

1-24-2006

Independent- Jan. 24, 2006

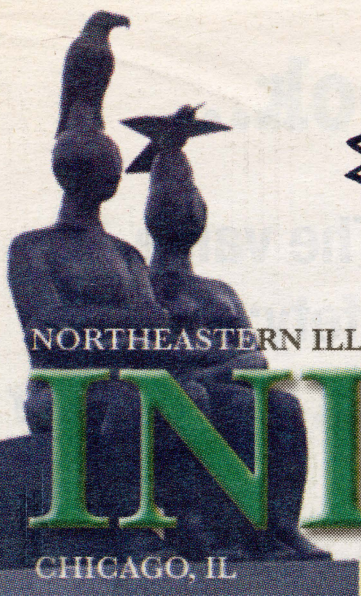
Patrick O'Brien

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

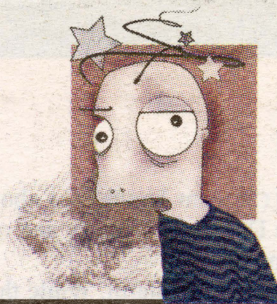
Recommended Citation

O'Brien, Patrick, "Independent- Jan. 24, 2006" (2006). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 342.
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/342>

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.



The fight for
the "truth,"
pg. 6



Hangover
blues,
pg. 12



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, January 24, 2006

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 14

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

"An unfinished life and unfulfilled dreams"



photos by Dorian Barrios

Martin Luther King's legacy remembered before full house in Alumni Hall

by Deborah Goldbaum
Copy Editor

In the fashion of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., NEIU's tribute to Dr. King had two members of the clergy as keynote speakers. These two speakers were Rev. Dr. Michael Pfleger, from Community of Saint Sabina Church, and Rev. Gregory S. Livingston, from Mandell United Methodist Church. Music was also incorporated into the tribute.

Rev. Livingston started his address saying, "I want to look at the dreamer." He also recounted Dr. King's words that "the tragedy of humanity is not about how bad we are, the tragedy of humanity is that we are not as great as we should



Dr. Rev. Michael Pfleger (top left), Rev. Gregory S. Livingston (top right) and the Evangelical Christian School 200-voice choir.

be."

Rev. Livingston referenced Dr. King's sermon on Mar. 3, 1968: "An unfinished life and unfulfilled dreams." He told the listeners that Dr. King was hated because he represented change and people are afraid of change. He said, "If you choose to be the change, you will be hated because you represent something that frightens them."

He instructed the NEIU community to "take the tools you have been given and use them to change the world." He told them, "Don't waste the gift you've been given, don't believe the hype."

See MLK, pg. 4

Shocked electricians hospitalized

Zia says electrical shock from library circuit box not related to library fire

by Mario Go
Senior Staff Writer

On Jan. 11, at approximately 7:10 in the morning, a call for emergency medical assistance was made by a security guard on duty in the Ronald Williams Library, who stated "a contractor just ran to him and told him two NEIU electricians got hit by (an) electrical bolt."

The two electricians who were shocked were Chief Electrician Rich Gomez, who has been at NEIU for 18 years and has been an electrician for 30 (with no such incident), and Electrician Roselito Cuasmasa, who has been at working for NEIU for 16 years.

See electrocution, pg. 2

Aisles are filled with undergrads

Class overcrowding reaches critical mass

by Amy Scoma
Staff Writer

Cassie Accardo cried from frustration after trying to register for nine possible classes and only getting into one during open registration. After she enrolled in classes that she did not want to take, she found herself sitting in an overcrowded classroom. Accardo's story is all too similar to many students at NEIU.

After going through the frustrating experience of registration, most students did not anticipate they would have to sit on the floor in class. The administration is aware of the problems with class availability and overcrowding, yet have little recourse to rectify the situation.

Provost Lawrence Frank admitted that NEIU needs to offer more sections of general education classes, specifically biology and art. He said that the university cannot offer more of these classes because they require labs and studios that Northeastern does not have. Furthermore, the number of students per classroom cannot exceed fire code standards of capacity.

"I know we're overcrowded. It's not something that can be totally

resolved given our situation," he said. The state funding has decreased either through inflation or through a decrease in funding over the past four years. NEIU is on the waiting list for a new building that would solve overcrowding. However,

Northeastern is number 20 on that waiting list.

When asked about overcrowding in Educational Foundations classes, Zipporah Robinson, who works in Educational Leadership and Development, said "because of overcrowding we limit the student enrollment." Although there are several open sections of Educational Foundations, many students find it difficult to enroll because the times the classes are offered often conflict with a biology class and lab, or a Monday, Wednesday, Friday class.

According to the Data Digest put out by NEIU's Office of Institutional Studies and Planning, over the last four years enrollment has increased

See overcrowding, pg. 4

Northeastern blows off steam

Ruptured pipe brings out fire department

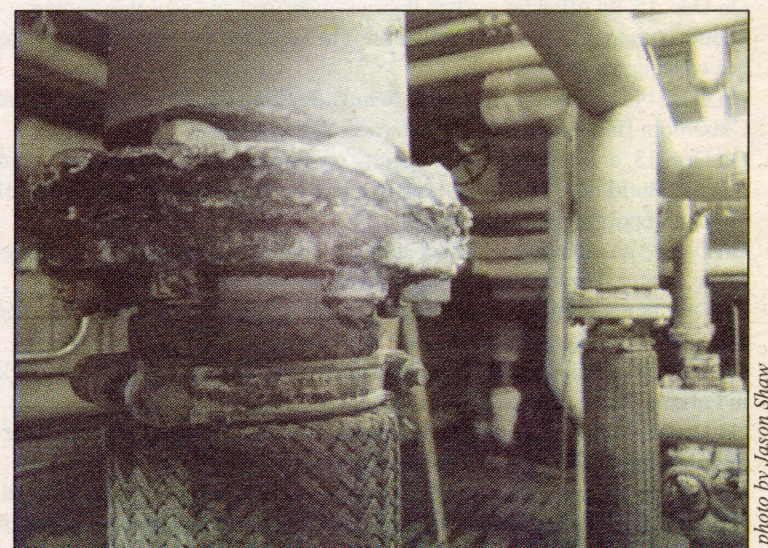


photo by Jason Shaw

Ruptured pipe in the basement of Building E (Student Union) causes an evacuation.

See pipe, pg. 2

Pipe from page 1

by Tom Robb
News Editor

Students were evacuated from Building E (Student Union) for about half an hour Thursday afternoon, as over ten Chicago Fire Department trucks and other emergency vehicles filled the parking lots on the north campus.

The fire trucks were responding to an automated fire alarm. While there was no fire, steam from a ruptured pipe caused the alarm, said Deputy Fire Chief King. The broken steam pipe was located in an engineering space in the basement, behind Health Services.

It is not known what caused the steam pipe to break. The *Independent* attempted to contact Director of Buildings and Grounds Ralph Zia, but he was unavailable to comment as he was dealing with the incident.

No injuries were reported.



photo by Tom Robb

The fire alarm prompted over 11 emergency vehicles to come to NEIU.

Electrocution from page 1

The Chicago Fire Department responded to the call and transported the electricians to Swedish Covenant Hospital, according to the university's campus Police report.

The responding campus police officer found both victims in the lower level of the library. They were conscious and responsive, but had suffered electrical burns to their face and hands. The responding officer arrived at the site of the incident within one minute, said Lt. Paul Kruszynski of the NEIU university police.

Lt. Kruszynski stated that both victims did not lose consciousness at any time. Chicago

Fire Department vehicles arrived at the Bryn Mawr campus at 7:12 a.m. The victims were taken to Swedish Covenant Hospital and later released.

Power to the library and the parking facility were interrupted an hour later; Lt. Kruszynski stated that the power was cut "for safety reasons." The power to both buildings was restored five hours later and the parking facility was reopened.

Director of Building Grounds Ralph Zia told the *Independent* that the incident was not related to the library fire and its cause is still under investigation.

Police blotter

by Jennifer Marie Bergdahl
Staff Writer

On Jan. 10, a non-student was found in possession of drug equipment in the Classroom Building. They were warned and released.

On Jan. 5, an unknown offender stole personal items from the controller's office.

On Dec. 30, an unknown offender stole tools from the electrical room in the parking garage. The incident is still under investigation.

On Dec. 22, an unknown offender stole a Fire Wire mixing board from the radio station in the Building E.

On Dec. 20, there were pry marks found on a door in Building E. The offender was unknown.

On Dec. 15, an offender pushed their ex-girlfriend and sent threatening phone messages in the Student Union. The offender was arrested and taken to lock up. There is a court date pending.

On Dec. 14, a former student was found after hours in an office area in the Classroom Building. They were warned and released.

On Dec. 13, a victim reported a faculty member sexually harassed them in the Science Building. The incident is still under investigation; Public Safety refused to provide the incident report to the *Independent*.

On Dec. 9, an unknown offender stole a victim's Dell laptop after it was left unattended in the Stage Center. The case is administratively closed.

On Dec. 9, a victim received threatening messages on their voicemail. The offender was unknown and the case was closed.

On Dec. 5, an unknown offender damaged a victim's car while it was parked in Parking Lot H. The case was closed.

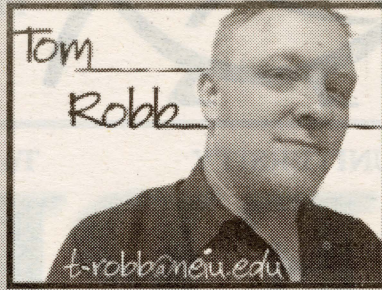
On Dec. 5, in Parking Lot J, an unknown offender damaged a victim's car side mirror, dented the car door, and then fled. The case was closed.

On Dec. 2, a suspicious male ran from the police when he was confronted in Building C. He left behind a suitcase and burglary tool. This case is under investigation.

On Dec. 2, an unknown offender stole a wallet from a victim's backpack after it was left unattended at the Chicago Teacher's Center. The case was administratively closed.

On Dec. 1, an unknown offender stole a victim's USC from their purse after it was left unattended in Building F. The case is administratively closed.

A Closer Look...



The value of
safety: You get
what you pay for

Recent incidents have brought safety issues back to the forefront, namely the library fire and two Facilities Management personnel who were hospitalized after receiving a shock from a circuit breaker box they were working on. The question of safety seems one of priority, but the university's actions seem to show otherwise.

The last hard look at safety was last summer, after six pounds of mercury was spilled and the university did not call the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as required, there was a small fire in the Science Building, and it was discovered that the university's Emergency Management Plan had been on the drawing table since 2003.

In response to those incidents, the university announced the new position Safety Officer. Director of Buildings and Grounds Ralph Zia called the safety officer "the czar" of all things related to safety.

The safety officer would have a degree in environmental science (or related), know all laws relating to OSHA (federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration) and the EPA, help write the Emergency Management Plan, inspect the grounds for hazardous conditions, know how to handle and store hazardous chemicals, be involved in the planning of new construction, and generally ensure that the grounds are safe.

How much were they going to pay this "czar" of all things to keep us safe? Only \$35,000 per year, or just under \$17 an hour. It should not then come as any great shock that the position remains unfilled. A salary of \$35,000 is not a lot of money in the professional world.

These costs keep adding up: \$40,000 to clean up a mercury spill, \$1.6 million to clean up the library. It makes one wonder about priorities.

The university pays President Steinberg, who has been on sabbatical all of last semester and will be again for the fall 2006 semester, \$210,000 per year, plus a \$7000 per year car allowance. Her secretary makes \$90,000 per year, but the "safety czar" is only valued at \$35,000 per year.

The position of director of Public Safety was filled by only an acting Chief Lt. Jack Baker for several years until he retired and a permanent director was hired, which is partly why the Emergency Management Plan was not completed. So what is priority? It does not seem to be what should be the most basic of responsibilities for the university: safety—at least not if it is going to cost any kind of money.

The university is crying that they are poor, which it is. State funding to state universities in Illinois saw a 2.5 percent decrease versus a five percent average gain nationally. But there are places to trim the fat, if safety is a priority.

Ralph Zia told the *Independent* that he, Human Resources, and VP of Finance and Administration Mark Wilcockson were taking another look at the safety officer position. Zia admitted that \$35,000 per year was not in line with the Chicago job market and that the salary and job duties were being reevaluated.

It took a major hazardous chemical spill to create the safety officer position and a major fire to consider an appropriate wage for it. Why does it always seem to take a crisis to get anything done the right way?

Advertisement

Steven Searle for U.S. President in 2008

Support the *Best Party Available*

Visit my website at www.bestpartyavailable.org for more info on the following:

- **My running mate** in the 2008 election will be a woman.
- **Troop Withdrawal:** If elected, I will immediately order all American troops out of Iraq, Syria, and Iran.
- **Death penalty:** I will commute to life imprisonment the sentences of all prisoners on federal death row.
- **Torture:** My reflections on our government's policy of torturing prisoners are ...
- **Concerning Iran:** The U.S. will not attack Iran because...
- **Campaign Slogan:** "Democracy Now!" I mean *here* in the United States.

Advertisement

Fire blows Chicago Teachers' Center out of offices

Fifty-seven CTC staff relocated to NEIU's main campus

by Tom Robb
News Editor

A fire caused the relocation of 57 staffers from the Chicago Teachers' Center (CTC) to Northeastern's north campus. CTC's offices are located at 770 N. Halsted and is a division of Northeastern's College of Education. Other CTC staffers are working from their assigned Chicago Public Schools or home.

The fire broke out on Dec. 30, 2005, when a Commonwealth Edison (ComEd) transformer, which was dripping an unknown liquid, caught fire and exploded, causing two other transformers to catch fire. This damaged the generator, which led to a power surge throughout the building, knocking out the CTC's web server, according to VP of Marketing and Communication Terry Bush and Director of Program Administration for CTC Patricia Stephens. Stephens said that the server was being installed on the north campus.

According to Bush, the CTC rents office space on the fourth floor of the building at 770 N. Halsted. Director of Buildings and Grounds Ralph Zia told the *Independent* that because CTC is a tenant and NEIU does not own the building, the landlord provides for facilities management services at that building, not Northeastern.

Zia also told the *Independent* that ComEd typically locks up their ComED transformers, so not even building owners can access them without a representative from ComEd accessing it for them.

Bush told the *Independent* that the smoke and soot damage to the CTC was similar to

the Library fire. Stephens told the *Independent* that testing had to be done for lead and other environmental contaminants before staff could return to their offices.

Zia said that the company that is doing the library clean up, Brouwer Brothers

Steamatic, is also doing the clean up for 770 N. Halsted.

According to Stephens, the most difficult issue was "we couldn't take anything out of our offices." Stephens said other staffers would meet at their assigned schools or even

Starbucks until their offices are reopened.

Zia told the *Independent* that the main campus will be making accommodations for the CTC, but space has been limited by the loss

See CTC, pg. 4



photo by Dorian Barrios

Transformer caught fire at the Chicago Teachers' Center on December 30th.

Library clean up on schedule

Toxic PCBs found in library

by Tom Robb
News Editor

While it has been determined that the fire that closed the library since late last semester started in the elevator hydraulic pump unit, what exactly set off the fire is still under investigation, according to Director of Buildings and Grounds Ralph Zia. A small amount of PCBs (Polychlorinated Biphenyls) were also found in the mechanical room where the fire started.

"The very good news is that we remain on schedule with plans for reopening the Ronald Williams Library in mid-February," said Dean of the Library Brad Baker.

The pump unit contains a hydraulic pump and several motors that move the library's elevators. Zia and his staff explained to the *Independent* that "hydraulic fluid is not flammable but it is combustible," clarifying that in a liquid state, similar to diesel fuel, hydraulic fluid is not flammable, but it is in atomized state, such as spray form.

It is not known what part of the hydraulic pump unit initially caught fire or if the hydraulic fluid played a significant part in the fire.

PCBs were also found in the elevator mechanical room where the fire originated. SET Environmental, the same company that cleaned up the mercury spill last summer, was brought in to clean that area. Zia stressed that PCBs were only found in the mechanical room and in no other areas of the library. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) warns that PCBs are extremely toxic.

Zia said that the first of two stages of environmental testing of both surfaces and air began on Jan. 20 by the Bolton Yates Company.

The EPA also stated that PCBs were commonly found in hydraulic and other equipment manufactured prior to 1977, which was when

Congress banned their use.

Baker laid out the following progress report on the library, which can also be found at www.neiu.edu/~neiulib. The library's entire contents have been cleaned and deodorized by Brouwer Brothers Steamatic. The replacement of the ceiling tiles (lower level and first floor) and floors (all levels) will be completed in the following two weeks. Before the end of the month, the lower level's carpeting should be replaced. Within the next month, all electrical repairs, as well as the safety monitoring systems' repairs, should be completed.

The library's air handling systems are currently being repaired and are expected to be finished before the end of the month. According to the report, "all air handlers and air ducts have been fully inspected and cleaned. Work on repairing all controls for these systems is underway. Once these systems are again operational, we fully expect that the air quality in the building will be significantly better than pre-fire conditions."

As smoke damage in the library's mechanical room was most extensive, the three offices above the room will take longer to finish, although these offices will not prevent the library from being reopened. The offices are expected to be reopened by mid-February.

The freight elevator also suffered much damage and will therefore not be repaired by the library's reopening. According to the library's progress report, "This is a major project that will require many months to complete due to the scope of work. This is not a critical day-one repair and it will not delay opening the Library."

WHAT'S THE STATE OF OUR CAMPUS?

- Superfluous Construction Projects
- Annual increased tuition
- Increased fees with little to show for it
- Overcrowded Classrooms
- Seven years to graduate
- Few classes offered
- "Free Speech" zones
- No tickets to graduation
- No parking at El Centro

WE DEMAND A VOICE AT NEIU!

State of the Campus Address

What's your complaint? Come to the meeting and discuss what we can do about it!

When: Wednesday, January 25, 2006

Time: 7:30pm

Where: Science Building (Follow signs)

Sponsored by a coalition of student organizations including NEIU socialists club and NEIU students against war.

Advertisement

MLK from page 1



photos by Dorian Barrios

Eighth graders from the Evangelical Christian School performed to a full house.

Rev. Livingston also said that “What GOD is looking for is that you try.” He closed with Dr. King’s own words: “I say to you today my friends, even though we’re faced with difficulties, I still have a dream.”

Azim Tuhin, a senior in Business Administration at NEIU, reacted to the speech. He said that the speeches were “all about the freedom. Whatever Martin Luther King has done is for the freedom of the people. That it’s not only for one group of people—in the spirit of Gandhi.”

Among the other speakers was the President of SGA Evelyn Nazario-Rose, who recounted the first time she experienced racism. She said to “Dream to be the catalyst for change in this world.”

Liam R.F. Bird from Oak Park-River Forest High School, whose speech was titled “Reflections: Still in Search of the Promised Land,” said that as a result of the USA Patriot Act, “Dr. King’s dream has almost come to a complete halt” and the “time is always right to reach for great things.”

Students from Evangelical Christian School performed as part of a 200-voice choir. The eighth grade class also did a praise dance. Among the choruses of these songs were “Keep the dream alive, let there be unity in the world, keep the dream alive” and “we need love.”

Rev. Pfleger works at the Community of St. Sabina Church, which was founded in 1916 and moved to its current building in 1933. Rev. Livingston works at the Mandell United Methodist Church and is president and CEO of the Westside Ministers Coalition.



Not one empty seat could be found at Dr. King’s tribute.

CTC from page 3

of the library and the need to convert rooms into library replacement areas for students—areas that may have been able to better help the CTC.

Stephens expects to be relocated at the north campus for one to two months. The CTC is occupying office space in Building C (the Beehive), on the fifth floor.

The CTC does not teach classes directly, Stephens told the *Independent*. They write grant proposals, and once the grants are awarded, they go to schools and implement the programs. Stephens said the CTC has received over \$10 million in grants and is financially self-sustaining.

Overcrowding from page 1

by 15.6 percent, while the number of course sections has increased by 11.8 percent. “Hiring faculty is not the biggest problem,” Frank said. Without space for teachers to teach or have an office, hiring more teachers will not remedy this problem.

The TTRS registration system also contributes to overcrowding. The system is confusing and often students do not even know what classes they have enrolled in. Now students have the ability to be placed on a Course Demand list through the touch-tone registration system.

If enough people are on a list, then the university tries to offer another section. Frank said that in approximately one year, the university would switch to an online registration system. This system would make it much easier for students to register for the

classes they need.

Without more available classes, registering for classes will not be easier, regardless of the method of registration. Out of twelve offered Biology 100 classes, six are Monday and Wednesday, four are Tuesday and Thursday, and two are at El Centro, where there is no parking. Four out of 12 are morning classes. These classes conflict with many other required courses, such as Educational Foundations 305 and 306, and many other Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes.

Frank said, “I really don’t think it’ll be resolved completely until we get more space.” With this in mind, NEIU has a long time to wait for a new building, in an educational climate where state funding offers little assistance.

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

Editorial

No respect?

The semester has started with the usual bickering about class sizes and lack of class availability, but are we, the students of Northeastern Illinois, really getting it? Do we as a student body understand just how little our petty squabbles about not getting into a class rank in the scheme of things?

These introspective, driven lives we live as students are being played out in a world that doesn't care for such trivial matters; there is a war going on (whether we support it or not), New Orleans is still a sinkhole, and bird flu is just around the corner.

But some of us have lost faith in the outer world. We prefer the life of an undergrad, toiling endlessly, naively believing that all the things we have time to care about really matter. (Some of them do.)

The life of a college student is one to be envied, not complained about, and the sniping and whining heard in the hallways of our fine university grows louder and louder with each passing semester.

If the sky is falling because you couldn't get into Biology 100, you need to reassess things, because, in many ways, we have it easier than you think. A lot of people would love to have the chance at a college degree.

Now, before this appears to be a defense of the way NEIU is run by our administration, think again. We do need more classes, more sections of many classes, and more actual classrooms.

And we should hold President Salme Steinberg and Governor Rod Blagojevich's feet to the fire until we get more of all of those things. But the cacophony of "whoa is me" echoing through the hallways of this institution make the gag reflex trigger.

What we really need is more class—in the way we handle ourselves as students especially. If there is something so terrible in the air at NEIU that has to be addressed, stop talking about the problem and do something about it. What are we solving by wasting our breath whining to each other? Take it to someone who can do something about it.

The lack of student participation in campus life, whether it be clubs or campus events, or even registering our displeasure with the school itself, is what makes students' whining about class availability so hollow. We care only as much as it affects our very narrow lives. That is not the sort of lesson we should be taking into the world beyond the walls of this university.

Grow up, sign up for the class next semester, sit in the aisle, or on the floor, unless you're willing to do something about it. Don't cry about it; we have to respect ourselves before anyone else can respect us.

Judgment of Solomon



photo courtesy of www.mines.edu

Government bullies schools into allowing military recruiters on campus

by Amy Scoma
Staff Writer

The Solomon Amendment states that colleges and universities must give military recruiters access to students in return for federal funding. This is the type of bullying our government has perpetuated for decades. Law universities who are challenging this amendment claim that by allowing recruitment on campus, they participate in the type of discrimination that they strive so fervently to avoid. The "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays is discriminatory.

In 1898, the Supreme Court, in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, formally established that separate but equal was acceptable. This type of thinking perpetuated the oppression of African Americans and currently perpetuates the oppression of gays. Because the

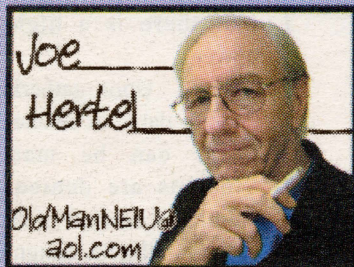
government separates gays from the rest of the military population, they are treated unequally. Gays are being held to a standard that was over-turned in 1954 with *Brown v. The Board of Education*, which declared that separate but equal was inherently unequal. We need to remind our government that this was 52 years ago.

Trading money for warm bodies starts to sound like an episode of "The Sopranos." It's as if the government says, "If you don't play fair and give us the bodies that we need, your institution will fail." In essence, the federal government has universities in a headlock. I suspect that although many people are pro-gay rights, they actually care less than they admit. The issue with on-campus recruiting may stem, not from the question of gay rights, but from the feeling evoked by seeing recruiters on campus.

Universities are supposed to be ivory towers and liberal havens for the free exchange of ideas. Because many universities are predominantly liberal and anti-war, on-campus military recruitment angers students.

Traditionally, the federal government uses money to get universities to protect students' and employees' civil liberties. Receiving federal funds should not be dependent on military recruiters' student access. If a university decides it does not want recruiters on campus, each and every citizen of this country is punished unfairly. Having to close a school because of lack of funding has reverberating effects. Jobs are lost, students do not graduate, and most importantly, the lack of education creates a struggling society that falls behind more rigorous countries.

The Solomon Amendment says that it gives universities a choice to refuse on-campus recruitment, but there really is no choice. Because universities rely so heavily on federal funding, risking livelihood for principles is not an option. Again, the federal government bullies the anti-war facets of our population. The Solomon Amendment backs universities into a corner from which they have no recourse.



Old Man on Campus

Mad God disease

A few days ago, the mayor of New Orleans told people that Hurricane Katrina happened because God was mad. Pat Robertson said that Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had a stroke because God was personally mad at him. Before that, it was Jerry Farwell and a few rabbis who claimed 9/11 happened because God was mad. So-called spokespersons of the Almighty have claimed that all these disasters (and more) have happened because God was angry.

Is God suffering from

road-rage syndrome? Would God kill innocent humans along with the offending ones? It is the height of arrogance to assume God is punishing us indiscriminately through natural and/or man-made disasters unless ... well, let me clarify.

From my study of the Old and New Testaments (the Bible) God, according to the reports, has in the past rained judgment down upon the world. The two most remembered incidents are the Great Flood and Sodom. However, prior to the "punishment," God warned certain people to get out of the way. Noah built an ark and Lot left town. In other instances, he sent a prophet of doom to warn the potential victims to repent, and if they did, He spared them.

Our modern day prophets

must be asleep then, because if these judgments were from God, nobody was on television warning us beforehand. These preachers only come on after-the-fact and say it was God. If God is mad at anyone, He should be mad at His "spokespersons." They ain't doing their job.

I mentioned once before that many of these disasters could have been averted if people in charge paid more attention to their jobs—from the president down to the management of a mining company. We bring most tragedy upon ourselves through incompetence, apathy and procrastination. We don't have to blame it on God.

Although He is perfectly capable of doing so, God would not spin a hurricane into a poor and destitute part of New Orleans while

saying to himself, "They made me mad." Nor would He give an Israeli Prime minister a stroke for displeasing Him. If that were the case, a lot of clergy members would be dropping dead, and certainly G.W. Bush, who claims God tells him to do things, would at least get diarrhea! And as far as the tsunami, didn't God say He would not destroy the world again through a flood?

You see, in all past cases, God's destruction was total. These disasters are not total. People in these areas survived, both good and bad. Mardi Gras will continue and sinners will return. If it were God's judgment, New Orleans would have been totally destroyed and there would have been a prior call to repentance.

God may be angry, but He also may just be simply sitting

back and allowing us to suffer the consequences of our own ill behavior, our treatment of each other, our environment, and the world. And, consequently, because of our inaction and arrogance, shit happens. Sure, God knew these things were going to happen, but if we were aware, if we were tuned in and made corrections, we would have seen it coming and averted them. You see, repentance means to admit you're wrong and change your ways.

One more thing. It states in the scripture that when judgment begins, it will begin in the House of God. It means the clergy and ministers get to go first. So, maybe these televangelists should start getting their own house in order before they claim God is judging the rest of us.

Point / Counterpoint

Leave science to the scientists

by Mark Banks
Staff writer

Scientists do not say that God does not or cannot exist. Most only point out that we have no physical evidence confirming the existence of God. God is not an *anti*-scientific concept. Rather, it is an un-scientific concept. Theologians want to encroach on biology. Biology wants to be left to scientific pursuits. The aggression is from the theological side, which is an historical norm.

Although the question of the existence of God is indirectly implicated in the argument over evolution and intelligent design theory, it is not the central argument. That would be a huge leap beyond what biologists are saying. They are saying something simpler. They are saying that whether or not God designed living organisms, merely pointing to God as designer, is an unsatisfactory physical explanation for speciation. If I boil a pot of water, the cause of the water boiling is the thermal energy beneath the pot. Maybe God designed the water, the pot, and thermal energy, but in this instance, God is not the *physical cause* of the water boiling. The physical cause of water boiling is heat under the pot. God might be the *metaphysical cause*, but that is un-scientific. Scientists want to know: what are the *physical mechanisms* of evolution?

Much intelligent design argumentation relates to a misunderstanding of the word "theory". If theology plays in biology's court, then it has to play by the rules. In science, unlike philosophy, semantic discrepancies do not count as valid arguments. Everything you think you know about the universe and all the living things around you is theoretical. "Two plus two equals four" is a theoretical statement. Nobody argues that basic arithmetic is invalid just because the process of adding numbers is theoretical. A theory is as good as an idea gets. If scientists call something a theory, it means that it is a broad, detailed concept that accounts for numerous events that occur in nature and in the lab. Theories are continually questioned, refined, or rejected altogether based on new findings. Unlike theologians, scientists do not regard speculation as theory. Intelligent design is not a theory. It cannot be tested for accuracy.

Most people who argue over this issue do not

really understand where the disagreement is. The central question in evolution is: How did species originate? God designed them all, says this crude form of creationism. "How?" ask the curious—and this is where it ends. "Where what ends?" you ask. What ends here is the line of causation we get when God is postulated as the *cause* of speciation.

Despite the misconception, evolution is not primarily a study of how life came into existence from non-existence, which is the central concept in theology. Although biologists are heavily concerned with the origin of all life, what has been learned and proposed so far about evolution is mostly a physical explanation of how species evolve—that is, how life forms developed from extinct species into the species alive today. The actual origin of life, presumed to have occurred spontaneously in the oceans around four billion years ago, is something that nobody really understands, especially not unverifiable mystics who lived thousands of years ago.

Intelligent design: broadening views

by Jane Kolkevich
Staff writer

"Trust thyself: every heart vibrates to that iron string," states Ralph Waldo Emerson in his *Self-Reliance*, which is taught in high schools around America. Our young minds are encouraged by the education system to develop critical thinking skills early in their lives. Or are they?

Presenting students with Emerson's statements like "envy is ignorance ... imitation is suicide" and "infancy conforms to nobody" are attempts to teach children to listen to themselves and question that which appears to be definite. But why is that aspect avoided in the science classroom?

Intelligent design is a supposition that an intelligent, supernatural agent designed the universe. It is an alternative to Charles Darwin's theory of evolution. By barring the theory from schools, we deny children room for personal understanding. We close the door on the

possibility that creation could be too complex to explain or understand with 12 percent of our brain.

After intelligent design had been taken out of the program, Jennifer Miller, a biology teacher that has taught at a Dover Area school for 12 years, said she is "comfortable again teaching what [she'd] always felt comfortable teaching." What a shame that Dover has such incompetent teachers. Teachers that are afraid of change and are uncertain of how to approach new material are probably ones still using slides and lesson plans from 12 years ago.

When the Atlanta school district made a decision to include a warning sticker in biology textbooks, a federal judge ordered school officials to remove the stickers immediately. The add-on sticker simply stated that evolution is a theory not a fact.

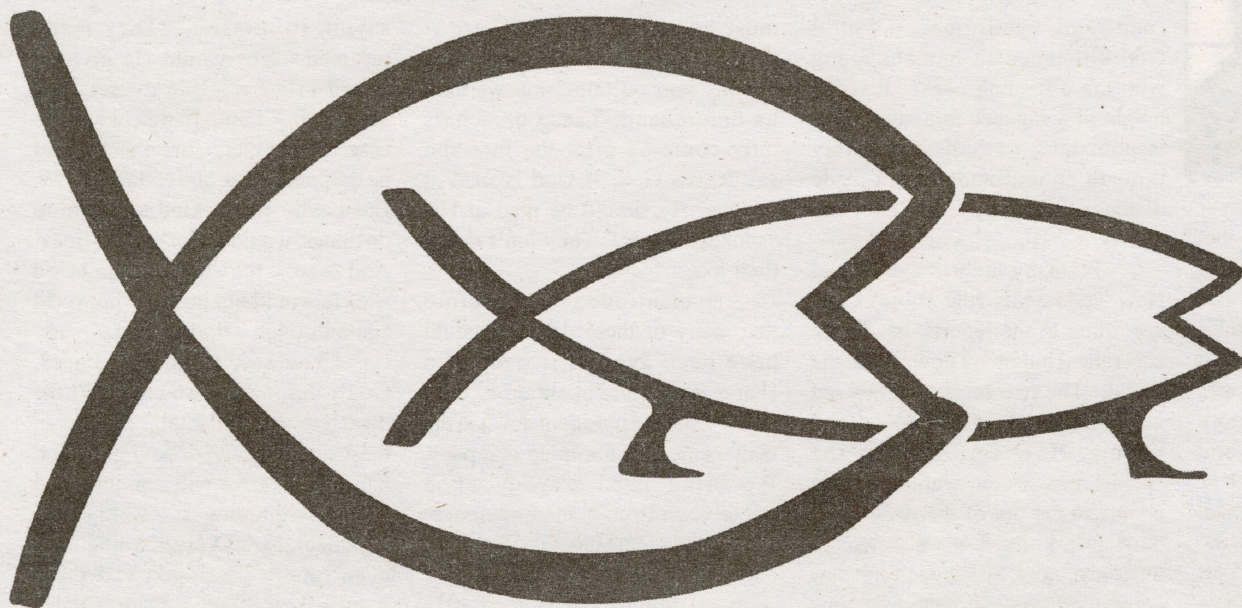
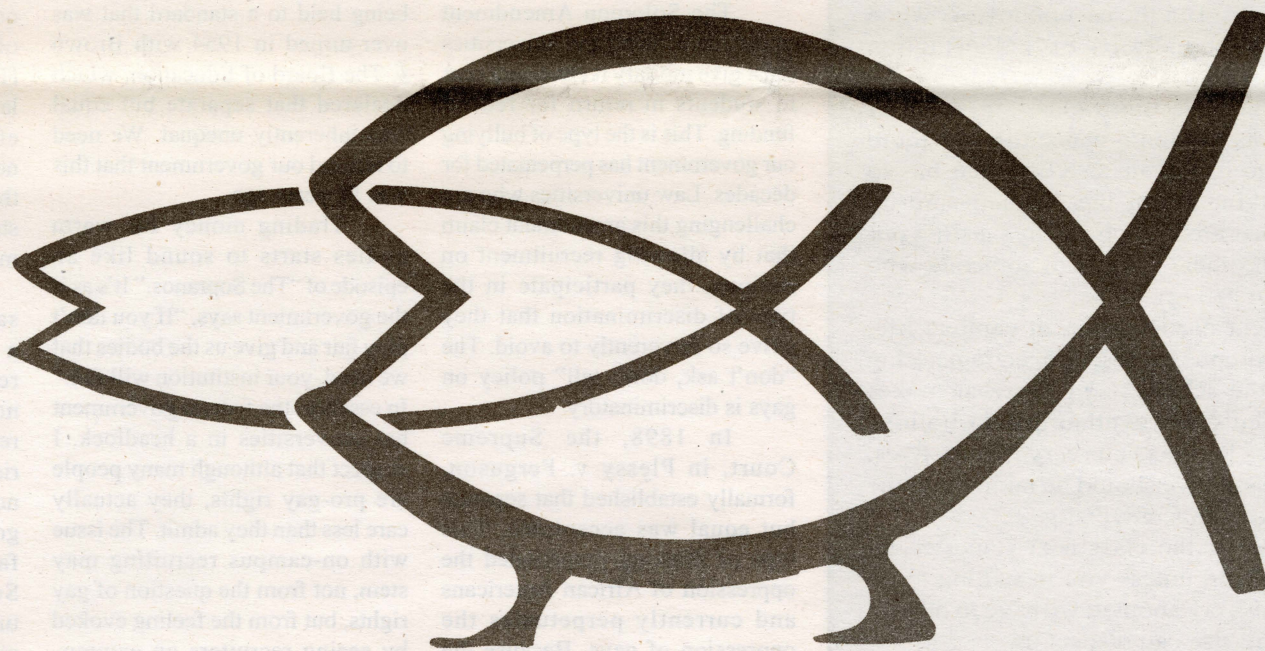
Well, it should have just said it how it is: "Caution, children! Nothing in the world is a fact and everyone who claims to know the facts is lying."

The bottom line is this: nothing in the world is known for sure. We assume that the sun will come up in the morning because it has always done so, but science claims that even the course of the sun is a theory and thus questionable. We assume that we can push the "save" button on the computer and the information will be promptly stored but ... need I go further? We assume that the reality surrounding us is what it appears to be but have you seen *The Matrix* movie? Reality has been explored for ages.

So here we come to a very simple conclusion: nobody knows anything for sure. We cannot know whether Darwin's theory is valid any more than we know that there is a higher power.

Upon gathering enough data, an educated guess can be made. Students are denied a significant amount of data when intelligent design is kept out of the classroom. Attempts at broadening our youths' views are shut down.

Presenting the students with an alternative to evolution is not a lesson of creationism. It is a greater lesson that will teach kids that to every idea, thought, belief, and theory there is an opposing counterpart that is generally equally credible. It is a real lesson of life, debate and ethics.



Mail Bag

NEIU does not have our best interests at heart

Dear Editor,

I do not consider myself an activist, but Mr. Tom Robb's article in the Jan. 10th edition of the Independent raised serious concerns for the NEIU community.

The widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. links the fight for gay rights with the struggle of African Americans securing their civil rights. In regards to the H.O.M.E. incident, Dr. Terrell reluctantly admitted to us, "A mistake was made." With all due respect to the Vice President of Student Affairs, this "mistake" shouldn't have happened in the first place. His cold indifference to the concerns of queer students is no accident. The NEIU community trusts Dr. Terrell to help create a safe school environment for all students. When he fails, the entire administration betrays its very own cherished principle of "tolerance." We are smart enough to know that when Dr. Terrell kindly offers to set up a special task force on free speech, that it's done more to take the heat off his embarrassing

incompetence and less out of genuine concern for the welfare of students.

Also, what does it mean when a first-generation student can't bring her family to her very own college graduation ceremony? This joyous event is meant to celebrate our hard work and honor the sacrifices of our families. Apparently, the administration feels otherwise. The notion that Northeastern is a 'Hispanic-serving' institution becomes a cruel joke when it takes away hard-won scholarships from undocumented students. The school's much-touted "diversity" is an empty promise when tuition increases practically guarantee that fewer working-class students will be able to seek a better life. When will President Janet Fredericks actually start "acting" like one? It's time we as students begin to hold those who claim to have our best interests at heart truly accountable. Our very future depends on it.

Sophia Lopez, SGA Senator and GLBTA club

Mail Bag

NEIU activists are back

No Worries. We were on sabbatical for the semester (somewhere in South Dakota...looking at a beautiful Mt. Rushmore)...There will be noise made this semester...and it won't be about American Idol! Have more faith, Mr. Robb!

Sincerely,

A group of NEIU activists

Drawing Board

Joe Clipart

By Joe Hertel

Hey! What happened?
I've been shaded!



It's the artist's way to
celebrate the diversity
on campus.



So how come he didn't
change you?



He did! I'm now a
lesbian!



Living paycheck to paycheck?
Need extra cash for the weekend?

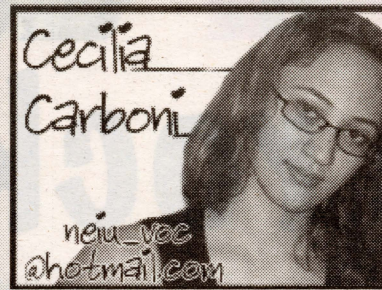
Join the Independent!

Contribute your time and thoughts, and get paid for it!

For more information, go to E-049 or e-mail
neiu_independent@yahoo.com.

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

PhotoKlub pushing the boundaries



Let me start with one of those rare reader responses. It had been so long and my spirits so low that I found out they closed my account from disuse. It's back up now, in case any other brave soul tried sending me mail, hate or otherwise. One reader

did manage to get through to this columnist—and it was Kaytee Bole.

Thank you, Kaytee.

She addressed my previous column about "being friends." While I was mainly referring to that phrase in conjunction to turning down an invitation to dating, Kaytee brought it up in its post-dating context: "If [in a relationship] you couldn't be their friend first, honestly, why would you be dating them in the first place?" Well, she brought up a lot more, but I really liked that point.

Now, everyone is settling into classes. For me, the process seemed akin to one of those boggle games where you shake letters up and hope whatever lands has some sense in it. Hopefully, my fellow students found something to do with yourself that wasn't all work and no play.

Currently, one of the opportunities on campus lies in the revived NEIU Image Art Club. A group of about 10 photography students have decided to create something bigger than the previous group, taking only its constitution and starting over. Currently referred to as the PhotoKlub by those participating in traditional and digital photography, there is an open door to other art forms. Painters, dancers, sculptors, whatever you please, are invited and encouraged to join. The group hopes that together, everyone can help influence each other.

I have already gone out with the group on scheduled shoots. (I'm the guinea pig of a model.) Everyone is always trying to shoot me ... sometimes with a camera. Advanced photographers, along with beginners, can benefit and learn from each other. Further, as one of the club's members tells me, the idea is to expand the arts at NEIU.

Think of it as cross-pollination.

So whatever it is you like to do, or whatever you have been wanting to attempt, this might be a great place to try it out. And if you're an artist looking for inspiration, this might just be the thing that breaks you out of your mold. Art is just more fun when you push the boundaries of your medium, and sometimes bleed over, to incorporate another. If you feel you can't do it yourself, well, you might find someone who can help you, maybe even teach you. Is one medium ever enough to encompass half the ideas we have?

Trying to imagine where the possibilities of the club may lead, I even think of writers and what role they could play. I don't think it matters; finding a place for everyone seems to be the important thing. Get enough people together with different talents and something good is sure to come from it.

The advisor is Don Bulucos, the photography professor here. Meetings are every Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. in FA 225, or contact nilohash@yahoo.com. And if you just want to check out some cool artwork from fellow students, you can take a gander over to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/neiu_imageac/.

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

The rock and roll of

THE RECORD LOW

by Jane Kolkevich
Staff Writer

The dark, ambient room on the second floor of the Subterranean was filled with pure energy as the rock and roll sounds of The Record Low emanated from the speakers.

The group of four young-spirited and talented musicians met by chance during their college experiences. Their performance on Thursday, Jan. 5, was one among many sensational shows throughout the six short months of them working together. One of the musicians, Markus Hartnett, is currently a student at NEIU.

In all of the nine high-energy songs performed on Thursday, a distinct theme of optimism prevailed. Their lyrics casually depict the difficulties of life yet reinstate the inevitable triumph over hardships. The music is moving, with gripping solos and contagious beats. Their somewhat grungy style seems to mesh well with their strong and captivating stage presence.

The theme of optimism trickled through even in the slow song performed by the band. In "Old Country Homes," various difficulties of moving around, being of an adolescent age, and overall searching for a center were melodiously presented. Nevertheless, the smooth accords of the harmonica left an easy feeling of content and liberation when the song was finished.

The band has already formed a considerable following. They have performed in various venues such as the Hideout, Double Door, acoustic sets at The Smoke Daddy, and the Subterranean, which is becoming somewhat of a regular spot for The Record Low.

The members are Henry Joseph, originally from New Jersey, lead singer and on guitar; Robby Haynes from North Carolina, on guitar; Markus Hartnett, Chicago native, on bass; and Justin Kerr, also from Chicago, on

drums.

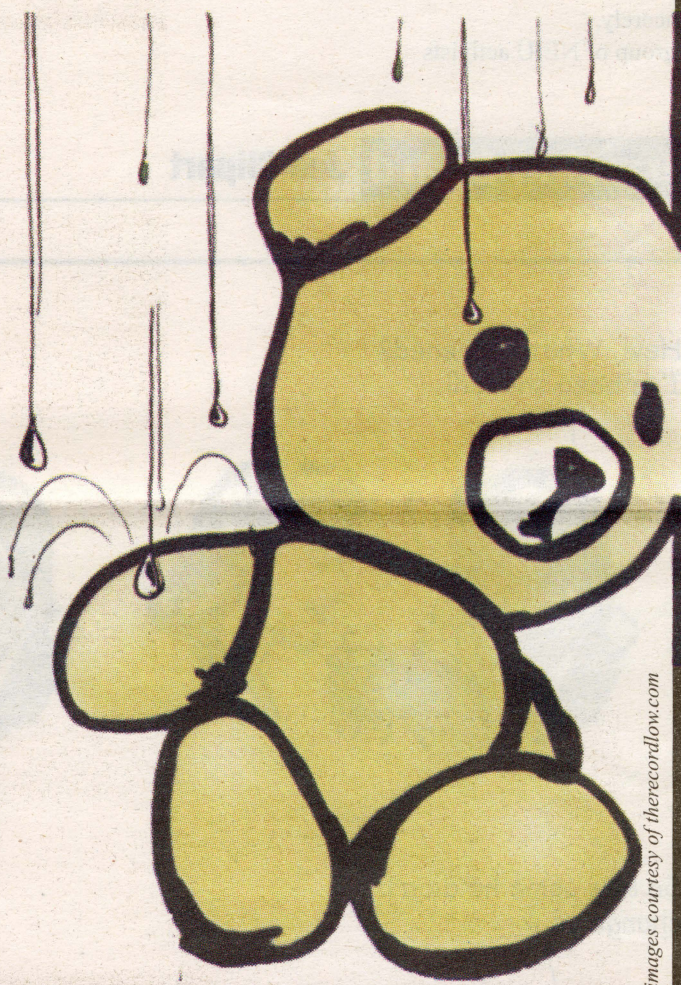
Genuine love for and appreciation of music, the traits of any true musician, are reflected in conversation with them. "It's American rock and roll with classic roots," Haynes said describing their music. "It's honest music," Joseph added. Their influences range from Iron Maiden to Bruce Springsteen, from Reggae to the classics, such as Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones.

The Record Low is rapidly gaining gigs. On Jan. 28 they will be playing at Double Door for the third anniversary party of *The Crutch*, Chicago's only Rock and Roll publication. If you like good ol' Rock and Roll, the show is at 9:00 p.m. Other Chi-town favorites such as Healthy White Baby, Bang! Bang!, and The Dirty Things will be making appearances.

You can learn more about The Record Low's upcoming events, hear their music and sign up for a mailing list by going to therecordlow.com. Regardless of your taste in music, The Record Low will rock you.



The Record Low at Subterranean from left: Justin Kerr, Markus Hartnett, Henry Joseph, Robby Haynes.



goeey

will stick with you

Local band issues solid work

by Joe Hertel
Opinions Editor

Goeey is the best locally produced CD I have heard in a long time. Recorded at Uptown Recording, it is evident from the start that a lot of people put much effort into producing this collection. Juan Avila, who started the band Goeey, wrote the music for all the songs except "Lost," which was co-written with Matt Denny.

Avila's songs are backed by various artists, including Henry Jansenn, Jim Sawyer (drums), Tim Bales, Rob Ruccia (trumpet, trombone), Matt Denny (organ, piano, acoustic guitar), Colleen Goldsborough (violin), and Devin Nowakowski (banjo). There are additional artists who provide musical as well as vocal enhancements to the simple yet intense lyrics (such as "For You"), which make this CD rock.

The variety of songs on this CD is amazing. It ranges from the whimsical "Birdie," which has a tinge of lovin' spoonful bounce, to

"So," which recalls, perhaps, a little of the Partridge Family. There is an overall flavor reminiscent of the George Harrison post Beatles album, *All Things Must Pass*. Make no mistake; these are original, free spirited recordings that showcase Avila's poetic ability and musical talent.

Orchestration and arrangement of the songs is top notch. Variety is the key to its success in presentation. "Busy Day" recalls the sunshine-style songs of Donovan, and then the listener is introduced to a lament in "Little Boy Blue." In this song, Avila mourns the fact that his mother did not understand him (we've all been there), as he sings: "Momma doesn't like the way I talk / so I don't say much / although there's so much on my mind."

The words touch the listener with a familiarity of having been where Avila has been. The songs are new, but the experiences are as old as time. Love found, love lost and everyday occurrences such as these are sung in "Weatherman" and "Lonely Girl," all of which connect to the listener.

This is what makes this CD worth listening to: it connects. Judging from the CD, Goeey will have no problem connecting with a growing following as their music is heard around Chicagoland.

Goeey is appearing next at Subterranean (2011 W. North Avenue) in Chicago on Jan. 27 at 11:00 p.m. Admission is \$7. Visit their web site at www.ilovegoeey.com.



An American Cinderella story for the guys

by J. Louis Bracich
Special Contributor

If there was such a thing as a cinema soul couple, it has to be Ron Howard and Russell Crowe. Back in 2001, they made a fantastic film called *A Beautiful Mind*, and this year they returned with *Cinderella Man*. Ron Howard's production is based on the life of legendary boxer, Jim Braddock.

The film specifically follows Braddock's life from when he was at the top of his game in 1928, to his downfall during the Great Depression, to his rise from the ashes of poverty. But it is not just his life in the ring that is covered; Howard goes into focus with what many other similar films don't—his life outside the ring. His family consists of his beloved wife Mae, played masterfully by Renee Zellweger, and his three children. You see Crowe play a man that many would think was just another hardened thug, but in reality is a gentle giant with a heart for generosity and a soft voice to match. Indeed, when outside the ring, one almost forgets he is a boxer.

Following the stock market crash of '29, the movie fades into the Braddock family's new life in the dingy cellar of a broken down apartment in some New Jersey ghetto. In one scene, his eldest son steals a piece of salami, and though the family is obviously not eating well, Braddock drags his son back to apologize and return the meat. Howard goes out of his way in this film to portray life in America during the Great Depression through Braddock. Unable to box because of a broken wrist, we find him begging for work at the docks or at a relief center, trying to get five dollars. Landing some small work at the

docks, he makes friends with Mike Wilson (played by Paddy Considine of *In America*), a disillusioned former stockbroker who now has become a radical. The two try to help each other out and survive the docks.

It's the amount of detail used in recreating the 1930s that simply will take you back; it's almost as if this was an educational piece about that era. One touching moment is when he goes back to Madison Square Garden (the old one was like a giant movie theatre), and actually holds out his hat to beg his former employers and friends for money

to feed his children. You can just see it in his face. He doesn't want to do this, and he has pride, but we also see in his eyes that this once mighty man has been broken by the system.

The movie follows the two friends, one whose life will get better, while the other's will not. Braddock's old manager and friend, Joe Gould (played by the great Paul Giamatti, *Sideways*, *Big Fat Liar*), manages to get him an exhibition game, which he wins.

Meanwhile, his friend Mike goes down to Hooverville, where New York's homeless have taken over Central Park, and

begins to stir up the "workers' revolution." Things end badly for Mike Wilson, whereas Jim Braddock soon finds himself once again winning boxing matches, eventually meeting up with the era's heavy weight champ, Max Baer.

If any movie deserves best picture, it has to be this one. The level of attention given to the details and the character development alone should earn it top marks. The intensity of the boxing matches, I dare say, comes close to besting those that were found in the 1980 classic *Raging Bull*.



image courtesy of astrakam.ca

In a time of national doubt and poverty, Jim Braddock gave America hope as he regained his own.

Peculiar journey through *House of Leaves*

by Dino Pollard
REV Editor

Imagine you have found your dream house. Large enough for your family and in a nice, quiet area. Now imagine that inside the house you find deep caverns that extend limitlessly, echoing with odd noises.

This is the reality for the Navidson family in Mark Z. Danielewski's first novel, *House of Leaves*. A prominent photographer, Will Navidson, his wife Karen and their two children move into the house on Ash Tree Lane. Once there, they discover little oddities about the house, such as how the inside measures longer than the outside. Closets and hallways appear seemingly out of nowhere. These discoveries prompt Will to shoot *The Navidson Record*, a documentary chronicling his exploration of the strange house.

However, Navidson's tale is only one portion of the story. The novel begins with an introduction by Johnny Truant, who explains how he came to live in an apartment once inhabited by a blind old man named Zampanò. Before he died, Zampanò was writing an academic analysis of *The Navidson Record*, complete with scholarly references to other works. Truant, however, can find no record of these references, nor any proof of the existence of *The Navidson Record*.

The book is structured in the form of Zampanò's analysis, with Truant providing additional footnotes and telling stories of his own life through the footnotes.

The book is structured in a very odd format. Truant's story is told in footnotes, where he recounts elements of his own life as well as what he has discovered about Zampanò's life. Also, as Navidson explores the house on Ash Tree Lane, the text is altered. Some pages will have only a few words on a page or will be clumped very close together in order to reflect Navidson's experiences. The appendix provides interesting material that add to the story, such as Zampanò's poetry or letters Truant's mother wrote him when she was in a mental institution.

House of Leaves is perhaps one of the most interesting and original novels ever published. While it is primarily a horror story, it still raises questions dealing with existential philosophies. The ending of the book, in particular, offers a conclusion that will leave many readers scratching their heads. In-depth, unusual, and at times downright confusing, *House of Leaves* is nonetheless an incredible read. The book can be purchased through major bookstores or online venues such as Amazon.com.

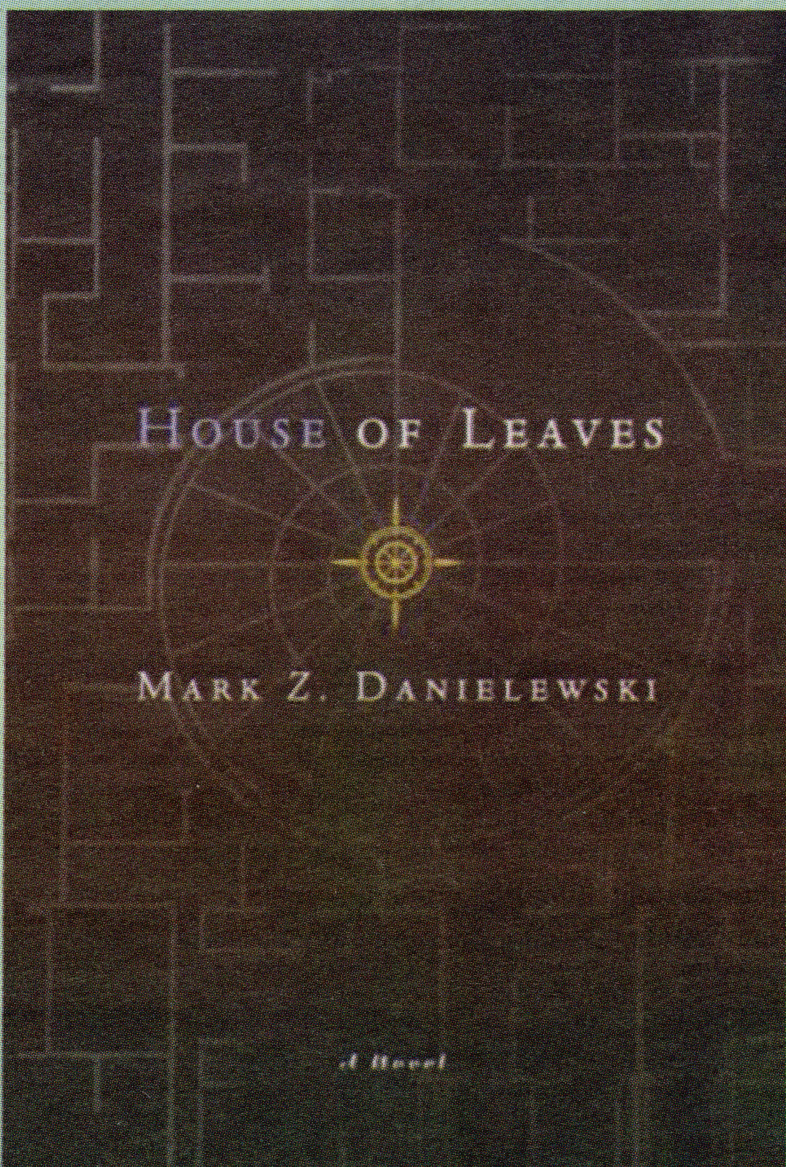


image courtesy of themodernword.com

Pollard's Picks

The indulgence of human nature

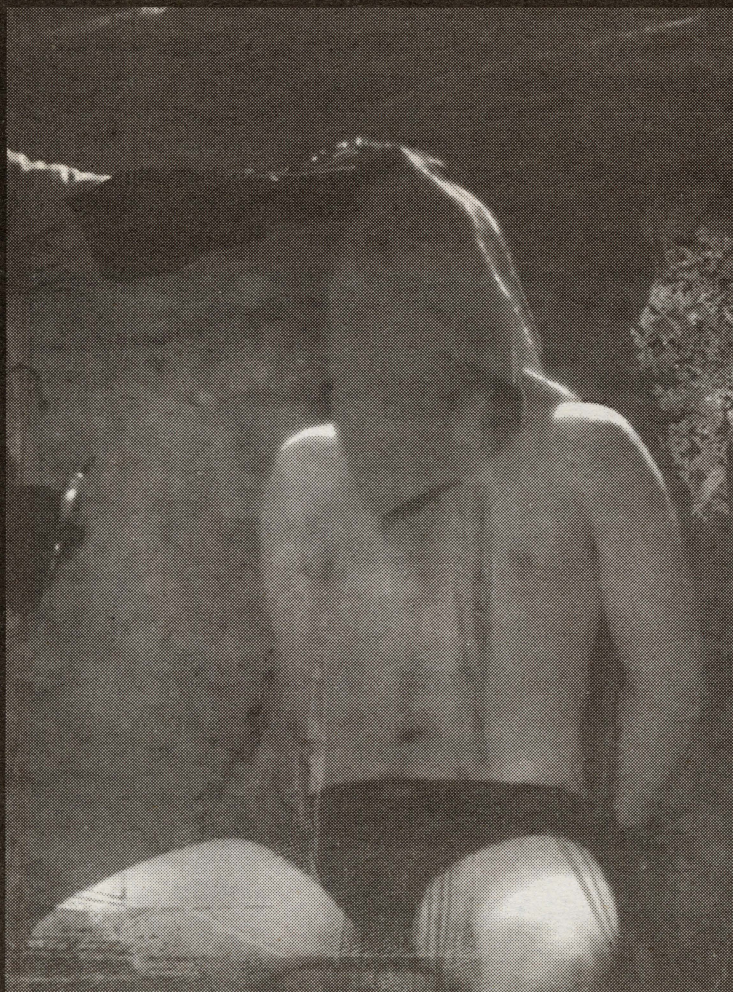


image courtesy of hostelfilm.com/

Horror movies are more or less an indulgence. Everyone has their favorite horror movie, and typically they're guilty pleasure movies. They're films that many know are bad, but we enjoy them anyway. *Hostel* is a perfect example of this sort of indulgence. This is not a high art film. Its purpose is simple—to provide the audience with that sort of pleasure.

The beginning of the movie is a perfect example of this sort of indulgence. It is filled with the kind of nudity usually found in late night Cinemax movies. Josh (Derek Richardson) and Paxton (Jay Hernandez) are two Americans who recently graduated college and have gone to Europe for one simple thing ... sex. They also travel with Oli (Eythor Gudjonsson), a man from Iceland. After a stay in Amsterdam, the three tourists are told that the best women can be found in a hostel in Slovakia. Interested in satisfying their desires, the three depart on a train for Slovakia and in the hostel they meet three beautiful young women.

After the first night, Oli goes missing and Josh and Paxton receive a text message from Oli's phone saying that he's gone home. Unsure about the suddenness of Oli's departure, Josh begins to get suspicious about Slovakia and the women they've met. It is at this point that the film's horror aspects start to come to the forefront. Soon, Josh and Paxton find themselves trapped in a type of prison where the wealthy pay top dollar to torture and kill young men and women. The price they pay depends on the victim's nationality, and Americans in particular are worth a hefty price.

As was said earlier, *Hostel* is nothing more than a film of indulgence. While the film is an obvious critique of society as a whole, as well as American ignorance, Writer/Director Eli Roth never seems to forget that he's making a horror film. Roth's style, pacing, and violence calls to mind directors like Hooper (*Texas Chainsaw Massacre*), Romero (*Night of the Living Dead*), as well as influence from horror directors in the east, such as Takashi Miike (*Audition*), who also has a cameo in the film. Roth chose to avoid an all-American cast, instead focusing on a cast of mainly eastern Europeans.

But at the end of the day the question many are asking is "how scary is *Hostel*?" And the honest answer? It depends on your level of experience with horror films. If you're accustomed to films on the level of *Texas Chainsaw Massacre* and *Audition*, then *Hostel* won't provide much in the area of shock or fear. However, if the scariest movie you've seen recently is *The Grudge*, then you may find yourself quaking with fear.

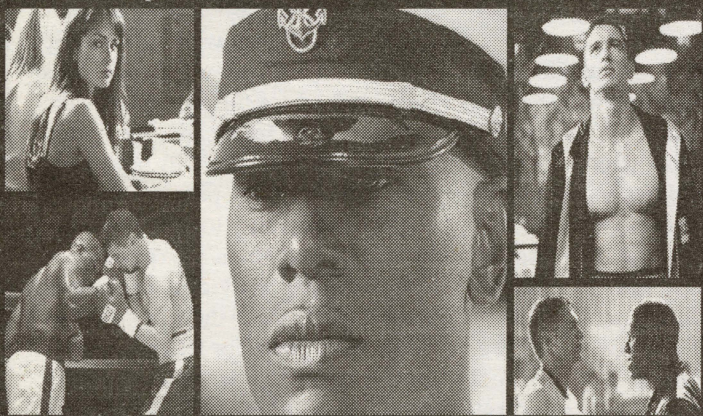
One of the pitfalls of American horror films in a post-*Scream* world is that they've become accustomed to being looked upon as sick comedies, as opposed to true horror. In that respect, *Hostel* dares to be different. Yes, there is some humor, but the film is not shot or acted in a tongue-in-cheek manner. Roth takes his work and the genre of horror seriously, and that is a step in the right direction.

Hostel is now playing in theaters and is rated R for violence, gore, language and nudity.

50,000 APPLY.



1,200 ARE ACCEPTED.



ONLY THE BEST SURVIVE.

JAMES FRANCO TYRESE GIBSON JORDANA BREWSTER

ANNAPOLIS

TOUCHSTONE PICTURES PRESENTS JAMES FRANCO TYRESE GIBSON JORDANA BREWSTER "ANNAPOLIS" DONNIE WAHLBERG
CHIMBRIE VICELLOUS SHANNON MUSIC BY BRIAN TYLER EXECUTIVE PRODUCER STEVE NICOLAIDES PRODUCED BY DAMIEN SACCANI MARK VAHRADIAN
PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13
WRITTEN BY DAVE POLLARD DIRECTED BY JUSTIN LIN
annapolis.movies.com

OPENS JANUARY 27 AT THEATRES EVERYWHERE



Jesse De La Pena's eclectic mix of 2005 music

by Jane Kolkevich
Staff Writer

"Just a little Lovin" is not the only thing Jesse De La Pena offers in his new CD, *Year in Music 2005: DELAPENA LIVE!* Gracefully guiding his audience from house to hip-hop, to acid jazz, to funk, De La Pena never fails the crowd.

De La Pena's exceptional track choices provide a treat with every track one listens to. The CD begins with Irfane's "Just a Little Lovin," a remake of a Barry Manilow song. The nicely cut, catchy, soulful track is unconventionally followed by Floetry's (featuring Common) "Superstar."

Q-Tip and A Tribe Called Quest are amongst De La Pena's top choices for the previous year. He is able to skillfully balance hip-hop with saxophone sounds of jazzy house tracks, smooth vocals, conga drums, and tribal chants of his other selections.

His mixing skills shine when he makes an exception to playing only the best of 2005. He takes us back to a disco track and does his "favorite blend" smoothing into Common's "Go."

Jesse De La Pena has been on the Chicago scene from the mid '80s. Falling in love with the Hip-Hop or B-boy culture, he began spinning at small parties. Eventually he landed a gig at Smart Bar and further collaborated with a Chicago based acid jazz band in forming Liquid Soul. With the band he had the honor to open for Sting and play at Clinton's inaugural in Washington D.C. De La Pena has also been a resident DJ at the Funky Buddha Lounge, the host to The Blue Groove Lounge at Elbo Room, and is successfully managing Blue Groove, his own record label.

De La Pena's theory on rocking the party consists of creating an atmosphere as opposed to playing the cookie-cutter tracks of today's hip-hop. He avoids mainstream tracks and instead delights the crowd with unpredictable pleasant surprises.



photos courtesy of dimitrephotography.com

Eagle's Nest

Lifestyles of the Northeastern Community



Freegans unite!

by Mark Bank
Staff Writer

Those dates on the food you buy from the grocery store are there for a reason. The organic substances we discard support a wide variety of life, with bacteria and fungi being a few not-so-appetizing examples. If you leave bread out it gets stale and eaten by tiny organisms like mold, or possibly by a wandering neighborhood freegan.

Self-described freegans, who synthesize veganism with a radical anti-capitalist campaign of boycotting everything, get as much of their nutrition as they can from dumpsters and other trash receptacles.

For the freegans, the abolition of alleged animal abuses associated with the food industry is not enough. Their apparent goal is the ultimate collapse of American economies and industries, often referred to simply and vaguely as 'the system' in freegan-speak, and their active front is out in back. In back alleys across Utopia, lone freegans and freegan tribes wander the narrow, parallel wastelands of a sprawling consumer society, capitalizing on the ease with which most people part with their refuse.

Most of us recognize the immediate difficulties attached to such a lifestyle. Aside from the obvious health issues, there's the physical problem of getting to food that's been smashed between the stuff that some other person looked at and decided, "man, this is gross, in the garbage you go!" So why do they do it?

Different freegans have different motivations, but a few principles seem to be in common with most freegans. First of all, the term comes from vegan, which means a diet that totally excludes products that originated in animals, such as meat, eggs, and milk, so there is the animal rights issue at play here. The prefix 'free' refers to anti-capitalist motivations, or in less activist cases, simply to the fact that they don't pay for their food.

There are degrees of variation within the freegan population regarding strictness of diet and concern with political or social causes of freeganism. Those harboring political motivations aim to boycott retailers, and thereby industries, by consuming their produce only after that produce has gone beyond the point of biological profitability. Some freegans are homeless, with some homeless by choice in accordance with their activism, while some maintain careers and live otherwise normal lives. Some are entirely motivated by social or political convictions, while others have simply developed strange nutritional views.

Despite their nutritional martyrdom, however, the freegans are not free from criticism, as a homeless man named Leo Lockman from Hackensack, NJ, has said, "These frikkin' freegans—who, unlike us, are not homeless, and have jobs—are eating all the best stuff. It's fine with us if they must boycott a capitalist consumer society, but are we to blame? We just want our food."

People voluntarily rooting through garbage for food



Sources:

<http://freegan.info>

<http://www.animalconcerns.org>

http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Lobby/3609/lib_whyfreegan.html

A pillar and a pilgrimage, Muslims celebrate the Hajj

by Tom Robb
News Editor

Last week, three million Muslims participated in the Hajj in Saudi Arabia. The Hajj is not only a sacred holiday to Muslims, it is one of the five pillars of their faith. Muslims believe that every Muslim who can afford to must attempt to participate in the Hajj at least once in their lifetime.

According to the *New York Times*, 345 people were killed at the Hajj last week at the ritual Stoning of Three Walls, where they believe the devil tempted Abraham. This kind of event has occurred often at the Hajj over the years as so many come to Mecca to participate.

The Hajj retraces specific events and symbols in Islam, culminating in a circling of the Kaaba, but its history predates Islam and Christianity and goes to the time of Abraham. Abraham is said to be the father of the three major religions, Islam, Christianity and Judaism. All three claim to trace the lineage of their largest figures, Mohammed, Jesus and Moses, directly to Abraham.

Abraham built the Kaaba, a large cube shaped shrine in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, with his son Ishmael. Muslims believe it to be the House of God, that is

to say the actual place where God resides. When Muslims pray, they face east to face Mecca and the Kaaba.

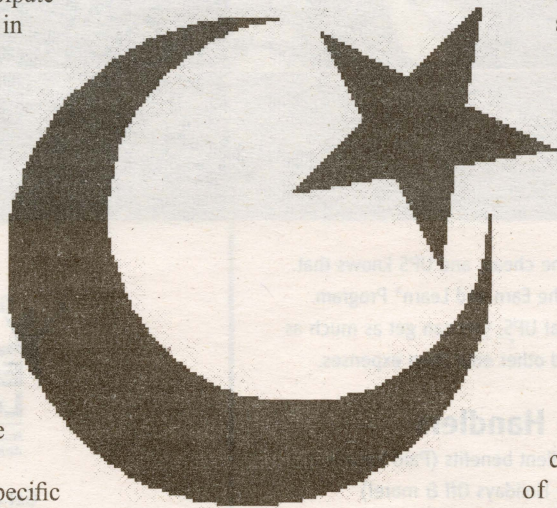
The Kaaba plays an important role in the history of Islam. Since the time of Abraham, people in the Middle East made the pilgrimage to pray at the Kaaba.

In the time of Mohammed, local merchants sold small idols of other gods for pilgrims to place at the Kaaba. Mohammed believed in monotheism and rejected this practice and began speaking out against it.

Local merchants then attempted to kill Mohammed, driving him from the city of Mecca to the city of Medina. Mohammed would later return to Mecca after triumphing in a war with Mecca, but opened the Hajj to the people he defeated.

Mecca and the Hajj play such an important role in Islam that the King of Saudi Arabia refers to himself as "The Keeper of the Sacred Place" and not as king.

Malcolm X's participation in the Hajj was so powerful an experience it changed his views on race, causing him to see all people, regardless of race, as part of the human family.

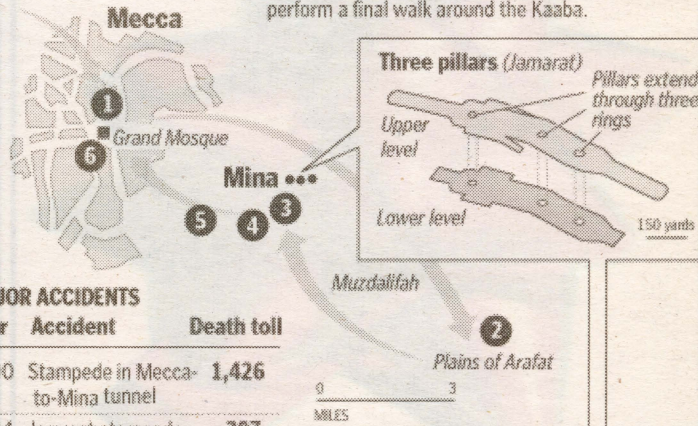


Pilgrimage Deaths

At least 345 people on the hajj died Thursday during a stampede near Mecca. The incident occurred during the week-long pilgrimage that Muslims are called on to make at least once in their lifetime.



- 1 After special preparations outside Mecca, pilgrims enter the Grand Mosque, which contains the Kaaba, believed to be the remnant of the house of prayer Abraham built. They circle the Kaaba seven times and attempt to kiss it.
- 2 After spending the night in Mina, pilgrims gather on the Plains of Arafat, where they spend the day in prayer, then return to Mina.
- 3 They throw pebbles at the three Jamarat pillars, representing the devil, then spend a night of rest and prayer at Muzdalifah.
- 4-6 During the next three days, pilgrims visit the Jamarat to cast stones. On the fifth or sixth day, they perform a final walk around the Kaaba.



MAJOR ACCIDENTS		
Year	Accident	Death toll
1990	Stampede in Mecca-to-Mina tunnel	1,426
1994	Jamarat stampede	267
1997	Fire in Mina tent city	340
1998	Jamarat stampede	180
2004	North of Jamarat	244
2006	Hotel collapse, Mecca, on Jan. 5	76
2006	Jamarat stampede	345

THURSDAY
The stampede occurred when some pilgrims stumbled over scattered luggage and those behind them fell on top. Most of the previous major chaotic episodes occurred at or near the Jamarat.

SOURCES: www.crowddynamics.com; "Understanding Islam," by Tom Lippman; Concise Encyclopedia of Islam

THE WASHINGTON POST

Washington Post graphic

Getting rid of unwanted gifts

by Holly Dziewulski
Staff Writer

The holiday season is over and many gifts have been received. Some gifts were on the top ten wanted items list while others may have showed up on the top ten worst things to receive list. Items such as an alarm clock from a best friend or knitting set from Aunt Sally are probably items that weren't exactly expected or desired. Now on the to-do list is to get rid of those items, without hurting the givers' feelings.

Of course, the easiest way to get rid of an item that is not wanted would be to return the item to the store. If there was a gift receipt attached to the gift, then most stores have lenient policies on returning items. Best Buy, for instance, will take back the item and give a gift card for the amount paid. This gift card can in return be used to purchase anything in the store.

However, receiving a gift receipt with the gift is not always a possibility. For instance, the giver may have intentionally not given the gift receipt just to make the recipient's life difficult. In that case, one of the easiest ways to get rid of the gift is by giving it to a friend or family member who might like it. The term used to describe this type of getting rid of an unwanted gift is "re-gifting." Re-gifting is generally a convenient way to get rid of the unwanted present; however, the catch is that the new giver does not receive anything in return.

There is an online web site called freecycle, which allows users to set up a free account. After setting up an account and joining a local group at www.freecycle.org, users may then go to the web site at any time and trade in their used items for someone else's' items. The trader then receives requests for the items and may choose whom to give their items to. Someone's trash can always be someone else's treasure. Freecycle has seen many items, both common and uncommon.

The most uncommon items that have been traded through freecycle, according to the online Microsoft *Home Magazine*, have been nose strips, chickens, and bald cypress trees. Freecycle also offers users the ability to donate their items to any chosen non-profit charitable organization. The only catch to this web site is that the items being given away must be free, legal, and suitable for all ages. Currently, there are 1,891,782 members in the Freecycle community.

Another way to get rid of unwanted items and receive good karma is by donating to a charity organization. There are several different organizations that accept donations, but the place that most often comes to mind is the Salvation Army. Salvation Army drop-off bins can be found in many public places, such as churches. To do a search for charities in any area in the United States, go to www.charity-charities.org.



image courtesy of sxc.hu

Hangover remedies

Solution to the morning blues

by Jessica Moen
Senior Staff Writer

What do college students like to do? Study! Well, actually off-the-record, most would prefer to do the next best thing: party! Some students, however, like to party a bit too hard and wake up the next morning with their head in the toilet and with a massive hangover. Well, believe it or not, there are some ways to remedy the typical hangover symptoms.

Congeners are what cause hangovers. They are the toxic byproducts found in alcohol that give the alcoholic drink its distinctive taste and color. While the alcohol is what makes you drunk, these toxic byproducts are behind the discomfort you feel after a night of drinking. The more congeners in the liquid you are consuming, and the more you consume, the worse you will feel.

The first and most commonsense cure for a hangover is to not drink at all. There are also several over-the-counter "chaser pills" that you can pick up at Walgreens. These pills, actually called "Chaser," use natural elements to soak up all the harmful ingredients in alcohol (congeners) and relieve your aching body. The problem is you have to

take these pills BEFORE you start drinking, and you have to watch how much you drink to ensure they are effective.

You can also take Tylenol or any other non-aspirin, such as ibuprofen or acetaminophen. It is very important you don't take any actual aspirin because it can cause severe liver or stomach damage.

Drinking excessive amounts of alcohol can dehydrate a body, so re-hydration can help to prevent hangovers. For example, try drinking tomato juice, water, Gatorade, ginger ale, or any pop without caffeine. This solution works best if non-alcoholic liquids are drank before bed. Coffee will work in the morning; strict black coffee with no sugar or cream works the best. There are also natural remedies such as Ginseng and Chamomile, which are both found in tea. Green tea is also good because it will help stabilize your blood sugar.

So, when partying hard, remember how to recover in the morning. Though it can be fun to be drunk, people pay for it in the morning. It always helps to know your limit, and please, never drink and drive!



image by Cecilia Carboni

**A college diploma...
a little piece of paper
that comes at a big price.**

A college education doesn't come cheap, and UPS knows that. That's why they came up with the Earn and Learn® Program. As a student working part-time at UPS, you can get as much as \$23,000 toward your tuition and other education expenses.

Part-Time Package Handlers
Earn great pay and receive excellent benefits (Paid Vacations, Weekly Paychecks, Weekends & Holidays Off & more!)

Northbrook UPS
2525 Shermer Road
Sunrise Shift • 3am - 8am
Twilight Shift • 5pm - 10pm

Shift times are approximate.
For more information, apply online at:
www.upsjobs.com/chicago
Access Code: 4412
Or call: 847.480.6787

Get as much as
\$23,000* in
College Financial Assistance

Equal Opportunity Employer
*Program guidelines apply

Advertisement



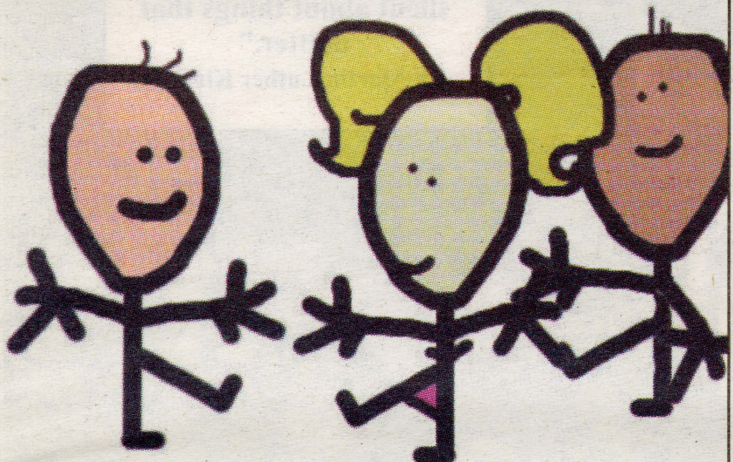
Clipart hurts animals and small children.

Help us avoid that, become an artist
or photographer for the Independent.

E-049 or neiu_independent@yahoo.com

Get people
at ur club's
event!*

*Write in to Classifieds!



Announcing the **return** of the

theme buffets!

In the upcoming weeks:

Chinese New Year 1/27

SuperBowl 2/3

Southern 2/10

Jamaican 2/17

On
FRIDAYS!

Cafeteria
(lower level of
the Student Union)
WELCOME BACK!

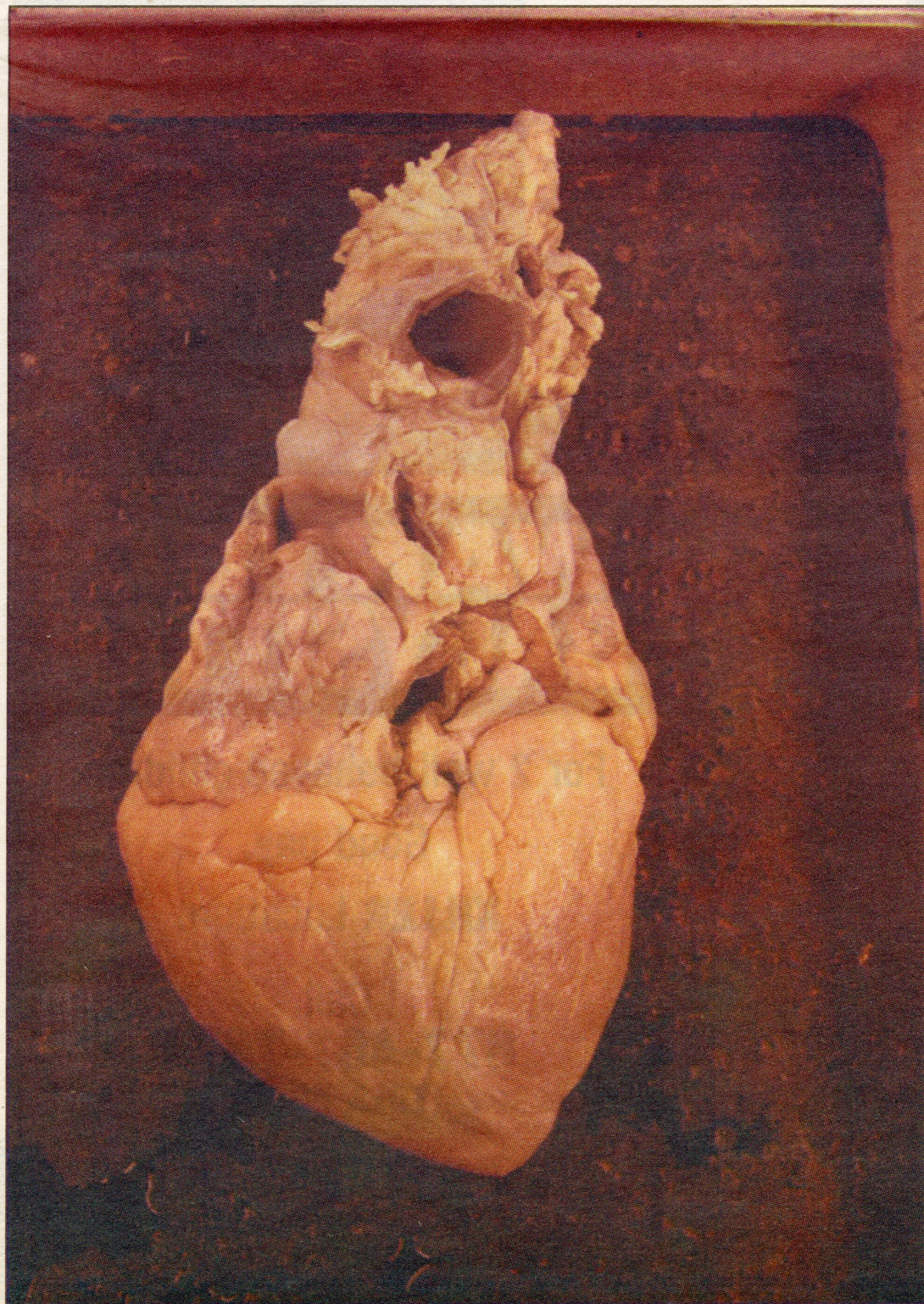
Handing your heart
over sounds sweet and
all...

but its *hardly* practical.

Avoid the bloody mess...

Get that
special someone a
Valentine classified ad
in the **Independent**.

Bring in the filled out form from the classified section
to Room E-049 and let us know it's love.



His 77th birthday MLK Day, a reflection of one man's accomplishments

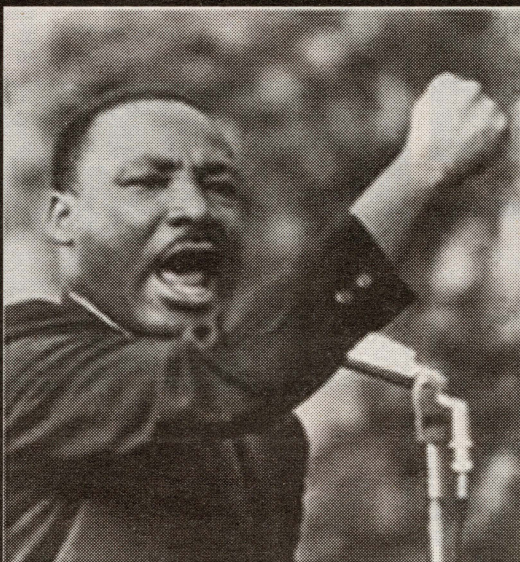
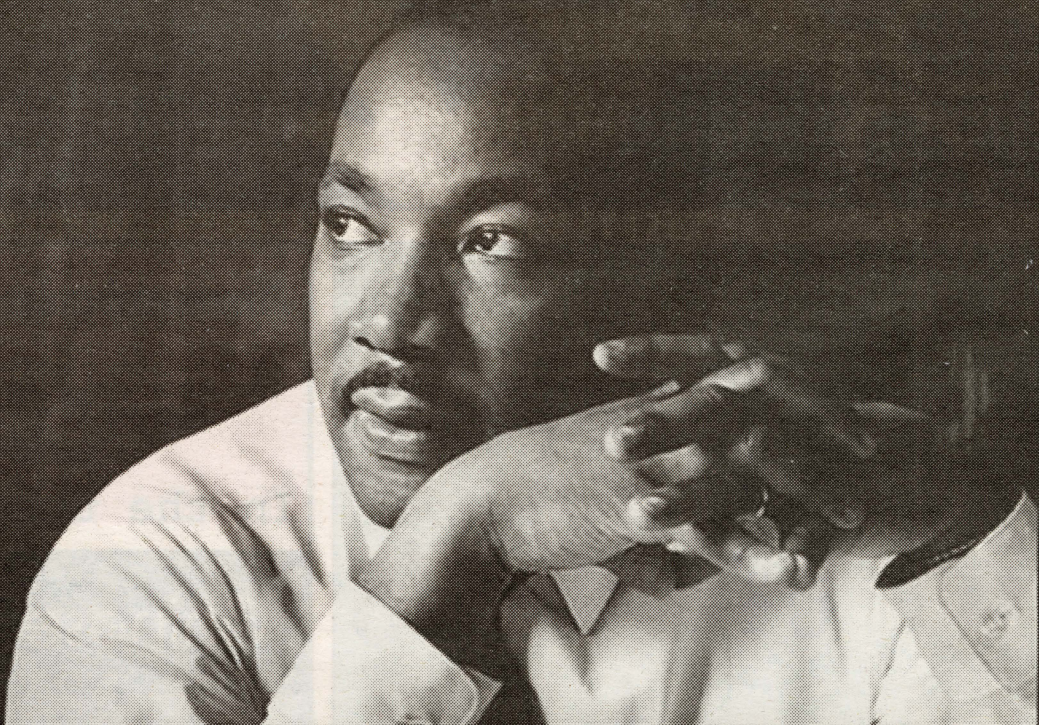
by Dominica Konopczak
Staff Writer

It would have been his 77th birthday, had Martin Luther King Jr. not been assassinated on April 4, 1968. He was the youngest winner of the Nobel Peace Prize and the first to lead nonviolent protests. It all started with Rosa Parks and her refusal to sit in the "black" part of the bus. After 382 days of boycotting the bus lines, the U.S. Supreme court declared bus segregation unconstitutional.

That was just the first step. In 1957, only a year after the Supreme Court's successful declaration, King set the groundwork for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and was elected president. The following years were spent leading non-violent campaigns. His movements resulted in the implementation of more and more equal rights bills.

During this time, King continued to write books and numerous articles. King became famous for his "I Have a Dream" speech, which was delivered to attendants of a Washington D.C. peaceful march. He's also known for the "Letter from a Birmingham Jail," a manifesto of the African-American revolution. His assassination caused a wave of aggressive riots and protests throughout the States.

Martin Luther King Jr. is undoubtedly one of the greatest figures in U.S. history, although he is not as famous in Europe. Of course, in Europe he is still known and children in school learn about his deeds, but most travelers from abroad have to come to the States to learn what this man means to Americans. However, throughout the world Martin Luther King Jr. is known as a fighter for equality.



photos courtesy of google.com

"Our lives begin to
end the day we become
silent about things that
matter."

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



"Like an unchecked cancer,
hate corrodes the personality
and eats away its vital unity.
Hate destroys a man's sense
of values and his objectivity.
It causes him to describe the
beautiful as ugly and the ugly
as beautiful, and to confuse the
true with the false and the false
with the true."

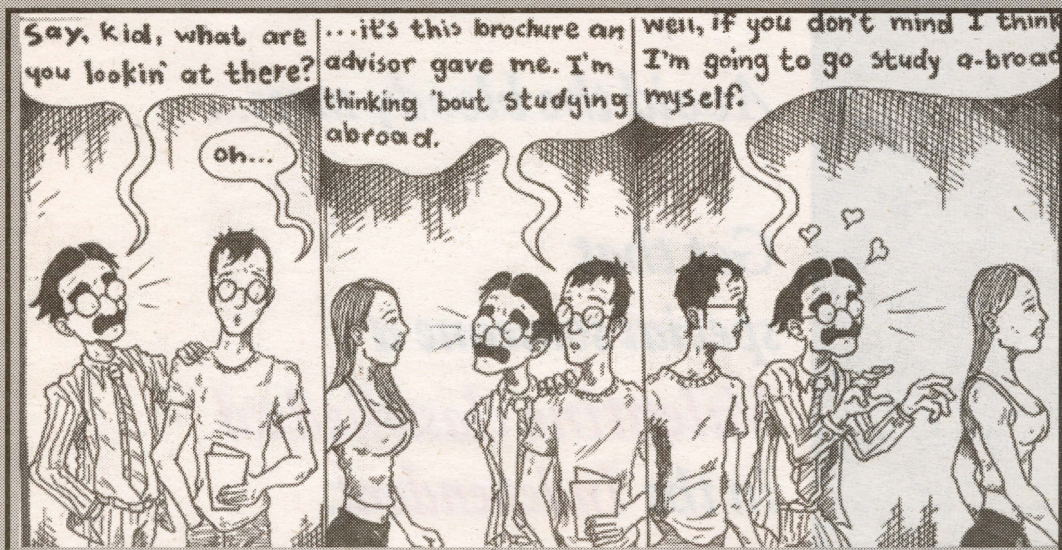
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Side Splitters

Marxism

by A.R. Lopez



WANTED: BABYSITTER

For 2 well-behaved children.

Good pay.

KILLER Location.

Call
877-467-7674
(TOLL FREE)

WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
IN THEATERS FEBRUARY 3RD

PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13
INTENSE TERROR, VIOLENCE AND SOME LANGUAGE

HaveYouCheckedTheChildren.com

SCREEN GEMS
A FILM BY JAMES HANNA

Advertisement



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 Bagamovich
Jolie Duhon
Jason Shaw

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
Mark Bank
Jennifer Bergdahl
Holly Dziewulski
Deborah Goldbaum
Dominica Konopczak
Michael Sy
Ben Merrell
Sarah Purlee
John Tait
Anna Zimowska
Jane Kolkevich
Amy Scoma
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 other 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.

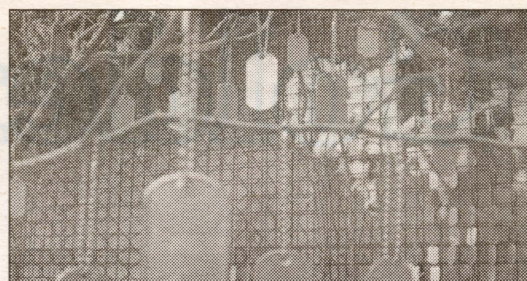
The Independent is a member of the Illinois College Press Association and Associated Collegiate Press.

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



Poland Study Abroad

An informational session about studying abroad as an exchange student in Warsaw, Poland. The meeting will be on Feb. 2 in SU-003 from 1:40 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. For more information, contact Ms. Rosemary Bradley at 773-442-4796.

Student Informational

Closed sections? Sitting on Classroom Floors? Seven Years to Graduate? Instruction Not Construction! State of the Campus Address. Wednesday, Jan. 25, at 7:00 p.m. in the Science Building Room 101.

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.

Sigma Lambda Beta

INFORMATIONALS

Wednesday, Jan. 25, from 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. and Thursday, Jan. 26, from 1:40 p.m. - 2:40 p.m. in SU-218.

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

INFORMATIONAL

Wednesday, Jan. 25, 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.

Public Safety Open House

Faculty, staff and students are invited to visit the new NEIU police and parking offices on Tuesday, Jan. 31, from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Moving Meditation

Ongoing class for all ages and fitness levels. Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. in Campus Recreation Studio 2.

Public Safety has Moved!

On Jan. 19 the Public Safety Office has moved to its new location on the first floor of the Parking Facility. The phone numbers will remain the same, x4100 for non-emergencies and x5511 for emergencies.

U.S. State Dept. Info Session

A discussion of Foreign Service, Civil Service, and other opportunities with the State Dept on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 1:40 p.m. in SU-217. Call 773-442-4680 to reserve your space.

Business Informational Session

The College of Business and Management and the Office of Scholarships & Retention invites freshmen and sophomores who are considering majoring in business to attend an informational session on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 1:40 p.m. in Classroom Building room 2105. Light refreshments will be served. For further information contact Michelle Morrow at 773.442.4606 or at M-Morrow@neiu.edu.

"Human Right and our Collective Destiny"

The Tenth Annual African, African American, Native American, Caribbean, and the Americas Heritage Conference.

"An African American Woman Reconnecting With Her Roots - My Journey as an Akan Queen Mother: From Ghana to Central America and Back to the United States" Presented by Nancy J. Dawson. Tuesday, Jan. 24 from 10:50 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. in Golden Eagles.

"Walmart and Workers' Rights: U.S. and Global Struggles" Presented by David Leaman and Nancy Matthews. Tuesday, Jan. 24, from 7:05 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. in Golden Eagles.

"Genocide in Darfur and What We Can Do About It" Presented by Dallas L. Browne, Wednesday, Jan. 25 from 10:00 a.m. - 10:50 p.m. in Golden Eagles.

"Economic Empowerment of Women in the Developing World" Presented by Ludovic Comeau Jr. Wednesday, Jan. 25 from 11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m. in Golden Eagles.

"The Social Impact of 20th Century African-American Literature" Presented by Chielozone Eze. Thursday, Jan. 26, from 12:15 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. in Golden Eagles.

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.

Flamenco 2006

Ensemble Espanol Spanish Dance Theater 30th Anniversary. Saturday, January 28, 2006 at 8:00 p.m in the Auditorium.

Employment opportunities

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

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.

Golden Opportunities

2004 ICPA Winner for Best Classified Ad Section in the state

For Sale/Rent

For Sale - Salmon silk Queen-Anne chair, excel cond. Ottoman (footrest), circa 1940s. Neutral tones. Will not separate. \$75. 297-3839 after 5.



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

For Sale - 1999 Jeep Grand Cherokee - 85 K miles, perfect 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

Selling off some vietnam war souvenirs, including stamps & coins, dolls and other 1960's memorabilia. For list, email oldmanneu@aol.com.

Wanted

Got talent? Looking for a lead actress for a rap music video being shot on February 10, 2006. If interested, contact Jason @ jbrady811@aol.com. No comp. Plenty of exposure.

Help wanted. Like to take pictures or do you know graphic arts? Do you know Photoshop, Pagemaker, Indesign? The Independent is looking to hire people to layout pages. For more information on page design, email azu418@yahoo.com. For info on photos email djbarrios@gmail.com.

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

Help Wanted. Looking for students interested in selling advertising for the Independent. Will gain valuable experience in a small business. Also looking for students to work on marketing research. For more information, e-mail andreazelinski@yahoo.com

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

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

Help Wanted. The Independent is looking for reporters! If you like to write and want to learn to be a reporter, opinions, arts or feature writer, now is the time to join. For more information e-mail pcobrien15@yahoo.com.

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 alpha psi lambda_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

Join the Anime Club. Meetings are in FA 107 at 1:40-2:40 pm every Thursday. contact S-cymbalistty@neiu.edu

IV Christian Fellowship @NEIU

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

Personals

Mr. Briggs, My love is deep. They say only time can tell but i know in my heart, our fate.

VDL- thank you for being the best friend I could ever have. BTW, POB misses RT. ALZ

Do you enjoy reading blogs with great views. Than you must go to "myspace.com" http://www.myspace.com/sdux51.ht

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: _____



As students and staff trudge to Northeastern every week, they see the same old buildings, the same old faces, and hear the same old stories of the university. Frankly, it can get a little monotonous, but Erika Krehbiel sees life at Northeastern with a fresh light and optimism. She sees the nooks and crannies of what makes this university unique.

The 28-year-old spends her days like a reporter, digging around for a good story by looking under rocks, behind classroom doors, and keeping her ear to the ground. No, she doesn't work for a newspaper; she's the director of Media Relations and has been fueling the NEIU publicity machine for what is now five and a half years.

"I think I'm one of few people that can say that I really love my job," she said with a smile. "I think that higher education presents a lot of interesting topics for publicity and to be able to promote the interesting things that students are doing."

She pointed to a recent article in *Timeout Chicago*, where an NEIU student found some never performed sheet music from a famous composer while traveling overseas. She recalled another story printed in *Pioneer Press* about a professor whose

Let's Get Personal

The storyteller

father was a suicide bomber who was never called to duty. The article focused on the professor's subsequent interviews with other bombers like his father.

Krehbiel then walked over to a long and low filing cabinet where she had drawers of folders with other articles just like these. They look like a sea of manila envelopes filled with newspaper clippings by month and year. There were hundreds of them, maybe more.

"You have good stories like that in fine arts and then you turn around and you're working with somebody in biology on another research piece," she pointed out. "So its just [that] there are many different stories, topics and ideas that I get to within the media," she said from the sixth floor of Building C, otherwise known as the Beehive. "There's never a dull day."

But PR isn't always that positive. Situations like the faculty union labor strike in the fall of 2004 or the recent fire in the library were not the kind of publicity a university wants.

"No matter where you are, whether you work at a hospital, a university, an airline ... there's always something that's going to happen. It's my belief that as long as you're prepared and you're open and communicate proactively with the media," you will get through it, she said. Although, "you may not have all the answers right away when [reporters] want them."

She has done more than simply hold



Erika Krehbiel's job is telling Northeastern's story.

down the fort these last few years. Krehbiel, and her team in Media Relations, are proud of the positive exposure she's helped bring to the university and its community.

In addition to her duties as director, she has been appointed to sit on the President's Council, where the vice president meets each week with the university president. She is also the university's Freedom of Information Act Officer and acts as a liaison between the university and reporters.

Her most recent endeavor circles back to the students on campus who continue to see

the same old faces day after day, without knowing some of the stories behind them. Krehbiel and the department is bringing the media to them in a showcase next month called NEIU News Day, where articles and posters will be displayed throughout Village Commons to showcase NEIU's media coverage and successes. B

"There's just too much going on. How are we going to keep up?" she asked, recalling a conversation with one of her writers. "There's always something going on. There's always something exciting."

photo by Dorian Barrios