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Study ranks NEIU graduation rates near bottom

by Sophia López
Staff Writer

A report released by the Consortium on Chicago School Research reports the graduation rate at Northeastern Illinois University is one of the worst in the country.

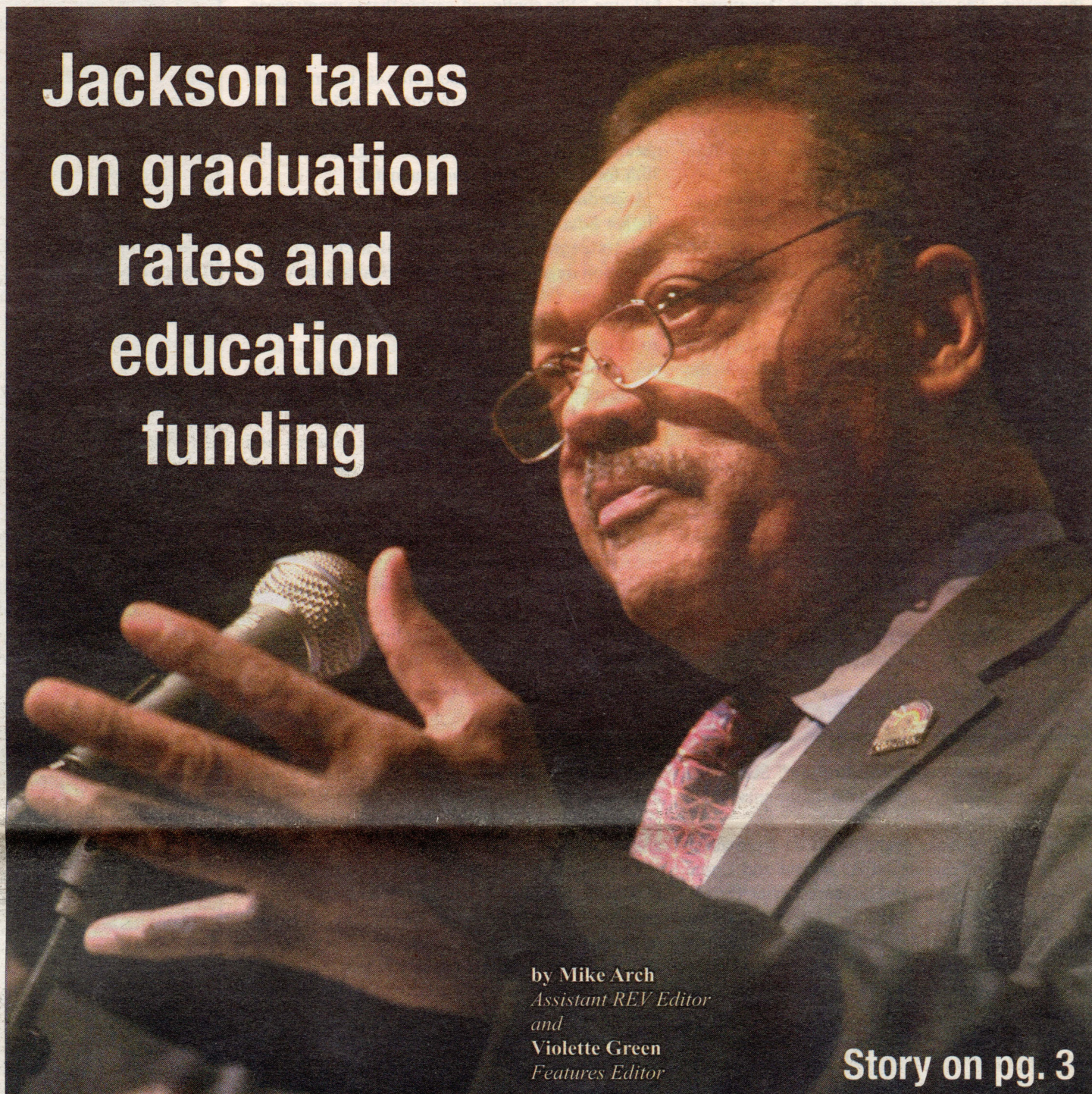
The six-year graduation rate for full-time freshman at NEIU is 17 percent, according to a Department of Education study. The report also cites federal statistics which find that only four percent of all African-American students at NEIU graduate within six years.

Some blame the failure on the part of policymakers in holding university administrators accountable, while others point to institutional bureaucracy as the reason for poor graduation rates.

According to federal data, the student population at NEIU is 43 percent white, 29 percent Hispanic and 12 percent African-American. Of its 12,200 students, almost half attend part time.

In a recent story in *The New York Times*, NEIU President Salme Steinberg said, "That it takes another year or two years

Jackson takes on graduation rates and education funding



by Mike Arch
Assistant REV Editor
and
Violette Green
Features Editor

Story on pg. 3

photo by Dorian Barrios

See Graduation, pg. 2

Jesse Jackson spoke as part of the annual Equity in Action conference in the Auditorium.

El Centro mural a testament to student determination

by Jo Cook
Assistant News Editor

Victor Montañez addressed an audience on Sept. 15 at El Centro to accompany the unveiling of a collaborative mural that he oversaw entitled "Sophia in Society."

Montañez spent his summer creating the mural alongside students of El Centro's Summer Transition Program in the hopes that incoming Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) students embrace art from the ground up in order to better thrive academically.

In his speech, Montañez said that a university curriculum "devoid of the cultural richness and intellectual value that art offers is, simply put, a poor education."

Maria Luna-Duarte, assistant director of El Centro, described the artwork as being "agricultural" in concept in that the students "started

See Mural, pg. 5



photo by Lauren Walsh

Transfer students complicate university graduation rates

by Mike Arch
Assistant REV Editor

A recent story by *The New York Times* cited NEIU as having one of the worst graduation rates in the nation. The story was based on Department of Education statistics that may not have taken into account transfer students and those who practice "stopout" behavior.

NEIU only has statistics available about students who transfer to other state and community colleges. Students who transfer to a private college or a college outside the state of Illinois are not counted.

Stopout behavior involves leaving the university for a semester or more before continuing study, which is common for many NEIU students who must work and raise families. The time spent away counts as time to graduation, and no official statistics are kept on such behavior.

According to Matt Suerth, research specialist / data manager in the Institutional Studies Department, the transfer rate of students transferring out of NEIU to other schools is approximately 40 percent.

Another issue affecting the calculation of graduation rates involves the use of Social Security numbers to track students.

The current system involves analyzing schools' student data, looking for Social Security numbers that match up. NEIU recently has been phasing out the use of Social Security numbers security reasons.

The statistics used by *The New York Times* only focused on students that graduated from Chicago

Public Schools (CPS), and that does not make up a large part of the NEIU student body.

According to President Salme Steinberg, 53 percent of NEIU students transfer into the university. "Time to degree is a function of enrollment, part-time or full time." She continued, saying that in many cases, "Money will determine whether the students enroll full time or part time."

The CPS statistics also refer to the minority student population. According to statistics from *diverseeducation.com*, NEIU is ranked 81st nationally for Hispanic bachelor graduates and 30th for African-American graduates.

According to the 2006 edition of *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, however, NEIU ranks fourteenth and sixteenth in the number of undergraduate education degrees earned by Hispanics and Asian-Americans, respectively.

"There are far too many Americans who want to go to college but cannot — because they're either not prepared or cannot afford it," said Margaret Spellings, secretary of the Department of Education, on www.ed.gov.

"No current rankings system of colleges and universities directly measures the most critical point student performance, and learning," Spellings continued. She also said that she plans to help make the U.S. higher education system more affordable, accessible and consumer-friendly.

NEIU is known for its affordability, setting the bar as the lowest of Chicago's four-year colleges, offering tuition at \$175 a credit hour. As President Steinberg said, NEIU is "an institution of choice."

Graduation from pg. 1

longer should be a mark of distinction." She added that students should be commended for the remarkable efforts they are making.

Almost half of those attending NEIU are transfer students. For this reason, NEIU student and Union for Puerto Rican Students President Xavier Burgos thinks the study itself is flawed. He explained that a report looking at all graduation rates, including those of transfer students, would offer more accurate and complete information to better remedy these problems.

The Board of Trustees Presidential Recruitment Profile states that the College of Education is a leader in the training of certified teachers in the State of Illinois and in the nation. It also notes that in the actual number of baccalaureate degrees earned by Latinos, Northeastern is number one in Illinois and ranks 11th in the nation. Northeastern Illinois University remains the most affordable public four-year university in the state.

Chicago State University is another school facing low graduation rates. Close to 90 percent of its 7,300 students are African-American. The overall student

graduation rate is 16 percent. Judy Erwin, the executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, proposes offering financial incentives for improved graduation rates.

The story from *The New York Times* quoted Elnora D. Daniel, president of Chicago State University, as saying, "I think the work of this institution should be lauded rather than criticized. And I say that for all public institutions nationally that attract and have as part of their mission the education of low-income, disadvantaged students."

Other such institutions, like Murray State University in Murray, Ky., which was also discussed in *The New York Times*, have considerably higher graduation rates. F. King Alexander was university president when its graduation rate increased from 43 percent to 57 percent.

Alexander encouraged commuting students to spend more time on campus because those involved in extra-curricular activities were more likely to finish college. He also made graduation a central theme. Ultimately, Dr. Daniel said that students have to think about graduation from the day they walk on campus.

A Closer Look...



Apples to Orangemen

I started my college career a few years ago at Syracuse University, playing bass in the basketball pep band. There was something uniting for the school in those games. It could have been the Orangemen's trip to the Final Four or just the shared experience rooting for the home team. It united much of the campus in a way that is not seen here at NEIU. That could change next month.

There are many differences between Syracuse and NEIU, and it could be said that it is not fair to compare Eagles to Orangemen. In many ways the two institutions could not be further apart. But they are about to have one thing in common: big basketball.

The American Basketball Association's Chicago Rockstars are going to have their inaugural season on this campus starting Nov 10. This is not because NEIU was looking for big basketball but because Chicago State's new-state-of-the-art sports facility, where the Rockstars were set to play, is still under construction. Call it outsourcing school spirit.

The Rockstars represent a return to big sports not seen in a decade on campus. It's true that students have started a baseball team that is competing with other schools, but they are basically a student club. The Rockstars are closer to what the Chicago Wolves are to the Chicago Blackhawks.

The university community has the opportunity to have a small experiment in sports. Unlike Syracuse, NEIU has neither dorms nor a domed stadium within walking distance of those dorms. It does not have network television contracts or even a pep band. So what will the university community do with this?

Will students embrace it, or will it be another great resource commuter students do not have time for? There is the opportunity to show the administration that there is something on campus to unite these disparate communities. If turnout is strong and there is a buzz about these games, perhaps this could signal a new university president to consider sports again.

Not all students on this campus are big sports fans, especially at a university that has lacked teams for a decade. Students who make sports a priority might go to where the Blue Demons, Wildcats or Fighting Irish play. NEIU has been given an opportunity at no cost to see where sports rank on this campus.

It may be that there is no bang and it all fizzles and goes to Chicago State next year, but the advocates for sports on campus can't say they did not have the opportunity to show what sports means to them.

The only other thing that is unknown is how much students will have to pay for seats.

CORRECTION

On page 11 of the Oct. 10 edition of the Independent, a caption misidentified a sit-in in front of President Steinberg's office during the 2005 teachers' strike as a GLBTA protest of H.O.M.E. The *Independent* regrets the error.

From Havana to Chicago: a journey to freedom

by Angelica Garcia
Staff Writer

Dr. Antonio Morales-Pita was on campus Oct. 11 to speak as part of the Equity in Action Conference about his new autobiographical book, *Havana-Merida-Chicago: A Journey to Freedom*. He was introduced by Daniel Lopez, director of El Centro, who described the book as "strongly psychological."

The impact of Fidel Castro in the world was reiterated and the severity of his influence shone through an individual's story of oppression.

Currently a professor at DePaul University, Morales-

Pita was always very passionate about his education because he believed that through it he would become more valuable and able to help his country.

He spent 25 years gathering data and working in the sugar mills. Just when he was making progress toward accomplishing his dream, "That dream was shattered by Fidel Castro."

Morales-Pita soon realized that a "dictator never accepts any criterion different from his own." It was because of this that Pita left Cuba Jan. 31, 1996.

Morales-Pita spoke of his personal, political and religious struggles. He also engaged the audience by partaking in reminiscent stories about Cuba

and its "repressive atmosphere."

He then presented how Castro was able to acquire and maintain complete power over the Cuban people. According to Morales-Pita, "Castro tweaked the values of Cuba, patriotism, religion and family, to fit his own agenda."

When Castro defeated Batista, he became a hero in the eyes of every hopeful Cuban. He represented the opportunity for freedom, and they felt an obligation to him. In this way he harnessed patriotism.

The dictator then proceeded to attack the church. He began organizing mandatory activities on Sundays, and if you didn't attend you were going against your country.

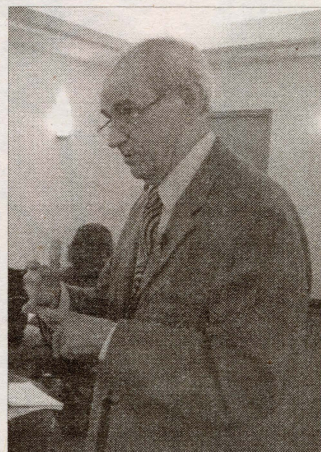
Morales-Pita explained that "If

you take God from people's hearts, there is an empty space. Who will be there? Fidel!"

When the government decided to increase the duration of sugar production, which was vital to Cuba's economy, it took its toll on the family and their religion.

Sugar production lasted from December to July, causing Christmas and Easter to diminish slowly. Families spent more and more time apart. Cuba provided soldiers to the Soviet Union for the war in Angola, forcing families to falter.

The world now waits to see what will happen to Cuba when Castro dies. Morales-Pita predicted that there will be a struggle for power.



Dr. Antonio Morales-Pita.

Ideally, he would like for Cuba to be rebuilt using a coalition of forces from fellow Cubans in Miami. However, Dr. Morales-Pita stated that unfortunately Fidel Castro is a charismatic symbol of freedom that no one will ever fight.

photo by Dorian Barrios

Pirate-themed talent show winner gets big prize



Students show off their special skills for monetary and social rewards

Talent show competitors strike a pose, hoping to win first place and an \$1100 award.

by Jo Cook
Assistant News Editor

The Blue Man Group did not compete in NEIU's pirate-themed talent show (unless they were out-of-disguise and performing as a college rock band), but they were there in spirit alongside "Guys With Drums", whose glow-in-the-dark, audience friendly percussion earned them first place and \$1100.

Each act was given up to four minutes to impress the judges by merit of talent, audience appeal and presentation. This year's panel of judges included Student Enrichment Programs Coordinator Flora Llacuna, student Clyde McLeod, Director Scholarships and Retention Michelle Morrow, recording engineer

Neil Young, and concert coordinator Steve Zivin.

None of the judges were dressed in pirate regalia, nor was smarmy master of ceremonies David Pasquesi of Second City, who made it clear that he is sick of being told that he looks like Adrian Brody. His acting career has included parts in *Strangers with Candy*, *Common Law* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Pasquesi spent time between acts attempting jokes amongst hecklers and answering audience questions. When asked by the *Independent* what it was like to work with Larry David, he said that David "is smart" and moved on.

Noteworthy acts included sociology student A.J. Sacco's well-received magic rope trick accompanied

by self-deprecating commentary. While cutting apart lengths of string, he said, "I know what you're thinking, and no, my parents aren't cousins You'd be surprised to know that I have a girlfriend."

Singers included Erick Lockhart, a music education student who performed a song entitled "I Need You", and Stephen Cattouse, a CCICS staff member. Cattouse sang an original and standard-sounding R&B-style love song entitled "Lost in Your Eyes," accompanied by a projection of History Channel watermarked footage of 9-11, Nelson Mandela, pole vaulting, tropical paradise, hot lava, missiles, the earth exploding, and images of Jesus and Satan.

A number of dancers performed,

including NEIU's swing-dancing Scooter Bal Club, sociology student and clogger Rebecca Inlow, anthropology student and ballerina Tracy Damitz, and second-place winners Non-Stop Productions, a hip-hop dance group headed up by student Andrew Phan.

Third-place went to pianist and music student Yiming Zhang for his performance of Chopin's "Etude Op. 10, No. 8", which was performed with gymnastic fingers and calm grace.

Honorable mention was taken by faculty member Sylvia Myintoo's violin performance with a partner of "The Devil Meets Johnny."

Aside from the loot awarded to winners, pirate booty was distributed in the form of Coca-Cola t-shirts.

Jackson from pg. 1

The Reverend Jesse L. Jackson visited NEIU to address the notion of social justice, including the role that people must play in representing their own interests.

"Vote for your interests. Vote to lower tuition. Vote for better teacher packages. Vote for a job that pays when you graduate. Vote for a chance to go to grad school for free," Jackson said on Oct. 11 in the Auditorium.

"Those who have the least pay the most to get the least amount of money," Jackson stated to support a new ordinance which will realign Chicago into 12 districts.

In certain districts considered high risk, new homeowners will have to seek credit counseling before buying their home. Many of these homes are located in lower-income neighborhoods.

"Invisible walls," as Jackson referred to them, are erected that keep people from certain opportunities due to their income. "Credit scores go down, you get printed on the list that you, quote unquote, can't be trusted," he continued.

The discussion then moved into the political strife and U.S. foreign policy. "Cause and effect," is how Jackson

described U.S. interaction with other countries.

Jackson also focused on the education, proposing the equal distribution of state funding among all schools throughout the state. He said this move would also lessen the property tax burden.

The *Independent* took the opportunity to address several issues in an interview with Jackson. When asked how an average college student could take part in making a difference in global issues, Jackson replied, "You need reasonable access to the foundation level. Most of the resources available to the school and faculty are going into Iraq."

Jackson was also asked about a report that put Chicago State University at a 16-percent graduation rate and Northeastern Illinois University at a 17-percent rate.

Regarding the duty of a school to graduate students, Jackson said "[In] education cooperation, there must be an infrastructure that will recruit, retain and graduate. An administration must be measured by its ability to recruit, measure, and retain. [Graduation rates] should be at least 50 percent."

Basketball returns to NEIU

by Tom Robb
News Editor

Not since 1997 has big basketball thundered through the courts of NEIU. That may soon change if an agreement goes through which would bring the American Basketball Association team the Chicago Rockstars to campus.

A deal is all but done that would have the Rockstars hosting their 16 home games at NEIU starting Nov. 10 for at least one year.

Peter Michalczyk, captain of NEIU's baseball team, was pleased to see basketball on back on campus. "I think it's wonderful. I hope the administration realizes that some of the student apathy would be combated with organized sports."

Rockstars owner and CEO Marques Sullivan told the *Independent* that he had signed a deal with the university one week ago last Wednesday to rent the P.E. Complex for \$2500 per night and use the 2200-seat venue for the games.

The team has been advertising the games on its Web site, and other media outlets have reported that the team will be playing at



NEIU.

Director of Campus Recreation Matt Specht said that the final contract had not been signed. "If the insurance gets worked out, we've worked out all the rest of the other details as far as the contractual stuff," Specht said that he was "pretty sure [the contract] will go through."

Sullivan said that the contract "gives students a great opportunity for entertainment."

When asked about discounted tickets for students, Sullivan said that the opening Nov. 10 game would be an NEIU appreciation night and that tickets would be half price.

On discounted tickets for the rest of the season for students, Specht said, "They're going to get a discount one way or another. I'm committed to students getting

in [at] half price. That will be what students pay out of pocket, discounted or subsidized [by the Campus Recreation Department.]"

Sullivan told the *Independent* that there also would be liquor sales at the games, a point Specht said is still being negotiated that is contingent on insurance.

Sullivan said this is the team's first year, and that the ABA itself is only four years old. He added that attendance at games for other teams ranges between 1,000 and 4,000 people.

According to Specht, the team was initially slotted to play at Chicago State, but construction on their new sports facility fell behind, forcing the Rockstars to find a new home.

NEIU alumnus and Rockstars Assistant Head Coach George Keehn suggested NEIU and met with Specht.

Specht said that about \$1,000 per night will go for labor and utilities, including extra security. Sullivan said that he would bring a team of five to 10 people for security.

Director of Public Safety Jim Lyon Jr. said that he would use overtime to have enough NEIU police officers for the games.

image courtesy of www.rockstarbasketball.com

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Mural from pg . 1

with a seed, opened up the ground, planted the seed, and encouraged it to grow." She explained that the work was created in a process beginning with the students splashing canvases with paint while stating three ambitions and how to go about achieving them.

After the initial underpainting, the students were asked to come up with concepts based on their stated goals. They came up with the power of women, which they with women simultaneously holding babies in the womb while holding up the world.

Among the main concerns that the students hoped to show is the balance between education and motherhood. Luna-Duarte said that the painting's sun and moon stand for motherhood, and that the plant represents the growth that they hope education affords them.

Montañez said that the program's artwork was made with "one ambitious three part goal: to create artworks that unmistakably reflected our great pride in our heritage and history, addressed our commitment to our personal and academic goals, and manifested our politics of community empowerment and self-determination."

El Centro's Summer Transition Program is aimed at CPS students who are planning on enrolling as first-time freshmen in the fall. Upon completion of the voluntary program, they are awarded a 6-credit scholarship. This year participants had a 100 percent completion rate, which was in no doubt due partly to Montañez's project. Nearly all of the students involved went on to enroll at one of NEIU's campuses this fall.

As for the students' artistic goal of community involvement and self-determination, Montañez said that their success is "undebatable," and that they "met and exceeded all expectations in that area". If NEIU enrollment from the Summer Transition Program is, in fact, directly correlated to the project, then Montañez has the numbers to prove his success.

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Editorial

When money means more than education

The *New York Times* recently ran a piece showing Northeastern Illinois University with a 17 percent graduation rate of full-time incoming freshmen in six years. This statistic alone is appalling, but the implications made are even more so.

This means that 17 out of every 100 incoming freshmen are going to graduate with their bachelor's degree in six years, and the rest will take even longer to earn a degree. While it is understood that a good portion of Northeastern's student body is comprised of returning adult students and part-time students with familial obligations, this still doesn't account for this percentage as it relates to students coming from the Chicago Public School system.

This brings up questions regarding a university's responsibility to decrease the time to degree for undergraduate programs. Does NEIU have a responsibility to have its full-time students graduate in four years like most institutions in the state, or does NEIU have a responsibility to provide cheap education that takes longer to complete?

As a state-owned institution, NEIU is responsible for providing reasonable time to degree for full-time students in addition to its mission of remaining the most affordable public institution in Illinois. This is a mission that NEIU takes seriously, but not seriously enough to produce results.

President Steinberg has been quoted as saying, "We are an institution of choice." But most students who enroll full-time at NEIU choose to be able to graduate in four years and not six or more. How then does the university still have a depressing graduation rate despite their commitment to affordability?

This mission of affordability is, unfortunately, undermined by a paltry time to degree brought on by insufficient course offerings, insufficient faculty to accommodate for increased need for courses, and the rising administrative interest in beautification of the campus for the sake of upgraded student services.

Northeastern's administration has repeatedly been reported in the *Independent* as having committed to various construction projects while issues of class size, course availability and faculty compensation traditionally have been placed on the back burner. It is clear to anyone that the responsibility of NEIU is to provide education at any reasonable cost first, while putting projects of beautification last.

The issue of faculty compensation has, at least for the time being, been resolved after a debilitating strike back in November of 2005. With the faculty having reached their goal of being compensated better, the university has neglected to address class size and increased class offerings in the curriculum.

This negligence on the part of the administration is indicative of the university's focus on something other than educating its students. It is widely understood that the university takes measures to maintain the affordability of education, but at what cost must this remain so? Only one's graduation can tell what the price of affordability really is.

The great unknown: student insurance

by Agnieszka Struzynska
Staff Writer

Student insurance is perceived as necessary evil. It appears that even though it has already been paid for, we still have to spend horrendous amounts of money on medical care.

I am an international student, and according to Northeastern Illinois University's policy I was required to enroll in the insurance, regardless of having a Polish insurance policy which covers medical services in the United States as well.

What surprised me most was the fact that instead of paying about \$350, as it had been during the summer term, we had to spend \$452.25, which is 29 percent more. One could say that it is only a \$100 difference, but on the other hand, not many

products or services increase in price by such a percentage in such a short time.

This cost is just a drop in the ocean. Most medical services cost extra anyway. Every single doctor's appointment, not to mention seeing a specialist, costs a tremendous sum of money.

Insurance companies are not into charity. They are set up to make profit, and that is mostly thanks to people who almost never fall ill. Yet the cost of insurance is the same for everybody because it is impossible to specialize each person's rate according to their needs.

However, it is in our favor when a university helps students and selects a specific health plan. The Finance and Administration Office can negotiate more favorable conditions for larger groups.

The Student Health Insurance Plan, offered by Northeastern Illinois University in partnership with the Chickering Group, is intended to cover illnesses and injuries that occur on and off campus. Care provided by the insurance can either be preferred or non-preferred.

For example, instead of paying \$100 per visit if uninsured, a student will be charged \$15 when the provider is preferred, and will have a 50 percent discount if not.

For regular visitors to a doctor's office, the amount of \$452 is not tremendous. Saving \$85 per visit amounts to \$425 after the fifth appointment. For those who are lucky enough to avoid physicians, this sum is like throwing money down the drain. But you never know when you might need care.

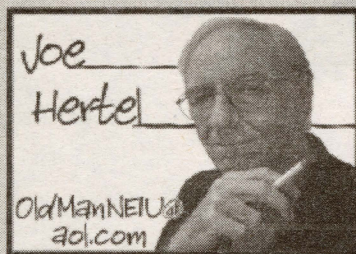
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Old Man on Campus

protect its possessions and life, while the other side is the Big Bad Wolf, a predator out to devour the docile, peace-loving sheep.

In the corporate world, it's a "them versus us" mentality of management and labor. Even at good old NEIU it's socially aware, conscientious students against a lethargic and self-serving administration. Although from another viewpoint, it may be more of an unjustly maligned, unappreciated administration against a bunch of immature, idealistic malcontents. It's all a matter of perspective.

Pigs are pigs, wolves are wolves and sheep are sheep. They cannot be anything else. That is their nature. But we don't have to act like animals because we have two natures. That's right, two. We can do what the animals cannot. We can aspire to a higher level of existence.

We can live in our human nature at two levels, both being self-gratifying. The basic: eat, drink, clothing and shelter. That's what the animals have. But we can also ascend to the arts: Music, painting, theater, writing, science. We can enjoy these subjects and even educate ourselves in them. If we keep going, we can awaken our spirit within, entering into a third super-natural level, and soar to even greater heights communing with creation and the universe. We can connect with the Creator and become self-fulfilled.

Big Bad Wolf

Yeah, the Old Man is on the spiritual kick again; trust me, I would not share this with you if I did not believe in and experience daily that of which I speak. You can be a child of nature or, and even better, a child of God. Being spiritual does not mean that you stop living in the world. We are consigned to this planet; even though we must live in this world, we do not have to be a part of it in believing that there is nothing else. We must step out from among the animals.

Just like the three little pigs, there are three levels of human existence. The house of straw which is our basic human nature; the house of sticks, which is the enlightened human nature of the Arts and Sciences, and the house of brick, which is the spiritual, and strongest, nature of our being. The Big Bad Wolf can blow away the first two because he is also of the carnal, but he can huff and puff all he wants and cannot destroy that which is spiritual because it is infinitely enduring.

No, there is nothing wrong with being a wolf if that is your nature, and if we do not enter into and experience the spiritual side of our existence, then we are no different than these creatures of habit. Discovering your spiritual side will allow you to see things much differently and far more clearly. After all, it's a matter of perspective.

Flying scared: a new breed of terror

by Amanda Dalal
Online Editor

I was in California when it happened. Any traveler's worst nightmare in our post-9/11 world: being far from home when a terrorist plot is revealed.

Thinking we were smart, we'd purchased full-sized bottles of shampoo, mouth wash and shaving cream to save money. Instead, three days before we were scheduled to fly home, we found ourselves forced to use these items in excess to get rid of them before we got to the airport.

On Aug. 10, the British Police and Homeland Security revealed a terrorist plot which involved men hijacking and blowing up planes by mixing common household fluids. Immediately, all liquids and gels, including toiletries, beverages and gifts, were suspended from carry-on luggage.

People who arrived at the airport unaware of the ban watched as their items were confiscated and drained. I watched expensive wines and tattoo inks being tossed into a biohazard bin, to the outrage of their owners. I personally sacrificed a bottle of hand-sanitizer. Luckily, those with medications could to bring them onboard, provided they were in a clear plastic bag.

Some airlines temporarily banned electronics: laptops, PDAs, mobile phones and iPods. According to British intelligence, the terrorists planned on detonating the bombs with a cell phone or MP3 player. One British Airways plane was even forced to make a frantic landing when a mobile device started ringing and the owner was too embarrassed to identify himself.

In 2001, a British man attempted to blow up a plane with explosives in his shoes. Now, we line up at security checkpoints in stockinged feet. Laptops are wiped with anthrax-detecting swabs.

Coats must be removed and placed in separate bins. The list will only grow as more plots are discovered.

It was later revealed that British police knew about the liquid-explosive plot eight months before the ban. The speed and intensity the Transportation Security Administration used to implement the new security measures led many to believe someone had been caught attempting to carry-out the plan. In truth, the bombers hadn't even booked a flight before they were arrested.

The media isn't helping. By broadcasting intricate details of terrorist plans, hosting segments on methods for mass terror, and generally becoming outlets for fear-mongering, they are constantly providing the terrorists with new ideas.

The liquid ban has finally been lifted. All items must now be sealed in large plastic bags, but may be carried on after being searched.

Still, terrorists are succeeding. Even though there hasn't been a major attack since 9-11, all of this fear is creating a new breed of terrorism: keeping the American public scared and vulnerable. People board planes terrified, ready to fight. Two Asian men were forced off of a British flight in August after passengers heard them speaking a foreign language and decided they must be terrorists. After a small mutiny, the men were detained and questioned.

We are being bombarded constantly with new reasons to be afraid. Color-coded alerts and 20/20 episodes on how new types of chemical warfare would wipe us out only make it worse. Fearing every other passenger is a threat, the American people are being terrorized in a way no security checkpoint can stop. Sadly, part of that is our fault.

Shooting at the heart of the issue

by Jonathan Gronli
Production Editor
REV & Opinions

With the recent school shootings that have been going on, a hot topic is probably going to be brought to the front lines yet again. Yes, it's gun control. Liberals seem to be more restrictive in terms of gun control. The liberal side of the argument is often that it is their job to protect the citizens from themselves. Although it's touching to see such avid concern and love towards the people, their faith in gun control is misplaced.

Statistically, crime usually drops in the areas of the United States and in other countries when there is little if any gun control. If crimes with the use of a gun happen in an area or nation with little if any gun control, it is probably easier to track.

Minimizing gun control would actually lower the amount of firearms that criminals would get illegally because they would be legally available, allowing more restrictive gun control

laws.

With stringent gun control, three groups of people would have guns. There would be the police, the military and an ever-increasing amount of criminals preying on the weak. Sure, the American government prides itself on how great America is, and how free we are, and how many rights we have.

First and foremost we have the right to life. If criminals, however, are the only ones outside of law enforcement and the military that have firearms, that is a direct possible infringement on one's right to life.

How free are you when you come into work and a student shoots you? How free are you when some guy walks into your school to take you and nine other students, barricades the ten of you and himself in the school, kills five and then turns the gun on himself?

Yes these things did happen. Freedom isn't truly useful or following its purpose if you're too worried to enjoy it because you don't know when

someone will pull a gun and start shooting. If you're too afraid to use and appreciate your freedom, it is worthless.

Guns are tools for protection. They are there for the protection of yourself, your loved ones, your property, your community and your nation. Sure, they can be used to kill but if used correctly, they are used in self-defense, or just regular defense.

Gun control, much like any other issue, requires a choice. It also requires the ability to get educated and to accept the consequences of your actions. If you know what can happen, and if you do something wrong, you have to accept the consequences.

The issue needs exposure and education, not a restrictive law that puts the guns legally into the hands of two groups and illegally into the hands of criminals. Sure, there are obvious restrictions (grenade launchers or anything that launches explosives in general), but in the end gun control fails to do its job of protecting the masses.

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS

The return of the voice



It feels great to be back here on Voice of the Campus. The time off has been great, and I had some time to step back and take a good look at what's been happening on campus. So far the current SGA has avoided any scandal, and the end of Steinberg's presidency seems like it might actually happen. So far so good.

Besides that things have been running pretty smoothly, giving me time to kick back and enjoy some of the recent events on campus. The talent show was pretty entertaining. The type of presentation that can be put on in the auditorium is impressive, and of course the performers were top notch for the most part.

Jesse Jackson also spoke in that auditorium to a less-than-packed house. For all the hype that this man can generate, hearing him speak in person was actually disappointing. Maybe this just wasn't his audience. But for the most part he stayed on pretty safe subjects: gotta keep affirmative action, fight for voting rights, unjust war, etc. etc.

One interesting point that Jackson did make was when he spoke about being better neighbors with the other countries in our hemisphere. Something that almost nobody cares to worry about is our neighbors to the south. Unless a giant corporation is looking for a way to exploit its resources or we're trying to keep their citizens out of our country, we don't tend to pay them much attention.

This might have worked in the past, but if our nation is to maintain its position as the world's leading nation, things do need to change. Throughout history powerful nations that have isolated themselves have always fallen. This should be of some concern, but we're too worried about terrorist crossing the Mexican border. Only in America could racism be dressed up as national security.

So how do you combat isolation? As we constantly see on campus, it is quite difficult. We all have our own personal concerns that tend to give us a narrow view of circumstances. Sometimes we end up dropping the ball on important things, similar to the way several student organizations were deactivated due to missing a training session.

Director of Student Activities Sharron Evans has her reasons for wanting the students to attend the meeting, and the students have their reason for not being able to make the meeting. So we see Student Activities isolating itself from the student clubs that bring this campus to life.

But this type of behavior is not new on this campus. We can just recall the treatment that students received from the university president during the strike in '04. But all hope is not lost. The student organizations have begun to get organized, and hopefully Sharron Evans will have a heart and allow these student organizations to be active during this semester.

We can only hope that at some point common sense will prevail. It's just a shame that we have to put up with this type of behavior.

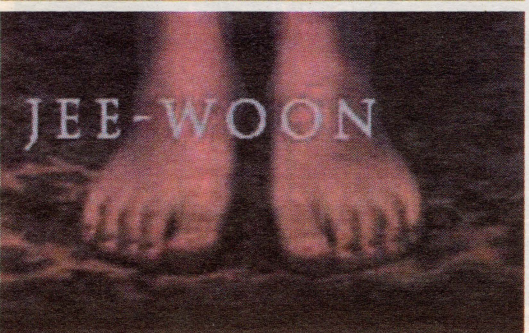
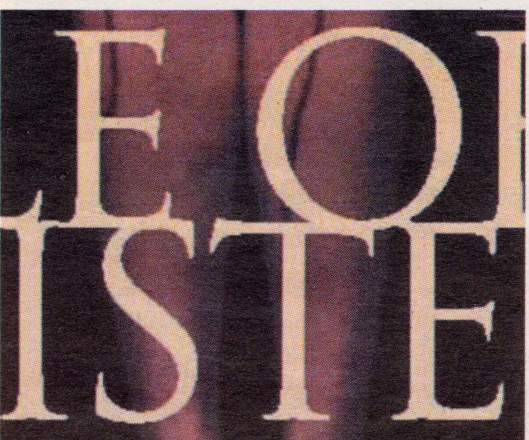
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Pollard's Picks: the Top ten

Asian horror films



Ever since the success of *The Ring*, there's been a trend for American filmmakers to remake Asian horror films. Frequently, these films are overly sanitized for American audiences and lack a lot of the edge and fright of their originals. So, in honor of Halloween, here are some of the best horror films from Asia.

10. *One Missed Call* (2003)

One by one, Yumi's friends start receiving phone calls with an eerie ring tone voicemails which are dated three days into the future, from themselves right before they die.

9. *The Eye* (2002)

After receiving a cornea transplant, a girl who was once blind is able to see again. Along with that sight comes visions of shadowy figures who appear around people who are about to die. With her doctor, she tries to discover where her new eyes came from and how she can stop these visions.

8. *Ringu* (1998)

Like its English-language remake, *The Ring*, the film centers on a reporter who discovers a tape that will result in a viewer's death a week after watching it. The remake is very faithful, so much of the story will be similar, but the atmosphere and the presence of Sadako (Samara in the remake) is far more frightening.

7. *Ju-on: The Grudge* (2003)

Forget *The Grudge*; the original was far superior. As opposed to focusing on just one character like the remake, the original tells several short stories involving various characters and focuses solely on the curse itself, rather than the detective story present in the remake.

6. *Pulse* (2001)

A teenage boy commits suicide but soon appears as an image on a computer screen. As more people die, they also start appearing on the same Web site. A recent remake destroys much of the slow-burn pacing and tension of the original.

5. *Marebito* (2004)

After capturing footage of a man who kills himself in the subway, a cameraman goes back into the same subway to discover why the man committed suicide. What he finds is a door to the underworld and discovers a young girl who behaves like an animal.

4. *A Tale of Two Sisters* (2003)

Based on a folk legend, this Korean film features two sisters who return home from a mental institution and have to readjust to life with their father and evil stepmother. But this psychological thriller has an unexpected twist.

3. *Uzumaki* (2000)

Set in a small town, Kirie's boyfriend's father becomes obsessed with spiral shapes. After his death, the spiral possession occurs in numerous, disturbing ways with other townspeople, transforming them.

2. *Tetsuo: The Iron Man* (1989)

One part *Videodrome*, one part *Eraserhead*, this film from cult director Shinya Tsukamoto is extremely bizarre, featuring an unnamed man who one day wakes up to discover that his body turning into metal. This is a frightening, often incomprehensible movie that is definitely not for the faint of heart.

1. *Audition* (1999)

This is my favorite horror movie and the film that brought director Takashi Miike to the attention of audiences outside of Japan. When a widower decides to hold an audition for his new wife, he meets a beautiful young woman who seems like his perfect match, until her past comes out. This film features some of the most frightening and gruesome torture scenes I have ever witnessed.

by Amanda Dalal
Online Editor

Almost 20 years after the debut of their first album, the Barenaked Ladies (BNL) are still churning out hits. Their newest album, *The Barenaked Ladies Are Me (BLAM)* paints the band as a grown-up version of their former selves. Make no mistake, you'll find no "chickety-china" type songs on this album.

The Canadian group has come a long way since their first American chart topper "One Week," and although they have not lost their sense of humor, they have added a deeper, often political side to their lyrics.

The band has also started to look into alternative methods of distribution, focusing more on digital downloads and pre-loaded "Barenaked on a Stick" USB drives that hold music, movies, pictures and digital liner notes. The 13-track standard album is available on CD in the United States, but BNL has released an additional 14-tracks as a deluxe edition available only in the aforementioned digital formats.

"Bank Job" shows the playful side of BNL, telling the story of a bank robbery gone wrong when the thieves show and find a bank full of nuns. "They were like zebras / they had us confused" Robertson sings in a lightly irritated tone, chastising his partner in crime who botched the job.

BNL's other lead vocalist, Steven Page, uses his deeper voice to give weight to "Home and The Sound of Your Voice." Kevin Hearn, the band's

keyboardist, and Jim Creeggan on bass, get to share their voice in their songs "Vanishing" and "Peterborough" and the Kawarthas, respectively.

However, the most noteworthy tracks on *BLAM* showcase the band's heavy leftist views. BNL was criticized for incorporating politics in their last album *Everything to Everyone*, and "Maybe You're Right" is a great response to that. Page hauntingly laments, "shall I take back everything I've ever said / and live my whole life in silence instead?"

Robertson sarcastically remarks on the nation's airport security in "Take It Back": "Long lines and warning signs / think of all the lives saved by plastic knives / it's naïve but make believe / we will never lose if we remove our shoes." The last song on the album, Page's "Rule the World with Love" is no doubt a sarcastic view of the U.S. attitude toward the Iraq war.

However, the harshest political criticism from the band is not present on the primary album. "Fun and Games" sings from the view of the United States administration on the Iraqis, saying "they were shocked and they were awed and they were blown apart."

It continues, addressing the military and claiming, "there's no need to draft them / you could hear us

The Barenaked Ladies are back

laugh then / the poor and black all need the room and board / did I say that outloud?"

Their most daring album to date, the Barenaked Ladies still pull off hits like "Wind It Up and Easy," but also add in a layer of maturity and politics that is surprising and gutsy. The witty lyrics and original content has never died; it has only morphed into something even more powerful and intelligent. "Chickety-china" need not apply.



image courtesy of www.bnlmusic.com

Sweet Release: an examination of death

by Lauren Walsh
Staff Writer

Sweet Release is a production that uses contemporary movement, audio and visual elements to portray the vast contrast between traditional Romanian and American attitudes toward death.

While American culture suffers from a chronic phobia of death, Romanian culture takes a more light-hearted approach. When facing death, Romanians do not mourn. Life before, during and after death is a time to rejoice. Even in death, there is only time to embrace the gift

and relish its glory.

The piece is influenced by a Romanian cemetery, located in the village of Sapanta, which is called the Merry Cemetery. It is within this cemetery that life is celebrated, and the memory of the deceased is a reminder that death is only a part of life. The colorfully painted grave markers are adorned with portraits and humorous verses about the individuals that lie below.

Sweet Release is a refreshing collaboration of horror and humor. Although its focus is the contrast between Romanian and American attitudes toward death, the split stage offers much more.

Separated by a single black curtain, the stage resembles a tennis

court. Its opposing contenders are man and woman, body and soul, sky and earth, and, of course, the mourning of death and the celebration of life.

Its interpretations of Romanian and American culture were entertaining and thought provoking, though the use of mixed media was a bit overwhelming at times. Contemporary movement was, for a majority of the piece, accompanied by a visual or photographic feed. This technique, while impressive, was occasionally distracting because of the content of the photographic and video displays. The use of mixed media would have been less distracting had they been separated from the bodily movements of the

performers.

Since the piece was presented in a relatively small theater, it was difficult to give the movement (which took place simultaneously on both sides of the dividing curtain), along with the video and pictorial images, the undivided attention they deserved.

SweetRelease is a Ravenous Productions and What?Works production, directed by Joseph Ravens. Performance dates were Sept. 21 through Oct. 8 at the Gallery 37 Storefront Theater. Although Ravens does not plan on re-installing Sweet Release in the near future, he is enthusiastic about future production plans.

No departing from Scorsese's genius

by Amy Scoma
Managing Editor

With films like *Gangs of New York*, *The Aviator* and *Taxi Driver* on the résumé of director Martin Scorsese, it's no surprise *The Departed* is a masterpiece. Once again, he has teamed up with Leonardo DiCaprio, creating the best movie of 2006.

The Departed tells the story of two young men who have grown up on opposite sides of the tracks: Colin Sullivan (Matt Damon) from south Boston and Billy Costigan, Jr. (Leonardo DiCaprio) from the city's north shore.

Billy Costigan and Colin Sullivan try to answer the movie's fundamental question asked by Irish mob boss Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson): what is the difference between a police officer and a criminal at gunpoint?

Billy Costigan enters Frank Costello's criminal world as an undercover police officer, while Colin Sullivan is the mob boss's rat in the Massachusetts State Police. Only Detective Queenan (Martin Sheen) and Dignam (Mark Wahlberg) know that Billy Costigan exists.

Leonardo DiCaprio proves himself to be one of the finest actors of our generation. The role of Billy Costigan calls for him to be constantly nervous, and DiCaprio captures this tension effortlessly.

Audiences are used to seeing Matt Damon as the hero of every movie he does. Colin Sullivan, the rat, is diabolical, and believably so. Kudos to Matt Damon on this new type of role.

Alec Baldwin (Detective Ellerby) is on-point in the movie. With rolling-tongue comments like, "Want a smoke? What, you don't smoke? What are you some kind of fitness freak? F--k you," his character highlights the unique Boston affect.

The soundtrack is dominated by Dropkick Murphy's cover of a Woody Guthrie song, "I'm Shipping Up To Boston." Van Morrison, The Rolling Stones, Nas and John Lennon help create the gritty musical atmosphere appropriate for south Boston.

The Departed is incredibly violent and is suitably rated R. The ensemble cast doesn't skip a beat; the plot will rock you to your core. This movie makes you walk away thinking about that fundamental question: what is the difference between a police officer and a criminal at gunpoint? You'll have to watch it to find out.



courtesy of thedeparted.warnerbros.com

A new twist on classic fairy tales

by Lenny Ocasio
Staff Writer

Everyone has heard a fairy tale in some form or another, often starting with "once upon a time" and ending with "happily ever after." *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales* at the Lifeline Theatre has all the familiar tales, but with a twist to them. It's based on a book of the same name, but it is not necessary to read it to enjoy the play.

We start with Jack (the one with the beanstalk, not the candlestick jumper), played by Steve Wilson, as he tries to escape being the giant's lunch. From time to time, Jack is interrupted by the bothersome Little Red Hen, played by Cathleen Bentley, and the exasperating Stinky Cheese Man, played by Nicholas Ward.

Jack, in a fit of desperation, persuades the giant to listen to a few "fairly stupid tales" before being eaten. The giant, played by Kevin Kingston, decides that it couldn't hurt to delay his meal for a few minutes, and so Jack begins.

He starts with the story about the princess and the frog. The princess, played by Vergia Siovan, even has her own theme song. The giant of course is disappointed by the story but lets Jack tell a few more. Jack goes through of a number

of tales, each with its own weird twist and odd characters popping in from time to time.

Cinderella, Snow White, the Three Little Pigs, the Tortoise and the Hare, Aladdin and Goldilocks are all mentioned. My favorite stories were "The Princess and the Pea" with a rock 'n' roll princess and a whiny prince. There was also Little Red Running Shorts, played by Marsha Harmon, and the misunderstood wolf with a British accent.

The entire play was wonderful. The costumes were simple, allowing imagination to fill in the blanks. It made the audience an active and involved part of the play.

The actors looked like they were having a lot of fun putting on this production. The play also had lessons to learn: don't talk to strangers, especially if they offer to sell you some magic beans.

The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales is playing at the Lifeline Theatre, located at 6912 N. Glenwood Ave. There is parking available, and it is near the Red Line. Go see it with friends, family or by yourself, as it is only 45 minutes long. It plays Saturdays at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and Sundays at 1 p.m. through Nov. 26. There are some tickets available before the show, but showing up early helps, as the \$10 tickets go quickly. For more information, call 773.761.4477.

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Witching Hour for Ladytron

by Dan Demchuk
Staff Writer

Headlining at the Vic Friday, Oct. 6, Ladytron's seductive synth-pop had the audience screaming for more, even after their encore performance, which included the single, "Seventeen."

The ladies of Ladytron, Mira Aroyo and Helen Marnie, were perfectly charming, witty, and all smiles during their interview with the *Independent*. And their accents, from Bulgaria and Scotland respectively, were so alluring.

Ladytron definitely isn't selfish. Touring now for over a year in support of their newest album, *Witching Hour*, Ladytron said they're more than happy coming to Chicago, having started this leg with CSS at Pitchfork back in September.

All four band members, including Daniel Hunt and

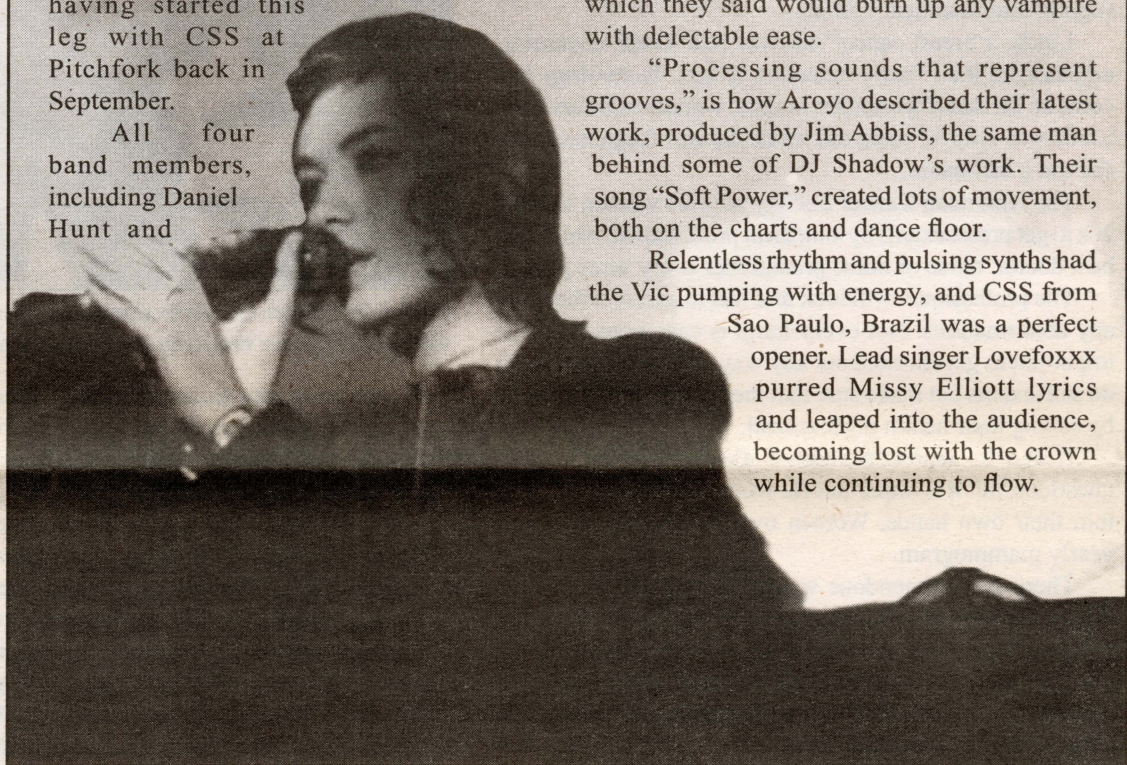
Reuben Wu, both hailing from Liverpool, have also done live disk jockeying at Smart Bar, featuring some of Aroyo's favorite rockers, such as Can, DAF and some gothic girl bands.

But variety is their spice of life, as Marnie admitted that expansive travels are the inspiration for their growing catalog, mentioning a high anticipation for the South American leg of this tour in November.

Their favorite thing about Chicago isn't the scenery, the scenes, or anything they've seen here, for that matter. Rather, it's what they have *tasted*, and they're not talking deep dish or hot dogs. The hungry gals were heading to an Italian restaurant called the Rose Bud, with garlic that they fell in love with and which they said would burn up any vampire with delectable ease.

"Processing sounds that represent grooves," is how Aroyo described their latest work, produced by Jim Abbiss, the same man behind some of DJ Shadow's work. Their song "Soft Power," created lots of movement, both on the charts and dance floor.

Relentless rhythm and pulsing synths had the Vic pumping with energy, and CSS from Sao Paulo, Brazil was a perfect opener. Lead singer Lovefoxxx purred Missy Elliott lyrics and leaped into the audience, becoming lost with the crown while continuing to flow.



back photo by Dan Demchuk; front photo courtesy of ladytron.com

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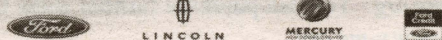


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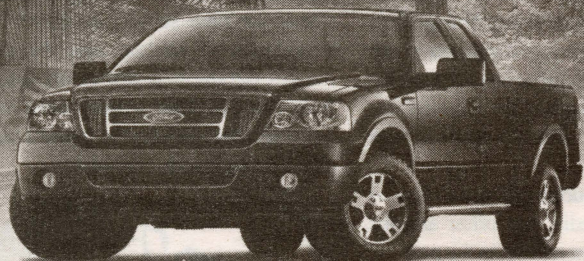


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EAGLES NEST

Think pink: Breast Cancer Awareness Month

by Bridgid Pulliam
Staff Writer

You recently may have noticed a few of the buildings of Chicago's skyline illuminated in pink. This is in honor of October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Many people hear the words "breast cancer" and are filled with a sense of dread, and it's no wonder that people find it daunting. North America actually has the largest population of women with breast cancer.

However, the good news is that survival rates are increasing. According to the American Cancer Society, women in Stage 0 or 1 have a 100 percent chance of survival, versus women in Stage 4 who have a 20 percent survival rate.

Each stage is determined by how far the cancer has progressed, such as to lymph nodes or organs. The increased survival rates can be attributed to early detection as well as support and treatment options.

Linda, a breast cancer survivor and Y-ME counselor, emphasized that, "early detection is key. Technology has come so far that if it's caught in time, women will survive." Linda was only 32 years old when she was diagnosed after she did a self-exam.

The American Cancer Society advises women in their 20s to get breast exams by a medical professional, which can be a doctor, nurse or nurse practitioner every three years.

The professional will look and feel to assess if there are any abnormalities. Not every lump is cancerous, but it is important to get checked out any way. Women should also do self-exams but make sure that they are doing it correctly by asking their health professional.

It can be embarrassing or awkward to ask these questions, but it is important for women to take their health into their own hands. Women over 40 should also get a yearly mammogram.

There is a tremendous wealth of support for women diagnosed with breast cancer or even for those who want to know more about early detection. The American Cancer Society has a very helpful, detailed website www.cancer.org, as well as a 24-hour hotline on which you can speak with a cancer information specialist.



Professor Netiva Caftori's daughter, Irene Hodes (left), and Shannon Cleary (right), at a Y-ME-sponsored walk for breast cancer research and detection.

If you have any questions about breast cancer, or if you or someone you know has been diagnosed with breast cancer, the American Cancer Society is a wonderful resource. Another helpful organization is Y-ME, a national support system for women with breast cancer. They have a hotline as well for women facing breast cancer and in need of support. The counselors are breast cancer survivors.

Even though we are half way through October, there are still a couple more breast cancer events coming up. Y-ME is sponsoring a Pink Streak Marathon Team to run in the LaSalle Bank Chicago Marathon Sunday, Oct. 22.

There is also the 26th Annual Y-ME Illinois Fashion

and Luncheon Circle of Help and Healing on Saturday, Oct. 28th at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. The reception is at 10:30 a.m. and the luncheon is at noon.

Anyone interested in joining the Pink Streak Team for the marathon should contact Ciara McGrath at cmcgrath@y-me.org. You can purchase fashion show tickets on line at www.y-me.org.

Breast cancer affects everyone. Women get the disease, but their families are touched by it as well. This article is not only for women. Men should urge the women in their lives to get breast exams and mammograms. We all have women in our lives.



by Amanda Dalal *Online Editor*

Wikipedia: knowledge friend or foe?

Putting together my first research project in second grade ("The Mighty Hippopotamus," on which I received an A) I had my first lesson in using academic sources. Back then, the books were 20 pages long, and encyclopedias were an acceptable reference. In fact, we were chastised if we did not use *World Book* as a source.

By the time I got to high school, the opposite was true. Encyclopedias were too broad and not updated quickly enough to make my teachers happy. We were taught to use online databases to search for scholarly articles. The huge, expensive books we relied on when we were younger began to gather dust.

Today, the encyclopedia has been resurrected. Combining a comprehensive volume of information and Internet database searching, *Wikipedia.com* has become a widely accepted knowledge resource,

especially among younger generations. With over four million articles in its online database, including entries on people, modern culture and specific events, Wikipedia is incredibly thorough. Links connecting entries help to provide a broader frame of reference for the reader as well. Wikipedia is completely free and available in over 200 languages.

Wikipedia, however, has added a new element to the information mix, which has academia up in arms: anyone can create and edit entries. That includes you, me, and my five-year-old cousin, should she find something worth saying.

Wikimedia, the non-profit company that owns and manages *Wikipedia.com*, claims it is equally if not more reliable than traditional encyclopedias, because by allowing everyone to contribute, it is tapping into a wider pool of knowledge. The entries are monitored for accuracy by volunteer moderators, and according to Wikipedia, the more people sign up to edit pages, the more accurate they will be. Any visitor to the site can add or edit an entry.

Changes made to an article are logged on a "Recent Changes" page, where it is potentially looked over by the 2.34 million registered Wikipedians, as well as those who surf anonymously. Wikipedia keeps track of who

edits which articles (and can track anonymous editors by IP address), so if there is a problem user, their account can be banned.

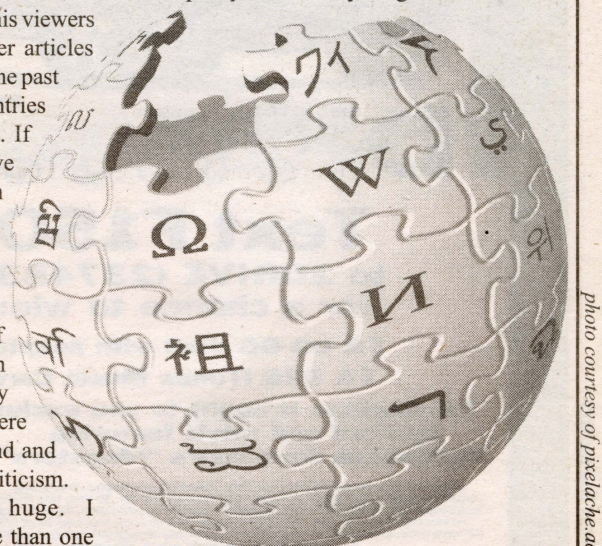
Recently, comedian Steven Colbert encouraged his audience to challenge Wikipedia's reliability by editing an entry on elephants to say their population had tripled in the last six months. The article was quickly locked by a moderator from being edited and Colbert's account was banned from the site.

Arguably, Colbert's public call to his viewers was a tip-off to Wikimedia, but other articles have also been locked from editing in the past that have sparked debates, such as entries on George W. Bush or gay marriage. If entries begin to shy from fact and move toward opinion, moderators screen out the offending material. Entries have also been completely locked to prevent any editing from taking place at all.

The exponential growth of Wikipedia from its debut in 2001 (with less than 20 thousand articles and only 18 languages) proves Wikipedia is here to stay. As it continues to gain ground and respect, it also continues to draw criticism. I believe Wikipedia's potential is huge. I have spent hours on the site on more than one

occasion, reading about a huge variety of topics that are interwoven with links.

Although I don't feel Wikipedia can or will be considered an acceptable academic source anytime soon, I do believe that the abundance of articles and the enormous human database it draws its information from (you, in other words) make Wikipedia an invaluable resource for general knowledge about pretty much everything.



Heroes of freedom during Polish Heritage Month

by Agnieszka Struzynska
Staff Writer

Over 10 million Americans claim Polish ancestry, according to the Polish American Congress. The largest waves of Polish immigration to the United States took place when Poland was divided during the middle of 19th century through World War I, as well as when it was under communist control after World War II.

October is the month when the Polish community in the United States celebrates its heritage, traditions, culture and history. Special events, such as those occurring during October, which attract a great number of citizens, are the best way to remind people, hard-pressed in everyday life, that they are Poles and should be proud of it. This creates the feeling of being part of a group, adding to the national consciousness within the Polish community.

According to *polishnews.com*, Polish Heritage Month was first celebrated in August 1981 in Pennsylvania. The event became a great success in the city, and five years later it was made a national campaign. The date was moved into October to allow school children to take part in the celebration.

This year the celebration enters its 25th year, and the month is dedicated to those who fought for freedom. For example, Pope John Paul II helped throw down the gauntlet to Marxism by giving voice to millions of East Europeans who were silenced by violence.

This month also recognizes Lech Walesa, who co-founded Solidarity, the first independent trade union of the Soviet block; Ignacy Jan Paderewski, who helped attain Polish freedom after World War I; as well as Polish generals of the American Revolution, such as Casimir Pulaski.

On the NEIU campus there were some interesting events, including a concert by the Paderewski Symphony Orchestra with refreshments and Polish pastries on Friday, Oct. 20. There also was a colorful show of Polish dances, costumes, and music presented by the Polonia Ensemble on Sunday, Oct. 22 in the Auditorium.



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NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY PARKING DIVISION

GENERAL PARKING INFORMATION

The Parking Division is continuously working to improve its communication and parking services to the university community. Parking information and online services are accessible 24 hours a day at www.neiu.edu/parking. We encourage anyone needing information about Northeastern Illinois University to go to our main university website at www.neiu.edu to acquire convenient and immediate access to the university information available there.

PARKING INFORMATION AND CONTACT RESOURCES:

- Direct Contact: The Parking Office is located at the N.E. side of the Parking Facility **on the first floor**.
- Phone Contact: The phone numbers for contacting the Parking Division are (773) 442-4114 or 442-4117.
- Web Contact: University parking information and online services are available at www.neiu.edu/parking.
- Fax Contact: The fax number is (773) 442-4115.
- Hours of Operation: Monday thru Thursday: 7:00am to 9:00pm Friday: 7:00am to 5:00pm Saturday: 7:00am to 3:00pm

COMMUNITY RELATIONS: Northeastern Illinois University strives to be a great community partner. Recently, the University has received complaints from neighbors living near the campus about members of the University community parking on residential streets. University faculty, staff and students are encouraged to take advantage of the ample, convenient and safe parking available on campus. If you choose to park in residential areas, please observe all City parking regulations. Avoid littering and excessive noise, especially in early morning hours. Please help Northeastern Illinois University maintain a great relationship with our neighbors. On behalf of Northeastern Illinois University and the Board of Trustees, thank you for your cooperation.

PERMIT VERIFICATION: Permit information is viewable online. The permit should be received in the mail within 10 business days from the date of issue. Please remember that the Parking Division's enhanced communication capabilities allow us to identify vehicles legally parked on campus with a mail out grace period. If you are having problems registering your vehicle online or receiving your permit, you must contact the Parking Office at the phone numbers listed above.

OUTSTANDING PARKING DEBTS: The Parking Division is currently in the process of updating and activating all of its collection processes for outstanding parking debts. Failure to resolve these debts will result in the following collection processes: Holds will be placed on student accounts, employee payroll offset processing will begin, accounts with outstanding debt will be sent to a collection agency, and vehicles are subject to being booted and towed. These collection processes can affect a student's registration in addition to having a negative impact on the vehicles driver's/owner's credit history. We encourage everyone that has an outstanding parking debt to contact the NEIU Parking Division before 10/30/06 and take the necessary steps to have these items cleared from your account. Payments can be made as follows:

1. **Mail:** If paying by mail, send a check or money order (NO CASH). Make checks payable to NEIU Parking and mail to the following address: NEIU Parking Division, 5500 N. Saint Louis Ave, Chicago, IL 60625.
2. **Telephone:** Credit card payments by phone can be made by contacting the Parking Office at the numbers listed above
3. **Direct Counter Service & Payment Options:**
 - **Direct Service:** Payments may be made with cash, check or credit card, with the exception of fines for booted vehicles and permanent holds that require immediate release. Fines for booted vehicles and immediate permanent hold releases must be either paid in cash, by money order, certified bank check, or by credit card. All checks should be made payable to the **NEIU Parking Office**.
 - **Payment Plan:** Payment plans are available for owner/drivers with outstanding balances of more than \$100 with vehicles that are **not** currently booted. Once a vehicle is booted, full payment of all outstanding parking debts is required. Payments associated with vehicles that have been booted or with immediate permanent hold releases can only be made with cash, certified check or credit card. Payment plans are limited to a maximum time frame of 6 months on all balances of \$300 or more. Outstanding balances totaling \$300 or less must be paid within three months. Outstanding balances of \$100 or less are not qualified to be placed on a payment plan. If the scheduled payments are not paid on time and the account is more than thirty days past due, the payment plan is subject to being cancelled by the Parking Office. The establishment of a payment plan only allows a temporary parking hold release to be processed. Diplomas and transcripts will not be released until the owners/drivers total outstanding parking debt has been paid in full.
 - **Voluntary Employee Offset:** Employees can elect to pay their parking debt through payroll deductions. The Parking Division will set up an employee voluntary offset agreement and a payroll deduction schedule. This agreement must be signed by the employee and authorized Parking Division staff.

Advertisement

Capoeira: dance or defense?

by Agnieszka Struzynska
Staff Writer

Capoeira is a lifestyle for those who are really dedicated to the activity, such as NEIU's Lupe Gutierrez. He described capoeira as a source of a different perspective on life.

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:15 p.m., Gutierrez and other capoeiristas invite NEIU students to join their group and experience that kind of art firsthand in P.E. Complex.

Explaining capoeira is difficult, but Mestre Jelon Viera, who brought the activity to the United States about 30 years ago, described it as "a dance which is a fight and a fight which is a dance," according to <http://independent-bangladesh.com>. Others call capoeira art, dance, a martial art or a combination of all of these.

Participants of capoeira are supposed to develop both fitness and willpower, as capoeira is lots of fun, but it is also very demanding. Time and the willingness to train are necessary in order to achieve a satisfactory level.

Gutierrez is very patient. He takes care of individuals and gives valuable hints, following Mestre Pastinha, often considered the father of capoeira who believed that it is for everyone to enjoy.

Capoeira's capital is Brazil, where people from western Africa were sold into slavery in the 18th and 19th centuries. They used capoeira, often in secret, to express a common unity, spirit and culture. According to Augusto Ferreira "capoeira was born out of burning desire for freedom," as quoted on www.candeiasireland.com.

After the abolition of slavery, many slaves were not able to find employment and joined illegal groups. Capoeira had a bad reputation and became outlawed in Brazil in 1892 but was kept alive by its underground movement.

Capoeira has two main styles: regional and Angola. The first, presented by Mestre Bimba, is fast, dynamic and more aggressive. The second, developed by Mestre Pastinha, is geared toward cooperation and dance and is referred to as a game.

Capoeiristas form a circle, or *roda*, within which two players wage a simulated fight, or *jogo*. The most important is not fitness but *malicia*, the ability to observe and find the weak points of an opponent.

Capoeira has already spread to many parts of the world because it builds self-esteem and self-discipline. The combination of dance, defensive and athletic movements make it an attractive form of exercise and expression.

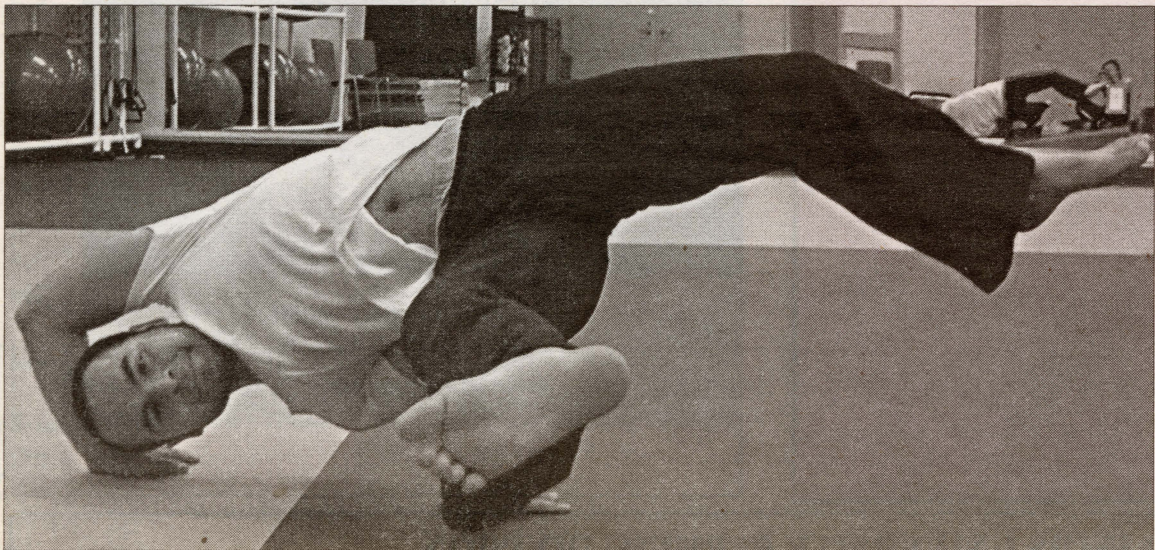


Photo by Agnieszka Struzynska

Watch out for identity theft

by Shirley Descorbeth
Staff Writer

Identity theft is one of the fastest-growing crimes in America and hits one in four U.S. households a year, according to *cnn.com*. This means you or someone could at some point be a victim.

This crime brings along a huge amount stress to the innocent victims it affects. To minimize your risk, it is important to be knowledgeable about identity theft.

Identity theft (which is also called identity fraud) is when someone steals another person's vital information for financial gain.

Personal information that can be used is your Social Security number, birth date, address and phone number. With this information and a fake driver's license, identity thieves can steal from your bank accounts and apply for credit cards and loans. They can basically just run up a huge amount of debt under your name.

Many of these thieves are skilled and have many ways of stealing your information. Some might Dumpster dive, which means they go through your trash looking for personal information on your mail, including utility bills and bank statements. Another method is called skimming, which is when they steal your credit or debit card number by using a special storage device when processing your card.

Another method is "phishing," which is when they pretend to be a financial company and send pop-up messages on the Internet to get you to reveal your personal information. And there is always old-fashioned stealing, where thieves take wallets, mail or employment records.

Here are some helpful tips from the Federal Trade Commission's Web site to help prevent becoming a victim of identity theft:

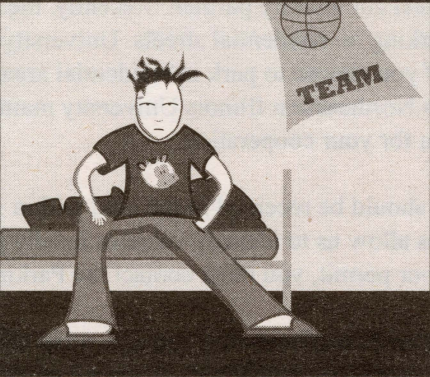
- Shred paperwork with your personal information on it before getting rid of it.
- Protect your social security number and do not carry your card with you.
- Never visit links in unsolicited e-mails.
- Do not use obvious passwords like birth dates for important accounts.
- Do not give out personal information unless you are familiar with the person asking for it.
- Keep your personal information in a secure place, especially if you have roommates.

the morning...

IF YOU'RE AN EARLY RISER...



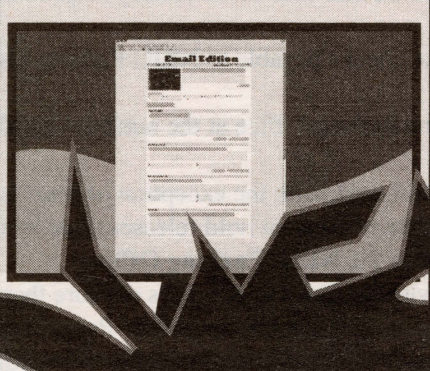
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Dotcom dating

by Martii Kuznicki
Business Manager

If you Google the phrase "online dating," you come up with about 127 million hits. That's a lot of information. So how do you cull the good from the awful?

Do you go with eHarmony and its all-too-adorable commercials where everyone seems to meet Mr. or Ms. Right and pay the \$60 for a one-month subscription? What about Yahoo! Personals? The price is right, but what's its success rate?

This isn't to say that online dating is the answer for everyone. It has very specific weaknesses: you can't see who you're talking to, and it gets pricey, but it can be helpful. And it can work. If you're on the shy side, or you don't do the bar scene, it just might be for you.

Launched in 1995, *match.com* is one of the longest-running and best-known online matchmaking sites. According to their Web site, *match.com* boasts "more than 30 dating sites in 18 local languages". There is a very limited free option where you can search for matches and send winks (which are as they sound: just something to let

someone know you think they're hot/cool/interesting/whatever), but not send or receive e-mail from other *match.com* members. A one-month subscription is \$29.99. If you opt in for six months, the price drops to \$14.99 a month and includes their "make love happen" guarantee.

Yahoo! has its own dating service with Yahoo! Personals. It has a seven-day free trial, but after that the cost is between \$12.49 and \$24.95, depending on the package you pick. Yahoo! and *match.com* have the largest number of subscribers, with a combined 9.3 million monthly visitors, according to *techcrunch.com*.

Founded by relationship expert Dr. Neil Clark Warren in 2000, eHarmony says they're "America's #1 trusted relationship service." They offer a 7-day "risk free" trial, including their personality profile. In order to communicate with any other eHarmony member, you must pay for a membership. A one-month subscription is \$59.99. If you join for a year, its \$251.40 (it breaks down to \$20.95 a month).

If none of those works for you, there's a dating site for just about every interest. Want to find someone who shares your religious beliefs? Or your favorite sports team? Or just someone who shares your love of bad movies? There is probably a site out there. Just like Mr. or Ms. Right.



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

The Independent is a public forum for the community and university around Northeastern Illinois University.

The Independent is completely student run and receives no prior review of its content by anyone other than its student editors.

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

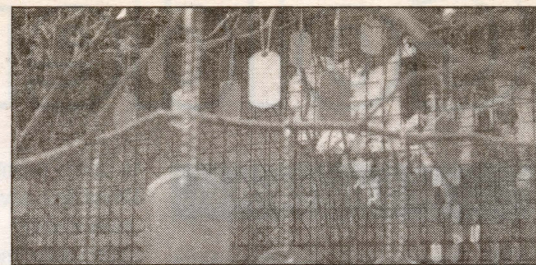
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The Independent is a member of the Illinois College Press Association and Associated Collegiate Press.

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

Around Campus

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



NEIU Men's Soccer Club

The NEIU Men's Soccer Club is looking for dedicated, motivated and passionate soccer players to join their team. Practice sessions are held on Wednesdays and Fridays at 2:00 p.m. on the athletic field, in front of Foster. If you have any questions, please call the Intramural Sports Office at 773.442.4176 or Hassan at 773.407.9235.

NEIU Women's Soccer Club

The NEIU men's soccer club is looking for dedicated, experienced soccer players to join their team. Practices are held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. in the Auxiliary Gym in the P.E. Complex. If you have any questions please call Christina at 773.304.7281 or Marlene 630.930.8880.

Partnership with Poland

There will be a Tuesday Talk Series sponsored by the Office of International Programs on Oct. 24. It will be hosted by Wojciech Wloch and Dr. Lidia Filus in SU-214 on Tuesday, Oct. 24 from 1:30 to 2:50 p.m.

SGA Meeting

The Student Government Association (SGA) will hold a meeting on Thursday, Oct. 26 at 1:40 p.m. in CLS-2071.

Closed A.A. Meeting

Meets all year in B-140 (Enter B-132) on Wednesdays from 12:00 to 12:50 p.m.

NEIU Pi Sigma Alpha Theta Lambda Chapter Event

Alderman Joe Moore, sponsor of the Big Box Ordinance, is coming to speak at NEIU. He has served on the Chicago City Council as an alderman since 1991 and has overseen steady and major improvements in areas affecting the quality of life for residents of the 49th Ward. Everyone is invited to attend this event on Tuesday, Oct. 24 in SU-216 from 4:15 to 5:30 p.m.

The Peace Corps

The Peace Corps will be on campus Thursday, Oct. 26, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Information sessions will be 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. in SU-216. Feel free to bring your lunch. The Peace Corps will also have an information table in the Village Square from 9:00 to 10:45 a.m. and from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m.

Indonesian Dance

The Indonesian Performing Arts Chicago presents Indonesian traditional dance, Indonesian gamelan, and bamboo angklung on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Tickets are \$10. Contact Trisla Davidge at 847.275.9766 for more information.

Eid Potluck Party

The Muslim Student Association cordially invites you to its Eid Potluck Party. Come join us for our wide intercollegiate Eid Potluck Party this October! Meet up with friends from all over as we celebrate this joyous time together. Be sure to save the date - we look forward to seeing you then! The party will be on Thursday, October 26, in the Student Lounge from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. If you have any questions, contact msa@neiu.edu.

Theta Chi Omega

Theta Chi Omega Multicultural Sorority at Northeastern Illinois University is looking for potential new members. For answers to questions about our organization and membership process, please contact the sister listed below: Melvina at 773.531.6423 or e-mail The Sisters at Neiu_Thetas@yahoo.com

Deadlines and important dates

October 31 - Third deferred payment due before 7:00 p.m.

November 10 - Last day to drop courses before 9:45 p.m.

November 23-25 - Thanksgiving Holiday. No classes.

December 9 - Finals for Saturday classes.

December 11 - Last day classes.

December 12-14 - Finals.

The Independent's 2006-07 Publication Schedule

Meetings occur
on publication
days in E-049
during activity
hour

November 7

November 21

December 5

January 9

January 23

February 6

February 20

March 6

March 27

April 10

April 24

June 5

June 26

neiu_independent@yahoo.com

What's Around Campus?

On the second-to-last page of every issue of the Independent, we publish Around Campus, which is a listing of clubs, sports, events, classes, special trips and anything else that is happening on campus during the coming two weeks. If you have any events or info for campus email the Calendar Editor at neiu_calendareditor@yahoo.com.

Golden Opportunities

For Sale/Rent

STS. Travel with STS to this year's top 10 spring break destinations! Best deals guaranteed! Highest rep commissions. Visit www.statravel.com or call 1-800-648-4849. Great group discounts.

For Rent: Large 5 room, 2 bedroom apartment near Foster/Kedzie. Second floor in a clean, decorated four flat. All you lay is light and phone. Laundry and storage in building. \$900/month + security deposit and references. Declawed cats only. For more info, call Ruth-773-478-4474 or 773-509-0397.

Wanted

Chicago music scene. Looking for someone involved in Chicago music scene to run an open mike at local bar. Must be 21, might require some bartending. Experience not necessary, but enthusiasm and time to work and promote new talent is. Inquire at deortle@yahoo.com or leave message at 847-358-6533.

Math tutor. GMAT math tutor. APh.D. at Northwestern University. Math genius. Got full scores in GRE Math & Logic. Email: leo2523754@hotmail.com.

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.

Now Hiring wait staff - Full-time and part-time Renga-ter Japanese Restaurant. Must be willing to learn about Japanese food call 847-675-5177.

Tired of getting screwed by selling your books to Becks? Want more money for them? Call 773-592-6128 or email bahsarie@hotmail.com.

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Earn up to \$18 per page doing layout for the *Independent*. Photographers and writers are also needed and paid well. (773) 442-4577 Room E 049 near the Cafeteria.

Clubs

Intervarsity Christian Fellowship. We exist to know Jesus better and to love the campus with the love of Christ. Tuesdays 1:40 - 2:40pm FA 153.

COBM. Attention COBM students: the first meeting of the Planning Committee for the International Business Conference is Tuesday, 10/10 during activity hour.

Classified Ads are FREE!



Limit one ad per person/organization per issue. Ads must be 20 words or less. There is a 25 cent charge for each word over 20 words. All classified ads must be ordered in person at the *Independent* office in E-049. For more information, please call Martii Kuznicki, business manager, at 773-442-4585.

** This rate applies to members of the NEIU community only. An NEIU identification card must be presented at the time of purchase.*

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