

10-9-2007

Independent- Oct. 9, 2007

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Macnab, Duncan, "Independent- Oct. 9, 2007" (2007). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 374.
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2007 ACP Award for Best Non-Weekly College Newspaper in America
Northeastern Illinois University's

Tuesday, October 9, 2007
Vol. 24, Issue 5

INDEPENDENT

Chicago, IL

Member of the Associated Collegiate Press



www.neiuiindependent.com

Governor's budget comes up short



Photo courtesy highereducation.org

**Mark Wilcockson, VP of
Finance and Administration**

by Mike Arch
REV Editor

After much strife, the 2008 State of Illinois budget has been passed. Included in the budget is an increase in funds from last year for NEIU. Tuition increases also brought in additional funds. Even with all the extra money awarded to the school it is still not enough to cover the increase in basic operations.

"The budget that is most talked about at the University is the Unrestricted Operating Budget which is the State General Funds Appropriations [State funding] and the University Income Fund which is basically tuition dollars. This is where most of the University operations are paid for," said Mark Wilcockson Vice President of Finance and Administration.

In fiscal year 2007 (FY2007) tuition income was \$34,707,700 with a tuition increase taking effect this fiscal year (FY2008) tuition dollars are projected at \$36,707,700 an increase of \$2,000,000 a 5.8% increase.

The State General Funds Appropriations for FY2007 were \$40,026,300 the amount that was granted

to the University was \$40,770,700 for FY2008 an increase in \$744,400 a 1.9% increase.

The total increase in this fund from FY2007 and FY2008 is \$2,744,400 a 3.7% increase. This money is to be used for increases in salaries, benefits, insurance, risk management and utilities.

There is approximately \$2,100,000 increase in salaries and an additional \$150,000 increase estimated for benefits, a total of \$2,250,000 in increases. Utilities are estimated at a \$400,000 increase for FY2008 due to deregulation. Insurance and risk management are estimated at a \$500,000 increase. The total operating increase is estimated at \$3,150,000 that puts the operating budget at negative

*Even with a
funds increase
NEIU still
comes up short.*

\$405,600.

Even with a funds increase NEIU still comes up short. The university is implementing a 2% internal reallocation to meet resource requirements. Which means budget cuts in many of the departments on campus. "All the administrative areas, academic affairs, student affairs, and finance and administration, reduced our budget by 2% to basically fund these other costs," said Mark Wilcockson.

NEIU wins Outstanding Hispanic Member Institution Award

by Keith Atterberry
Staff Writer

Northeastern Illinois University is the recipient of the national 2007 "Outstanding Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Member Institution Award."

According to its website (<http://www.hacu.net>), the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) was established in 1986 with a founding membership of eighteen institutions. Today, HACU represents more than 450 colleges and universities committed to Hispanic higher education success in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Latin America, Spain and Portugal.

"As a federally

designated Hispanic Serving Institution, the most ethnically diverse university in the Midwest according to U.S. News and World Report, and a longtime HACU member

award to recognize and honor extraordinary efforts and success by a HACU member institution that has excelled in advancing the mission and goals of HACU.

HACU
21st Annual Conference
October 20th - 22nd
Championing Hispanic
Higher Education Success: A
National Imperative for the
21st Century

institution, we are honored to receive this award," said President Sharon K. Hahs, Northeastern Illinois University.

According to an NEIU press release HACU's Governing Board approved the establishment of this national

"HACU's conferences and special events each year provide a vital platform for advocacy, information, collaboration, and recognition." HACU's 21st Annual Conference, "Championing Hispanic Higher Education Success: A National Imperative for the 21st Century," will be October 20-22, 2007 in Chicago, Illinois. The association's website (<http://www.hacu.net>) has more information and the chance register for the conference.

See Award page 5

New e-mail upgrade still snagged

by TC Chung
Interim News Editor

The University's upgrade of the student e-mail system created an unforeseen consequence at the beginning of the semester. They could no longer access e-mail from NEIU's portal, NEIUport. Seven weeks into the semester, students still can not log onto their NEIU e-mail accounts from NEIUport.

The problem is bigger than originally thought, Director of University Computing Services, Kim Tracy said. "The new e-mail system is not directly supported by NEIUport and something

new has to be created to fix it." Tracy is hopeful that the connectivity issue can still be solved internally with a tool for all single sign-on programs, programs like NEIUport.

Computing services has also contacted several contractors to solve the situation. If a contractor is called in a new program will have to be created by to solve the connectivity issue. He is still unsure as to when it will be solved as computing services is waiting to hear back from the contractors called. Once a contractor is selected it is expected to be a few weeks for the problem to be solved.

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Inside

Elie Wiesel ethics essay contest accepting submissions

by David Mosher
Production Manager

The *Elie Wiesel Prize in Ethics Essay Contest 2008* is accepting essays on contemporary ethical topics that college students must face on a day-to-day basis. The contest's purpose is to challenge students to analyze their own perception and thoughts on ethics by writing thought provoking essays that raise questions. The program encourages full-time juniors and seniors to enter the contest.

The deadline for the contest is December 7, 2007. A panel of judges will evaluate all essay entries. This panel of judges will include Elie Wiesel. The winners will be announced in April, 2008.

The program includes a list of suggested topics to write on. However, these topics are only suggestions and not requirements. The topics include the following.

What does your own experience tell you about the relationship between politics and ethics and, in particular, what could be done to make politics more ethical?

Articulate with clarity an ethical issue that you have encountered and analyze what it has taught you about ethics and yourself.

Carefully examine the ethical aspects or implications of a major literary work, a film, or a significant piece of art.

Clearly analyze the relationship between religions and ethics in today's world.

How does a recent political or cultural event shed light on the ethics of rebellion/revolution?

Prizes are awarded for first, second, and third place, as well as honorable mentions. First

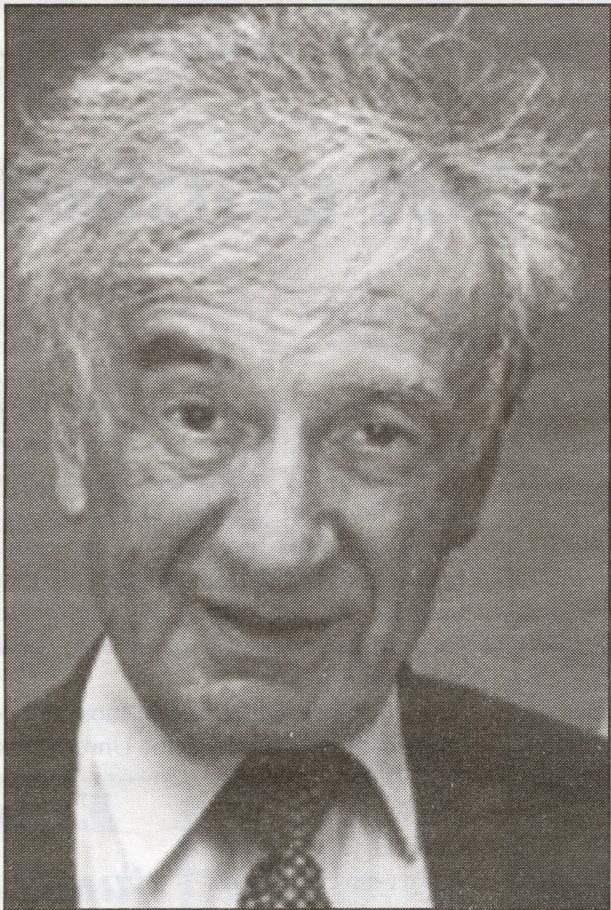


Photo courtesy of wordsmouthwriters.org

Elie Wiesel, pictured above, will be one of the judges for the contest.

Prize is \$5,000. Second Prize is \$2,500. Third Prize is \$1,500. Honorable mentions are \$500 each. Past winners include topic titles such as "The Ethics of South African Identity," "Guilty and Exonerated: Growing Up with the Death Penalty," and "Morality and Memory: Schindler's List and the Ethics of Representation."

For more information on the program, guidelines, and an entry form visit www.eliewieselselfoundation.org.

Police Blotter

On September 12 at 5:51 pm an unknown offender pulled a false fire alarm in the Science Building. It is considered Disorderly Conduct. The case is still open.

On September 13 at 12:00 pm a warrant was discovered during a routine traffic stop at 5940 N Pulaski. The offender was arrested and the case is administratively closed.

On September 19 at 12:00pm an accident involving two vehicles occurred near

the Access Road and Foster Ave. The victim's vehicle was struck from behind, by the offender's vehicle. There were no injuries and minimal damage to both vehicles. The case is administratively closed.

On September 19 at 1:17pm an accident involving two vehicles near the access road and the 'L' lot occurred. The victim's vehicle was struck as the offender came around the 's' curve and crossed into the opposite lane. Both parties refused medical attention, the

case is administratively closed.

On September 24 at 3:19pm a complaint was filed by an individual stating that an unknown offender smeared feces on a bathroom stall in the E building Women's washroom. It is considered criminal damage to state supported property. The case is still open.

On September 25 at 9:14pm a banned offender was caught trespassing in the E-building and taken into custody. The court date is pending.

A Closer Look ... Rendition

by TC Chung
Interim News Editor

The President has once again said that secret prisons are being run where people are being detained for the sake of national security. The Supreme Court ruled in 2006 that the Geneva Conventions applies to al-Qaeda detainees, which made the Bush administration admit to running 'black' detention centers in Afghanistan, Thailand and Eastern Europe. The CIA then turned over fourteen detainees to military custody and moved to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Earlier this week, George W. Bush has stated that these secrets still exist and useful intelligence has been gained from it, intelligence that has prevented attacks against the United States.

The President has said, "These are highly trained professionals questioning these extremists and terrorists." No doubt the same caliber of people who were trained to administer Abu Ghraib. The treatment of prisoners, how interrogations are carried out have been approved by the Justice Department, two years ago. Why was none of this made public then? Why did it take so long to disclose that the Department of Justice had already signed off on the methods that are used? Methods that were used at one point included head slapping, water boarding and subjecting detainees to frigid temperatures. An unclassified memo from the Office of Legal Counsel said that no interrogation practices were illegal unless they produced pain equivalent to organ failure or even death. You begin to wonder what kind of limits exist to people who don't have to answer to anyone when it's been stated in the open that it's okay to interrogate someone to organ failure or even death. The administration has denounced the use of torture tactics and denies that it has been excused since the September 11 attacks.

However, with things left intentionally murky and the Bush administration refusing to turn over the Justice Department documents no one can know for certain what's allowed and what isn't. Senator Patrick Leahy, Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee said, "After telling us and the world that torture is abhorrent...it appears that under Attorney General Gonzales they reversed themselves and instituted a secret regime, by in essence reinterpreting the law in secret." The clandestine agreement the DOJ has given is not being disclosed to Congress, so there is no check on not only what the CIA can do but also what the Executive Branch can do. The content to what these memos may contain are nowhere near as troubling as the fact that they are being kept secret from Congress itself.

How are we as a country that's committed to nation building on two fronts, to building free and open governments have these kinds of facilities where due process of law is denied because the very existence of these facilities was denied. Can we truly be free if our government overlooks habeas corpus and other legal instruments for safeguarding individual liberties? The only way to keep malfeasance in check is for accountability, for accountability there needs to be an open disclosure of what is acceptable and what is not. If the memos are kept in the dark and the definition of what is acceptable and what isn't keeps shifting it creates a climate where abuse and mistreatment can thrive. What goes on in these secret facilities needs to be brought out to the light of day.

"Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants; electric light the most efficient of policemen." — Justice Louis D. Brandeis

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SGA Candidates	Experience in Leadership	Platform	Critical Issues for NEIU	Addressing Student Issues
Aissatou Diallo 				
Alainya Bandy 	Most of my leadership roles have to do with community service. Last winter, i organized a coat donation drive at my church. We sent out flyers to church members and neighbors and collected over 100 coats that we then donated to our local food pantry. Also, over the summer, I organized a block cleanup in my neighborhood.	I believe that a stronger feeling of unity is needed between NEIU students and the NEIU student government. I would like to help bridge the gap between the student body and the SGA. This way, students will feel more comfortable coming to us with problems and issues and we can all work together find solutions that will benefit the NEIU student body.	Recently, Sedexho, the company that provides NEIU with the food, decided to raise their prices. This is a critical issue because many students struggle financially as it is. Other issues that have been called to my attention are tuition increases, and problems with financial aid.	I plan to bring up any unresolved issues in committee and senate meetings and talk about them with fellow members of SGA until we can come up with solutions that will benefit the NEIU student body.
Brad Bowen 	I have been on the student government here at NEIU for a year. Prior to that, I spent 2 years on the student government at Oakton Community College.	I am here to help students with whatever issues they have with the school, be it with administrative issues, or academic issues.	UPass, cafeteria prices, book prices, tuition, availability of classes, and quality of professors.	Work with the administration to make sure that students' voices are being heard when decisions that directly effect students are being made.
David Benjaih 	President and organizing charter member of the Future Health Professionals (Treasurer 03/04; President 04/05, 05/06; VP 06/07); NEIU Coordinator for Red Cross (04 – 07, leading the team that has made NEIU's blood drives one of the most productive amongst all Chicago area schools); President and organizing charter member of the Tennis and Racquet Club (06/07). NEIU Senator, Chair of the Charter and Rules Committee, Spring 07 – present date.	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 i want you to be satisfied with my performance on your behalf.	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.	My approach is to work with other senators as a unified body for the restructuring of the SGA with the goal of acting as a direct liaison between the student body and the administration, and the ultimate goal of forming a coalition of the SGAs of state schools for the increased arbitration value that such an alliance would lend to all participating groups.
Felicia Buibas 	Vice President of Pre-Law Society, Freshmen Orientation Peer Leader, University Ambassador	Representation of the NEIU student body with an emphasis of concern on student affairs and welfare.	Commuter school opportunities, student rights and the U-PASS. We are not a traditional university with dormitories, so I would like to put an emphasis on campus involvement and ways to make NEIU a great experience for all NEIU students. Students are not aware of their rights as a student at NEIU and the U-Pass is a necessity because we are a commuter school.	I plan to address NEIU student issues by asking the STUDENTS, themselves, about what they would like to see happen with THEIR university.
Kenneth Anthony 	Youth leader of WHB community org Evanston, IL 2000-2006. Captain of H.S. Baseball Team 03-07	I plan to increase student culture and school pride.	The critical issues for NEIU students are overpriced food, and a lack of school community building events such as sports teams.	I plan to give my all to better the college experience for NEIU students. I will work with my fellow Senators and the faculty to solve the issues important to us.
Lubna Razi 	Secretary of the Future Health Professionals; made NEIU blood drives the most productive amongst all Chicago area schools. Research assistant at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Clinical Research Department with Stem Cell and Hematology Department. Interning since May 2007.	First and foremost I want to make the SGA accessible and accountable to the diverse and unique student body of NEIU. I want student ideas to be expressed and want to satisfied student needs as a senator.	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, tuition expense.	
Sabha Aysheh 	President and organizing charter member of the Future Health Professionals 07/08; helping the NEIU Coordinator with Red Cross, looking forward on being the following coordinator that has been leading the team that has made NEIU blood drives the most productive amongst all Chicago area schools. A member of the Muslim Student Association.	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.	At NEIU we 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. We would like to address these issues, but feel that they can only be properly addressed once the state recognizes our collective potential; thus developing and implementing a statewide coalition is our primary goal.	Our team approach is to work as a unified body for the restructuring of the SGA with the goal of acting as a direct liaison between the student body and the administration, and the ultimate goal of forming a coalition of the SGAs of state schools for the increased arbitration value that such an alliance would lend to all participating groups.
Shawnice Reid 	At New Hope International Church, I served as a Youth Leader for Deep Impact, Volunteer Coordinator for the Shelter Ministries, President for New Hope International Church Choir, Support Staff for Nursing Home Ministry, and a volunteer for Outreach Ministry.	I would like to see Northeastern Illinois University reach its fullest potential regarding diversity by integrating every culture into university life to promote student growth.	I believe NEIU students yearn for beneficial activities and assistance at the main campus as well as El Centro and Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies.	I plan on addressing NEIU student issues by being open to suggestions, setting objectives, brainstorming propositions with the Student Government Association, and raising awareness as well as access to alternatives.

SGA boycott makes a difference

by Kaity Nicastrì
Photo Editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) called the student body to action with boycott against Sodexo on Tuesday, September 25. The SGA wanted to find an issue that everyone could relate to, and elicit a student response, with increased prices of food and low levels of student involvement in matters of finance around the University, Sodexo just dropped in their laps just such a unifying concern.

The first week alone was successful, sending a strong message that students do not wish to be left out of decision-making processes. Brad Bowen, an ASGA senator stated in reference to the first week's impact, "We've been effective." The sales in the cafeteria were reduced, and students rallied around the effort in Alumni Hall on the boycott's kickoff day. By the second day of the boycott, over 700 signatures were on the petition to increase student involvement and come up with alternatives to raising prices.

Originally ruled as a two-week endeavor, SGA voted to change the time limit. This was in the interest of making sure it was continued for as long as necessary, whether it be longer or shorter than two weeks.

The boycott was instigated by a presentation by Sodexo's representative at the September 13 finance meeting. SGA wanted to allow students to be aware of what was going on, and looked to publish a list of price changes, and their effects on student budgets. The idea of a meal plan is in the wings, but as a commuter campus, the support for such a plan would be shaky.

When the audit was done on the University was done in March, the University's weakest area in the evaluation was the lack of student involvement in



Photo by Mike Arch

**Originally ruled as a two-week endeavor, SGA voted to change the time limit
... in the interest of making sure it was continued for as long as necessary**

University resolutions. SGA would like to see more student involvement in the University, but also that the student body be included in decision systems affecting the greater population of NEIU.

However, as Brad Bowen stated, SGA wishes to express that it is "not just Sodexo. It is

an all around attitude that the administration doesn't care what we [the students] have to say. We want to be included in decisions." The Sodexo business may wrap up soon, but the struggle for student representation in University decisions will be a topic to follow this year.

Writer? Graphic Artist? Editor?

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dgmacnab@gmail.com

CTA doomsday imminent

by Asher Weisberg
Staff Writer

Although the CTA has a long history of financial struggles, they have always shown resilience against true economic fallout. Their current predicament, though, has the Chicagoland area more worried than usual. With massive debt accumulating the agency has announced their plan for a series of drastic service cuts, a plan they refer to as 'doomsday.'

The CTA's most recent 'doomsday' scenario was narrowly avoided earlier this month when Gov. Blagojevich rescued the agency with a \$24 million bailout. The proposed plan was set to take effect on Sept. 16 and called for the elimination of 63 bus routes, the Yellow Line and Purple Line Express, fare hikes, and the layoff of over 600 employees. The fact that 'doomsday' came and went without incident is hardly reassuring, as the \$24 million isn't enough to

hold the CTA over for even a matter of months. The new projected date for service cuts is Nov. 4 and according to CTA officials, if something isn't done quickly, the economic status of the CTA will continue to worsen. Procrastination on the issue is costing the agency an additional \$11.9 million per month, said CTA president Ron Huberman, who laid out the updated situation at a press conference in late September.

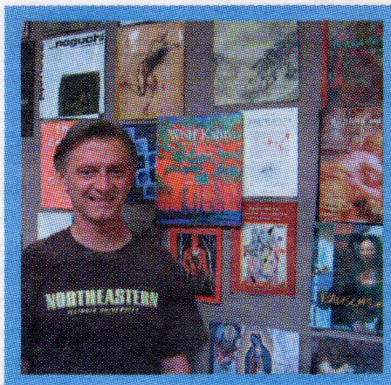
One proposed response to the situation is a sales tax hike in Cook and surrounding counties that would provide an additional \$435 million to the CTA annually. Although this would help, the CTA claims to need approximately \$6 billion just to repair aging trains and busses, so another more controversial plan is also developing. Expanding Illinois' gambling facilities to fund the CTA is an idea heavily endorsed by Gov. Blagojevich, and even involves building a casino within the city. Some oppose the plan despite

growing bipartisan support in the House and Senate, noting that the Chicagoland area would be second only to Las Vegas in gambling if the plan materialized.

CTA officials estimate losing approximately 100,000 rides daily if service cuts take place, and possibly increasing the fare to \$3. Chicago's Olympic bid, which boasts a world-class mass transit system, may also be hindered by the CTA's struggles. Huberman also cautioned that even more invasive actions are set to proceed in early 2008 if the situation remains unresolved.

On an everyday level, service cuts would affect Chicagoans citywide. Here at NEIU, where many students make bus and train commutes to and from class, the impact would be serious. As Nov. 4 nears be sure to check the official CTA website, www.transitchicago.com, to find out which routes will be affected.

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Award from Page 1

The Award will be presented to Northeastern at HACU's 21st Annual conference on Sunday, October 21st, at 12 p.m. in the Regency Ballroom-Gold Westside, at the Hyatt Regency Chicago Hotel.

Last years conference was a success. "HACU's 20th Anniversary Conference was by every measure the best conference to date," according to HACU President and CEO Antonio R. Flores. "The support and commitment shown by all the attendees, the sponsors and the San Antonio community in general this year was tremendous." The California State University System received the Outstanding HACU-Member Institution Award in 2006.

The HACU website urges student participation, although there is a fee. "Student participation, especially at the Annual Conference, has been an important new dimension in recent years. The 7th International Conference was held May 3-5, 2007 at the Universidad de Alcalá de Henares outside of Madrid, Spain; the 8th International is being planned for 2009 in Mexico."

Foster Bridge repaired

by Kaity Nicastri
Photo Editor

As of the week of September 23, construction was completed on the Foster Avenue Bridge over I-94 (Edens Expressway). For many coming to Northeastern from the west, Foster Ave plays a central role.

Whether driving or taking the bus, travelers had been circumventing the bridge area since June. This caused increased congestion on Elston Ave. and managed to multiply the already bothersome Lawrence Ave. traffic. Surprisingly, it finished on time, even slightly ahead of schedule: it was slated to last until October 2007 by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

The maintenance consisted of completely reconstructing the superstructure, and repairs on the substructure of the bridge. The project cost \$1.949 million.

In light of the recent failures of bridges in the United States, most notably the Minneapolis Bridge, it should be reassuring to Chicago residents that the city is taking efforts to repair bridge structures. However, there are still numerous bridges in the entire Chicagoland area that need attention. Safety may play a smaller role than desirable due to costs and budgeting issues.

A project just launched by IDOT will soon be affecting students at NEIU: Starting Sept. 28, IDOT plans to

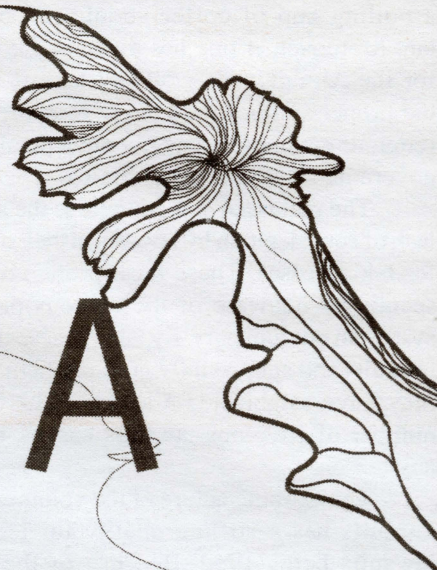
permanently close the right lane and the shoulder of the Edens Expressway for long stretches in both directions of the expressway from Lawrence Ave. to Lake Cook Rd. until Nov. 4, weather permitting. So just because the Foster Ave. bridge is complete, the construction woes will not be over! Students should plan to leave earlier or redirect their travels to the University for the majority of the Fall 2007 semester.

For any other construction information, visit IDOT's website: <http://www.dot.state.il.us>. Frequent updates are made to the site's construction monitors and information, and other handy transportation facts and details can be found there.



Photo by Marshall Hong

ILIA



SENIOR EXHIBITION
BY CECILIA CARBONI

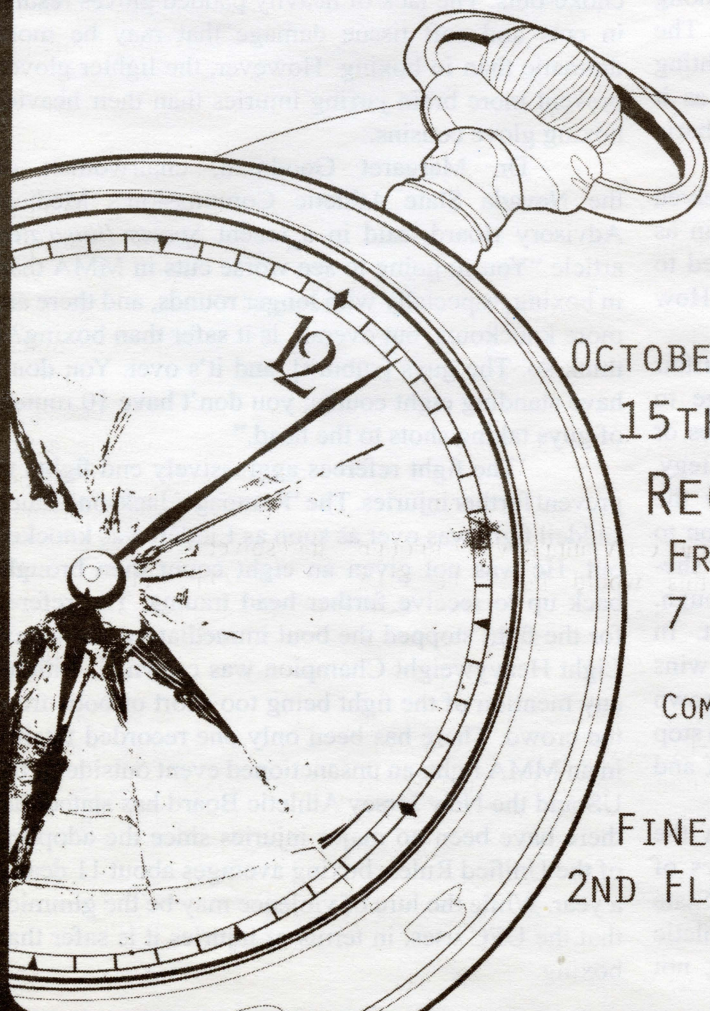
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Commentary

EDITORIAL

The Almighty Frivolous

September 17, 2007 saw the first time in American judicial history that God was sued in court for providing natural disasters for the world's enjoyment. Nebraska State Senator Ernie Chambers filed suit against God stating that "a permanent injunction ordering the Defendant [God] to cease certain harmful activities and the making of terrorist threats," as reported by Fox News Omaha.

The filing of this ridiculous lawsuit was done to put into the spotlight the multitude of frivolous lawsuits being filed in America. The most popular reference to the frivolity of lawsuits in the United States comes from the *Liebeck v. McDonald's Corporation* suit in 1992 where 79 year-old Stella Liebeck had scalded herself with a cup of coffee and received a \$640,000 settlement from McDonald's.

These examples of judicial foibles have caused an overshadowing of issues concerning this country more important than one person's angst with a given external tormentor. In the case of Chambers' lawsuit against God, the extreme childishness of the accusations show, at best, a pathological need for personal attention and, at worst, a complete mockery of the judicial system of the United States. In the case of Liebeck, it shows that the courts in this nation are willing to reward people for their incompetence.

Honestly, the appropriate receptacle for a boiling cup of coffee should not be one's lap. Moreover, if one has a genuine complaint for the Almighty they should take it up with the proper authorities, namely members of the religious community and not the federal or state governments of the United States.

The real issue at work here is the apparent lack of consideration by lawyers in their decisions for taking cases. These legal professionals are seemingly unaware of the obvious precedent system in our judiciary. By taking these frivolous lawsuits and successfully arguing them in court they have established a system whereby any number of frivolous lawsuits can be filed for any reason.

The extreme nature of the volume of these lawsuits has a stifling quality for legitimate lawsuits being filed. Because of the crunch against legitimate lawsuits more people honestly entitled to reparations for any number of reasons are forced to wait an unreasonable amount of time to have their day in court or not have one at all.

The irresponsibility of a public servant [Chambers] in filing a lawsuit against God brings many implications to the proverbial table than Liebeck's lawsuit against McDonald's. Chambers, as shown in Fox News, states, "The Constitution requires that the courthouse doors be open... anyone can sue anyone they choose, even God." It is this kind of blatant disregard for the public interest that is plaguing America. Chambers' motivation was to prevent laws being made that would stop the filing of frivolous lawsuits.

The United States requires its public servants to stop worrying about their next election, championing bills for ridiculous causes and the impulse to create law, and for them to actually heed the needs of their constituents. The permission by the judiciary to continue to hear frivolous lawsuits like the aforementioned ones leads to a further degradation of social justice in the name of "social justice."

Calling on Cooperstown

by Mark Clover
Production Editor

The 756th homerun ball hit by Barry Bonds was purchased for \$752,467 and Fashion Designer Mark Ecko has an unusual plan for it. He set up a website at vote756.com to allow the public to vote on one of three options; 1. Send it to the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, as is, 2. Brand it with an "*" and then send it to Cooperstown, or 3. Launch it into the icy depths of space. On September 26, the voting ended and the tally deemed the permanent brand was the fate of the fabled sphere. But should it end there?

Considering the tally included 47 percent for branding and 19 percent for launching it into space, it would seem only a 34 percent minority of the Internet millions who voted feel the record is untainted. This leads to a questions of why Commissioner of Major League Baseball Bud Selig has seemed to continually avoid taking a strong stance to clean up any rumors of steroid use in America's National Pastime.

Granted the Senate investigations had a few revelations, such as Jason Giambi admitting to steroid use but, because of his honest testimony and promise to make a number of charitable donations and efforts, he is being praised for his honesty and let off the hook by Selig. One wonders if any concrete and punitive action will be taken against any of the literal "giants" of the game.

Well, it would appear that since the Senate and the MLB Commissioner cannot get to the bottom our National Pass-the-Buck-time the last line of official defense for the reputation in the eyes of posterity is Cooperstown, so what can they be expected to do?

While it might be nice to see them take a stand and either decline to take the baseball under their wings or require Bonds undergo some testing before they do so, it is unlikely. Sure, the Baseball Hall of Fame claims to be a separate and independent entity run by a board of directors but the members (according their website at baseballhalloffame.org)

include Jane Forbes Clark (Chair), Joe L. Morgan (Vice Chair), Kevin S. Moore (Treasurer), Paul Beeston, William O. DeWitt Jr., William L. Gladstone, David D. Glass, Bowie K. Kuhn, Leland S. MacPhail, John J. McHale, Robin E. Roberts, Brooks C. Robinson Jr., Frank Robinson, Tim Russert, G. Thomas Seaver, Edward W. Stack, George M. Steinbrenner III and none other than Allan H. (Bud) Selig himself. Aside from the current Commissioner on the board of directors, you'll note one other former Commissioner, a former American League President and many former players with seats on the board. Although they assert their independence, they do say they have close ties to baseball and it is little wonder why.

So, America is calling on Cooperstown to take a stand. The reputation of baseball, the game most of the Cooperstown board of directors have devoted their lives to, is on the line like never before. The ball will soon be in their court and it remains to be seen if they also have the balls to make the right call.

Mixed martial arts

by T.C. Chung
Interim News Editor

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) has grown increasingly popular in the US and abroad. The sport, whose fighters have dangerous sounding nicknames like, "Rampage," "Axe Murderer," or "Iceman" has seen an explosion of popularity, particularly among the highly coveted male 18-35 demographic. The most popular of these leagues, the Ultimate Fighting Championship or UFC markets itself as 'Real as it Gets.' The fights are often seen as brutal or barbaric and legitimized street fighting by some.

The mainstream attention MMA has received lately has brought it under the microscope again as it reaches a resurgence of interest and clearly poised to overtake boxing as the premier combat sport. How dangerous is it really?

Critics say that it is bloody and violent affair where fighters seek to cause as much damage to each other as possible. The application of chokes or submission holds is used as part of an overall strategy, not to cripple an opponent. More importantly the fighter in the choke or hold always has the option to 'tap out,' using hands or feet indicating that he or she-yes there are female MMA fighters-have had enough. There is nothing dishonorable in tapping out. In boxing there is no option to cry uncle. The fighter wins or goes unconscious. Very rarely the towel is thrown in, and the fighter has no say in it. The decision to stop an MMA fight rests with the fighter him/herself and there is no shame in it for the fighter or the fans.

The sport itself is highly regulated in the US and abroad. Domestically, the Unified Rules of Mixed Martial Arts, drafted by the New Jersey State Athletic Board and adopted by Nevada's athletic commission-where most of the bouts are held, not

only sets standards on attire, ring and points but has 25 fouls that are strictly enforced and penalized. The marketing of MMA fights shows a macho, no-holds barred attitude, but there are significant limits on what a fighter can and can not do.

Possibly the biggest criticism of the sport are the dramatic injuries, the blood, the knockouts, the choke-outs. The lack of heavily padded gloves results in cuts and soft tissue damage that may be more dramatic than in boxing. However, the lighter gloves prevent more brain jarring injuries than their heavier boxing glove cousins.

Dr. Margaret Goodman, chairwoman of the Nevada State Athletic Commission's Medical Advisory Board, said in a recent *Sports Illustrated* article "You're going to see worse cuts in MMA than in boxing, especially with longer rounds, and there are more knockouts, but overall, is it safer than boxing? I think so. The guys [submit], and it's over. You don't have standing eight counts; you don't have 10 rounds of guys taking shots to the head."

The fight referees aggressively end fights to prevent further injuries. The 'Rampage' Jackson/Chuck Liddell fight was over as soon as Liddell was knocked out. He was not given an eight count then brought back up to receive further head trauma. The referee for the fight stopped the bout immediately and a new Light Heavyweight Champion was crowned, without any mention of the fight being too short or boos from the crowd. There has been only one recorded fatality in an MMA fight, an unsanctioned event outside of the US and the New Jersey Athletic Board has stated that there have been no major injuries since the adoption of the Unified Rules, boxing averages about 11 deaths a year. While the lure of violence may be the gimmick that the UFC uses, in terms of injuries it is safer than boxing.

Mail Bag

Blowing the whistle on the English Department

A significant number of influential tenure track faculty in the English Department at Northeastern Illinois University are defrauding students of the appropriate education which they have paid for and wrongfully depriving them of the grades and the degrees they might otherwise deserve.

These professors have regularly demonstrated on the exam questions they write, the lectures they give, and the class assignments they distribute, that they cannot put together grammatically correct, intelligible English phrases and sentences.

My colleagues in the department have been made aware of this ongoing problem, and they don't care. When, for example, a motion was introduced at a recent department meeting to insure that the MA exam questions must be "grammatically correct" and "readily understandable," six of the eight members present refused to vote in favor of the motion. The one person voting against the motion was none other than the still current Graduate Program Coordinator.

For years now I have been receiving complaints, from our graduate students in particular, concerning the difficulties they were having with Critical Theory; so I researched the pass rates on the MA exam and found that indeed over a ten-year period the same students failed the Critical Theory portion of our exam at twice the rate that they failed the literature sections.

When I presented this evidence to a member of the graduate committee, I was told that it was because our students are "stupid," even though the same so-called stupid students were passing the literature sections at a much higher rate. When I presented the same information during a department meeting, claiming the program needed to be evaluated, particularly in the area of Critical Theory, my concerns were dismissed or ignored.

At the next meeting I assembled excerpts from our exam questions to demonstrate to my colleagues that the questions on the exams were ungrammatical and largely incomprehensible. Here are just a few typical sentences. I challenge anyone to make sense of them:

Narrative perspective is not always a conscious strategy or a formal innovation that is itself the charged bearer of content.

The former often occurs as a bristling against generic constraint.

The most significant relationship is actually the one between two men—in competition of cooperation.

[Analyze works] in terms of the literary genre with which they are identified (realism, modernism, etc.).

Imagine that you are a student trying to figure out how to answer questions containing such nonsense; and if you fail, how are you going to convince your professors that you correctly proved that narrative perspective is not always a charged bearer of content or that some work was truly bristling against generic constraint? Questions that lack clarity effectively give the grader all but arbitrary control over who passes or fails.

As for the two other excerpts, the first is not only nonsense, but grammatically incorrect nonsense (*competition takes with not of*). My colleagues were told by the individual who wrote the question that it unfortunately contained a typo, and they still defended it and have not removed it or any of the other confusing questions from the list of sample questions grad students receive. As for the last, it is simply incorrect: The epic, the drama, and the novel are literary genres; realism and modernism define stylistic periods, not literary genres. A graduate student who failed the exam pointed out the mistake to one of our graduate faculty, but the error has not been removed.

My recommendations to have the program evaluated have repeatedly been dismissed, and since the current Graduate Committee now enjoys unsupervised control over the program, the rate of those failing the theory portion has risen from 53 to 56%, while the number of students failing the literature sections has risen from 21 to 56%. And why not, since the grad committee member who finds our students stupid also spoke of a desire, when it comes to our grad students, to "cut the fat from the program."

I am a Full Professor who has taught in the English Department for forty years and who publishes regularly in leading journals in the field of literary studies, and when I noted during a department meeting that the MA exam questions were incomprehensible, I was told that the problem was that I simply didn't understand them. When I noted that students also regularly report they cannot understand what some of their English professors say and write, here is how one professor responded by email to me:

Prof X: In your remarks at the meeting today, you referenced colleagues who cannot write grammatically . . . —were you referencing [me]? If so, what do you find objectionable?

Prof. White: Honestly, [name deleted], do you not know that it [your published essay] is filled with misplaced modifiers, vague antecedent references, unidiomatic phrases, malapropisms?

Prof X: So which do you find objectionable?

Every grammatical error anyone makes is objectionable, and when English professors year after year carelessly pile up one error after another, it is especially objectionable, shameful and professionally irresponsible when they, along with their colleagues, seem not to care.

A number of English Professors at Northeastern continue to communicate to students in words that no one can honestly understand and compose questions that no student can reasonably comprehend. At least two administrators have been informed of this fact, and no action has been taken to protect our students from these unsound, unreasonable and unfair practices. They need to be promptly addressed before any more students are cheated out of their education and tuition money.

Harry White
Prof. of Eng.

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS



SOPHIA LOPEZ

The perils of being Hispanic at NEIU

By now, most of us have heard of that the *U.S. News and World Report* names us the most ethnically diverse university in the Midwest. Northeastern is also a federally designated Hispanic-serving Institution (HSI), which simply means that at least 25% of its student population must be full-time Hispanic students. The "HSI" title is misleading, since it implies that Northeastern is actually committed to serving its significant Latino student population.

Statistics on NEIU retention and graduation rates are especially dismal for Latino students, many of whom are first-generation college students. Although transfer students are not taken into account, the six-year graduation rate for incoming freshmen in fall, 2000, is 18.5%. Since 44% of incoming freshmen are Latino, it's questionable whether NEIU will meet their needs and foster an environment for excellence.

For those of us who have been at Northeastern for a while know that the school, for the most part, fails to permit student participation in any meaningful way. This holds true in many ways, from the Free Speech Task Force to the Millennium Student Task Force, to the presidential search committee and the inauguration planning committee. Moreover, we know that the word "diversity" has become a condescending slogan the administration utilizes to claim the status of being a "Hispanic-serving Institution," as if this were an accomplishment in itself and of their own doing, happily patting themselves on the back for a job well-done.

So, given the ways we are "ethnically" tokenized, perhaps it shouldn't come as a surprise that Northeastern has received the National Outstanding Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Member Institution Award. Apparently, HACU is an organization of several hundred colleges and universities committed to Hispanic education. An NEIU press statement says, "HACU's Governing Board approved the establishment of this national award to recognize and honor extraordinary efforts and success by a HACU member institution that has excelled in advancing the mission and goals of HACU." Unsurprisingly, it adds, in bold font, that the award ceremony will be a "GREAT PHOTO OPP!"

Equally insidious is the Editorial of the September 25 edition of the *Independent*. To say that NEIU students are here because they "had no where else to go after high school" suggests that NEIU students aren't "good enough" to attend a more prestigious university. Quite the opposite is true; Northeastern is home to many talented, serious, and outstanding students.

Northeastern remains one of the most affordable institutions of higher learning in the state. This makes it much more accessible to students who otherwise would not have the chance to receive a college education. This is a good thing, not a bad thing.

Also, to judge the intellectual level of engagement of NEIU students by passing through the Student Union is a bit presumptuous. The space is meant as a lounge area, not a library. Furthermore, it is erroneous to say that what needs to stop are students looking to hold NEIU accountable for its failure to live up to its own Statement of Values. This really isn't too much to ask for.

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

REV

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

NEIU's Talent Quest

by Regina M. Torres
Staff Writer

NEIU held a talent show. More like a lively and multi-genre talent competition open to all NEIU students, faculty, and staff.

On Thursday, September 20, 2007 at 7 p.m., the show kicked off with Chicago Latino comedian Ricky Carmona hosting and introducing the panel of judges, cash prize logistics, and general show information in his personal and high-energy comedic style. Carmona helped to also spice things up a bit with his prize giveaways and t-shirt throw-outs to the audience members. Somewhat un-pc jokes aside, Carmona did a good job at transitioning the acts and killing the in-between time between acts.

The audience itself was a ball of energy as they fiercely voiced their opinions over who they believed to be the most worthy of the coveted winning cash prizes.

The criteria for judging this unique mix of contestants was as follows: Talent, Audience Appeal, Originality, Presentation, and "Other" (that "it" factor that makes one really stand apart from the rest of the competition)

Guys With Drums were definitely a lively crowd pleaser, utilizing audience participation by including one of the panel judges in their live act. Think of Blue Man Group with darkness, glow-light sticks, two gongs, and a few other drums. These



Photo by Jonathan Winkler

Guys were loud, with sirens and intensity. And although Guys With Drums were a great act, there were other local wonders as well.

One of the strongest and most talented acts to perform was not a prizewinner. Yiming Zhang, a student of

piano performance nailed a complex and classical piece--Scriabin's Sonata No. 4, 2nd movement. His hands seemed to glide effortlessly and passionately over the keys without missing a beat.

Another noteworthy and overlooked act was the combo of Swarna

and Maruthi Satyavolu, both students of computer science. They dazzled the audience with their beautiful Indian classical dance and elaborate costuming.

Also, the rockabilly band Ramrod with their original song *Rat Motor* was a solid bunch of dudes to rock out to. This group consisted of Emerald Lizards: Jason Adams on bass-student, Chip Medema on guitar, Brian Gay on guitar, and Josh Smith on drums.

A few other special mentions would be a positive rap by the artist Big Taz- student of physical education for his original piece "I'm Not Like You." Big Taz's message was clearly spoken to all the shorties in the audience. Be yourself and think for yourself

Pawel Owca, a student of human resource development turned the NEIU auditorium into a dance club with his original synthesized dance composition "Unbreakable."

Last special mention on the list would be Amelia P. Medina, student of elementary education for dancing her butt off to her one-woman hip hop routine called Past, Present, Future.

At the end of the Talent Quest, the audience was treated to a live magic act by the likes of The Great Frankini, who's ancient Egyptian themed routine complete with assistants, fake rubber snakes, swords, and audience members was a nice last performance.

All in all, NEIU's 2007 Talent Quest was a "smash hit."

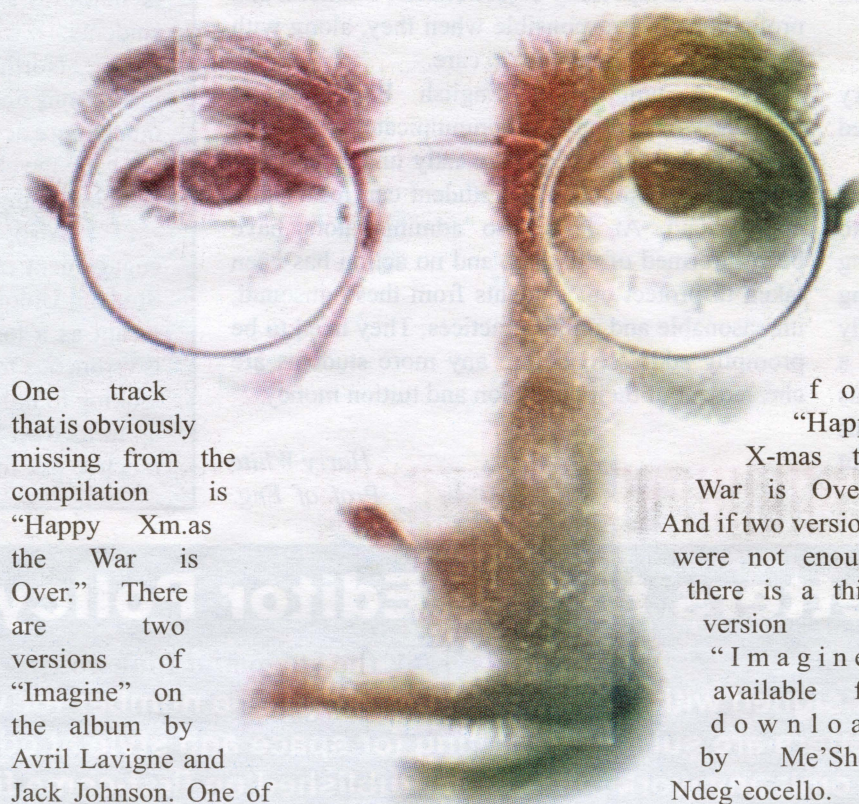


by Mike Arch
m-arch@neiu.com

The Jester is in Court

Save What?

Save Darfur is the goal of Amnesty International with the release of the album *Instant Karma*. The album features current Popular musicians performing covers of music written by former Beatle John Lennon during his solo career. How the money from this album is to be used is a big question mark. There is a lot of information about a peace agreement and UN Peace Keepers but nothing on how the money is being used or distributed. Also left out is how much of the money is actually going to Darfur. All the rights and publishing royalties were donated by Yoko Ono, John Lennon's widow. The album features Christina Aguilera, Green Day, U2, Flaming Lips, Lenny Kravitz, and Aerosmith to name a few. *Instant Karma* is on a two-disc set and is also available for download. There are a few tracks only available via download. A few of the artists included for download only are Duran Duran, and Ozzy Osbourne.



One track that is obviously missing from the compilation is "Happy X-mas as the War is Over." There are two versions of "Imagine" on the album by Avril Lavigne and Jack Johnson. One of these versions could have been easily dropped to make room

for "Happy X-mas the War is Over." And if two versions were not enough there is a third version of "Imagine" available for download by Me'Shell Ndeg'eocello. There are two outstanding performances

on *Instant Karma*. The Flaming Lips, "(Just Like) Starting over," and Green Day, "Working Class Hero." A bit of warning for those who likes Lennon's Poetic use of vulgar language in "Working Class Hero," Green Day still uses vulgar language but the song has been cleaned up from the original version. Many of the artists have added a much fuller sound to the originals that may make it difficult to return back to Lennon's versions after hearing some of this music.

There is a few novelty Songs one is "Jealous Guy" performed by Youssou N'Dour parts of the song are sung in Spanish.

This is an album not to purchase because you plan to save Darfur. It is a great album featuring some great music covers. It also is a demonstration of the versatility of John Lennon's music. This is a must have for fans of music there is something for everyone on this album.

Today's mother would never do this

by Duncan Macnab
Editor-in-Chief

Your mother is a what? Well, to be P.C. about it in the turn of the 20th century many women had two options; work in the factories or be a prostitute. In George Bernard Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession* the mother chooses the later to pay for her daughter's schooling.

Stage Center's version, directed by Rodney Higginbotham, was a brilliant display of amateur acting, now this is not to say it was bad. It was just barely anybody showed up to the theater (about half capacity). The setting is in London or there abouts, and the

actors did a very believable crack at the Brit dialect. This is hard to do and get your lines down.

The interaction between Mrs. Warren (Cheryl Lyman) and Vivie (Megan Bubley) was at the start slow, but at the end got rather intense and believable that they were mother and father.

Other than Frank (Kyle Young, the love interest to Vivie, the other three men

are revealed as an "old friend" to Mrs. Warren. If during the play there is no understanding of what an "old friend" means you really ought to get your eyes check.

Kyle Young has a certain flamboyancy to the character of Frank, but more in the way that he uses his hands and moves around a lot on stage, but this



photo courtesy of Stage Center Theatre

what to expect out of the character.

This play was banded for public viewing when it was published in 1893, and wasn't produced publicly until 1925 (the year Shaw received his Nobel Prize). Even though by today's standards the play is light compared to the contemporary connotation of prostitution.

This play is a great play to see, even though it is a rather dry approach to the matter of prostitution. This profession still exists and at the time of the play it was common knowledge, but no one talked about it in public – except in code words.

The show continues to run on October 11-13, 18-20 at 7:30pm, and is free to all NEIU faculty, students.

Easy Listening

by Dan P. Starski
Staff Writer

Born in Vernon, Canada in 1971, Daniel Powter arrived onto the mainstream music scene when he took Europe by storm with his "Bad Day" single in 2005. The widely popular single held onto the number 1 spot for 7 weeks straight on the charts in France, it was the number 1 song for the entire summer of 2005 in Italy, and was in the top 10 for 13 weeks in Great Britain. In the US, Powter became the first Canadian solo male artist since Bryan Adams in 1995 to reach the top of Billboard Hot 100 Chart.

Take Powter's 2005 album *Daniel Powter*, there 10 songs, all written, sang and played (piano) by the musician. With vocal similar to James Blunt (another foreign young star, known for the song "You're Beautiful") in the beginning he hits you with "Song 6," which actually shows what can you expect from the whole album, catchy and lively pop

music, glazed with some good piano sounds. Followed by similar in style "Free Loop," comes in the 2005 hit "Bad day."

Next in line, is completely different from first four "Suspect," where Powter shows his dirty, kind of aggressive side, which is actually quite nice.

After that, one comes back to what he got used to in the beginning, easy listening with good vocals. A nice rhythm, good piano and occasionally, vivid guitar interruptions also returns. All in all do not expect virtuosity, a jazz/blues fan will not be satisfied with this CD, lyrics are quite easy, background has no solo performances. Daniel Powter could be counted as easy listening/pop. It is worth underlining that amongst other artists doing the same kind of music, the young Canadian is actually doing very well. If you are into James Blunt and you like "Pitcher bye, bye song" on your team's matches, buy this CD and wait for the upcoming album.

Hanson proves no one-hit-wonder

by Amy Scoma
Business Manager

Most people are skeptical when it comes to Hanson. The constant jokes about their hair, their gender, their bubblegum pop ditty, "MMMBop," are fading with the onset of critical acclaim. Saturday, September 29, at House of Blues, Isaac, Taylor, and Zac Hanson proved they can still sell-out shows and bring their performance to the precipice of passion on *The Walk Tour*.

Not only has the band's sound evolved, but so have their efforts in the HIV/AIDS pandemic and poverty in Africa. The band released, "Great Divide" on iTunes to benefit AIDS research. All the proceeds from the single go to the Perinatal HIV Research Unit at Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital in Soweto, South Africa.

In an effort to raise awareness of poverty in Africa, Hanson has teamed up with TOMS Shoes. This California-based company donates a pair to shoes to a child in Africa for every pair bought. Each tour stop, Hanson walks a mile barefoot with their fans to promote the idea that we can all do something small to help. Taylor Hanson told the crowd "Chicago takes the cake" for most walkers. The walk was so big the Chicago Police Department had to monitor the crowd.

Hours later, Hanson took the stage and took control of the audience. The audience danced, jumped, and



Hanson took the stage and took control of the audience.

gyrated to the blues-heavy beats in songs like, "Been There Before," "Georgia," and classic Hanson songs like, "MMMBop," "This Time Around" and "Penny and Me." The band did a mini-acoustic set in the

middle of their performance, which showed off their songwriting ability. With any acoustic set, it is difficult to hide mediocrity; Hanson rocked. Drummer Zac has finally found his voice as evidenced by a strong vocal

lead on a cover of the Beatles' "O! Darling" and "Running Man." Isaac took the stage solo and played a haunting ballad called, "Being Me."

The Walk Tour proves that Hanson is here to stay.

I NEED SPACE FREEDOM

AND TO KNOW I WON'T HAVE TO LEAN OUT
MY DORM WINDOW WITH MY HEAD TILTED
45 DEGREES TO GET RECEPTION.

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INTO THE WILD

screenplay and directed by Sean Penn



Photo courtesy of intothewild.com

A Wild movie that moves hearts

by Duncan Macnab
Editor-in-Chief

The wild country is getting harder to find which makes people want it even more. Especially with multibillion dollar cooperate mergers and plastic puppets of Hollywood taking up space; Christopher McCandless had his heart bent on escaping the wealth-crazed civilization.

McCandless' story in the film *Into the Wild* sinks into your heart as if someone yanked it down to your stomach. This movie is an instant classic.

Director Sean Penn's (*All the Kings Men*) adaptation of Jon Krakauer book of the same title holds true to the spirit of the true story and person that McCandless was without patronizing or demeaning what he did.

McCandless (Emile Hirsch, *Lords of Dogtown*) after graduating college he decides to trek north to Alaska. He burns his money and identification, ruins his car, hitchhikes across this country to the Stampede Trail - near the base of Mt. McKinley - eventually paying for it. On the way he meets Wayne Westerberg (Vince Vaughn, *Swingers*), who hires Chris to work on his grain mill. Runs into Ron (Emmy Award winner Hal Holbrook, famous for playing Mark Twain on stage), who takes him in like his own son.

In the two years of being alone has another reason for splitting from civilization; escaping being boxed in at home. His father, Walt McCandless (Academy Award winner William Hurt, *Kiss of the Spiderwoman*) is a former NASA employee and his mother is Billie (Academy Award winner Marcie Gay Harden, *Pollock*) a second marriage to Walt becomes the reason for Chris' distaste for both parents. This reasoning is told through the narration from Chris' sister Carine (Jena Malone, *Contact*).

Emile Hirsch is incredible at showing what Chris experienced in his two years as a leathertramp, one who goes by foot. Coupled with beautiful cinematography and the upbeat yet melancholic score by Grammy Award winner, Eddie Vedder (from the band Pearl Jam), the movie really lets you in to Chris' mind, body and soul.

Why do people do what Chris did, we may never answer. But, he touched the hearts to the people he met and moved them to change their ways to an extent and will continue to influence them. He was only 22 when he started the journey, how old are you?

"I now walk in to the wild," Chris said in last letter to Wayne. And this movie keeps him in the wild fifteen years after he found bus 142 at the end of the Stampede Trail.

Duality of Nature: Tegan and Sara's The Con

by Regina M. Torres
Staff Writer

Tegan and Sara have put out an intriguing new release titled *The Con*. This twin sister team nails the contradictions and insecurities faced in relationships, and they carry it out in the most harmonic way.

Tegan and Sara layer their voices together on mostly melodic pop hooks. And even though the squeaky-clean production kills some of the emotion conveyed in their songs, this CD is most worthy for car drives away from your lover, if only for the mere integrity of the lyrics and layered harmonies that abound.

One of the beauties that stand out is on the shorter side. "Soil, Soil" is sprinkled with soft piano and guitar, with the bass barely audible. Almost a kill 'em with kindness sort of dark lullaby... "Call and I'll be curled on the floor hiding out from it all. And I won't take any other call. I feel like a fool so I'm going to stop troubling you."

"Back In Your Head" is a much poppy tune with quirky organ, piano, guitar and shakers in the faint background. "When I jerk away from holding hands with you, I know these habits hurt important parts of you. Remember when I was sweet and unexplainable? Nothing like this person, un-loveable." Bespeaks perfectly the contradictions of love.

"Like O, Like h" is a disturbing song, and somewhat vague in context. Even with the lyrics, this song is a little bit light on the clarity of context. Otherwise, it is an intensely driven murky plead for something or someone.

Generally speaking, this is a mostly melodic, pop-driven, dual harmony laden CD that bespeaks of insecurities faced in childhood and adulthood, and the fear and awkwardness that plagues most people at some point in their lives.

Hot Hot Happiness: New Heat Album

by Kaity Nicastrì
Photo Editor

Bursting with their electric rock sound, Hot Hot Heat came crashing through the rock gates on September 11, 2007 with their newest album: *Happiness LTD*. With the opening lyrics, "Happiness is limited but misery has no end," the four-man band delivers another energetic, yet thoughtful album.

Steve Bays, Paul Hawley, Dustin Hawthorne, and Luke Paquin (along with a few other collaborators) deliver modern rock. Their jumpy ballads leave the listener tuned in with the beat and the lyric of each track. Reminiscent of their previous records, it brings the beloved sounds of yesteryear with a twist of today.

The band professes to having written nearly all of the tracks while on tour, testing songs out on fans during live performances before recording. Its diversity of tone betrays the many settings in which the songs were written: as diverse as Japan, the U.K., Australia, and Spain.

Initially, the band had intended to make a live album. They instead opted for a full, vibrant album with a story - *Happiness LTD* is the product of that decision. It took

two years instead of two weeks, but the results speak for themselves.

Former Hot Hot Heat guitarist, Dante DeCaro, was replaced by Luke Paquin whose high-energy guitar playing is featured on this album: his first with Hot Hot Heat. The original three include Steve Bays for vocals and keyboards; Paul Hawley on drums; and Dustin Hawthorne on bass. Paquin's guitar style blends right in with the keyed up HHH sound.

The lyrical makeup of the album, frontman Steve Bays states, "It covers the journey from bliss to misery and the attempt to get back to bliss, while acknowledging how exciting the ride can be in between. There's an arc to the record as a whole; it almost comes across like a film, musically and lyrically."

The journey of the album starts with the reverberating title track and ends with the building crescendo of the final "Waiting for Nothing". The angst-filled middle includes the frantic and frustrated "My Best Fiend" and the tragic "Outta Heart".

Fans of Hot Hot Heat's previous work will appreciate the newest edition to their repertoire. It is fresh, innovative, and feisty with lyrics and rhythms many can relate to and appreciate. More information can be found on www.hothotheat.com.

EAGLES NEST

Lifestyles
of the
Northeastern
Community

Wiener and Champion

by T.C. Chung
Interim News Editor

If you happen to drive by California and Roscoe on a Friday or Saturday afternoon and see a line out the door of a small corner storefront and wonder what it's about, your answer is Hot Doug's. The encased meats and sausage emporium serves up your standard Chicago dog alongside more unusual fare. How about an alligator sausage with smoked Gouda or a mint and lamb sausage with artichoke tzatziki and kalamata olives?

Doug Sohn, better known as "Hot Doug", currently hobbles around in a walking cast, screws and plates securing his broken leg. Despite his recent injury, he's still in high spirits, chatting about the Cubs, or a customer's recent trip to Nebraska.

Hot Doug's is of the rare breed of neighborhood restaurant wherein the owner is not only the one who takes your order, but also the guy who talks you down from ordering too much. "To me, it's just part of what's right," says Doug. "Yes, it's a business, but there are morals and ethics. Part of it is also that we're a big success [due to our level of] customer service. I don't have to tell you that in ninety percent of commercial enterprises in the city and in the country the service is horrible. I don't care if you're working at Target. Look me in the eye for the thirty seconds while I'm checking out. Be pleasant; don't just ask me [questions] by rote. Provide some sort of service. I think that's the way it should be."

The line out the door on Fridays and Saturdays can be summed up in three words: duck fat fries. The idea came to him on a trip to France. "I stole it. I went to a restaurant in Bordeaux. They had a big wood-burning fireplace where everything they fried was in duck fat. When I first did it, I used a store bought fryer and I did it for the novelty and the fun of it. Now it's taken on a life of its own." The fries are darker in color and richer in texture than their oil-cooked cousins, and explain why some people sit in front of his restaurant an hour before it opens.

Besides the duck fat fries and delicious sausages you've probably never heard of, Hot Doug's is known for something else: They were the first restaurant to be fined for using foie gras after the city banned it in 2006. Sohn says, "We don't serve it anymore, once the health department didn't find it amusing, I didn't. The impetus for doing it was not [to get publicity] it was purely to be a smart-ass. If the law is overturned we'll serve it again. Until then we don't, because it's not worth it, it just really isn't."

Hot Doug's is open Monday through Saturday, 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. The duck fat fries are served Fridays and Saturdays and their website (www.hotdoug.com) has their daily specials and their game sausage of the week.



Image courtesy of www.hotdoug.com

Duncan
Macnab



dgmacnab@gmail.com

On a Tangent...

Is that a shooting star or someone's [blank]?

The answer is most likely a shooting star, but there is a lot of "stuff" up there, just floating and waiting to spiral back to the Earth in a fiery streak across the night sky.

The reason for all that stuff out there is because the Russian's wanted to send a metal orb the size of a beach ball hurling above the earth to measure the upper atmosphere. This was on Oct. 4, 1957; this date started the domino effect to allow us to talk on our cell phones, watch the Dish Network, and listen to Howard Stern swear on the radio without the annoying "bleep."

This was the golden age of the Cold War era, where the U.S. and Russia were in a friendly and rather costly game of cat and mouse to get to the Moon.

Fifty years later, sixteen men on the moon, dozens of men and women in space, and according to NASA as of 1997 there is almost 25,000 manmade objects floating up there. The total weight of this stuff is, according to www.space.com roughly 4 million pounds. This is equal to a third of Chicago's population trash production for one day.

This doesn't include human waste. I'd hate to be an alien and have something plop on my window. Not to make anything explicit but the first man to space, Yuri Gagarin, could have said, "One small dump for man, one giant defecation for mankind."

Just imagine that somewhere up there are thousands of little products of human waste that is flying at an incredible rate of speed in orbit around

our planet.

Actor Bill Paxton playing Fred Haise of the Apollo missions in the movie Apollo 13 once called his waste constellation "Urine," with a long "I" sound. Thankfully when that hits the atmosphere it just melts like an ice cube on black asphalt on a hot summer's day. But the "number two" may appear as a meteor smearing across the midnight-blue sky.

If you figure an average person has 1.5-bowl movements per day, the average flight time is ten day, and about 450 people that have been in space; also that the average weight of waste is one pound, this would make almost 4,000 pounds in waste that has been flushed into space. This is equal to about 24,000 diapers or about two Orcas (Killer Whales).

So, who do we have to blame for all of this; well, technically the U.S. has more "stuff" out there but the Russians got us into this pissing and [blank] match.

If you find a small crater with a grape-sized meteorite in it could be a piece of dung from Neal Armstrong, or be a piece space junk, or a real meteor; the last two be the most likely. This is mainly because the human was products would most likely burn up before it reaches the ground.

But, the human waste is still out there and I am just waiting to hear that a space ship flies right into a frozen blob of ... what, you actually think I would say it didn't you...but I digress, and now I have to leave to do my business.

HALO TO THE CHIEF

by Mike Nguyen

Production Editor

September 25 was a day for the history books. All across the globe, gamers gathered to witness and, ideally, obtain a fabled copy of their long awaited prize, shipped from the Studios of Bungie Software to the nearest game store.

Halo 3.

Never has any other first-person shooter reached this height of anticipated status.

Surprisingly, the first Halo was initially conceived as a real-time strategy game. In 1999, however, Bungie Studios stated that the early build of the game was based on a real-time tactical strategy model, much like the company's earlier success, "Myth". Unlike Myth, the new game would take place in a science-fiction setting. By 2000, the demonstration of the game was completely different than it's early inception, and advocated a third-person shooter mode with pilot-able vehicles such as the all-terrain "Warthog".

It was showcased in 2003, displaying a new graphics engine with bump-mapped textures. Master Chief sported new armor, and the war between humanity and the fanatical alien race the Covenant was brought to our home planet, Earth. The game utilized the Havok physics engine to give a gravitational realism to the in-game world. It also gave players the much-needed ability to wield multiple weapons at once.

Following development, Microsoft promoted the game as much as they could with trailers, product sponsors, and etc. Halo 2 was released in 2004 and was considered one of the best sequels ever produced. The graphics were a beautiful, the soundtrack was on par with great cinematic musical compositions, and with the use of XBOX Live Internet service, Halo 2 had multiplayer function that proved to be a phenomenal success. XBOXusers logged on for countless hours, fragging multi-colored Master Chiefs controlled by other players on Deathmatch and

event. Hundreds lined up on the eve of release to grab their copy. Some more dedicated members of the Halo universe dressed up as the Master Chief himself.

In a university prank, MIT students visited the Harvard campus and transformed a statue of John Harvard to appear as Master Chief with his trademark assault rifle, in a reference to Master Chief's original name, John 117.

The game's reviews thus far have been mixed. There have been complaints about the packaging as many customers found scratches on their Limited Edition games due to the faulty hub that holds the discs. The single player campaign is being booed as too short, as in Halo 2, and the some levels are felt to be uninspiring and dull. The Multiplayer feature, some game review sites claim, accounts for most of the reason to purchase the new installment.

The Forge mode is one of the highlights of the game,



Image courtesy of news.filefront.com

Image courtesy of fragland.net

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Image courtesy of nikon.bungie.org

Little did Bungie know that their project was going to grow into one of the biggest video game franchises of all time.

The game evolved as a space opera with numerous influences from other science-fiction works. The Halo, a ring-like space habitat, can be seen as a reference to sci-fi author Larry Niven's Ringworld. The bio-engineered and cybernetics enhanced super soldier breeding concept can be compared to the children raised by warfare in from Orson Scott Card's "Ender's Game."

In June of 2000, Microsoft, looking for a company with a game it could acquire to accompany its new console, saw something special in Halo and announced plans to acquire Bungie Studios. The game became exclusive to the XBOX, and Bungie rewrote the build as a first-person shooter.

Bungie's space opera was released alongside the XBOX on November 15, 2001. It was received with mixed reactions. Many critics accused the game of having dull level design. However, the sheer fun of the involved storyline help balanced its flaws.

The first person-shooter genre had caught on in the console world and its denizens wanted more of Master Chief. This player-controlled character received instant fame, rivaling the likes of Mario, Mega-Man, Sonic, and Samus Aran from Nintendo's Metroid series.

Riding on their success, Bungie began production on Halo 2 in 2002.

Capture-The-Flag servers.

The release of Halo 2 was not without criticism. The single-player campaign was too short for some reviewers and the abrupt cliffhanger ending was dissatisfying to many. But Bungie and Microsoft were not done yet.

In 2006, a cinematic trailer reunited Master Chief with fans of the Halo universe.

During the game's production, the advertising campaign for Halo 3 was unprecedented. Real-time CGI trailers brought home the message that Halo players still needed to "Finish the fight." Director Peter Jackson cooperated with Bungie towards the production of a Halo movie (work on the project is currently halted). The epic nature of the storyline in Halo 3 was used in the "Believe" campaign, a series of short documentaries that depict marines recounting their personal experiences with war. There is even a product tie-in by a limited edition Mountain Dew beverage called "Game Fuel". The sheer amount of advertisement is equal to that of an epic movie like "Star Wars" or "Lord of the Rings."

In September 25, 2007, Halo 3 was released. This was truly a red-carpet

allowing players to create their own maps. There's also the Movie mode, where players can make clips of their death-match feats.

A person can argue that Halo is just like (and no better than) any other first person shooter. Regardless of the truth of this statement, there is no denial that the game console community has been given a first-person franchise they could be proud of. The PC gaming community has Duke Nukem, the Doom marine, Gordon Freeman of the Half Life series, Ding Chavez of Rainbow Six, and numerous others; The XBOX console community can proudly claim Master Chief as their own. Whether the newest installment is groundbreaking or not, what counts is the enjoyable experience, and that's what Bungie, Microsoft, and John 117 provide best.



Lack of media diversity addressed at media ownership hearing

by Keith Atterberry
Staff Writer

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) held its fifth official media ownership hearing on Thursday, September 20 at the Rainbow PUSH Coalition headquarters on the South Side of Chicago.

The issue involves Big Media's desire for the FCC to lift the restrictions on broadcast cross-ownership and allow one company to own more television stations in a single market, says Bethany Broida of *Legal Times*. "The companies argue that the cross-ownership rules relating to newspaper and television station ownership unfairly limit newspaper owners while not subjecting

owners of other media, such as cable television and the Internet, to the same restrictions -- which, they say, violates the First Amendment."

The goal of the hearing is to offer Chicago residents an opportunity to voice their concerns to the five FCC commissioners regarding the lack of media diversity in Chicago specifically, and nation as a whole.

Opponents of a "relaxation" by the FCC of cross ownership rules point to statistics to make their point.

Racial and ethnic minorities make up 33 percent of the US population, yet they own 7.7 percent of full-power radio stations [and] 3.2 percent of television stations, according to stopbigmedia.com. With that in

mind, opponents say that the big media companies are not playing fair.

For example, Chicago has one of the lowest levels of minority ownership among markets of its size and diversity, says the website www.commondreams.org. Research conducted by Free Press, the national media reform group, found that racial and ethnic minorities make up nearly two-thirds of Chicago's population but own only 5 percent of the city's full-power commercial radio and TV stations. Despite comprising half of the population, women own just 6 percent of the city's radio and TV stations.

According to stopbigmedia.com, if big media is successful, "these changes would diminish the diversity of voices and viewpoints and reduce coverage of local issues that matter to communities."

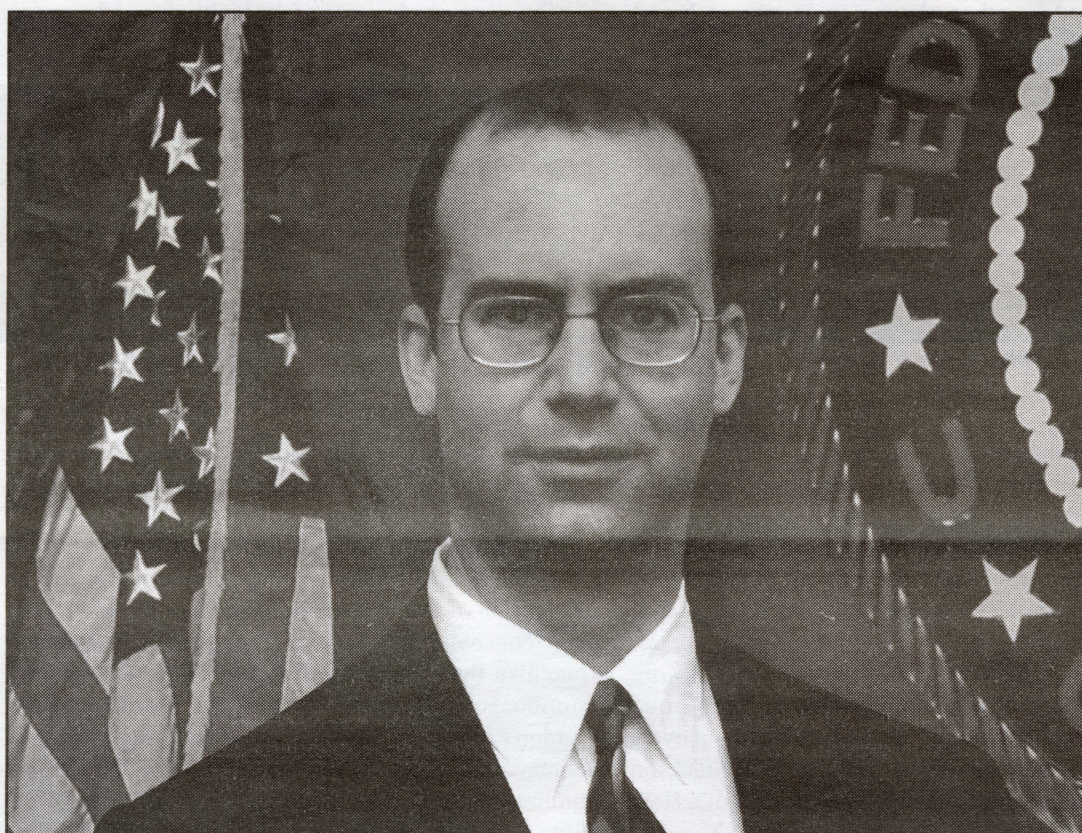
On the surface, it does appear that the "media" does a poor job of representing minorities. A recent study done by Northwestern University's Readership Institute concluded "in an analysis of more than 700 newspaper front pages, we see that only 18 percent of front page stories include a face of color." "If we look

more closely at the types of front-page stories most likely to picture a face of color, we see that 26 percent are about police or crime compared to 15 percent of photographs with white faces."

The media companies are challenging a set of proposed media ownership rules developed by the FCC in 2003. "At the time, the Republican-led FCC voted along party lines to loosen some of its cross-ownership restrictions and revised rules concerning the number of radio and television stations that can be commonly owned in a particular market," says Broida.

The companies are using the law to bolster their case. "Furthermore, broadcasters argue that regulations on the number of radio and television stations that a company can own violates the Telecommunications Act of 1996, which, according to a brief submitted by the National Association of Broadcasters, "eliminated or relaxed virtually all of these media ownership rules," according to Law.com.

According to a Rainbow PUSH press release, "More than 800 people attended the hearing at Rainbow PUSH Coalition headquarters. Rainbow PUSH Coalition board chairman Martin King submitted testimony on behalf of Rev. Jackson, who was returning from a successful protest rally in Jena, Louisiana."



FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

American Science & Surplus turns 70

by Lenny Ocasio
Senior Staff Writer

Imagine an institution that inspires the imagination and provides the tools that make ideas come to life. American Science & Surplus is that place. According to their manifesto on their website, they are fascinated by discovery and invention and dedicated to having fun along the way. They must be doing something right because this year marks the 70th year that American Science & Surplus has been in business.

Mr. Al Luebbers and his wife Buddy founded American Lens & Photo on 1937, cleaning rejected lenses and selling them at a profit.

After the Second World War, a store opened on

Chicago's Northwest Side. It was called American Science center and carried, among other things, war surplus and educational science items. The Luebbers' son, Jerry, joined the business in the 1970s, adding a catalog business and then, in 1981, a second store in Milwaukee.

In 1988, Scott McCausland came in as a partner, eventually buying it out after Jerry Luebbers's death a few years later. The whole business was brought together under the name American Science & Surplus and a website was launched in 1995. In 2000, McCausland retired and sold it to the current owner, Philip Cable.

American Science & Surplus carries a variety of interesting items. On their website, they claim to cater to

the hobbiest, tinkerer, artist, experimenter, home educator, do-it-yourselfer, and bargain hunter. Their vast array of merchandise has been used for many purposes including science projects, decorations, and even costumes. They are dedicated to value and service on every one of their items, all sold well below retail. Their items are great to give as gifts or just to cheer someone up. American Science & Surplus has three locations. In Chicago, 5316 N. Milwaukee Ave. and their phone number is (773) 763-0313. In Geneva, Route 38, east of Kirk Road and their number is (630) 232-2882. In Milwaukee, 6901 W. Oklahoma and their number is (414) 541-7777. American Science & Surplus's web address is www.sciplus.com.

Photo courtesy fcc.gov

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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.

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uprs_movement@hotmail.com
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Math Lab at the Learning Center

by Mark Clover
Production Editor

Many newer students, or those who are not majoring in a science discipline, may be unaware of the Math Lab at the Learning Center, located on the fourth floor of the Ronald Williams Library. The Math Lab is a free service to all NEIU students. While the tutors' main priority is to aid with those taking 90 and 100 level coursework, they are quite willing to assist with all levels being taught at Northeastern. They also coach students who are studying for the Basic Skills Test of the State Teacher Certification program.

There's no appointment necessary. Thirteen assistants are available, ready to help, for a total of

fifty-two hours a week.

Mike Martindale has been heading up the Math Lab since 2000 and gains a great deal of satisfaction aiding students. As a returning adult student in 1997, Mike completed his undergraduate studies and then secured his position in the Learning Center. You only need speak to him for more than a few minutes to understand that it is not only his job but his passion. "Returning to get my degree was the best thing I ever did. I'm happier, healthier, and I feel a whole lot better about my life."

For more information, the Math Lab can be reached at on-campus extension 5769, or you contact them online at: <http://www.neiu.edu/~mathlab> (click the link at the bottom of the page to send a message).

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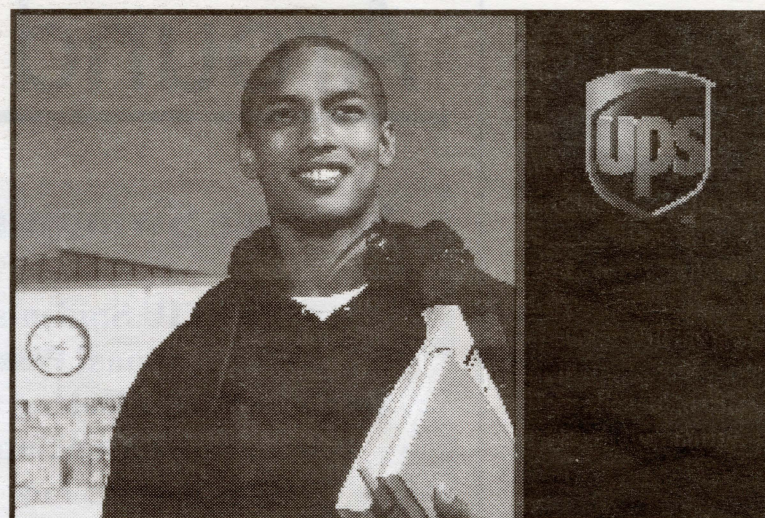
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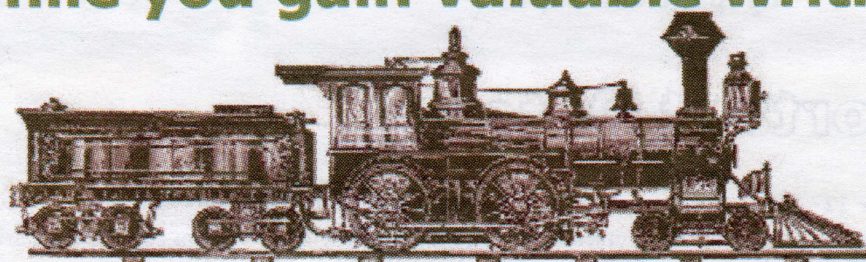


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