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Independent- Nov. 6, 2007

Duncan Macnab

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INDEPENDENT

Chicago, IL

Member of the Associated Collegiate Press



www.neuindependent.com

Protesters: 'Bring all our troops home'

by Rolando Ithier III
Opinions Editor

They came into Union Park from all directions, flags and signs in hand. The occasional bullhorn blared out loudly,

making screeching feedback sounds between chants. They numbered in the thousands, young and old, from all walks of life, all gathered for one reason: dissent.

Anti-war demonstrators from across the Midwest gathered for a rally and protest march, calling for an end to the United States' continued involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The rally in Chicago was part of a protest movement coordinated with 11 other states by the anti war organization, United for Peace and Justice.

Politicians and community activists addressed the crowd. Most called for the immediate end of the war and complete withdrawal of troops. A reoccurring theme at the rally was funding for the war.

Rep. Jan Schakowsky of

the 9th district said that extra funding for Iraq should be dependent on the Government's decision to withdraw. "No more money for this war unless it is attached to withdrawal from Iraq," said

"We cannot remain silent as our children are sent out to die." -Alderman Joe Moore

Schakowsky.

Joe Moore, Alderman for 49th ward put the cost of the war into a local perspective. According to Alderman Moore, "Chicagoans paid \$4.8 billion in taxes" to fund the war, funding he says could have been better spent.

Alderman Moore encouraged demonstrators to speak out against the war. He spoke of the need for action in order to protect U.S. troops.

"We cannot remain silent as our children are sent into war to die," said Alderman Moore. "Mr. President and members of congress...Let's bring our brave women and men home. Let's end this war."

Ricardo Munoz, Alderman of the 22nd Ward echoed many of Moore's sentiments, saying, "we have had one too many of

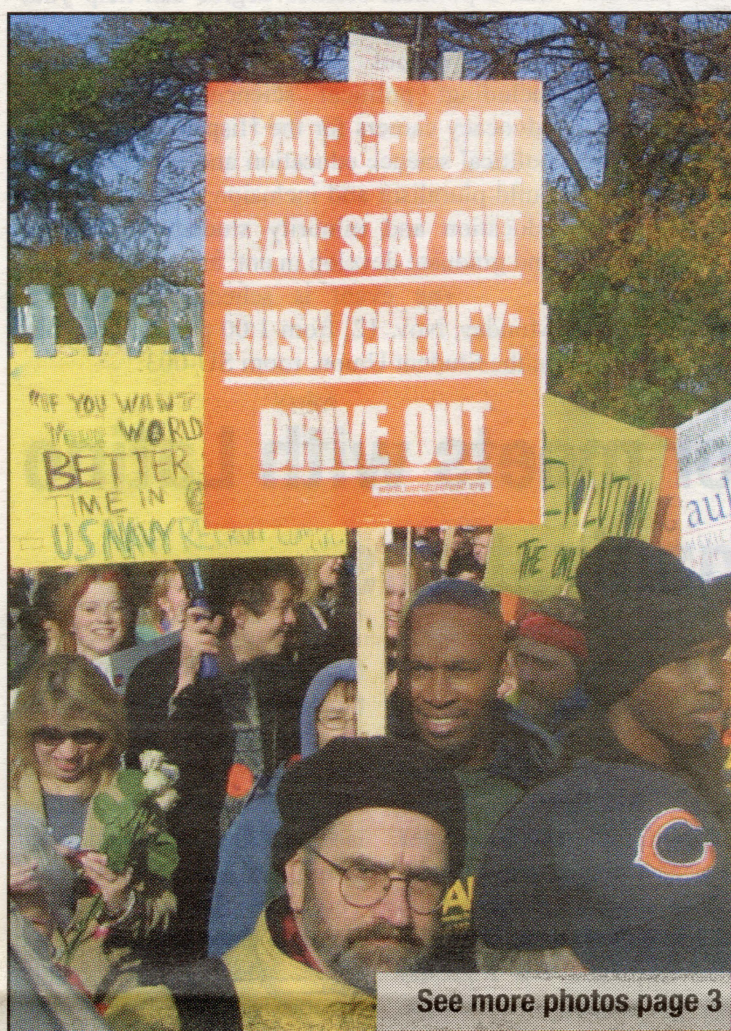


Photo by Rolando Ithier

See more photos page 3

Many protesters held sign in protest to the Bush administration.

our youngsters recruited for this war. Let's get them out now."

After the rally, protestors

marched from Union Park to the Federal Plaza where a second rally was held. Police reported no major incidents.

Diwali Show a great success

by Sophia López
Senior Staff Writer

A packed Auditorium gathered to celebrate the Indian festival of Diwali, which is one of the most celebrated festivals in India and is considered the beginning of a New Year. The Friday, Nov. 2 event is the biggest show of the year for the Indian Student Association. Hosts Jacob Gabrail and Saad Ahsanullah charmed the crowd as they settled down for an evening of dance and musical performances by

NEIU students.

Jacob Chacko sang the American National Anthem and Mariyam Nigeban sang the Indian National Anthem. Opening remarks were made by Sunil Mahadeshwar, who is the Indian Student Association president and NEIU student trustee. Dileep Thatte explained the significance of Diwali, which is also known as the Festival of Lights.

This year, said Mahadeshwar, the Diwali Show tried to incorporate the rich diversity of the student body by creating a

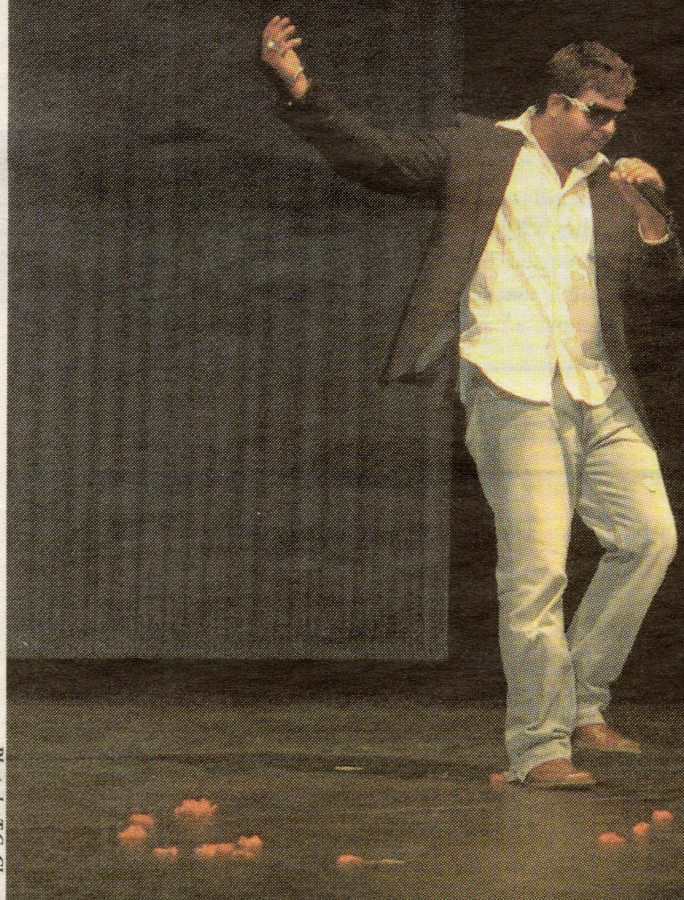


Photo by T.C. Chung

See Diwali page 3

Student Laureate's achievements priceless

by T.C. Chung
Business Manager

Finding himself in unique places, representing NEIU and Chicago, all because of speaking to people and taking a genuine interest in what interests them, is what Gerald Chaney credits his winning the Student Laureate Award from the Lincoln Academy of Illinois. The award is given to outstanding students from 52 colleges and universities throughout the state for overall excellence in both curricular and extracurricular activities.

Chaney, an English/Secondary Education major is frequently off campus this semester doing his school observations. His service at NEIU still leaves an impression, from singing at President Sharon Hahs' recent inauguration and conferences to being a Student Ambassador. Chaney's in-school achievements have gotten him the Student Leadership Service Scholarship since 2005 and a McNair scholarship.

He comments on his singing as "the coolest thing for me," having sung the National Anthem at U.S. Cellular Field, United Center and even Madison Square Garden. Chaney is still very humble about all the attention, taking the CTA to his appearances and doing schoolwork in his dressing room right until show time.

He also is a speaker for two important causes, adoption and breast cancer. Chaney, himself an adoptee is a speaker for the Ardyth & Gale Sayers Center for African American Adoption. Speaking about finding biological parents, himself having found his biological family last Thanksgiving, "It's amazing where you can find yourself and where people invite you, just by

See Chaney page 4

Political science department to sponsor career fair

by Keith Atterberry
Staff Writer

The political science department is sponsoring a political science "Career Day," the goal of which is to bring together NEIU students and political science career professionals, "to explore the potential opportunities political science education provides with regard to employment, career development, and graduate education," says, Michael Carroll, assistant director of the event.

The political science department has lined up a roster of guest speakers to discuss, share and answer questions.

The guest speakers come from diverse backgrounds and include a Chicago alderman, a county administrator, a vice president of a Jewish organization, a program director for a political

science association, NEIU alumni and others.

The purpose of the event, directed by political science professor Ellen Cannon, "is to expose political science majors to all of the opportunities. There are a plethora of opportunities available, and so we want to bring people in who are in all of these different areas that a political science degree can help you," says Carroll.

Various topics will be discussed including: political science education and advocacy careers for the Hispanic community; political science education and the careers that build pluralism and inclusion; political science education and minority student professional and graduate development; and others.

The event is scheduled to run on Monday, Nov. 12, from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Student Union, room SU-003.

State senator meets with Latino organizations

by Sophia López
Senior Staff Writer

Illinois State Senator William Delgado met with students from Union for Puerto Rican Students (U.P.R.S.), Chimexla, *Que Onde Sola*, and other organizations to discuss the possibility of having a Latino Cultural Center at NEIU. He is the co-chair of the Illinois Latino Legislative Caucus, which will be coming to campus again in December. Jamie Mendoza, from the Academic Counseling services, Teresita Diaz from Project Success, and Dr. Pedroso-Reyes also attended the Thursday, Oct. 25 event.

Xavier Burgos, president of U.P.R.S. and editor of *Que Onde Sola*, made an opening speech that stressed the importance of building a Latino community on campus, especially since Latinos make up a significant part of the NEIU student body. He also pointed to universities that already have Latino Cultural Centers, like the University of Illinois at Chicago and even Yale, which only has a 2 percent Latino student body. Burgos said, "It's up to us as

students to come up and be saying that we want to be part of the future."

NEIU students listed reasons to have a Latino Cultural Center, which included the need for spaces to meet as well as a sense of mentorship and acknowledgment. They also noted that there was a greater need for student involvement. Moreover, they said programs meant to help Latino students, like Proyecto Pa'Lante and Project Success, are poorly funded and understaffed.

Senator Delgado had interrupted a fundraiser downtown for the chance to meet with NEIU students. "For me to be part of this is an honor," he said. The senator is NEIU alum and was a member of *Que Onde Sola* and the U.P.R.S.

A solution for the lack of space at NEIU is to have a Latino Cultural Center will be in the \$59 million education building in the works. Professor Victor Ortiz, the Latino and Latin American studies coordinator, explained that the issue of a cultural center was trivialized and met with the response

that the school cannot have thousands of cultural centers. "That's insulting to me," said Delgado, who added that the "Hispanic-Serving Institution" label just shows up and dies out. "Don't just use our last names. Throw me a bone. Give me an alternate space," he said.

Student Janeida Rivera asked, "What can students actively do to get the administration to understand this is a serious issue for us?" Delgado suggested forming subcommittees and working professionally with the administration and setting up the infrastructure to get the project started. "Inform us, your leaders, about this," he said. He also states, it's important to reach out to Senate democratic lobbyists and the Latino media in Chicago.

NEIU had a Latino Cultural Center in the past and students had to push to get the small office *Que Onde Sola* currently uses. Delgado said he wasn't afraid to fight, but would rather work with President Sharon Hahs on this issue and be there with her, as a hero, to cut the opening ceremony ribbon.

A Closer Look...

by T.C. Chung

For those who gave it all

November 11 falls on a Sunday this year and though our school won't close the following weekday, an important holiday is observed. Veterans Day was originally conceived to celebrate the ending of hostilities of World War I but was later expanded to honor all veterans regardless of war. Of all days it should be the most important to me, but last year I would have forgotten all about it if it weren't for a friend's phone call, thanking me for my service. Honestly, the holiday doesn't hold much personal significance, not because I am ashamed of or want to forget my time in Iraq or the military. For me, days like Veterans Day or Memorial Day are meant for the ones who gave all, the ones did not get to see their families again. I think of men named Edens, Morris, and Tavae, names who make me tear up just seeing their names on the screen. I think of Darrell Griffin, who died earlier this year after volunteering to go back while I chose to come back home.

I joined the Army and I have been 'downrange' as we like to call it, I feel as though I did my job and was lucky to come back and carry on with my life. I don't really like to label myself or hear others refer to me as the Iraq veteran, not that I'm not appreciative of the recognition, but because I don't view myself as one. I once read an issue of *Stars and Stripes* during my tour and read a letter by a deployed soldier railing against certain soldiers who were crying about not receiving a badge or combat patch or medal for their actions; it made such an impression on me that I saved it and still have it with me.

SFC Eric Stewart letter reads in part, "...I am sick and tired of these people who have the nerve to call themselves soldiers...I have seen and heard nothing but soldiers wanting to be presented with the little baubles that show they are special or courageous. We are the defenders of our nation, defenders of those who cannot defend themselves...Danger is inherent in what we do... This endless bickering about who deserves what and who has been in more danger is nothing short of disgusting. You self-absorbed people want to be seen by family and friends as heroes. Do you want to know who the actual heroes are? the ones who did not get to walk off that tarmac; the ones who sacrificed everything. What about the Iraqi soldiers who die by the dozens daily to gain their freedom? Do they write letters demanding that little piece of superficiality?...Hold pride in what you do, not what you wear. Be proud of what you are doing, be proud of the people you are liberating, and be proud of being a soldier. Try to remember why we volunteered to be soldiers and why it is an honor to wear the uniform."

The power of his letter hasn't lost its potency since when I first read it. There is no point in flashing a badge to show how close to danger I was. I was an Army Infantryman and awarded the Combat Infantryman's Badge (CIB). In Army circles, it is a badge of honor. I don't wear it on anything except for dress occasions. I think of Edens and Morris, who fell in combat and weren't awarded it because they were tankers. The badge makes me no better, no braver than the two men from my unit that happened to have a different job than me. I think of Tavae, who was shot not more than 80 feet from me and I think of Grif, who called his wife every night when I went over with them. All of them married. Eric Morris had twin girls. When I think of veterans, people that serve, I think of those that served their full measure because it's people like them that are true veterans.

Police Blotter

On Oct. 3 at 12:53 p.m., an unknown offender struck a car in Parking Lot H. It is considered Criminal Damage to Property. There were no witnesses. The case is closed.

On Oct. 3 at 1:28 p.m., a victim received threatening calls from a known offender. It is considered Disorderly Conduct - Harrassing Telephone Calls. The case is still open.

On Oct. 8 at 9:30 p.m., com-

plaintants stated that smoke was coming from a stairwell in the E Building. It is considered Disorderly Conduct - False Fire Alarm. The case is closed.

On Oct. 9 at 10:02 p.m., a victim left property unattended in the E Building, Student Union. It is considered Theft Under \$300. The case is closed.

On Oct. 11 at 4:09 p.m., an offender backed into a victim's car in the Parking Garage causing

front end damage. It is considered a Traffic Accident - Non-injury. The case is closed.

On Oct. 12 at 10:19 am, an offender backed into a University vehicle doing side damage in Parking Lot H. It is considered an Accident with Property Damage. The case is now closed.

On Oct. 15 at 11:02 am, the bookbag of a victim was stolen out of his car, doing damage to the door in Parking Lot H. It is considered

Theft Under \$300. The case is closed.

On Oct. 15 at 5:46 p.m., an offender was caught viewing pornographic material in the B-Wing of the Main Building. It is considered Disorderly Conduct. The case is closed.

On Oct. 15 at 7:32 p.m., an unknown offender struck a car in the Parking Garage doing minor damage. It is considered Criminal Damage to Property. There

were no witnesses. The case is closed.

On Oct. 16 at 4:41 p.m., an unknown offender struck a car in Parking Lot H. It is considered Criminal Damage to Property. There were no witnesses. The case is closed.

On Oct. 19 at 11:41 p.m., a laptop was stolen from the desk of a victim in the Library. It is considered Theft Under \$300. The case is still open.

Diwali from page 1

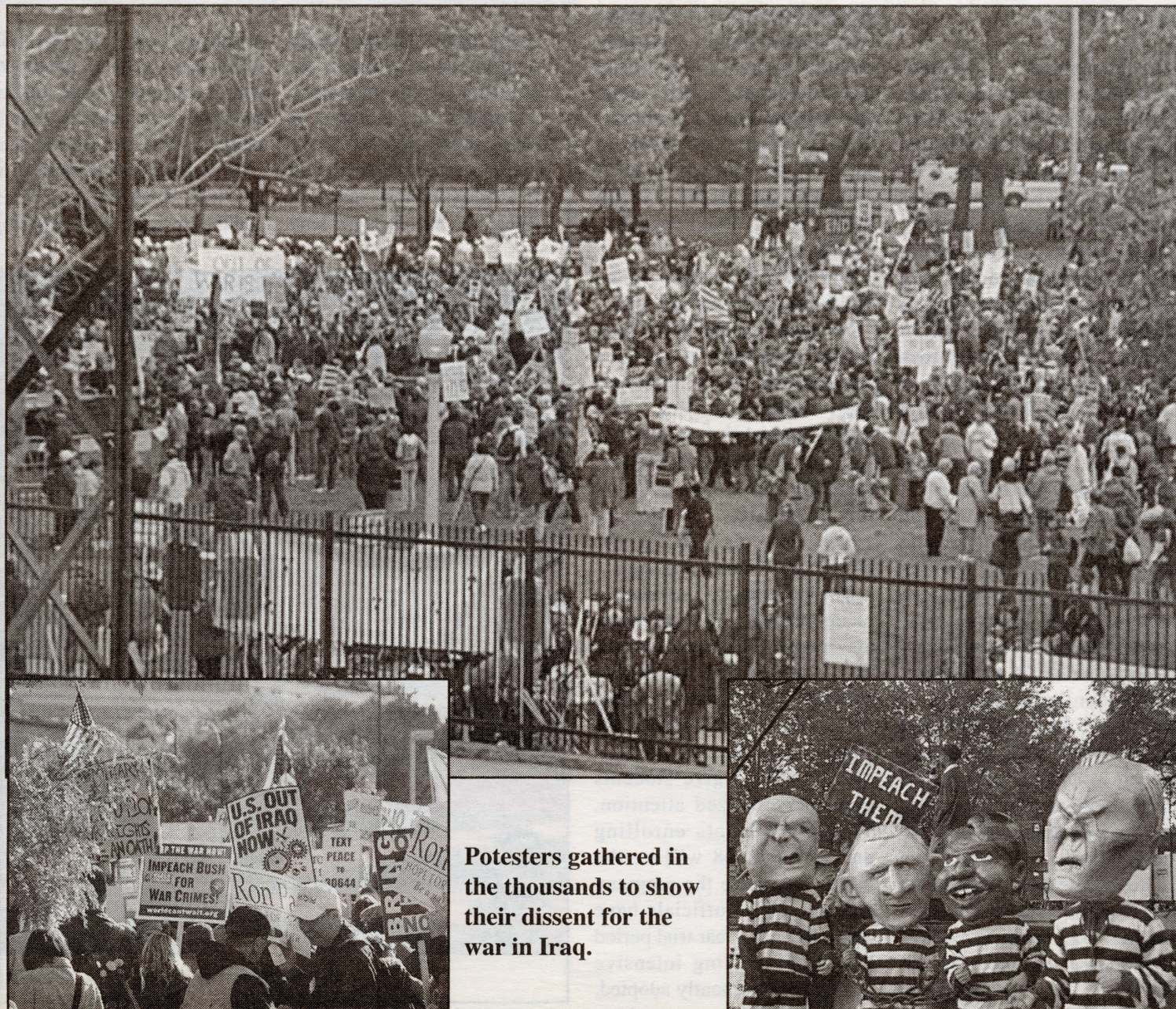
"multicultural fashion show in which students of various ethnic backgrounds will wear clothes unique to their culture." This year's show also focused on helping a non-profit organization. Two dollars out of every ticket sold went to Asha for Education, which is committed to educating underprivileged children in India.

Featured acts included a Bollywood/Bhangra Dance by NEIU students, an A Capella Performance by Chandi, a group from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a Bollywood/Arabic Dance by Lizette Yackle, and stand-up comedy by Samson Koletkar. The Fashion Show was the highlight of the evening and Alpha Psi Lambda was thanked for its role in making it a hit.

Dinner was served after the show and an open dance floor with DJ Soto was held until midnight. Extensive planning for the Diwali Show began at the start of the fall semester. Indian Student Association president Sunil Mahadeshwar thanked adviser Rohit Joshi and everyone involved in making the event a great success.

Protester photos

by Marshall Hong



Potesters gathered in the thousands to show their dissent for the war in Iraq.

Halloween costume contest '07



Halloween has come and gone. It will be another year before playing dress up would not look too weird. Dorothy of Oz, Alice in Wonderland, a witch, a satyr, and Venus, Medusa, Winnie the Pooh, a samurai, a Cabbage Patch Kid, a tavern wench, and Wedding Peach were present at this year's costume contest, sponsored by the Programming Board.

Other noteworthy costumes included a pirate, a baby with a Care Bear, a World War II British Soldier, and Ennis from Brokeback Mountain. One contestant used his unusual costume, a giant penis, to promote Latino Day for his fraternity. This year's contest had a big list of participants for judges to vote on. First place was Servando Certonas as

Michael Myers who scared half the audience by his entrance alone. Second place was Geoffrey Gayares who got into his character as Dr. Venkman from Ghostbusters. Third place was Alvaro Rios as "6 hours of history class." Congratulations to all the winners. Here's hoping that there will be even more great costumes at next year's contest.

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New writing requirement

by **Bradley Johnson**
Staff Writer

Northeastern Illinois University announced plans to alter its current graduation requirements within all fields of study. Beginning fall 2008 students will be required to complete a writing intensive course specific to their major. The three-credit course will serve to supplement the English Competency Exam, which faculty and administrators recognize as delinquent in preparing graduates for the workforce.

In 2004, Communications/Mass Media/Theater Chair Dr. Harold Hild constructed a task force to assess students' writing abilities. After 18 months of research, the committee concluded that most students remain deficient in terminology specific to their discipline. Subsequently, a rubric was designed to focus on enhancing professional writing techniques specific to students' majors with strong emphasis on generating and deconstructing reports and presentations.

The University of Florida and Georgia University were the first to introduce similar programs several years earlier. However, the compendium

designed by Dr. Hild's team has already drawn federal funding. Northeastern Illinois University recently received a Title V grant worth millions to help ignite the writing intensive course. Title V grants are reserved for colleges catering to large minority demographics which NEIU is well documented in servicing.

Dr. Hild believes the program will have an incendiary affect. "Our research revealed that if you work with a student's writing ability, it increases their thinking ability." The established rubric is amendable to each departments' focus, allowing individual colleges the flexibility to dictate which elements will become mandatory within the course.

This program is intended to intercept declared juniors before they immerse themselves in their field. Furthermore, the faculty committee established a ceiling for enrollment at 25 students per class to provide instructors an opportunity to give students more personalized attention. Transfer students enrolling during fall 2008 will be the first to complete the program, and university officials have approved a six-year trial period before the writing intensive course is permanently adopted.

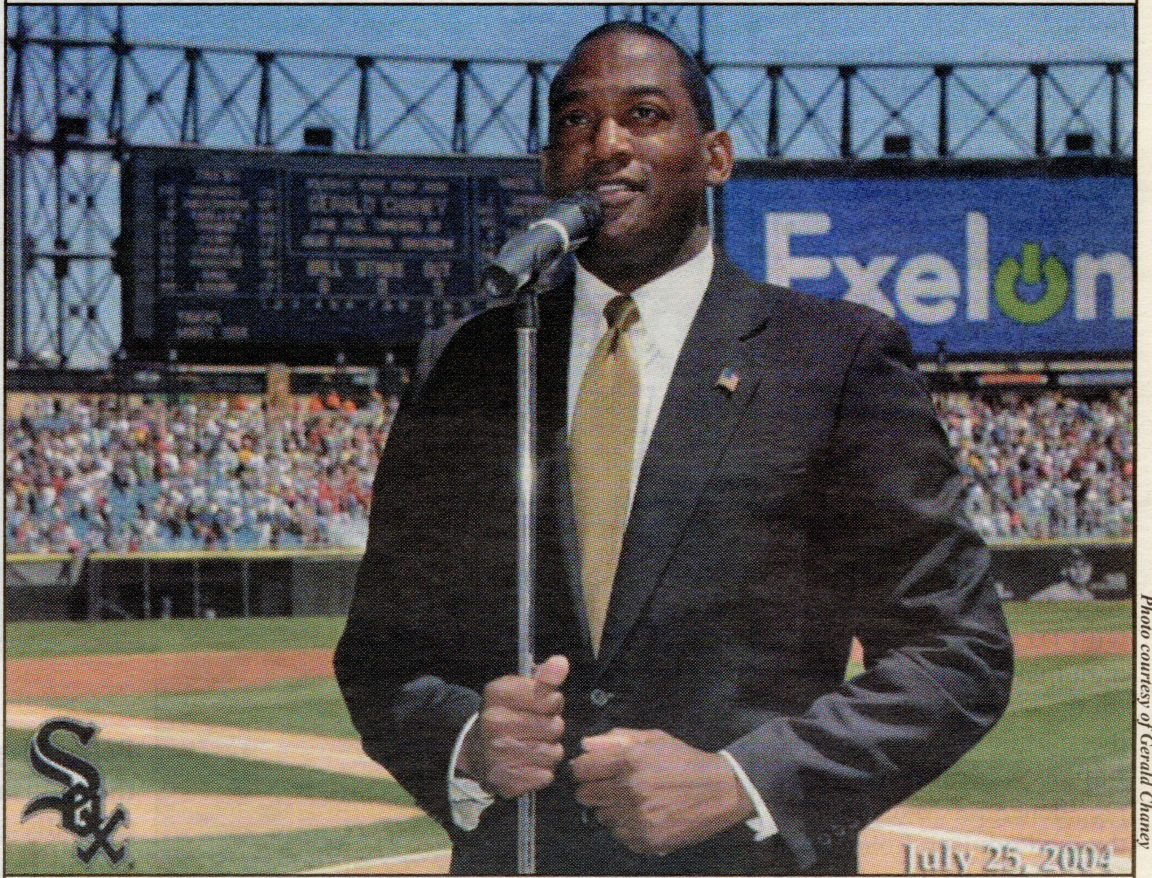
Chaney from Page 1

saying 'hello.'" Breast cancer, the other cause he speaks for also has a personal resonance. His mother is a survivor of breast cancer and he speaks on the perspective as a child of a breast cancer survivor. "What you can do, what kind

of support to look for as a child of someone who is diagnosed with breast cancer, both mothers and fathers," emphasizing that the disease strikes men and women.

He is down to earth about all his activities. "I just like to stay busy and if I stay busy, it's [something]

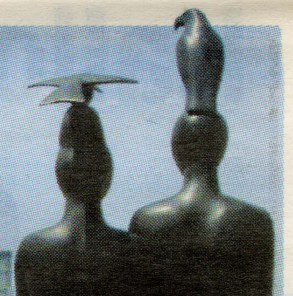
constructive." His winning the prestigious award hasn't changed his modest perspective but is a proud to represent NEIU. "I'm always proud to say I go to Northeastern Illinois University," wanting to make clear where he comes from.



Gerald Chaney at U.S. Cellular Field.

Photo courtesy of Gerald Chaney

Northeastern
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Open Meetings with Vice President for Advancement Candidates at NEIU

Northeastern is seeking an energetic and creative individual to redefine the vision of philanthropy and university advancement programs.

The Vice President for Advancement will oversee fundraising and development activities as well as the areas of alumni affairs, marketing and public relations. The individual will also serve as the Executive Director of the NEIU Foundation.

Open Meetings Schedule -

Students, faculty and staff are encouraged to attend!

November 7 at 11 a.m. in the Golden Eagles Room
November 12 at 11 a.m. in the Golden Eagles Room
November 14 at 11 a.m. in the Golden Eagles Room
November 19 at 11 a.m. in the Student Union Room 214



Mexico en Mil Colores an El Centro exhibition

by Kaity Nicastri
Photo Editor

Claudia Zamudio Mainou had a display of her series "Mexico en mil colores" at El Centro from Oct. 29-Nov. 2. During the reception offered on Nov. 1, Mainou explained the thought behind the work, and food and drinks were provided to the guests of El Centro.

Despite the lack of an official gallery space at El Centro, the exposition of the works spoke for itself, and was appropriate to the time period. Daniel Lopez, director of El Centro stated, "It was originally supposed to come during September for Spanish Heritage Month, ... but ended up being pushed back until now." It was not intended to be at this time but Lopez feels this was excellent timing for this particular showcase, due to the emphasis on Día de los Muertos in the series.

Mainou lives in Mexico and met Lopez during a trip he took two years ago to view NEIU's partner university in Guanajuato. This exhibition has been in progress since then. Mainou is "very excited about this first show in Chicago," as she has previously not exhibited in the United States.

Mainou was not originally a photographer, but was drawn to it from interior design in 1992. She would like to continue her work with the idea of Mexico in color and is always searching for more traditions in the many villages of her homeland. She mentioned a village's celebration of donkeys as being one such tradition she hopes to capture in the near future.

Daniel Lopez reports that the feedback from students at both the main campus and at El Centro has been very positive. Many Latino students from Mexico expressed delight at seeing pictures that reminded them of their culture. He has also fielded requests for other countries to be represented through artwork shown at El Centro. Lopez hopes to find work that represents many other countries, not just from Latin America but also around the world. "It has been a lot of work, but it is nice to students and the community is responding," says Lopez.

The colorful work of Mainou adds texture to the formerly stark walls of El Centro, and about twenty of the pictures will be kept by El Centro to begin their collection of artistic, multi-cultural representations of life.

Ilia exhibit success for student art

by Mark Clover
Production Editor

An electric hum vibrated the foundations of the NEIU Fine Arts building. It wasn't a power surge but an exhibit for a number of NEIU artists including a reception for Cecilia Carboni and her new digital work dubbed Ilia, held on Friday, October 19.

Alongside Carboni, the paintings of Rafael Vera, the sketches of Julie Gilberg and the work of a handful of other artists were on display, all receiving great praise from students, instructors and patrons alike.

Carboni, who initially thought of herself as a writer, discovered digital medium while uncovering other facets of her artistic self.

With an eye toward greats like Andy Warhol, Carboni feels that the digital medium has been lightly explored and plans to continue to expand the graphic arts as her career progresses.

The clean lines, contemplative text and provocative imagery of Carboni's digital work make for compelling art. The black and white contrast of this series is a bold choice, well made, displaying the courage of the artist. Several of those on hand commented on the inherent openness and Carboni's deep-rooted honesty as keys to the effectiveness of her work.

More information on Carboni's work can be had by visiting her official website at www.curiousgoldfish.com



Cecilia Carboni in front of her favorite piece from the exhibit.

Photo by Mark Clover

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Commentary

EDITORIAL

On your marks...

November, the season of politicians to begin campaigns for reelection or for higher office. It's also a time where change can be anticipated, even when there isn't an election to be had.

Change and diversity are the usual motives behind politics these days but when are these ideas not enough? The federal government is currently at work trying to grant rights to undocumented immigrants, end the war in Iraq, and add new jobs to the economy to nation. Yet the government still cannot provide an answer to declining funds for education, an overall decrease in test scores, rising taxes, and an increase in corporate subsidies that lead to increased corporate corruption.

With the presidential election of 2008 now only one year away, people all across the country need to evaluate which candidates are best fit for the job. Simply voting for the political party that contends with the outgoing administration isn't enough to justify putting the wrong person in office just because they aren't the last president. And it isn't enough for people to think that their vote is insignificant, one needs only to look back to Ohio in the 2004 election to understand how every last vote counts.

The real issue for the upcoming election, as with all elections in this country, is voting for the best change possible for the country. Because people do not merely vote for themselves, they vote for their neighbors as well. In this perspective, democracy instills awesome power in its people, a power that solidifies the United States as a nation that is simultaneously loved and hated by others around the world. With this power Americans all across the globe invoke change in their government that, in other parts of the world, is usually achieved by armed rebellion.

In a few months the primaries will take place in every state to select the candidate that will represent the parties in the general election. One, again, shouldn't enter into those elections lightly because the primary is the first step to invoking the change in government that Americans are looking forward to.

What's being asked of people when they vote isn't easy. One must look past the political schilling of bull and take note of the issues each and every candidate espouses no matter which party a voter associates with. It also isn't enough for a voter to pick the candidate that champions the issues they have an interest in. A politician's record is available to the public and one can easily see if that politician is consistent in their voting on issues as they are about how they speak of them. In other words, challenge the assumptions that people have about a candidate to see if that person is the right one for the job of running the country for four years at least.

Finally, back to the local level, one must make sure that their representatives and senators are held accountable to their constituents. When politicians are made to realize that they are going to have to actually listen to their constituents instead of farming votes out of them, then maybe things can change even better when the election rolls around next November. It's never too late to change things in America, why should the politics be any different?

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor must be signed with an address and telephone number for verification. Submissions must not exceed 300 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.
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Police Misconduct—who's policing the police?

by Keith Atterberry
 Staff Writer

Most police officers are honest, hard-working public servants who serve their communities they are charged with protecting with honor and distinction; yet a seemingly growing number of what are sometimes called "rogue cops," appear to be exempt from the very justice they've sworn to uphold.

A recent joint investigation by the *Chicago Reporter* and *ColorLines Magazine* has shed new light on the issue of police misconduct. According to the investigation, "45 percent of Chicago police officers that have been sued for having shot and killed a civilian since 2000 had previously been sued before—in some cases multiple times." Yet most of these officers remained in their positions, or moved on to other police forces

where they committed similar offenses. Unfortunately, reports like this are becoming more and more prevalent.

In one example, a federal judge refused to order the City of Chicago to give aldermen the names of hundreds of police officers that have been repeatedly accused of misconduct. At issue are the names of 662 officers accused of abusing civilians in more than 10 complaints from 2001 to 2006. In July, the aldermen were given the list of officers, but the names were blacked out, according to the *Associated Press*.

Apparently the city is more interested in protecting the "privacy" of its officers, than the "rights" of its citizens. Mayor Daley and others have defended the decision not to release the names of the officers based on the logic that the officer's right to privacy would

be violated, since they haven't been found guilty. If this rationale is true for police officers, then why is it not also true for the citizens they serve?

What about the citizen's rights to privacy? If you or I, for example, were accused of violating the law (and there was sufficient evidence, let's say 10 complaints) we would likely be arrested, jailed and have to prove our innocence in a court of law. Meanwhile, the general public would have full access to our names—not to mention our life stories. And all of this would happen, mind you, before you or I were found guilty of anything.

So why should it be any different for the people we pay to protect and to serve us? The answer is: it shouldn't. Who's policing the police? Hopefully, the newly appointed independent police review board will police the police.

Mail Bag

Response to Etiquette

The editorial titled "The etiquette of free speech" brought up several allegations which need to be corrected.

The article alleges that we have misrepresented Sen. Durbin. We have not. His record (according to his own website) is of "consistently voting for all funding requests for our nation's military needs." Funding the war is a way of supporting it, regardless of personal opinion of the war. So we were not making false arguments as alleged, it's the editorial that is wrong.

The editorial goes on to allege that we had no business protesting Durbin, since the conference was on immigration issues. This is clearly an uninformed and narrow view of both the immigration issue and the Dream Act.

The DREAM ACT stipulates that undocumented youth must either complete two years of college or join the military for legal status. This is clearly a sick way of feeding the war machine with fresh bodies.

Many undocumented youth would likely be unable to afford college, and would therein be forced into military duty to retain legal status. This is how the racist war on immigrants is directly tied to the racist wars in the Middle East.

Moreover, the article alleges that calling for an end to funding would leave the soldiers stuck in Iraq. That is simply and completely ILLOGICAL. The recent war funding bills provide for armor and weapons that won't even reach the soldiers for another two-three years. Cutting the funding would force the government to bring them home NOW.

Finally, we were also at the Durbin because of recent stories in the media about Latino's being the primary minority group dying in Iraq, and about Latino soldier's families being deported while the soldiers are on active duty. We can provide web-links to these stories on request.

Sincerely, Ken Barrios

Response to Interruption

Since no member of the *Independent* bothered to interview anyone from the group that the article was written about, a brief statement was gathered on behalf of the Campus Antiwar Network chapter, known as NEIU Students Against War (SAW).

Dick Durbin is on the Senate Appropriations Committee, which makes the decision whether or not to fund the war. He has accused SAW of "trying to rewrite his record" of war support. Voting against the war was a good decision, however, voting to give billions of U.S. dollars to fund it cannot be misread as merely allowing enough financial support to bring the troops home. According to Durbin's own website, his record is of "consistently voting for all funding requests for our nation's military needs." A soldier would be brought home before he would be left to starve, and Durbin knows this. So cutting the war funding would force the military to send troops home.

To clear up some events, the campus police did not "escort" the protesters, as if they were in trouble. The police asked the protesters if they would mind moving to the side, and in compliance, they did.

The accusation of the group as "hogging the microphone" is exaggerated, since only three members of SAW spoke. Not all antiwar speakers were members of SAW (though they should be).

There was also a mention on the audience applauding when the protesters moved, and this is also exaggerated to create a negative consensus against the group. Less than ten people applauded, and many more expressed support for the group as audience members left the room.

Also, Durbin's immigrant grandmother would not be covered by his DREAM ACT (since she is not 16 years old or younger), and her children would likely have to do military service.

Sincerely, Chris Poulos

Letter to *The Independent* from the English Department

The undersigned members of the English department regret that Professor Harry White, in a recent issue of *The Independent*, resorted to airing his scholarly and pedagogical differences with his colleagues in a public manner, expressing them in the forms of insult and personal animosity rather than in the spirit of academic argument based on mutual respect. Professor White's claims

were grossly distorted; we disavow what he said, and we lament his disrespect to both colleagues and students. We also regret that his inaccuracies have led to other letters that repeat false statements about our faculty and our MA Program.

We hope students realize that the claims White made about his colleagues' attitudes toward students are not consistent with the thought, care, and hard work

we put into our teaching. We invite students who have concerns about his comments to feel free to speak to any of us.

Sincerely, Tim Barnett, Debra Bruce-Kinnebrew, Vicki Byard, Chi Eze, Bradley Greenburg, Sandra Hunt, Julie Kim, Tim Libretti, Kristen Over, Tim Scherman, Christopher Schroeder, Donald L. Hoffman, Professor Emeritus

Counter-Point

Police misconduct or misunderstanding the police?

by Nick Gaudio
Associate Editor

The year 2007 has seen a frightening increase in reports of police misconduct. These increases were reported by *Chicago Reporter* which stated that "45 percent of Chicago police officers that have been sued for having shot and killed a civilian since 2000 had previously been sued before—in some cases multiple times."

While this account is startling to most people there are circumstances at work that the average citizen is unaware of. Wrongful death lawsuits levied against the police are subject to rigorous internal investigation by the police department to determine if the shooting in question is justified by police department standards.

These standards are very specific as to what constitutes justifiable homicide

for a police officer. Police general orders state, "a police officer is justified in killing a person when that person presents a real danger to others or to the police officer himself/herself."

With this in mind the wrongful death lawsuits are generally fraudulent as the police officer in question is right in executing action against a perceived threat. It goes without to much elaboration that mistakes happen and some of the people killed by police were not representative of any real danger, but this is normally determined after the victim has been shot. While this alone is not enough to exonerate police officers it can be used to show how the criminal element has been able to pervert the justice system in getting police officers that do their jobs correctly from their training off the streets.

Note also that the investigation by the *Chicago Reporter* stated that those

officers were sued for other misconduct other than the shooting of civilians. Any police officer can attest that in the course of doing their job they will have a complaint levied against them. While this is often times dismissed by the Office of Professional Standards, the regulating body for the police department, this still does not prevent private citizens from finding a lawyer and filing suit in court.

With the reticence of Mayor Richard J. Daley to release the names or records of the officers that have been referenced by the *Chicago Reporter* it is difficult for civilians to fully trust the police department. The police officers that are honest have the unfortunate consequence of being included in the low opinion of police officers who have abused their authority, much like the Special Operations officers that were disbanded by Interim Superintendent Dana Starks. All of this coalesces into good cops being unable to do their jobs for fear of judicial reprisal and bad cops continuing to tarnish the efforts of good cops

Chicago: A city of big shoulders?

by Thelma Coleman
Senior Staff Writer

Chicago is a glowing metropolis built on the dreams and shoulders of working class citizens. The essence of the city, photographed in glossy travel magazines with the Sears Tower in its skyline, is not the same city known to the homeless elderly man living on Wacker Drive. The city that is a business venture to world-class jet setters is not the same city known to inner-city school children. Chicago is indeed the classic tale of one city living two completely different lives.

Within the last 10 years, the city of Chicago has undergone significant development. Communities that were once crime-ridden are being transformed and businesses are moving to cash in

on their revitalization. With the prospects of the Olympics possibly coming to Chicago, the city is undergoing a major transformation. However, as with any transformation there are always variables that are not included.

For instance, the new housing developments built in poor areas are pushing out area residents who are not able to compete with high property values. Where are they supposed to go? The working class is the backbone of Chicago. Chicago is an industrial town. The city remains a leading industrial center in the Midwest. There is too much attention placed on city development for people who account for a small fraction of the population.

The CTA budget-funding crisis will work against the city in many ways. The majority of the city's labor force relies on the CTA

to commute to work everyday. Even though it is the State of Illinois' job to supply funding to the RTA (Metra, Pace, and CTA), the city could fight harder on the behalf of CTA. Chicago politics may seem boring and complicated at times but it is imperative citizens get involved. To understand the problems that dwell within Chicago's city limits, it is important to become a watchdog of local news media. The local news media provide numerous voices and countless opinions of city government and its politics but it also develops a well-rounded comprehension of Chicago politics.

Citizens of the city of Chicago, it is time for a change. No longer can voices go unheard. This city is on the brink of facing severe economic, social and political change. It is up to the citizens of this great city to cultivate that change.

Insult to Injury ... Bad Joke to Harassment

by Kaity Nicastri
Photo Editor

In a sexual harassment case involving two Northeastern students, Miguel Parra admitted to making "physical contact of an insulting nature by touching Virginia's with a metal object," according to the plea agreement read by Judge Fletcher. He had also made an inappropriate remark to another female student during the same class.

How did an insulting jest make it to criminal court? Primarily, an inappropriate joke would make a good case for sexual harassment if, according to NEIU policy and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, it creates a hostile environment. A hostile environment is considered (by U.S. law, and NEIU policy) to be a pattern of behaviors or incidents that "may seem harmless as individual events, but which may be considered intimidating, hostile, or offensive when taken together." As a singular instance, Parra's inappropriate joke and crude use of a classroom-learning tool does not correspond to this definition. It was certainly improper, and offensive, but to report it as sexual harassment versus intimidation or offensive behavior of a singular nature is overstepping boundaries.

Parra was not immediately aware that he had so seriously offended the students, but sent an e-mail to both women that stated, "I was not thinking about my actions at the time, and I can understand why you feel the way you do. ... I am very sorry." It would appear that he was not attempting to make a hostile environment.

Some things should be resolved in a mature and orderly way, without involving the legal system, and this seems like one of them. Some reflection and communication might have been essential in lowering the costs of this case on all sides. Recognizing early on that an apology was made, or that offense would be

taken, would have saved time and distress.

The two women who brought this case to the legal system were acting within university policy, but this was something that might have been resolved before reaching criminal court. Women should feel empowered to be able to take action at the time they are offended, or shortly thereafter. If women feel they can take anything to court to get money or to prove a point they are abusing our rights. The law is there to protect women who are inhibited from having the pluck to say, "That really offended me, and I feel that you should apologize/not continue with this behavior" It is not part of the usual socialization process for women, but responsible faculty, and administrators can and should guide young women and female students toward true empowerment.

A troubling aspect of this case is the varied and inconsistent responses by faculty, staff, and administration. If a ruling is passed using the proper procedure, the case should rest there, and the punishment should be ruled accordingly. If the procedure is flawed, there is a greater margin for anger and legal reactions to develop.

All students should be aware of the sexual harassment services offered on campus, the laws about sexual harassment, its definition, and know appropriate actions to take. A variety of offices provide services aimed at promoting awareness and prevention of sexual harassment and its consequences:

- The Adult and Women Student Programs Office (D-017, 442-4870) conducts workshops for employees and students and provides classroom presentations on request,
- The Affirmative Action Office (C-219, 442-5416) provides workshops on sexual harassment on request and in response to specific needs, and
- Some academic courses in Sociology and Women's Studies regularly include content on sexual harassment.

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS



Playing with Fire

I never thought I would actually feel bad for a politician, but when Democratic U.S. Senator Dick Durbin came to Northeastern for its 13th Annual Equity in Action Conference, he was heckled and rudely interrupted by a few rowdy and attention-seeking protesters in the audience. The conference was titled "Immigration and Social Justice," which Rep. Luis Gutierrez participated in earlier in the day. Likewise, Durbin was invited to talk about comprehensive immigration reform and his proposed DREAM ACT legislation.

The "Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act" would allow immigrant students to pay for in-state college tuition. It would also provide a path to citizenship for immigrant youth who grew up in the United States if they enroll in college or complete two years of military service. The military option is what protesters took issue with, which is a legitimate concern that I share as well.

However, the disruptive tactics of the protesters drew nothing but ire and contempt from those in the audience. And when we say "protesters," let's just be frank about it and say we are really talking about the Socialist Club. It's important to make this distinction because I doubt there was a single immigrant Latino protester among them.

Who knows, I could very well be wrong, but it seems like it goes against human nature to fight against your own self-interests. Let me be clear, I am in no way trying to undermine or belittle efforts to end the war in Iraq. That is not the issue here. It's about the way anti-war protesters conduct themselves on campus and whether they genuinely care about the interests of undocumented students.

It's not about free speech on campus, which, by the way, doesn't mean they have the right to be disruptive and a public nuisance. It's about the way these protesters used the struggles of undocumented students to draw attention to their own agenda. Their tactics failed to win support or sympathy and only alienated them further from NEIU communities.

What matters is the testimony of an NEIU student who thanked Durbin for his efforts in trying to pass the DREAM ACT. There are tens of thousands of immigrant students just like her who are simply asking for the opportunity to go to college. The problem of immigration reform is complex, and when the protesters narrowed their focus on only one piece of legislation, they lost sight of the overall picture and forget that Latino organizations across the country are advocates of Durbin's DREAM ACT, not against it.

Maybe these protesters can try a different approach. Instead of being so loud and disruptive, why not stand in solidarity behind those whose lives are really at stake when it comes to immigration reform legislation? Stop trying to speak for us and stop vying for attention that wasn't meant for you in the first place. Maybe then we can begin to take you seriously and see your intentions as sincere.

Open letter to the Dean of the Graduate College

Northeastern Illinois University has provided me with educational opportunities for which I am very grateful. Previous classes made it possible for me to perform better at my job and as a more knowledgeable community volunteer. I remain grateful the school and its dedicated faculty which, in the past, recognize that its role was broader than that of the conventional degree granting institution.

Several years ago, I decided to explore areas I had glimpsed briefly but recollected with pleasure. English Literature had been a delight for decades. Previous courses sanctioned my admission to the English graduate program where I took pleasure in reading and discussing great literature ranging from the Canterbury Tales to The Great Gatsby.

During this period, the introduction of critical theory seemed a useful adjunct to study but no more than that. However, in a short time, critical theory superseded the

importance of the actual literary works. Deconstruction, Marxist and other theories proliferated and became courses of study in themselves. They seemed to have become the foundation on which the study of English literature at Northeastern Illinois University appears to be based. Critical theory has become a rigid orthodoxy tolerating no dissent, a condition intolerable in a scholarly community.

Reflecting on the absurdities of sitting for the degree, I have elected to forgo further literary studies at Northeastern Illinois University. I had hoped that this latest association would have been as satisfying as the earlier two and write to make you aware of my disappointment.

Irving L. Finston
October 16, 2007

Copies to: Chairman,
Department of English, *The Independent*, Provost, President
of the University

REV

ENTERTAINMENT SECTION

'The Cook' sizzles

by Cheryl Lyman
Staff Writer

Under the direction of Henry Godinez, the cast of *The Cook* takes the audience on a rollercoaster of joy and sorrow, love and hate, strength and weakness. Tender moments are interspersed with periods of rage; and the actors portray these emotions believably with a touch of humor thrown in to lighten things up. Unfortunately, during some of the quiet moments, things become a little too quiet, and it is difficult to hear what is being said.

Beginning on New Years Eve 1958, playwright Eduardo Machado introduces us to *The Cook*, Gladys (Karen Aldridge). Gladys' employer, the aristocratic Adria Saldana (Maricela Ochoa) must flee from the revolutionary uprising of Fidel Castro. As she goes into exile, Adria makes Gladys promise to keep the Saldana home safe for the family's return.

While the play does touch on the effects of the beginning of the Cuban Communist revolution, it is then transported ahead 12 years and then 40 years as sound designers, Ray Nardelli and Andre Pluess, skillfully ease us into the future, with the transition of radio broadcasts updating the political events of the time. The single set, a kitchen designed by Todd Rosenthal, does not

change very much over the 40 years, although there are things that Gladys is not able to keep the same during the hardships of Castro's reign.

Gladys' husband Carlos (Edward F. Torres) is a loyal supporter of Castro and rises from being a

chauffeur to the head of transportation in the new government, while Gladys stays loyal to her promise, despite having to make heartbreaking choices. Her devotion to her friend and her struggle to maintain her balance and control while life is crumbling around

her make a captivating story.

A look at hope and integrity through upheaval and change, *The Cook* serves up entertainment in a thought-provoking slice of the lives of what could be a real family. More information is at www.goodmantheatre.org.



Karen Aldridge (Gladys) and Maricela Ochoa (Adria) star in *The Cook* at the Goodman Theatre



by Mike Arch
m-arch@neu.com

The Jester is in Court

Grow Bigger Antennas

When TiVo hit the market as a Digital Video Recorder (DVR) it boasted the idea of rewinding and recording live TV. After many years of development TiVo is more than a DVR. It has become a place to play music, listen to your favorite podcasts, or just check the local traffic and weather.

TiVo has captured not only the imagination of the person not wanting to miss a single episode of their favorite reality TV show. It has found its way into the hearts of many computer enthusiasts known as hackers. This term, known to most as a derogatory term, is one that seems to be embraced by the TiVo Company to some extent, only giving the warning, "By opening the TiVo Box you will void the equipment warranty." Just by pure nature of the way the system is designed, it is an open door for the hacker. TiVo's policy is the reason why

most hackers respect the TiVo Service and will not hack into that part of the system. They want the TiVo Company to stay in business. TiVo even has a special place for software developers on their website to aid in the development of your own software.

TiVo is popular for the hacker for a few reasons. The simplest reason is the TiVo Box is nothing more than a very specialized Personal Computer (PC). Any one who can upgrade the hardware in a PC can easily navigate around the TiVo Box. The other, and this is the big kicker, TiVo is based on the Linux Operating System (OS.) The Linux OS is a PC OS just like Windows or MAC OS with a few differences. The main difference was Linux was developed as Open Source Software.

Open Source Software is all tied into the distribution rights.

According to these rights anyone has the right to see modify and/or add to the software code. The catch is you cannot charge any money for the software. It can be legally downloaded to any computer for free. Some companies do charge a distribution fee when selling their versions in retail stores but that is just to recover the cost of putting the physical copies in the store or for selling customer support. If you think you never used Linux, guess again; if you ever opened Yahoo or Google on your browser, you connected to a Linux server. It is a lot more common than you might think.

TiVo is more than just a DVR. If you have a Series 2 DVR there is a download available called the TiVo Desktop. It allows you to connect a computer to a TiVo Box using a network. The TiVo Desktop allows you to play music, and view

photos saved on a computer through the TiVo Box. You can also download saved TV programs to your computer and back again to free up space on the TiVo Box or to watch on the computer. This software is not out yet for the HD Series 3 TiVo.

All TiVo's are equipped with a digital tuner so they are ready for February 2009. One of the things stopping Tivo from doing things such as checking e-mail and browsing web pages is that the input device on the remote is very similar in style to any TV device remote and does not have a qwerty keyboard on it.

Throw in the ability to check local weather and traffic via Yahoo, listen to podcasts, and search for TV shows using keywords on the TiVo WishList. You have more than a DVR; you have one place for all your home entertainment media.

Jerry Seinfeld appeals to the hivemind

by David A. Kozin
Staff Writer

"This is the moment in your life to do something crazy" was Jerry Seinfeld's message to everyone in the screening room. During Seinfeld's recent Chicago visit to promote his new film, he suggested that every college student make a list of the top seven things that they really want to do with their lives and then start from there. "Try that first thing that is your fantasy. Now is the time to try it. To hell with the money!"

Jerry Seinfeld seemingly followed his own advice with the DreamWorks-produced animated feature *Bee Movie*, a film in which a bee rejects his only career option as a cultivator of honey, breaks one of the industry's golden rules

by befriending a New York City florist and then, upon learning that honey is a popular condiment, decides to sue the whole of humanity. *Bee Movie* is out now in theaters nationwide.

It is not just the film's premise that is crazy. The whole idea for the film germinated from a joke Seinfeld came up with and once told Steven Spielberg during an awkward dinner date. Somehow this throwaway gag clicked with Spielberg, and the wheels started turning.

On September 22, Seinfeld snuck one last joke into the film before the midnight deadline. "You never really are satisfied with a film," he said, perhaps unwittingly paraphrasing the late filmmaker Stanley Kubrick. "They

just take it away from you at a certain point."

Seinfeld prepared some live-action teaser trailers well in advance of the film's release in which he and co-star Chris Rock appeared, but they turned out to be misleading for most audiences. "People liked them but I could tell they still didn't really know about the movie, so I said we need to do something so people know this movie's coming out!"

This led to Seinfeld's dive from the top of the Carlton hotel in a bee outfit at Cannes back in May. "(DreamWorks CEO) Jeffrey Katzenberg dreamed up this stunt and I said, 'Yeah, we should do that.' I don't have a lot of fear of those kinds of things. So he said 'would you jump off of a building on a wire?' I said,

'Yeah, I'll do that.'"

Seinfeld has no future plans at this point besides continuing stand-up and that is perfectly fine for him; he is now married with three children. But that is not what keeps him tied down. "I loved making the movie... but I won't be in the theater when people laugh. I won't feel it, and I just love to connect with people face-to-face, and I would never give that up. It's just a more pure experience.

"I only did this because I thought it was so fresh and unique and different, but I feel like I went way past what I thought I could do," he said. "I never thought I had the ability to make most of the stuff that I've made. But you find out that's how all artists feel... All the things you think, everybody thinks."

Please go to our website at www.neiuindependent.com to check out the round-table interviews with Jerry Seinfeld as well as directors Steve Hickner and Simon Smith.

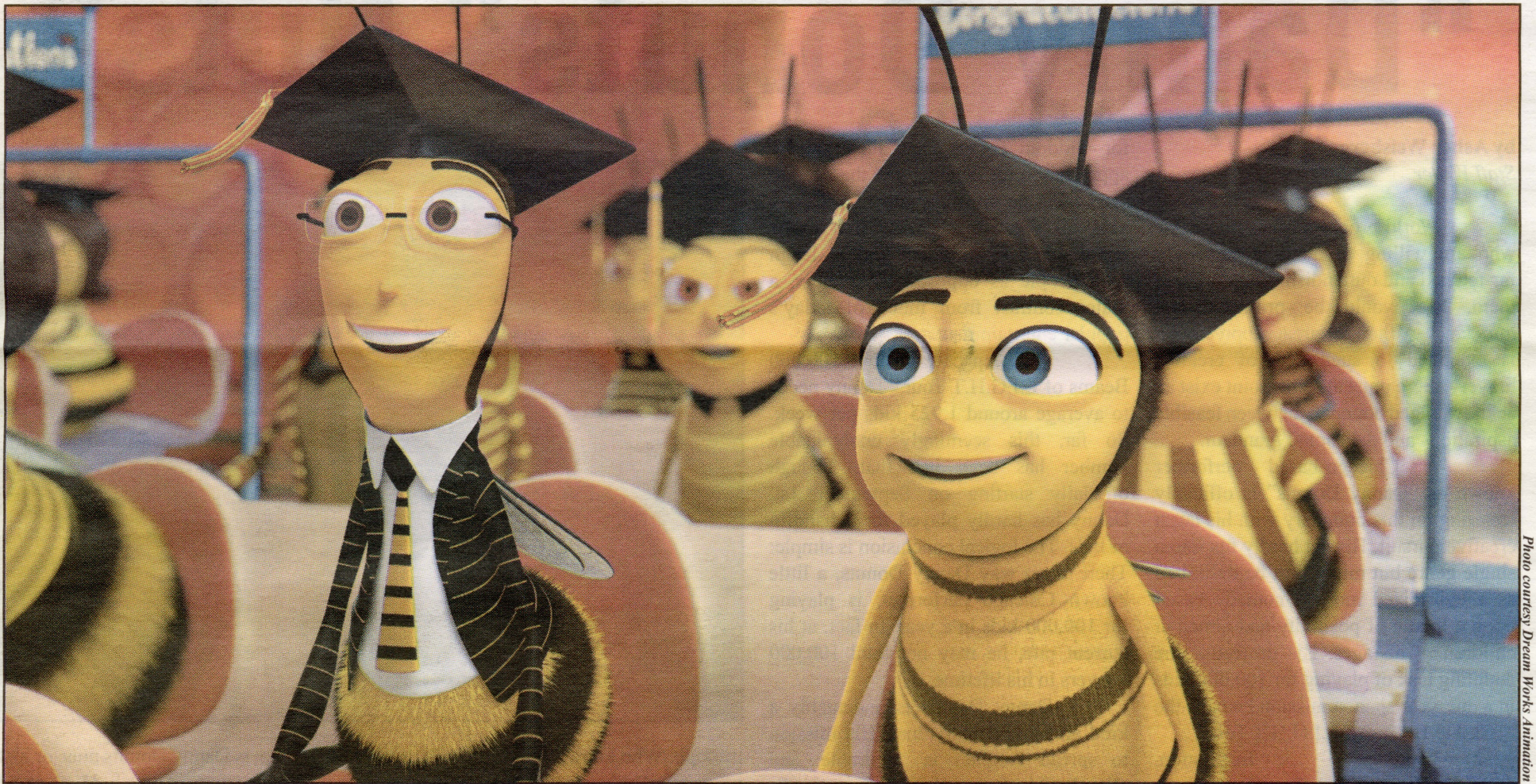


Photo courtesy Dream Works Animation

Take a seat on the beach

by Jessica Moen
Senior Staff Writer

The anxieties of aging, death, and the tragedies of love. As each character gets to know the others on the beach, we find out more about them and why they are trying to "find the sun."

"Finding the Sun" is the story of eight people on a beach who are all there to "find the sun" in their own way. There are two married couples, whose husbands were (and still are) in love with each other, while the wives deal with it in their own ways (which isn't always pretty). There is also a Mother/Son and a Husband/Wife group that each have their own problems they need to work out.

The play went very smoothly. The one scene play was held in a

small auditorium, (Stage Center Theatre) which gave the audience a more personal perspective. There were times during the show that it felt like the actors were talking right to me, and I had to resist answering back. Each character felt real, and you could sympathize with their various difficulties.

The lighting and attire of the actors really helped in creating the illusion that this was a hot summer day at the beach. Each character came in with more lavish chairs (or blankets) to show their status as compared to others. The rich mother and son had the most eloquent chairs, and the most troubled couple had only a simple blanket.

For more information on all the shows at Stage Center, visit the website at www.neiu.edu/~stagectr

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T'hongs, sequins, platform heels and corsets

by Lenny Ocasio
Senior Staff Writer

Mercury Theater presents The Rocky Horror Show. The live musical is the latest production in a long history that also included a movie, Rocky Horror Picture Show, with a cult following. The stage version is almost parallel to the movie with a few differences.

The story revolves around a young, recently engaged couple, Brad and Janet, played by Tony DiFalco and Dina DiConstanzo, who are on their way to an old teacher's house when their car breaks down. They find a castle with lights on inside and decide to ask for help from whoever is there. Two servants, Magenta, played by Molly Callinan, and Riff Raff, played by Robert Felbinger, let them in. Brad and Janet enter to find that they have interrupted a group of people having their annual Transylvanian Convention. In comes the master of the house, Frank-N-Furter, played wonderfully by Scott Alan Jones,

to invite everyone to view his latest project, Rocky Horror, his own Frankenstein-like creature. Rocky Horror is unveiled and starts a chain of events that change Brad and Janet in irrevocable ways.

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**ROCKY
HORROR
Show**

All the old songs in the movie are present as well as a new one sung by Brad. The energy put into the songs and the choreography is infectious. You will find yourself yelling out the lyrics to songs like "Damn It Janet" and moving to the beat with "The Time Warp." Eddie, played by Amy Armstrong, will have you thinking 'what ever happened to Saturday night' in "Hot Patootic." Audience participation is almost a given.

The audience adds an unpredictable element so that each performance is unique. Die-hard fans pick up cues and yell things at the actors, who take it in stride. Dance routines are pulled off with whole-hearted enthusiasm from the dancers; even some of the fans get their chance to shine at the end of the show. Mercury Theater production of The Rocky Horror Show enriches an already great show. The Rocky Horror Show will be playing thru November 11. Mercury Theatre is located at 3745 N. Southport Ave. Chicago, 773-325-1700.

Image courtesy blackpoolgrand.co.uk

"Danny Donuts" Nuts?

by Asher Weisberg
Staff Writer

World progress relies on people who are willing to attempt seemingly far-fetched and outlandish tasks. Without them, life would be primitive and mundane. Although great appreciation is extended to such acts of creative bravery, there must at some point exist an acknowledged boundary between feasible aspirations and delusional grandeur.

A Chicago-based performer known as "Danny Donuts" is officially teetering on this boundary with his latest creative pursuit. His act hardly fits into a single genre but might best be described as a hybridized musical comedy based upon a theme of positivity and aimed at children of all ages. His project is the daunting task of playing for 100,000 kids in a one-year span, a mission he calls the "100,000 Beams of L.I.G.H.T Tour."

Laughter, Inspiration, Giggles, Humor, and Togetherness, or "L.I.G.H.T.", are the themes he hopes to spread to 100,000 children this year. His preference toward performing

for children comes from their sincere appreciation for laughter and the need to send them an uplifting message. Danny says his show teaches children to be expressive and confident and to laugh with people as opposed to at them, a major contrast from much of today's popular entertainment.

To keep pace on the "100,000 Beams of L.I.G.H.T Tour," Danny needs to average around 1,925 kids per week. So far, this seemingly unobtainable number has been just that. Though officially starting on September 1st, Danny has hardly played for a handful of kids. The logical conclusion is simple: There is no way Danny Donuts, a little known Chicago performer, is playing for 100,000 kids in a year. In fact, at his current rate, he may not total 100,000 viewers in his lifetime.

Danny Donuts is undeniably a kind and joyful individual. His mission to spread laughter is admirable, and all should hope that he succeeds. Unfortunately, that is not likely. As one would expect, these opinions hardly faze Danny, who sincerely believes he will



Photo by Michelle Greco and Rose Steigerman

triumph. Who knows, maybe he will pull off a remarkable upset after all. Whatever the outcome, Danny Donuts will inspire at least a few souls along the way and for that deserves praise.

So, is Danny Donuts nuts, or just an inspired performer on a bold mission? To track this possible miracle in the making, go to www.beamsflighttour.com for updates.

Edge Comedy Strikes Again!

by Jessica Moen
Senior Staff Writer

Edge Comedy Club featured a great comedian, Prescott Tolk. He has appeared on Comedy Central's Premium Blend in 2006; you can watch a clip on www.pacificcomedy.com. He hosts a weekly comedy show called "The Rock" at Schuba's (corner of Belmont and Southport) every Sunday, and also performs all over Chicago.

The first act was Dave Waite. He used a "creepy guy" bit to get some laughs and he even tried to creep out a girl in the audience by hitting on her. He did well

to entertain at first, but lost his edge when confronted with a rather obnoxious heckler in the third row. Perhaps after a few more shows he will be able to maintain his game despite distractions.

The next to perform was up and coming comedian Mark Buenning. He did get some laughs, and showed good as a new comedian.

Then came headliner Prescott Tolk. He did very well with his own jokes, and managed to improvise a few directed at members of the audience. The audience really ate him up and even the obnoxious heckler had a few laughs. Tolk definitely knew what the crowd wanted and was able

to deliver. Very, very funny!

If you want to see some great comedy acts, visit www.theedgecomedyclub.com for upcoming shows times and dates. Edge Comedy Club has new acts every Friday and Saturday at 10:30 p.m. If you are looking for a place to show off your skills, they offer open mike days on Wednesday and comedy competitions on Thursdays at 8:30pm. Student rates are available!

If you would like to see Prescott Tolk in another show, visit his Myspace page at <http://www.myspace.com/thatudprescott> for tour dates, or add him if you just want more friends.

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EAGLES NEST

Lifestyles
of the
Northeastern
Community

Bernstein visits Nixon Library for first time

By Christopher Goffard

Los Angeles Times

YORBA LINDA, Calif. -- In the official narrative of the Richard Nixon Library & Birthplace, Carl Bernstein has long been one of the villains, a reporter whose name -- along with that of former Washington Post colleague Bob Woodward -- elicited special loathing.

That sentiment was on display at the Watergate exhibit that stood for years in the Yorba Linda library where a Nixon-approved text falsely accused the reporters of offering bribes to further their coverage of the scandal that drove the 37th president from office.

The exhibit was torn down in March, marking a symbolic turning point for an institution ridiculed by scholars since its 1990 opening. Another milestone came Monday: Bernstein visited for the first time. He pronounced it "a very moving experience."

Touring the grounds before his scheduled speech, the reporter-turned-best-selling-author quietly entered the white clapboard farmhouse where Nixon was born. He peered at the piano where, as a boy, Nixon learned to play. He bent before a glass case to examine the marriage certificate of Nixon's parents. He walked around the helicopter where Nixon took his final flight off the White House lawn.

"It's impossible ... not to feel some kind of strange kinship and not to feel part of this place," Bernstein later told the crowd that filled a 300-seat auditorium.

Bernstein came at the invitation of Tim Naftali, the library's first federal

director, who in July presided over the library's shift from a privately run facility -- controlled by Nixon loyalists -- to a National Archives institution. Among Naftali's first acts was the dismantling of the Watergate exhibit that characterized the scandal as a "coup" hatched by the president's enemies. He expects the new Watergate exhibit, which will feature first-person oral accounts by participants in the drama -- including Bernstein -- to open in January.

While the National Archives runs the library now, the Nixon Foundation runs the museum's gift shop and funds exhibits, many of them celebratory. After touring the museum, Bernstein said he found the two functions were "a wonderful melding" that helped cast Nixon on a human scale and conveyed "a magnificent feeling about a whole life lived."

"Bob (Woodward) and I are bound in our lives to this man, and each of us has spent a lot of our lives thinking about him," he said in an interview. "He's a genuinely tragic figure, and you feel some of that tragedy here. He spent his life seeking the presidency and was forced to resign not because of his policy failures but because of his flaws."

Bernstein, who was promoting his new Hillary Rodham Clinton biography, "A Woman In Charge," said that if he had predicted in the late 1990s that he would be speaking at the Nixon Library about Clinton as a plausible next president, "I think I would have been accused of smoking something -- inhaling."

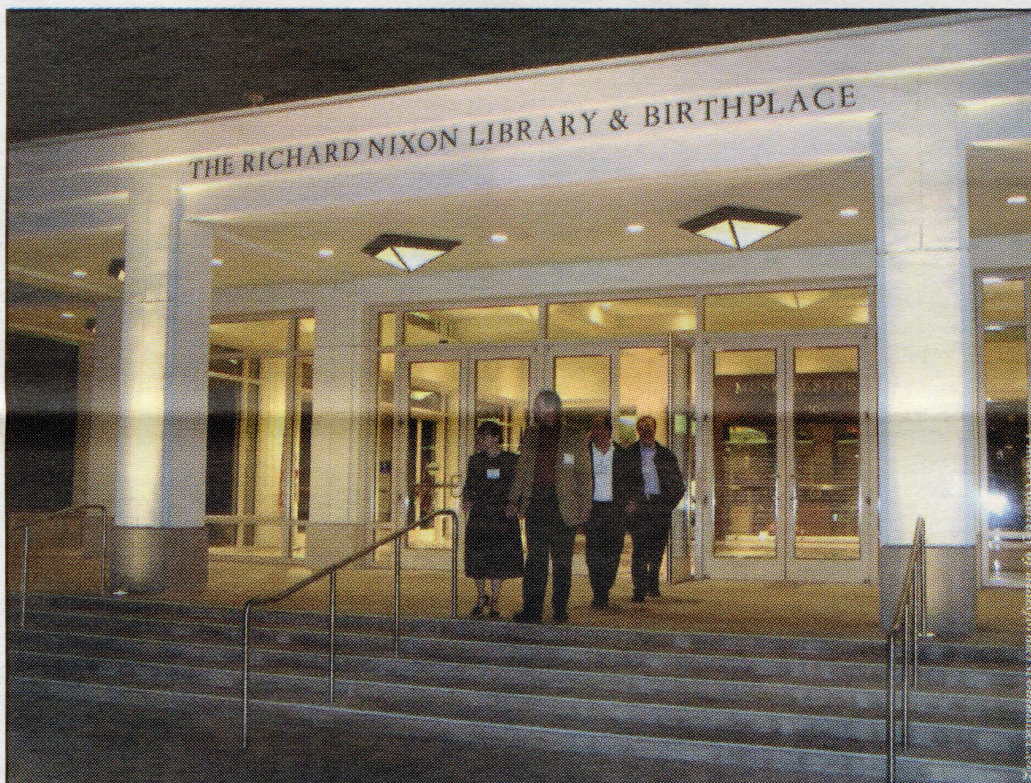
Not all those in attendance at his speech were aware of Bernstein's iconic status. Sayra Morales, 26, a journalism student at Fullerton College, said she attended for extra credit. She said she is unfamiliar with the details of Nixon's presidency, of Watergate, of Bernstein's role in history. She knows him as the author of the Clinton biography.

"I'm not big on politics," she said.

Absent for Bernstein's appearance was John Taylor, the director of the Nixon Foundation who helped write the text of the original Watergate exhibit. Taylor was reportedly on vacation in Hawaii, though Naftali said he was aware of Bernstein's visit and had "embraced" it.

Naftali said he was delighted with the crowd, which had turned out despite Bernstein's notable lack of conservative credentials.

"I was told when I got here it couldn't be done," the new director said.



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On a Tangent...

Willful ignorance, Bob Redford's solution

The 71-year-old man walks in with the energy of a 24-year-old. We see his graying golden hair and weather worn wrinkles that reveal his love for the wild America at his Sundance Ranch in Utah.

"My name is Robert, but you can call me Bob," said acclaimed actor/director Robert Redford in a round table discussion with college reporters about his new film opening Nov. 9, *Lions for Lambs*. We responded in unison, "Hello Bob," and the discussion began.

"The country needs you to be as active as you can," Redford said was the reason for American youth to watch this film. I feel this movie does push you to do something; if it doesn't, I think you may be dead. He commented that not being active would leave you in danger of losing some rights and liberties. He pointed to the relation to this current administration and how we are coming dangerously close to a time like the

McCarthy Era. The late Wisconsin Senator Joseph McCarthy, the "fat sweaty creep," as described by Redford, made a blacklist in the '50s for those who he thought were Communists; jeopardizing many people's careers.

Now, he emphasized that *Lions for Lambs* was not specifically about the Iraq War, but does use the war in Afghanistan and Iraq as a catalyst, for the three stories that are paralleled in this film to happen.

One of the stories is that between the student and the teacher (played by Redford). We all have lives and we all work for an income (or most of us) and sometimes, present company included, we make the conscious choice to miss class not because we're sick or public transit is a pain, we miss class because of one reason; willful ignorance. This means we choose not to go because we don't want to have a sense of urgency toward the importance of the material that is presented in class. Now, present company included as well, there

are others who think that a class is an every day struggle, even if your teacher/adviser says you're bringing up "bright ideas" and "provocative topics." But if you're not going to class this hurts the credibility of your degree at school and is a waste of money, like what happens to the student in *Lions for Lambs*.

This film also tackles the problem of journalism today but that is for the next issue, on Nov. 20. This is where I will tell you when the change occurred and how Redford explains his reasons for the decline in powerful journalism the world saw in the '70s, when investigative journalism helped bring down the White House.

The conversation lasted about 45 minutes and I wish I had more time with the man, because he has 71 years of stories he could share. What I did get out of this chance meeting with an icon is that we have made great strides as a species, but there is still a long way to go. This is a man who lived through World War II, the McCarthy

Era, Vietnam, Watergate, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Iran-Contra Affair. Check these events out -- you'll be shocked how they relate to one another and how they relate to what is happening now.

This film is so important that it can move continents and possibly make the world a better place if we become more accountable with the decisions we make on a daily basis. So go to class, I will too, and talk with your teacher once in a while and take ownership of your education.

Also, read the newspaper every day and look in the history books to see where the current day fits in with the past, and if you don't feel it is going the right direction take some action. As Bob said, "start up a community newspaper or film company and start changing the world" in a method that challenges the administration, but just don't sit on the fence"...but I digress.

FALL INTO SERVICE MONTH

Participate in a campus-wide service opportunity during the Winter Wear Collection for the Albany Park Community Center.

What is needed: Glove/mitten, scarf and winter hat sets (especially for children)

For: Albany Park Community Center

Drop off deadline: November 30th

Drop off location: Student Activities Office, SU 206

Student Activities will deliver your donation in a gift bag with your offices/individual name to the Albany Park Community Center in December. Thank you for contributing to the Albany Park Community Center.

Attention Student Organizations! **FALL INTO SERVICE MONTH** is a time for all organizations to focus on serving the community. This can be done by your organization giving time to a local or national cause or by raising money for a philanthropy of your choice. We encourage all student organizations to work as a group during November to give of your resources, talents and/or time to those in need. We will also highlight your organization and service effort by a public display in the Student Union first floor, around the corner from the Golden Eagles room. Stop by to Student Activities for a participation form and we will make sure that the campus recognizes your efforts.

For additional information, please contact the Student Activities Office at (773) 442-4660 or email Claudia Mercado at c-mercado1@neu.edu.

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Institutionalized campus racism: myth or reality?

by Keith Atterberry
Staff Writer

In 1954 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled their milestone decision in the landmark *Brown v Board of Education of Topeka* case: "Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal." Fast-forward 53 years. Are educational institutions racially equal?

Whether or not their "facilities" are fairly balanced is debatable; however, the question of whether African-American students receive harsher disciplinary punishments—in contrast to their white, Latino, and Asian peers—is not.

Howard Witt suggests in a *Chicago Tribune* article that a decline in "court-ordered" integration of suburban schools, coupled with the "gradual re-segregation" of inner-city schools in recent years, has not made much of a difference in disciplinary rates. "Even in urban schools where most of the students are black, black youths are still disciplined out of proportion to their population, the data show. In Washington, D.C., for example, black students are 84 percent of the public school population but 97 percent of the students who are suspended."

Take these *chicagotribune.com* statistics for example:

- "In the average New Jersey public school, African-American students are almost 60 times as likely as white students to be expelled for serious disciplinary infractions."
- "In Minnesota, black students are suspended 6 times as often as whites."
- "In Iowa, blacks make up just 5 percent of the statewide public school enrollment but account for 22 percent of the students who get suspended."

To what can we attribute the inequitable distribution of punishments of African-American students? Perhaps there are many explanations.

One ongoing obstacle, according to Dr. Conrad Worrill, PhD, director, *Jacob Carruthers' Center for Inner City Studies*, is white racism.

"I would attribute it to the system of white supremacy embedded in the institutional fabric of American society...In different periods in history, [it has] manifested itself in a variety of manners."

He elaborates, "I think we have to [define] white supremacy, which is a philosophy that somehow one race is superior to another... This idea has not been eradicated from American society, and

so now we are witnessing the reemergence, through school disciplinary actions, of young black males being disciplined disproportionately to other students in school populations."

When asked whether he believes that African-American kids being subjected to stricter punishment at school is a future predictor of trouble with the law as adults (Re: Jena Six), he told the *Independent*:

"If you look at the statistics throughout, you would see that [African Americans] are disproportionately incarcerated, disproportionately arrested, and we are disproportionately given higher sentences, so this is just a part of the challenges we still face in America— to rid the system that's driven by white supremacy, [which has] manifest itself in

not pernicious bias on the part of schools, but is the result of varying disciplinary policies across schools. Schools serving higher proportions of minority students tend to use harsher measures of punishment when compared to schools that serve fewer minority students. Thus, the disparity in discipline reflects strategic punishment on the part of schools."

In spite of the large body of research in the area indicating that race does play a role in the unequal distribution of punishments for African-American students, and the efforts of community leaders, politicians, and activist to address the issue, it appears that the problem is getting worse.

Dr. Conrad Worrill agrees. "So we're seeing a trend.

"In Washington, D.C., for example, black students are 84 percent of the public school population but 97 percent of the students who are suspended." - Howard Witt

racist behavior on the part of those who control institutions, and in this case educational institutions."

Dr. Worrill makes a very compelling argument, and there is a large body of research to back him up. There are, however, differing opinions as to the cause of the disparity in punishment.

Josh Kinsler, department of economics, Duke University, said in a 2006 research report titled, *Racial Disparities in School Discipline: Racism or Rational Choice?*: "Despite the myriad of potential explanations for the differences in punishment, the overarching theme in the education literature is that schools target black students for discipline as result of racial bias. The general public and child advocacy groups appear to have reached the same conclusion."

Kinsler's research reached a different conclusion. "Disciplinary data from North Carolina in 2001 indicates that black students are more likely to receive out-of-school suspensions and receive longer sentences when punished. However, the cause of this discipline gap is

We're seeing a trend also in the nooses that we have witnessed, that have been placed in work places; that have been placed on college campuses; have been hung on professors' doors at Columbia [university]; and of course the most famous one, of note, is the noose hung around the tree in Jena [Louisiana]."

Some researchers believe that the "socioeconomic conditions" which many African-American children come from contribute to their "delinquency."

"Yet black students are no more likely to misbehave than other students from the same social and economic environments, research studies have found," according to the *Chicago Tribune* article.

Dr. Worrill believes this attitude is indicative of a problem in our educational institutions. "I would say that this is consistent with white administrators, who are playing out their racism in the observation of black children in school districts."

He appears to have support from other researchers. For example, Dr. Russell Skiba, a professor of educational

psychology at Indiana University, whose research focuses on race and discipline issues in public schools, told the *Chicago Tribune*: "There simply isn't any support for the notion that, given the same set of circumstances, African-American kids act out to a greater degree than other kids. In fact," he continues, "the data indicate that African-American students are punished more severely for the same offense, so clearly something else is going on. We can call it structural inequity or we can call it institutional racism."

In light of this information the question is: what can be done to reverse the trend? Dr. Worrill suggests that the American public school system is a good place to start.

"I think [that] one of the things that is missing in the American public school system is the continued absence of African-American children seeing themselves in the curriculum... One of the projects that we've been working on for many years is to restructure public school curriculum to more accurately reflect the contributions of African people, and African-American people, in all subjects."

The media can also play a role in addressing the disparate punishment rates African-American kids are subjected to by drawing attention to the issue. Some believe that the media was remiss in its original coverage (or lack thereof) of the "Jena Six" story.

"It's late, but it's not too late, for all of America to act," says Laura Flanders of the *The Nation*. "In fact, truly massive public attention is needed right now as a white backlash builds in Louisiana. While Air America and National Public Radio move on, David Duke and his radio listeners are all over the Jena story. Last week, the former Ku Klux Klan leader announced his support for Jena's white residents (who voted overwhelmingly for him when he ran for Louisiana governor in 1991)."

The preponderance of the research data on institutionalized campus racism suggests that it is not a myth. It is a reality for millions of African-American students on campuses throughout America. Yet there is hope for the future that this injustice can and will be eradicated.



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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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CLS 2056

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Latin@ Student Union
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Tuesdays - Room E-041
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uprs_movement@hotmail.com
myspace.com/uprs

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