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## Independent- Mar. 27, 2007

Patrick O'Brien

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2007 ACP Award for Best Non-Weekly College Newspaper in America  
Northeastern Illinois University's

Tuesday, March 27, 2007  
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# INDEPENDENT

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[www.neiuindependent.com](http://www.neiuindependent.com)

MAR 28 2007

## Azcoitia back on Board of Trustees

*Political maneuvers at NEIU and in Springfield result in Governor Blagojevich's about face on open seat*

by Tom Robb  
News Editor

Governor Rod Blagojevich made his third appointment for the same NEIU Board of Trustees seat within the four months. Race, political affiliation and process confusion have become issues involved in the filling of the seat. Dr. Carlos Azcoitia has been reappointed to the board, while Dr. Grace Dawson's nomination has been withdrawn from consideration.

Azcoitia was originally appointed to the board by Blagojevich on Nov. 16, 2006, according to the Illinois State Journal. Azcoitia was replacing another Democratic Latino board member. Blagojevich later rescinded Azcoitia's nomination in favor of Dawson, an African-American Democrat and retiring professor from the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS). He was appointed on Feb. 28.

According to Jones' spokeswoman Cindy Davidsmeyer, CCICS recommended Dawson's

name to State Senate President Emil Jones.

"I simply made a recommendation," said CCICS Director Dr. Conrad Worrill, "If I had known that Grace Dawson would have knocked off Carlos [Azcoitia] I never would have." Worrill said he supports Azcoitia, that Dawson and Azcoitia used to work together, and that there is a need for African-American representation and more Latino representation on the board.

State senators, the governor's office and Worrill said there was confusion over the number of open seats.

According to Chairwoman Nancy Masterson there must be political equity on the board. The party of the governor controls one more seat than the minority party. Currently there are four Republicans, five Democrats and the elected Student Trustee. Three board members whose terms have expired are all

See story on page 9

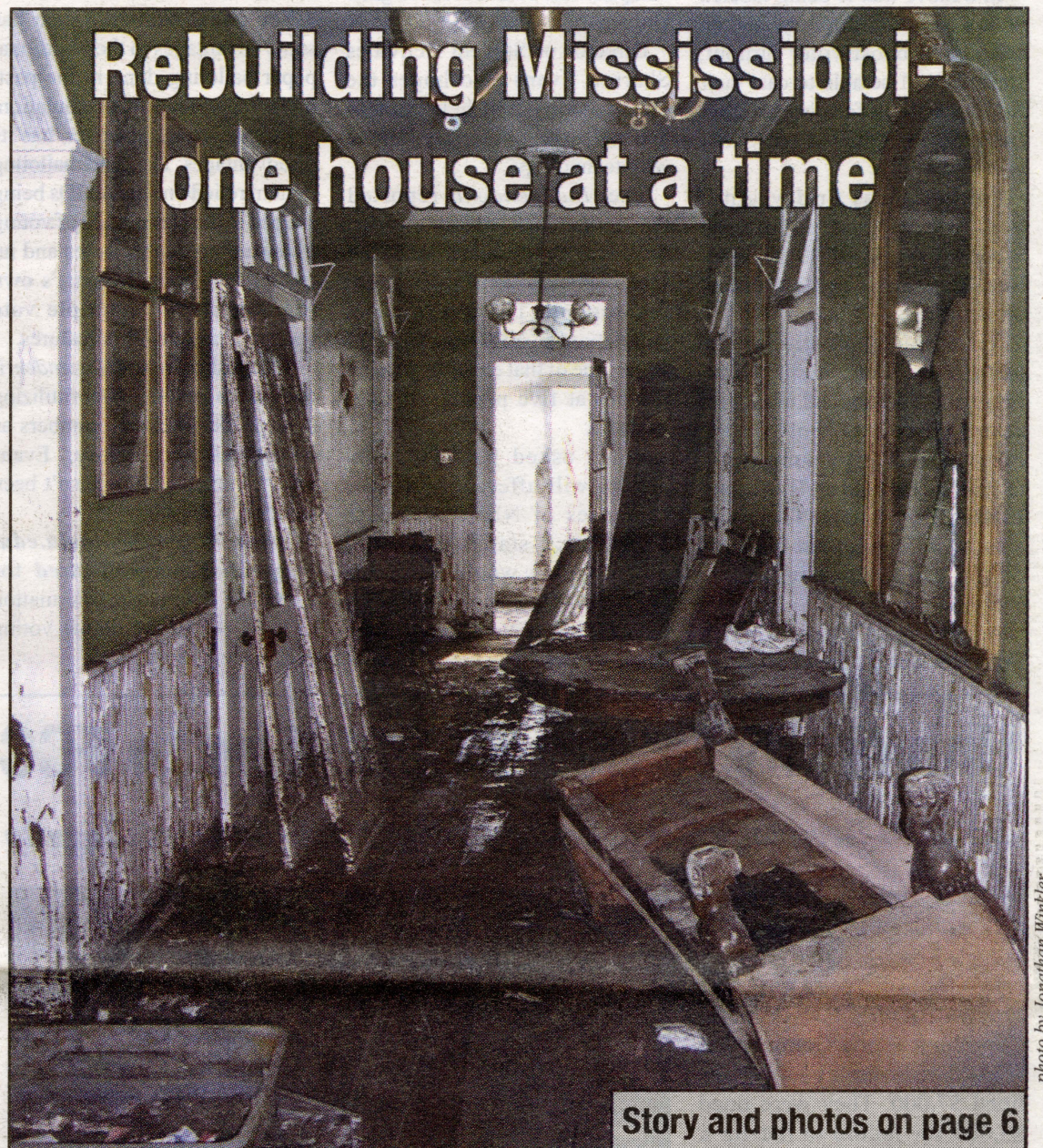


photo by Jonathan Winkler

Story and photos on page 6

Ten students from the Politics Club and Honors Society volunteered their Spring Break to help rebuild homes like the one above in Pearlington, Mississippi that were damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

## Associated Collegiate Press: Independent is 'Best in Show'



Ten members of the Independent, hours after being named best non-weekly newspaper in America.

See story on page 9

## Students arrested at CIA event have their day in court

*Protesters' allegations of police misconduct remain unanswered by university*

by Patrick O'Brien  
Editor-in-Chief

Two students arrested and charged with battery and interfering with an institution of higher learning were in court on Wednesday, March 21 for their first hearing.

Ken Barrios and Matt Larson were accused of striking Robin Wagner, Chief Clerk of the Placement Office during an attempted protest on Feb. 28 of a Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) recruiting event.

According to Barrios, the two students

were asked at the hearing if they wanted to apologize for their actions as a way of mitigating any possible punishment they might receive. Both students refused to apologize or admit to any guilt concerning the incident.

The arrests stemmed from an incident on the afternoon of Feb. 28, when the Placement Office held an event in P.E. 2140 for students interested in working for the CIA. Students

See Protesters on page 3



**Starting Friday, April 6th @ 9am, Student Government Elections Are Exclusively Online.**  
**Go to <http://www.neiu.edu/~deptsao/>**  
**LeadersWanted for candidate profiles and more.**



# Student government elections online beginning April 6th

by Patrick O'Brien  
Editor-in-Chief

and Nick Gaudio  
Associate Editor

In a move that is being labeled both a bow to technology and an attempt to boost voter turnout, students will be able to cast their ballots online for the Student Government Association (SGA) elections.

Polling opens Friday, April 6 at 9am and the polls close Wednesday, April 11 at 4pm. Results will be posted almost immediately.

Spring elections are for the positions of President, Vice-President, Speaker and ten senate seats, as well as spots on the Northeastern Programming Board (NPB) and the Student Trustee and IBHE-SAC position. There will also be a referendum question on the ballot about renewable energy.

According to SGA President Eron McCormick the new system

will be used, "In the hopes of increasing voter turnout." Votenet is the company providing the online balloting, and their software is being used by the Emmy Awards to tabulate its votes as well. The company also counts West Virginia University as a client.

Director of Student Activities Sharron Evans also hopes the online voting will help turnout and help the university "move with technology."

The *Independent* reported that in the 2006 spring election 669 students voted, echoing McCormick's sentiment about low turnout. The total student population of NEIU was 12,227 at the time of that election, placing turnout at five percent of total students.

When asked how this new system will affect the satellite campuses of NEIU President McCormick stated that, "the online voting would allow for those students who can't make it into the main campus to vote more conveniently." The notification of

the switch from paper ballots to online voting will be mostly conducted via advertisements and bulletins distributed around NEIU, a mostly "word-of-mouth ad campaign" according to McCormick.

The online voting system has some advantages to the traditional paper balloting done in the past, including quicker vote tabulation.

Every system, however, has its disadvantages. The paper balloting system relied on student IDs being swiped at the completion of voting to ensure no double votes and no fraudulent voting. Votenet's own literature touts "multiple vote security," as one of its features.

When asked by the *Independent* if there was a specific system utilizing student identification numbers as an authentication device, Evans said, "Authentication hasn't been decided as of yet."

Go to <http://www.neiu.edu/~deptsao/LeadersWanted> for candidate statements, information on how to use the online voting process and more.

## University to pay \$7,000 fine to FCC

*Botched license renewal caused WZRD to broadcast illegally*

by Mike Arch  
REV Editor

In the process of the renewal of WZRD's Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license the university was fined \$7,000. They were fined \$3,000 for failure to file for a timely renewal application and \$4,000 for operating without a FCC license.

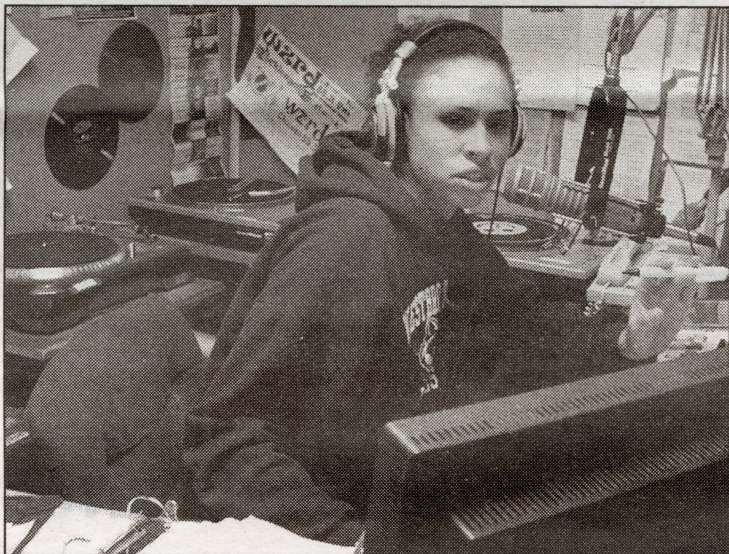
WZRD 88.3 FM, the university's student-run radio station, was granted a renewal of their license from the FCC, according to documents sent by the FCC to former University President Salme Steinberg on Feb. 9, 2007.

Peter Enger Station Manager for WZRD said, "You are supposed to renew the licenses every seven years which came up three years ago."

The station manager at the time, Alyssa Coiley, was unaware of the license expiration. Station managers at WZRD generally don't serve more than a year in the position.

The document from the FCC said; the Initial License expired December 1, 2004. The renewal should have been filed four months before the license expired on August 1, 2004. The renewal was filed Dec. 8, 2004 one week after the license expired."

A Special Temporary Authority (STA) license was applied for on Feb. 10, 2005 and granted on Feb. 11, 2005 between then WZRD was operating without a license. The STA is a temporary FCC



Former WZRD Station Manager Alyssa Coiley, who, along with the rest of the staff, was unaware of the need for a license renewal for the station in December 2004.

license that allows a station to run for a short period of time. There was no explanation given for failure for a timely renewal. The STA expired Aug. 11, 2005 Another STA was requested on Aug. 26, 2005 and granted Aug. 29, 2006.

The FCC can fine up to \$10,000 for operating without a license. Seeing as the maximum fine for a 'pirate' radio station is \$10,000 and that NEIU is not considered a 'pirate' radio station the FCC lowered the maximum fine to \$4,000 with the \$3,000 to file a timely renewal the total is \$7,000.

The FCC has decided to renew the license for WZRD based on three items of criteria that the station meets. The document stated, "In evaluating an application for license renewal, upon consideration of the application and pleadings, we find that: (1) the station

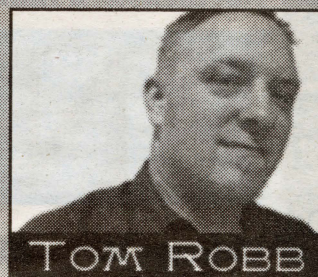
has served the public interest, convenience, and necessity; (2) there have been no serious violations of the Act or the Rules; and (3) there have been no other violations which, taken together, constitute a pattern of abuse, we are to grant the renewal application."

WZRD's university account will not be charged for the fine. Peter Enger said, "The University holds the licenses and is responsible for the license renewal, so they will pay the fees."

When asked about WZRD and the FCC fines Director of Student Activities Sharron Evans said, "I'm not going into it. I have no comment on that."

Enger said that WZRD is currently operating with a few exceptions. They are down for about three hours a day for equipment upgrades.

## A Closer Look...



Half of life  
is showing  
up, so do it

Elections are coming up for your Student Government Association (SGA) and turnout for the last election was pathetic, with less than 700 students voting at a school of over 12,000.

This is a very important time to not only participate in the electoral process but for students to actually take part themselves in organizations that might just have the chance to have an impact.

And they're making it easier. Think you can't vote because you can't show up to campus? No problem. Voting for this crop of candidates can be done via the Internet. Could there be problems with that, absolutely, the system may not be hacker-proof so there may be the ability to, in that old Chicago tradition "vote early and often." At least they tell us you can't vote if you're dead, you must have a current school ID number.

Also on the ballot is a measure to mandate a greener school with a small \$3.00 per student fee to be put toward renewable energy and conservation measures.

President Hahs' mantra lately is "Tell me what you think," and she seems to actually mean it, judging from the many forums she has set up, and the level of communication between the *Independent* and her office, it truly is a new day. The SGA makes direct recommendations to the President, that, unlike in President Steinberg's era, might actually get listened to and acted upon.

Take this praise with a grain of salt, not many new policies have yet been implemented and when the first real controversy came up, the student arrests at the CIA event, the openness of the underlings was gone and the old spin machine was still very much in place. That being said, she seems to be listening a lot more than Steinberg, and you, the students, can have a very direct and immediate impact on the experience you have at this school.

Many have a bad taste in their mouth when it comes to the SGA, the scandals, trials and what felt like outright corruption of past administrations. Eron McCormick said he was going to clean it up. Though many said, "Yea sure that's what they all say," he seems to have at least tried to run things cleanly and the SGA bills and minutes are posted in their entirety on the bulletin boards in a nod towards more openness.

Several of the SGA's key players are going away. President McCormick is not running for re-election and Charter and Rules Chair Al Cordero is leaving the SGA all together. This combined with a new university president willing to listen and at least one member of the Board of Trustees who has a daughter who is a student [Azcoitia - see pg 1] means that students actually have a chance to be heard and the field is opening for some new voices to make a serious mark.

It is too late to run for this election but not too late to get involved. The first step is just to show up, or in this case log on. The next step is to pay attention and lastly to do something.

And if the Student Government is not your cup of tea, the *Independent* is always looking for good people to stir things up by just asking a few simple questions.

join the peace corps  
come to an informational meeting  
and learn more!



THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 3 PM  
STUDENT UNION, ROOM 218

for more information about the Peace Corps, visit  
[www.peacecorps.gov](http://www.peacecorps.gov) or call 312.353.4990

Advertisement



# Student Symposium grows from humble beginnings

Research event will celebrate 15th anniversary April 20th with 140 presenters

by Patrick O'Brien  
Editor-in-Chief

It all started in a tiny office in the Science Building 15 years ago. With no budget and very little fanfare, Dr. Sargon Al-bazi, chemistry professor, founded the event that this year will feature 140 students presenting their academic and creative projects to the university community.

This year's Student Research and Creative Activities symposium will be Friday, April 20. Though the submission deadline has passed, Dr. Al-bazi says students can benefit from seeing their peers present their work.

"Keep in mind that doing research without presenting it resembles writing a book without publishing it. I strongly recommend that those students who are not presenting in the symposium attend."

The symposium started with less than 30 students in 1993 as a response to the suggestion from other universities that NEIU students were unwilling to participate in the collaborative symposiums held between

public universities in Illinois.

Dr. Al-bazi began by organizing the campus-wide event from 218G, his cramped office, with no support staff, save his wife and mother, who helped plan the event and

**Since its first year, the number of participants in the NEIU Student Research and Creative Activities Symposium has increased fivefold.**

help with paperwork. The event, which gives students the chance to have their research activities evaluated and exposed to their peers, has grown fivefold over the 28 who presented in 1993.

"Research isn't just for academics," Al-bazi reminds the skeptical student. "It could mean the difference between getting a job or not." Al-bazi stresses the practical applications of

doing a symposium presentation, which he says are identical to the type of work asked of any professional in their field.

According to Al-bazi, the symposium also presents a great opportunity for students going to graduate school to practice in their fields as undergraduates. "Whatever they do and wherever they go, they will be asked to present their work," he added.

Al-bazi sees the symposium gaining a foothold at NEIU as the school shifts from a teaching-oriented school to a research school. Up to 80 members of the faculty support the symposium each year as sponsors, discussants and presiders.

The symposium is sponsored on a rotating basis, with the College of Education (COE) sponsoring this year; COE Dean Dr. Maureen Gillette is tentatively scheduled to be this year's keynote speaker.

Some of the topics presented in this year's event include research into violence against women, the education system in South Africa and the perils of being an undocumented immigrant.

The creative activities part of the event, which was added to allow students in the arts to participate and study their fields more deeply, will feature several plays, one dealing with HIV/AIDS, music videos, musical compositions and a short story reading.

Al-bazi would like to expand the symposium to include other area schools such as North Park University. There is already an existing partnership in place with the University of Warsaw.

Al-bazi also showed just how far research has come at NEIU by detailing a medical study that NEIU participated in with such prestigious universities as Columbia. Such research would be impossible years ago at NEIU, but with the help of a lot of donated equipment NEIU has risen in national prominence.

Al-bazi also said he hopes see a research activity center at NEIU before long. He also hopes students will take advantage of the chance to present their work: "this is a learning opportunity."

## Getting serious about vaginas

by Natalie Avilez  
Staff Writer

By incorporating *The Vagina Monologues* into her feminist activism class, Associate Professor Nancy Matthews thought it would be a fun and educational way to plunge into activism addressing the feminist issues of violence and sexuality at the same time.

The students of Women's Studies Class (WSP 202) under the guidance of Matthews and student director Gail Wittenstein, performed *The Vagina Monologues* at NEIU's Stage Center Theatre on February 28.

"Although many of the students of WSP 202 were hesitant about performing in general, and about the intimate topic of *The Vagina Monologues* in the end, even the most hesitant and nervous decided they wanted to be in the show. Upon completion of the project many of the students of the class felt a sense of pride, excited, and empowered," said Matthews.

According to Amnesty International at least one in three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime.

"Young girls are genitally mutilated, sex trafficked, raped, acid burned, beaten, throughout the world and no one is held accountable," said Eve Ensler, the creator of *The Vagina Monologues*.

A youth-led community organization, The Rodgers Park Young Women's Action Team (YWAT), was chosen by the students of WSP 202 as the beneficiary of proceeds from ticket sales and the concession booth that sold water, snacks, and chocolate covered vagina lollipops.

YWAT is an organization that is led by high school students that educates youth on issues that affect the daily lives of young women including street harassment and relationship abuse.

"I want people to realize that

women's issues are not separate, but part of everyday life and the questions of war and peace that we face as a society. I want women and men to think about how a woman's vagina, bodies, and lives are the site of so much pleasure and fun, but also violence and terror," stated Matthews.

Performance is just the beginning of the V-day campaign; it is a chance to educate, raise awareness, advocate change, and stop violence against women worldwide. "The play breaks down barriers so powerfully giving women permission to talk openly about a lot of things that are usually giggled about or not spoken of at all," said Matthews.

What began as casual conversation about menopause and vaginas with a friend, Ensler began a series of over 200 worldwide interviews eventually leading to creation of the *Vagina Monologues* and the V-day campaign.

The V-day college campaign, "is an organized response against violence toward women inviting college and university communities around the world to present benefit productions of *The Vagina monologues* to raise money and awareness to stop violence against women and girls in their own communities."

Ensler: "the word vagina causes enormous controversy, because vagina is, in fact, the most isolated, reviled word in any language and as long as we cannot say 'vagina', vaginas do not exist."

Planning things such as reading through the script, soliciting volunteers, and researching local community centers were initiated during the beginning of the semester, lasting about five weeks.

"The best thing about the performance is that it is not a professional endeavor, it is a community project bringing women of all classes and sexes to perform a play that raises awareness to women's issues," said director Wittenstein.

### Protesters, from page 1

from the Campus Anti-War Network (CAN), including Barrios and Larson inquired before the event about protesting the presence of the recruiters.

Dean of Students Michael Kelly sent out an email on Feb. 21 to all student groups alerting them of upcoming military recruiting events and asked students to meet with them about the school's policy on protests. The CIA event flier mentions registering for the event in advance, but Kelly's email makes no distinction between job recruiting events in Village Square and the P.E. 2140 recruiting event. The meeting that Kelly proposed did not take place.

Seven people, some members of CAN and others members of the Socialist Club, gathered near the room on Feb. 28 to protest the event. It is here where two very different stories emerge. Barrios and Larson said that they were barred from entering the room, with Barrios arrested immediately after trying to open the door and enter P.E. 2140.

NEIU police reports say that Barrios pushed Wagner with his forearm, "impeding the victim from performing her duties." Public Safety officers were present from the beginning of the event, and it is unclear why Wagner, a clerk, was performing security for the event instead of the police who were present.

Members of the protest group asked in a statement why Wagner was blocking the door; Larson and Barrios were charged with interfering with a public official performing her duties, apparently indicating Wagner was performing the duties of a Public Safety officer by barring entrance to the room.

Police reports state that Larson also "struck" Wagner in an attempt to open the door, but a statement from the protesters said that Public Safety officers who rushed Larson pushed him into the door, and that "it is highly likely that the flow of officers into the scene were the cause of her getting pushed."

The police report says that



Matt Larson (second from right), at an earlier protest against the military in Alumni Hall.

"Unit 93" and the arresting officer were present, although the students say that as many as six officers were at the scene at any point in time, including Lt. Connolly and Officer Rodriguez, according to the protesters.

Public Safety has refused to comment on the situation and has refused to name the arresting officers or which officers were at the scene. Public Safety Director of Public Safety Jim Lyon would not comment on the incident, and Wagner and Kelly also did not respond to requests for comment. Kelly, Wagner, Rodriguez and Connolly were present in court on March 21, according to Barrios.

The university's only official response to the incident was a message sent out by President Sharon Hahs on March 5. The statement reads in part: "I have been advised that some have disputed the details of what happened; there are both internal and external procedures for resolving these issues. These procedures were designed to protect fundamental principles and it is my hope that as a university community there is a shared commitment to these principles. We believe in free speech. This includes the right to protest. We reject violence. The University must be a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors."

Hahs also cited the university's policy on protests, which can be

found at [http://www.neiu.edu/DOCUMENTS/Dean\\_of\\_Students%20-%20Docs/grades.pdf](http://www.neiu.edu/DOCUMENTS/Dean_of_Students%20-%20Docs/grades.pdf) The policy states that students are allowed to protest in designated areas, which include Village Square and the outside of buildings on the main campus.

A university Free Speech Task Force was convened last year to evaluate the university's policy on speech and has yet to make their findings public.

Initial recommendations by members of the task force included making the entire campus open to protests, but the fate of that and other proposals of the group are uncertain.

In a late development, the *Independent* has confirmed from two university employees that an unnamed university Vice-President attempted to convince Wagner to drop the battery charges she lodged against the two students. Kelly signed the complaint charging the two with interfering with a public official in addition to Wagner's battery complaint.

Barrios and Larson's next court appearance is Wednesday, March 28, which will be the discovery phase of the trial.

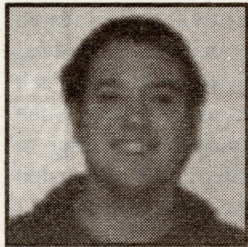
Barrios says he is "not too concerned," about the charges and expects to be cleared of wrongdoing.





# Student Government Association 2007 Spring Elections Online Voting Only Friday, April 6th @ 9:00 a.m. through Wednesday, April 11 @ 4:00 p.m.

## Candidates for President



### Frank DeMartino

**What are Critical Issues for NEIU :** I believe that we are facing somewhat of a crisis at NEIU in the sense that we do not have enough professors to teach classes for certain subjects. This has resulted in classes that are offered only once per every two semesters! In addition, I would also like to see more activities in which the entire student body can participate in.



### Keenan Arnold

**What are Critical Issues for NEIU :** The critical issues I believe that are important for NEIU students are: (1) gaining access to the U-Pass service. (2) Increase funding for Clubs, Organizations and Activities for student. (3) Communications between diverse groups. (4) More helpful and efficient student services. (5) Reforming of defunct current SGA programs. (6) Club funding for sponsored events to be open to all students.



### Jonathon Winkler

**What are Critical Issues for NEIU:** For students to have a voice on campus. Seeking external means to get that voice heard. Getting the funds that our students and clubs deserve. Pushing to have NEIU students voices heard loud and clear to the Board of Higher Education.



### Geoffrey Gayares

## Candidates for Vice-President



### Mark Banks

The student body at present does not have a representative student government that is both accessible and willing to reach out to students' daily and minor needs. The functional role of any governing body in such an institution should primarily satisfy the needs of the student body, especially in light of the understaffed and underfunded nature of various departments.



### Kimberly Murphy

**What are Critical Issues for NEIU :** Some critical issues are the lack of resources and materials for the students; there are not enough computers and the materials used in classes are very outdated. Also, there is no community on campus, and it is a slim campus life. There are large communication gaps. There is mass email but it is not informative, and the methods for advertising are messy and unsuccessful.



### Nereida Salas

**Platform :** I intend to work closely with my fellow members and the new President to enact new policies regarding the funding of student organizations. On a personal note, I will work with the administration, and fellow SGA members to lobby the CTA for the issuance of U-PASS designation for NEIU.

## Candidates for Trustee



### Jason Garcia

**How to address student issues :** First, we need to find out what the issues are and that would be done by canvassing the student body. Collaboration between clubs and organization. By looking for that which unites us and not that which divides us. When we are all on the same page, in the same boat we will achieve our goals.



### Peter Michalczyk

**Platform:** My platform is that of the student. I believe that I have a proven voting record that can attest to that. What many in the University fail to realize is that without the students, there would be no need for faculty, staff, etc, so we need to be treated with respect and need to be included into the decision making process.



### Stacy Brill

**How to address student issues:** By holding a forum or meeting, speaking to the administrators about those issues, and simply speaking to students face-to-face.



### Sunil Mahadeshwar

Teamwork. Synergy. SGA of the students, for the students! We have assembled a team of individuals that have the common goals as detailed above. We are a group of individuals that has been very active in improving conditions at NEIU and the local community.

## Candidates for IBHE-SAC Representative



### Eduardo Arabu

**Platform :** Effective communication at all levels of the NEIU Community, seeking resources to support the student's academic and non-academic experience, diversity at NEIU, necessary support for NEIU-El Centro and NEIU-CCICS.



### Stacy Brill

**What are Critical Issues for NEIU :** Job readiness and placement, course availability and options, financial aid options, and understanding of where the added tuition costs are actually going.



### David Benjaih

As per my experience the SGA is a highly ineffective, over-governed, essentially benign body that does little more than charter and funds approval for NEIU clubs. We seek to actually make the student government a functioning body that works for the benefit of the students of this school, and this state.



## Speaker

### Michael Cline

I plan to meet with administrative officials to affect changes in the charter that limit the effectiveness of the SGA as a negotiating body for the betterment of the conditions that affect the students of NEIU. Provide for allowances in the charter for coalition efforts on the part of the students of the state.



Full candidate bios are online at <http://www.neiu.edu/~deptsao/LeadersWanted>  
**Candidate Day- April 4th in Village Square**  
**Debate Day- April 5th in Cafeteria and Village Square**



## Candidates for Senator



### Mickey Witchuwong

**How to address student issues:** Due to being a state university with less money to offer for services we might ask some sponsors like Nike, Coke and etc. to support our university because we are helping to promote them like putting their logos in our cars or taking about them in the media.



### Angela Vela

**Platform :** First and foremost our intention is to make the SGA accessible and accountable to the diverse and unique student body of NEIU. Our platform is your platform: we want to hear your ideas and we want you to be satisfied with our performance on your behalf.



### Eunjoo Yoon

**Platform :** I'm running to work as student union senator to participate to make a successful student government in 2007. Furthermore, I believe I am here to serve on the students behalf, so that I will be one bridge to communicate between the NEIU university and the students.



### Angelo Alto

**Platform:** The U-Pass for students and disabled students and support for green cycle. Also, we will do fundraising like Toys for Tots for Christmas, food & coat drive, and my favorite, promote financial awareness month for students who need the financial aid and make sure to hear the voice of students, faculty, and staff about their problems.



### Mehdi Tazangi

**What are Critical Issues for NEIU :** Student tuition. We pay to go to NEIU, and we work hard to succeed here. As it stands, most students never find out exactly how their hard earned money is spent, and many never see the benefits.



### Lakeisha Pegues

**How to address student issues :** I will address NEIU students' issues by fighting for what they believe in and educating them on what's happening on their campus. I believe that the students do not have a active voice in Student Government.



### Tameitha Hicks

**What are Critical Issues for NEIU :** Critical issues of the student body would be tuition increase, extremely high costs textbooks. There are not enough courses available for students to have a choice of classes. There is no liaison for students if they have any issues within the university.



### Paul Harris

**Platform:** My platform is built on open, transparent, and accountable government, financial accountability and responsibility, preservation of the rights of free speech, thought, and press, and informed representation of the student body.



### Jason Garcia

**What are Critical Issues for NEIU :** Awareness. I believe the students at Northeastern do not know how big the possibilities are at our university, what clubs, organizations or programs are available to us. Activity, as we are a commuter school, most of us just go to school for the classes then go straight to work or straight home. If given a reason, I believe Northeasterners would be more active.



### Olga Steele



### Neeshia Macanowicz

At NEIU I feel that there are many issues that the SGA should be able to influence, but that its influence would be contingent on proper state funding of the school. Among issues that affect all of us are limited course offerings, understaffed and underpaid departments, and overcrowded classrooms.



### Rebecca Joshua

**Platform :** First and foremost my intention is to make the SGA accessible and accountable to the diverse and unique student body of NEIU. My platform is your platform: I want to hear your ideas and want you to be satisfied with my performance on your behalf.



### Adeicha Martinez

**Platform :** I believe your student representative should be someone who will not make promises that are unreachable. I am eager to tackle those issues relevant to all students. Issues such as a CTA discounted affair for NEIU students and make student involvement a priority for Student Government Association.



### Jose Fulgencio

**Platform:** I am fighting for more computer facilities for our NEIU students, and to also have more facilities that will make NEIU feel more like a college environment. For example a recreation room that features a bowling alley and arcade games. Also to make sure funds for NEIU clubs and organizations are distributed equally and are for educational purposes that will benefit the NEIU student body and community.



### Aliza Robinson



### Maria Akhtor

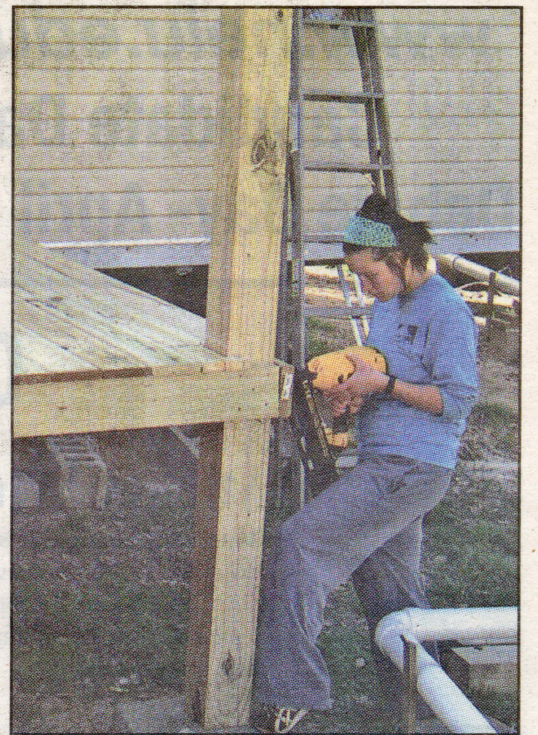
**Critical Issues for NEIU Students:** The foremost issue facing us is the benign aspect of the SGA; once that issue is resolved then we need to network with other schools to address the lack of state funding, which will impact on the proposed tuition increase, the limited course offerings, understaffed and underpaid departments, and overcrowded classrooms. The CTA U-Pass is also an issue that needs to be addressed by a coalition.

**Due to the final results of the spring elections, the next issue of the *INDEPENDENT* will publish on Thursday, April 12th**



# NEIU students help a small town rebuild

photos by Jonathon Winkler



## Hurricane destroys buildings, not willpower, in the bayou



Ten NEIU students from the Politics Club and Honors Society worked on multiple tasks in rebuilding homes in Pearlinton, MS. Included in these tasks were working in the kitchen, texturing, laying floors, sheetrocking, putting up drywall and cleaning. The work was in response to Hurricane Katrina, which occurred 19 months ago. Most volunteers at the Pearlinton Recovery consisted of church and school groups. Stand by for further information in the next issue on the stories and lives of those left behind by the hurricane.

Clockwise from top right: Neeshia Maccanowicz working on a deck. A plantation house that was abandoned after Hurricane Katrina. A ruined photo found. Miss Wes helping in the kitchen at the Pearlinton Recovery Center. Sleeping quarters for NEIU students at the Pearlinton Recovery Center. Jonathon Winkler cutting a floor panel.





## 4,000 march on Michigan Avenue against war

photo by Tom Robb



by Kaity Nicastri  
Asst. News Editor

On the night of March 20 an estimated four to five thousand people marched against the Bush administration's war policies. They had marched together from 24 West Walton and proceeded down Michigan Ave. in commemoration of the 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Iraq War.

Headlined as "Stop Funding War and Occupation: Bring Troops Home Now", the Chicago march was part of a nationwide call for the end of U.S. presence in Iraq. Despite a strong police presence, it was a peaceful gathering.

This gathering has not always been so. It met with opposition from the mayor's office and police since the first demonstrations in 2003 at the start of the war.

With over 800 arrests in 2003, and denial of permits for marching in 2004 and 2005, followed by hostility from Chicago administration and police in 2006, 2007 was a year of acceptance by city officials.

Andy Thayer, a lead organizer of the annual demonstration said, "The city didn't

want to be seen as the last supporters of the Bush administration. It's unpopular to be for the war, especially in this town." He went on to say that the police were tolerant and even friendly about the whole affair.

The Iraq War may seem distant to many students, but its effects do reach the Northeastern community.

Rachel Cohen of the NEIU Socialist Club said, "There's the obvious connection between gigantic tuition hikes and the funding for the war. I also think the antiwar movement has come back to the streets..."

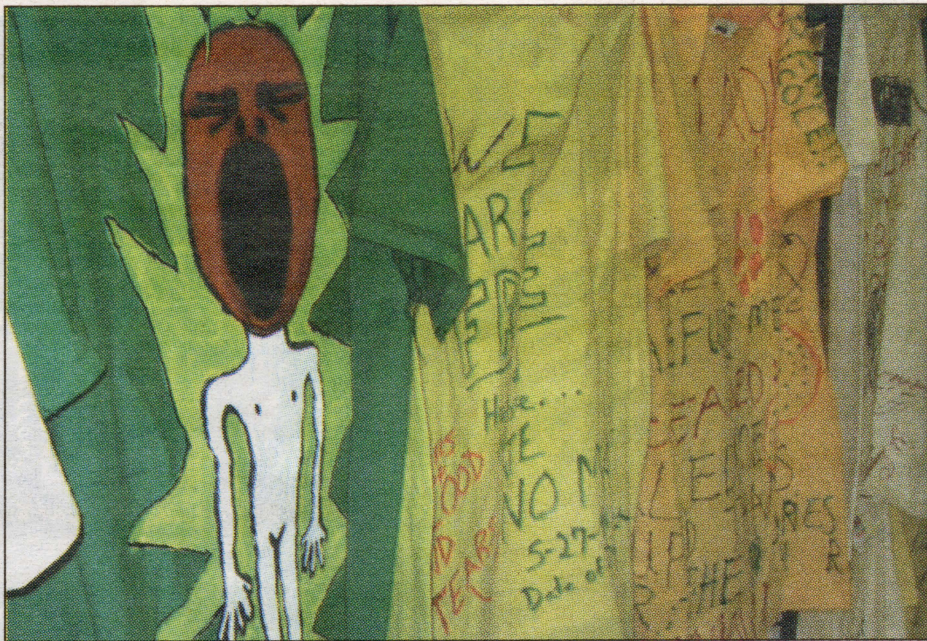
Along the Magnificent Mile "We're women, we're marching, we're not out shopping", rang out. One marcher said he was out there to make the statement to other countries, "Not all Americans are for this war."

Many older generations had a rounded perspective on this march. Having lived through Vietnam, a protester named Gregory expressed excitement at the amount of people mobilizing and expressing their opinion. "It reminds me of 1968!"

Dr. Hamburg, a passerby with a Ph.D. in

See story on page 9

## Clothesline Project to visit El Centro



archive photo

The Clothesline Project is a traveling exhibition of t-shirts made by abuse survivors and loved ones that raises awareness of violence and sexual abuse against women. The project is visiting the El Centro campus at 3119 N. Pulaski starting Monday, April 2nd and running through Saturday, April 7. [clotheslineproject.org](http://clotheslineproject.org)

NEIU Honors Society  
presents

### The First Annual All-Campus Conference on Creativity

## Stoking the Creative Fire: From Inspiration to Realization Across the Lifespan

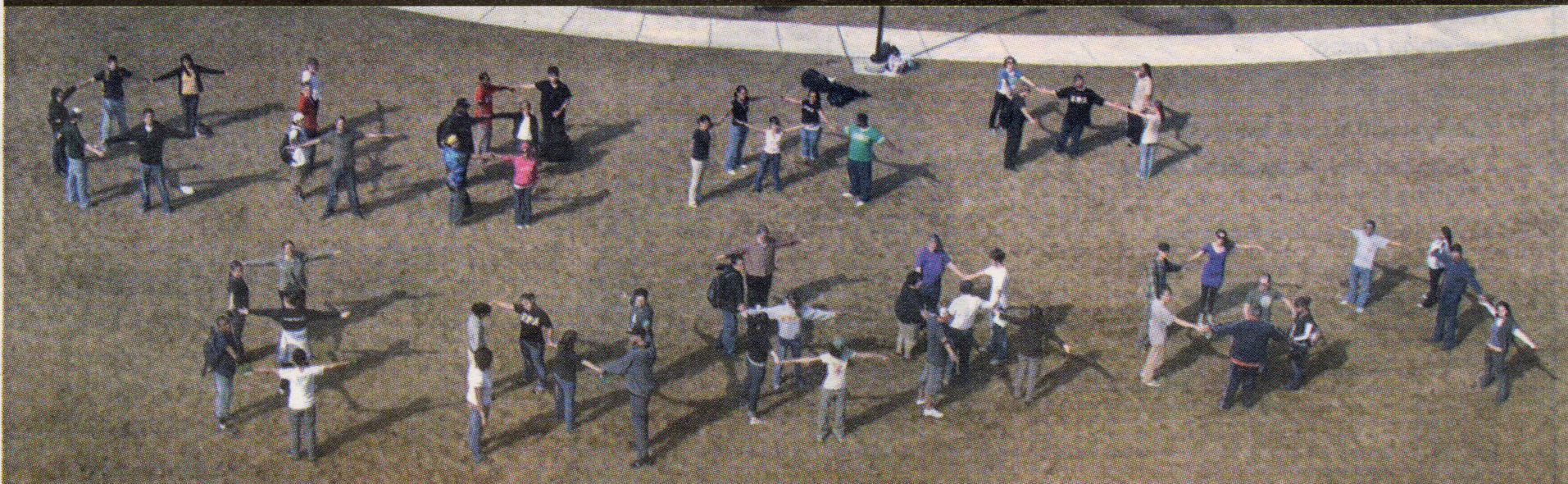
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## They're spelling 'clean energy' and asking for students' help



by Tom Robb  
News Editor

Jeremy Slate and the Green Cycle Group have been working hard to get a referendum on the ballot in support of a more "green" university. To accomplish that goal they would charge students a \$3 fee to work on both renewable energy sources like solar and wind power.

In a press release Slate said, "This money would be placed in a fund for the sole purpose of bringing clean, renewable and/or sustainable energy to our campus. This will help keep energy costs low and reduce the negative

environmental impacts of our facilities." The fee would be a flat fee assessed to all students regardless of credit load.

The quest for a greener campus has been energized by a mandate to do so earlier this year by Gov. Rod Blagojevich. Student Government President Eron McCormick has said he supports the idea.

Vice President of Facilities Management Ralph Zia said that his staff has visited other universities and solar panels on the roof of the P.E. Building are one of the ideas under consideration.

Slate said that one of the reasons given by

the administration [Vice President of Finance and Administration Mark Wilcockson has also told the *Independent*] for the recent tuition increases was rising energy costs and a lack of increased funds from the state government to off set them.

Slate has been pushing for the new education building to be built using as much renewable energy sources and energy conservation features as possible. "Making any new construction or renovation a green building would be the project of first choice." Said Slate in a separate GCG release

It continued "Buildings built to the

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standard consume on average a third less energy and a third less water than standard buildings. Other projects include solar hot water panels atop the PE Building to heat the swimming pool, a solar electric system, more efficient climate control systems, or a small wind turbine."

Slate acknowledges that the construction costs would be raised but that it would be off set by energy savings.

The referendum must pass by a two-thirds majority to pass; it then must be approved by the administration.

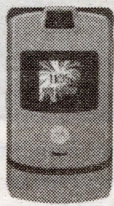




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# Hahs embraces college free press act

by Tom Robb  
News Editor

The College Campus Press Act would protect collegiate media from having university administrators say, "Stop the presses." The Illinois General Assembly is moving to grant greater freedom and protections to the college media after a court case nearly derailed it. The measure passed the Illinois Senate 57-0 and is headed to the State House.

The bill is in direct response to *Hosty v. Carter* according to the Society of Professional Journalists and a spokeswoman for the bill's sponsor State Senator Susan Garrett.

NEIU President Sharon Hahs supports the principals of the bill. She said, "I can embrace the principles embodied in the College Campus Press Act currently under consideration by the Illinois General Assembly."

"The *Independent* should not be subject to administrative review if it is to fulfill its mission of contributing to informed discourse. NEIU values a free, open and civil exchange of ideas and The

*Independent* contributes to that very important dialogue."

In October 2000 Dean of Students Patricia Carter at Governors State University in Illinois told the publisher of the *Innovator* to stop the presses because she took issue with the paper's content. That led to a legal battle that ended up just short of the US Supreme Court.

The Illinois 7<sup>th</sup> Appellate (Federal) Court said that, under certain circumstances, when school media is part of an academic exercise and not a wholly student run "public forum" that university administrations can have control over the college press.

The bill would declare all campus media a "public forum" and would restrict prior review by administrators and protect advisors to college media outlets. The designation of a "public forum" vs. an academic exercise was a key distinction in the Illinois Court's

The Illinois News Broadcasters Association and the Headline Club, [the Chicago Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists], support the measure. In a joint message to their members they said, "SPJ and the Headline Club support this legislation for defending collegiate student press rights." And encouraged their members to lobby for the measure.

State Senator Iris Martinez whose district borders the main campus and incorporates El Centro said, "I'm thrilled I voted yes on that."

## Independent first in the nation

by Tom Robb  
News Editor

The *Independent* won "First Place Best in Show" at the Associated Collegiate Press' annual national convention in Portland, OR on March 11.

The *Independent* was competing against other 4-year institutions in North America that produce non-daily and non-weekly newspapers.

There are over 1,100 member student publications in the Associated Collegiate Press Association.

*Independent* Editor-in-Chief Patrick O'Brien said, "Though we do not have a journalism program, it is the diversity in age, experience and ethnicity that gives our paper a unique perspective and collective insight to put out what we hope is something that informs and empowers."

O'Brien continued, "I believe our strength in writing and reporting has caught up to our innovations in design."

This is the third national honor awarded to an Illinois newspaper in the last ten years and the only first place award to an Illinois college or university in the last ten years.

Editors and staffers from the *Independent* attended the three day conference attending seminars covering topics ranging from investigative reporting to computer assisted document searches to law and the Freedom of Information Act, writing critiques, design, photography and tips on how to land a job after graduation.

The *Independent* also recently received 13 awards for excellence in journalism from the Illinois College Press Association (ICPA) at their convention in Chicago last February. They have received 37 awards from the ICPA over the last three years.

Representatives at the national convention held in Portland included: Patrick O'Brien Editor-in-Chief, Amy Scoma Business Manager, Duncan Macnab Production Manager, Tom Robb News Editor, Mike Arch Entertainment Editor, Jo Cook Features Editor, Amanda Dalal Online Editor, David Mosher Production Editor, Teddy Chung Business Assistant and Rolando Ithier III, Staff Writer.

## Are the Socialists under fire?

by Patrick O'Brien  
Editor-in-Chief

The meeting began with the words, "this is not a hearing," and continued with "this is not a witch-hunt," from Chairman Al Cordero, and the Charter and Rules Committee meeting was underway.

On Tuesday, March 13 in an hour filled with more questions than answers, one resolution was rejected that would have repudiated emails sent by several SGA senators that accused the Socialist Club of violence and aggressive actions during past demonstrations.

Another resolution will result in the SGA drafting a letter to the university to find out if there is any investigation of the Socialist Club ongoing.

The meeting was called by Cordero, who asked members of the Socialist Club to speak about the arrest of two students at a CIA recruiting event hosted by the Placement Office on Feb. 28.

Cordero's email to the Socialist Club requested their presence at the meeting: "In light of recent events, I find it necessary to request that your group appear in front of the Charter and Rules Committee so that we can hear your side of the story. This meeting will allow us to decide whether or not the SGA should be involved, or if we are going to leave it in the hands of the administration of NEIU."

At the Feb. 28 incident, there were members of the Socialist Club present, though the club

did not organize the event in its capacity as a registered student organization, according to the group's president, Keeanga Taylor.

Taylor called the meeting a "witch-hunt" and questioned why her group was being singled out. "You should know those activities were not the actions of the Socialist Club."

Cordero said that the meeting was called "accidentally" as a result of an e-mail mix up and that there would be no attempt by the SGA to discipline the Socialist Club.

Throughout the meeting members of the Socialist Club asked senators why the meeting was taking place. Speaker Kimberly Murphy admitted that the SGA had no jurisdiction over the CIA event, and several senators agreed.

At one juncture, Senator Richard Morris became outraged at the proceedings and began to shout at members of the Socialist Club, accusing them as a whole of harassing students and injuring Robin Wagner. "If it looks like a duck and talks like a duck, it's a duck," said Morris.

Wagner is the Chief Clerk of the Placement Office who signed a complaint with Chicago Police for battery against students Ken Barrios and Matt Larson during the incident at the CIA recruiting event.

The Charter and Rules committee is allowed under the SGA constitution to review the actions of officially registered student organizations, if there is a petition signed by 25 or more students asking for such a review. Murphy said that no such petition existed regarding the Socialist Club.

## SGA cuts its own budget at Finance Meeting

by Duncan Macnab  
Production Manager

Student Government Association (SGA) Finance Committee approved all nine of the annually funded campus organizations for next year, but cut many of the requested budgets due to an \$11,829.58 deficit.

SGA, WZRD (Campus radio station), Black Heritage Gospel Choir, and Northeastern Programming Board (NPB) had their budgets trimmed. The budget for Development Funds increased to \$5,430.42 from \$5,000 in last year's budget. The remaining three budgets for the *Independent*, *Apocalypse*, *Que Onde*

*Sola* and the Event-by-Event budgets were approved unchanged.

"You are going to regret this," said committee member Angelo Alto in response to an \$8,500 cut to SGA's budget. Model Illinois Government (MIG) line items were removed and also decreased \$1,000 for the money spent on food as well. "But Al Cordero was planning to set up a club for [MIG] anyway and have its own budget," responded committee member Richard Morris. Their budget was resolved and approved three to one, and the remaining budgets were approved unanimously.

NPB's budget was cut \$1,760,

decreasing their coordinators from five to four. Black Heritage Gospel Choir had their budget reduced \$1,500. WZRD had \$500 cut from their budget.

This year's budget deficit was \$2,645.66 more than this year's difference in money available and the money requested. The total money available for next year is \$339,595.22 the funding originally requested was \$351,424.80. This year the money available is \$310,912 and the funds originally requested was \$320,096.

The budgets then go before SGA for final approval in a meeting on Tuesday March 27 during activity hour in room SU-215.

### March from page 7

Political Science said, "We've got ourselves into a real political problem. ... It's [the war] really stupid and ill-conceived." Dr. Hamburg said he favored a "soft partition" of Iraq into Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish regions and said that should Iran become involved with the Shiite region it would be clearer.

His wife declared, "Glad to see it. It reminds me of Vietnam, and the invasion of Cambodia, and May Day. We disagree with the Bush administration's policies, but not the members of the armed services."

The message was consistent that U.S. soldiers are not the source of frustration for antiwar protestors. It is the Bush administration, and the waste of money, resources, and lives for what protestors called a "pointless" war.

The NEIU Socialist Club had several members marching with a banner. One member, Adam Norden said, "We're out here showing what students can do in the world around us. It's not just about being in a classroom ... Passivity only gets us more war, imperialism, poverty and racism."

Several other anti-war protests, including one resulting in several arrests at Congressman Rahm Emanuel's office on Irving Park Road were held in Chicago and across the country to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the start of the war.

Pool reporting by Tom Robb and Violette Green

### Trustees, from page 1

Republicans, according to Masterson.

Azcoitia said that he received a call from Blagojevich's Chief of Staff John Harris informing him that he had been re-appointed to the board by Blagojevich. When the *Independent* attempted to contact Harris it was referred to the governor's press secretary, Jerardo Cardenas.

Cardenas said, "After he [Azcoitia] was appointed, the indication was that there was not going to be enough support in the Senate."

When he was asked why there was no initial support for Azcoitia or what had changed to allow Azcoitia back on the board, Cardenas said, "Senator [Emil] Jones is fine with the movement as it happened, putting Azcoitia in and Dawson out."

Cardenas also clarified the appointment procedure, "We're always looking for the best academic and professional qualifications for the board, and race is not an issue."

Senator Iris Martinez, who attended Northeastern, said that she spoke with Harris and Jones regarding the removal of Azcoitia from the board.

"There was a mistake, a big mistake," said Martinez. She said the problem was both a clerical error and a misunderstanding about the balance in the numbers of Republicans and Democrats. "I think the paperwork was not put in correctly."

"I got calls from students and from state

representatives [regarding Azcoitia]," said Martinez who went on to defend the Senate President, "Emil Jones would never replace one minority with another minority."

Martinez also said, "We have to have a Latino and we have to have an African American on that board and I'm not going to give up on having an African American on that board."

In attempting to clarify how the nomination process works Masterson said, "In the past, Governor Edgar requested input from the university; this process is not being managed in that fashion."

When she was asked how it works now, Masterson said, "I have no idea, she [President Hahs] doesn't recommend appointments, if the Governor has someone who has helped him in the past..."

Martinez said, "The school starts the process saying who the school needs but the governor makes the nomination."

Martinez also pointed out that Northeastern is the only federally recognized Latino-serving institution in the State. According to NEIU's own Data Digest, Northeastern has a 25% total Latino student population and a 10.5% total African-American student population.

The current board, with the appointment of Azcoitia, has one Latino member and two Asian members.



# Commentary

## Editorial Board

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Nick Gaudio *Associate Editor*  
Amy Scoma *Business Manager*  
Duncan Macnab *Production Manager*  
Tom Robb *News Editor*  
Sophia Lopez *Opinions Editor*

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

## Editorial

### It's your right

Ok class, today we're going to discuss the Bill of Rights and how it applies to this public institution we call the Northeastern Illinois University. But first let's take a look at the First Amendment, most specifically the Freedom of Speech (now read along):

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

This means, plain and simple that we as people have the right to speak our mind anywhere in the public.

This University has a different idea on what's "public" and what's "private." Apparently, officials at this school feel that outside and the "Village Square" is where people can protest anything; their even getting limits imposed in those areas, in what have been termed, "Free Speech Zones."

The university set up a task force to recommend policies regarding protests after another incident with the military and anti-war and anti-recruitment protesters, this time at a job fair in Alumni Hall.

The taskforce recommended there be no free speech zones as the whole campus was one. These recommendations were then sent to President Steinberg and VP of Student Affairs Melvin Terrell to die. Why waste everyone's time with commissions and taskforces if after the story fades from the headlines nothing is done.

Back in fall of 2004 our school had a strike, student protesters were able to chant around former University President Salme Steinberg's office, of course students couldn't go in because the door was locked but no one was arrested for "battery." Also, professors that were going to strike were able to march all through the halls banging pots and pans and never got arrested for "interference with the public."

But, according to Campus Anti-War Network (CAN) members like Angela Vela, they (the Socialist Club and CAN members) just wanted to see what if they could start peaceful and organized debate with the CIA when they held a recruiting event on Feb. 28 where two students were arrested for "battery" and "interference with the public." (see page 1)

Here is the difference, someone at the event acted as a security guard, this person's official title is Chief Clerk, while using her body to physically block students attending this school trying to enter a room, according to the protesters. You never saw that happen during protests at the strike. It seems silly to think that students trying to get a degree would risk their future by entering a protest with violent intentions.

Discussions are good for people to have, and disagreements and debate are how most things get done. But preventing one side from speaking is quietly censoring the First Amendment, and creating an institution that is single-minded.

Students need to speak from different ideals to have a truly democratic society especially with all that is going on, not just at this university; a 14.7 percent tuition increase, budget issues, a war in Iraq, and growing instability in the world.

Sorry to confront our new president, who's only been on the job for less than two months, but this problem needs to be addressed and she needs to bring back those recommendations from the Free Speech Task Force and officially come to an understanding of what our founding fathers fought so hard to defend, the Bill of Rights (specifically the First Amendment). Or are those students just going to get their voices muzzled and is that "tell me what you want" just an empty promise. In this task force, we must clearly define public institution and free speech.

Remember, "free speech" is your right whether it's right or wrong.

## The Chief's last hurrah

by **Thelma Coleman**  
*Staff Writer*

After epitomizing school spirit for the students of the University of Illinois for over eighty years, Chief Illiniwek is retired. His retirement from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign comes after two decades of debate and escalating tensions.

Chief Illiniwek was introduced in 1926 when Assistant Band director Ray Dvorak fostered the idea of performing an "American Indian Dance" during the halftime shows. Pro-Chief supporters are not shy about expressing their frustrations. *Facebook.com* has hundreds of groups that support the resurrection of Chief Illiniwek.

Dan Maloney, a graduate student, portrayed the stern-faced Chief Illiniwek for the last time February 21, 2007. Local news coverage of the Chief's last performance showed students whose faces were red with emotion and damp with tears.

The school mascot cultivated a rift between the student bodies. Some U of I students are happy that the Chief is retired. Sophomore Cason Brunt believes that the Chief's demise is the turning of a new page. He comments, "The Chief was a symbol that fostered racism, hatred and

oppression here at the University. I am a student among many that is pleased to see that our university is making strides to further promote inclusiveness and celebrate diversity."

The Chief is a caricature of Native Americans. They are being held captive to a stereotype, in a land that is theirs in the first place. School spirit is a great thing to have but it should be done in a sophisticated manner. Once it begins to marginalize the beliefs and culture of an entire group of people, it becomes a state of emergency.

*"The Chief was a symbol that fostered racism, hatred and oppression here at the University."*

- Cason Brunt  
*University of Illinois student*

Chief Illiniwek's performance is equivalent to a modern day Minstrel Show. In Minstrel Shows, Caucasian actors would dress in black face and "act" as stereotypical African-Americans. The Chief is a complete ravishing and stereotyping

of an entire group of people.

Chief Illiniwek successfully had over an 80 year reign because the ethical responsibility was not taken in challenging his depiction. Pro-Chief supporters should stop possessing an individualistic attitude and actually understand that Chief Illiniwek means much more than an Indian mascot in headress. The Chief is a long-time symbol of disrespect and denial of the Native American people.

## Up In smoke

by **Lenny Ocasio**  
*Staff Writer*

Across the country, more and more colleges are banning smoking from their campuses altogether. According to an article in *USA Today*, about 43 campuses have completely gone smoke-free, which means that smoking is no longer allowed anywhere on their campuses, not even in usually designated spots.

Betsy Foy of the American College Health Association says that students form lifelong habits in college and that reducing students' exposure to cigarettes can have a lasting effect. Studies show that nearly 31% of full-time college students smoke. There was no mention of students who started smoking in high school.

The *Indiana Daily Student* said the full ban is an "infringement on personal liberties." Chuck Kupchella,

president of the University of North Dakota, on the other hand, fully supports the idea of a full ban. He says, "We want our institution to make a statement about doing the right things when it comes to good health." He adds, "Smokers will still have rights, but just not on our campus."

While Kupchella wants to make a statement about student health, he appears to disregard the rights of students. Student Alex Wukmer, age 19, says, "I can vote for president of the United States. I can go to war but I can't necessarily smoke a cigarette because they're afraid I'll make a bad choice?"

These students are adults in the legal sense who make big decisions, like which college to go to, and yet their school does not seem to let them make a decision about their own health. Is this the right thing to do?

Most colleges in the country have banned smoking within their dorms and the immediate area surrounding them. Dorms are now equipped with highly sensitive smoke detectors, which are so sensitive that burning popcorn can usually set them off. Students sometimes have to smoke as far away as the parking lots.

Because Northeastern is a commuter school, a full ban would not have as big an impact as it would in universities with dorms. At Northeastern, smokers would only have to cross the street to "light up" or wait until after their classes finish to start smoking, that is if they can wait that long.

Designated smoking areas have slightly mollified smokers for now, but with the growth of nonsmoking areas, it might only be a matter of time before a full ban takes effect and smoking is taken out of the hands of student's altogether.

## College Students as prey?

By **Connie Patricia Herring**  
*Senior Staff Writer*

Whether you like it or not, college students can be gullible and hardheaded. Credit card companies target people who are more likely to fill out applications. Let's face it, they are some smart cookies. Credit card companies visit campuses with table displays, offering all kinds of gimmicks to get students to fill out applications. They offer credit cards with teaser rates. After the six months is over, however, the Annual Percentage Rate will skyrocket twenty percent or more following the introductory rate.

Some college students get sucked into the credit card companies' traps. They may get overexcited when seeing a shiny new card and do not hesitate to swipe it. But there are consequences in not paying the bill on time, which is definitely a problem with many college students.

Some want to blame the credit card companies for even visiting the college campuses. But are the students themselves to blame for all this or do the credit card companies share in the responsibility as well?

Visa, MasterCard, and American Express cards are meant to help individuals to build a respectable credit history. This means

that a student's falling behind on payments gives the credit company permission to charge late fees. Even a few cents unpaid could cause a person to get late fees. This stays on your record for seven years.

Bad credit could hurt a student's chance of buying a house, car, or renting an apartment in the future. To pay off heavy debts, some college students are forced to get jobs and cut back on course loads.

It is your future being jeopardized, not the credit card companies. College students are not victims. No one forces them to sign a credit card application. Students may be a little gullible sometimes, but that is part of growing up.

When a student starts school, they are officially out there in the real world. As an adult, you learn to take responsibility for your own

actions. Credit cards require responsibility. People need to look into ways to use credit well, watch for rates, and play it straight. We also need to learn that a getting credit card is our choice and the credit card companies are not to blame.

Students need to research before looking into dealing with credit. If your parents don't have good credit, learn from their mistakes. Visa, MasterCard, and American Express have websites dedicated to college students and packed with financial tips and info.

Rather than get mad at the credit card companies for visiting your college, learn to be rational, have a healthy skepticism, and be smart. If you are a person that spends money the minute it is placed in your hands, just walk away! Dealing with credit cards is not a game.



## Mail Bag

Last Wednesday an incident took place in the Physical Education Building in which it was alleged that two of our students forcibly attempted to gain access to a meeting involving Central Intelligence Agency recruiters and a group of students. The students were arrested and charged with the misdemeanors of battery (to a staff member) and interference with a public institution. I have been advised that the staff member was injured and that the students were released later that day on their own recognizance.

Obviously, this is a matter of great concern to all of us in the university community. The University is a special place. We aspire to be a model for the wider community, and to embrace the goal of educating students for the responsible and effective exercise of citizenship.

I have been advised that some have disputed the details of what happened; there are both internal and external procedures for resolving these issues. These procedures were designed to protect fundamental principles and it is my hope that as a university community there is a shared commitment to these principles.

We believe in free speech. This includes the right to protest. We reject violence.

The University must be a safe environment for students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

Following from these principles, practical policies have been developed. These are found in the Student Handbook ("Demonstrations on Campus") and in University policy (Administrative Memorandum #56, identical in wording to "Demonstrations on Campus"). My belief is that when the principles and policies stated above are followed, everyone's rights are protected. There will be other occasions when our commitment to these principles will be tested. It is up to each of us to make this vision of the University a reality.

Sharon Hahs  
University President

## Mail Bag

At approximately 2:25 PM, the seven of us (Ken Barrios, Angela Vela, Chris Poulos, Neeshia Macanowicz, Meredith McClure, Monique Simmons, and Mat Larson) entered Northeastern's PE complex with the purpose of expressing our right to free speech by protesting the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

The CIA was holding a seminar on the second floor, in room number 2140. First, Simmons, McClure, Poulos, Vela, and Macanowicz attempted to enter; however Michael T. Kelly (dean of students), Robin Wagner (Chief Clerk of the Placement Office) and three NEIU officers stopped our entry. Wagner informed us that registration was required. In an orderly manner, we asked Wagner when the registration deadline was, if there was any way she could allow our entry, or if there were any seats open—all of there were rebuffed. Larson and Barrios arrived as Wagner was finishing her dismissive reply. The seven of us complied and walked away.

Congregating around the corner, we decided to civilly walk into the room, hold our banner, and read out facts about the CIA—i.e. coups, kidnapping, (attempted) murders, etc. Barrios led the group of seven. As he reached for the door, Wagner jumped in his way, blocking him from entry, and two NEIU officers immediately detained him, with no warning, *no explicit reason for the arrest, and no reading of Barrio's Miranda Rights.*

Meanwhile, Larson slipped around Wagner, the 2 officers,

and Barrios, and opened the door with his left hand. Due to the fact that Larson is a taller man, he was forced to raise both arms in order to slip in the room side ways, avoiding the crowd. There was no visible, physical contact used by Larson on Wagner—and there could not possibly have been in order for him to have entered the room. As he entered, the third police officer barged in and took Larson to the ground, and cuffed him—again with no warning, no explicit reason for arrest, and no reading of his Miranda Rights.

At this point, Larson was cuffed, on the ground, inside the classroom. Wagner, Barrios (also cuffed), two police officer, Dean Kelly, Vela, Mecanowicz, McClure, Simmons, and Poulos were outside the classroom. The seven of us began yelling, "The real terrorists in the world today are the pentagon and the CIA!" several times before the door was shut. After which, those out side the classroom noticed Wagner crying and cradling her right arm with her left arm. Dean Kelly approached and asked her what had happened and if it was broken, to which she responded some variation of: "No. They are supposed to be my friends. They did this to me." Barrios responded by stating that, due to his immediate arrest, it would have been impossible for him to have hit her. Wagner changed her response, claiming that Larson had hit her.

Soon after, Larson was escorted out of the classroom by the police officer that arrested him. Both Larson and Barrios were escorted from the room.

At this point more NEIU police officers ran up the stairs. Following closely behind Barrios and his escort, Chris Poulos asked several times, "on what grounds are you arresting them?" Receiving no response, Chris Poulos asked one last time, to which the police officer responded, "Do you want to be arrested too?"

The five remaining students repeatedly offered and insisted on providing statements; however, the officers refused to take them. We were sent to the police dispatch to provide our statements, where we were told to go back to the PE complex to talk to Lieutenant Connelly.

Macanowicz and McClure stayed at the police dispatch, while Vela, Poulos, and Simmons headed back to the PE complex. Finding Connelly, Vela, Poulos and Simmons insisted on providing statements. Connelly explained that we could give our names and numbers to the officer at the police dispatch, and they would call us if they had any questions. Vela asked why they did not take any statements immediately after the arrests. Connelly responded, "If you noticed, some of my officers were busy." Vela asked about the other officers, arriving after the arrests. Instead of answering Vela's question, Connelly redirected her to the police dispatch.

Chris Poulos  
Meredith McClure  
Angela Vela  
Neeshia Macanowicz  
Monique Simmons  
Ken Barrios  
Matt Larson

## Mail Bag

With growing news today of melting ice caps, increasing pollution, rising gas prices and conflicts over oil, you might ask, what can I possibly do about it?

Well, this April 6-11, Northeastern students will have the opportunity to vote in the student government elections on a simple yes or no question asking if they support creating a \$3 clean energy fee per semester—about the price of a latte.

Three bucks, regardless of enrolled credit hours. This would go toward installing solar panels and wind turbines as well as making our buildings better conserve energy and resources.

Since funding for capital projects comes from the state, it's difficult to fund newer technologies such as renewable energy that have a higher starting cost (even though they pay for themselves in the long run).

The biggest opportunity is with the new 120,000 ft<sup>2</sup> building Northeastern will construct to house the College of Education. We could easily design this building to consume

half as much energy as current campus buildings.

We can make our campus a leader in helping to solve global warming and creating a healthier and safer place to live. After all, no war has ever been or ever will be fought over sunlight.

Three dollars per student would generate about \$90,000 per year. This fund would be overseen by a committee of students, faculty and administration, allowing students to choose clean energy projects. Similar referendums have been successful on other campuses such as the University of Illinois, University of Knoxville and about 30 other universities.

The Student Government Elections will be held April 6-11 online and linked from NEIUPort. Want to see a big change toward renewable energy? Well, it's up to us...

Jeremy Slate

## VOICE OF THE CAMPUS



## Playing Cards

**I ADMIT THAT I DON'T NECESSARILY AGREE WITH EVERYTHING THE SOCIALIST CLUB SAYS OR DOES.**

**AT A RECENT PROTEST AGAINST ARMY RECRUITERS IN VILLAGE SQUARE, COPS SERVED AS A BARRIER BETWEEN THE TWO GROUPS. IT WAS A SPECTACLE MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, AND IT SEEMED AS IF THE POLICE WERE REALLY THERE TO PROTECT THE ARMY RECRUITERS FROM THE SOCIALISTS.**

Needless to say, getting into shouting matches with those whom you disagree with is not a good way to bring about genuine dialogue. I saw protestors protesting the Socialists. I'm sure there were people protesting all of this.

Meanwhile, a daylong poker tournament is taking place downstairs in the Student Union building. Down the hall, a flyer is taped outside the office of SGA president Eron McCormick. Apparently, the SGA Rules and Charters Committee are holding a hearing on the Socialist Club.

In response, the Socialist Club is asking why the SGA has not held hearings on the pending 14.7 percent tuition increase, the lack of Latino representation on the Board of Trustees, or why there is still no U-PASS on this campus.

Moreover, they ask why the SGA has not held any hearings to determine why so many student clubs were decertified last semester for missing a power point presentation, or why the SGA has organized no hearings on overcrowded classrooms and limited sections of General Education classes.

The Socialists are calling this a "witch hunt" on the part of SGA. Al Cordero, the Chair of the Rules and Charters committee, comments that he is "someone who firmly believes in the freedom of speech, as long as the person who exercises their freedom does not cause anyone harm."

This is obviously a reference to the incident of two NEIU students Ken Barrios and Matt Larson being arrested for protesting CIA recruiters. Robin Wagner, Chief Clerk of the Placement Office, claims she was assaulted by Barrios and Larson. The students vehemently refute it and say that Robin Wagner physically preventing them from entering the school-sponsored event.

Since many of us didn't actually witness this event transpire, all we can go on are the accounts given by those present. Both sides have their own versions of how it all went down and the truth tends to be somewhere in the middle.

Still, it's a bit much for charges to actually still be pending against Ken Barrios and Matt Larson. It's unfortunate Ms. Wagner felt so threatened, even though witnesses maintain that neither Barrios nor Larson laid a finger on her. It's hard to believe that this university would be flexing its institutional power against two NEIU students. Isn't it American custom to root for the underdogs?

The SGA, the Board of Trustees, and the administration have all put on quite a show as well. But the poker tournament is winding down in Student Union and as the last hand is drawn, I can't help but get the impression that games are being played with our lives.

## Letters to the Editor Policy

**Letters to the Editor must be signed with an address and telephone number for verification. Submissions must not exceed 250 words. Letters are subject to editing for space and style at editor's discretion. The editor reserves the right to omit any work submitted. Published on first-come first-served basis.**

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



## Ellroy's Masterpiece

of murder and intrigue

BY JONATHAN GRONLI  
Production Editor

**J**AMES ELLROY WRITES THE TOUGH-GUY CRIME NOVELS THAT WOULD MAKE MOST PEOPLE SHUDDER. IT IS TOUGH AS NAILS, DARKER THAN LUCIFER'S HEART AND ENTIRELY PLAUSIBLE. THE BOOK *THE BLACK DAHLIA* IS NO DIFFERENT.

FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO HAVE SEEN THE ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATED FILM, YOU ALREADY KNOW THE BASIC PLOT. TWO BOXERS TURNED L.A. COPS FALL ONTO A CASE WHICH HAPPENS TO BE ONE OF THE BIGGEST UNSOLVED MURDER CASES IN CALIFORNIA'S REAL HISTORY. THE CASE DRIVES NEARLY EVERYONE INVOLVED OR INVOLVED WITH THE PEOPLE INVESTIGATING IT

INTO MADNESS. A MADNESS ONLY HELL ITSELF CAN INSTILL IN A PERSON.

THE CASE IS THE MURDER OF ELIZABETH SHORT, AN ASPIRING STARLET WITH DREAMS OF FAME AS WELL AS A HEART OF GOLD AND LEGS THAT OPEN FOR ANYTHING. SHE WAS LAST SEEN ALIVE ON JANUARY 9, 1947. SHE WAS FOUND ON JANUARY 15, 1947, HORRIBLY TORTURED, COMPLETELY DRAINED OF BLOOD, CUT IN HALF AT THE WAIST AND HER LIPS PARTED IN A PERPETUAL MACABRE GRIN DUE TO THE CUTTING OF HER MOUTH EXTENDING EAR TO EAR LITERALLY.

WHILE THE BOOK IS A FICTIONALIZED ACCOUNT OF A TRUE CRIME, IT CAPTURES THE TIME PERFECTLY. THE NOVEL ALSO CAUGHT THE URGENCY OF THE INVESTIGATION TO

ENSURE THAT THIS DID NOT HAPPEN TO OTHER WOMEN. IT GOES INTO THE POSSIBLE MINDSETS OF THE REAL LIFE INVESTIGATORS WITHOUT MISSING A BEAT. WHILE DOING ALL OF THIS, ELLROY ALSO PUT INTO THE BOOK A STORY OF COMBATING CORRUPTION WITHIN THE L.A. GOVERNMENT AND POLICE FORCE. FOR THOSE OF YOU WITH EXPOSURE TO ELLROY'S WRITING, THIS BOOK TENDS TO MOVE MUCH SLOWER THAN THE REST OF HIS BOOKS. HOWEVER IT MANAGES TO THROW MORE INTO IT. THIS MAKES IT EVEN TOUGHER AND HARDER TO HANDLE THAN THE OTHER BOOKS IN HIS REPERTOIRE.

THE IMAGERY PUTS YOU RIGHT IN THE ACTION WHERE YOU CAN SEE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE NARRATOR (WHICH OCCASIONALLY CHANGES). IT ALLOWS YOU

TO CONNECT WITH THE CHARACTERS DUE TO THE WAY THE STORY IS WRITTEN AND IMAGERY THAT IS GIVEN.

THE POWER OF THIS BOOK ULTIMATELY RESIDES IN THE URGENCY THAT THE STORY GIVES. IT MAKES YOU LOVE THE CHARACTERS, THEN TURNS EVERYTHING HEAD OVER HEELS AND MAKES YOU DESPISE SOME OF THEM AS WELL. IT BRINGS OUT A REACTION IN TRUE NOIR STYLE THAT GIVES YOU THE FEELING OF A LACK OF HOPE THAT GOES WITH THE CHARACTERS. IT'S A STRONG CASE OF LITERARY NEO-NOIR.

JUST GET IT IF YOU ARE A FAN OF THE CRIME NOVELS. JAMES ELLROY'S WRITING STILL DOES NOT DISAPPOINT THE AUDIENCE.

## Brilliance with Proof

by Jonathan Gronli  
Production Editor

NEIU's Stage Center Theatre's rendition of *Proof*, a play by David Auburn that won a Pulitzer in 2001 and was adapted into a film featuring Anthony Hopkins and Gwyneth Paltrow, captured the story and emotion beautifully.

The story revolves around Catherine, the daughter of a famous yet recently deceased mathematician. In his later years Catherine's father was unstable and unable to do more mathematical work. She is afraid that though she might share that same genius held by her father, she might very well hold the very same curse. You follow Catherine throughout the play while she tries to come to terms with everything that has happened and is happening to her.

Catherine (Danielle DiBianco) is essentially on the cusp of madness and greatness while trying to find the things to fulfill her. DiBianco is currently studying classical piano and teaching ballet at NEIU. Her performance was moving and one could hope she returns to Stage Center for yet another role.

Claire (Linnea Carrera) is her sister and



photo courtesy of Stage Center Theatre

seems to be lacking in a supportive attitude when regarding Catherine. Carrera is current a NEIU student and is no stranger to Stage Center's humble stage. While this performance on occasion seemed a bit forced, she did not do a bad or mediocre job. It was adequate for the purposes of the play.

Robert (Ken Craig) is Catherine's father in both sets of flashbacks and hallucinations. Craig has numerous credits to his name including Dodge in Stage Center's rendition of *Buried Child*. Craig

did a good job falling into the role of Robert. He just sold the insanity and slow decay of the character.

Hal (Michael Slas) is the romantic interest of Catherine and protégé of the late Robert. Slas, although the youngest of the cast, is by no means least talented. He truly made this geek of a character his own and made Hal come alive.

The set design was beautiful in a way that would fit a play revolving around a family. It gave the illusion of a porch and backyard. The lighting was effective. The costumes were simple but comfortable.

Sadly, closing night for *Proof* was March 10. Performances are something difficult to sell and capture in writing. In an attempt to summarize what the play was; it would be fitting to say at the very least it was beautiful.

There are future opportunities for seeing different plays in Stage Center year-round, roughly two a semester. So keep your eyes open. If you are interested in a role audition and even if you do not get a role, enjoy the show.



# Young gun of heavy metal

An  
exclusive  
insight  
into Phil  
Labonte

by Jonathan Gronli  
Production Editor

Phil Labonte is the vocalist of *All That Remains*. Labonte was asked, what was his inspiration was to go into music. He simply said that it was bands like *Iron Maiden* and *Metallica* that drew him into music. Labonte also said "I got my first guitar when I was 14." There was another thing that caught his attention about the groups; "It wasn't just the music but also the friends and people I hung out with." Labonte said.

"Being in a band is a job. It's a job so there is a certain amount of work that goes into it." He continued about working with *All That Remains* saying, "It's about half-and-half. It depends on what we're doing at the time."

While having dreams of things to do in terms of performances, Labonte did remain realistic. "There's

a lot of things that we want to do." He explained that there wasn't just a dream concert for them to play.

While most celebrities have a problem with certain fans, which bring around horror stories, Phil Labonte doesn't really let strangeness bother him. Asked whether there were any memories of fans that stuck he replied, "Normal rules don't really apply. It's not that people expect you to act badly. They just expect you to act differently. So there really aren't any strange experiences that stick out because it's an everyday thing."

He was gracious enough to let us know a bit about his personal life. Outside of the music it is fairly simple. The game Halo 2 took up some of Labonte's free time. With laugh he said that when he's not working with the

rest of the band "you can usually find me in front of the TV playing Halo 2 or at the gym."

He has a lot of memorable concerts that he has been either a part of or been to. He pointed out that one of the Virginia gigs *All That Remains* had, they opened up for Lamb of God, Shadowfalls and Slipknot during 2005. This was one of the more memorable performances. He explained, "It was just a really big show for us." That is understandable considering the caliber of bands they were performing with. He also labeled an *Iron Maiden* concert that he saw when he was 15 as a memorable concert viewing. "The floor came right up to the stage," he said while explaining that before security sent the crowd back to their seats he had been about 10 feet away from the stage.

## Chicago's musical tradition

by Mike Arch  
REV Editor

The house lights stayed up as the orchestra opened its performance with the familiar music of "Beethoven's Symphony No. 4." Russell Vinick, conductor for the Chicago Businessmen's Orchestra (CBO), opened their concert *Bruch and Beethoven* with this piece. The CBO was founded in 1921 by State Street businessman George Lytton and boasts being the oldest community orchestra in Chicago.

Just watching the movements of Vinick is entertaining enough. He conducts his orchestra with a lot of animation and movement. After a first round of well performed Beethoven it was time for an intermission.

The orchestra started their second piece "Concerto No. 1 for Violin" by Max Bruch featuring soloist Julia Ghica, a 13

-year old student from the Merit School of Music. She graced the stage wearing a construction orange gown; an overkill to create the contrast from the rest of the orchestra. It was a bit distracting against the black and white that dominated the stage, but she was a very talented player with a strong knowledge of the music.

They completed with a portion of "Overture to Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg" by Richard Wagner. This was an uplifting fast moving piece that was very challenging but well executed by the orchestra. This was Wagner's only comic opera and it is easy to see why Vinick choose this selection to complete the concert.

After the concert Vinick stated, "I'm pleased and proud of their [the orchestra's] accomplishments, and their ability to perform challenging music." This is a great orchestra to see a lot of very talented musicians. It is a



great alternative and has a more relaxed atmosphere in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra to hear some great musical performance.

The CBO will have their next concert *Orchestral Showcase* at 3:00 P.M. on April, 29th at the Merit School of Music.

[www.neiuindependent.com](http://www.neiuindependent.com)

news at your fingertips!



# Jump into Ultimate Fun

By Jenni Lada  
Senior Staff Writer

**T**HE BEST PORTABLE FIGHTING GAME, "JUMP ULTIMATE STARS" HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED FOR THE NINTENDO DS. IT WILL NEVER BE DISTRIBUTED COMMERCIALY OUTSIDE JAPAN. THAT DOES NOT MEAN DS OWNERS WITH A LOVE FOR FIGHTING GAMES CANNOT GET THIS AMAZING GAME HERE.

Jump Ultimate Stars is a massive fighting game which follows the same game play style as the successful Smash Brothers series found on the Gamecube (and soon the Wii). Instead of popular Nintendo franchise characters fighting, Ultimate Stars features over 300 characters from 41 popular Japanese comic and cartoon series. This is the reason why it will never be released in the US; it contains different groups rather than one license from the past series.

You play the game using koma, which are panels on the bottom screen of the DS, which you build up into decks. 1-koma characters add abilities and are "help" characters. 2-3 koma characters will assist with an attack or ability in battle and are your "supports." 4-8 koma characters are your "battle" characters, which you control and fight with on the top screen. In addition, each fighter has a nature: knowledge, power, or laughter, and each nature is strong against one and weak against another.

This allows players to fully customize their deck on the bottom screen to fit their style of play. If

a player wants to do quick sneak attacks and dance around, they can load up on support characters. If they want a full offensive, then they can load up on fighters on the lower screen.

There are tons of modes of play. There is a mission/unlocking mode, where you fight with your starter deck across various worlds to unlock characters. Then there is the general arcade fighting modes common in any fighting game. There is also a multiplayer mode where you can play with up to 3 friends on one cart, or on wi-fi with 3 other players from around the world.

The best part is that the game is very import friendly. All Nintendo DS games are region free, which means that a US system can play games from around the world. Although it is in Japanese, this game isn't text heavy and Gamefaqs.com has a great guide up for players who want to jump in. So all a diehard fighting game lover needs to do is hop online at an import site (like Play-Asia.com) in order to get this amazing game. It may cost more, but it is worth every penny.



photo courtesy of www.mobilevack.com

image courtesy of www.cf-network.com



# Coming of age the British way

photo by Giles Kevite



by Jessica Moen  
Staff Writer

The British comedy, *Starter for 10*, is about a young man named Brian Jackson (James McAvoy) who has a great love for trivia, and learning. He has been accepted to Bristol University, a school he always wanted to go to, and quickly finds out that they are holding auditions for the popular college quiz show "University Challenge", which also happens to be his favorite show! Not only is he concerned with school and the game show, he also has two rather attractive women after him.

Brian deals with issues such as love, loss, and of course his school work too. His father died when he was young (it was never specified at what age) and this is one of the reasons he wants to be on "University Challenge" because it was a show they use to watch together. This causes him to want to win the show so badly that ends up interfering with

his schoolwork and even his love life.

The story is told mostly through Brian as the narrator. We see what goes on in real time, but with a voiceover from Brian when necessary to give the audience a look at his feelings. At times it seemed like his character was inconsistent, such as before he goes on the game show, he ends up peeking at the answers to a question when the judge accidentally leaves them near him. We come to see Brian as a dedicated individual, who has good morals; it just did not seem in his character to want to jeopardize all he worked for. He did however give a girl the answers to a couple questions during the try-outs. Despite that, I think this was justified by the fact that he was obviously stunned by her beauty and was not thinking correctly.

This was a good coming of age

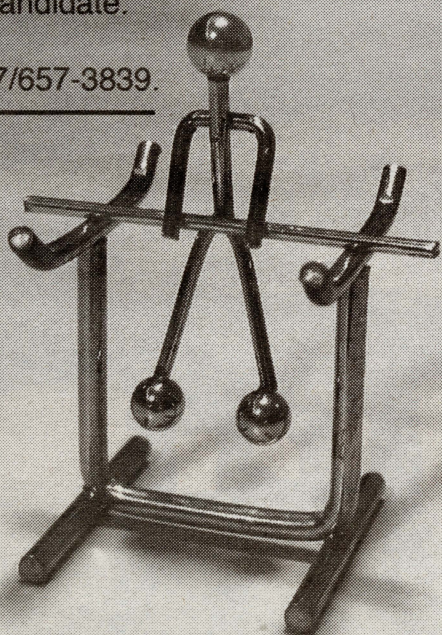
movie, and rather funny. You can really feel for Brian as he deals with two different relationships with two beautiful women, something he is not use to dealing with. He is losing touch with his friends, who are obviously affected by his going to school. Brian must also deal with his mother's new boyfriend, a sad replacement for his deceased father.

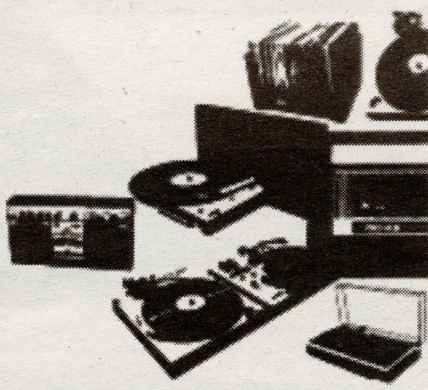
The story was good, and the plot jumped around from dealing with the quiz show, to dealing with Brian's personal life. This turned the movie away from Brian to the four contestants in the show, and giving the movie a little change.

It was very entertaining and enjoyable. If you enjoy British films, especially comedies, then you should give this a go. It is a limited release film; so check your local listings.

## Gymnastics Instructor-Glenview

Seeking a motivated instructor to teach boys and girls gymnastics and tumbling. Must be outgoing; enjoy working with children. Will train the right candidate. M-Saturday, PT/FT. FAX resume to: 847/657-3839.





# 10th Anniversary Hip Hop Org

## of NEUS HOP Org

**Friday, March 30th 2007**  
**Doors open at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Show Starts at 8:00 p.m.**  
 18+ / \$5 bones  
 Free w/NEIU ID  
 Northeastern Ill. University - Alumni Hall  
 5500 North St. Louis Avenue, Chgo. ILL

Performances By:  
 +Food (Decay & Selfish) McDonaldize Society  
 +Maintenance Crew (Ubiquity, Chantalism, Kash One and band) McDonaldize Society  
 +Rita J and Mr. Greenweeds (All Natural Inc.)  
 +Iomos Marad (All Natural Inc./Reflection of God Records)  
 +Mass Hysteria (Mike Tyrese, Gee-Field and DJ Prescye)

Special B-Boy performance by Brickheadz  
 Hosted By DJ Monkey and the Hip Hop Project  
 Live Art By: Kepha / Drew /

**marchmadillness** We reserve the right to refuse. No markers. No backpacks.



## Substance abuse counseling available at NEIU campus

by Felicia Williams  
Staff Writer

The average student at NEIU is typically juggling several responsibilities. There are children and partners to see after, work duties, and last but not least, schoolwork to do. Even if one is a part-time student, that is still a lot to contend with. A hectic life and schedule can cause the calmest of people to cave in under pressure, and the inability to get everything done can lead to stress.

For various reasons, people turn to drugs and alcohol as a means of coping with their problems. There are those that try recreational drugs and hate the way they make them feel, and there are those that become instantly hooked. The smell of alcohol is enough to make some people steer away from it. However for others, they have to come to depend on it for temporary relief. For those that have become addicted, the school offers free services to all enrolled students.

Jessica Lettow, RN and Director of Health Services, says that she sees many students that are looking for help. The students come in and are evaluated to see what it is they need help with. "If it is something we can help with, then we are glad to be of service," says Lettow. "It is often in our conversations with the students that we may find that they are in need of more extensive services and they are then referred to the counseling office." However, Lettow says that students need not come to the health services office first. "They can just go straight to the counseling office and there is someone there that will help them."

John Hoeppel PhD is the Director of the Counseling Office. He and other qualified staff members work together as a team to best serve the student. The counseling office offers individual, group, and couples counseling. Their goal is to help the clients come up with healthy ways to deal

with the stresses and problems that they face in their everyday lives. By doing this, the student can work towards achieving their academic and personal goals. If they have a well-balanced lifestyle, they better their chances of reaching their potential and being successful in their lives.

Students can come in to see counselors for an initial intake and assessment. "We often find that some of the issues are combined with other problems such as depression and we try to treat the whole person", says Hoeppel. "There are many services offered to students and we try to figure out what is going on with each student so we can know how to serve them." Hoeppel has been around for 29 years and says that he's seen an increase in the number of students seeking help. "More and more people are coming in with serious problems and the services have really taken off in the last 10-15 years."

From October of last year to January of this year, intake is up 37%. According to Hoeppel, counseling services have seen a steady increase in demand over the last 5 years. In the last year alone, the office scheduled more than 4,200 individual counseling sessions.

Services offered on campus are free to registered students. If the student needs off-campus services, then the office usually works with outside agencies to see if they will be covered by their insurance. Once a student graduates, the office works with them to refer to outside agencies that may be covered by their insurance.

There are also limited services offered to faculty, staff, and veterans.

The Counseling Office is located in the lower level of the D-building in D-024. Their phone number is 773-442-4650.





# Funwithdirt

by Natalie Avilez  
Staff Writer

Instead of the typical textbook and notebook, a new NEIU course is requiring students to bring a pocket knife, work gloves, Pepto-Bismol, medical insurance, and a valid passport to class.

ANTH-380, in an archeological field school in Belize, is a six-credit-hour course that allows students to receive hands-on experience in the archaeological field by studying abroad. Excavation, mapping, artifact processing, and field analysis are all taught in the field school. This is the fourth year that this course is being offered in NEIU and the third year that students have actually worked in the heart of the Mayan civilization.

Led by Dr. Jon B Hageman, NEIU's Assistant Professor of Anthropology, the field school is part of a multi-year research program that investigates rural Maya populations in the Late/Terminal Classic period. To this day, there is evidence of the existence of Maya populations in Belize and many of the field school investigations look at the relationship between rural populations and urban centers as well as the social/ political-economic history of the ancient Maya world.

"All artifacts that are excavated are the property of the Government of Belize. We are able to export soil samples that are germane to our research on ancient Maya diet. NEIU students have been working on samples exported from Belize since Sept., 2005," said Hageman.

A typical day during the course will consist of having breakfast in the field camp by 6 am, leaving for the fields at 7, returning at 4 pm, dinner at 6 pm, and lights out at 9 pm. Sometimes there is lecture upon returning from the field; this does not last more than 2 hours. "Students have about 2 hours of free time before dinner, and lectures are usually after dinner," stated Hageman.

The field camp is the R.E.W Adams Research Station, located in the heart of the tropical rainforest and houses facilities such as a dormitory, kitchen, latrine, laboratory and tent platforms. Typical Belizean dishes such as rice and beans, stew chicken and plantains will be prepared by kitchen staff.

Students that are interested in the field school must have prerequisites in courses ANTH-213 Intro to Archaeology, ANTH-250 Latin American Archaeology, or ANTH-374, the Maya.

"Though these courses prepare them for how to think about what we're finding, they don't receive instruction in excavation and mapping until we're in the field." said Hageman.

For those that are eligible and interested in registering, the course runs from May 17 through June 14. The total cost for the trip is \$2,150 and includes airfare, transportation in Belize and to Tikal, room and board, and field equipment. Although the deadline for application is Mar., 15, 2007, applications are accepted until all the spaces are filled.

To find more information about the field school and Belize log onto NEIU's web site:  
[www.neiu.edu/~anthro/BelizeFieldSchool/index.html](http://www.neiu.edu/~anthro/BelizeFieldSchool/index.html)

photo courtesy of [www.eol.ucar.edu](http://www.eol.ucar.edu)

## Weird and unusual ways to fund college education

by Connie Patricia Herring  
Senior Staff Writer

College scholarships often have strict academic, community service, and leadership requirements. Therefore, one would think that people who don't necessarily possess traditional skills and abilities are left without funds. But that isn't necessarily true. There is hope for those who are looking to fund their education through weird and unusual scholarships.

Some scholarships are outrageous, hilarious, or just plain dumb! A few of these weird scholarships include names like the Zolp Scholarship, The Fat Acceptance Scholarship, The Pot Scholarship, and The Talls Clubs International Scholarship.

The Zolp Scholarship is a 4-year, full tuition scholarship to Chicago's Loyola University. Father William Zolp, whom had mixed feelings about

his curious last name, set it up in 1977.

The Lefty Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship for people with sufficient grades by Frederick and Mary Beckley. Both of them were lefties and left the scholarship in their will as an attribute to left-handed romance.

The David Letterman Scholarship targets "average yet creative" telecommunication majors. He believes that students with average grades should also receive financial assistance in school. "This scholarship is dedicated to all C-students before me and after me," says Letterman.

The Calgon scholarship is a \$5000 award for women who answer girly questions like "Calgon's Intense Eau de Parfum sprays are sophisticated, simple, irresistible and long-lasting. Tell us what makes your closest friendship last."

The Pot Scholarship is a scholarship given to college students from The National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana

Laws. The scholarship is for \$650 and is given to those who write essays outlining a more "sensible" drug policy for the United States.

The Goodie Goodie scholarship is a scholarship for female "A" students at Pennsylvania's Bucknell University who do not smoke, drink, chew tobacco, take drugs, or participate in strenuous athletic contests. Joseph H. Deppen, who donated the money to the university in memory of his sister, gives the scholarship to the student.

The Fat Acceptance Scholarship is for \$500 and is given to an obese individual who respond to questions about his or her attitude towards fat people and acceptance.

Similarly, The Tall Club's International Scholarship is a scholarship for \$1000 which is awarded to students who write essays on "What Being Tall Means To Me".

The Sammy Award is a \$7500 grant

sponsored by the "Got Milk" campaign and USA Today. This odd scholarship requires some leadership ability and academic achievement in addition to the sporting of a milk mustache.

There are scholarships that fit the personalities, the names, the traits, and characteristics of a wide variety of individuals. One doesn't have to be an over-achiever to get scholarships for college. Some scholarships allow a person to just be themselves and reward them for being just that, a person!

Don't give up on college because of tuition. Have a little fun and take a risk by going for these weird and unusual scholarships. For more information on these and other odd money sources, google "weird and unusual scholarships." Also see: Fastweb.com, Find tuition.com, and/or Scholarships4all.net. It may be a challenge to find the money you need, but it's possible!



# Next Stop: Oak Park

by Felicia Williams  
Staff Writer

Oak Park is a small suburb located 9 miles west of downtown. It was established in 1839 and spans only 4.7 square miles. Oak Park was the boyhood home of Ernest Hemingway and also boasts the architecture of the great Frank Lloyd Wright.

The affluent area was originally an "all white" suburb, but in the 1960's the town began to see block-by-block integration. Over the years, the village has put in a lot of hard work to become a welcoming place for people from all backgrounds. Oak Park now has a reputation for ethnic integration and is thought of as a "gay-friendly" place to live. It is home to an estimated 50,000 residents that represent people from all over the world.

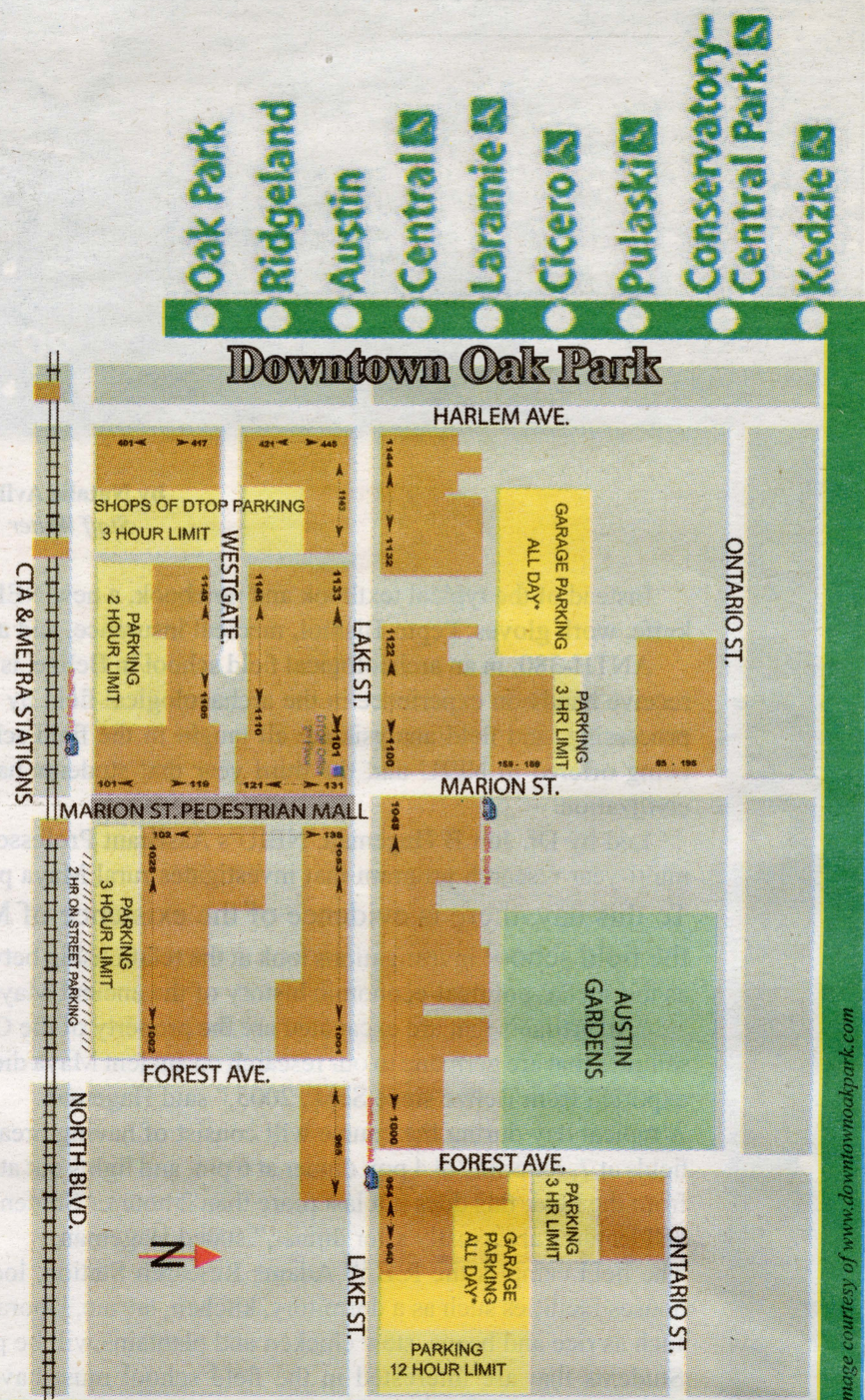
One can live a suburban lifestyle in Oak Park while experiencing many urban conveniences. It is accessible by taking the green line train to the end of the line at Harlem and Lake, and the town has several Pace bus routes that will help you navigate your way around to work, schools and even the malls.

The make up of the city is comprised of several factors. In the housing category we find that 50% of the residents of Oak Park live in households. Of that number, 30.3% have children under 18. On the other hand, many households are made up of married couples (42.5%), however there are also those that are female-headed that make up

about 11.2% of the towns' population. More than 50% of the residents of Oak Park own their homes while the other 43.7% rent. While women outnumber men, 53.6% to 46.4% respectively, there is a pretty good mix of residents overall. There is a good number of young people living there with the median age of 35.9. Many of the younger professionals own and rent condos because they don't have the time to keep up with the maintenance of the home.

Education plays a key role as it would in any area. Many residents are college educated and therefore they make more money than high school grads. On any given day you can see students and business men and women commuting back and forth each day. The town really comes alive in the summer with several street fests and activities for the families.

Oak Park is a good place to live because there is a great mix of people and plenty of things to do. In downtown Oak Park there is the Lake Theater, The Frank Lloyd Wright historical district and countless restaurants and pubs. There are also a couple of bookstores and the great tasting Oberweis ice cream store. There are also shopping malls and grocery stores. Everything is relatively accessible and the people are friendly enough. You can keep yourself busy and always find good food. It's just a matter of your own personal taste.



## The Bike Club year round

by Afifa Amin  
Staff Writer

Bike riders love to ride their bikes, even through the icy Chicago winter.

"My bike is my main source of transportation," said Paul Harris, Treasurer of the Bike Club. Riding has numerous perks, he says. "I pass two or three buses and a line of cars in traffic (on my way to school)."

Dedicated bikers like Paul Harris ride their bikes year round, regardless of the inclement weather. "It's much warmer to ride a bike than to stand at a bus stop," he said. He has yet to have a single accident while riding his bike in the snow.

Paul has a car, but he chooses to ride. According to Harris, winter riding is not as difficult as it seems. Other members of the bike club choose not to have cars. The

biking club does not discourage riding cars, it just wants people to know and experience the benefits of riding a bicycle.

The bike club is working with the Green Cycle Group to promote a cleaner environment. The mission of the club is to get students to ride their bikes to and from school. Bike riding is cleaner for the environment, fun, and saves riders the hassle of setting time aside to workout at the gym by getting a workout while commuting back and forth from home to school.

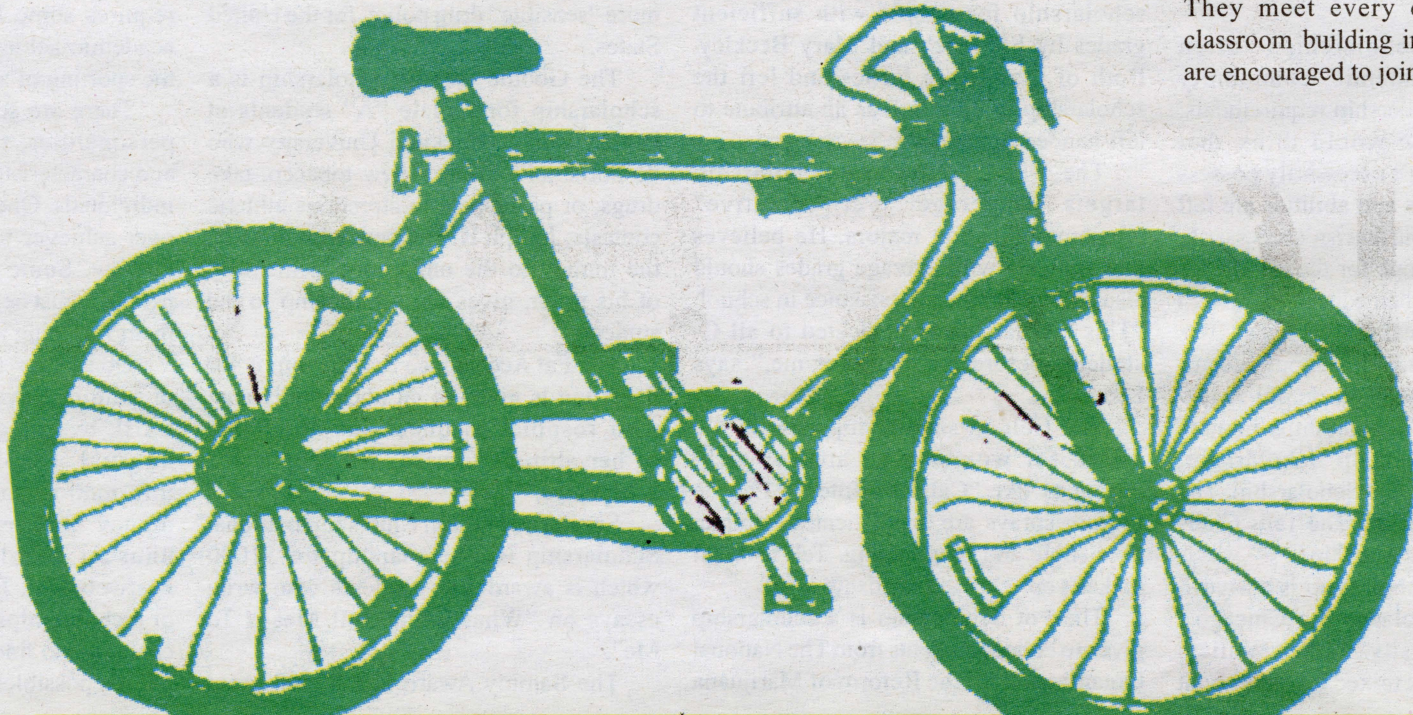
There are bike racks outside of every building, however the bike club would like students to lobby for better and safer bike parking, such as indoor weather protected lock-ups. Aside from using bikes for commuting, the bike club also uses bikes for recreation. They have ridden in Chicago Critical Mass twice, and they will be riding as a club for Earth Day on April 22.

Currently the Bike Club is working on making tool kits, tire pumps, and emergency locks available on campus.

The club also aims to teach people the proper requirements for riding and repairing a bike in the city. Paul Harris advises people to stay away from mountain bikes, which are meant for the mountains, and to stick to road bikes, which are lighter weight. The number one place to purchase a vintage bike, according to Paul Harris, is from the Working Bikes Cooperative at 1125 S. Western Avenue (<http://workingbikes.org/>).

Recommended places to purchase new bikes include Boulevard Bikes in Logan Square, Rapid Transit in Wicker Park, On the Route in Lincoln Park, and Uptown Bikes, located in Uptown.

The Bike Club at Northeastern is a new club that just started this semester. They meet every other Thursday in classroom building in 3056. All students are encouraged to join.







**Dr. Joy Poskozim**

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Chicago IL 60646

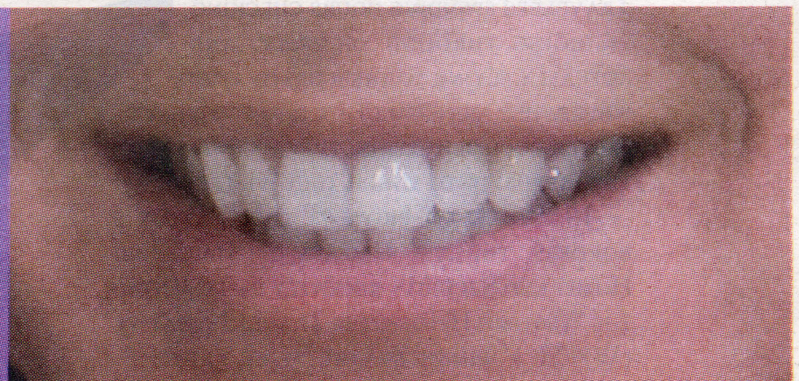
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# Travelers Beware

BY NATALIE AVILEZ  
STAFF WRITER

WITH SUMMER JUST MORE THAN A MONTH AWAY, THE INTERNET IS BEING OVERRUN WITH ADVERTISEMENTS FOR LAST-MINUTE PACKAGES ON HOTEL AND AIRFARE TO RESORTS SUCH AS CANCUN, JAMAICA AND BERMUDA. ALTHOUGH MANY OF THESE WEB SITES ARE REMINDING STUDENTS OF CHANGES TO AIR TRAVEL DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS, NOT ALL OF THEM HAVE PROPERLY STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING PREPARED.

THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO: TRAVELERS SPENDING HOURS CHECKING IN, GOING THROUGH SECURITY, AND ACTUALLY FLYING TO THEIR DESTINATION, WHERE THEY ARE FINALLY TOLD THAT WITHOUT PROPER DOCUMENTATION, THEY CANNOT LEAVE THE AIRPORT INTO WHICH THEY'VE FLOWN.

IN ORDER TO PROTECT OUR NATION'S BORDERS, THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND HOMELAND SECURITY RECENTLY IMPLEMENTED THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE TRAVEL INITIATIVE (WHTI) WHICH STATES THAT ALL U.S. CITIZENS ENTERING OR RE-ENTERING THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, MEXICO, THE CARIBBEAN OR BERMUDA ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE A PASSPORT OR OTHER ACCEPTED DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING THEIR CITIZENSHIP.

"AIRLINE EMPLOYEES ARE REQUIRED TO VERIFY DOCUMENTS DURING THE CHECK-IN PROCESS," SAID EDWARD RIVERA, THE AMERICAN AIRLINES CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER. "HOWEVER, IT IS THE PASSENGERS' RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THEY HAVE ALL THEIR DOCUMENTS, INCLUDING THEIR PASSPORTS, PRIOR TO ARRIVING AT THE AIRPORT. IF FOR SOME REASON THE AIRLINE FAILS TO CHECK YOUR DOCUMENTS DURING THE CHECK-IN PROCESS AND YOU ARRIVE TO YOUR DESTINATION, NOT ONLY WILL THE AIRLINE GET FINED \$10,000 PER PASSENGER, BUT YOU

## New Security Measures Have Changed Passport Rules

WILL BE DENIED ENTRY AND SENT ON THE NEXT FLIGHT HOME."

THE EASIEST WAY FOR FIRST-TIME APPLICANTS IN OBTAINING A PASSPORT IS BY APPLYING IN PERSON AT A PASSPORT ACCEPTANCE FACILITY SUCH AS A LIBRARY OR A POST OFFICE. TWO PHOTOGRAPHS, PROOF OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP, A VALID FORM OF PHOTO IDENTIFICATION SUCH AS A DRIVER'S LICENSE, AND A \$97 FEE IS REQUIRED.

THE TYPICAL PROCESSING TIME FOR A PASSPORT IS SIX TO EIGHT WEEKS. SPRING BREAK TRAVELERS ARE URGED TO APPLY NOW.

FOR LAST-MINUTE PROCRASTINATORS, EXPRESS PROCESSING CAN BE EXPEDITED IN TWO WEEKS, OR OVERNIGHT FOR ADDITIONAL FEES.

PASSPORT RENEWAL CAN BE DONE BY MAIL, AS LONG AS THE INFORMATION ON ONE'S EXPIRED PASSPORT IS CURRENT.

"ALTHOUGH SOME COUNTRIES MAY NOT REQUIRE PASSPORTS FOR ENTRY, IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED FOR PASSENGERS TO GET ONE, ESPECIALLY IF TRAVELING BY AIR," SAYS DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY REPRESENTATIVE LAURA SADLER. "EVEN

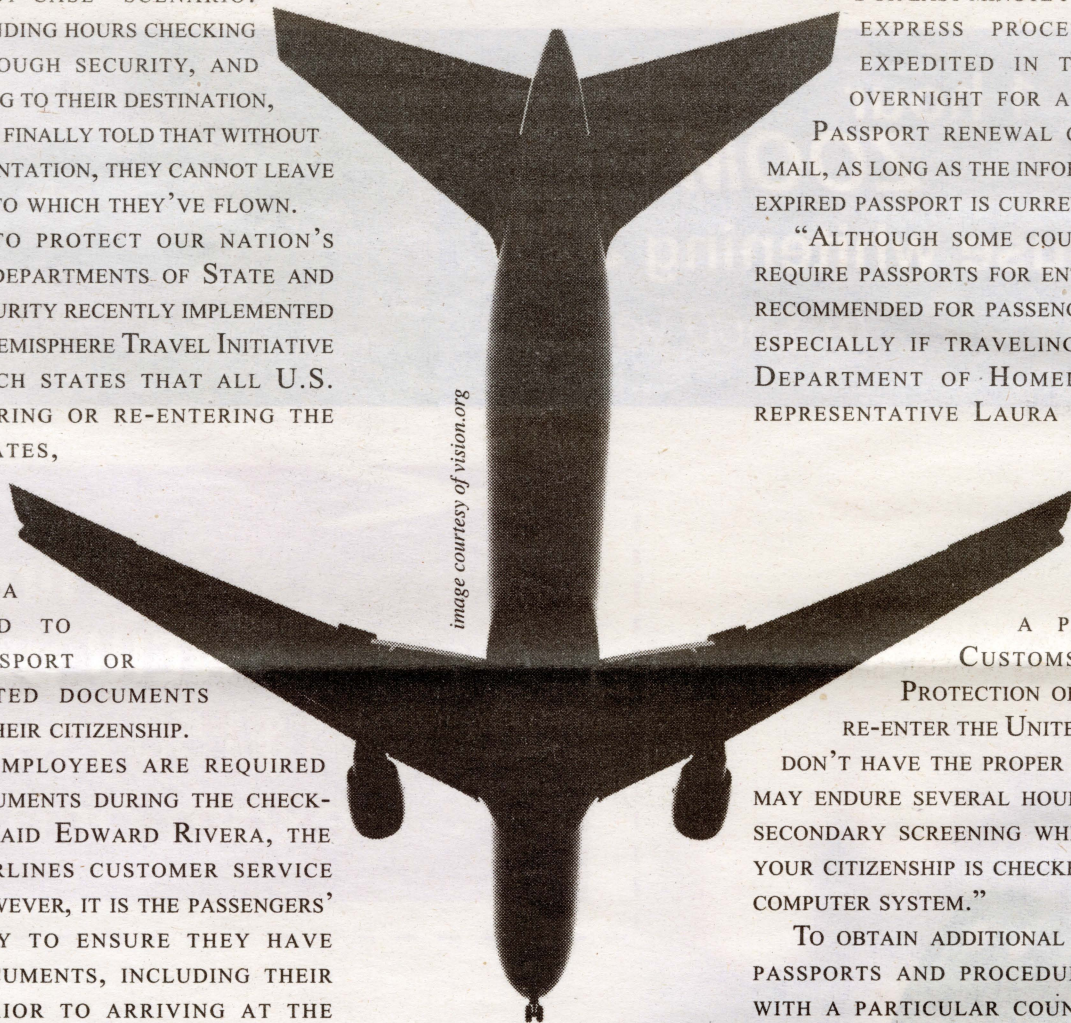
(IF) YOU ARE A UNITED STATES CITIZEN, YOU WILL BE ASKED TO PRESENT

A PASSPORT TO A CUSTOMS AND BORDER

PROTECTION OFFICER WHEN YOU RE-ENTER THE UNITED STATES. IF YOU

DON'T HAVE THE PROPER DOCUMENTS, YOU MAY ENDURE SEVERAL HOURS OR LONGER OF SECONDARY SCREENING WHERE EVIDENCE OF YOUR CITIZENSHIP IS CHECKED AGAINST THEIR COMPUTER SYSTEM."

TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PASSPORTS AND PROCEDURES ASSOCIATED WITH A PARTICULAR COUNTRY, INCLUDING LOCATIONS OF AMERICAN CONSULATES, VISIT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S WEB SITE AT [HTTP://TRAVEL.STATE.GOV](http://travel.state.gov), CALL THE PASSPORT INFORMATION CENTER (877) 4USA-PPT, OR CONTACT THE U.S. POSTAL SERVICE.



## TECHTALK

by Amanda Dalal

## Noise interference at 40,000 feet

IN the last two weeks, I've found myself on two round-trip flights around the country. No matter what airline I was on, all of them mentioned an FCC regulation against cell phones and wireless devices, and asked that they be turned completely off for the duration of the flight.

If you've ever had a cell phone near a set of speakers just before an incoming call, you've heard the interference they produce. Imagine

200 phones interfering with the planes controls, and it's not hard to see why the FCC has that rule. Besides, hurdling through the air at hundreds of miles an hour while you're tens of thousands of feet up, what kind of reception do you expect to get anyway?

But we live in an age where we can't even put down our phone to order a cheeseburger at the drive-thru, and can't get through a movie without texting someone, so of course someone has stepped in to fill the gap and develop a technology to let us talk from takeoff to landing.

Ryanair, a discount airline ticket company from the UK, has recently been researching ways to get cell phone reception at 35,000 feet. Using

cell broadcasting technology called "picocells" (which Ryanair claims has no interference issues with the plane's equipment) Ryanair is predicting a 2008 launch for in-flight calling. Wireless internet connections are also in the works.

After spending more than half a day in the air within a month, I couldn't be more horrified at this development. It's bad enough to be stuffed into small seats with no leg room, next to a guy who is drinking too much, the baby behind you crying the whole time, and the lucky person who got the window seat closing the shade. As if the claustrophobia of the situation isn't all the irritation one can take, now I'm trapped inside the giant metal tube listening to 199 other people

yakking away about their inane lives for hours as well. And there's no way out.

In other words, I'm not worried about the technical interference. It's the noise interference from the other passengers I dread.

Many flights have pay phones built into the seats for emergency calls. If you absolutely need to talk to someone, that option is often available. Stick to carriers that provide that service. Flying is the one time I don't have to hear your annoying Jay-Z ringtone, or listen to obviously loud conversations about your friends and their STDs.

Read a book. Sleep. Watch the in-flight movie. Read SkyMall. Just keep your cell phone turned off.



# Can you feel the magic?

## The supposed dangers of role-playing games

by Jonathan Gronli  
Production Editor

You're in the basement of a friend's house, sitting around a table, and all of a sudden you're hit with a spell or by a person, creature, plant, angel or demon.

You have just entered the realm of the Role-Playing Game (RPG) campaign. You are the actor, strong with your friends, potentially ignored by everyone else other than friends and family. You are a gamer.

Let us begin by going over the normal stereotypes that some gamers are showered with. People who play games within the likes of *Dungeons and Dragons* may often be accused of being involved in the occult. There is also an allegation of drug use that pops up on occasion. It is either any of those statements or we are just generally insane.

However, that is not necessarily true. Gamers are a group of people who are interested in various facets of life and existence. Gamers are creative people. Without the gamers within the realm of *D&D*, *Magic: The Gathering* or the *World of Darkness* spin-offs (*Vampire*, *Werewolf*, *Mage*, etc.), the story-lines in some of the console or PC games we have now probably would never have come into being.

While there definitely are aspects of the occult in table-top or live-action RPGs, they don't endorse participation in the occult. Sorcery is merely a part of the story in which the player or character might be a magic user.

Table-top or live-action RPGs are pretty much the equivalent of theatre. You have a role. You play it until your character in that play/campaign is dead or until the campaign ends in defeat or victory. You interact with other characters in the game, live out your character's life and mold him/her as you proceed.

The scenes in which the story takes place are described verbally. One need not be in a dark room, tunnel, or in any real surrounding area described to play.

*Dungeons & Dragons* sets aside a safe haven for those who wish to dance on the side of fantasy, even though many are well-grounded in reality. *Vampire: The Masquerade* and *Werewolf* are some Live Actions Role Playing (LARPs) games out there which allow you to go through your characters normal life with basic challenges. These challenges are either met or failed by most likely through a game of paper-rock-scissors, rather than actually biting someone, killing someone, drinking literal blood or other things which might pop up in the game.

As for drugs, *World of Darkness* games come with the disclaimer that drugs are not necessary to be able to further the game.

Games like *Magic: The Gathering*, is pretty much the same thing play although it is much quicker, more streamlined, and in card form. You and your opponents are both planeswalkers and you duel. Each game ends when either you or your opponent runs out of life points or cards in their deck.

Yes there can be draws. In terms of *MTG*, it's understandable why there would be some reservations about the occult. You are able to summon zombies, plants, animals, demons, shadows and humans to fight in your army or just beat down on your opponent with artifice or arcane sorcery spells. Is there any real problem with things like RPGs of different sorts? No, not really. One just needs to be able to approach them with an open mind rather than shutting out the possibilities.

People like movies. People like theatre. RPGs just are an extension of that into the social groups who play them.



## The society of Gaming

by Michael Nguyen  
Production Editor

Humans have always been playing games, but a new wave of entertainment entered in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century: video-gaming.

How has society reacted when confronted with the introduction to of the new interactive medium?

Computer-gamers like Jeffrey Nelson and Jonathan Gronli note their social experiences as a child when they first started playing games. "My parents thought playing video-games was a waste of time," said Jeffrey. "But other kids where like 'Cool! You got a Nintendo,' and they would huddle around to play Super Mario Bros. I mean, adults didn't like it but it was a 'cool' thing."

Viewpoints of computer and video gaming often change over time, just like any other form of mass-produced entertainment. Jeff Roll, another gamer, offers his video-gaming experience: "When I was a kid, yes it was popular. But once I got into High School, video-gaming was less popular for some reason...By the time I hit college, society became more comfortable with technology and being a 'geek' was no longer considered uncool. That's when gaming became popular again."

Video-gaming culture has not been without its controversies. Recent backlash has included blaming the Columbine High School shootings debacle on video games as well as the lawsuits against Rockstar Games for its violent game "Grand Theft Auto."

"People in society always looks for new scapegoats," says Gronli.

Roll adds that "Rock and Roll made people worship the Devil and take drugs, TV and movies got teenagers to have unprotected sex. I mean, people will always try to make baseless accusations on any form of mass-produced entertainment and media."

From the local console to online multi-play, gaming is now enjoyed worldwide. Consoles like the Playstation 3 and the XBOX 360 have Internet and multiplayer capability. But does video gaming help connect society?

Jeffrey Nelson doesn't think so. "Games used to be personal," he lamented. "You and your buddies huddled together playing videogames. With online multi-play, opponents or allies are more spread out; they become more anonymous and have less connection with other players."

Steve Gardner, another gamer, disagrees with that claim. "Online multi-play has certainly increased if not promote social gaming. Players are still human and still seek groups to belong to. FPS (First Person Shooters) gamers develop Clans and MMORPGs (Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games) gamers create Guilds. In a sense they are creating a society in the gaming world."

Gronli thinks that, "Yes gamers still seek out groups, but the social norms and customs of the game world are only applicable to that reality and are not valid to real society."

Even female gamers are getting in on the action. With online multi-play and a new variety of video games in a market that used to be male-dominated, female gamers like Andrea Ocasia are entering the world of electronic entertainment.

But does playing games make a female less of a woman? "No, I don't think playing games makes me less feminine," says Andrea "There are some people who are okay with it, some girls who think it is cool, and then I have other friends who think it's a waste of time."

As society adapts its views on video-gaming as well as the subculture groups that rise out of playing computer games, one thing seems sure for the foreseeable future: Video-games are here to stay.



image courtesy of www.worldofazeroth.com

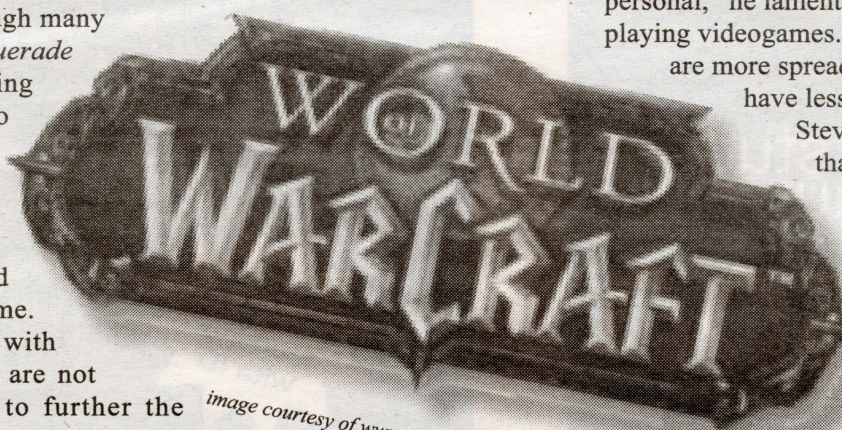


image courtesy of www.worldofazeroth.com



# Simply organic

by **Connie Patricia Herring**  
Senior Staff Writer

Organic foods are supposed to be good for you. But is eating organically grown produce really beneficial for people or is it harmful?

Organics have owned a very small piece of the grocers' market over the years, and dated stereotypes implied that the only people that once ate organics were the "nature" children of the seventies and the eco-system warriors of the eighties. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, only one percent of markets in the U.S. sold organics in the 1980's.

Now they are being sold everywhere.

Organics is not merely a subculture anymore. Customers are looking for alternatives to their regular groceries. Some of their regular groceries may be high in salt, contain growth hormones, and may be destroying their health in various ways.

Organic foods have no exposure to harmful herbicides and pesticides. The organic label implies that it is safe, high quality food that is grown and harvested in a manner that does not harm the environment and improves soil fertility and structure. Organic products include produce, milk, canned and frozen foods, baby food, and even clothing. They also include personal care items like toothpaste.

Natural meats are considered organic because they have not been tampered with. There are no hormones and antibiotics added to them, which is why top chefs prefer to cook natural meats. Organic foods contain many nutrients that are beneficial to those who eat them including chromium, selenium, calcium, boron, lithium, and magnesium. Each of the nutrients has higher levels in organic foods, and its benefits include diabetes prevention, bone health, cancer prevention, a healthier heart, mind, and immune system.

Organic foods also tend to have more flavors in them because they are grown in healthy, living soil. This is another reason why some chefs and customers alike love organic foods. However most people are afraid to eat organically; they may hold back because of the cost.

Yes, organic foods are costly. But let's face it, it costs to eat right! With the benefits of going organic, it may be well worth it to purchase organic products and foods.

Whole Foods Market has the largest selection of organic foods in North America. Even though their parking lots tend to be filled with Hummers and Mercedes, no one should feel that the store is not for them. The organic pastries alone make the trip worthwhile!

Other grocery stores that sell organic foods are Jewel's, Dominick's, Wal-Mart, and various large food chains.

One potential problem with organic foods and produce is that the expiration dates may fall shorter than other regular foods and products. Organic foods are sometimes shipped from other countries and do not make it to America until days or weeks later. A person may have to take frequent trips to the grocery store. Once again, it's worth it!

Keep it mind when shopping that if a label says "natural or all-natural", it means nothing. These are vague marketing terms.

If a label says 100 percent organic, by law there are no synthetic ingredients. This type of food has to be independently verified by accredited inspectors. If a label says "made with organic ingredients", 70 percent of the ingredients must be organic. "Locally grown" means that it was grown within a consumers' region. It is not necessarily organic. "Natural meats" contain no artificial flavoring, colors, and synthetic ingredients according to the USDA.

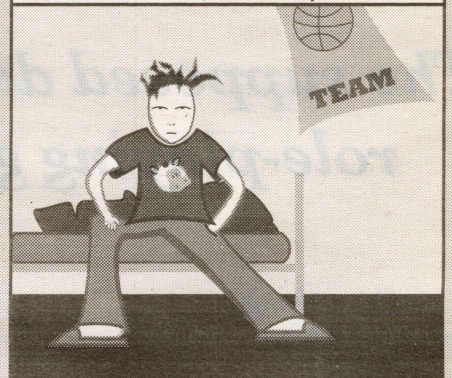
Organic foods can be good for you. They protect from diseases, cardiovascular health problems, joint problems, and much more. Eating organic foods, drinking pure water, and watching our chemical exposure can help our health.

## the morning...

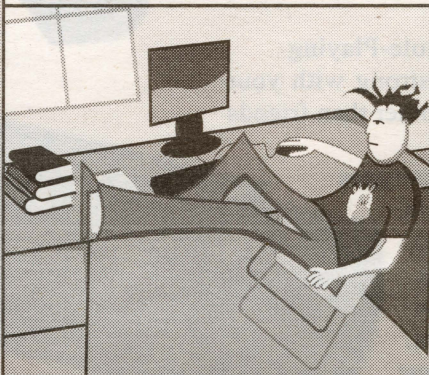
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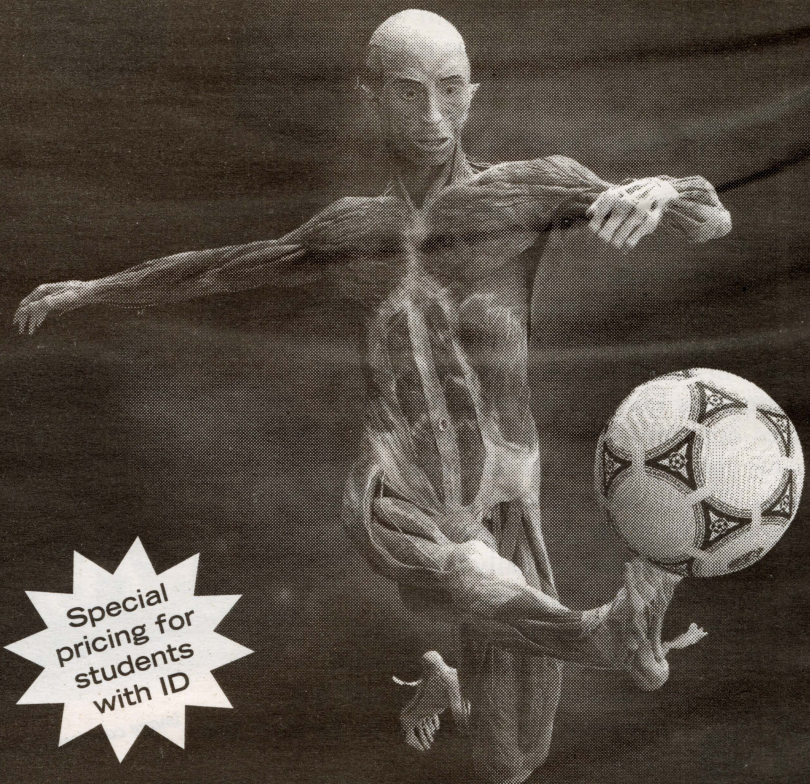
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The Independent is completely student run and receives no prior review of its content by anyone other than its student editors.

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.

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

## Wednesday, March 28

Fun and Action Event  
**Green Cycle Group**  
1:30 - 4:30pm: SU-214

## Thursday, March 29

Campus Student Forum  
**Illinois Board of Higher Education**  
1:40-3:00pm: B-152

Peace Corps on-campus  
**Placement Office: Pre-registration**  
3:00pm: SU-218

**Quartet San Francisco**  
8:00pm: Recital Hall

## Friday, March 30

March Mad Illness  
**Hip Hop Organization**  
6:00 - 10:00pm: Alumni Hall

## Saturday, March 31

Effective Communication Seminar  
**Graduate Students Only**  
8:30am-12pm: B-152

## Monday, April 2

Blood Drive  
**Future Health Professionals**  
10:00am - 5:00pm: Alumni Hall

## Tuesday, April 3

Finance Committee Meeting  
**Student Government Association**  
1:40 - 2:40pm: SU-215

Charter and Rules Committee Meeting  
**Student Government Association**  
1:40 - 2:40pm: SU-217

Blood Drive  
**Future Health Professionals**  
10:00am - 5:00pm: Alumni Hall

## Wednesday, April 4

Student Government Election Candidate Day  
**Student Activities Office**  
10:00am - 6:00pm: Village Square

**Future Health Professionals**  
Blood Drive  
10:00am - 5:00pm: Alumni Hall

## Thursday, April 5

**Asian American Heritage Conference**  
Burma - Internationalism & Solidarity: Global Perspectives (Panel)  
9:25am: FA, Recital Hall

First Annual Peace Fire Circle  
Dedicated to the Burma people & Aung San Suu Kyi  
1:40pm: North of the PE Building

Keynote Presentation: Barbara Victor  
7:00pm: Alumni Hall

Debate Day  
**Student Government Association** -  
1:40 - 2:40pm: Village Square  
Digital portrait Fundraiser  
**Image Art Club**  
8:00am - 9:00pm: Village Square

## Friday, April 6

**NEIU ART GALLERY**  
Photographs and Video by Sheree Hovsepan  
Last Day of Exhibit: April 6th

## April 6 - 11

Student Government Elections On-Line only

## Tuesday, April 10

Student Senate Meeting  
**Student Government Association**  
1:40 - 2:40pm: SU-003

Pa'Lante Conference  
Plantando Semillas: Reflection on Puerto Rican & Latina/o Studies  
**Union for Puerto Rican Students**  
1:40 - 2:40pm: CLS-1001

Eric W Schaudt Lecture  
**APICS**  
1:40 - 2:40pm: CLS - 1002

## All-Campus Conference on Creativity

### Wednesday, March 28, 2007

**Opening Ceremony**  
5:30pm: At Peace Pole, weather permitting; Golden Eagles otherwise

**Dinner Following, B-Wing Lounge Area**  
Phil Cousineau: Igniting the Creative Fire Within All of Us  
7:00pm: Golden Eagles

### Thursday, March 29, 2007

**Cousineau Film: "A Seat at the Table"**  
9:00-10:00am: Golden Eagles  
**Mary Gardner: Finding the Story: The Headline to "30"**  
10:50am-1:30pm: SU-215  
**Edward Nekarda & Jean Fritz: Healing Wounded Souls & Broken Spirits**  
11:00am-1:00pm: SU-215

**Phil Cousineau**  
**Keynote: Stoking the Creative Fire**  
1:40pm-2:50pm: Golden Eagles  
**Dr. Paul Dolan: Creative Science Workshop - Making & Testing Polymer Goo**  
3:00-4:50pm: SCI-209  
**Jeff Hall: The Creative Life of the Entrepreneur**  
3:00-3:50pm: SU-214  
**Mike Martindale: The Creative Life of Numbers**  
3:00-3:50pm: SU-215  
**Mary Gardner: Creativity in School Systems & in the Classroom**  
4:15-5:45pm: Golden Eagles

**Dr. Kathy Kardaras: Reiki: Igniting Your Creative Energy**  
4:15-5:30pm: SU-214  
**Literary Roundtable: Creating the Story: Fanning the Flame**  
6:00-7:00pm: SU-214  
**Jim Kokoris: Creating the Novel "The Rich Part of Life" & "Sister North"**  
7:15-9:00pm: Golden Eagles

### Friday, March 30, 2007

**Cousineau Film: "Ecological Design"**  
9:00-9:50am  
**Phil Cousineau: Experience the Creative Fire Workshop**  
10:00am-12:00pm: Golden Eagles  
**Laurel Spingola: Igniting the Image: Capturing the Vision**  
12:00-12:50pm: SU-214  
**Joe Zefran: Social Activism: Fanning the Flame of Justice**  
12:00-12:50pm: SU-215  
**Tom Hoberg: Creating Myth and Fantasy**  
1:00-1:50pm: Golden Eagles  
**Franklin Satyam Drob: Yoga: Creating the Healthy Bodymind**  
1:00-1:50pm: SU-214  
**Rose Guccione: Diva for a Day**  
2:00-2:50pm: Golden Eagles  
**Creating the Future: A Work in Progress**  
*Panel (Phil Cousineau, Lance Lindquist)*  
2:00-3:15pm: SU-214  
**Samantha Kardaras: Creating Your Authentic Look: With Simple Makeup Techniques**  
2:00-2:50pm: SU-215  
**Closing Ceremony: Passing the Torch**  
3:30-4:30pm: Golden Eagles  
**\*\*Refreshments available in SU-217 throughout the conference.\*\***



# 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](http://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.

**For rent:** Large one bedroom apartment, \$670 per month. 7 minutes from NEIU. Separate kitchen, one bathroom. New carpet and paint. Includes hot water, heating, and air. Laundry in basement. Free parking. Available on 12/11. Please call: (773) 366-2367.

**For rent:** Large 3 bedroom apartment. Near brown line and walking distance of NEIU. Must see! For more info call Monica (773) 213-9996 or Francis (773) 771-2167.

**e-Machines - 335 Desktop computer for sale** Intel Celeron D processor, 80 GB HD, 256 MB DDRSD RAM including Lexmark printer. Victor (847) 966-8955

## Wanted

**Tune in** to moving forward, Thursdays at 5pm on Channel 21,

a talk show that discusses today's urban sociological issues.

**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](mailto:deortle@yahoo.com) or leave message at 847-358-6533.

**Math tutor.** GMAT math tutor. A Ph.D. at Northwestern University. Math genius. Got full scores in GRE Math & Logic. Email: [leo2523754@hotmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Javierdiaz@approvedpromotions.net).

**Now Hiring wait staff** - Full-time and part-time Renga-tei 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](mailto:bahsarie@hotmail.com).

**Start your own business** from home and be financially well off before you graduate. Call 1(888) 283-1967, visit [www.earnhealthy.theonlinebusiness.com](http://www.earnhealthy.theonlinebusiness.com).

**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.

**Attention mid-year graduates.** The Northern Suburban Education District in Highland Park, IL is seeking a teacher to work with students with severe behavior challenges. The position begins immediately and will continue through the 2006-2007 school year. Possible full-time employment for additional school years for the right candidate.

**I am looking for a part time sitter** or if you work around the area of Cortland/Wolcott by Damen even better to pick up my 3yr toddler from school (2:45 pm) and drop off by Belmont/Kolmar (or liver around this area. One hour or less of a drive. Will pay \$20 a week but negotiable M-F when school is in session. If someone else lives by Belmont/Kolmar to pick her up around 8 am to be in school by 9 am. References needed. Early Education major or minor preferred. Sometimes half-day school. Will need to pick up @ 12:25 pm or before. (312) 363-8128 please leave a # and time to call back. I will interview ASAP and will hire 4 qualified candidates.

## 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.

**Apocalypse** literary magazine is now accepting poetry, prose, and photography. Deadline March 1. Email submissions to [alac88@yahoo.com](mailto:alac88@yahoo.com) or leave in E-035.

## 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.*

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

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

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

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

# Did you know?!?!?

## You can get games at the Info Center

**Monopoly**

**Checkers**

**Scrabble**

**Dominos**

**UNO**

**Playing cards**

**Chess**

**Chinese Checkers**

**Survivor: The Game**

You can check out SU 218 and SU 219 if it is not being used! See the Info Center for more details.

Come check out the Top 10 leaders for the NEIU NCAA Bracket Contest in SU 207

Prizes include Jordan & U of I Jerseys, Men's Fossil wristwatch, large Bulls pillow, March Madness t-shirts, among other prizes