Indiana's Marion County is two months away from going smoke free. Amongst other cities, Chicago suburbs are jumping on the smoke-free bandwagon: Deerfield has approved a ban that takes effect March 1, 2006; Des Plaines is holding a possible smoking ban discussion on January 11; and Lake County hopes to go smoke free by 2007.

Some argue that outlawing a legal product such as cigarettes in select environments causes for "a tyrannical takeover of property rights," exclaims one irate blogger on Daily Kos.com. However, in many places the matter is being presented as a workplace safety issue with second hand smoke being a dangerous contaminant.

The American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago, which strongly supports the ban, has scheduled a free one-hour Quit Tip Workshop insisting on now being a good time to quit. Reservations for an introductory session on January 13 can be made by calling 312.243.2000.

## Tipping tips

by Holly Dzielwski  
Staff Writer

Tipping is generally considered to be a courteous action done after being helped or served by another person. Tipping can, however, be a confusing topic and questions can arise as to how much to tip and whom to tip, as many people have different opinions regarding tipping.

The main places that people leave tips are at restaurants. These tips are generally split between the headwaiter/waitress and the serving waiter or waitress. No less than ten percent of the bill should be tipped when the service is poor, 15 percent of the bill should be tipped for adequate service, and 20 percent of the bill should be tipped for excellent service.

There are many other places and people who can be tipped. Various different web sites list the following people who should be tipped: taxi or limousine drivers, hotel maids, bell hops, coatroom attendants, valet drivers, delivery men, hairdressers, shampoo people, manicurists, spa services, and bars, among many more.

Taxi or limousine drivers are generally tipped about 15 percent, with an extra dollar or two thrown in for getting to the destination within a timely manner or for helping with baggage.

Hotel maids are generally forgotten about in the tipping world. Maids have to do much work in order to keep hotel room cleans and sanitary. They have to clean up after vacationing people. Maids should be tipped about two to five dollars per night spent in the hotel room. Bellhops at hotels should be tipped about one dollar per bag or a minimum of two dollars if there is only one bag.

Coatroom attendants are usually found at large party gatherings or in public places. These people should be tipped about one dollar per coat being checked.

Valet drivers should be tipped about two dollars for bringing the car around. Consider this: what is worse? Having to walk in the rain to the car or tipping someone to bring the car to you?

Food deliverymen go through a major job with having to locate the house and having to wait patiently while money is being found to pay for the food. These people should be tipped about ten percent of the bill and a minimum of one dollar for bills that are ten dollars or under. Fifteen to 20 percent of the bill should be tipped for large or difficult deliveries.

Hairdressers, manicurists, and spa service people are generally tipped about 15 to 20 percent of the bill. Shampoo people should be tipped two dollars for shampooing and drying hair.

Today, bars are the places to go in order to have some fun. Bartenders must deal with the loud noise and fun times that others are having while they are stuck working behind the bar. It is nice to tip bartenders 15 to 20 percent of the tab with a minimum of fifty cents per soft drinks and one dollar for alcoholic beverages.

A point to keep in mind, according to [www.infoplease.com](http://www.infoplease.com), is that tipping is not considered mandatory. It should be done at the tipper's discretion and as a reward for good service.

For information on tipping people other than the ones listed, go to: [www.money.cnn.com/pf/features/lists/tipping/](http://www.money.cnn.com/pf/features/lists/tipping/) or [www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0193529.html](http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0193529.html).

# Everything's falling into

# place

by Jessica Moen  
Senior Staff Writer

Any child from the '80s knows and loves Tetris. This videogame has been around forever and lived through many changes and spin-offs. It exists on every game system, or at least some form of it, and is one of the most popular games available for cell phones. However, not many people know its unique history.

The original Tetris was created by a Soviet man named Alexey Pajitnov in 1984. The actual video game was based on a children's toy in Russia called Pentominos, which contained several different shaped pieces that you had to fit into a box, a common theme in puzzle toys found around the world. It could first only be played on computers, in very simple dot-matrix form. It later was licensed to a company named Mirrorsoft in England. Spectrum HoloByte later released this "Russian puzzle game" to computers.

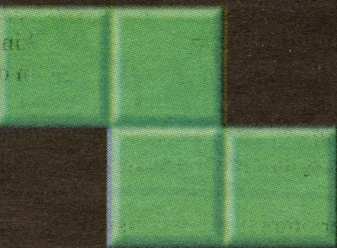
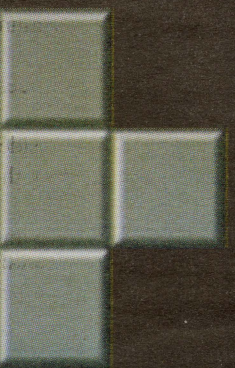
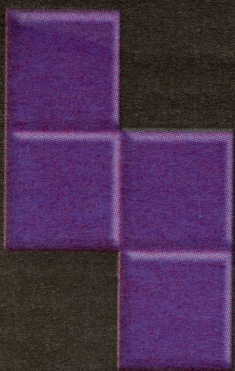
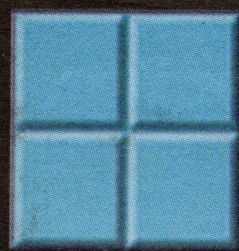
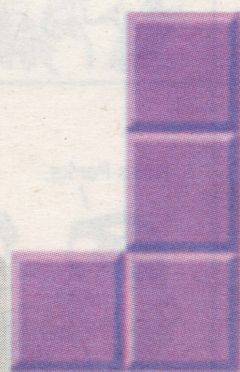
Eventually, after the game was bought and passed around a bit, Tengen (a division of Atari games) bought what they thought were the rights to the game from Mirrorsoft, and produced two of Nintendo's early game systems, the original Game Boy and the NES (Nintendo Entertainment System).

Atari, who owned Tengen, did not like the hefty cut that Nintendo insisted on getting from all their games, and thus went solo, taking Tetris with them. They did this by reverse-engineering a special chip that prevented any third-party game from playing on the systems. Though Nintendo sued, Tengen managed to sell Tetris (and a few other games) for about seven years until Nintendo finally won the lawsuit and Tengen was forced to sell the game. This is why the version of the game commonly seen is the Nintendo version. Because the Tengen version is no longer made, it is considered a very rare collectors item.

This wonderful and popular game has spawned many incarnations, such as Tetris Attack, Tetris 3D, and even some non-Tetris games like Klax and Columns. It was even made into a board game called "Tetris Tower." No matter how many variations there have been, none will be as unique as its complicated beginning.

ROTATE  
MOVE LEFT  
MOVE RIGHT

# TETRIS





## Northeastern Illinois Campus Recreation Group Exercise Schedule Spring I Sessions

www.neiu.edu/~campsrec

January 9<sup>th</sup> – March 4<sup>th</sup> 2006

TIME SESSION NAME LOCATION

### Monday

|              |                         |    |          |
|--------------|-------------------------|----|----------|
| 8:15-9:00am  | Cycling Blast           | S1 | Fadil    |
| 9:00-9:45am  | Hard Core Abs & Stretch | S1 | Fadil    |
| 12:00-1:00pm | Fitness Walking         | SU | Ty       |
| 12:15-1:00pm | Stability Ball & BOSU   | S1 | Nipun    |
| 1:00-2:00pm  | Cardio Kickboxing       | S1 | Martha   |
| 1:00-2:00pm  | Pilates II/III **       | S2 | Dee      |
| 4:30-5:30pm  | Tai Chi                 | S2 | Mark     |
| 4:30-5:30pm  | Muscle Pump & Core      | S1 | Mike     |
| 5:30-6:30pm  | Interval Training       | S1 | Stoyan   |
| 5:30-6:45pm  | Open Yoga               | S2 | Julianne |
| 6:30-7:00pm  | Hard Core Abs           | S1 | Stoyan   |
| 7:00-8:00pm  | Self Defense **         | S1 | Alvin    |

### Tuesday

|               |                          |       |          |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------|----------|
| 8:15-9:15am   | Yoga Stretch             | S1    | Nancy    |
| 9:30-10:30am  | Cycling & Core           | S1    | Jackie   |
| 11:00-12:00pm | Cardio Boxing            | S1    | Martha   |
| 12:15-1:15pm  | Pilates I**              | S2    | Dee      |
| 12:15-1:00pm  | Muscle Pump              | S1    | Nipun    |
| 1:00-1:45pm   | Hard Core Abs & Stretch  | S1    | Nipun    |
| 1:45-2:45pm   | Cycling & Sculpt S1      | Fadil |          |
| 1:45-3:00pm   | Yoga I                   | S2    | Julianne |
| 4:45-5:30pm   | Muscle Sculpt Upper Body | S1    | Dejan    |
| 5:30-6:30pm   | 20/20/20                 | S1    | Elaine   |
| 6:30-8:00pm   | Kung Fu II **            | S1    | Alvin    |

### Wednesday

|              |                         |             |          |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------|----------|
| 8:15-9:00am  | Cycling & Sculpt S1     | Fadil       |          |
| 9:00-9:45am  | Hard Core Abs & Stretch | S1          | Fadil    |
| 12:00-1:00pm | Strength & Balance      | Library 006 | Ty       |
| 12:15-1:00pm | Cycling                 | S1          | Nipun    |
| 1:00-2:00pm  | Muscle Conditioning     | S1          | Nipun    |
| 1:00-2:00pm  | Pilates II/III **       | S2          | Dee      |
| 4:30-5:30pm  | Cardio Sculpt & Core    | S1          | Michelle |
| 4:30-5:30pm  | Moving Meditation **    | S2          | Alla     |
| 5:30-6:30pm  | Sports Conditioning     | S1          | Dejan    |
| 6:30-7:15pm  | Hard Core Abs & Stretch | S1          | Dejan    |

### Thursday

|               |                          |     |          |
|---------------|--------------------------|-----|----------|
| 8:15-9:15am   | Yoga Stretch             | S1  | Nancy    |
| 9:30-10:30am  | Cycling & Core           | S1  | Jackie   |
| 11:00-12:00pm | Cardio Dance             | S1  | Martha   |
| 12:00-1:00pm  | Fitness Walking          | SU  | Ty       |
| 12:15-1:15pm  | Pilates I**              | S2  | Dee      |
| 12:15-1:00pm  | Step & Sculpt            | S1  | Jen      |
| 1:00-1:45pm   | Hard Core Abs & Stretch  | S1  | Jen      |
| 1:45-2:45pm   | Cycling & Sculpt S1      | Dee |          |
| 1:45-3:00pm   | Yoga I                   | S2  | Denise   |
| 4:45-5:30pm   | Muscle Sculpt Lower Body | S1  | Michelle |
| 5:30-6:30pm   | 20/20/20                 | S1  | Elaine   |
| 6:00-7:15pm   | Power Yoga               | S2  | Nancy    |

### Friday

|               |                         |        |        |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| 9:15-10:00am  | Cycling Blast           | S1     | Jackie |
| 10:00-10:45am | Hard Core Abs & Stretch | S1     | Jackie |
| 10:45-11:45am | Cardio Kickboxing +     | S1     | Martha |
| 12:00-1:15pm  | Open Yoga               | S2     | Nancy  |
| 1:00-2:00pm   | Cardio Mix & Sculpt     | S1     | Dejan  |
| 5:00-5:30pm   | Hard Core Abs           | S1     | Martha |
| 5:30-6:30pm   | Athletic Training S1    | Martha |        |

### Saturday

|               |                    |    |          |
|---------------|--------------------|----|----------|
| 9:00-10:00am  | Cardio Kickboxing  | S1 | Martha   |
| 9:30-10:45am  | Open Yoga          | S2 | Julianne |
| 10:00-11:00am | Cycling "Pro Tour" | S1 | Fadil    |
| 11:00-11:30am | Hard Core Abs      | S2 | Fadil    |
| 11:00-12:00pm | Tai Chi            | S2 | Mark     |
| 11:30-12:15pm | Muscle Sculpt      | S1 | Fadil    |
| 12:30-1:15pm  | Cycling Blast      | S1 | Jackie   |
| 1:30-2:30pm   | Kung Fu I **       | S1 | Alvin    |

### Nutrition Series "Food for Thought"

Tuesdays 3:45-4:30 pm PE 2140 Michelle

Fridays 1:30-2:15 pm PE 2140 Michelle

Sessions begin 1/23/06 See separate flyer for more info.

\*\* Registration required, Level I must be taken prior to Level II.  
Register in person at the front desk of the PE Complex by 1/17/06.

S1 - 1<sup>st</sup> floor fitness studio at the end of racquetball courts.  
S2 - 2<sup>nd</sup> floor fitness studio at the end of racquetball gallery.  
SU - Student Union Info Desk

Sessions are subject to cancellation due to low attendance.

A student ID or Membership card is required to access the PE Complex at all times.  
Checkout the web for the latest information at www.neiu.edu/~campsrec or call 773-442-4131  
For safety reasons instructors can deny entrance 10 min after the start of any class.

It's a  
New Year.

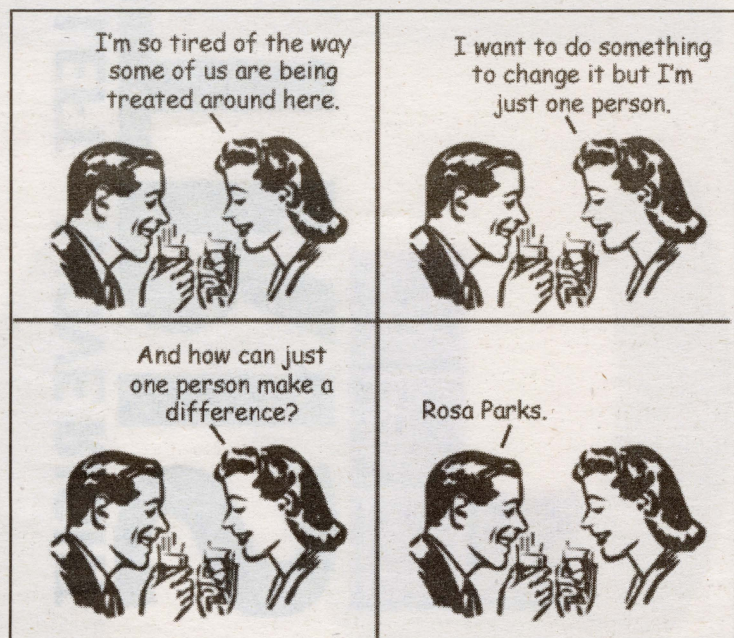
Why not  
start it  
off as a  
journalist?



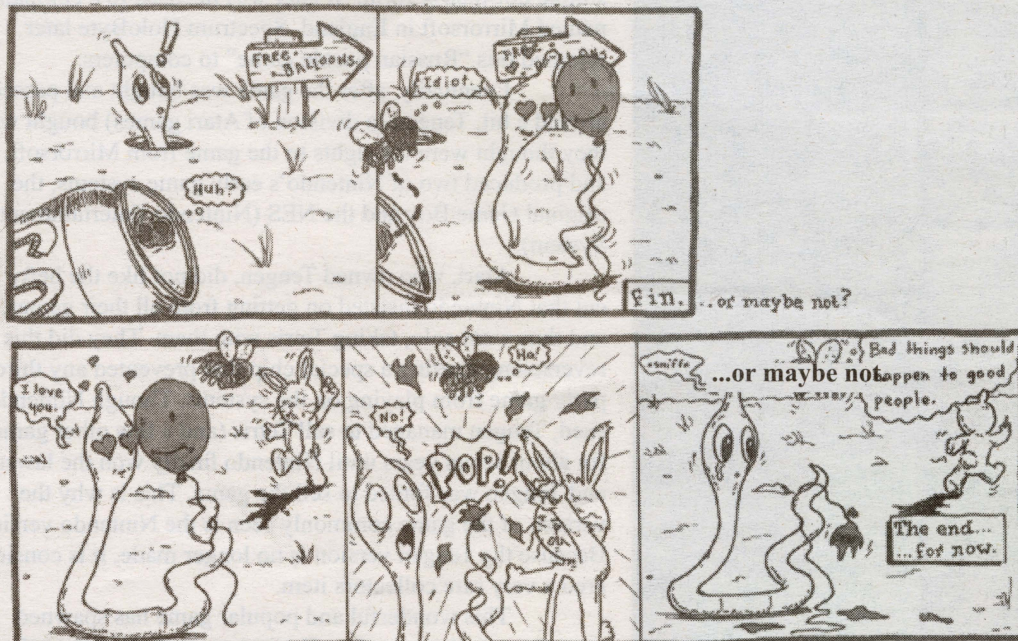
Join the  
Independent  
staff!  
Room E-049  
neiu\_independent  
@yahoo.com

# Side Splitters

Joe Clipart by Joe Hertel



## Tales of Bewilderment



by A. R. Lopez



## Staff

Patrick O'Brien  
Editor-in-Chief

Elana Barron  
Associate Editor

News Editor  
Tom Robb

Assistant News Editor  
Nick Gaudio

Opinions Editor  
Joe Hertel

Features Editor  
Jenni Lada

REV Editor  
Dino Pollard

Production Manager  
Azucena Beltran

Production Editors  
Jonathan Gronli  
D. Gordon Macnab

Production Assistant  
Olga Bagranovich

Graphics Editor  
Cecilia Carboni

Photo Editor  
Dorian Barrios

Copy Editors  
Joe Hertel  
Deborah Goldbaum

Business Manager  
Andrea Zelinski

Office Assistant  
Tierra Lee

Distribution Manager  
Krystian Zyszczyński

Cartoonists  
Cecilia Carboni  
A. R. Lopez

Photographers  
Jason Shaw

Senior Staff Writers  
Mario Go  
Violette Green  
Jessi Moen  
Elizabeth Rodriguez

Staff Writers  
Richard Anderson  
Jennifer Bergdahl  
Christina Ciupuliga  
Holly Dzewulski  
Deborah Goldbaum  
Connie Herring  
Michael Sy  
Ben Merrell  
Sarah Purlee  
John Tait  
Anna Zimowska  
Tracy Bielecki  
Jane Kolkevich  
Robert Zajkowski

Media Advisor  
Michael Wilson

Office Hours  
Monday - Thursday  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Friday  
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Independent is published every week except during semester breaks. Deadline is five (5) days prior to the issue in which a contribution is to appear. Views expressed in letters are those of the university community, and not those of the Editorial Board.

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.

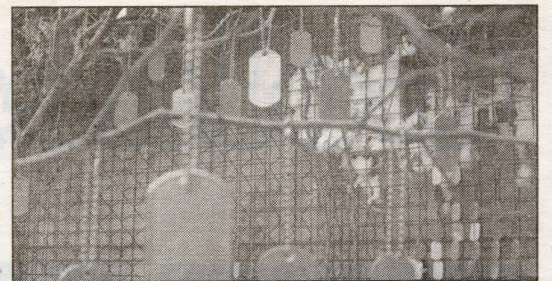
The Independent is a member of the Illinois College Press Association and Associated Collegiate Press.

Independent,  
Northeastern Illinois University,  
Room E-049,  
5500 N. St. Louis Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois 60625

Contacts:  
Editorial (773) 442-4577 Advertising  
(773) 442-4585 Fax (773) 442-4579  
neiu\_independent@yahoo.com

# Around Campus

Events, Deadlines, Club Meetings,  
Concerts, Job Listings and Study Tours



## Change of Registration

January 9-13 and 17-18 students may add or drop courses via TTRS. (773-588-6348). This is the last opportunity to register or add classes for the Spring. Beginning with the first day of class, only a professor or department may authorize you for a course.

## Last Day to Confirm

January 19 is the last day to make an initial payment for Late Registration or Change of Registration for the Spring semester.

## Last Day to Withdraw

January 23 is the last day to withdraw from a course and receive a 100% refund, minus the \$10.00 withdrawal fee.

## English Competency Exam

The ECE is a graduation requirement that is required of all students who have completed English 101 and/or have 60+ credit hours. You can register for the exam in CLS 3026. Tutoring is available at 773-442-4565.

## Tutors in Cafeteria

The Learning Center and Math Lab tutors are still available, in the raised area of the Student Union cafeteria, facing the Peace Garden, until further notice.

## Public Safety Escort

NEIU's police department will escort members of the campus community to anywhere on campus. Call 773-442-4100 and give your name and location, and an officer will be dispatched to meet you.

## Going to Grad School?

The McNair Scholars Program is a new opportunity for undergraduates to obtain education at the postgraduate level. Benefits include a research stipend, GRE prep workshops and more. Restrictions do apply for eligibility. Go to B-141 or call 773-442-4253 for details.

## Aikido Classes

Free, non-credit classes, an effective method to subdue attackers without violence, are open to students & recreation pass holders.

Classes are held 4:15 - 5:30 p.m. in the auxiliary gym every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. New students are especially welcome, and may start at any time.

## Sigma Lambda Gamma

INFORMATIONALS

All meetings are in SU 218

Wed. Jan. 11, Thurs. Jan. 12, Wed. Jan. 18 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Tues. Jan. 17 from 1:40 - 2:40 p.m. Wed. Jan. 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

## Get a Personal Trainer

Don't know how many sit-ups or pull-ups one needs to do, or need some direction in getting in shape. Get a personal trainer to help, contact 773-442-4131 for information.

## NEIU Baseball Club

NEIU Baseball Club is looking for ballplayers to represent NEIU in the Spring '06 season. For more information contact neiu\_baseballclub@yahoo.com or call Vice President of Operation, Sean Arana, at 708-415-2136. Or call Carlos Marrero at 773-841-3745.

## Join Northeastern's GLBTA

Straight allies? Lesbian? Gay? Queer? Transgendered? Intersex? Questioning? GLBTA meetings are, beginning Jan. 12, Thursdays from 1:40 - 2:40 p.m. in room FA 218.

## PE Complex Hours

Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.  
Friday 8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

## Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Club

Men and woman of all experience level are welcome, for this style of martial arts. For information and schedule contact at wolfyamadeus@msn.com

## Shaolin Kung Fu Lessons

Develop strength and flexibility, and learn self-discipline, confidence and leadership skills through Kung Fu. Register today, classes meet for Kung Fu I, Saturdays from 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. in Studio 2, in the PE Building. For Kung Fu II, Tuesdays from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Register at the front desk of the PE Complex.

## Union for Puerto Rican Students

Come join U.P.R.S. for meetings from 1:40 - 2:40 p.m. in room E-041, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

## NEIU's Jewel Box Series

Chicago Pro Musica: Grammy Award winning ensemble performs in Fine Arts Recital Hall on January 20 at 8:00. Tickets \$25. Contact Carolyn Bonner at 773-442-4240.

Les Thimmig: "The Versatile Musician," January 17 at 1:45 p.m. in Recital Hall. Admission is free.

Master Class: Chicago Pro Musica performs in Recital Hall January 19 at 1:40 p.m. Admission is free.

Guest Artists: Classical Guitar Series, Guitarist duo Waller and Maxwell performs in Recital Hall January 27 at 8:00 p.m. \$5; NEIU faculty, staff and students are free with ID.

## Student aids for the Summer

The Summer Transition Program is looking for a student aid or a volunteer to work from 12:00 - 5:00 p.m. and some evenings. This person should have some experience with Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and Web page development. Contact Erik Consuegra, at ext. 5436 to set an appointment/interview if you are interested. Prepare an updated résumé, unofficial transcripts, and two letters of references.

## Jamaica Study Abroad

Two weeks, Three credits, and field experience customized to your major, and enjoy the tropical breezes and historical sites. Summer II July 1 - 15. Inquire at jade\_stanley@sbcglobal.net, elan325@earthlink.net or jkarr@neiu.edu.

## G.A. Needed for Spring

Graduate Assistant needed immediately for Spring 2006 semester. Stipend and tuition waiver. Applicants, send résumé and letter of interest to n-adam@neiu.edu or professoradamneiu@yahoo.com.

## English Class for Spring

ELP ESL 290F: English Through Film. Monday/Wednesday 1:00 - 2:50 p.m. in room S101 (ref. # 18480). Free film Fridays from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. in S101. Theme: Love & Obsession in Hitchcock's films.

## Employment opportunities

Positions available for Northeastern Programming Board. Deadlines for all applications are to be submitted by Fri. Jan. 27. Must be currently enrolled student taking at least six hours of credit during regular academic year.



# Golden Opportunities

2004 ICPA Winner for Best Classified Ad Section in the state

## For Sale/Rent

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

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

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

## Wanted

**The #1 Blue Engine** is looking for a professional salesperson who likes to work with children. Call us at (312) 335-9302.

**Part-time job** with fund-raising events, 1-2 mornings or evenings per week. Excellent people skills, organized, team player. Competitive salary. E-mail resume and letter to [rtgannett@icefordemocracy.org](mailto:rtgannett@icefordemocracy.org)

**Blue Graduation Tickets** needed for Dec. 2005 ceremony! If you have any please contact (312) 560-3729 or (773) 206-5320.

**Lost gold bracelet w/hearts.** Significant sentimental value. Please return for reward x4757.

## Clubs

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

**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) 401-430 or [alphapsilambda\\_neiu@yahoo.com](mailto:alphapsilambda_neiu@yahoo.com)

**Chimexla!** NEIU's only Chicano//Mexican/Latin/Organization! Enhancing our knowledge and expanding our culture through university

and community action! [CHIMEXLA@gmail.com](mailto:CHIMEXLA@gmail.com)

**Join the Anime Club.** Meetings are in CLS 2081 at 1:40-2:40 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

**IV Christian Fellowship @NEIU** Giving and sharing in the love of Christ! Meets every Tuesday @ 1:40 pm in room FA 152.

## 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.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

NEIU I. D. #: \_\_\_\_\_

Run Date (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Advertisement

#### Support the Best Party Available

I've spent \$1,000 from my own pocket promoting the **Best Party Available**, a political party I hope will replace both of the majors. Most was spent buying ad space in the NEIU *Independent* for the fall '05 and spring '06 semesters. Click on the "Most Recent Ad" link at [www.bestpartyavailable.org](http://www.bestpartyavailable.org). This way, you can read the entire text of my most recent ad. This, of course, spares me the expense of paying extra for the larger ad space needed to print its entire text here, much as I'd like to : (

**FROM:** My "Most Recent Ad":

**"Question:** Suppose some right-wing fanatic runs as a BPA candidate, with his written contract promising to put all Blacks in concentration camps."

**"Response:** As far as I'm concerned, if the Grandly Incontinent Dragon of the KKK wants to run as a BPA candidate, I will have no say in the matter and frankly won't care if he runs.

**UPDATE:** I am now accepting campaign contributions :) Click on the contribute link at [www.bestpartyavailable.org](http://www.bestpartyavailable.org)

Steven Searle, the **Best Party Available** for U.S. President

### Advertisement



## Let's Get Personal

## Culture club

At seven years old, Yvonne Nieves' parents enrolled her in a dance class. This wasn't just any kind of dance, but the cultural translations of Puerto Rican folklore, as well as afro-Puerto Rican dance.

One type of dance, the Pomba, was developed by slaves to transmit escape routes. Another type of dance held religious significance. All dances had meaning. They were all important to her culture, and at seven years old, she realized how truly important they would become to her life.

"For me, at such a young age of learning, this form of dance was part of maintaining culture, and identity and history," said Nieves, now a fifth-year undergrad student. As she would soon find out, maintaining her culture would be a struggle she would continue to dance with for the rest of her life.

"I feel that if a group of people lose their culture, they lose their identity, then they lose themselves," said the 22-year-old Anthropology major. "So culture's important to me because people need to maintain their culture. Find any way possible to keep their culture, because if not, they'll lose themselves and they won't know who they are."

As a Puerto Rican, she fears her culture is being stripped away from her. As gentrification pushes her and her people out of their neighborhoods, the city is building over their murals and developing condos in place of their homes. She realizes the critical fight she must wage in order to protect her culture.

"It's very, very important I help myself and others like me to continue to maintain culture and recognize it and learn about it," she said passionately.

As a young Puerto Rican student, Nieves leads an active life strengthening her cultural community, which extends far beyond the borders of her home to her neighborhoods and her university. She's been working to teach her fellow Latinos about their culture and history, some of which has been forgotten or never taught at all.

This articulate young woman is a past editor of *Que Ondee Sola*, a monthly Puerto Rican and Latino magazine published here on campus. The name is translated as "to stand alone," which according to Nieves is derived from the meaning of the Puerto Rican flag in "it stands alone with no other flag."

Now, Nieves is co-editor of the magazine and writes about the Latino student struggle here at NEIU. "I like to write about Latino issues at the university because I think that we're always going to have issues about the Latino reality at the university," she said.

"We've been able to not lose that knowledge and that history, that past history

and the importance of Latino student faces at the university."

Nieves is not a single pioneer. This struggle at NEIU started 35 years ago, she said. Many programs came from the activism others before her, like the student clubs Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS) in 1971, Que Ondee Sola in 1972, ChiMexLa in 1975, the establishment of Proyecto Pa'lante and development of the El Centro campus. The most recent battles include the establishment of the Latino and Latin American Studies Program, which is currently offered as a minor. The struggle will continue until the program is also offered as a major.

Outside the university Nieves plays a supporting role to other college and high school students who run a four-year-old storefront in Humbolt Park called Batey Urbano on 2620 W. Division.

The youth run-youth lead store acts as a cultural space for her and her youth to gather in their neighborhood and host entertainment events and educational programs. "We decided that here in

Chicago, we need a space, a sacred space for us, in which we can creatively and culturally express ourselves," she said while sitting in its recording room in the back.

Though Nieves will be graduating in May, she contends that her struggle won't end there. "I feel that whatever career I do end up stumbling upon, I know it will be in this community. And it will be for Puerto Ricans and Latinos. And it would be to strengthen our history, and our culture, and our identity 'cuz I don't want to lose it."



Yvonne Nieves, strengthening cultural roots.

photo by Andrea Zelinski