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Patrick O'Brien

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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO, IL

Tuesday, April 11, 2006
Volume 22 No. 19

INDEPENDENT

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The funding gap at NEIU

Board of Trustees says financial aid not keeping pace with tuition increases

by Amy Scoma
Staff Writer

The Board of Trustees approved the proposed tuition increase from \$160 per credit hour to \$175 per credit hour, starting in fall 2006. Students enrolled by fall of 2004 or earlier have their rates locked in by the state's Truth in Tuition Act and will not be affected by the tuition increase, unless he or she does not graduate in four years.

The Board of Trustees declared that at the rate of increase, Pell Grants and Stafford Loans would not keep pace with students' financial needs.

Director of Financial Aid Marshall Jennings said for fall 2006, "If they are a full time student and they apply early enough, they should have enough money to cover their tuition and fees."

While students are automatically considered for any merit scholarships or grants they are eligible for, students will not arbitrarily be considered for loans or work-study if they do not show interest.

If these options do not add up to all student financial needs, then

SEE FUNDING, PG. 3

"This town isn't big enough for the two of us"

America's history of overthrowing governments



photo courtesy of Joe Davis

by Elizabeth Rodriguez
Senior Staff Writer

If 14 regimes fall in the world, and Americans don't know the history of them, do they make a sound?

Stephen Kinzer, senior correspondent with the *New York Times* and author of *All the Shah's Men*, gave an overview of the crashing effects of many of these American-sponsored regime changes in his keynote address for NEIU's 11th annual Asian-American Heritage Conference.

"You cannot understand ... events in the world today without understanding this continuum of regime change," Kinzer said. His speech helped the audience do a little of both by showing patterns intrinsic to regime changes, which he explains fully in his new book *Overthrow: America's Century of Regime Change from Hawaii to Iraq*.

While many say the big oil industry plays a part in today's war in Iraq, big sugar, according to Kinzer, led to America's first use of regime change.

"It was a simple operation," said Kinzer of the United States' overthrow of the kingdom of Hawaii that was motivated by white Hawaiian sugar barons who did not want American tariffs on foreign products to affect their profits.

After the United States' seizure of Hawaii, Americans were "seized by expansionist fervor," Kinzer continued. He explained that time and again the United States used regime change to serve American interests that were otherwise being ignored by foreign countries.

SEE KINZER, PG. 5

Board votes Steinberg \$20,000 raise

Raise boosts salary to nearly one quarter million plus housing

by Tom Robb
News Editor

At last Thursday's Board of Trustees meeting, the Board voted to approve a \$20,000 raise for President Steinberg, bringing her salary from \$225,000 to \$245,000. According to documents obtained by the *Independent*, that salary does not include the additional \$35,000 per year Steinberg receives as a housing allowance.

The increase comes as the process to replace Steinberg as President has already begun. Steinberg has announced that she will be leaving the university soon, but will stay until a successor is found.

Director of Marketing and Communications Terry Bush released a statement in response to inquiries by the *Independent* regarding the raise:

"At the April 6, 2006 meeting of the Board of Trustees, the Board took several actions with respect to President Steinberg's existing employment agreement.

"In April 2005, at the President's express request, she did not receive a salary increase. While the Board agreed to the President's request not to increase her salary last year, it also agreed to review her salary

SEE STEINBERG, PG. 3

Free Speech Taskforce gains student input

by Amy Scoma
Staff Writer

In response to alleged student free speech violations, specifically hindering students' right to adequately protest controversial groups like Heterosexuals Organized for a Moral Environment (H.O.M.E.) and military recruiters, the Free Speech Taskforce held an open student forum to discuss an updated free speech policy.

While Army personnel recruited in Alumni Hall, next door in Golden Eagles, the Free Speech Taskforce, made up of students and administrators, presented their findings and

asked for student input.

Student groups have expressed concern that they have not been notified in a timely manner when controversial groups are to arrive on campus, thus not allowing them to adequately protest.

Student and member of the Socialist Club Rachel Cohen said that the presence of these controversial groups has led to the question of "what the school determines as free speech versus protected speech versus hate speech [as well as] limitations in the ability of chartered student groups to leaflet in various areas of the school."

What constitutes free speech was

investigated by the taskforce. Student Trustee Peter Michaelczyk introduced Eastern Illinois University's process of evaluating content only for libel and/or obscenity, but otherwise allowing all groups to come to their university, whether they are chartered or non-affiliated.

NEIU Legal Counsel and fellow member of the taskforce Jeff Brown said, "any group can come on campus and table ... the university has the ability to restrict speech on time, manner, and place." Student Trustee Peter Michaelczyk clarified that the Free Speech Taskforce "cannot create law. We have to go by the law books."

Advanced notification of when groups table and distribute leaflets was also discussed. Early in the open forum, student Frances Perez said of the military recruiters next door, "If the majority of students were aware of this group of people being on campus, they would be upset."

Currently, when applying for a designated space in the Free Speech Zone in Village Square, a group or individual would contact the Student Union, who would then get them a table in two to three days. One does not need to register to distribute leaflets outside.

SEE FREE SPEECH, PG. 3

New faces and low turnout mark SGA elections

by Tom Robb
News Editor

New faces will occupy the top spots in Student Government as current President Evelyn Nazario-Rose and key players in her administration did not run for reelection.

The results of last week's election reflected some of the lowest voter turnout and there was little controversy with many candidates running unopposed.

On Thursday, April 6, the votes were tallied, with only 669 students voting. Eron McCormick, a recent transfer student, won the office of SGA President with 343 votes, beating Isiah Dalton, who received 268 votes, and Michael Hess, who received one vote. McCormick pledged to get students the U-Pass and

vowed to not take the stipend that comes with the position of president.

On the ballot was the question of whether students would be willing to pay for the U-Pass. SGA Senator Al Cordero said that the initiative passed, but received 127 votes in total. Student Activities did not make the U-Pass vote totals available to the *Independent*. "That's not a mandate; we are going to have to hold a separate ballot initiative just for that," said Cordero.

Peter Michalczyk beat Jonathan Ramsey for Student Trustee 282 to 231. Other winners included (see side bar) Denise Franklin for vice president, Kimberly Murphy for speaker, and Eduardo Arabu Jr., who won the Illinois Board of Higher Education Student Advisory Council Representative position; all ran unopposed.

SEE ELECTION RESULTS, PG. 6

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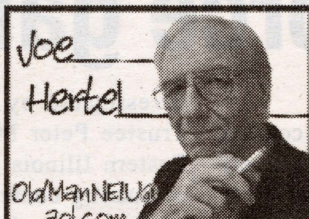
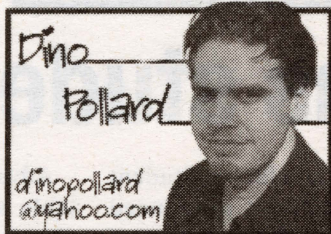
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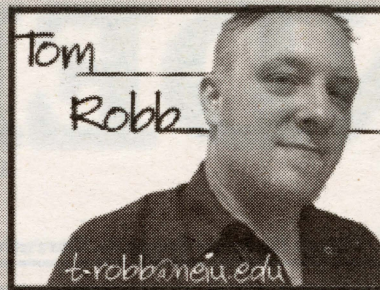
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A Closer Look...



**The great
golden
parachute**

While students are hit with a 7.9 percent tuition increase, President Steinberg is getting a raise. A \$20,000 or 8.8 percent raise to be exact, voted for by the Board of Trustees on Thursday. This seems to be making up for her giving up her raise after the strike.

"But isn't she leaving?" one student asked. Yes, she is.

Student Trustee Peter Michalczyk, the only trustee who voted "no" on the resolution, pointed out that her new \$245,000 per year salary does not even include the \$35,000 per year housing allowance or the free car. In executive session, the raise was justified because the President needed a "cost of living increase," according to Michalczyk.

The rate of inflation was between three and four percent. Last year, Steinberg insisted on forgoing that raise in the wake of the strike. If she would have gotten the raise and it had been in line with inflation or only a bit more, it would have been four percent, or about \$10,000. As it is, Steinberg's raise is 8.8 percent, or the equivalent of 4.4 percent per year over two years; roughly the same.

True, the university may have saved \$10,000 this year, but what needs to be looked at is the pension. The State of Illinois, for whom Steinberg works, will be paying a lot of money to President Steinberg for many years to come.

Some state and university employees get up to 80 percent of their salary as a pension. The university keeps employment contracts confidential, so there is no way of knowing what Steinberg's pension will be, but you can bet this raise will affect it.

It is true that \$245,000 per year is in the middle of the pack, as far as state university presidents' salaries in Illinois go. The question is what was the point of the seemingly magnanimous gesture of not taking the raise after the strike?

A \$245,000 salary is not that much compared to other Illinois university presidents, but it is a whole lot of money, and for students who only make \$20,000 a year, and when students are told that they are going to have to pay more because there is just no other place to get the money to pay some professors more than \$20,000 per year, and they just can not trim the fat any other way, and then they see a really expensive golden parachute, well, it leaves a bad taste in students' mouths.

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John Stroger, the T.U.R.D.

On March 21, we voted for John Stroger, the T.U.R.D. — that's short for Taxing, Unreformable, Regular Democrat.

- ☐ Stroger beat Claypool: 261,665 to 238,871
- ☐ Blago beat Eisendrath: 595,867 to 253,618
- ☐ In the 2004 presidential election, 5.2 million voted for Kerry or Bush in Illinois (with Bush getting 2.3 million votes).

If only **one-fourth** of the number of Illinois citizens who'd voted for Bush in 2004 had voted for Eisendrath, T.U.R.D. Blagojevich would have lost his own party's nomination for re-election. And Stroger (good riddance) would have been defeated just as easily. [Even a lifelong Republican can ask for a Democratic ballot in a primary election (hint, hint).]

We should take advantage of the Primary election system to deny re-election to entrenched incumbents. If we don't, more turds will prevail.

Steven Searle @ www.bestpartyavailable.org



Steinberg started here as a professor of History more than 30 years ago.

prior to the beginning of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2006. Following up on its previous agreement, the Board considered several factors including the fact that the President's salary [has] not changed for two years, the comparative salaries of other public university presidents, past and anticipated cost of living increases, and the outstanding leadership that President Steinberg has provided during the last several years. In consideration of all of these factors, the Board voted to increase President Steinberg's base salary to \$245,000 annually beginning July 1, 2006. The student trustee dissented from this vote.

"In April 2005, the Board and the president reviewed her contract that included a provision for a leave. She had not been granted such a leave in nearly 25 years. The President took a portion of her leave in 2005. In consideration of the ongoing search process, President Steinberg agreed to take her remaining leave at the end of her contract term. This adjustment involves no additional compensation and meets the Board's desire to have the President present during the search process."

At the meeting, the Board also named Steinberg President Emeritus for her 30 years of service to the university.

Student Trustee Peter Michalczyk said that the discussion of the raise in the closed executive session centered on cost of living. "It pissed me off," said Michalczyk, who

voted against the measure, stating that the money could be better used.

Inflation has been between three and four percent for the last few years; Steinberg's raise amounts to 8.8 percent. Steinberg forwent her raise last year after the faculty's strike, so this raise would be equivalent to two 4.4 percent increases over two years.

University Professionals of Illinois Union President Edmond Hunt said "It is a staggering amount of money for a salary. When people are complaining about how much tuition is going up and how the state is not funding higher education at a sustainable level, it is awkward, to say the least."

Hunt did say that Steinberg's salary was not out of line with other Illinois university presidents: "Compared to salaries of other college presidents in Illinois, it is not unusual. This is about a ten percent raise of \$20,000. Since it is for two years, it can be seen as two five percent raises. The faculty and staff are only getting 3.5 percent raises each year, so this is more."

SGA President Elect Eron McCormick said, "Students are lacking things. That money could have gone to clubs, organizations or hiring more professors."

SGA Senator Al Cordero said "It sounds fishy that someone's leaving and she gets a hefty raise while professors still struggle with a three percent raise."

Student Activist Robin Matthies asked, "Is tuition being raised for Salme's pension?"

SGA misses March 15th budget deadline

President plans to amend SGA Constitution

by Mario Go
Senior Staff Writer

Wednesday, March 15, marked the deadline for the Student Government Association's (SGA) annual budget proposal for the next fiscal year. The budget for 75 student organizations was to be completed by the SGA Cabinet and be ready for approval by the Senate at the next SGA meeting. The SGA has failed to meet that deadline and the budget has still not been completed.

The SGA Cabinet is accountable to present the budget to the SGA Senate. The Cabinet consists of President Evelyn Nazario-Rose, Vice-President Cesar Miranda, Speaker of the Senate Jacob Gabriel, and the Chair of the Finance Committee Jose O. Ortiz.

SGA Student Trustee Peter Michalczyk told the *Independent* that on the April 13 SGA meeting, Nazario-Rose plans on suspending and then amending the SGA Constitution to

deal with the budget situation.

Nazario-Rose, regarding the missed deadline, told the *Independent* that "Our next senate meeting is April 13th, in which I am going to ask ... to suspend the constitution and extend the deadline for April 30th. Clubs are still turning their budget proposals into the Student Activities office and I want to give all annually funded clubs an opportunity to complete said budgets."

The *Independent* also learned from Gabriel that the last known SGA Cabinet meeting was held in the beginning of the 2006 spring semester; since then, no other meetings were called by Nazario-Rose.

This annual SGA budget proposal affects 75 Northeastern student organizations. The SGA acts as the mediator with the Student Activities Offices to oversee the operational budget of all student organizations. The 2006-2007 fiscal year starts on July 1, 2006, and ends June 3, 2007.

FUNDING GAP FROM PAGE 1

alternative loans from banks and payment plans (view the Schedule of Classes) allow students flexibility.

Jennings said merit and talent tuition waivers from different departments "help a great deal." Applying for these takes effort from the student; he or she must apply to be considered.

In order to ensure a secure financial aid plan, Jennings suggested students should file their FAFSA early, be aware of deadlines, and be good detectives.

The Office of Financial Aid suggests students investigate Fastweb.com, a search engine for scholarships and grants. Applying for grants and scholarships within departments also helps students offset the cost of their education. They said that if the student is proactive, the tuition increase should not prevent students from attending Northeastern.

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FREE SPEECH FROM PAGE 1



Free Speech Forum met with low attendance.

To many student activists, this is not enough time to be contacted of a group's presence or conduct a formidable protest.

Students also claimed that because NEIU is a non-residential school, it is more difficult to assemble in such a short time period—many do not pass through Village Square because of the classes they take. Student Ben Harris suggested that a schedule of when groups table and distribute leaflets should be posted on NEIU's Web site for easy access.

The taskforce voiced concern about the policy reflecting NEIU students' beliefs. Joe Hertel, student, *Independent* opinion's editor and taskforce member, stated clearly, "Our policies will reflect the beliefs of the students." Director of the Student Activities Office Sharron M. Evans also emphasized the importance of student involvement in the process of refining NEIU's free speech policy.

"I wish there were more students here to voice their opinion," student Sophia Lopez said, as ten students attended the Free Speech Taskforce open forum. Student and member of Campus Anti-War Network and International Socialists Matt Larson stated simply, "There should be no free speech zone. The whole U.S. is a free speech zone."

The Free Speech Taskforce will meet twice more before submitting their recommendations to the Vice President for Student Affairs Melvin C. Terrell to gain student input. Those dates have yet to be determined.

Pool reporting by Jane Kolkevich and Patrick O'Brien



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How did the United States justify its actions? "We truly believe we are an exceptional nation," Kinzer said, adding that we believe that we have both the right and responsibility to spread throughout the world the systems that have made the United States so prosperous.

Kinzer said that compassion for the oppressed also plays a role in Americans' desire to intervene in foreign governments. "We are going to liberate a people suffering under brutal oppression," Kinzer said, mimicking the government's rationale for the Spanish-American War. The audience chuckled when he asked if that language sounded familiar.

The problem comes when the American people do not fully understand the government's economic motives for regime change. Kinzer explained that it is as if the "government steps in

to lead a parade that has already formed for other reasons."

Believing that the disastrous pattern of regime change is already in motion in Iraq, Kinzer said "It's the only war the U.S. ever fought without the American people understanding the reason why we're fighting it."

In an interview with the *Independent*, Kinzer explained some of the United States' options for diplomacy.

"There are no quick fixes to longstanding international problems. We have to calm down and be a little bit more patient," he said.

With a possible military confrontation with Iran looming, Kinzer warned that an attack would only unify Iranians with their leader against the U.S. "Let's not play into their hands," he said.

Kinzer used American western movies to explain the mindset that rationalizes forced regime changes in other countries. Much like the lone cowboy with a gun that brings order to a lawless frontier town, the United States imposes its will on countries that pursue what is best for themselves rather than what is best for America.

It is as if America is saying "this town isn't big enough for the two of us," Kinzer commented.

Following his speech, Kinzer signed copies of *Overthrow* outside Alumni Hall. The book contains a detailed history of 14 of America's foreign regime changes, proving a sentiment with which he began his keynote: "I don't think of myself as a campaigner for a cause ... I am only trying to uncover the history that we do not know."

Meditation, review and experience

Students finding peace in the middle of the day

by Kimberly S. Crawford

Staff Writer

Judy Mizrahi of the Adult and Women Student Programs of NEIU believes in taking the time to enjoy the finer things in life, which include good health, peace and relaxation.

As a 20-year veteran of meditation, Mizrahi was enthused to host a meditation hour on Thursday, March 30, during activity hour in the Student Union. This session was scheduled as one of the events for the NEIU 2006 Women's History Month.

There are many different reasons for meditation, but in the past, meditation was primarily associated with religion. Over the years, it has become evident that meditation techniques are utilized to promote good health and well being. This particular meditation session was scheduled with the intent to relax and revitalize.

The hour began with a handout and an in depth description of meditation and its benefits. This was followed by a demonstration of proper position/posture, along with an even diaphragmatic breathing exercise.

The next step was to have each individual focus their mind on a sound, an object or a thought that could evoke calmness. Then, the meditation began. There was an infectious peace that calmed

the room as individuals sought respite from the manic thought processes of the mind, temporarily ignoring the stressors of the day.

Meditation produces several physiological effects, such as reduced blood pressure, lower pulse rate and a decreased metabolic rate. Some might find it beneficial to have a towel or wrap to cover up in case they get cold. It is not uncommon for one to experience sensations such as itching, aches or tingling while meditating. Such sensations are believed to be caused from uncomfortable posture or increased physical awareness.

Living in a high stress society where everyone always has something to do leaves little or no time for meditation. After all, who has time to sit around and do nothing? Contrary to popular belief, meditating is not being unproductive. It is an active process in which an individual asserts focus to mentally and physically achieve the goals of calmness, relaxation and rejuvenation of awareness. These goals were met during this particular "Meditation: Experience and Review" session.

After about 10 minutes of actual meditation, time was allotted for sharing the experience and a question and answer session.

Although this was a special event, Mizrahi said she would enjoy hosting another in the near future if enough interest was expressed.

Prostitutes taking the right turn

Documentary reveals the truth in Chicago's sex trade

by D. Gordon Macnab

Production Editor

"Imagine you're 42 and have felonies ... it is very hard to reenter society," said Prostitution Alternatives Round Table (PART) member Brenda Myers in discussion after a film screening about the documentary *Turning a Corner*.

Turning a Corner is a documentary about the world of prostitution and the common misconceptions about Chicago's sex trade. Produced by Beyondmedia's Salome Chasnoff, this film follows 13 members of PART and narrates their journey out of Chicago's sex trade into being a part of regular society.

This film, according to Myers, shows that prostitution is nothing like the movie *Pretty Woman*. Most guys like the character played by Richard Gere do not exist in the real sex trade, explained Myers. "In reality, the good looking guys are the violent ones," said Myers.

Myers and Chasnoff both explained there is still a need for more services. However, there is a way for prostitutes to have their record sealed so they can get jobs in the real world.

"Bad choices were made, but bad situations happened," Myers said about the real life of prostitution. "I am 10 years out of prostitution and now I am going to college and doing the things you guys do," Myers added.

Turning a Corner was presented in the second floor of the Student Union building to a full audience on Tuesday, March 28.

When abortion was a crime

Abortions Rights Action League visits NEIU

by Violette Green

Senior Staff Writer

Recently, the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance and NEIU Socialist Club sponsored two women to speak about the history of the fight for women's right to choose and the recent challenges to the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision of 1973.

Sharon Smith, author of *Women and Socialism*, and Benita Ulisano from National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL) Pro-Choice America, attended the panel discussion to show a film and voice their concerns.

Around 30 to 40 people attended the 30-minute film, "When Abortion was Illegal," and the

ensuing discussion in the Golden Eagles Room. The film interviewed several women from the 1950s and 1960s that had abortions during the time just prior to Roe v. Wade.

The women interviewed were rape victims, unmarried students, and housewives whose health was at risk if they had the baby. Finding places to get abortions and doctors willing to help was challenging. The doctors that did help did so at their own risk and many helped indirectly. Indirect help could mean procedural advice and then treatment afterwards when the damage had already been done.

The interviewees gave graphic descriptions of the methods used for aborting fetuses and the resulting consequences. Methods

described involved coat hangers and insertion of caustic substances and other objects into the body.

Illegal abortions also came with serious health risks. Bleeding, infection, a host of other problems and sometimes death were some of the consequences of back alley or do-it-yourself abortions.

After the film, Ulisano spoke about several states that are prepared to follow South Dakota in banning abortion rights, even to rape and incest victims.

She spoke vehemently about the sex education in the public schools that teaches abstinence only. "Yes, abstinence is an option, but we can't pretend teenagers aren't having sex," she said on the topic of the right to access education and

contraception.

Smith spoke emphatically about the rights of women in terms of choices for their bodies. One of the topics she explained was the "no-frills" abortion, which means no anesthetic.

Statistics she listed for abortion deaths were 600,000 a year worldwide, because in most of the world abortion is still illegal.

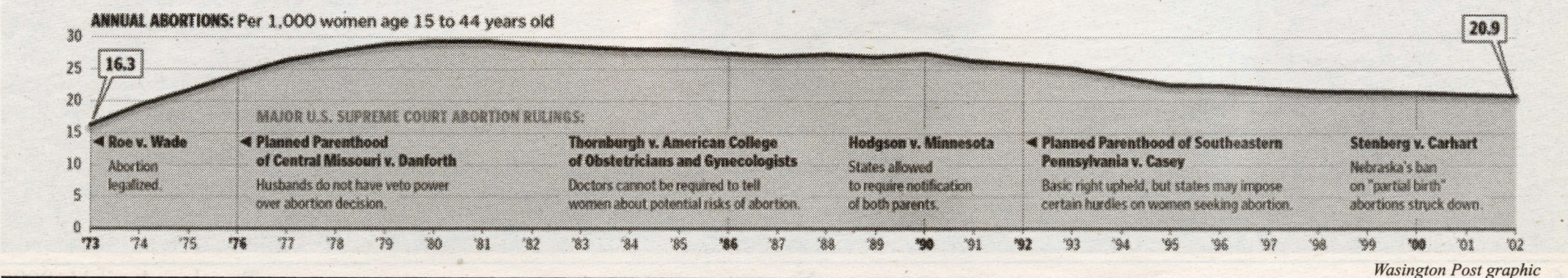
Her next point was the Christian Right and their supporters. Along with her outspokenness against the Christian Right and their emphasis on family, she maintained a sense of humor and asked, "If family was so important [for] Newt Gingrich, why is he now on his third wife?"

The floor was then opened up to

general discussion, which started on general laws about abortion and that a woman's right to choose should be between her and her doctor.

The talk then continued with one woman who told the story of her mother holding the hands of two women as they died from abortion complications. Both of the Clintons' policies and attitudes on abortion were key points brought up by Smith. Equal rights, mobilization, and not apologizing for the use of the words "abortion" and "feminism" finished up the open floor discussion.

Both Ulisano and Smith closed their talk by encouraging others to get involved in maintaining the right for women to choose.



2006 Student Government election results

Position/Candidate	Main Campus 4/1	CCICS	El Centro	Main Campus 4/5	Main Campus 4/6	Total
President				5-Apr	6-Apr	
McCormick, Eron	18	25	27	121	152	343
Dalton, Isiah	7	24	25	93	119	268
Hess, Michael	0	0	0	0	1	1
Spoiled/No vote	1	11	6	21	18	57
Total (President)	26	60	58	235	290	669
Vice President						
Denise Franklin	13	9	15	73	85	195
Spoiled/No vote	13	51	43	162	205	474
Total (Vice President)	26	60	58	235	290	669
Speaker of the Senate						
Kimberly Murphey	10	9	16	74	87	196
Spoiled/No vote	16	51	42	161	203	473
Total (Speaker)	26	60	58	235	290	669
IBHE-SAC Representative						
Arabu Jr., Eduardo	14	31	45	153	193	436
Spoiled/No vote	12	29	13	82	97	233
Total (IBHE-SAC Rep)	26	60	58	235	290	669
Student Trustee						
Michalczyk, Peter	14	13	26	97	132	282
Ramsey, Jonathan	4	23	21	88	95	231
Spoiled/No vote	8	24	11	50	63	156
Total (Student Trustee)	26	60	58	235	290	669
Senator						
Squeaky Clean	1	3	0	10	8	22
Kologdziej, Anna	3	1	3	23	34	64
Krysa, Jan	0	2	5	13	27	47
Alto, Angelo C.	6	4	9	30	27	76
Borishade, Desiree	1	4	2	11	13	31
Caldwell, Evonna L.	1	6	0	16	16	39
Champion, Antonio	1	10	17	32	35	95
Cordero, Al	7	6	7	37	32	89
Ramsey, Jonathan	1	8	2	19	17	47
Boyer, Andre	0	0	0	0	0	0
Spoiled/No vote	5	16	13	44	81	159
Total (Senator)	26	60	58	235	290	669
NPB						
Youkhanna, Sargon	4	5	2	32	55	98
Scott, Toni K.	4	29	17	74	74	198
Cordero, Al	9	11	27	79	95	221
Hernandez, Edgard	0	0	0	0	1	1
Spoiled/No vote	9	15	12	50	65	151
Total (NPB)	26	60	58	235	290	669

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Advertisement

Lights, music and photos accompany Reza Deghati to NEIU

Famous photojournalist visits NEIU

by **Violette Green**
Senior Staff Writer

Close to 200 people attended the address and presentation given by renowned Iranian-born photojournalist and humanitarian Reza Deghati, whose photos have appeared in publications worldwide.

Deghati came as part of NEIU's international panel, titled "Democracy in Iran, Middle East, and Central Asia: Past Traditions and Future Prospects," which is part of the 11th Annual Asian-American Conference.

Before the presentation there was a candle lighting ceremony and poetry reading for peace on the occasion of the Iranian Centennial. A single candle was lit at the front of the room and the audience passed the light back to those behind them until the whole place was lit by candlelight.

Student and singer Gerald Chaney and pianist Jane Kenas-Heller of NEIU's music department followed the light with music. "No man is an island" and "Were it not for grace" were sung.

After greetings and welcomes from President Steinberg, Dean of Academic Development Murrell J. Duster, and President and Founder of Keshavarz and Associates Maziar Keshavarz, a standing ovation greeted Deghati as he rose to speak. He summed up the candle ceremony in an old Persian saying, "All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a small candle."



Portrait of Tajik schoolgirl, Gurtuchlugh, China.

He spoke briefly of issues dear to him, which he has photographed over his nearly 30-year career.

The photo slide started with early pictures that he took and moved on to images of the embassy where the Iranian hostage situation took place. He was the first and only photographer in front of the embassy during that situation.

Images from all over the world of child soldiers, mothers seeking to find their lost children, cemeteries filled with victims and a little girl being forced to sell her dolls on

Christmas in Sarajevo made Deghati speak emphatically about the horrors of war.

Africa and Asia brought more images of children: a boy scrapes out the image of the dictator in Kenya, a Cambodian child soldier vows revenge for his dead father, children and their parents after AIDS, limbs lost to landmines, and an image of a broken man whose daughter is exiled because her son's father was a Hutu soldier who raped her.

Deghati's photographs also served to help people find their loved ones. In Africa, he

taught four refugees photography, so 12,000 of some 30,000 children reported missing were photographed, profiled and numbered. The display was put up for people to see and more than 3,500 children were reunited with their families.

The slides continued with the area around the Caspian Sea, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan. Oil, refugees, and children were the primary focus of his photos.

Despite much of the war and suffering that was shown in his pictures, he found moments of humor, like when he nearly gave a cabdriver a heart attack in order to capture a perfect photo opportunity.

Throughout the presentation, Deghati spoke quietly about the people he had photographed. He told of a principal who now labored in the salt fields, a five-year-old boy who guarded his blind grandfather and of a little girl in Afghanistan.

He returned to Afghanistan around the time of the Taliban's takeover. He was with a delegation that Clinton sent to greet the Taliban.

When the presentation concluded, he received another standing ovation. Closing comments were made and there was the announcement that there would be a peace fire down by the P.E. Building.

Deghati signed posters and posed for pictures until after 10:30.

The program was held in Alumni Hall from April 5-8 in honor of the Centennial of the 1906 Iranian Constitutional Revolution.



Above:
Two brothers put their gas masks on in Seitovka, a village located near Russia's biggest gas industry complex, controlled by Gazprom. Seitovka, Russian Federation.



Above:
Afghan children imitate the photographer by holding their hands in circles in front of their eyes. Nuristan Providence, Afghanistan.



Right:
Orphans or abandoned children rest in their shelter made of cardboard boxes. Poipet, Cambodia

©Reza/Webistan

Editorial

Northeasy?

Loyola, DePaul, U of C—all recognizable names of prestigious institutions with hard working and smart students. Or are they? Yes, tuition is very expensive, but does that mean quality?

Many hear Northwestern when they encounter someone from Northeastern. Maybe they are just optimistic. However, is being at Northeastern really a bad thing? We don't have dorms, sports teams, and most of us cannot seem to graduate in four years. Are we students selling ourselves short by selling our school short?

Walking out of class at 9:00 p.m. is not something anyone would see anywhere else. The average age of Northeastern students is 25, with returning students, mothers, fathers, and even grandparents. The great diversity of our campus would certainly not be found at Notre Dame or Columbia. Just by visiting the Child Care Center on campus, it's obvious that this university is a mini United Nations.

Typical college students have parties, drinking binges and fraternity commotions. Now, while many might not think that NEIU's activities are as fun as the aforementioned, take into consideration that many students are parents or live at least a couple miles from campus. We have at least one dance a year, a family carnival and tons of Student Union activities. Most students are of low income. When they cannot afford to go to the movies, they appreciate Northeastern's efforts in offering diversion from daily life.

People who come to Northeastern truly want to be here to learn and earn their degree; they are not looking for the "college experience." They work a nine to five job, have kids and a home life. They are the ones taking night and weekend classes, juggling all of life's responsibilities and taking on the extra stress of getting an education for their own and family's improvement.

Try and find a DePaul student who does the same, one who does not have dad's credit card number memorized for those shopping "emergencies."

NEIU does not get much respect and it is easy to understand why. People who attend this institution are here for an education, not a party. Compared to other schools, our professors actually teach; they don't let T.A.s take over the class.

Yet, every year NEIU sends its students to graduate from schools like Loyola, DePaul, Notre Dame and Northwestern, to name a few. What a surprise; it is probable that 99 percent of the student body does not even consider this a possibility, much less a reality. The reality that Northeastern does help elevate its students to elite universities like the above flies in the face of the "Northeasy" reputation that students have cultivated.

So, maybe now students will give NEIU a bit more credit for what they offer to so many working class people who attend and enjoy the new definition of the college experience.

Green card international

Solving the immigration problem

by J. Louis Bracich
Special Contributor

Our great republic is at a crossroads. The path we take will define our nation's character for the future. Immigration is one of the pillars that made the United States of America the great country that it is. Despite what many say, this isn't a "Mexican problem," but a legal and security problem. I could go on about building walls and stuff, but I'm sure someone else could create a better border plan than me. Instead, I want to focus on the good folks already here and why they come here.

Let's face it, the old system just doesn't work. We're going to need a new treaty with other nations that states we will be reimbursed for all medical costs, education costs, and immediate deportation of foreign criminals. Any nation that doesn't agree, we just won't let their people in.

What I propose is the government setup a national corporation like Fannie Mae or Amtrak. We'll call this company Green Card International (GCI), and it will essentially be granted a monopoly on selling guest worker passes to this country. GCI would have branches virtually all over the world, from post offices here, to shopping plazas in Mexico City, to kiosks in Tokyo, to college campuses in Berlin.

Imagine, just walking into any local Green Card International store, plunking down say \$500 at the counter of a kiosk, and after a small wait time (say 72 hours for a criminal background check), you get a new ID card. This card, with your picture and info, would also serve as an insurance card. Say you get sick—you have the card! Get into an accident? You have the card! Imagine if Visa or MasterCard sponsored these new green cards? After your card expires, you simply find a local GCI kiosk, put your card in the slot and renew your membership.

Okay, but how about those that won't even do that? Lastly, how about things outside of just getting permission to get in with a stupid little green card? Glad you asked, my friends! Green Card International program would solve all this.

First off, can we all agree that if someone tries to illegally stay in this country after we make it really easy to do it legally should be deported? See, this new green card will be your access to find a place to live, opening of a bank account, and ultimately citizenship, if you want it.

Under the new system, it will be illegal to rent out an apartment to any non-citizen without a GCI card. Want to open up a bank account? You'll need your Green Card. Want to buy a car? Sorry, you'll need the card for that as well. More importantly, the card will allow you to get a job here with legal protections. Employers would face heavy fines for employing non-GCI member aliens. See, who says immigration reform has to be hard and complex?



image by Azucena Beltran



"Give me your tired, your poor,
 Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
 The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
 Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed,
 to me:
 I lift my lamp beside the golden door."
 -Emma Lazarus, from "The New Colossus"

Can't we see what is going on here? Are we that dense that we repeat the mistakes of history? Has anyone thought about how similar these immigration proposals are to the prejudice, bigotry and supremacy delusions of the past?

If you think that for one moment many people will not help a fellow human being because they might wind up in jail, you are sadly mistaken. We're not talking

Old Man on Campus

Don't fence me in

about aiding and abetting evil persons, those who seek the destruction of this country. We're talking about common folk who come to this country with dreams of a better life for themselves and their children.

We're talking about people who want to work for a living and raise families and try to fit into a society that is now threatening to brand them as criminals, but not only them, but also those who associate with them or help them, including churches. Yeah, we're talking about the "wretched refuse" referred to at the base of the Statue of Liberty.

Just because these "huddled masses" don't sail in the "golden" front door of our nation, but instead wade in through the back door, it is no reason to deny them an opportunity to be part of this great country. Our immigration laws suck and the new ones proposed are even worse, to the point of being an affront to all Miss Liberty stands for.

The plaque doesn't say, "Send me your rich and affluent." Read it again. We can debate the pros and cons of illegal immigration, especially from Mexico and

Cuba, but that is not the purpose of this column. The purpose is to expose just how close we are with these current bills to resembling the racism of America during the Civil War and Nazi Germany during World War II.

The Jews were branded as undesirables by the Nazis. If you gave help or fed or sheltered them, man, you were in trouble. But it wasn't just the Nazis who had this type of law.

What about the Underground Railroad in this country? What if you helped black people who were being hunted down for escaping their miserable life on the plantations in the South? What happened to you if you were discovered hiding or feeding them as they worked their way North, in the hope of a better life? The threat didn't work back then and it ain't gonna work now.

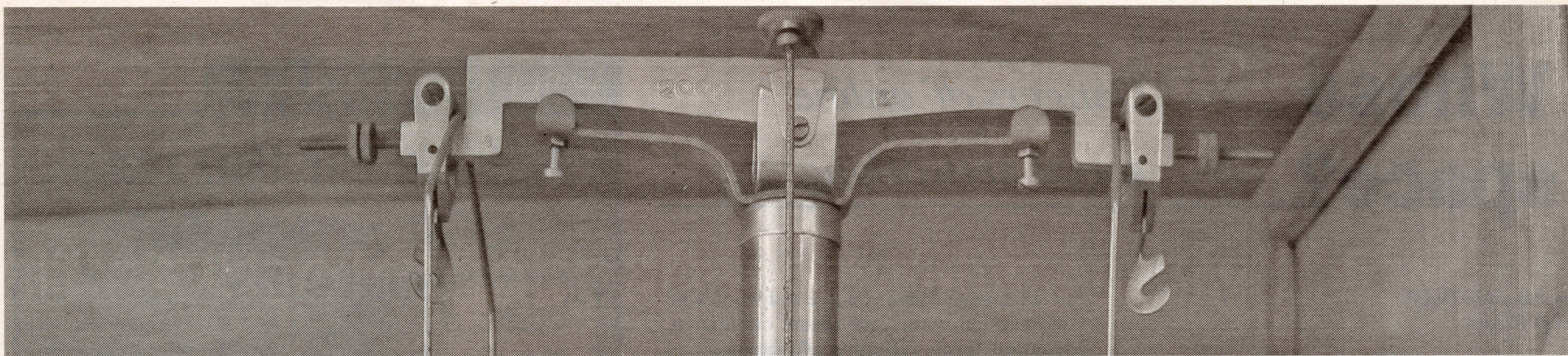
Yes, we need updated immigration laws, but the ones being proposed are outlandish. Why stop at just a fence along the southern border? Why not build a wall like they had in Berlin? Oh wait, that was built to keep people

in. A wall won't help that much anyway. There are probably more tunnels into Texas than under Cu Chi, Viet Nam! Therefore, I have a proposition for those who have a problem with all these

Mexicans coming into this country illegally. Let's just give Mexico back the land we took from them after the war, including California, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona and Texas. Then, they can kick our ass out!

And for the 11 million already here, general amnesty is not the answer, but kicking them all out is not a solution either. We should deport those whose criminal behavior threatens the peace of others and reward those who have worked diligently to become good citizens. We must come up with a solution better than what we have so far.

If we keep sending people back where they came from, there won't be anyone left in this country except the American Indians. Hmm ... we did a number on those people, too, didn't we?



Point-Counterpoint

March Madness gives clarity

The real winner of this year's NCAA tournament is Virginia's George Mason University (GMU). Yes, the George Mason Patriots may have lost the Final Four game against the University of Florida Gators, but they showed that a commuter school could compete with large residential universities.

According to gmu.edu, GMU has over 29,000 students, with approximately 4,000 students boarding on campus. About 71.2 percent of GMU's students are from Northern Virginia, as the university is located minutes from Washington, D.C. Serving this metropolitan community, GMU was rated number one for diversity in Princeton Review's Annual College Guide.

Walking through the halls of NEIU, I hear people complaining about bad administration, a lack of communication about requirements, teachers who have no sense of reality, and class availability. Complaining about all those things is understandable—they are added hassles to our already flustered lives. However, we have to keep these negatives in perspective with what NEIU gives us, the students.

When my old high school teachers ask me the status-determining question, where do you go to school, the conversation goes like this time and time again.

"I go to Northeastern."

"Oh, isn't Massachusetts beautiful?"

"No, the one on the North Side of Chicago."

"Do you live in the city then?"

"No, I live at home with my mom."

I have had this conversation at least seven times over the past semester, and I do not understand why. As a Loyola University transfer student, NEIU took a while to get used to, but the institution has grown on me every day. I dare say that 97 percent of my graduating class went to large residential universities, as well. Personal tragedy brought me to NEIU, and right now I cannot imagine being anywhere else.

The stigma that a commuter school is less than a large residential university is false. If anything, commuting to school shows our heightened dedication to education. Most of us do not get up 15 minutes before class, put on shoes, and run across the quad to Biology. We have families, jobs, ties to Chicago, and we are hungry for a college degree. Society should not view us as less valuable than Yale or Harvard students. We are just as hungry, if not more so, as the students in these academic powerhouses, but simply not as wealthy.

NEIU's diverse learning community is our gift, but more often than not, we fail to appreciate it. The first time I realized the merits of NEIU's diversity was not on campus. Sitting in an awards ceremony for fellow journalists across Illinois, I looked around at different universities' tables. Most of the tables were filled with the same type of people, so you could tell one school from the next. I looked at NEIU's table and I saw different types of people of all ages. Sure, we are a motley crew, but that means we each bring something completely unique to the table. If the *Independent* is a microcosm of NEIU, then our success lies in our diversity.

Many professors at NEIU come from prestigious universities and generally get paid peanuts compared to what they could be making at Tier I institutions. They are doing the community and the students a public service by accepting this salary. Clearly, our professors believe in offering everyone an affordable education.

George Mason University did not beat University of Florida, but they did win commuter schools a little respect. Let's respect our own school by realizing how lucky we are to have access to an affordable education. We need to fight the negative stereotypes by autographing our work with excellence.

The college experience at its best

NEIU differs from most colleges and universities since it is a commuter school without any dormitories. There are some advantages to this set-up, as it keeps costs low for students when compared to other schools. However, there are some things NEIU must sacrifice, things that deprive many students of the traditional college experience.

Residency schools may be more expensive, but there are some benefits that come with that higher price tag. Since I spent my freshman year at Northern Illinois University, I've experienced both commuter and residency schools, so I can comment on some of these benefits from first-hand experience.

The most obvious one is the dorm life. The food may be lousy and the rooms may be cramped, but the experience of living in such close quarters with people your own age, who are going through some of the same things you are, provides a bit of satisfaction. For those of us who live at home, there's no worry about parents questioning every move, or for those of us who live in apartments, there aren't any landlords banging down our door for rent money.

This type of atmosphere creates a much larger chance for social interaction. My first day living in the dorms at NIU, I met and got to know a lot of different

people, some of whom I formed pretty strong bonds with. It took about a year before I could form similar bonds with people at NEIU. People at this school are very nice and very diverse, don't get me wrong, but between work and school, many students here simply don't have time or are too tired to go around socializing.

One of the best places for this kind of interaction is the Student Union. Student unions at other schools are usually a bustle of activity and they provide plenty of ways for students to relax and have a good time. They become the regular social hangout between classes or at night. Many of them are equipped with restaurants, video games, pool tables, and even bowling alleys. NEIU's student union is simply composed of a cafeteria and a lot of chairs. Not exactly much of a draw.

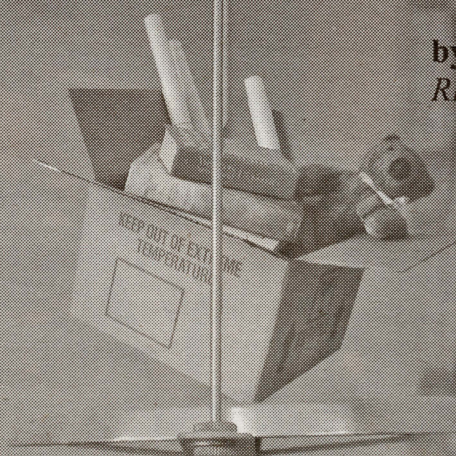
There's almost always something going on at a residency school on evenings over the weekend, even for students who aren't fans of frat parties. Concerts, sporting events, comedy shows, karaoke nights—and they're all within walking distance. When NEIU has events like this, many students will opt not to come as they don't want to drive all the way back to school. For some students, it can be quite a trek.

While NEIU definitely has its perks, the feeling of a true college experience beyond the classroom is something it definitely lacks.

by Amy Scoma
Staff Writer



by Dino Pollard
REV Editor



Whose space?

Dangers of online social networking

by Amanda Dalal
Staff Writer

MySpace. Facebook. Friendster. Walk into any computer lab on campus and at least half the screens will be displaying one of these sites. Many of us use these social networking tools to help us find current and former classmates, new friends and even possible romantic interests.

If you're not familiar with these sites, it works like this. You create an identity and fill out your profile by entering your name, interests and schools you've attended. There are sections for pictures, links and blogs, as well as a place for you to describe yourself in your own words. Then you're off to search, finding old friends from high school or discovering things you never knew about the guy who sits behind you in your medieval history course.

It seems like a great thing. Social networking can be like one big virtual reunion. Competing to collect the most friends is the new technological clique system. It's ninth grade all over again.

With all these benefits, we must ask, do we trust the Internet too much? If you fill in all the blanks on your page, the profiles from these sites

can tell anyone where you live and work, who you hang out with, your sexual orientation, education level, religious affiliations, and even smoking preference. On MySpace, this information is open to any Internet passerby who may come across a link to your page. On Facebook, people have to be approved by you before they gain deeper access to your information.

Still, do you really know the people who are reading your blog? Is there anyway to stop your personal information from going public when you put it up on these sites? Parents are able to watch their teens. Stalkers are able to easily find their prey. Arrests have been made thanks to incriminating pictures or blog posts. Teachers and employers are able to pre-screen candidates for spots in classes or jobs. Once you open an account, you're playing Russian roulette with your identity.

Although it may seem like a fun way to kill time and make friends, think twice about the personal information you're willing to tell the creepy neighbor down the street, future professors, or even the government. They may all be viewing your profile right now.

Illegal immigration is robbing America

by Olga Bagramovich
Staff Writer

With the proposed immigration laws, it is also very important to have a sense of security for all of the citizens. Without taking sides, the laws need to be reevaluated and put on paper to regulate illegal immigration.

Illegal immigrants that come from Mexico and try to live here start with the least paying jobs that Americans refuse to do. They accomplish their economic goal by working the least paying jobs for the least benefit, something that the Americans refuse to do in the first place. However, illegal

immigration takes away the jobs that properly belong to American citizens and people who live in America legally.

It is very important to create a law to prohibit illegal immigration to America. This illegal immigration is robbing America and its legal citizens who pay taxes. When illegal immigrants come to America, on their mind is how to make money fast. They do these jobs such as cutting grass or washing dishes at a restaurant, without benefits for their family and for very little pay.

The problem lies with our government which allows illegal immigration, that lets them

come to America and live off our economy. We need to punish people who come here illegally. The government needs to create a law that helps immigrants come to America legally and gives them healthcare for their family and makes them be a part of the American society.

It is important to help immigration become a process that will allow the immigrants come here legally. Illegal immigration not only causes jobs to be lost for American citizens, but there are crimes among the immigrants that never get reported, loss in healthcare, and they are living off the American government.



Immigrants and immigrant sympathizers protested on March 10 against HR Bill 4437.

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

Advice for the new SGA president



It's election time again and whoever gets elected to office seems to be pretty irrelevant. The student government will continue to operate with impunity, as if they had broad student support, as long as the administrators allow them to operate unchecked.

Truth of the matter is that only a small percentage of students will actually vote and most of those won't even care what happens after elections. With the shameful actions of the SGA in the last couple of years, it is perfectly understandable why students would want to distance themselves from the student government on this campus.

This year, the SGA had the opportunity to prove that it was an organization with high standards and integrity but it failed miserably on those fronts. First off, it lowered the standards that a student must meet to be SGA president by failing to ensure that a student is around campus enough to know what's going on with the majority of the student body.

The SGA also made a mockery of the Illinois Open Meetings Act when it asked *Independent* reporter Elizabeth Rodriguez to leave a meeting and initially refused to release the audiotapes from certain meetings. The fact that the *Independent* had to put pressure on the organization for it to begin to follow proper procedures is a testament to the SGA's impudence.

The fact that those elected are allowed to operate like this by the student population is discouraging, but that the administration and Student Activities Director Sharron Evans allow for this type of activity to go on is shocking. Or, maybe not. Once you start to consider the administration's attitude towards its students, it's easy to see that their attitude has trickled all the way down to the SGA. So, what is it going to take to make a difference? If there is no pressure coming from the student body or from the administration, why bother rocking the boat? Well for one: because that was what you were elected to do.

Competition and debate are the great attributes of our American republic and economy and that should be taken more into consideration by the SGA. The SGA's most noteworthy campaigns this year have been the book exchange and the drive to get the U-pass. While that might be pertinent to students on campus, I'm not sold that this is what should be at the forefront. For one, I'm not sure that the book exchange was well put together or is being properly advertised. While getting the U-pass on campus would be nice, I'm not sure if they have noticed the massive amount of cars that pack the parking lot everyday.

Book prices and whether or not the U-pass is available on campus are the factors that weigh heavily on a student's decision on whether or not to attend a particular university. How about bringing more unity to the campus and trying to get students to take advantage of the opportunities available on campus? Maybe, they should be putting pressure on the university to expand the curriculum and make stronger departments. We pay a good amount to go to school at NEIU and we should have an SGA that makes sure we are getting the most that we can for our money.

So to the newly elected SGA president, I ask you, are you coming in to make a genuine difference? Are you ready to take a stand for the student's best interests and not pander to special groups? It's not going to be an easy job and you will face challenges during your administration, and you must be ready to tackle them head on. Are you ready for this? I certainly hope you are.

Letters to the Editor Policy

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Send letters to: *Independent*, E-049, 5500 N. St. Louis, Chicago, IL 60625 or neiu_independent@yahoo.com

The Waiting Room

by Jane Kolkevich
Staff Writer

The NEIU Stage Center Theatre production of *The Waiting Room* had many waiting in suspense as they stood in line for a ticket. The show sold out every night, from March 2-4, to the following week of March 8-11.

The production revealed the reality of a world where standards of beauty range, while its price is beyond monetary value. It was specifically selected to debut during national women's month. This dark comedy, written by Lisa Loomer and directed by Nanci Carol Ruby, bridges time and space and centers on three women.

Shama Dardai performed the character Forgiveness From Heaven, a Chinese woman from the past. In the play, Forgiveness lost her toe due to damage done by some binding. Consequently, she lost her husband who enjoyed more than anything to smell her sweaty feet and eat from her toes. In the waiting room, Forgiveness met Victoria (Stephanie Tichenor).

Victoria, a 19th century tormented Englishwoman, was convinced by her husband Oliver (Christopher Leonard), who was also a doctor, that she suffered from a disease of the ovaries. Oliver insisted that removing her ovaries would cure her from acute hysteria. The disease manifested itself through Victoria's desire to read books and learn foreign languages.

Wanda (Susan Colon), a contemporary woman from New Jersey, brought the present day issue of plastic surgery to the stage. Facelifts, collagen lips, cheekbones, and three different sets of "tits" are just among some augmentations Wanda has had. Battling breast cancer became hard for her in an industry where people in power are more concerned with money and politics rather than finding a cure.

A minimal, yet suiting set depicted a doctor's waiting room. Transitions between each scene were seamless as the cast in nurse uniforms wheeled the set into place. The waiting room thus easily transformed into a doctor's office, into a bedroom in a Victorian home, into a Chinese home of the

18th century, and even into a modern day bar in New York.

This pregnant-with-interpretation plot was enriched with a balanced chemistry between members of the cast. Along with the strong female parts were some wonderfully carried out male roles. Hugo Rosado was phenomenal as the crooked businessman; he also shined in the comical transformation into a playful waitress (yes, you read that right). Joe Mack, admirable in his role of Douglas, played an honest doctor who found himself in a struggle similar to Wanda's when facing a battle with prostate cancer.

Carefully chosen sound and lighting seemed to completely submerge the

audience into the world of the play. The project of the *Waiting Room* was fully completed with post-show discussions following the first two performances. Faculty members from disciplines including political science and women's justice came together for a panel discussion.

Director Nanci Carol Ruby, who has recently joined the university as a part-time instructor, said she enjoyed the opportunity to sit down and talk about the important issues brought up in the play.

photo courtesy of accupuncturewinniepeg.ca

Never ending *Final Fantasy* series

by Jonathan Gronli
Production Editor

For many gamers, *Final Fantasy* is one of the most popular video game series which first came into existence on the original Nintendo. With *Final Fantasy XII* to be released in the coming year, the series remains one of the few that has ever hit a hard chord in the public's eyes and hearts.

The fantasy RPG known as *Final Fantasy* was born in 1987, and around 19 years later, it is still selling as strongly as it did when it first came out.

Final Fantasy always captured the imaginations of the players through graphics, music, stories and in-depth characters. Despite the seemingly far-fetched stories, something made them relatable to the player. It wasn't just being the characters that dragged the player into the story—it was the themes.

The thematic issues that are brought

up in the games are everyday things that occur through the course of everyone's life. Characters are often trying to discover who they are. They are searching for purpose, love, peace, clarity and something to guide them through their beliefs. Even characters that are obviously not human are easy to relate to because there is an easy translation in what they go through to real life events. Red XIII in *Final Fantasy VII* is a prime example. There is always war, love, or just general survival.

Final Fantasy's graphics always pushed gaming systems to constantly improve. Every single game had a new layer, which was a graphical improvement over the others. Now it is at the point where the games depict near perfect replicas of real things, including people. The magic spells, including summons, for every improvement remained incredible for each level of improvement to the artistry.

The music also heightened the emotion for each part of the games. The music for every

game had been simply incredible, making major events even more memorable.

Though many of the games have not yet spawned a sequel, one has and so will another. *Final Fantasy X* was followed by *Final Fantasy X-2*, focusing on the character of Yuna. Although *Final Fantasy VII*, one of the most popular games in the series, has not had a sequel, it has come out with a full-length, computer-animated movie called *Final Fantasy VII: Advent Children* (due for release later this month). There will also be a spin-off game, *Final Fantasy VII: Dirge of Cerberus*, featuring the popular character of Vincent.

Outside of *Dungeons & Dragons*, *Final Fantasy* is one of the longest-lived series out in the gaming industry thus far. It is one of the strongest written and one of the most relatable games in the industry, while still managing to retain its fantasy roots as a series.

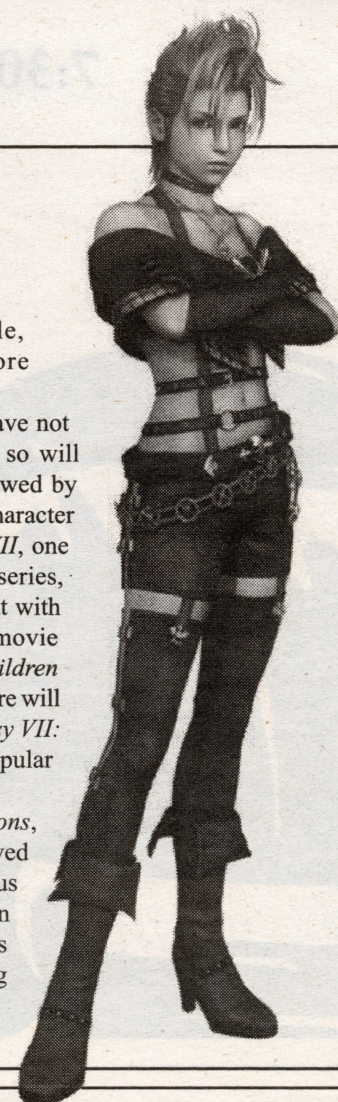
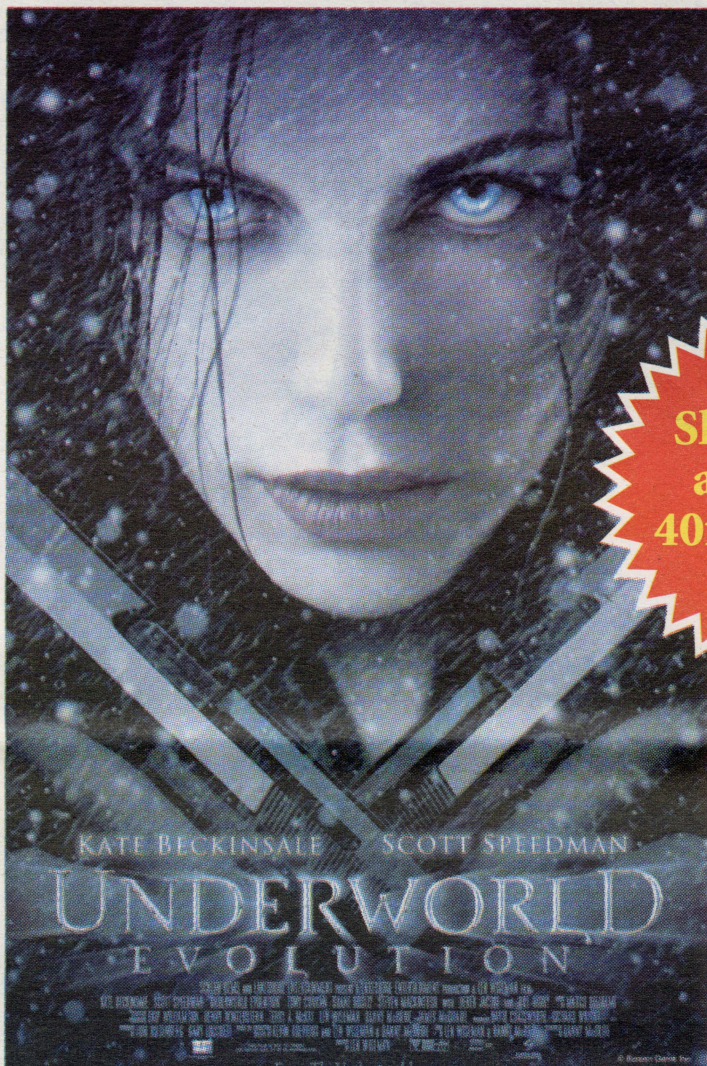


image courtesy of rinoa.squall.ru

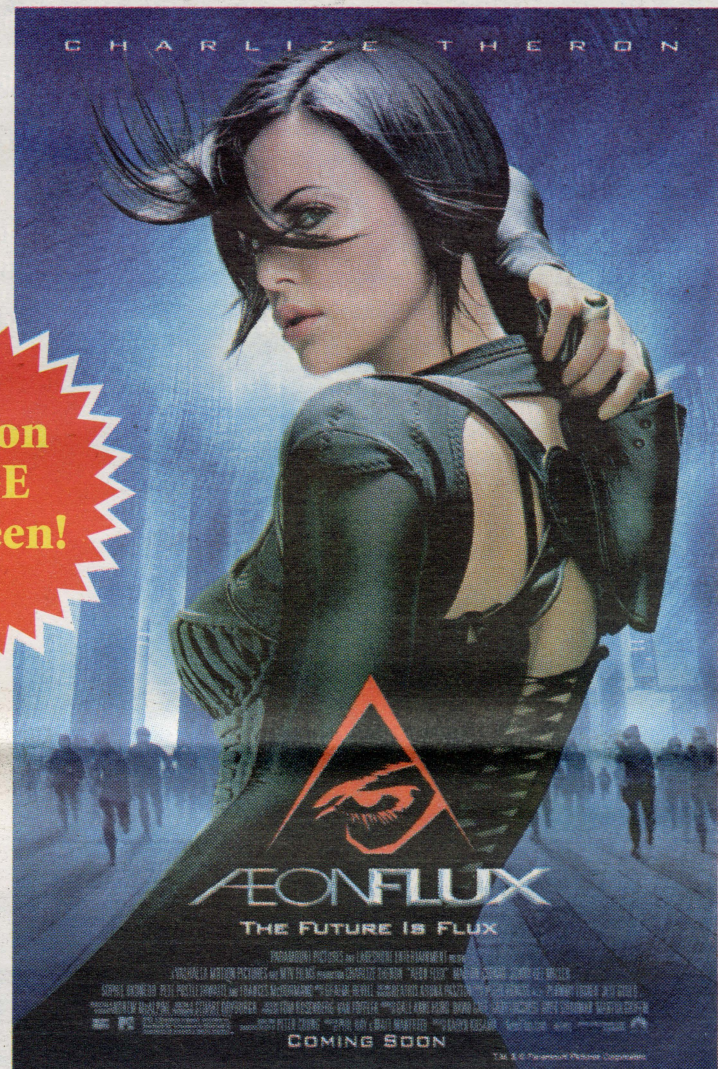
Northeastern Programming Board's

DRIVE-IN-MOVIE ACTION NIGHT

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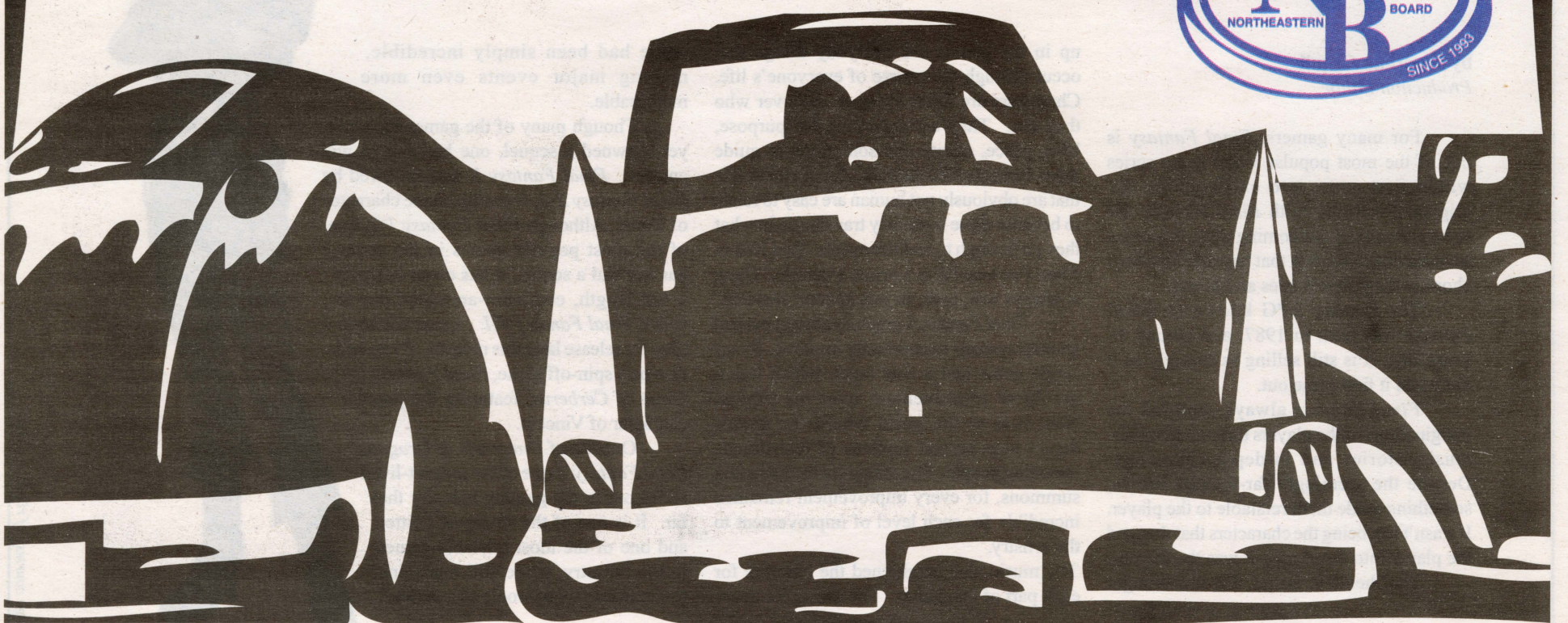


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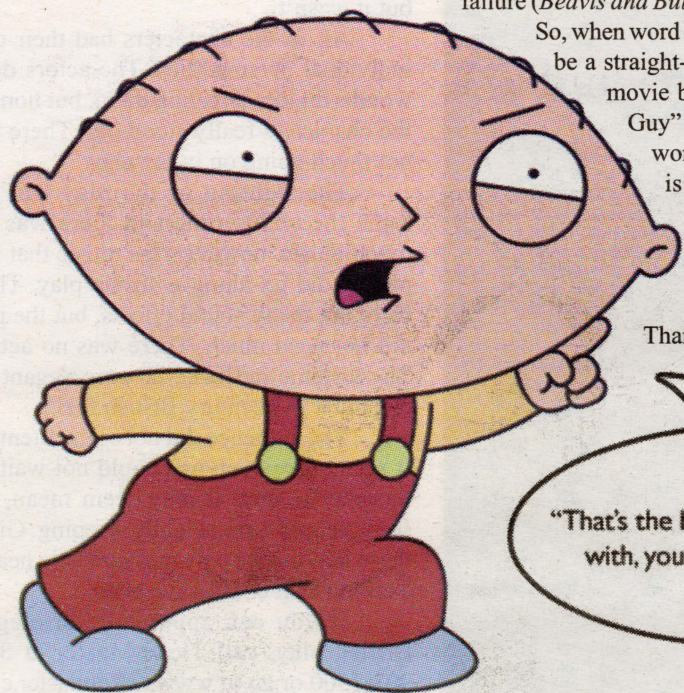
Pollard's Picks

Family Guy's untold story



When a popular television show is turned into a movie, the results are not always pleasant. Frequently, some of these attempts have proven extremely cheesy (*Charlie's Angels*) or they've failed outright (*The Mod Squad*). Even when animated shows are made into movies, with the same creative minds behind it, it can still end in failure (*Beavis and Butt-Head Do America*).

So, when word came that there would be a straight-to-video release of a movie based on the "Family Guy" television show, I was worried. "Family Guy" is one of my favorite shows and I would hate to see it go the route of "Beavis and Butt-Head." Thankfully, it didn't.



"That's the best thing you can come up with, you dull-witted termagant!"

For those who have never seen the show, it focuses on a middle-class family in Quahog, a family that seems very similar to "The Simpsons." The differences come in the random humor the show has and the two star characters of the show, Brian, the sarcastic, alcoholic family dog, and Stewie, a super-intelligent toddler with dreams of world domination.

The film, which is titled *Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story*, centers on these two characters. One day, while watching television, Stewie sees a man who looks exactly like him and comes to the conclusion that this man must be his real father, because he doesn't believe he can possibly share the same genes as Peter, his dimwitted, overweight father.

Stewie attempts to track down this strange man by traveling across the country and Brian accompanies him on his journey that takes them from Quahog to New Jersey, to San Francisco, a trip to the future, and even a spoof of *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* and *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*.

The film is filled with the same trademark humor loved by fans of "Family

Guy." There's the option of playing it in two formats, censored and uncensored. Obviously, the uncensored version contains profanity they couldn't use in the show.

Like with the show, there is a lot of random humor tossed in, such as that involving Saddam Hussein, Gandhi, Ray Charles, Roger Moore, even Jesus Christ (regardless of your religious beliefs, you will find yourself rolling on the floor when you see how his abilities were exaggerated), and a lot more.

Some of the other highlights of the film include Peter getting his own segment on the evening news, Stewie becoming an alcoholic, Peter and Lois trying to get dates for Meg and Chris, and a glimpse into the future of the Griffin family. Also, you'll find out how Peter caused the cancellation of "Family Guy" and what jobs the family took on before the show returned.

Stewie Griffin: The Untold Story is a must-see for fans of "Family Guy." It's the same style of humor as before, but it pushes the envelope a bit further than in the past. If you've never seen the show before, this DVD is a great introduction for new viewers. It's on DVD and is available in all video stores.

The Subways

Ridding the world of crappy teeny-pop

by D. Gordon Macnab
Production Editor

As the Subways sing, "A single minute can't be wasted," because life grabs you by the chest, especially when you're that 20-something-year-old and life seems to be moving way too fast. So, grab on, or you might just spin out of control. Otherwise, you will wallow in your own miserable past and want to run away. These sentiments are the foundation to the driving force behind The Subways' heart throbbing and teen-angst edgy rock and roll sound.

This Brit-Rock trio's latest album, *Young for Eternity*, should be placed on everyone's CD shelf or iPod, entitled "Soundtrack to Life." The music will inevitably force your head to involuntarily shift up and down. With its high energy-driving drumbeats jammed between mellow guitar riffs, the music will leave the listener's mind and body in a blender.

The Subways sound as if Franz Ferdinand and the Pixies had a baby. They look as if they walked strait out of an Urban Outfitters catalog—a style that expresses the emo culture.

Their music reminisces on those often awkward and crappy teenage years and really bad relationships. This band proves, yet again, that this little island country keeps bringing out the best in new age sounds.

With songs like "Rock & Roll Queen" and their title track, "Young for Eternity," you get their world of hope for a happy ending and worries about love. This album is a wild and crazy ride that tears at all of your senses.

Buy this album and get ready to sing along at the top of your lungs while driving your car or taking the bus to class.



photos courtesy of thesubways.net

A not so joyous cocktail party

by **Connie Patricia Herring**
Staff Writer

Caffeine Theatre Company brings T.S. Eliot's *The Cocktail Party* to the Athenaeum Theatre in Chicago. A London-

based mature drama, *The Cocktail Party* focuses on a married couple with obvious problems.

The director has created a show with an elegant cast. The cast includes Jason Beck (Sir Henry Harcourt

Reilly), Jeff Duhigg (Peter Quilpe), Carol Enoch (Nurse-Secretary), Paul S. Holmquist (Edward Chamberlayne), Kelli Nonnemacher (Celia Coplestone), Scott Olson (Alexander MacColgie Gibbs), and Ian Randall (Caterer's Man). Opening night

was March 26, 2006. The title of the play did stick out, but it is definitely not what one would expect.

The play begins when a nosy, uppity elderly woman tells a story and gossips at a cocktail party. Next, a man is talking to a man who did not belong in the house or at the party. He sits and talks about his wife's absence. He lies about where his wife is. His wife then comes back and the couple goes to counseling. For some reason, it seems as if everyone had a mistress. You would think that it would be interesting, but it wasn't.

All of the characters had their own individual personalities. The actors did a wonderful job depicting them, but none of the characters really stood out. There was not much going on in the play.

The lighting of the play was the same the whole time and there was not much music, however, the music that was played did go along with the play. There were not many sound effects, but the play did not need much. There was no action. The costume and make-up were elegant and created a 21st century British feel.

The audience did not seem attentive. It seems like everyone could not wait for the play to end. It may seem mean, but some people were actually sleeping. Given these factors, the play was nowhere near as exciting as it could have been.

If you can appreciate an elegant British play, call TicketMaster at 312-902-1500 or go to www.ticketmaster.com. The Athenaeum Theatre is located at 2936 N. Southport Ave. Tickets range from \$10-\$15. It is playing through April 23.



The Cocktail Party is showing at the Athenaeum Theatre in Chicago. It is playing from March 26-April 23, 2006.

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Ashlee Simpson, no lip-synching here

*"I sing
live now"*

by Olga Bagramovich
Staff Writer

Ashlee Simpson is a talented singer/actress and the younger sister of Jessica Simpson. Unfortunately, Ashlee is famously known for lip-synching on "Saturday Night Live" a few years ago.

After the incident, Ashlee became very depressed and in an interview she said she even thought about suicide. She battled the rumors about her lip-synching and whether she could actually sing live in the first place. She maintained strong and determined.

Even though there were not many people at the concert, Ashlee still gave an excellent performance. Ashlee refused to give any public interview, which could possibly have been the cause of the low attendance. Despite this, the crowd was still full of fans excited to see her perform.

The concert was selling Ashlee's signature T-shirt for \$30 (almost equal to the ticket price), but for some, it was worth it to remember the event. At the front entrance, there was a van full of KISS FM 103.5 promoters handing out stickers and temporary tattoos.

Ashlee came out with the entire crowd jumping and screaming her name. She sung all of her famous songs from her new album, but also sang her popular songs such as "Pieces of Me" and "Biography." From her new CD, I Am Me, she sang "Boyfriend," which got the entire crowd jumping and singing along with her.

During the concert, Ashlee said, "I sing live now," in reference to the famous "SNL" episode. After each song, she talked and even brought people on stage with her, and one lucky guy received a provocative lap dance from the singer.

After seeing this concert, there's no denying that Ashlee is capable of a live performance.



photo courtesy of ashleesimpsonmusic.com

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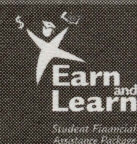
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Eagle's Nest

Lifestyles of the Northeastern Community



First cut is the deepest

by Violette Green
Senior Staff Writer

Knives. Blood. Pain. No, this is not a description of the latest slasher flick. Cutting is a self-destructive habit in which people cut themselves using razors, knives, and other sharp objects in order to “resolve” issues.

Some cutters also do this as a way to feel in control. The problem with this kind of conflict resolution is that the problem soon controls the cutter and becomes a dangerous addiction.

Cutting is one element of a group of behaviors known as self-mutilation. Burning, cutting, branding, pulling hair, and scratching are some examples of the various methods through which self-mutilation can be manifested.

This behavior can also be a sign of other conditions, such as depression, eating disorders, and OCD (obsessive compulsive disorder).

Cutting is not necessarily a sign of suicidal behavior. Some people who do cut eventually try to commit suicide, but cutting does not lead directly to suicide.

There are numerous reasons why people cut themselves. According to William Hutter, the Outreach Coordinator in the Counseling Office at NEIU, “Emptiness, over stimulation from stress, boredom, and fear of intimacy are some reasons for people to cut themselves.”

Approximately one percent of the population self-mutilates. The people are usually females who start cutting, usually around age 12 or 13. People engage in self-mutilation for five to ten years, including or not including treatment. Approximately 50 percent of the people who self-mutilate have endured sexual or physical abuse in their past and see mutilation as a way to deal with their experiences.

Some of the warning signs for someone who may be cutting him or herself are scars, getting defensive when asked about the scars, and wearing long sleeves and pants during warm weather.

People usually cut themselves on their arms, legs, and stomach. When they run out of space on one area, they will try to find new places to cut where the scars can still be hidden.

Organizations and hotlines are always available for cutters who need help. Individual and group therapy is offered through these programs. The National Helpline, 1-800-DONTCUT, is also available for people who need help. There is also help available in the Counseling Office underneath the Admissions Office.

If there is someone you know who needs help, there are ways to help him or her. Be supportive and talk to them. Do not judge them, but give them the resources to get help.

As for finally resolving to stop cutting, “It’s a constant struggle,” stated Jane Smith*, a young woman who cut herself for a few years. “It’s a very conscious decision all the time to not cut myself.”

* Name changed

photo by Dorian Barrios

Good food that fights cancer, too

BY SARAH PURLEE
ASSISTANT REV EDITOR

CANCER IS SECOND IN LINE FOR AMERICA'S DEADLIEST DISEASE. THESE DAYS, CANCER PREVENTION IS A BUZZWORD EVEN OUTSIDE THE MEDICAL FIELD.

People quit smoking, avoid excessive sun exposure, take enough daily vitamins for a horse, and spend thousands of dollars a year on diagnostic testing to prevent cancer. Why not put prevention on the menu by adding some cancer-fighting foods to every meal?

The best cancer-fighting foods contain antioxidants. These yummy little warriors limit the number and effect of free radicals, such as oxygen radicals, that many experts believe cause cancer.

It's eight a.m. and class begins in an hour. Girls, try eating some bran cereal or toast some high-fiber wheat bread. The nutrients in these foods help maintain healthy estrogen levels, reducing the risk of breast cancer.

Guys, put a tomato in your eggs or on your toast. Tomatoes help prevent prostate cancer.

By 10:30 in the morning, the snack bug bites. Instead of hitting up the vending machine, pack a snack of strawberries, blueberries or an apple to munch on during class. These sweet fruits go to work protecting the body from free radicals.

Blueberries are the most effective

of the fruits because they are packed with antioxidants. Apples are great at preventing colon cancer because of the enhanced activity of vitamin C.

For those lucky enough to have time to eat lunch, skip the french fries or pizza puff in the cafeteria and reach for dark green and orange veggies. This may be a sacrifice for many, but the benefits are well worth it.

The beta-carotene found in dark-green and orange vegetables is what helps fight cancer. Also, enzymes found in veggies such as carrots, broccoli and asparagus reduce the risk of lung cancer both in men and women.

At the end of the day, a reward for a job well done is in order, such as a juicy slice of watermelon in the summer or a warm cup of hot cocoa in the winter. Both these delicious foods have high levels of anti-oxidants, and watermelon will even keep you healthier because it is packed with glutathione, which boosts the immune system.

Cancer in America is a problem, but with a little help from our friends—fruits, grains and veggies—we can help our bodies fight for us.

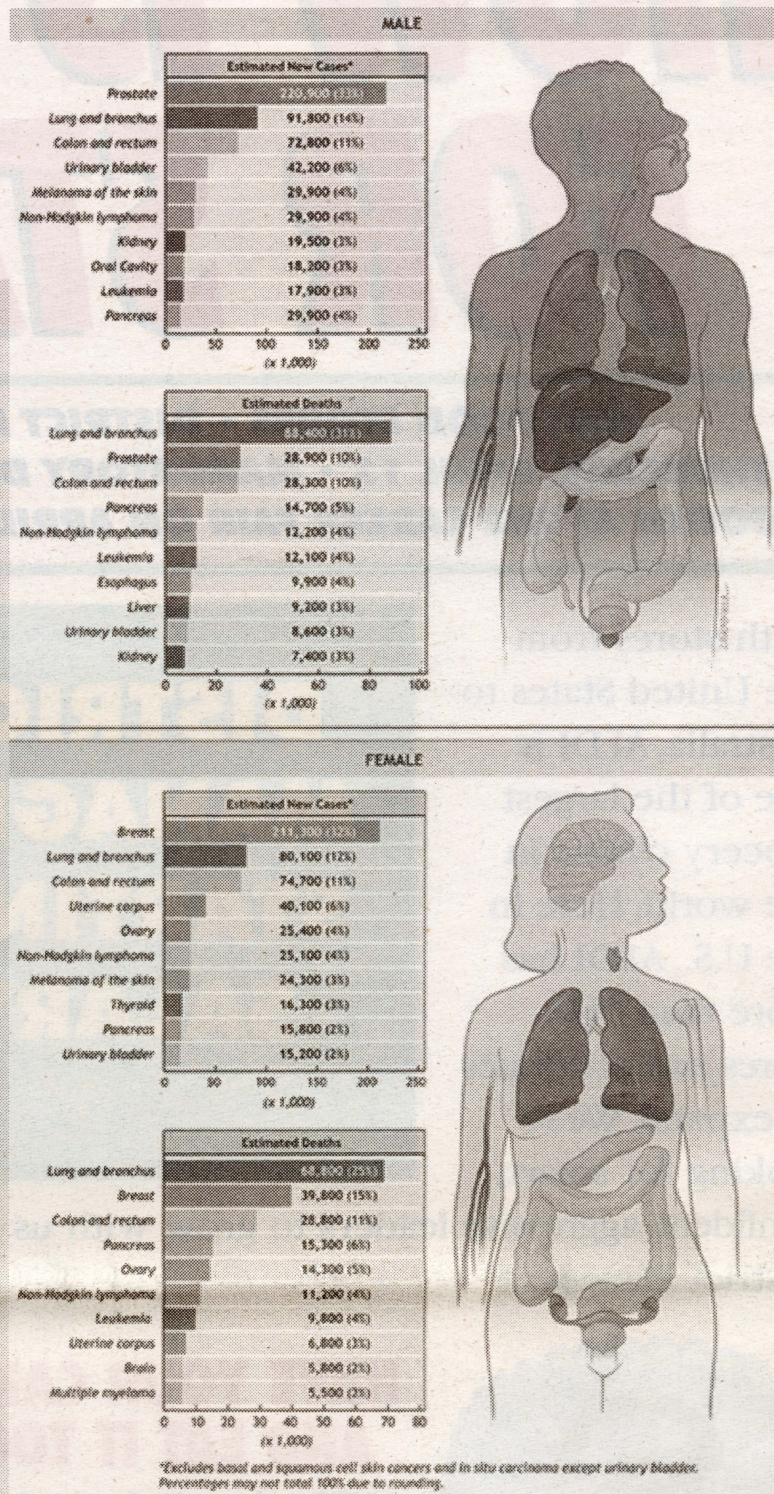


image courtesy of cancerresearch.org

image compiled by D. Gordon Macnab

iPod, therefore iLearn

by Amanda Dalal
Staff Writer

At the mall, on the street, on the train, at the gym—the white trademark headphones are everywhere. It is safe to say, however, that iPods are banned in the classroom. Or are they?

Although teachers demand full attention from their students in class, many technologically savvy professors are embracing the iPod as a learning tool outside of the classroom.

Some professors have gone the

extra mile to reach their students by recording their lectures and releasing them after class as Podcasts, which are downloadable voice files. Even students without MP3 devices can obtain the lectures for free from the iTunes Music Store. They can then listen to the lecture on their home computer or burn the file to a CD.

Additionally, students can download text notes, calendars and classmate contact information to their iPods or similarly equipped gadgets, keeping their syllabi and

group member information at their side at all times.

The iPods and many MP3 players can even be used as portable hard drives, making them great tools for saving projects for transfer between school and home.

Using these already essential devices as a part of the educational experience is not only changing the way we learn; it is changing *when* we learn. The next time you see someone wearing those white headphones at the gym, remember that he might be working out to Biology 101.



image by A. R. Lopez

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Image Art Club sets sights on new horizons

"Out to Sea"

photo by Jill Battaglia

by Deborah Goldbaum
Copy Editor

Before being officially chartered in February, the NEIU Image Art Club showed its dedication by doing projects in and out of school. Now, with their newly chartered status, the Image Art Club will continue to pursue visual excellence with the support of the university.

They did projects last year while acting as an unofficial club, one of which was outdoors in a cemetery. They have also done and continue to do indoor projects using models for photo shoots, and they plan to display their work on campus.

"The initial process was trying to get as many signatures and as much support as possible," said President of the Image Art Club Nilofar Hashmi as

she discussed the chartering process. She also said they had to conduct group meetings, visit the Student Activities Office and the Charter Committee meeting.

Hashmi recounted that even after approval, Director of Student Activities Sharron Evans told the club that they had to elect officers and hold official meetings. "[Chartering the club was] quite time consuming and [there was] a lot of paper work. It took three or four months," said Hashmi.

Image Art Club is presently giving Drama Club needed prints for production. The club also attended a workshop on March 13 and 15 with professional artist and photographer Rich Mohar demonstrated techniques and showed his work to the Intro to Photography class and art club.

Hashmi won third prize for her photo in the juried art show shortly before spring break. Many other photography students were able to exhibit their work in the same show.

Currently looking for venues, Hashmi stated, "Our goal is to get published or have a group show." The elected officers of the club are President Nilofar Hashmi, Vice President Ray Gonzalez, Secretary Robin Deegan, and Treasurer Jenny Bachmann.

The Image Art Club meets two Wednesdays and two Thursdays per month at 2:00 p.m. in FA 225. More information on the group and their work may be viewed online at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/neiu_imageac/. A yahoo login is required.

Winter Olympics; a look at past, present, and future games

by Dominika Konopczak
Staff Writer

On Feb. 26, the Olympic fire was extinguished as the 20th Winter Olympic Games in Turin came to a close. The American team won 25 medals, seven of which were won by snowboarders and another seven by speed skaters.

Every four years the world turns its eyes to watch athletes compete in the Winter Olympic Games. The original organizers could not have imagined the size of the industry that has grown around this event since its formation 82 years ago. (The Summer Olympic Games started in 1896.)

The first Winter Olympics took place in Chamonix, France, in 1924 and has been held every four years thereafter. There were, however, two exceptions. Between 1936 and 1948, there were no games because of European turmoil. In 1992, the Winter Olympic Games coincided with the Summer Olympics. To fix this problem, the Olympic commission decided to reschedule the Winter Games for 1994. This solution gave fans an opportunity to watch the games more often and gave TV stations a steady inflow of revenue.

The history of the Winter Games is not without debacles. In 1964, the Austrian army had to bring as much as 20,000 ice blocks and 40,000 pounds of snow to Innsbruck, Austria. The first TV transmission of the Olympics in 1956 did not get off to a successful start. Speed skater Guido Caroli, who was supposed to ignite the Olympic torch, tripped over a TV wire just a few meters from the cauldron, and thus extinguished the eternal flame.

The Turin Olympic Games certainly followed in this spirit of Olympic history. Before the opening ceremony, people voiced concerns about the city not being ready for events. Further, many sportsmen suffered from digestive problems caused by food in the Olympic Village.

Transportation in Turin was disastrous; sometimes it took up to two hours for sportsmen and journalists to get to events. Communication was also problematic. Some people reported problems with wireless Internet, while others encountered language barriers because some Olympic Village volunteers did not speak English.

Vancouver will hold the next Winter Olympics in 2010. The Vancouver Finance team worked to develop improvements for their Winter Games by exploring the workings behind the scenes of Turin's Olympic operations.

"Abstract 314"



photo by Rich Mohr

"I See You"



photo by Ray Gonzales

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Fitness Matters

by Alan Prouty

Special Contributor, Health & Fitness Instructor

Do you use tobacco products or know someone who does? Do you want to make a difference? If so, read on, if not—beware!

According to the Surgeon General, tobacco use, particularly smoking, is the number one cause of preventable disease and death in the United States. In the world, one out of every three people smoke.

Nicotine, the substance found in tobacco products, can be as addicting as cocaine or heroine. Nicotine causes a user to become both physically and psychologically dependent. Physical dependence causes one's body to crave the drug. Psychological dependence causes a person to think they need the drug. Often a smoker's conscious mind says, "I will stop smoking—no problem." But the unconscious mind has been conditioned for years that cigarettes give pleasure, and that's all it can focus on.

Nicotine is a dependent chemical. You know you're addicted to nicotine when you plan your day around smoking or you can't sit still without pulling a plug. According to tobacco king's grandson Patrick Reynolds, it only takes two weeks for people to become addicted.

The major dangers of tobacco use are silent. Often, a user doesn't know that they have a serious health problem until it's too late. Sometimes damage is irreversible.

Short-term effects of smoking include changes in brain chemistry, increased respiration and heart rate, dulled taste buds, reduced appetite, bad breath, and smelly hair, clothes and skin.

Long-term effects include chronic bronchitis, emphysema, lung cancer, coronary heart disease, and stroke. Symptoms of nicotine withdrawal include irritability, difficulty concentrating, anxiety, sleep disturbance, nausea, vomiting,

and headaches.

The reason cigarettes are so harmful to the body is that they contain over 4,000 different chemical compounds, 43 of which are identified as carcinogens or cancer causing agents.

Cigars contain significantly more nicotine and produce more tar and carbon monoxide than cigarettes do. One cigar can contain as much nicotine as a pack of cigarettes. Smokeless tobacco contains 28 carcinogens and because it is held in the mouth for a length of time, it delivers both nicotine and carcinogens to the body at levels that can be two to three times the amount delivered by a single cigarette.

Hookahs are also harmful. Hookah smoking began in the Middle East and has traveled around the world. Thomas Eissenberg, a psychology professor at Virginia Commonwealth University, co-authored a hookah study that found that a session of hookah-smoking, which lasts about 45 minutes, delivers 36 times more tar, 15 times more carbon monoxide and almost twice the amount of nicotine than a single cigarette.

Environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), or secondhand smoke, can be just as harmful as smoking actively. According to the U.S. department of Health and Human services, about 3,000 nonsmokers die of lung cancer each year from breathing other peoples' smoke. Also, babies of smokers are two and a half times more likely to die of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

Children of smokers tend to have higher incidence of sore throats, ear infections, and upper respiratory problems than children of nonsmokers. They also have double the risk of developing lung cancer.

Moreover, secondhand smoke affects children's learning ability. A new study shows that even a small amount of secondhand smoke can hinder a child's learning ability, affecting reading, math, and

reasoning skills. Researchers at the Cincinnati Children's hospital examined data compiled over several years for the National Health and Nutrition Survey. In particular, the researchers looked at levels of cotinine, a substance produced when nicotine is broken down by the body. The researchers determined that the more cotinine children had in their bodies, the lower their reading, math, and reasoning scores. (See Glencoe Health, 2004, for more information).

When asking students on campus why they smoke, some said it was to relieve stress between classes. Is this a psychological effect? Others said they were trying to quit because they know smoking is bad for their bodies.

When asked about the new smoking laws in Illinois that limit smoking in public places, students' had mixed feelings. Some said it was a good thing. Others complained that smoking goes hand-in-hand with drinking alcohol. Is it all psychological?

How then does one abstain from using tobacco? According to Reynolds, attempts with patches and gum all fail. How about joining a smoking cessation group? Cessation groups can help a person find support and encouragement from others with similar problems. In a smoking cessation group, you learn the five D's to quit smoking: delay the craving; do something else; drink water; deep breathe and dialogue with a friend.

Studies have shown that people who try to quit have a greater success rate if they have support from others. To help someone stop using tobacco, use the STOP approach: 1. Show concern: Use "I" messages to let the person know you care about

their health. (i.e. "You know Dad, I really liked your casserole, but I am worried about you smoking." "I'm afraid that you won't be around to see me graduate." Be sincere!) 2. Take time to plan. Put a plan on paper and set objectives. Help the person create a physical activity program. (NEIU campus rec. offers over a dozen exercise classes). Set a date to quit and devise strategies to cope

with cravings. 3. Offer support. Take a walk together, attend a meditation class, shoot hoops, or ride a bike. 4. Promote success. Let the person know you are proud of them quitting. Celebrate each week of abstinence.

Tobacco users don't give up! Withdrawal effects can last from one to two weeks, but will eventually go away. The first two days are the toughest.

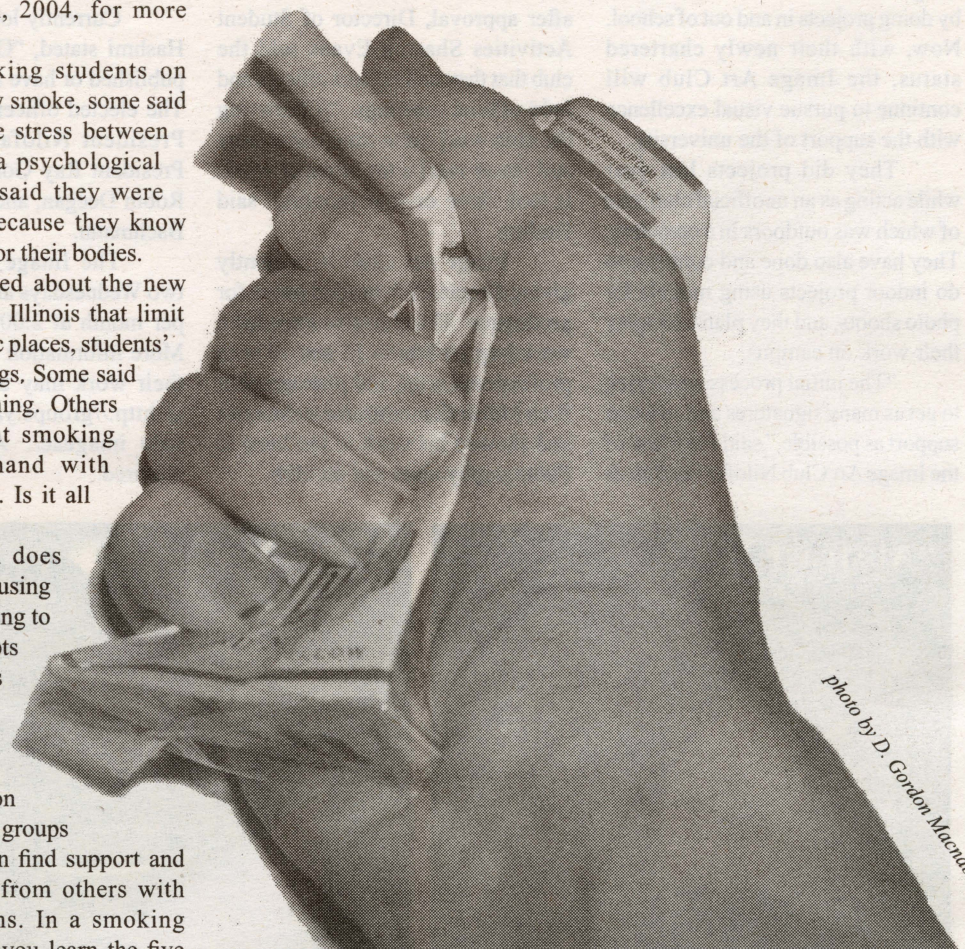


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This event funds scholarships in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Athletics, College of Arts & Sciences, College of Business & Management, and College of Education.

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Advertisements

Students smoked out of library

Ronald Williams Library will remain closed through end of year; Student Union, area libraries are offered as alternatives

by Jessica Wacker
Production Assistant

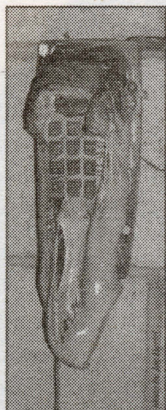
The burn begins

Late Monday night, the smell of fire hung in the air, as over eight fire trucks and various emergency vehicles occupied the NEIU campus. The next morning, the parking garage and library were closed.

According to the NEIU police report, at around 10:48 p.m., two engines were in the basement of the library when they noticed orange flames coming from the mechanical room in the basement of the library. By 11:00 p.m., the fire department had arrived on the scene.

The fire was confined to a 30 by 30 foot area, according to Mark Wilcockson, vice president of finance and administration. "There were two fire walls that contained the fire," he explained. According to the police report, the fire was extinguished by 11:30 p.m. by the Chicago Fire Department. Police and fire department personnel remained at the scene for hours afterwards, attempting to ventilate and mitigate the smoke.

Although the blaze was confined, it did not stop the



The intensity of the heat was evident by the damage done to a campus phone.

extensive damage the library experienced due to soot and smoke, along with the

authentication server for the library's reference databases that was down until Nov. 30, late Tuesday night. Also, the parking garage's electrical power supply, which is routed through the mechanical room, had been damaged. The garage reopened on a generator. Wednesday afternoon, but the elevators are only partially operating.

"This is the worst time it could have happened," said Terry Bush, executive director of marketing and communications, referring to the fire occurring so close to the end of the semester.

In the wake of the fire, the administration has been rushing to develop a plan to accommodate students and get library services operational again as soon as possible.

Originally, a statement from Acting President Janet Fredericks estimated that the library would be open on Dec. 5. However, Bush said the clean up would take at least two weeks to complete. Additionally, the complications of the damage and needed inspections will keep the library closed until next semester. During this time, inspections of

See Fire, page 7

Flier flap leaves students out of free speech 'zone'

by Joe Hertel
Opinions Editor

NEIU Students Against the War (NSAW) member Lisa Crockett found herself in a "no-free-speech" zone when she tried to pass out fliers at the Annual Government Career Information Day held on Thursday, Nov. 10, in Alumni Hall.

According to Crockett, she and fellow NSAW member Tia Khan were inside the hall that was hosting speakers from the United States Military. They were passing out fliers protesting the presence of military recruiters on campus when they were first approached by Lori Coleman, director of the Placement Office.

"He [Coleman] proceeded to lecture me on how important it is that we have recruiters on campus," Coleman verified Crockett's statement to the *Independent* and said he explained to her that the university would lose \$20 million a year and would have to shut down or have

tution substantially increased if the administration did not allow government agencies on campus. "He [Coleman] obviously didn't get my point even after I showed him the petition which clearly states, 'Take steps to actively oppose any federal reprisals on universities that kick recruiters off of campus,'" said Crockett. Both Coleman and Crockett agree that he only "encouraged" her to leave the hall at that time.

Public Safety officer India Moore then asked Crockett to leave the hall. "We cooperated and left the job fair, and I asked the officer [Moore] if it was okay if we stood just outside of the job fair, and she said it was fine," stated Crockett. "After a couple of minutes," she continued, "we were confronted by an administrator [Student Union employee Patrick Henry] who told us we were in a 'no-free-speech zone.' I asked him, 'where are the free speech

See Free Speech, page 3

"Because we love Jake, we are here tonight"



A work the artist describes as "Inspired by Jake's principles."

Master Artist Ausbra Ford's funerary statue dedicated to late CCICS educator's life and work

by Patrick O'Brien
Editor-in-Chief

The celebration began with the ceremonial beating of a drum, a celebration as much about the man's principles and beliefs as it was about the man himself.

The unveiling of *Mr. Klerer*, the funerary sculpture symbolizing the life of late NEIU educator and founder of the Klerer Institute, Dr. Jacob H. Carruthers, was a night long on tradition and the appreciation of a life and what it stood for.

At the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) on Friday night, CCICS Director Dr. Conrad Werrill welcomed the approximately 200 guests by acknowledging Dr. Carruthers' family, members of the Klerer Institute, which is located at CCICS, and seemingly

everyone else present by asking various groups of people to stand for applause. A traditional libation was given, dedicated to Brother Mary R. Roberts, to "The bones of our ancestors that lie on the shores of oceans all over the world."

The Minisnick African Drum and Dance Troupe followed, clad in colorful attire, and seemed to breathe life itself into the auditorium with a vibrant and spirited performance that ended with the crowd clapping along to the drums.

Dr. Carruthers will, life Carruthers, asked for the continuation of her late husband's quest for the restoration of the African civilization through the study of Kemet (modern-day Egypt).

After extolling the talents of the sculpture's creator, Master Artist See Carruthers Honored, page 8

Administrators defend tuition increase at SGA meeting

by Elizabeth Rodriguez
Senior Staff Writer

School administrators spoke at the SGA meeting on Dec. 1 to justify the proposed tuition and fee increases for the 2007 fiscal year.

If the proposed increases go into effect, continuing undergraduates, who do not have their tuition rate frozen for four years by the Truth in Tuition Act, will pay a combined 10.1 percent more in tuition and fees next year.

Vice President of Student Affairs Melvin Terrell insisted that the increases are necessary to "make sure that we maintain and enhance the quality of academic programs and student services."

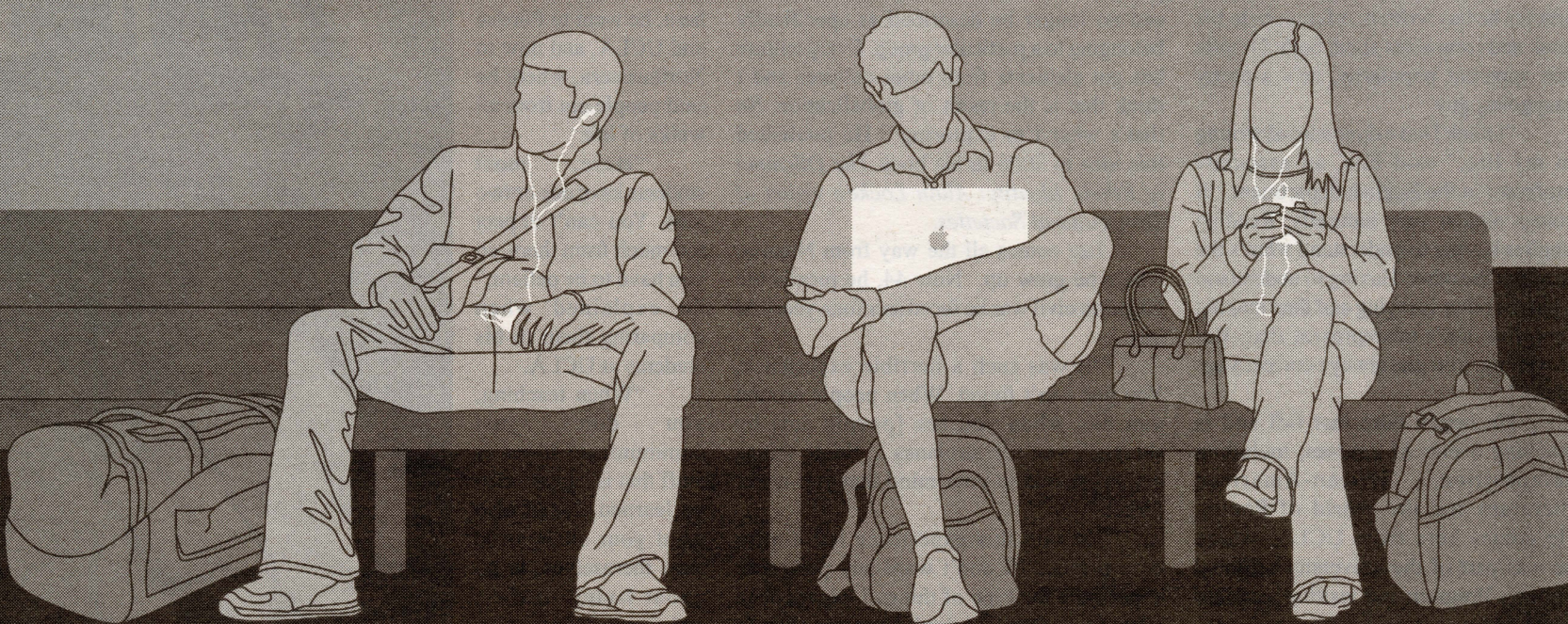
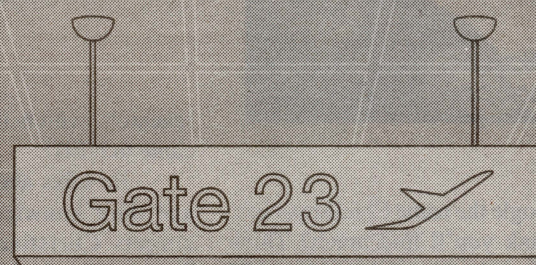
According to the President's See Tuition Increase, page 6

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Keeping cool at Chill Bubble Tea

photos by Jason Shaw



by Olga Bagramovich
Staff Writer

Pick a flavor, any flavor: cranberry, cotton candy, passion fruit or purple yam. There are over 130 flavors to choose from at Chill Bubble Tea, a restaurant dedicated to the exploding bubble tea industry.

Bubble tea drinks are made with fruit, cream, sugar, blended ice, and most importantly, tea. Customers also have the option of adding chewy tapioca pearls that lend an interesting texture to their drink.

Chill Bubble Tea makes their unique drinks by hand. The restaurant also guarantees the freshest ingredients because employees purchase supplies from fruit markets four times each

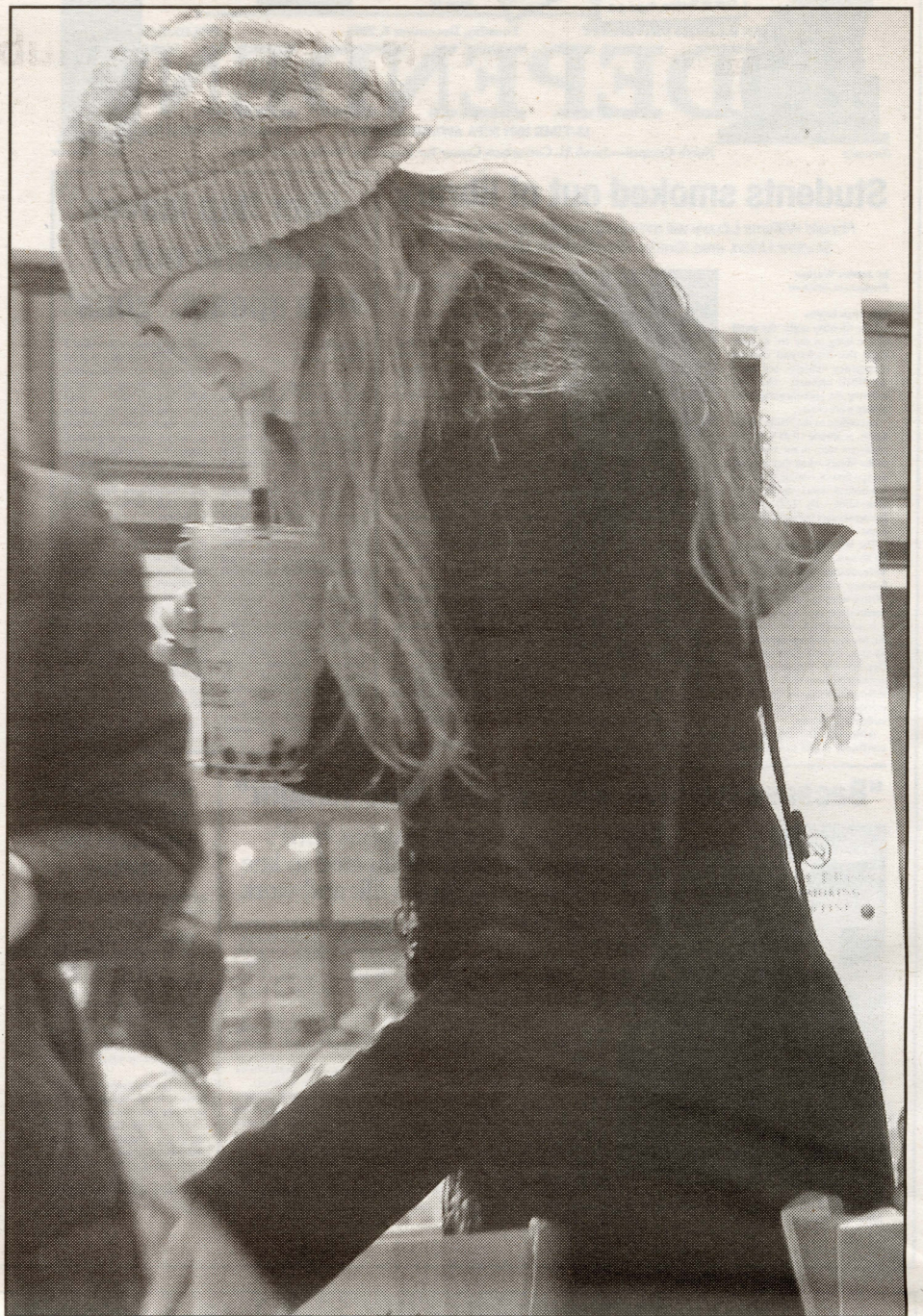
week. Bubble tea uses natural fruit flavors, unlike the fructose syrup and cheap tea substitutes used by other companies.

"We are known for making the best tasting bubble tea out there because we are fanatical about control," bragged Chill Bubble Tea's Web site, www.ChillBubbleTea.com. The atmosphere of Chill Bubble Tea is relaxing with its comfortable modern furniture, plasma televisions and loud sound system. From the moment customers walk in the door and smell the sweet aroma of the imported teas, they do not want to leave.

Fortunately, Chill Bubble Tea is open late, closing at midnight on weeknights and 2:00 a.m. on weekends. They also provide wireless Internet access for students who want to relax, sip a drink, and catch up on some homework or e-mail.

Drinks are reasonably priced, as the largest size available is only \$3.69. Also, loyal customers are rewarded with a free drink if they purchase five drinks and get a special card stamped.

Chill Bubble Tea is located at 6317 W. Dempster in Morton Grove, with locations in Chicago and Arlington Heights coming soon. It has been awarded the "Business of the Month" award from the Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce.



A customer enjoying a Bubble Tea, before taking a seat.



Let's Get Personal

Eze does it

Google the name Chielozone Eze. Don't think you'll find much? Think again. His unique name produces 127 results, and almost every single one is a real match. Try it. You'll find links to articles he has written, references to his book and comments about both. Despite this apparent popularity, he's a pretty easygoing guy.

"I think I have done a lot of writing in my life," said Eze, an associate professor in the English department. "It comes almost very naturally. Reading implies having to understand what's the world of the other. Having to understand what the other is saying and then making sure you don't misrepresent that. But in writing, you can always correct your ideas."

He began here last fall and is teaching a mix of courses, including composition, African-American literature and the World of Poetry. He comes here from UCLA, where he was part of the university's Global Fellows Program and visiting assistant professor.

"I do my best to explain the condition of modern culture," he said, leaning back in his chair. Eze is soft spoken with a low, deep voice. His eyes light up when he discusses his

research, which is one of the reasons he came to NEIU.

He talks about the people of Nigeria and their knowledge of our culture, like singers Christiana Aguilera or Britney Spears. Nigerians "imbibe American culture more than many Americans here. I call that process transculture," he explained. "Culture can no longer be described as specifically belonging to a particular group. Every culture has got elements from other cultures and I think that is the result of globalization. So that's what I'm exploring." He published this idea in 2006 in his book *The Dilemma of Ethnic Identity: Alain Locke's vision of Transcultural Societies*.

Eze comes all the way from Nigeria, where he grew up. Now 44, he recalls the Nigerian civil war he faced as a four-year-old boy.

"It was such a horrible experience. You just can't forget. When people around you die, when you see [people cut] by shrapnel, you see airplanes ... Some things get so pressed in your mind that you never forget."

He said this experience led him to be a pacifist. "I don't want any person to experience the type of things I experienced when I was four ... I don't want any child to go through that experience. So, every time I hear about war, whether it be in Iraq, or in Iran, or anywhere, I don't want it to be."

This experience "let me see the limits of human existence, and it humbled me,"

he explained. "And when I write, I want people all to share the experience. I want to tell people to, in a way, treasure life."

Eze had done this throughout his travels from Nigeria, Austria, Germany, then finally to the United States. Once here, he went to Purdue and UCLA, and now to Northeastern, where he said people are from all walks of life.

"Here, most students have one or two jobs. You can't expect too much from them, so you have to be patient," he explained when comparing them to his students at UCLA.

"When teaching, you don't just communicate ideas or stuff that is supposed to be learned ... You also want your students to trust themselves, to go about living in their opinions along with accepting the opinions of [others]."

He softly smiles as he talks about the students at Northeastern

and carefully speaks about his work. The name Eze also describes his personality: cool, calm and collected.

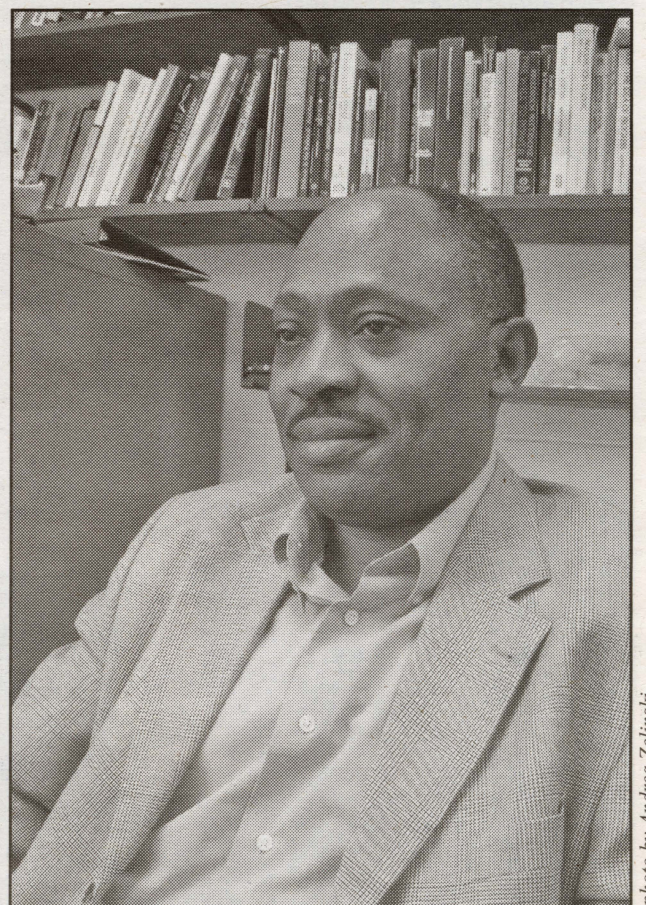


photo by Andrea Zelinski

From Nigeria to Northeastern, Eze brings his perspective on African-American literature.



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

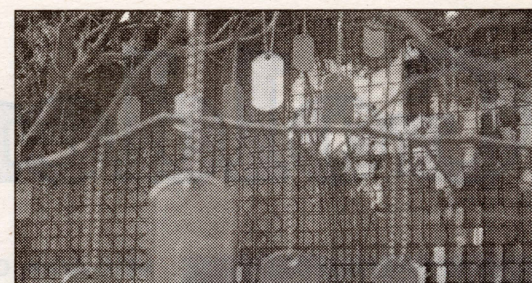
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Around Campus

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



Marketing Yourself as a Graduate

A Graduate Workshop series will take place on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 - the day before the Business & Liberal Arts Job Fair - in SU 215.

You do not have to pre-register for this event!
The sessions are as follows:

Session I - 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Knowing the Importance of Your Credit Score
Presenter: Vernon Lam, 5th 3rd Bank

Session II - 1:40 p.m. to 2:40 p.m.
Power Lunch Special: How to Make Your Interview Impression Count.
Presenter: Gloria Petersen, Global Protocol

Session III - 2:50 p.m. to 4:05 p.m.
Advice on How to Land that Next Job
Presenter: Amy Maxwell & Drew Butts, Enterprise Rent-A-Car

Session IV - 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Interviewing Tips, Resume Writing and Job Opportunities at Target
Presenter: Megan Wslack, Target

Business and Liberal Arts Job Fair

Wednesday, April 12, from noon to 3:00 p.m.
Pre-registration for NEIU students and alumni at the placement office includes Job Fair Kit.

NEIU Varsity Big Band

Performance by the NEIU Varsity Big Band on April 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall.

SGA Meeting

The Student Government Association will hold a regular meeting on Thursday, April 13, at 1:40 p.m. in SU-003 and on Tuesday, April 25, at 1:40 in SU003.

Culture Clash

Sigma Lambda Beta is presenting its Second Annual Culture Clash on Friday, April 14, from 6:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Contact Juan at (773) 387-3761 or e-mail Sigma Lambda Beta at LambdaBetas_NEIU@yahoo.com for information.

Plantando Semillas Breaking Ground

Learn about the status of the Latino on campus. Poetry, panel discussion and Salsa Dancing Sponsored by UPRS, ChiMexla, Que Ondee Sola, LLAS Students

Drive-in-Movie Night

The Northeastern Programming Board is sponsoring a Drive-in-Movie Action Night featuring Underworld Evolution and Aeon Flux in Parking Lot J from 7:30 p.m. - Midnight on Friday, April 14. Popcorn and soda will be served.

NEIU Baseball

NEIU vs. DePaul University at NEIU Field at 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. on April 15.

NEIU vs. Northwestern Illinois University at NEIU Field at 3:00 p.m. on April 18.

Salute to Graduates

May 2006 Graduates can order their class ring, take graduation photos, register for prizes, obtain information brochures and much more on Tuesday, April 18, from 12:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in Village Square.

Earth Day Fair

The Green Cycle Group presents the NEIU Earth Day Fair on Thursday, April 20, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in Village Square and SU-214. A keynote address featuring Michael Hawthorne of the *Chicago Tribune* will be in SU-214 at 1:40 p.m.

Cafeteria Menu

Tuesday

Baked BBQ Chicken with corn on the cobb or mixed vegetables, mashed potatoes or mac'n cheese and jalapeno corn bread

Vegetarian: Cheese tortellini pasta tossed with wine garlic, mushrooms, carrots, mixed vegetables and dinner roll

Wednesday

Breakfast bar: made to order scrambled eggs served with French toast or pancakes with hot strawberries, sausage, or bacon and home made hash browns

Thursday

Caribbean spiced pork with lime sauce; garlic, lime and ginger rubbed roasted pork loin with ginger, lime and rum cream sauce served with basmati rice, vegetables and dinner roll.

Vegetarian; Vegetable tomato ratatouille served with basmati rice.

Friday

Baked fish with lemon dill with wild rice pilaf or loyonaise potato and tomato roasted vegetables served with couscous

Vegetarian; Mediterranean roasted vegetables served with couscous

Golden Opportunities

For Sale/Rent

Comedy with a Latin flavor! \$6 tickets for "Salsation" sketch comedy show - The Fanta Menace - for NEIU students with ID. Fridays and Saturdays 8:00 p.m. Nezt Galery 556 W. 18th St. Reservations at (312) 670-8496 or www.salsation.com.

Wanted

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

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

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. 15th 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@selfportunity.com
Questions 800-594-7036
Check us out at www.panerabread.com
Rest Mgmt Exp Req'd.

NEIU Green Cycle Group seeks members to promote environmental responsibility. Next meeting Monday 3/13 at 4:30 p.m. south end of cafeteria. www.neiu.edu/~gcgroup.

Part-time \$10.00 per hr flexible schedule. PR reps 17-25 preferred to cover events including, Cubs and White Sox. Javier Diaz 773-294-3182. javierdiaz@approvedpromotions.net.

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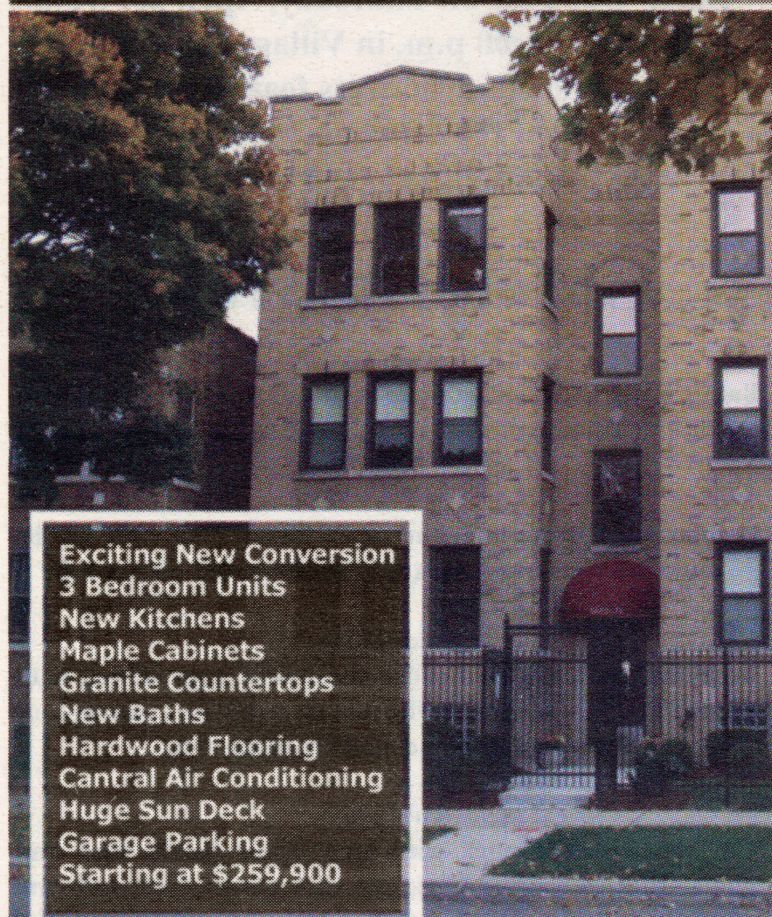
Clubs

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.

RECYCLING IS SEXY! Get it on at the next NEIU Greencycle Group meeting: Tuesday 4/11 1:30pm South Cafeteria
www.neiu.edu/~gcgroup

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Aging in April

Presented by the Generativity Club at Northeastern Illinois University

Careers in Aging-- Promoting Wellness in Late Life

Wellness in the Service Sector

Monday, April 17, 2006 Student Union - Golden Eagles Room 3:00-5:00 PM
The concept of "wellness" is shaping the way in which gerontologists conceive of issues such as health, well-being, and quality of life. This concept is also embedded in a variety of new approaches to long term care and social services. Speakers on this panel will explain how the mission, goals, and/or programs of their organizations promote wellness among older people.

Aging Well in Community Life

Tuesday, April 18, 2006 Student Union - Golden Eagles Room 7:00-9:00 PM
Gerontologists have recently taken a strong interest in developing "senior friendly" communities and offering older people new strategies and venues for contributing to their communities. These approaches include older people as key stakeholders in promoting quality of life for themselves and the communities they live in. Speakers on this panel will describe a variety of projects that take on these goals.

The Gerontology Film Symposium

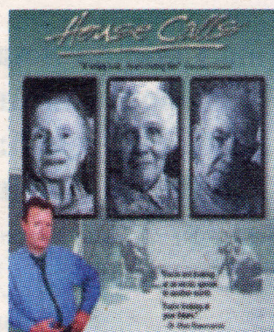
(in association with the Silver Images Film Festival & Terra Nova Films)

House Calls

A National Film Board of Canada Production
Written & Directed by Ian McLeod
Featuring Dr. Mark Nowaczynski
Winner of the 2006 Margaret E. Condon Memorial Award
Winner of the 2005 International Health & Medical Media Award

Wednesday, April 12, 2006
Science Building-Room 102
Reception: 7:00pm-7:30pm
Film Screening: 7:30 - 9:30 pm

The professional staff of Swedish Covenant Hospital's Home Health Care and HouseCalls programs will reflect on the film and lead discussion of current issues.



Northeastern Illinois University

For further information, please contact (773) 442-5845 or m.takahashi@neiu.edu
5500 North St. Louis Avenue, Chicago IL

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