

2-21-2006

## Independent- Feb. 21, 2006

Patrick O'Brien

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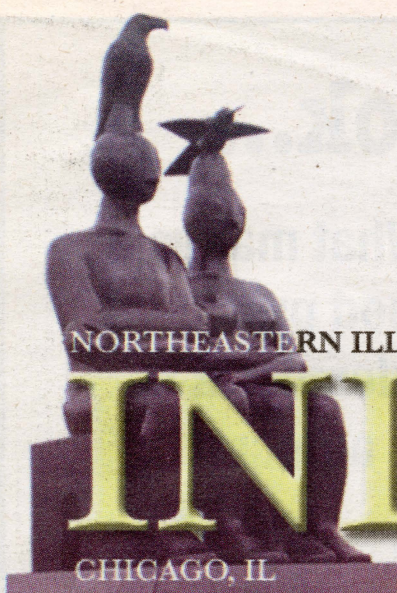
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### Recommended Citation

O'Brien, Patrick, "Independent- Feb. 21, 2006" (2006). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 344.  
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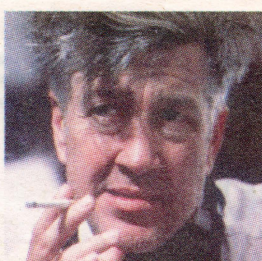
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**Buddha asks himself the question of the moment, Where is ...?**

**page 10**



**Pollard picks David Lynch, page 14**



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, February 21, 2006

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 16

# INDEPENDENT

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Serenity

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

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## Strong arm of the law

Did an NEIU officer go too far?

by Joe Hertel  
Opinions Editor

Last week, two NEIU students filed complaints with Public Safety about the way they were treated when stopped for a traffic infraction on campus.

Tiffany Barrington and Imani Beard were both cited separately by Officer Arturo Galindo of the Northeastern Illinois University Police Department for running a stop sign along the access road between Bryn Mawr and Foster Avenues on Feb. 8.

Both students felt they were treated rudely and were not properly informed of what was happening to them after being stopped by Galindo.



SEE COPS, PG. 3

photo by Dorian Barrios

## President Steinberg announces retirement

Trustees discuss tuition hike as well

by Violette Green  
Senior Staff Writer

The Board of Trustees held a meeting on Feb. 9 to discuss tuition increase recommendations for next year, President Steinberg's retirement, rewiring the university, and other issues.

President Salme Steinberg will be retiring this year. She was on sabbatical last semester and will be on sabbatical again this coming semester in the fall of 2006. She has been president of Northeastern for 11 years. The Board is setting up a search committee to look for a new president. The committee hopes to have the new president chosen by November 2006 and take office in 2007.

SEE PRESIDENT, PG. 5

## Library reopens on time

Offices, computer labs and tutorial centers still closed

by Mario Go  
Senior Staff Writer  
and Olga Bagamovich  
Production Assistant

"How Fitting that the [Library] reopened on Valentine's Day, for it is that so many of my students may fall in love with research," stated Knute Horowitz, a professor in the Department of Communication, Media and Theatre, on the opening day of the university's library. The library had been closed since the fire at the end of last semester.

SEE LIBRARY, PG. 9



photo by Dorian Barrios

Between 1 and 1.7 million dollars was the total cost of the renovated facilities.

## SGA violates state law, own constitution

by Elizabeth Rodriguez  
Senior Staff Writer

Throughout the fall semester of 2005, the Student Government Association (SGA) neglected official minutes for its regular meetings, violating the Illinois Open Meetings Act (IOMA) and the SGA Constitution.

IOMA section 2.06 states that "All public bodies shall keep written minutes of all their open meetings." Also, the SGA Constitution requires the speaker of the senate to "prepare the minutes of meeting within seven (7) days and post said

SEE SGA, PG. 4

## Cartoon Controversy

by Patrick O'Brien  
Editor-in-Chief

The *Independent* as a whole has decided to weigh in on the cartoons originally posted in the Danish paper *Jylland-Posten* last September that have caused riots and unrest worldwide.

Rather than simply republish the cartoons, as the student papers of some newspapers have done, and were in their rights to do, we have

decided as a paper to take a different route.

Staff cartoonist A.R Lopez has rendered another cartoon, which appears on page 10, along with an editorial, that seeks to take the issue of the cartoons and expand it to include a necessary dialogue between Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

We welcome public comment on this issue, and we will expand our Letters to the Editor section in upcoming issues to accommodate such public input.



# Free Speech Taskforce appointed

## H.O.M.E. and free speech issues unresolved since 1994

by Jane Kolkevich  
Staff Writer

The front page of the Nov. 21, 1994, issue of the *Independent* featured an article entitled "Village Square: Home to Controversy," which shows that H.O.M.E. (Heterosexuals Organized for a Moral Environment) has been coming on campus and getting "similar reaction[s]" since 1994. An all too familiar question is raised in the article, "should there be limits on the type of material that can be distributed in the Village Square?"

After more than 10 years, a Free Speech Taskforce has been coordinated to address an unclear policy. The goal of the Taskforce is to propose a policy and procedure to Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. Melvin Terrell by May 15, 2006.

Kris Pierre, assistant to the VP of Student Affairs, is looking forward to involving the student body with open forums and discussions. "Well informed decisions happen when there's a free exchange of ideas," said Pierre.

The first meeting took place on Jan. 30, 2006, with Sharron Evans, director of the Student Activities Office, as the chair of the committee. The taskforce members include four NEIU staff members. Of the three original student body representatives, Jacob Chacko, president of the GLBTA (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance), was absent.

"I did not know that I was a part of the committee until members of the GLBTA had told me," said Chacko. Further, Chacko said that the meeting was scheduled at the same time as his GLBTA meeting. Evans confirmed that she and Terrell made the choice for Chacko to be on the committee.

Robin Matthies, former president of the GLBTA, who had been actively involved in the controversy since 2003, was surprised

that she was not approached to be part of the taskforce. "I feel like they are stacking the committee and avoiding the students who've had a loud voice in this," stated Matthies.

Shortly after the first meeting, two more student body members were added. Today, out of five student members, four were selected by Evans and Terrell. Student members include SGA Associate Justice Peter Michalczyk, SGA President Evelyn Nazario-Rose, GLBTA President Jacob Chacko, Rachel Cohen of the NEIU Socialists, and Joe Hertel of the *Independent*, although Hertel is not representing the *Independent* on the taskforce.

Keeanga Taylor of the Socialists is concerned that the administrators have handpicked the members for the committee: "The entire student body should come up with a solution." According to Taylor, if more students on campus knew about it they would want to be involved.

Michalczyk, on the other hand, said that the student body is not sufficiently involved. He is disappointed that many students "are not willing to come to the meetings and are not willing to speak their mind."

Members of the committee appeared optimistic about the Free Speech Taskforce. Michalczyk is looking forward to "revising the entire policy and adjusting it for everybody."

Pierre is planning to bring her experience from working with the free speech policies in California State Fresno and Fullerton. She suggested an ongoing review because "sometimes policies get dated."

Evans appeared to be ready to take on the challenge. She was enthusiastic about getting to the bottom of the issue and is "hoping that the students and administration will step up to the plate [so that] we [can] get this done."

## A Closer Look...



What makes a good president: democrat or autocrat?

What should be important in the search for President Steinberg's replacement?

It was recently announced that President Salme Steinberg is retiring. So, the question for the Board of Trustees and the whole university community is what kind of President should they be looking for?

Do not underestimate the importance of this position within the bureaucracy. The leader, in this case the president, sets the tone and priorities for all of his or her underlings to follow. The president will say directly and implicitly what is and is not a priority. Equally important is the example they set in addressing the university's concerns.

One example from recent years was when a group of students, the socialists, the GLBTA (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance) and others (the usual suspects), came to demand a meeting with the president and demonstrated in front of Steinberg's office.

Public Safety was dispatched to camp outside of her door, and she missed a function in the Golden Eagles room rather than face the angry students. From a public relations standpoint, she may have felt it was the best way to handle it. Others may have gone another way.

There is a story about one of Steinberg's predecessors back in the 1960s. An angry group of students showed up at the president's office, demanding answers to some injustice they felt they had suffered. The president met with the students and diffused the situation with pizza.

While this example may be as much legend as fact, the point is that there are different management styles and personalities, and they are as important to consider as the actual work experience and the letters after a candidate's name. One student suggested our next president hold regular forums where students could ask the president questions directly.

That is personality, democrat or autocrat, but just being nice and communicating well is not solely what is important either. A university president is also a politician who must motivate those who actually run the university and lobby money from the state government at the same time, or tuition goes up ... again.

Finally they should be proactive. All too often at this institution it seems that nothing happens unless there is a crisis. The Safety Officer is a great example of this kind of thinking. It took a mercury spill last summer to decide to post the position, at only \$35,000 per year, and a fire to decide to pay the job enough to attract any candidates (it is my understanding the job remains unfilled). Pure reactionary thinking.

This column is not intended to slam the president on the mistakes of the past, but to instead point out that the selection of a new president will chart a new course for the university. Will the new president be sheltered, only reacting, or will the president be a bold, forward thinking president who leads with vision and knows the university in and out?

So, to the Board of Trustees: think hard on this, because the choices you make in the next year will have a profound effect on the lives of students here for many, many years to come.



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come to an info meeting:

TUES., MARCH 14, 12 NOON  
STUDENT UNION, ROOM 3





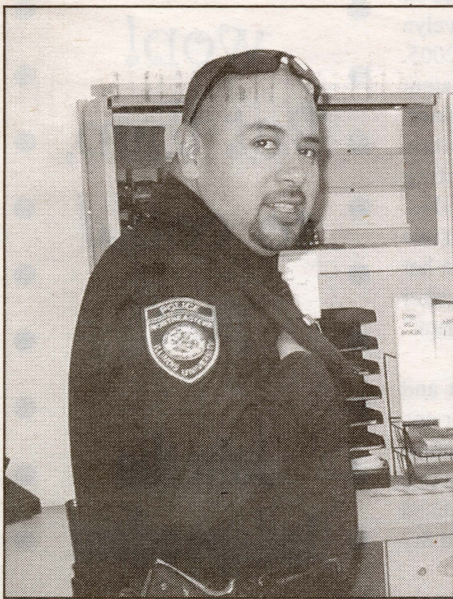


photo by Dorian Barrios

**Officer Galindo, accused by students of improper procedure during traffic stops.**

"When I couldn't find my driver's license," related Barrington, "he [Galindo] told me, 'This is not a joke, ma'am, this is serious.'" Still searching for her license, she reports that Galindo told her to step out of the car.

She then found herself being patted down by an unidentified female officer who "searched me all over and made me keep my hands behind my back while she searched all my pockets, the inside of my waistband, all over my body." Barrington said, "I do not understand what made me get searched and why he [Galindo] wanted to search my car."

Barrington stated that Galindo asked her if she had anything in the car he should know about and that he was going to have the car and her searched. Barrington was then placed in the squad car and brought to the station where a routine check of her driver's license was made. She was then issued tickets and released on her own recognizance.

The other student, Imani Beard, had a similar complaint while her car was being checked by another officer. "I asked him [Galindo] a question, and with a vulgar voice he says, 'Don't ask me, ask the judge!'"

When asked by the *Independent* about the physical search of Barrington, Lt. Kevin J. Connolly, Northeastern Police Watch Commander, stated "This is standard procedure. If you don't have a driver's license on your person, you are subject to search before being placed in the police vehicle."

The Department of Public Safety would

neither confirm nor deny receiving the two complaints, but Lt. Connolly remarked that all complaints are given prompt attention and follow specific procedural guidelines. "We cannot comment any further on any ongoing investigation," stated Connolly, although he did stress that if complaint allegations prove true that proper departmental action would be taken.

The complaints filed by Barrington and Beard are considered "Class Two" allegations, which include "inadequate public service, discourtesy [and] improper procedure, according to General Order 13 of Internal Affairs.

Both Director of Public Safety Jim Lyon and Lt. Connolly agreed that sometimes police officers could appear to be intimidating while looming over a student's car with their squad lights flashing, especially when there is confusion as to the authority of Public Safety on campus and unfamiliarity with standard police procedures.

"I am not familiar with the procedure because this was the first time I had been stopped since I was 17 years old," commented Beard. Both women claim they were not informed as to what was happening to them. "He [Galindo] told me every time I am stopped it is like being arrested and that's why he took my driver's license," said Beard.

"Anytime you cannot leave the area voluntarily," stated Connolly, "that is technically an arrest." Both Connolly and Lyon stressed that persons stopped should be informed by the officers of the procedures that are being enforced.

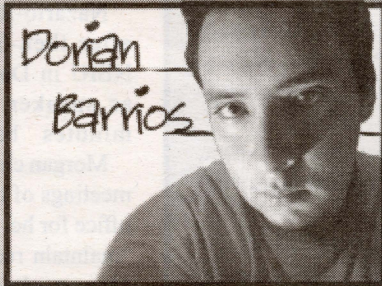
Commenting on their meeting with Lt. Connolly, Barrington stated that she and Beard felt that Connolly was "very responsive and listened to our complaint. He wanted us to feel safe on campus." Connolly assured the women that alleged rude behavior, as in the complaint against officer Galindo, is not acceptable and would be dealt with.

Although the two women must still go to court, they felt their voices were heard. "Officer Galindo made me feel as if I were a criminal and did not treat me with respect and made me feel as though I was not a part of NEIU," stated Barrington.

Beard added, "How can I trust campus police when there are police like Galindo that made me feel like they are out to get me?" The women should receive the determination of their complaints within the next week. The *Independent* will publish the results.

Officer Galindo, a police officer at NEIU for several years, was unavailable for comment and did not respond to email from the *Independent* as of press time.

## Time to pay the price



**Can the phoenix of responsibility rise from the ashes of the library**

The Library has finally reopened. We are now reconnected with our books, research materials and super computers. Finally. We hardly anticipate any event here with as much eagerness as we did the library reopening ... and it actually opened on the date that it was supposed to.

Maybe this is a sign that things are about to change at our university. Maybe the administrators here are beginning to look out for our best interests. Could this really be? That would be so splendid indeed. Hopefully, there will be a continuing show of competence after this opening. Maybe the leaky parking facility is next, or maybe they'll start using decent paper in the computer lab printers.

There are so many opportunities to appease us. It's not like it's hard. All we want is an institution that we can be proud of. There are many studios and labs that are too small or don't have any sign of modern technology. We also have a complicated and pathetically outdated internet set up. How do you run an e-mail server and run out of disk space? I bet our web site has also kept a few prospective students from applying here, too.

Meanwhile, I guess we'll have to settle for the library, which many of us took for granted and a few despised. Now that all the library's customers who spilled out into other parts of the campus can return to the library, we will have some breathing room again. Not that being near other students is a bad thing, but some breathing room is needed after a while.

At certain points in the day, there would be practically no silent places to get any work done; the commons was louder than ever. Walking around campus began to seem like walking around the mall, with less security and fewer shopping options. As long as we don't have another fire or mass displacement of students, I think we'll be fine in the personal space department.

So let's give the school credit for getting the library open on time and hope that it never happens again. We all know that we are already packed to the brim.

Maybe a fire prevention system should be considered for all the areas on campus that have the possibility of catching fire. Or if that's too expensive, then I guess we can just wait until all the buildings start burning down and then start from scratch with the necessary equipment. It worked for our great city; it should work for the university. All joking aside, it's good to see the library back in service. We have one less thing to be ashamed of.

## Campus cops are not for show

### Students discover Public Safety is for real

by Joe Hertel  
Opinions Editor

While visiting the new offices of Public Safety, someone commented, "This looks like a real police station!" It is a real police station and has real police in it, which several students have discovered recently when they were detained for alleged traffic violations.

"Our police officers are just like any municipality, full-service law enforcement agency," stated Chief James C. Lyon Jr., the director of Public safety. "They have the authority to arrest, investigate criminal complaints and write state citations for traffic infractions. However," he continued, "we would rather not use that 'authority' to get compliance."

"We very often get complaints from university community members who are not satisfied with other drivers' actions on the campus," stated Lyon. "There may be some confusion among some students, staff and faculty as to what our role is on campus and exactly what our authority is," Lyon continued.

Sometimes, students and faculty become confused when they are stopped and written a state citation from one of the campus officers because they assume that Public Safety is simply uniformed security guards who lock and open doors, and in the words of Lyon, "They

sometimes leave with the feeling of, 'Can they really do that?'"

With the increasing number of complaints about the hazardous driving habits of vehicles on campus, the NEIU police are paying more attention to moving violations, especially along the access road and entrances between Foster and Bryn Mawr avenues on the west end of campus. "Sometimes, students can't cross the street because the cars are just not stopping!" exclaimed Lt. Kevin J. Connolly, Watch Commander.

With additional traffic and new parking garage, incidents of "Sharking" (stalking students leaving campus to obtain a parking space), "Dive-bombing" (speeding into an available space), and "Frogger" (erratic driving in the parking garage and lots), have increased since last semester. Lyon assured that these issues are being addressed by implementing "selective traffic enforcement and control, where possible, in these areas."

For additional information on the duties and powers of the NEIU police department, go to their web site at [www.neiu.edu/~psafety/power.html](http://www.neiu.edu/~psafety/power.html).

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# Public Safety holds open house for new offices

by Elizabeth Rodriguez  
Senior Staff Writer

On Jan. 31, Public Safety held an open house to showcase its new offices on the north side of the parking structure to the public. Public safety employees gave tours of the new facilities that they hope will better serve the NEIU community.

The most notable difference between the new and old offices is the consolidation of both the public safety and parking offices under one roof. Previously, parking was located in the PE Building, separate from public safety. Jim Lyon, director of public safety, described this consolidation as "one of the best benefits of the new space."

The parking area of the new offices features many improvements, such as new storage areas to keep ticket and permit information and supplies, a parking enforcement assignment area, and two workstations where students can log on to computers to deal with parking problems. There is also a telecommunications center where the two teams of parking enforcement officers can upload handheld devices with permit information.

The public safety area displays a police work area, two new interrogation rooms, a new cellblock to keep detainees, and a separate dispatch area, where dispatchers can focus on calls without being distracted. Improved facilities for public safety officers, such as a kitchen area and shower, make it easier for officers who may be working a double shift.

In the future, Lyon plans to use the new training room to hold crime prevention seminars for NEIU's police officers, who currently receive training offsite, which will save money and make training more convenient. Furthermore, Lyon hopes to hold seminars for NEIU and the community regarding issues such as identity theft and general crime prevention. "We really pride ourselves on good community policing," stressed Lyon.

Lyon encourages students, staff, and faculty who "might not have a real clear picture about what Public Safety does" to visit the new facility, or even take advantage of the ride along with a public safety officer program that has been reinstated with Lyon's arrival at NEIU. Lyon joined NEIU at the beginning of this school year.



photo by Jason Shaw

**President Salme Steinberg, said to be replaced as President in 2007.**



photo by Dorian Barrios

Tuition increase recommendations were also discussed. Northeastern currently has a plan that ensures students will have a flat tuition rate for four years.

The proposal for next fall's incoming students is \$175 per credit hour. This is an increase from last fall's incoming student tuition rate of \$160.

This increase would also affect continuing students who enrolled before the Truth in Tuition law went into effect in fall 2004. Continuing students would pay \$136 per credit hour.

Along with the tuition increase was a discussion over the gap in financial aid for students. According to a member of the Board, "There hasn't been a gap between the maximum award a student can get and the price of tuition and fees." This means that the tuition has not exceeded the most money a student can get from the state.

Dean Paul, director of University Events, told the *Independent* that the university would be holding multiple graduations next winter. The university has yet to determine how the ceremonies will be divided, but Paul said it would likely be by college.

Northeastern will be expanding the current wireless system for laptops and other wireless tools in Building D, all floors of the Library, the open area of the P. E. Complex and the University Commons.

As part of NEIU's rewiring, the University proposed to sign a contract with SunGard SCT, an information system company that would install technology to integrate the school's current systems into one and make it easier to access student files.

The Classroom Building will soon be renamed Lech Walesa Hall to honor the leader of the Polish Solidarity Union who started the independent trade union. The organization stood up to the Communist government in Poland, and in 1983, Walesa was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Building C will also be getting some exterior work done.

Another item included in the Board of Trustees' address was Northeastern's proposed agreement with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority and the Nature Conservancy.

The university has worked closely with the Nature Conservancy to help protect the Indian Boundary Prairies out in Markham, Illinois.

The ISTHA is proposing to expand the highway onto that property. If the ISTHA expands the highway there, then there must be land cultivated elsewhere. The ISTHA would receive \$600,000 to cultivate the land in a different area. The university would help the Conservancy with the new land.

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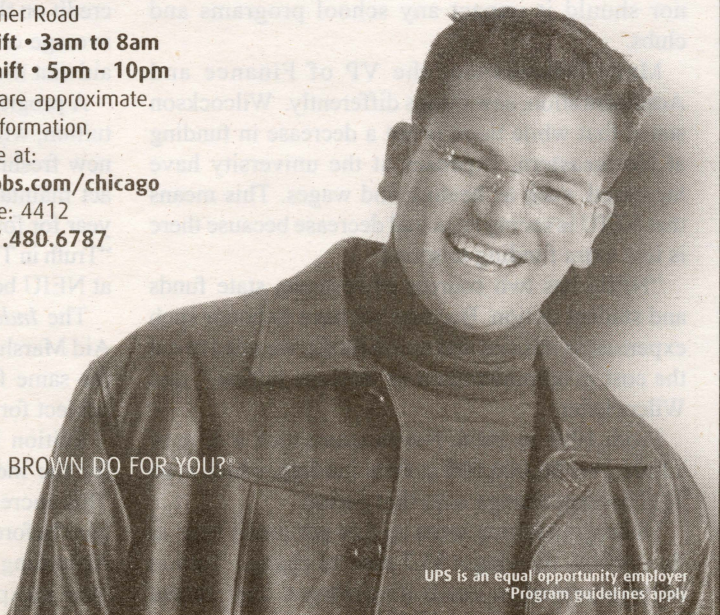


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# Simon for Congress

## NEIU graduate running for Congress

by Duncan Macfarland III  
Production Editor

Simon Ribeiro, a graduate of NEIU with a degree in political science, will be running for congress this March under the Republican ticket against Michael P. Shannon in the 9th Congressional District. Currently the seat is held by Jan Schakowsky, a Democrat. Ribeiro's uncle, Al D'Amato, the senator for New York, inspired Ribeiro's interest in politics and government. Ribeiro stressed, "Younger people need to be a part of the government, [one] only needs a baccalaureate and enough signatures to run for congress."

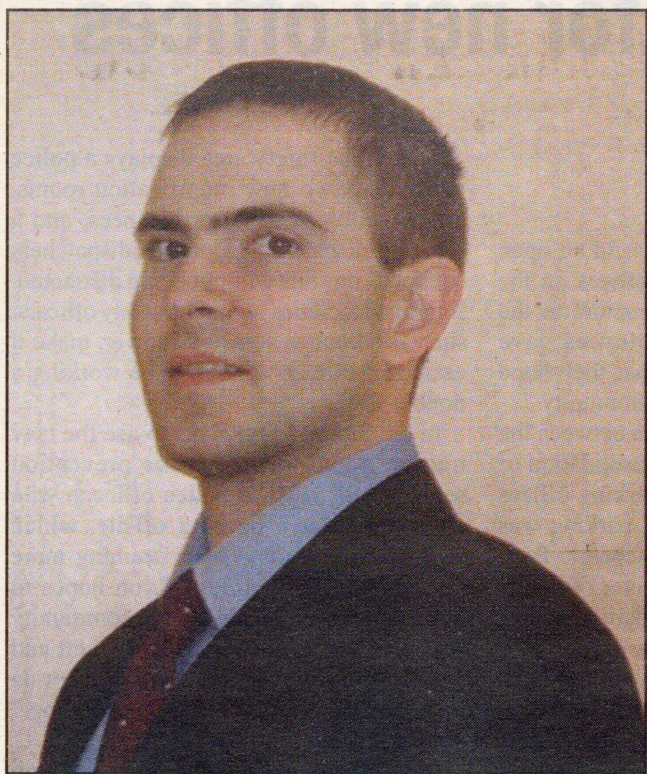
One of Ribeiro's main issues is healthcare: "[You] can't have big government without adequate health care for every one," he said. He is in favor of a "big government," where the government has more domestic power to govern the nation.

One of his first resolutions he would like to see is the elimination of the Electoral College. "The Electoral College was created for the smaller states to receive a voice," said Ribeiro, but it is not needed due to the current population.

He is also a proponent of adequate post-secondary funding from

SEE SIMON, PG. 6



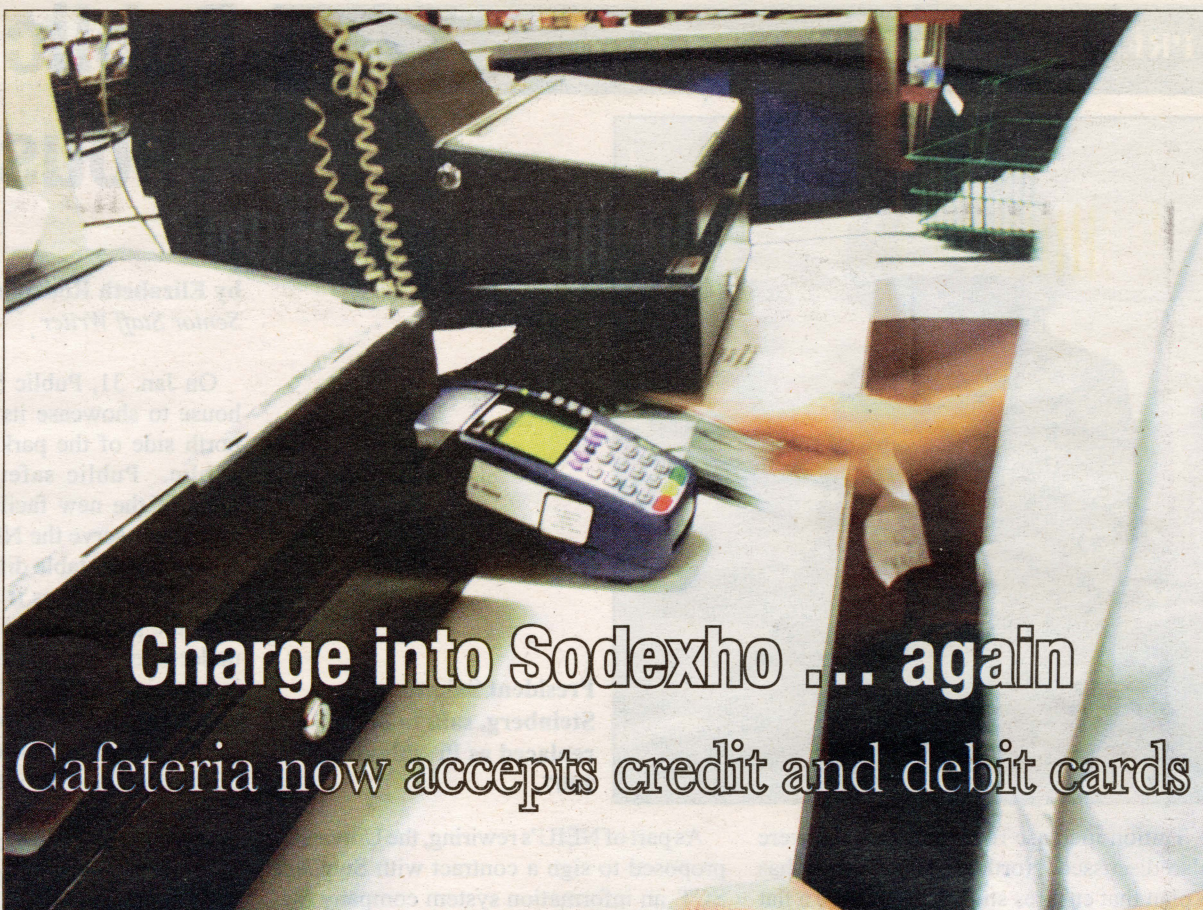


Recent graduate Simon Ribeiro on the ballot for the Republican Primary for the U. S. Congress.

the federal government. He also believes the federal budget is in need of a facelift for educational spending.

His opponent, Shannon, was a former political operative for Illinois, and a Supply Chain Manager for Federal Signal Corporation and the Procurement Manager for Sears Holdings Corporation. They both believe that there is a problem with campaign financing and are both taking personal finances to fund their campaign.

On foreign policy, Ribeiro said that if the U.S. wants to be the example of democracy in the world, it must first decide what it should be before sending it out to the world.



## Charge into Sodexho ... again

### Cafeteria now accepts credit and debit cards

by Dino Pollard  
REV Editor

Back in November, the *Independent* reported that Sodexho would soon accept credit cards at the cafeteria. Now, this has become a reality and students can purchase food items from Sodexho with credit cards.

Since some places require customers to purchase a minimum of \$5 to \$10, there was some question as to whether or not Sodexho would have a similar requirement. According to Sodexho Campus Services' General Manager Sofia Quirk, that will not be the case.

The new system was implemented on Feb. 8. All major credit cards will be accepted at Sodexho, such as MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover. When asked if bank-issued debit cards would be accepted, Quirk said, "Yes, but only if they can be used as credit cards, too."

With this new system in place, students who prefer to use credit or debit cards as opposed to carrying around cash no longer have to worry about going off campus for lunch or going hungry.

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## Illinois state universities see 2.5% funding decrease

### National average is up 5%

by Jessica Moen  
Senior Staff Writer

The new fiscal year is to end soon, and state funding for state universities in Illinois are looking at a 2.5 percent drop statewide, as apposed to an average five percent increase nationally. This issue has worried many students at Northeastern, since the tuition is relatively low, compared to other state universities.

The *Independent* talked to a spokeswoman for Gov. Blagojevich, Lena Parsons, the Illinois Deputy Communications Officer for the Governor's Office of Management and Budget. She assured the *Independent* that Northeastern had nothing to worry about. She stated that the state budget for 2005-2006 shows no reduction in state funding for classrooms, nor should it impact any school programs and clubs.

Mark Wilcockson, the VP of Finance and Administration, saw things differently. Wilcockson stated that while there is not a decrease in funding at Northeastern, expenses at the university have increased, such as heating and wages. This means that NEIU is seeing an actual decrease because there is less extra funding to spend.

"NEIU has two sources of revenue, state funds and student tuition. Because we have to honor such expenses as utilities and union funds, we need to cut the cost in administration or increase tuition," said Wilcockson.

From 1996 to 2006, Northeastern took a drop of a little over \$6,000,000 in state funding, which is an 18.3 percent change over that period.

Undergrad tuition went up \$44 per credit hour in that period, showing a 53.7 percent change. Tuition only increased in small percentages over recent

years, except for 2005-2006, which shows a 5.1 percent increase, which is the biggest percentage jump in a decade.

When the *Independent* asked Parsons about tuition, she stated that the reason for the difference in budget is that pension and retirement funds is being affected. The funds are being moved from higher education budget to the state university budget, which will show a difference in the budget, but that it was still pretty level last year and should not be too great of a difference. "Blagojevich believes very strongly that education is a priority and works hard to maintain it and keep the budget where it is," stated Parsons.

Parsons mentioned a couple of proposals that the Governor is bringing up at the next meeting. One is a tuition tax credit, which will provide families of part time and full-time students to receive up to \$1,000 credit on their taxes if the student can maintain a B average or higher. This is also after any financial aid that they may receive.

A program that is already in effect is the truth in tuition, which affects incoming transfer students or new freshmen who come into the university. This act maintains the same amount of tuition for that year for four years, after four it is subject to change. "Truth in Tuition" does not apply to students enrolled at NEIU before the program started.

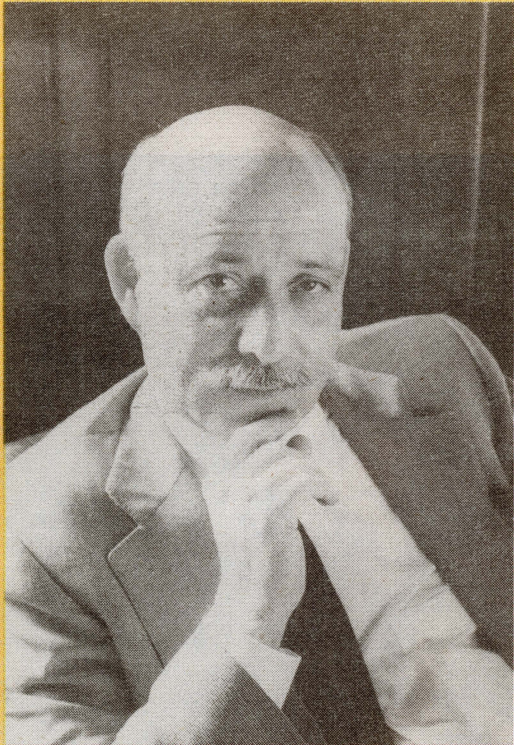
The *Independent* talked to Director of Financial Aid Marshall Jennings, who said "We are expecting the same funding as last year, but as always, it is subject for approving."

Tuition is increasing about \$11 per credit hour for the incoming freshman and transfer students. This increase will also affect students who were here before the "Truth in Tuition" program started. According to Wilcockson, NEIU is still one of the most inexpensive universities in Illinois.



# European Union International Business Conference

## Will the European Dream Replace the American Dream in a Global World?



### Keynote Speaker Jeremy Rifkin

Monday, February 27, 2006  
7:05 PM • Alumni Hall

*Mr. Rifkin will be available after the session to sign his book*

Jeremy Rifkin is the founder and president of The Foundation on Economic Trends in Washington D.C. In his newest book, *The European Dream: How Europe's Vision of the Future is Quietly Eclipsing the American Dream*, Mr. Rifkin argues that while the great American Dream is fading, a powerful new European Dream is beginning to capture the attention and imagination of the world. The nascent European Dream, says Rifkin, is in many respects the mirror opposite of the American Dream, but far better suited to meet the challenges of a globalizing society in the 21st century.

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## Roots in Africa

### Nana Efua Sanka visits NEIU

by Olga Bagramovich  
Production Assistant

Dr. Nancy J. Dawson, a professor of African-American studies, held a conference on Jan. 24 in the Golden Eagles room. She began her speech with a story about children playing on the playground and being confused about their skin color.

Children on the playground made fun of each other for being black. Skin color was an issue for Dawson when she was growing up. She decided to travel to Africa to learn about her ancestors and culture in order to understand herself better.

Dawson explained the significance of traveling to Africa and seeing people like her: "Everyone was your sister and brother," she said. "Slavery wasn't that long ago," which made her want to learn more about her ancestors, Dawson explained.

In 1999, she received the title of the traditional "Queenmother" in the village of Sanka in Ghana, West Africa. Dawson experienced a traditional change of name through a spiritual ceremony when she received the prestige honor of being called Queenmother. She received the name Nana Efua Sanka; "Nana" means elderly, and in Africa the elderly get the most respect.

Dawson demonstrated the use of shackles, which were used on slaves. "Think how many people died in them," she told the audience. Later, she asked for volunteers to carry heavy balls of chain around the room, which slaves were chained to. "It was extremely heavy to hold in your arms, not to mention walking in them," Dawson explained, referring to the 40 pounds of chain.

Dawson spent 15 years working as the professor of African-American Studies at University of Albany, University of New York, Southern Illinois University

Carbondale, and Austin State University. Dawson has published work in academic journals and lectured at universities and colleges across the country about the commonalities between African and native culture. She has also worked as an independent researcher and activist throughout the country.

Join us!  
E-049



# Ensemble Español celebrates 30 years



photos courtesy of vivapbral.com

by Olga Bagramovich  
Production Assistant

Ensemble Español Spanish Dance Theater, one of the premier Spanish Dance companies in the United States, is celebrating its 30th anniversary. The ensemble is in residence at Northeastern under the artistic leadership of founder Dame Libby Komaiko.

The company of 40 dancers, singers, and musicians represent different world cultures, such as Spanish, Puerto Rican, Mexican, Colombian, Peruvian, Chilean, Guatemalan, and Honduran.

The Ensemble has performed throughout the United States, Mexico, and Puerto Rico. It has received high praise by the critics, educators, social agencies, professional arts organizations, and Latino officials around the world.

The Ensemble performs different genres, such as classical, ethnic, folkloric, Flamenco, and contemporary expressions of a variety of Spanish dance traditions.

The Ensemble began in Chicago in 1976 by Komaiko. She was later honored in 1983 by his Majesty Don Juan Carlos I, the King of Spain.

The recent Anniversary Flamenco concert featured the full company, including special guest Flamenco singers and guitarists Paco Fonta and Pansequito from Spain. Laura Scruggs, house manager, was very enthusiastic about the performance: "It is a great honor to work for the Ensemble."

A dream was realized in 1976  
and continues to this day



From the traditional (left) to the modern (above)  
Ensemble Español keeps reinventing dance.



by Tom Robb  
News Editor

The *Independent* won 11 awards, the 4<sup>th</sup> highest award count in its category for excellence at the annual Illinois College Press Association Convention held at the Chicago Holiday Inn City Center last weekend.

The *Independent's* awards included one for general excellence. Editor and Chief of the *Independent* Patrick O'Brian said he felt this was the most significant award for the *Independent*, "It measures the entire paper and not just individual pieces of work. (It means) that the paper has improved dramatically in the last four years."

Media professionals from major Illinois

## Award Winning Journalism

### Independent wins 11 awards for excellence at Illinois College Press Convention

newspapers including the Chicago Sun-Times and Tribune gave seminars and judged the awards competition. In 2005 the *Independent* won 13 awards, tying the Columbia College's *Chronicle* for most awards in their category. Included in the 2004 and 2005 awards was an honorable mention for General Excellence.

The Publisher of Miller Newspapers, Devin Miller judged the General Excellence category, his written evaluation said, "A newspaper of this size is probably tempted to fill its pages with U-wire (wire service content) and I appreciate that they didn't do so." Miller also said "The *Independent* has a small staff from a much smaller college than many of their competition but still are keeping up with the bigger boys and girls."

Miller did have criticisms of the *Independent*. He criticized inconsistency use of font types and sizes and that the masthead was too

large.

On the use lack of wire service use O'Brian said, "We're a student publication and we want our content to be student generated."

The editorial board of the *Independent* won an award for an editorial. The editorial was in response to a Chicago Tribune editorial regarding low graduation rates at Northeastern. "I felt the need to defend the students of the university against an unwarranted attack by the Tribune," said O'Brian, who wrote the editorial on the Board's behalf. The *Independent's* editorial was later re-printed in the Chicago Tribune.

The *Independent* won an award for In-depth reporting by News Editor Tom Robb, former Business Manager Jon Bracich and Staff Writer Jennifer Bergdahl on the last summer's mercury spill, that story lead to a story on the spill be the Chicago Sun-Times. Robin Monaghan,



Enterprise Reporter for the Daily Journal of Kankakee said, "I like the aggressive approach of this piece – the fact that it pushes the issue for answers and response."

Production Manager Azucena Beltran who won two awards for news photos (first and third) immediately after winning both awards Beltran said, "I've never won an (competitive) award before."

One of the award winning photos was of an emotional Cesar Miranda hugging Doug Lee after winning the election for SGA Vice President. The other was of the Union of Puerto Rican Students silent protest.

Graphics Editor Cecilia Carboni won three awards for advertising design, two awards for in house promotions and one for an advertising campaign.



# Native-American Heritage Conference

## The art of Reiki



photo courtesy of brown.edu

“One has to really experience the essence of Reiki to understand the beauty of its efforts.”

by Deborah Goldbaum  
Copy Editor

As part of the Native-American Heritage Conference, Ajit R. Telang, Reiki Master Teacher, spoke about Reiki as healing energy. She spoke about the energy coming from one's own body.

Telang first spoke about Reiki itself and then gave a demonstration. Telang said, “Reiki is to energize all vital organs. It is thought of as a recharged battery.” As she gave the demonstration, she walked the audience through it. Telang said that the “energy has to flow in your body.” Each body part is normally given attention for three minutes, starting with the forehead and working down the body.

A woman named Nannette volunteered for the demonstration. Nannette said that she felt “tingly.” When Telang said that a full treatment would take 63 minutes, Nannette replied, “I don't have anything to do.”

Telang said that Reiki helps to “solve the problems in one's life.” Further, said Telang, “One has to really experience the essence of Reiki to understand the beauty of its efforts.” Telang stated that it is important when practicing Reiki in your own life to “make time for yourself.” She said, “You must close your eyes and concentrate and ask ‘how can I fix my problems?’”

In the second half of her presentation, Telang discussed and demonstrated Agnihotra-Angel fire. She said Agnihotra is also an “antidote for problems we have created for ourselves.” It is a small fire that is made of “dried cow dung in a copper pyramid, putting some grains of rice into the fire exactly at sunrise and sunset,” according to Telang. Telang said that they use copper in the Agnihotra because it is the “purest form of metal that does not get welded.”

This presentation took place on Feb. 9 in Alumni Hall as part of the Native-American Heritage Conference.

## The Trail of Tears and the Fire of Peace

Exploring experience through oral traditions

by Olga Bagramovich  
Production Assistant

On Feb. 9 the Native-American Conference held “The Cherokee Traditions and the Trail of Tears” conference. Special speaker Momfeather Erickson, director Mantle Rock Native Education and Cultural Center, spoke.

Erickson is a respected Cherokee Elder who lives her traditions and culture. She has traveled the world to share and teach Cherokee traditions.

“When you talk to me I talk to you, but I listen to the spirit,” she explained. We need to listen and hear at certain level. She discussed the stories of the people that had been passed through her grandparent through the generations down to her.

Each story slightly changes from each storyteller, explained Erickson. The importance is that we know of them and we get the information to the other generation. “These stories are not written, torture families, destroyed, pain that mother felt not written in books,” she explained.

She stressed the importance of listening to each other and paying attention to the words that are said. “The voices always come back and the sounds whispers that go before us enable us to pay attention to your surroundings,” said Erickson. “We always believe what stories told, this was our truth.”

“We are all the same loving people that need to be treated the same,” she said, stressing the importance of equality,

treating people in a loving way and respecting them as individuals. “We've been killed everyday with all the medicine. Everything we need is in our fingertips,” Erickson said, discussing how people used to solve all medical emergencies through mother earth. Everything was available through the reach of their fingers.

“The Tree Fires /The Fire of the Potawatomi and the Songs of the Ojibwa” was another part of the conference.

The presenters, Bruce Hardwick and Duane Kinnart were both fire keepers, Hardwick at Rapid River Michigan and Kinnart, at Gladstone Michigan. Hardwick talked about the ancient Peace Fire

and how it has been carried around the world. To unify all cultures as one.

Duane Kinnart shared the importance of the songs in connecting people to the earth their culture and the spirit. “Talking about songs that we listen to as almost a prayer. No matter what type of music it is rap, classic, or country the words represent the emotion for thoughts. Singing makes you release your worries and pray in the process.”

The presenters were very emotional and both shed a tear. The final gathering was in a small circle where the presenters asked a few girls to join them. One of the girls in the circle was playing the drum. The drums represented the beat of our heart.

**“We've been killed everyday with all the medicine. Everything we need is in our fingertips,”**

- Momfeather Erickson,  
director of Mantle Rock  
Native Education and Cultural  
Center.

## The Independent's Illinois College Press Association awards.

**Honorable Mention General Excellence** the staff of the Independent

**1st Place Editorial** Former Editor in Chief and current Business Manager Andrea Zelinski, former Business manager John Bracich, Associate Editor Elana Barron and former Production Manager Duncan Macnab (written by Patrick O'Brian)

**2nd Place In-depth reporting** News Editor Tom Robb, John Bracich, Jennifer Bergdahl

**Honorable Mention Column Excluding Sports** Editor in Chief Patrick O'Brien

**2nd Place Headline Writing** Opinions Editor Joe Hertel and Former Business Manager John Bracich

**Honorable Mention Feature Page Design**

Production; former Production Assistant, current Production Manager Azucena Beltran, former Production Manager current Production Editor Duncan Macnab, Production Editor Johnathan Gronli and former Editor in Chief current Business Manager Andrea Zelinski

**1st Place News Photo** Production Manager Azucena Beltran

**3rd Place News Photo** Production Manager Azucena Beltran

**Honorable Mention Advertising Campaign** Graphics Editor Cecilia Carboni

**Honorable Mention In House Promotional Ad** Graphics Editor Cecilia Carboni

**Honorable Mention In House Promotional Ad** Graphics Editor Cecilia Carboni

## LIBRARY FROM PAGE 1

Bradley F. Baker, the dean of Libraries and Learning Resources, released a memorandum on Jan. 30 on the school web site, calling for the reopening of the library to the public on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 8:00 a.m. “This will indeed be a very happy day for the entire University Community,” said Baker in the memo.

According to the memo, cleaning the floor and contents of the library from the soot and smoke damage has been completed. Also, SET Environment, Inc., “did not indicate any environmental concerns to delay the opening of the library,” states the memo.

Although the library is being reopened, certain areas are not entirely ready for public use. Administrative offices and the

university's archives will not be finished by the reopening.

Further, according to the memo, the tutorial centers and computer lab will not be reopening because the university is planning to remodel those areas. Director of Buildings and Grounds Ralph Zia told the *Independent* that the remodeling schedule will be accelerated because of the fire. Baker added that those computers will remain in the temporary location in A-151 until the project is completed.

Currently, the damage from the fire is approximately between \$1 to \$1.7 million. The university's insurance company “will cover a very significant amount,” said Zia.

**Keep yourself informed**  
**Join the staff [neiu\\_independent](http://neiu_independent)**



by A. R. Lopez



## Where in the world is Mohammed?

## Editorial

## Are we drawn together?

One person's beliefs are another person's blasphemy. One person's religion is another's sacrilege. One country's freedom of speech is another country's heinous crime, punishable by death, it seems. Cartoons are now a cause of death in Afghanistan and other locales, and somewhere, *everyone's* God is not smiling.

Unfortunately, some human beings, under the guise of their 'beliefs,' have decided that their religion trumps the rights and beliefs of others. They have resorted to violence and fascist hyperbole to prove their religion is sacrosanct, even to those who do not even participate in it, nor live in the same area of the world as they do.

If you asked Muslims today what they thought of the Crusades, an 11<sup>th</sup> century bit of religious expansionism that even the most pro-Anglo-Saxon/Christian factions have trouble

defending as righteous, they might say that this period of history was marked by the worst sort of religious intolerance, brutality and inhumanity. The same goes for the Spanish expelling the Moors as part of the Inquisition.

Ask Muslims today what they think of the American occupation of Iraq, and they would possibly say that it is a Christian capitalist America attempting to impose its will on a Muslim nation. There are a sizable number of Americans, no matter what religion they follow, who agree with that sentiment.

What should non-Muslims make of the current attempts by Muslims in the Middle East to stifle, intimidate, threaten and brutalize the European press for the cartoons that were published in Denmark? What should those who don't believe in Muhammad's sacredness think of his followers?

Should they rely on what their eyes

tell them of late? Should they equate Islam with hatred of all things non-Islamic and act with xenophobia, anger and murderous rage? Those are the images the world sees, but that cannot be all that Islam is.

We cannot succumb to the violent rhetoric of a few zealots who cannot possibly represent a cultured, ancient religion that has greatly aided the development of all civilizations, including the West.

As human beings, citizens of this world, we need to demand that Islam live up to the standard we should hold for all religions: that they must be tolerant of those who do not believe as they do.

Whether it be Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, Taoism, Hinduism, Islam, Baha'i, or any other faith, respect for another's beliefs is essential, which is why both sides of this row, the cartoonists and the outraged Muslim faithful, need to reassess how religious freedom and freedom of speech can coexist peacefully.

There is a drawing above of some religious icons, but one is missing. Muhammad's absence represents the absence of some Muslims in a peaceful dialogue between all religions and nations, where we can learn to respect each other's beliefs, in a delicate balance between what we believe and what we tolerate.

The only thing Muslims and non-Muslims have to lose by solving our collective problems is the opportunity for self-destruction. This mutual self-destruction of our civilizations seems quite possible if we refuse to learn from our own histories and prevent our beliefs and freedoms from clashing so profoundly that all that remains is self-righteous bloodshed.

We have the choice to draw our own path, and not one filled with anger, intolerance and religious hatred.

Cartoonists wanted.



# Muhammad cartoons reveal fragile East-West relationship

by Dominika Kunopczak  
Staff Writer

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, Dr. Per Stig Møller, urged Danes to leave countries in the Near East as angry crowds attacked Western embassies in Lebanon, Syria, Indonesia and Iran. The Iranian Foreign Minister suggested that an immediate apology could have solved the problem, but the Danish Prime Minister said he could not apologize for what the free press had done.

Be it freedom of expression or retaliation, one of the biggest Iranian newspapers, *Hamshahri*, launched a contest for cartoons mocking the Holocaust. All of these actions are being observed and judged by the international community, which cannot agree whether the publication of Muhammad's likeness has exceeded freedom of speech or not. The answer of the outraged followers of the Prophet is violent enough to raise fear of a major conflict. People may ask how far they should go in defending their own religion, but this is not a safe question to ask these days.

It has been weeks since the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten* first published the cartoons. The editor has repeatedly expressed that the publication is in line with freedom of expression. However, facing the growing death toll, he had to admit to being given an important lesson about the modern world.

Publishing those cartoons was not a wise thing to do. Perhaps more thought should have been given to the consequences of such a publication. Western societies have always taken the interpretation of "freedom of expression" for granted. In other words, one may think that this concept is understood similarly worldwide. Current issues show that

it does not necessarily have to be so. The question that has to be answered is whether the Western world has a right to impose its understanding of freedom of expression on the whole international society. Should such freedom include Holocaust cartoons as well? Some may shudder in disgust over laughing at such genocide, but then, where is the right of Eastern societies to express their disgust?

The forms of expression citizens of some countries choose for what they call "defense of the faith" does not seem too accurate. Violence only leads to violence, and some specialists even fear that this rioting may soon get out of control. It appears that some governments do not mind the violence, and there are numerous reports of people actually leading mobs against Western embassies and foreign districts.

Once a large group of people gets really mad, they only need to be pointed in a direction, and there they go. Among the people truly outraged by the cartoons, some chose to raise their voice against the United States, Israel and some other "universal enemies." It seems that the leaders of some countries, such as Afghanistan or Lebanon, are trying and achieving success in channeling the violence against whomever they please.

The cartoons, issued without proper thought, exposed how fragile the bridge between Western and Eastern culture is. The consequence of violent response over a few grams of paper is great, and, as usual, the violent voices are louder than the cooler, more balanced ones. It is clear that governments cannot apologize for the actions of free press. This excuse, however, is not enough for the lack of understanding in how to talk with Eastern world.



# Flushing, a sign of respect and dignity

by Amy Scoma  
Staff Writer

As I rounded my way around the corner into the women's bathroom on the second floor of the Classroom Building, there stood one of the invisible thankless: the janitor. He stood alone, waiting for me to use the restroom and exit so he could clean. I acknowledged him on the way in, and then after I entered the bathroom, I realized why he was dispatched there.

It looked as if a chemical toilet had exploded. Puddles of mud-colored water and gobs of toilet paper coated the bathroom floor. On instinct, I started breathing through my nose, and wondered who could have done such a thing? This was not your average bowel explosion—this was *premeditated* bowel explosion.

After I found a toilet that did not have visible feces on the seat, I did my business, washed my hands and walked stiffly with disgust out of the bathroom. The janitor stood there looking exasperated, and feeling bad for him, I offered meekly, "It wasn't me." He turned and said with a mild grin on his face, "Isn't this an institution of higher learning?"

"Yes," I answered.

"Then, aren't people supposed to be respectful of others?"

"You'd think so," I replied. "You'd certainly think so."

According to maxpages.com, 23.5 percent of people admit they do not flush the toilet every time. I thought that flushing the toilet was a reflex, just like zipping up your fly. The janitorial staff is not to blame for dirty bathrooms—the 23.5 percent are to blame. Why would you leave your waste for other people to see on purpose? Arrogance and contempt for others are the only two rationales possible. Some people might say that it is just "forgetfulness," but I don't buy that for a second. Maybe a child might forget, but here at Northeastern we are not children. We are students wanting to break our way into the world and make some type of name for ourselves. How are we going to do that if we keep disrespecting others in the bathrooms? Does this anonymity allow for arrogance and contempt to surface? Are we really this low?

I have started carrying around toilet seat protectors, or as I like to call them, "sani-seats." Walking into a bathroom on campus is like playing Russian roulette. You never know when you are going to get or when you are going to have to confront the literal filth of our society.

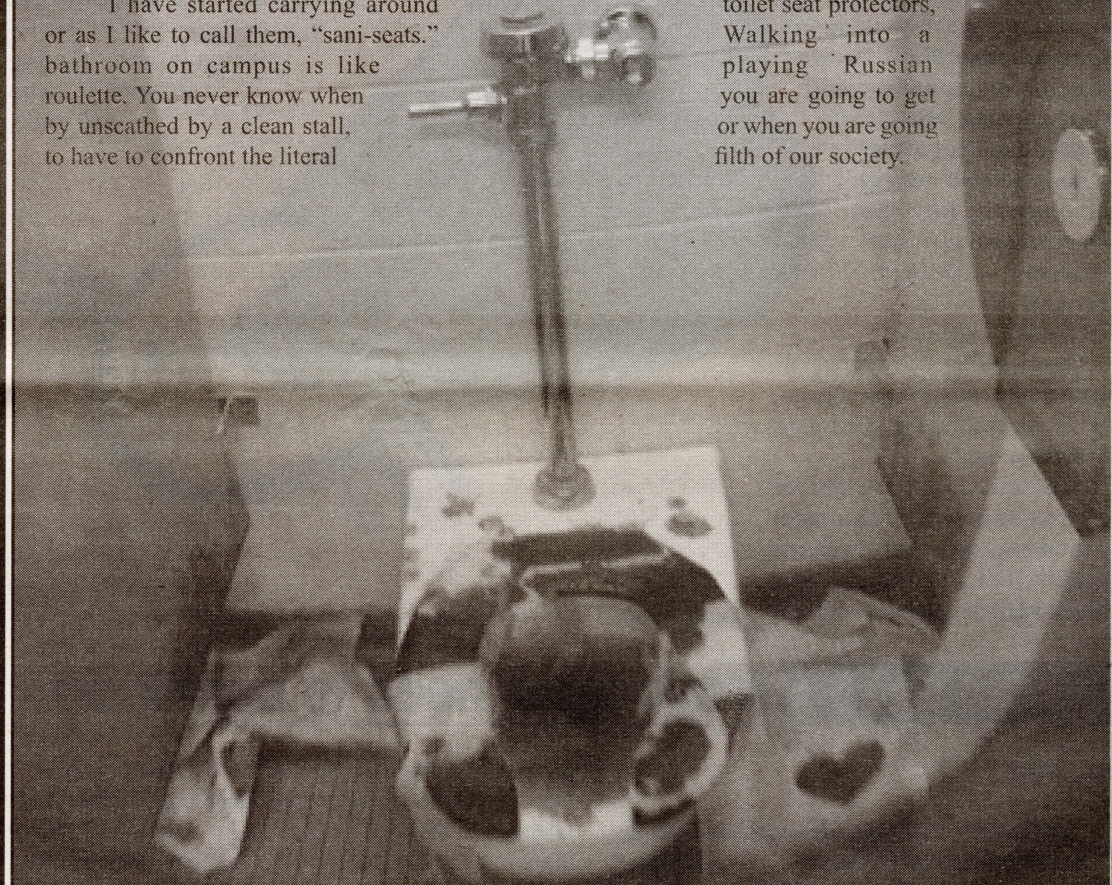


photo by Jason Shaw



## Old Man on Campus

## The big five-0

was nowhere to be seen at the Student Organizations Days. With all the encouragement provided in past columns and articles about the importance of student involvement on campus, the impact of response appears to be sadly lacking.

Over the years I have had a few people stop me in the halls and comment about a specific column, saying they liked it, but, as any journalist will tell you, most responses one receives are negative, and I certainly have had my share of those.

I have been called a liar in the past and been the target of a few nasty letters to the editor. These are accepted as part of the territory: being told that your writing is superfluous, trite, having no thought or importance. Being told that your column is not read because it has no bearing on the

campus community. Once, a professor of Philosophy stated that he would give me a failing grade for a particular column, and another instructor hasn't spoken to me for two years because of a certain column.

It's the attacks on my person that have hurt the most. I can understand criticizing a column, but when it comes to personal matters, I just don't understand why. Recently, I received a response saying, among other things, "...you are just a lonely, forgotten old schmuck..."

I have always liked to write. It has been my desire to impart, through my experiences as a former student of this campus, a combat veteran, and living 60 years in this world, encouragement and inspiration to my fellow students from what I have learned in and about life. It is to help you prepare

for the reality of the world and to possibly avoid the pitfalls you may encounter. The world may be different than in my day, but the basics haven't changed.

Although some may think because I write about toy soldiers, Little Orley or Donald Duck, it is silly and meaningless. These articles carry a message of encouragement and direction for the reader who understands what is being communicated.

My hope is there are some students out there who are gaining insight from what is written in my articles. That it is helping those readers and guiding them, inspiring them to achieve their goals and dreams and avoid discouragement.

Returning to campus after all these years has been a wonderful experience and I have made a few

friends. Yes, I am an old schmuck, but not lonely, and hopefully, not forgotten. But I do wonder if what I have written about all these years has been of any use to the readers of the *Independent*.

You see, because we seldom get any feedback on articles, except the negative comments, it is hard to determine just how effective we are as journalists. We just have to trust our instinct and go with what we believe is the right thing.

Soon, this old man will be graduating and the column will end. Perhaps, one day in the future, some will remember something that was written here and it will help them in their situation.

That is all a writer can hope for, especially when he's an old schmuck.



# Bughouse remains under students' radar

*Student run discussion forum lacking student support*

by Jessica Moen  
Senior Staff Writer

Many students here know about Facebook.com and MySpace.com as ways to talk to fellow NEIU students, but not a lot of students have heard of Bughouse. "Bughouse? What is that?" you might be thinking. Well, Bughouse is actually a NEIU message board that is only accessible to NEIU students. It has forums to post your comments and you can even have your own blog! The web site is [www.bughouse.neiu.edu](http://www.bughouse.neiu.edu). Now, how many of you knew about this site before I told you? Herein lies the problem: this site is probably the best way to communicate with NEIU students, yet hardly anyone knows about it.

There are simply not enough advertisements for this site. Once in a while there are advertisements for it on the tables in the cafeteria, and if you go to the NEIU web site, you can find a link if you search hard enough. You cannot join the forum unless you are a current student here and have an NEIU email address, so if they are not going to advertise the site here at school, how is anyone else going to know about it?

The site has been up for several years now and has almost 500 members on it, which seems like a lot, but considering how many students are in the school

(slightly more than 500!), this is a sad number. There are probably more than 500 people sitting in the cafeteria as you read this. Given that this is a free site, the school might want to use the site to advertise for clubs and events going on, which might make them their money back. They could easily advertise on the site. Student goes to the site, student reads an ad, student likes the ad, student answers the ad and the school makes money. Get the idea?

Perhaps it's not the school's job to advertise the site and it should be left up to the students because they are the ones using the site. This could easily be done by

simple word of mouth. "Hey, have you heard of Bughouse? No? Well, this is what it is..." Also, you can view some of the Independent's articles in Bughouse.

If you are shy, then a quick email will also do the trick. It really doesn't take much to get a few fliers and post them up around campus—maybe even stick those annoying little cards on people's cars. If the school will approve of fliers for used cars, they should have no objection to a school related flier.

So basically, Bughouse is not doing anyone any good if no one knows about it. As fun as it is to talk to yourself for a while, it is much more fun to talk to lots of different people. So let's do more to advertise this site and get the message out. If NEIU students aren't going to visit it, who else will?

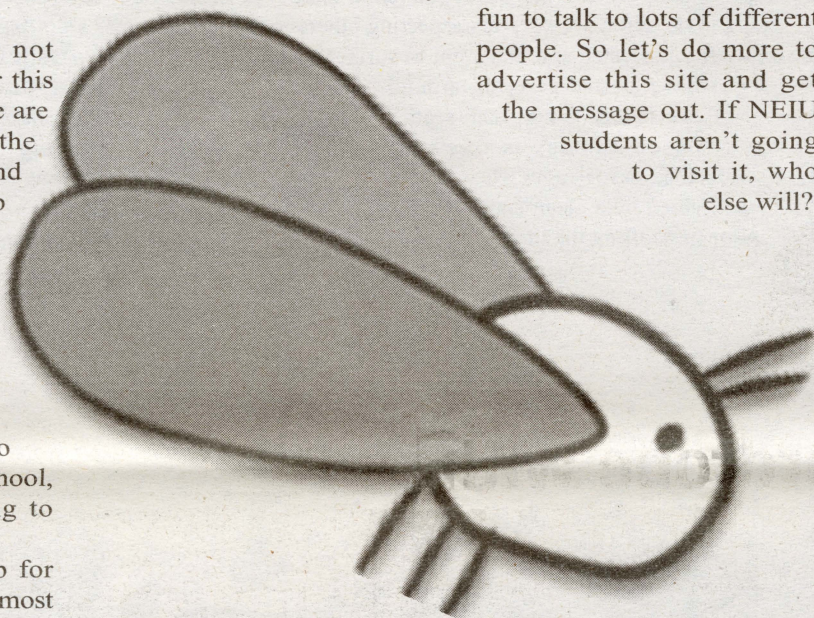


image courtesy of [bughouse.neiu.edu](http://bughouse.neiu.edu)

## Mail Bag

## Moderates need to speak up

Dear Editor,

The latest militant Islamic attack was torching the Danish embassy in Damascus ... over what? A foreign country with freedom of the press printed a cartoon they didn't like. Need I spell out the idiocies?

Where are all of the moderate Muslims we so often hear about? So often, the Muslims claim that the moderates are the overwhelming majority, and the militants are a loud minority.

So where are you moderate protesters? Where were you when Al Qaeda terrorists incinerated the World Trade Center and butchered 4,000 Americans? Where were you moderates when terrorists videotaped their prolonged, gruesome torturing and beheadings of innocent civilians? Where were you moderates when terrorists slaughtered innocents in Madrid, London, Egypt, and Israel?

Moderate Muslim majority, where are your

protests of outrage, screaming "NOT IN MY NAME!" Don't you know these people claim to speak for all of Islam? Do they? It's time to take charge, and show the world loud and clear: "We condemn all terrorism against civilians! Unequivocally, unconditionally, unambiguously, unashamedly, in every country it rears its ugly face!" Send a clear message to NEIU and to the world that the moderate Muslims are putting their foot down!

When Nazis butchered millions of Jews, blacks, homosexuals, gypsies, the mentally and physically disabled, the German citizens were silent. The Pope was silent. Countries throughout the world were silent, until the Nazis tried to annex them. Moderates, don't make the same mistakes. Don't go down in history as the next German citizens. Organize a protest today. Tell those bastard militants where to shove their bombs, and take back your good name!

Joey Kandelman  
Student

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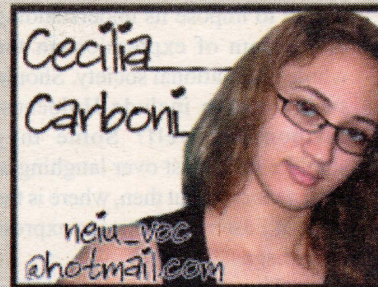
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## VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

## Everyone has issues



"There are subjects I just don't want to talk about anymore, not to say they aren't important, but maybe the amount of time I've spent here has made me, well, slightly apathetic. Issues like construction, classroom space, graduation times, and

the general mismanagement of student government/administration/etc. have been in every issue of our paper. To me, they have simply become the inherent hazards of Northeastern.

Now, I know that will disgust a lot of you. How can she not care? I do, but I think there is already a constant stream of complaints that can be heard throughout the campus that I don't have to contribute any more. I'd rather show people the things that are occurring that are interesting, relatable, sometimes even close to positive. But, for the sake of irony, I'll address ... well, these topics.

Every single school has its drawbacks and administrations that will never fully deal with them. Several of our students have already attended colleges prior to this one. Were they perfect schools? If I think of every type of organization that comes to mind, I realize that we can't even expect that level of functionality from our own federal government!

Take construction for instance. It is a nuisance and money gets diverted to it and not the classrooms where it's needed. However, I don't believe the construction is completely superfluous. The P.E. Building not only provides students with a place to workout and play basketball with friends, but it also provides classrooms for personal trainers and more. Before the '90s, that building wasn't there. The childcare center likewise is rather new. At one point, the cafeteria was just the chunk of space taken up by Beck's Bookstore. Can you imagine having to put everyone in there? This school started out rather small, and it has had to grow to accommodate a radical growth in the student population over time.

The school continues to grow, and the administration seeks to update the campus so that future students will not have these problems. "Why should I care about them," you say. "I'm here now!"

Well, I'm certainly an advocate for selfishness from time to time, but one person's annoyance is another's gain. The things on campus we depend on today, say the Science Building, at one point could have been the construction plagues of previous generations.

So, we can talk about overcrowded classrooms, graduation rates, and tuition. Considering how an advisor's enthusiasm around here is highly prized, but in short supply, pulling off your schedule seems impossible. It's not. Tuition rises. We're still cheaper than the rest. And things like free speech ... well, have you ever had an editor? There's a lot we can change, but sometimes you got to figure out where you got to say: "Tough luck, kid."

There are a lot of things around here that need fixing. There are issues within issues, but I think that we can't always be so quick to revolt. We need to analyze them from every angle, even the ones that don't appeal to a revolutionary spirit. There shouldn't be an "us vs. them," and as long as dialogue on these problems take that tone, then I really don't have an interest in discussing them. Gray areas might not be the most fun, they aren't prone to much showmanship, but I think that's where solutions lie.

## Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor must be signed with an address and telephone number for verification.

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# “The Boondocks” invade white suburbia

by J. Louis Bracich  
Special Contributor

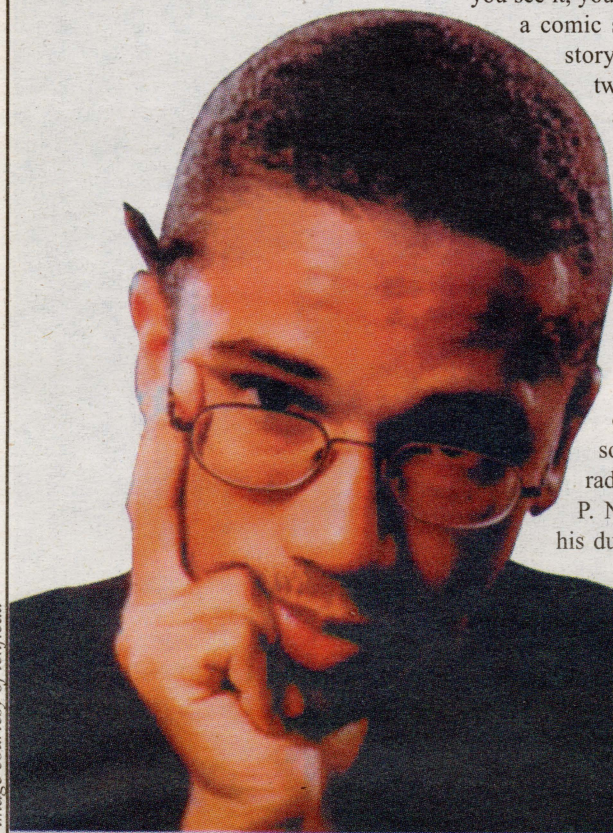


image courtesy of tcnj.edu

“Family Guy” and “The Simpsons” watch out, there’s a new cartoon in town and once you see it, you may never go back! Originally a comic strip by Aaron McGruder, the story revolves around the lives of two young black children, Huey and Riley Freeman, and their grandfather, Robert Freeman. Following the deaths of Huey and Riley’s parents, Robert Freeman takes custody of the kids and moves them out of the south side of Chicago to the mainly white suburb of Woodcrest.

Huey, though only 10 years old, believes himself to be some sort of black revolutionary/social radical (he was named after Huey P. Newton). He believes it’s now his duty to point out the hypocrisies and racism he believes he sees in the small burg and criticizes the current African-

American culture. Unfortunately for him, the adults just think he’s “adorable.”

Although equally angry, his younger brother, eight-year-old Riley, is almost a complete opposite of Huey. Riley’s world revolves around gangster rap and his worship of rapper 50 Cent. When he’s not fighting it out with his brother or trying to defend R. Kelly, he’s running around with his B-B gun that resembles an automatic assault rifle, but most of all, he’s plotting his revenge against Santa Claus for being, in his words, a “punk-ass bitch.”

Grandpa likes to talk about how he was involved in the civil rights movement (he really wasn’t) and brag that Malcom X owed him five dollars. Grandpa’s best friend in the town is another African-American named Uncle Ruckus. Ruckus hates black people, and often you hear him espouse racist epitaphs and claim he is actually white, but facing a skin condition.

The only other African Americans in the cartoon are Mr. Tom DuBois, the kids’ neighbour, who is married to a white woman. They have a bi-racial daughter named Jasmin.

Many famous people lend their voices on this series, which is surprising since it’s a new show. Ed Asner plays the town’s plutocrat and

Grandpa’s new friend, Ed Wuncler, Sr. (they both love making fun of people, and he likes Robert because he’s “old school”). Charley Murphy plays Ed’s grandson, Ed Wuncler III, a poser who returns from Iraq.

Indeed, the show’s producers poke fun at white kids imitating black gangster rappers. The younger Ed’s best friend and fellow wannabe, Gin Rummy, is played by none other than Samuel L. Jackson. What’s scary is that these two idiots have the cash to live out their fantasies and have assembled an arsenal. There’s an episode where Huey recruits them to help find the “Xbox killer” who framed Mr. DuBois—only these two morons decided to hold up a 7-11 because the owner is Iraqi.

Other notables include Adam West, who plays R. Kelly’s lawyer, Kat Williams, who plays A Pimp Named Slickback (yes, that’s his whole name), and Mos Def, who plays a rapper named Gangstacious.

**Overall, I’d say that this show is worth watching. Yes, it has a liberal bent to it, but it’s not in your face. McGruder pokes fun at everyone, from rich white people to black nationalists- no one escapes. It makes me wish “The Simpsons” were more like this. The show is on Cartoon Network’s Adult Swim on Sunday evenings at 10:00.**

## Travel through the wardrobe with Chronicles of Narnia



image courtesy of narniaweb.com

by Sarah Purlee  
Assistant REV Editor

Many of us read the C.S. Lewis books *The Chronicles of Narnia* when we were in elementary school. The magical story of four children who stumble into a world beyond their wildest dreams while playing a game of hide and seek captured our imaginations and won our hearts. Since the publishing of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* in 1950, a few films were produced based on the story. Not until Disney produced the first full-length film, has this story been retold with such magnitude.

C.S. Lewis tells the story of the Gospels through the adventures of four children who fulfill a great prophecy to save a nation. During their journey, they meet Aslan, the king of kings who lays down his life in sacrifice and overcomes death because of his great love for the children. They also encounter the White Witch, who casts the one hundred

year spell of “always winter and never Christmastime” over Narnia. The film is filled with compelling themes of good triumphing over evil, and fulfilling your destiny.

Actors Georgie Henley, Skandar Keynes, William Moseley and Anna Popplewell make their debut in this film, and do a wonderful job portraying the four children. When the children are introduced in the beginning of the film, the viewer will say to himself “this is exactly how I imagined them.” The development of the characters in the film is detailed and true to the personalities C.S. Lewis created.

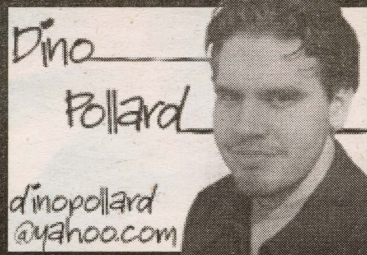
The landscape of the film is incredible with an element of fantasy, and the battle scenes run parallel to the book’s.

At 140 minutes the film is lengthy, but worth every minute. For anyone who craves adventure, passion, and a truly “feel-good” movie, I highly recommend *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. The film is rated PG and is currently out in theaters.



# Pollard's Picks

## Under-appreciated director David Lynch



As a student of film, I am asked a variety of questions about movies on an almost-daily basis. There are the typical questions, such as “what did you think of this film?” or “what is your favorite movie?” But one question intrigued me more than any other—“who is your favorite director?” When I respond with “David Lynch,” I frequently received blank stares.

Although never earning much acclaim at the box office, Lynch truly is one of the greatest filmmakers of all time. Originally, Lynch intended to become an artist, but while attending the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts in the late '60s, he started working with film and made a few short films—*Six Figures Getting Sick*, *The Alphabet* and *The Grandmother*. In the '70s, he moved to California and attended the American Film Institute Conservatory, where with the help of a grant from the AFI, he began filming *Eraserhead*, his first feature-length movie. *Eraserhead* is one of Lynch's finest films, but due to its surrealist nature, the film was almost unreleased. Although never earning much success, the film did become a cult hit. Director Stanley Kubrick said it was one of his favorite films and it brought Lynch to the attention of Mel

Brooks, who hired Lynch to direct *The Elephant Man*.

The commercial and critical success of *The Elephant Man* earned Lynch his first Oscar nomination and led to Lynch directing the film adaptation of Frank Herbert's *Dune*. Intended to be the next *Star Wars*, *Dune* was severely hampered by problems in editing and was deemed a failure. Lynch followed up *Dune* with *Blue Velvet*, a movie that returned the director to his roots and focused on the dark underbelly of suburbia, a theme he would later explore.

However, it was the success of the “Twin Peaks” television series in the early '90s that marked a return for Lynch. Incorporating ideas he explored in *Eraserhead* and *Blue Velvet*, “Twin Peaks” was a surprise hit and it paved the way for improved cinematography in television. After clashes with ABC, however, Lynch left the series and returned to film.

Following “Twin Peaks”, Lynch's films failed to earn much critical or commercial success in America. But in 2001, Lynch released *Mulholland Dr.* Originally intended to be the pilot for a new television series, the project was shelved and Lynch turned it into a film instead. The movie was a success at both the box office and among critics, earning Lynch

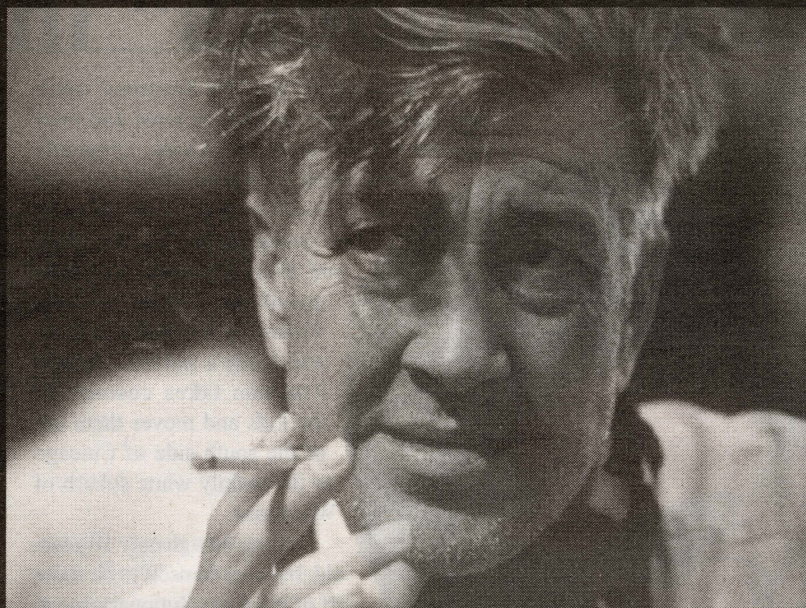


image courtesy of dave\_lynch.stanleykubrick.clarence.com

David Lynch is an under-appreciated cinematic artist.

his third Best Director Oscar nomination and launching the acting career of Naomi Watts.

Lynch's films frequently feature very surreal environments as well as unconventional and often confusing storylines and endings. For this reason, many people find themselves turned off by his work—also because Lynch refuses to

disclose the meanings behind his work, instead preferring that the audience to form their own opinions. In an era where remakes populate cinema marquees and directors try to pass off special effects as talent, it's refreshing to know that there are still filmmakers like Lynch who treat the medium as an art form.

## Cheesy, but enjoyable album

by Michael Arch  
Staff Writer

*The Sunny Side of the Moon: The Best of Richard Cheese* leaves you redefining the best. Cheese's style is rock classics and pop music set to a big band style of music. If you ever wondered what “Freak on a Leash” would sound like if performed by the Benny Goodman Orchestra instead of Korn, this album is for you. I found the album a laugh riot. It's a guilty pleasure. You can't help but enjoy it; you just don't want to tell anyone you do.

You will know all the words and can sing along. The album features songs by Korn, Pink Floyd, Van Halen, Snoop Dogg, U2 and many, many more. Cheese takes popular songs and creates a sound your grandparents will

listen to. You may recognize the lead guitar of one of the songs played on the piano. The notes are the same, but the presentation is different. The album consists of all cover songs, which is a bit of a downer. If he can bring this much creativity to covers, imagine what he can create from his own mind.

Cheese's Album, in a lack of other words, is cheesy. That's what makes it so great and also why you want to keep this gem a secret from all your friends. It's provocative yet it seems it should be wholesome entertainment. If you ever dreamed of hearing your grandma sing “Baby Got Back,” just slip this album into her CD player. The album is available on Cheese's website (<http://www.iloverichardcheese.com>) for \$13.76, plus shipping and handling.

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### Steven Searle for U.S. President in 2008

#### Supreme Court:

My nominees to the Supreme Court will not receive lifetime appointments – instead, they will serve only five years [details on [www.bestpartyavailable.org](http://www.bestpartyavailable.org)].

#### Q&A:

“You've got to be kidding! Steven Searle for U.S. President?”

– K.K.K. “Carl” Rover

“You could do worse. In fact, you already have.” – Steven

Searle

#### Hamas in Palestine:

Current US, EU, and Israeli policy: Cut off foreign aid to the democratically-elected, Hamas-dominated government of Palestine, unless it renounces violence and the destruction of Israel. Did it occur to anyone that Hamas might look to Iran to replace that aid? Or will that be something else that Condi Rice & Co. never saw coming?

#### Wiretaps:

The CIA has always been (and still is!) more fearful of an enlightened American citizenry than it ever was of the Communists. Don't kid yourselves by thinking Bush's illegal wiretapping is anything new; it's been going on for decades.

#### Corruption:

As long as Democrats and Republicans remain in charge, we will always have corruption. Instead of an entrenched two-party system, we need a zero-party, reform movement. Vote BPA in 2008.

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# MAKE SOMETHING NEW

by Jonathan Gronli  
Production Editor

I know people want to remake classic movies in various genres. There is a possibility of it working out as well. Unfortunately, there is a massive problem with remakes—they have to be done exactly right to even be halfway decent and recapture the same fire or at least a new version of the same fire that was in the original.

Horror movie remakes are among some of the more ambitious forms of remakes. It has to be done exactly to the letter if the same feel is going to be anywhere close to the original. However many of these horror remakes horribly fail. The only two that weren't bad were *Dawn of the Dead*, which made the film all the more real in presentation and was genuinely scary, but

also, *The Fog* because it completely retold the story in a new way. Various other remakes were total and utter crap. Unfortunately now, later this year, there will be a couple new horror movie remakes. On 6/6/06 (wow, the number of the beast as a marketing ploy), *The Omen's* remake will be released. In the coming months also will be the release of the remake of *The Hills Have Eyes*. There's an old saying that applies nicely to this situation: if it ain't broke, don't fix it.

There are also the remakes that require less to have the same feel but more just ruins it. Although *The Manchurian Candidate* was a damn good remake, the biggest flaw was that so much more was put in it than the original when it should've followed a "less is more" production premise, it ultimately failed itself.

Let's face it, if less than necessary is used, a film product (remake or original) will ultimately miss its mark. It's the same thing if more than necessary is used. Remakes are oddly enough the most difficult thing to do in film even though there is an active blueprint, script, and general feel that you can still go off of. Part of the reason it is so hard is because past expectations have grown from the original.

The expectations often trump the feel of the remake and then the remake fails because it is trying to redo what has been done right the first time.

There are problems in every part of any industry but then again in film, much like the rest of the entertainment, it's no

holds barred. If you can't meet the expectations of the public eye, you have failed on something that might've taken months at least to cast and maybe years to create. It is a shame but it is the truth.

Come on people, if you're going to do a successful remake you either have to retell the story in a new way or make it in a way where it has the fire of the original... unfortunately it is rather hard to recreate the fire, the pull, the attraction that made the original as good as it was and special effects would not do it. If you run the risk of trying to fix what isn't broken, you also run the risk of failure and ruining the venture.



photo courtesy of mids/student/tutwente.nl

## Final Destination

# 3

## A horribly exciting ride

by Olga Bagramovich  
Production Assistant

Similar to the first two films, *Final Destination 3* deals with people avoiding death and trying to survive, despite their fate. The latest installment deals with high school senior Wendy Christensen (Mary Elizabeth Winstead), who experiences a freaky premonition. As soon as the high school seniors get on a roller coaster, Wendy's premonition tells her she will die on the ride. Her premonition causes her and a few people to get off the ride, but the other riders remain. She screams, "Please check the roller coaster, something is wrong."

This twisted premonition forms the plot for the entire film. Helping some of her classmates survive the ride is only the beginning of their ordeal. They discover over the course of the film that death is unavoidable. It is hard to escape from the unknown, what lies in our future. The film touches on the way students survived from episode one and two, such as trying to relate to the plane crash on flight 180 that helped a student survive the crash in *Final Destination* and how in *Final Destination 2* the girl tried to stop the cycle. In this film, Wendy gathers the clues with Kevin (Ryan Merriman), whom she meets on the Internet and tries to help them stop the tragic cycle.

Avoiding death is almost impossible. It may happen once, but they can't break the cycle forever.

Many of the scenes are shocking and frightening. This movie is every bit as exciting as the roller coaster Wendy and her friends find themselves on at the beginning.

The writers truly captivate the audience's attention with thrilling suspense. The film has a prominent plot that keeps the audience on their toes. The combination of drama and horror captures the audience's attention. Wendy's premonition prevents her and her friends' deaths, but the true question is for how long. The forces of darkness once again set out to kill the survivors that were supposed to die in the freak accident. The film is rated R and is currently playing in most theaters.



# Eagle's Nest

## Lifestyles of the Northeastern Community



### Dr. Debby Mir:

## Protecting the environment, one degree at a time



photo courtesy of neiu.edu

by David Mosher  
Production Assistant

Professor Debby Mir currently teaches a variety of environmental, biotic, and nature conservation courses at Northeastern Illinois University, but the road to becoming a professor was not a straight course. In fact, one could call it more of a worldwide course. Her studies brought her from Canada to Israel, from California to France, and just about everywhere in between.

"Ever since I was little, I wanted to save nature," Professor Mir stated. She was a tomboy of sorts, always outdoors, always interested in nature, and always questioning—the marks of a true ecologist. However, by the time she started her Bachelor's Degree at McGill University, a subject called "Ecology" did not formally exist. Instead, she was subjected to courses mainly in Biology and Mathematics, but her interest remained in environment conservation.

In Israel, she got a better chance to actively work with the environment. "I was in class at Technion- Israel Institute of Technology for barely a few months," she stated. "I was working near the Sea of Galilee when I got interested in what chemicals were being put into the water in that region. When I asked, no one knew." Her questions eventually led her to begin a massive two-year project for her Master's, which involved finding and questioning every corporation in the region of Galilee that put chemicals into the water. Her research was funded by government grants, and her final paper was presented officially to the Israeli government.

With a head start in water pollution and regulation,

Professor Mir soon became involved in many other various projects, including agricultural research in India, field work research in California as an environmental consultant, and an associateship in France. Her work eventually led her back to Israel, where she gained her Doctorate Degree in Environmental Management and Policy.

Illinois was the last step in completing her thesis, where she worked for the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for a time. Later, she was hired by Northeastern Illinois University to work as a part time professor in the Geography and Environmental Science's department.

At Northeastern, Mir has been actively involved with the GCG, also known as the Green Cycle Group. The group promotes recycling and environmental friendliness on campus. Professor Mir is an activist for this group and highly promotes awareness as well as activism with respect to environmental issues. She says that the group not only presents environmental problems to people, but also solutions, such as ways to decrease energy use and alternate forms of transportation. One of their largest events is Earth Day (April 20th). This year, the group is inviting Mike Hawthorne, a columnist from the *Chicago Tribune*, to come to campus to discuss current environmental issues plaguing Chicago, such as the high mercury content in fish.

Professor Mir has come a long way from her early Canadian experience and has picked up a few new languages along the way. Her passion for saving and protecting the environment has always remained the same, and it does not look like that passion will be going anywhere anytime soon.

If you would like to learn more about the GCG group, visit [www.neiu.edu/~gcggroup](http://www.neiu.edu/~gcggroup).

### Dr.

## Shuman's successful path searching



photo by Dorian Barrios

by Dominika Konopczak  
Staff Writer

Her most vivid memory from childhood goes like this: "When I was in third grade, a group of my friends started to argue with each other. I found that situation simply unbearable. Finally, I made them all sit in a circle and talk until everything was solved. Literally, I would not let them go until they apologized to each other."

It is no wonder that Professor Karen Shuman graduated with an M.A. from the School of Speech at Northwestern University and now teaches Intro to Communication, Interpersonal Communication and Creative Writing to Mass Media at NEIU. Or is it?

It took her quite a while to realize what the path of her life would be. After graduation, she took on various jobs that "just weren't her." What pulled the trigger was the requirement to teach for her Spielberg fellowship. At some point, she found herself discussing for hours with her uncle about her classes. He said, "We have been talking about teaching for so long and your face is shining. What else do you need to finally convince yourself that this is what you should be doing?" And so she is.

Her arrival to Northeastern was all about making the phone call at the right time. There was a place in the department due to someone's sabbatical, and her background met the requirements. "I am so excited to teach here," said Shuman. "The cultural diversity is an asset to the classroom. Due to this, students are able to speak and debate with authority on topics that might otherwise be missed. This is so amazing!"

Teaching isn't the only passion of Shuman. In December, she finalized a project directed by Michael Gellman, senior faculty member of Second City. The group has worked for nine months on a specific improvisation technique. The result of these efforts was not only the performance, but also a textbook on teaching improvisation. The latter was the actual purpose of launching the project. Currently, she also attends the conservatory Second City.

"The purpose of my teaching communication is to arm students for life," stated Shuman. When asked about the future, she said, "I am waiting for the road to take me."

## Starbuck's successful coffee siren

by Dominika Konopczak  
Staff Writer

It is said that the only place in the USA where an Italian would drink espresso and not complain about the taste is Starbucks. The company, which has been operating on the market for the last 35 years, has made coffee drinking a real celebration.

The name originates from Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*; Starbuck is the name of the first mate. The curious Starbuck's logo shows a siren, which is said to lure sailors do danger during voyages. Chewing

coffee beans would keep sailors awake and save them from crashing onto the rocks.

The first Starbucks opened its doors in 1971 in Seattle's Pike Place Market. From the beginning, the company committed itself to providing the best coffee to its customers. Until 1982, when Howard Schultz joined the company, Starbucks was just another coffee shop in the big coffee place called Seattle. In 1983, Schultz traveled to Italy and was struck by the culture surrounding espresso bars in Milan. It took only few years to implement the coffeehouse concept in Seattle and another few to spread it nationwide.

In 1993, ten years after serving their first café latte, the company was big enough to sign a contract with Barnes & Noble, Inc. That proved to be a fortunate move, and in 1995 there were already 677 locations open. The first Starbucks outside of the continental United States were in Japan, Singapore and Hawaii.

There are several reasons why Starbucks has enjoyed such success. One is the company's strategic

move to develop a "third place," somewhere between home and work. The soothing music, nice interior and coffee in all possible variations and polite barristas (coffee servers) form a comforting atmosphere that is hard to find anywhere else.

Following the Milanese pattern, the company turned to uniting local communities. It is committed to promoting literacy and is the partner of Jumpstart, an organization that pairs college student tutors with Head Start children. Another program involving Starbucks is purchasing Fair Trade coffee. Acquiring such coffee means that the beans go through the shortest possible way from the farmers to end users, omitting the long chain of intermediaries and enabling the farmers to get more money for their products.

So far, perhaps the siren from the company's logo is protecting Starbucks from crashing. Every move the company makes, be it introducing Frappuccino®, acquiring the Tazo company, or introducing the Duetto® Visa Card, has proved successful. Just recently, they introduced Liqueurs, donated \$1.5 million for tsunami recovery, and bought two companies that will run Starbucks stores in Hawaii and Puerto Rico.

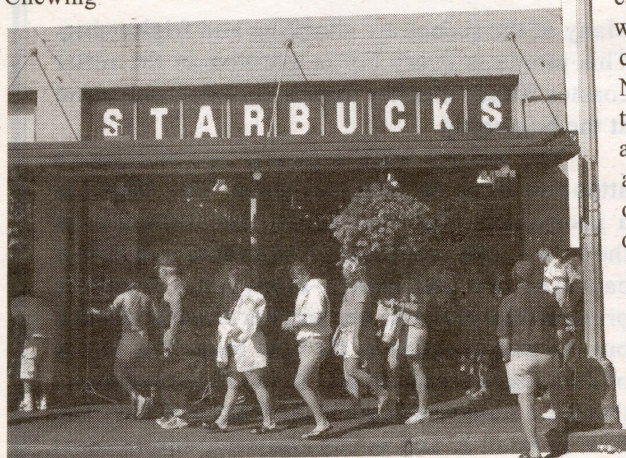


photo courtesy of smbog.com



# National Student Exchange Program

## Letters from students in the National Student Exchange

### Maria Chaves

*Florida International University*



Northeastern has been one of the most rewarding experiences I have had in my life. It has been a great exposure to different cultures and a completely different life style.

### Jolie Duhon

*Louisiana State University*



My experience with the National Student Exchange program at NEIU has been wonderful. I'm so glad that I had a coordinator like Ms. Flora to get me settled here because it has made the transition so much smoother! Everyone should have an experience that is this hassle-free.



photos courtesy of Joe Davis

by Andrea Zelinski  
*Business Manager*

Ever thought about going to a school somewhere else? Maybe where it's warm, like Florida International University? Or maybe one on the east coast like Plymouth State University?

That's just what these five women were thinking when they transferred to Northeastern Illinois University. They are all participants in the National

Student Exchange (NSE) program, where students can take their studies to another university across the nation for a semester or a year.

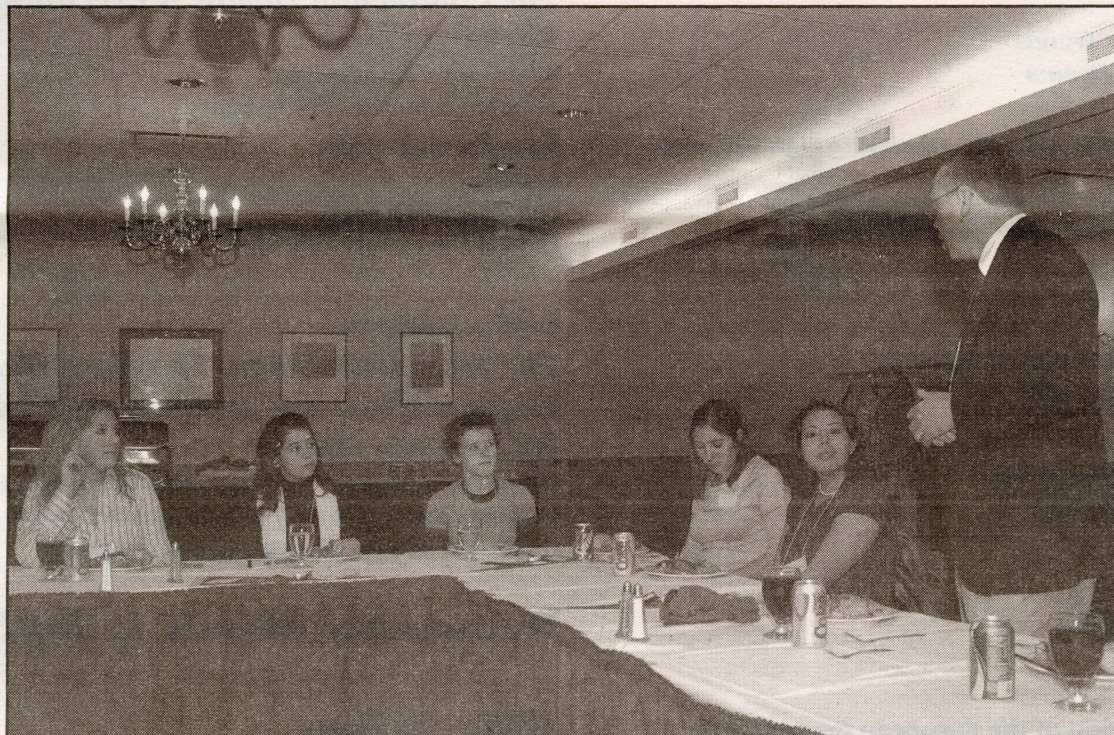
"All my professors have been really passionate. I've been really impressed with that," said Amy Lawlor from Buffalo State College in New York.

"It's nice to have teachers that are intimate and will talk to you one-on-one," said Jolie Duhon from Louisiana State University.

The attendees met together

for a National Student Exchange luncheon on Feb. 7 to share their experiences. Many also spoke about the diversity of Northeastern and the experience of living in the city compared to dorms.

Flora Llacuna, the student enrichment programs coordinator, and Dean of Students Michael Kelly spoke about the importance of the program. Kelly added that the exchange students have helped "enrich our community here at Northeastern."



My experience participating in the NSE program has proved to be a challenging one, both academically and personally. Choosing to study in Chicago has given me the opportunity to experience a more culturally diverse learning environment. This undoubtedly has been a positive contribution to my study of sociology because it has allowed me to experience, first-hand, the diversity present in American society today.

Coming to Chicago on exchange has given me the opportunity to take a number of unique and challenging courses that would not have been available at my home campus. I found that the professors at Northeastern Illinois University were eager to engage their students in the class material and were always available to answer students' questions as well as open to any and all student comments.

### Amy Lawlor

*Buffalo State College State University*



One unique opportunity. I gained from my exchange at Northeastern was the need to live off-campus. The fact that Northeastern doesn't have on-campus housing allowed me to experience the city of Chicago more thoroughly than if I had lived on-campus. Using public transportation and living in one of the many unique areas of Chicago has allowed me to experience the city more on my own and separate from the university environment. This placed more responsibility on me to create a social environment for myself and become more self-sufficient.

Overall, my year on exchange from Buffalo State College to Northeastern Illinois University has been an exciting and unique experience and has no doubt been a positive contribution to both my college education and individual growth.

### Kimberly Rudolph

*Plymouth State University*



The participation in the NSE program provides students with a variety of possible advancements in their education path. Students can take advantage of the travel opportunities, academic diversification, social and cultural differences, as well as search for graduate schools and career opportunities. This program forces growth and maturity upon students and enables them to learn more about the world outside of the classroom. I am thankful for both universities' help and guidance to make this opportunity possible for me.

### Valerie Levine

*Plymouth State University*



My experience here at NEIU has been a positive one. Coming from such a small university to a large one here in Chicago is a culture shock, but very exciting. The NSE experience is one that I think all students should look into. It is a wonderful experience to meet new people, live in a new place and learn more about yourself and others. Adjusting to a new school routine and new city (especially Chicago) is hard at first. Figuring out how to get around the city is a struggle, but it is something that you can overcome (with the help of a compass). I am enjoying my time here so far, and I might even stay here longer than I expected! Thank you!



# European Union International Business Conference



**February 27 – March 1, 2006**  
**Northeastern Illinois University**  
**Alumni Hall**

## **Monday, February 27, 2006**

**4:15 – 5:30pm**  
*European Dream*  
*Super Session*

**7:05 – 9:45pm**  
*Welcome to the Conference*

*Will the European Dream Replace the American Dream in a Global World: The Business Case*

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Jeremy Rifkin**  
President  
Foundation on Economic Trends  
Author of *The European Dream*

*Mr. Rifkin will be available after the session to sign his book*

## **Tuesday, February 28, 2006**

**9:25 – 10:40am**  
*The Process of Reducing Artificial Trade Barriers in the E.U.*  
**Dr. Roger Reinsch**  
Associate Professor of Business Law  
Northeastern Illinois University

**10:50am – 12:05pm**  
*The E.U. and the U.S.A.*  
**Peter Berz**  
First Secretary  
European Union, Delegation of the European Commission

**12:15 – 1:30pm**  
*Innovative Capacity of the European Union Member States*  
**Dr. Marzenna A. Weresa**  
World Economy Research Institute  
Warsaw School of Economics

**1:40 – 2:40pm**  
*European Union Economics in The Flat World*  
**Dr. Ed Stuart**  
Professor of Economics  
Northeastern Illinois University

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## **Tuesday, February 28, 2006 continued**

**2:50 – 4:05pm**  
*European Dream*  
*Super Session*

**5:40 – 6:55pm**  
*To Euro or Not to Euro: The Effect of the Common Currency in Old Europe and New Europe*  
**Dr. Larry Neal**  
Founding Director  
University of Illinois European Union Center

**7:05 – 8:20pm**  
*The Continental Divide: A Precautionary Tale*  
**Dr. Ray Benton**  
Professor of Marketing  
Loyola University of Chicago  
**Eve K. Geroulis**  
Lecturer  
School of Business  
Loyola University Chicago

**8:30 – 9:45pm**  
*The European Union, The World Trade Organization, and Transatlantic Interaction*  
**Dr. Gregory Shaffer**  
Director, University of Wisconsin European Union Center  
Co-Director, University of Wisconsin Center on World Affairs and the Global Economy

## **Wednesday, March 1, 2006**

**10:00 – 10:50am**  
*Accessing European Union Markets in Key Industry Sectors*  
**Monica Toporkiewicz**  
International Trade Specialist  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
Chicago Export Assistance Center

**12:00 – 12:50pm**  
*Globalizing Your Peripheral Vision: Matching the Business Case with In-Market Laws, Customs, and Realities*  
**James C. Hagy**  
Adjunct Professor  
Case Western Reserve University School of Law

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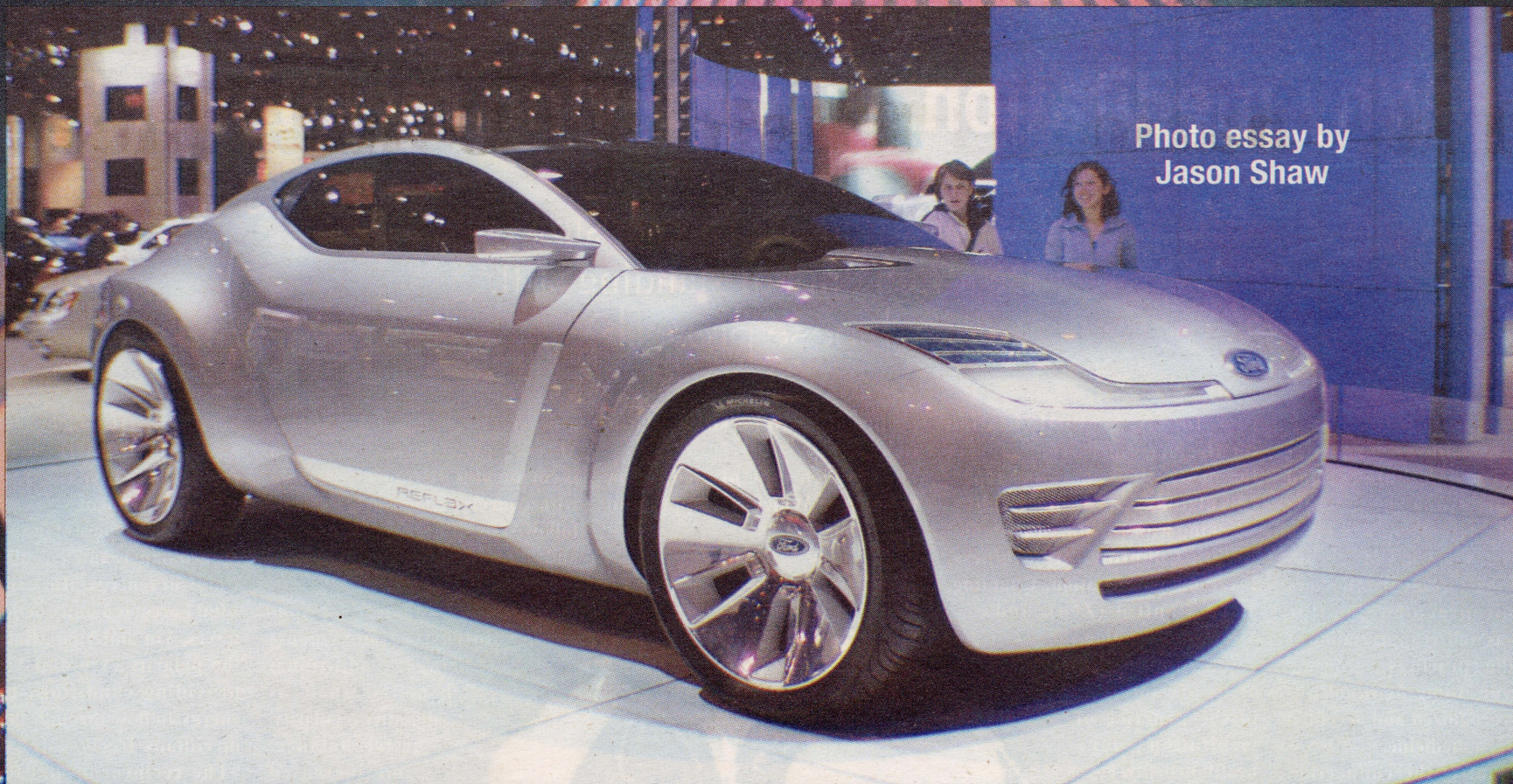
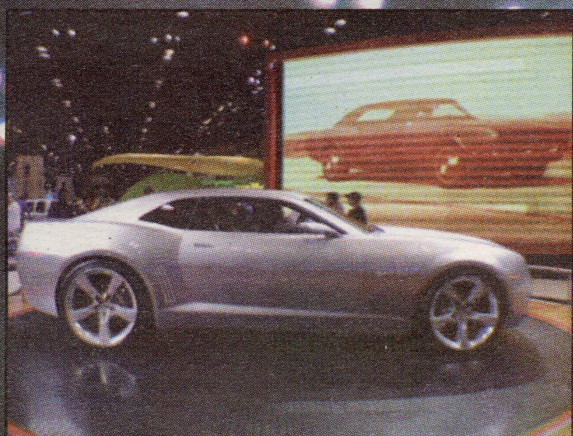


Photo essay by  
Jason Shaw

## 2006 Chicago Auto Show races through the *windy* city





## Why meditation, why moving meditation?

Be not afraid of growing slowly.  
Be afraid only of standing still.  
(Chinese proverb)

Imagine the surprise that comes from filling forms out at a doctor's appointment and coming across the question "Do you meditate?" More and more students in T'ai Chi Chih classes are sent there by medical doctors and chiropractors. So, the interest as well as appreciation of self-healing practices is growing. Moreover, some of them are getting recognized and accepted by Western medicine.

What is the connection between meditation and T'ai Chi Chih? How does one fit into the other? T'ai Chi Chih is a form of meditation. It is meditation in motion, the Moving Meditation. Let's define "meditation." Meditation is the act or process of meditating. To meditate is to focus one's thoughts, according to Webster's Dictionary.

There are many different approaches and forms of meditation. For example, the Indian Dhyana form of meditation is intense concentration on an aspect of God, while the Chinese are greatly concerned with circulation and control of the Chi (energy).

In his book *Meditation for Healing*, Justin Stone divides the meditations into nine types: Circulating the Chi for Healing, Working with Breath, Mantra and Breath Counting, Mindfulness, Fixation, Visualization, Chanting, Mind Control (Zen), and Moving Meditation.

The majority of us are interested in the practice of meditation for health benefits.

Meditation is being recommended by more and more physicians as a way to prevent or control pain resulting from chronic disease. It is used to help restore emotional balance in such psychiatric disturbances as depression and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). It appears to work

particularly well for stress-related conditions.

Which type of meditation to choose? Whichever appeals to

a prospective meditator. NEIU's Moving Meditation program incorporates sitting meditation with concentration on breathing, followed by shifting of body weight and soft repetitive movements.

These non-intrusive movements bring additional benefits, such as digestive regularity, better balance, and increased range of motion in the joints (flexibility). Being gentle, harmonious exercise, it restores elasticity in tendons and ligaments, preventing injuries. (Tendons attach muscles to the bones; ligaments keep joints in place.)

Overall, it is a great relaxation technique absolutely necessary in our

hectic life. It can be used by anyone everywhere; it doesn't require much space, preps or special equipment.

The purpose of the practice is to balance and circulate the Chi. Chi (energy also called the Vital Force) is a unity of opposite forces, Yin and Yang. Balancing the polarity (Yin and Yang) is providing conditions for the energy to flow through the body meridians freely, to circulate. "The reciprocal character of mind and energy means that we can reach one through the other. This is why such great mental serenity seems to be achieved through the moving meditations, T'ai Chi Chih and T'ai Chi Ch'uan ... the best healing is self-healing," writes Stone.

The Moving Meditation class meets on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the PE Complex Fitness, Studio #2. No previous experience is needed. We learn step by step in details. Textbook and audio-visual materials are available from the instructor. The program will help you with yoga and other physical and mental activities.

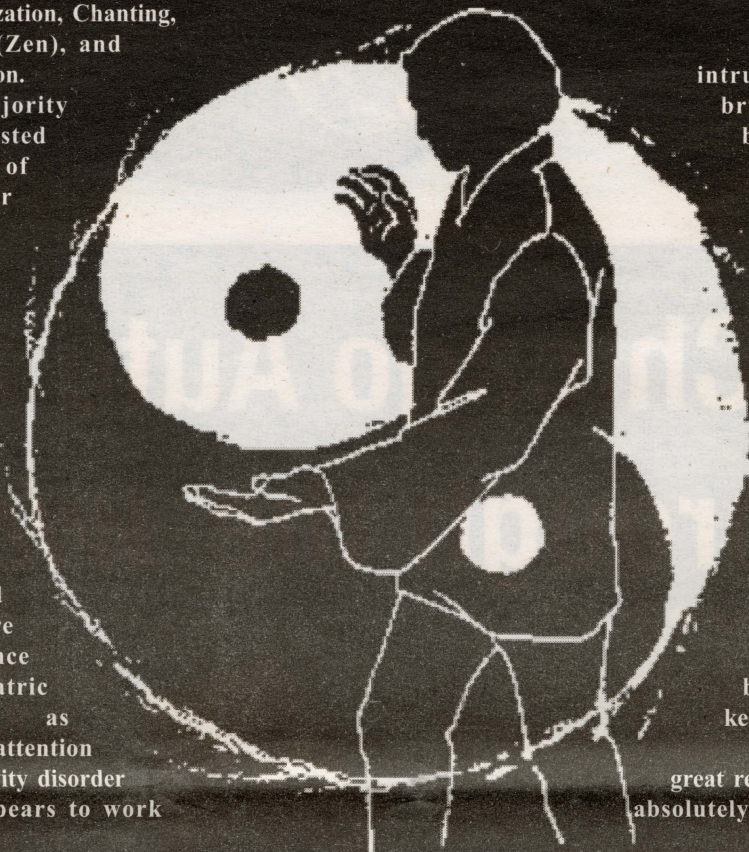


image courtesy of timelessproductions.com

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# Get your poker fix at GoldenPalace.com

by Jessica Moen  
Senior Staff Writer

Poker has become a huge hit across America, especially games like Texas Hold 'Em. GoldenPalace.com is the place for anyone who needs a fix of poker or other casino games, without even leaving the house.

GoldenPalace.com is the number one gambling site on the Internet. It offers many games to download and play in one's home, and users can even make money (or lose it), as if they were really playing at a casino. They also advertise better odds and people are less likely to get mugged on their way out.

The site offers games such as blackjack, roulette, baccarat, and of course, poker. They also offer tips and advice for gambling novices. Users can also chat with other players and start their own private table if they don't like playing with strangers. Users must be at least 18 to play for real money. However, there is no age limit for users to play for fun without betting. The site is legally licensed by the Kahnawake Gaming Commission in Mohawk Territory of Kahnawake, Canada, so there is no need to worry about legitimacy.

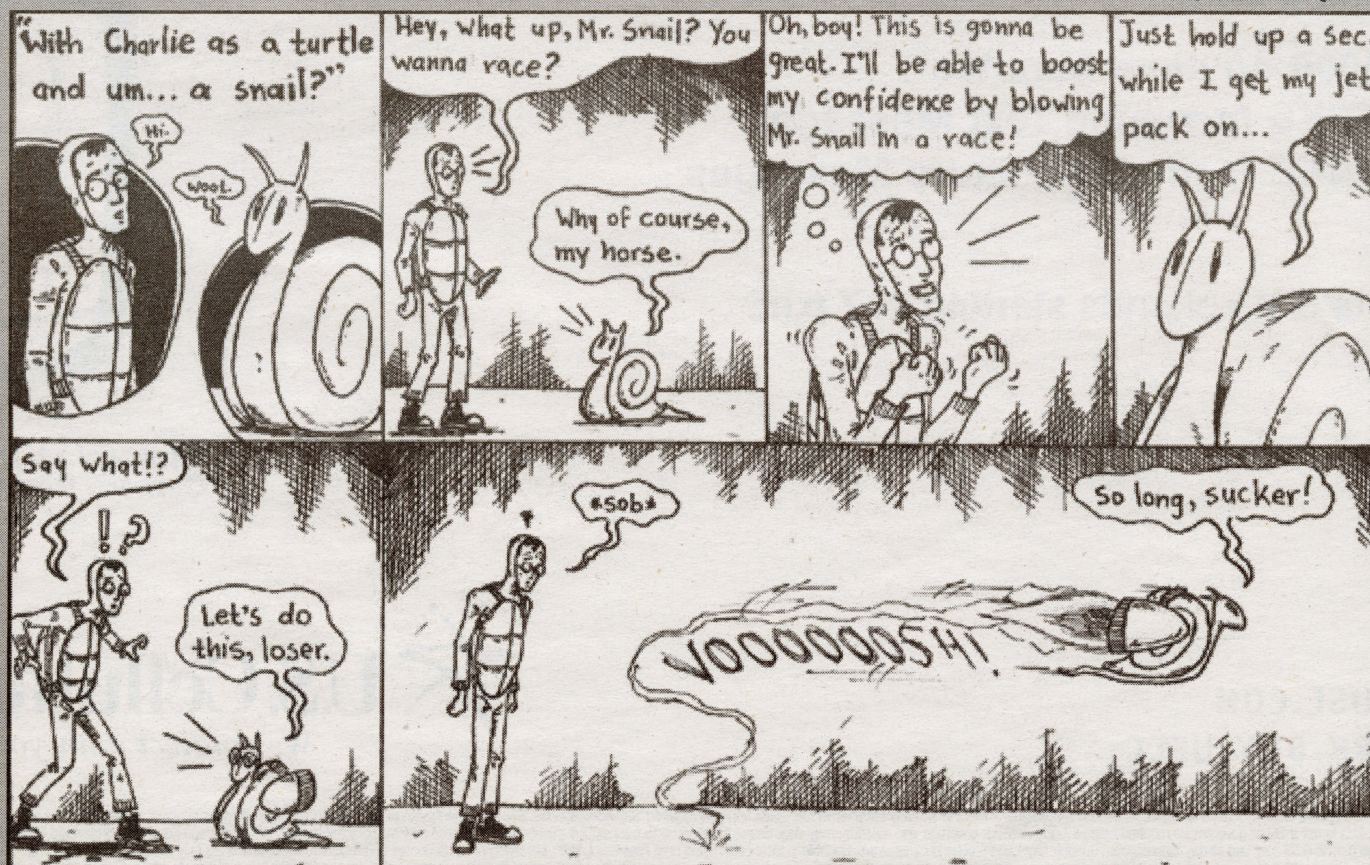
GoldenPalace.com is not only an online casino—it is also a museum of crazy and weird stuff. At GoldenPalaceEvents.com, they are currently auctioning off Pete Rose's corked bat and William Shatner's kidney stone. The site also bought and sold many of the strange foods featured on the news and eBay, such as the infamous grilled cheese sandwich that had a likeness of Mary in it. All the money received from the auctions goes to various charitable organizations.

So check out the site to fill a gambling fix or oddity fix. The site again is [www.goldenpalace.com](http://www.goldenpalace.com), and if you win big, just remember where you read about it!

## Side Splitters

Marxism

by A. R. Lopez



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

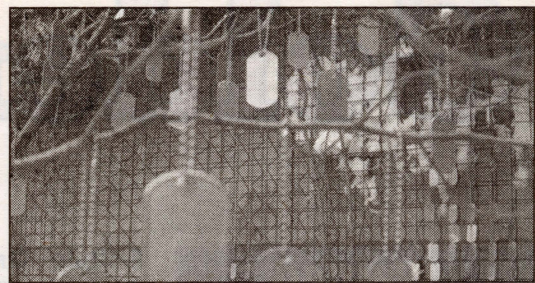
The Independent is a member of the Illinois College Press Association and Associated Collegiate Press.

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

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# Around Campus

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



## 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.

## Black History Month

Film Festival in Golden Eagles on Wednesday, Feb. 22, movies:

Higher Learning at 11:00 a.m.

Rosewood at 2:00 p.m.

The Untold Story of Emmett Lewis Till at 5:00 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 23

"Values of Black History" Lecture and Discussion by William "Doc" Speller at 1:40 p.m. in the Student Union.

Friday, Feb. 24

Closing event: awards ceremony and dance from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall.

## Maha Shivaratri

Prayers for Lord Shiva - Celebration of Hindu Festival  
Chanting of Mantras from Veda. Thurs. Feb. 23 at 1:40 p.m. - 2:50 p.m. in B146.

## NEIU Police Escort Service

The Northeastern Illinois University Police Dept. offers an escort service seven days a week. You can reach the escort service by dialing 773-442-4100. State your name and location and an officer will be dispatched to meet you.

## 7th Annual College Student Mass

An event with Cardinal George and Bishop Imesch on Thursday, Feb. 23. Reconciliation from 6:00 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. and Evening Mass from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Holy Name Cathedral. A reception will follow in the lower level of the cathedral.

## SGA Meeting

Thursday, February 23 at 1:40 p.m. in SU-003.

## Law School Information Sessions

Northern Illinois University Law School will be on campus Thursday, Feb. 23 in SU-215 from 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. to provide information about its services for students and alumni. Contact the Placement Office in B-119 at 773-442-4680 for details.

## International Business Conference

Author Jeremy Rifkin will be discussing his book during the keynote speech held on Monday, February 27 in Alumni Hall at 4:15 p.m.

## Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu

Classes are open to anyone and will meet in the Auxillary Gym on Wednesdays from 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## Women's Softball Team

Women interested in starting a women's softball team at Northeastern should contact Marisol at Soldelmar@care2.com.

## Mid-America Educator's Job Fair

Friday, March 3 in the Large Gymnasium from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Positions for certified teachers and administrators from over 75 schools/districts from approximately 20 states.

## Black History Forum

"Separate and Unequal: America's Apartheid Schools," presented by Jessie Sharkey and Keeanga-Yamahatta Taylor. This will be held Wednesday, February 22 at 7:00 p.m. in SU-215.

## Campus Open House

Thursday, March 9 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in the Student Union.

## The 2005-2006 Classical Guitar Series

Friday, March 31 in Fine Arts Recital Hall at 8:00 p.m. Brian Torosian performs solo works by Mertz, Coste and Makaroff on period instrument replicas. General admission is \$5.00. all proceeds will be donated to the St. Francis Animal Shelter.

Saturday, April 1, in room FA-144 at 10:00 a.m. Brian Torosian will present a master class. For audition information visit [www.briantorosian.com](http://www.briantorosian.com). Admission is free.

## Summer Trip to Belize

Summer archaeological field school in Belize. ANTH-380 (6 credit hours), for the Summer 1A session. 12 students max, registration deadline is March 17. Contact Rosemary Brady at ext. 4798 for more information.

## Campus Open House

Thursday, March 9 in Student Union from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Visit with faculty and staff, learn about academic programs, and more.

## Writing Lab Workshops

Learn how to revise and proofread. Tuesday, February 21st during Activity Hour (1:40 - 2:40) in room FA-108. Bring a pencil. For more information contact Borislava at ext. 5491 or [b-miltcheva@neiu.edu](mailto:b-miltcheva@neiu.edu)

## 14th Annual Symposium

Get some public speaking and research experience at the 14th Annual Student Research & Creative Activities Symposium. Abstract deadline is March 2, the symposium itself is on April 21.

CONTACT THE FOLLOWING DEPARTMENTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

Rachel Adeodu, Col. of Ed., ext. 5369 in CLS-3018

John Albazi, Col. of Arts & Sci, ext. 5681 in SCI-218G

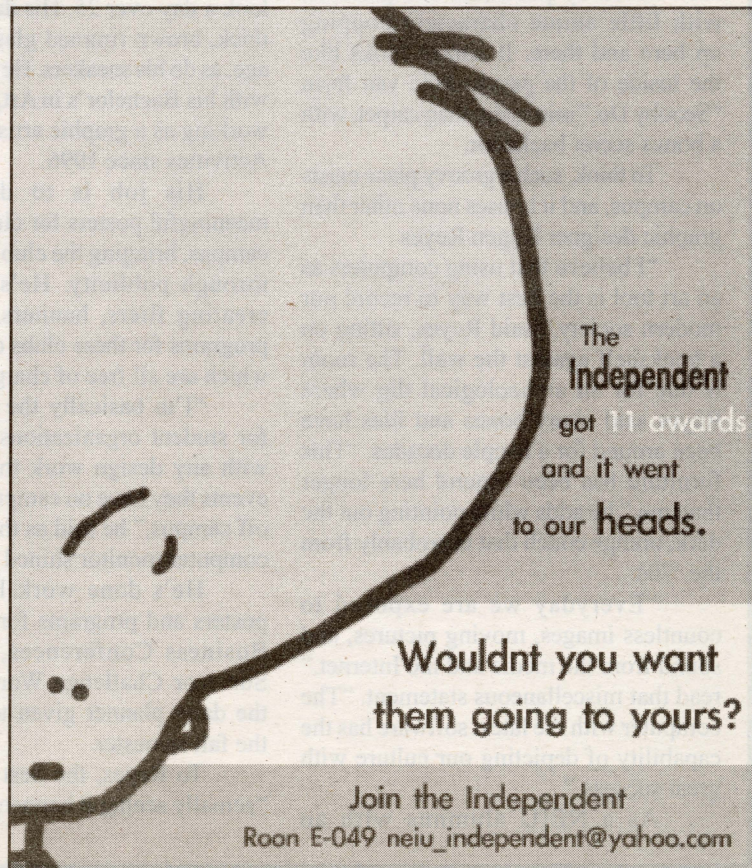
Roger Gilman, Col. of Arts. & Sci., ext. 5714

Kathleen Kardaras, Uni. Honors Program, ext. 6045, B-141

Mary Kimble, Graduate College, ext. 5727, SCI-352F

Rose U. Sperrazza, Creative Activities, ext. 5902, FA-115

D. S. Sundaram, Col. of Bus. & Mgmt, ext. 6135, CLS-0030





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**Panera Bread Hourly Open House.** Interviewing for All Hourly positions in the Elgin, South Elgin, Arlington Heights,

Buffalo Grove, Deerfield, Deerpark, Riverwoods & Glenview areas. Stop by one of the following locations to interview Wed. Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> 9-11am & 1-5pm (No Appt. Nec.) in South Elgin @ Panera Bread, 322 Randall Rd Directions 847-841-1925 OR in Arlington Heights @ Panera Bread, 5 W. Rand Rd. Directions 847-255-8533. Fax/Email resume 214-222-6574 or PANERA@selfopportunity.com Questions 800-594-7036 Check us out at [www.panerabread.com](http://www.panerabread.com) Rest Mgmt Exp Req'd

## Clubs

**Join the Future Teachers Club.** Monday 7:15- 8:15 pm. SU 2nd fl. or Thursdays 1:40-2:40 pm CLS 3081. See <http://ftcneiu1.tripod.com> for exact dates or e-mail [ftcneiu@yahoo.com](mailto:ftcneiu@yahoo.com).

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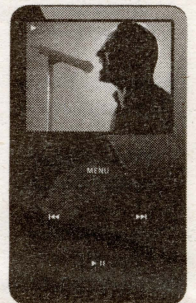
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The cinderblock walls of his office are colored by postcards and pictures, with little anime characters popping up here and there. It almost looks like the inside of the psychedelic van from "Scooby Do," minus the shag carpet, with a bonus secret backdoor.

To think, such a groovy place exists on campus, and it houses none other than graphic designer Rugen Reyes.

"I believe that using computers as an art tool is the best way to record our modern society," said Reyes, sitting on a bookshelf against the wall. The room is due for an archeological dig where Reyes said many boxes and files have been around for a couple decades. "This furniture has been around here longer than me," he adds while pointing out the dark, orange couch that is probably from the '70s.

"Everyday we are exposed to countless images, moving pictures, and sound from the media and the Internet," read that miscellaneous statement. "The computer with the latest software has the capability of depicting our culture with great success."

As a NEIU alumnus with an

## Let's Get Personal

## Designing our campus

art degree and an emphasis in computer graphics, Reyes has experienced the Northeastern culture for over a decade by transferring its ideas to posters and fliers for the university's student clubs.

Reyes is 34-years-old, and doesn't look a day over 25. His dark black hair and thick, brown rimmed glasses help defy his age, as do his sneakers. He graduated in 2004 with his Bachelor's in Art, though he's been working as a graphic artist through Student Activities since 1996.

His job is to design creative, meaningful posters for clubs and events on campus, bringing the club to the community through publicity. He's responsible for creating fliers, banners, logos, ads and programs for these clubs on a regular basis, which are all free of charge to the clubs.

"I'm basically the graphic designer for student organizations and I help them with any design work they need for their events they have on campus, and sometimes off campus," he said as the blue light of the computer monitor shined off his glasses.

He's done work like creating the posters and programs for the International Business Conferences, along with the Survivor Challenge Workshops and even the daily planner given to students during the fall semester.

To Reyes, the best part of his art is "actually seeing it happen when you have it

first, an idea of it, and you can actually see it printed on a program. A lot of people are attending this conference, for instance ... I can look at it and say, wow, I did that. So that's, like, really rewarding for me."

Before he began his current career at Northeastern, Reyes began volunteering for a local newspaper called *New Expression* doing graphic design. There he was introduced to desktop publishing and began his interest in computer graphics.

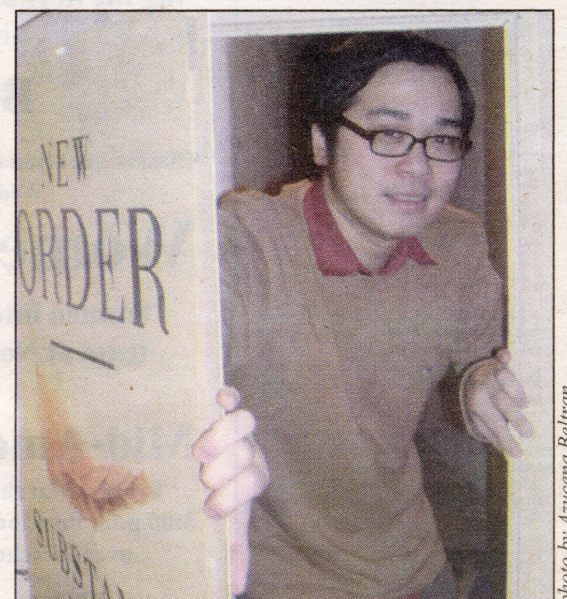
"I got that job through my sister who was a graphic designer there," he said with a quiet chuckle. "So it runs in the family." Reyes is the youngest of seven children and was born in the Philippines. He moved to the states when he was eight-years-old.

Because Reyes has been at Northeastern since 1992, he's become attached to the university and the diversity of people. He actually met his fiancé because of Northeastern and proposed to her on campus this fall.

"I went down on one knee in front of [the] student union," he said as he started to blush. "It was my birthday that day, and she was kinda like, why are you doing this on your birthday? And I was

like, it would kinda be a great present for me."

Though they don't plan to be married on campus, NEIU has really become something special to Reyes. It doesn't sound like he's thought about moving away from his position here. "Northeastern's my life," he said as he sits in his hip, basement office. "I don't think I could ever leave."



**Rugen Reyes steps out off a hidden door, one of the unique characteristics of his office and his job.**

Photo by Azucena Beltran