

2-5-2008

## Independent- Feb. 5, 2008

Jonathan Gronli

Follow this and additional works at: <https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent>

---

### Recommended Citation

Gronli, Jonathan, "Independent- Feb. 5, 2008" (2008). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 381.  
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/381>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the NEIU Student Newspapers at NEIU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Independent (1988-present) by an authorized administrator of NEIU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [neiudc@neiu.edu](mailto:neiudc@neiu.edu).

# INDEPENDENT

www.neiuindependent.com

Member of the Associated Collegiate Press

Tuesday, February 5, 2008

Vol. 24, Issue 12

## Board of Trustees vote on tuition hikes Feb. 7

by Duncan Macnab  
Senior Staff Writer

Facing a budget crunch, the Board of Trustees will debate a significant tuition hike on Thursday, Feb. 7. The 3:00 p.m. meeting will be held in Golden Eagles room and will be open to the public.

If approved, the change would mean students who enrolled in 2004 and before will face a large increase in their tuition. This will not affect students enrolled 2005 and after, their tuition rates are locked in for four years because of the Truth in Tuition law. The students that enrolled in 2004 were the first cohorts of students to have their tuition locked for four years under Truth in Tuition.

"The University is having a decrease in state funding, and it doesn't look good this year or next year," said Mark Wilcockson, V.P. for Finance and Administration, echoing the rationale for the proposed tuition increase that was brought to the Board of Trustees meeting in Nov. 2007.

Stating the reasons for the flatness of state funding going towards higher education, Don Sevens, Deputy Director of External Relations at the Illinois Board of Higher Education, said "not enough tax revenue and a downturn in the economy."

In the Nov. 2007 meeting, Wilcockson said that the state funding is flat and the cost of running the University is rising, there are only two other veins of income for the school: one is gifts and grants, the other is tuition. He explained that gifts and grants aren't very secure and are infrequent. Tuition is the vein that is left and can change when the need arises, he added.

The proposed tuition increase will be 25 percent for the student who enrolled in 2004. Also, a proposed 9 percent increase will be for the students enrolled before 2004. This means students enrolled since 2004 will be paying \$155 next year per credit hour (PCH), as opposed to the \$124 PCH they were paying. Also the 'continuing students' enrolled before 2004 will be paying \$170 PCH where they were paying \$156 PCH.

There are other increases in the fees all students pay. Students currently pay \$10.10 PCH for parking; part of this fee goes to paying off state issued bonds, which will be paid off by 2036. The fee is planned

see Tuition pg. 4

## Positive on purpose

Bill Campbell's visit to NEIU  
ARCHIVES



Photo by Joe Davis

by Jonathan Gronli  
Editor-in-Chief

Bill Campbell grew up on the south side of Chicago through one of the most tumultuous times in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America: the era of the Civil Rights Movement. For 30 years he has been working with ABC-7 Television Chicago.

He came to speak on Jan. 30 to the NEIU campus community.

Campbell started off sessions with outlining the general topic of the address: being positive on purpose. He noted that people live in two different worlds: "reality and the world of possibilities." The audience of the address listened intently to this while he fleshed out

the meaning of what he was saying by bringing up these two worlds. He brought it up with an anecdote regarding an editor-in-chief of a paper who never thought he'd make it to where he was. When the editor was asked if he ever dreamt that he

see Campbell pg. 5

## Potential increase in budget and reception

by Ena Hadzimuratovic  
Staff Writer

NEIU is currently negotiating a contract with Verizon Wireless regarding the construction of a cell antenna on top of the library building. This was confirmed by Assistant Director of IT Strategic Planning, Sergey Chernov, who has declared that NEIU is negotiating the terms of the contract. There are plans of submitting it for approval at the upcoming Board of Trustees Meeting on Feb. 7, 2008.

The contract will clarify the proposed type and size of the antenna, exact location, issues concerning construction and most importantly how much money Verizon will be paying NEIU for rental fees and utility reimbursement. There is no word yet as to how much money is in question, or what the rental fee money is going to be used for, but in any case students will benefit from the university's increased budget. Verizon internal specialists are studying how many of their customers work or live in the area, and are going to benefit from the construction. The size of the antenna and amount of rent money they are willing to pay for the location will depend on the analyst results.

see Reception pg. 5

## Robert Bedford named Assistant Dean

by Mike Arch  
News Editor

Robert Bedford has been named by NEIU for the position of Assistant Dean. This position is a new position that was created in the Dean of Students office to help better serve students. Bedford brings 20 years of higher education experience with him to the position.

His main responsibilities are revisiting how orientations are done on campus. "We will be looking at the different ways that we offer orientations. There will be a special orientation for transfer and adult learners; there'll be an additional orientation for family in addition to the other 16 sessions of orientation that run throughout the summer," said Assistant Dean Bedford.

The second part of his duties will be service learning. "Service learning allows an individual the opportunity to work with an agency and the ability to touch the lives of those supported by that agency and then the students have the opportunity to come back and do some classroom reflection," said Assistant Dean Bedford. Some of the

agencies that are available to work with are Big Brothers and Big Sisters, the Albany Park Community Center, Chicago Youth Center and Chicago Public Schools, to name a few.

Bedford started at the University of Wisconsin with a Bachelor Degree in Elementary Education. He then went on to complete a Master's Degree in Counseling and in Higher Education Administration.

Bedford shared his philosophy on student development. In this philosophy are four key elements described as explore, experience, understand and connect. According to Bedford, "Explore your options as you zoom in on a major that will start you on a path to forecasting your future. Experience stellar academic instruction from some of the most gifted, critical thinking, research devoted, student-friendly faculty you will find anywhere. Understand that learning is a life long process and that both challenges and rewards come as a packaged deal, and connect with many individuals as you form relationships among other students, staff and faculty that are destined to last a life-time."

"I have had so much joy when



Robert Bedford, pictured above, has over 20 years of higher education experience.

students come back and say I decided to take a jump into it and give it some energy and effort. If there is anything that brings me joy it is when students recognize what their potential is and they get out there and they do something," said Bedford.



## Staff

**Editor-in-Chief**  
Jonathan Gronli

**Associate Editor**  
Nick Gaudio

**Production Manager**  
David Mosher

**Business Manager**  
T.C. Chung

**Business Assistant**  
Lenny Ocasio

**News Editor**  
Mike Arch

**Opinions Editor**  
Thelma Coleman

**Entertainment Editor**  
Cheryl Lyman

**Features Editor**  
Keith Atterberry

**Photo Editor**  
Kaity Nicastri

**Photographer**  
Jonathon Winkler

**Production Editors**  
Maciej Lisiecki  
Michael Nguyen

**Senior Copy Editor**  
Kelly Lucia

**Copy Editor**  
Jeff Derrickson

**Senior Staff Writers**  
Al Cordero  
Rolando Ithier III  
Sophia López  
Regina Torres

**Staff Writers**  
Shirley Descorbeth  
Iris Feliciano  
Adrienne Grant  
Diana Heck  
Eron McCormack  
Kristin Pagan  
Regina Ramos  
Erica Salgado

**Faculty Advisor**  
Brian White

**Office Hours**  
Monday - Friday  
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

neiu\_independent@yahoo.com  
www.neiuiindependent.com

# Sodexho boycott remembered

## Part one of a four part series

by David Kozin  
Staff Writer

The boycott of NEIU's contracted food provider enacted by the Student Government Association's Finance Committee Chair Paul Harris back on September 25, 2007, has ostensibly run its course. Harris was hoping to generate a galvanizing effect among the student body to push for changing something on campus. Whether there is a major change or not depends on what happens when Sodexho's contract comes up for review at the end of this year.

"The students at large have been excluded from so many things for so many reasons," Harris said. "This was a chance for us to bring the students back into the fray and create a political power for the elected people to get us back into the real business of student government."

The boycott of Sodexho is now regarded as old news around campus, but so are the opinions about the quality of the

food they provide. Complaints run the gamut from the ultra-greasy hamburgers they prepare to the nearly expired milk and prepared foods they sell. What might be fresh news for students, faculty and staff alike is what actually prompted the boycott.

Sodexho's district manager Frank Cecil appeared before the SGA on September 13 to discuss the raising of prices and it seemed to all go downhill from there. Harris said, "He was disrespectful, condescending and, under the auspices of asking for input, came in and told us what was going to happen... I guess he felt the need to give us a lesson on elementary economics and inflation, which was probably the most condescending part of it... It was more than just the fifteen senators sitting there that felt disrespected."

People wonder why Sodexho would raise their prices when the company reported 2007's annual income as somewhere in the neighborhood of \$6.7 billion dollars.

Apparently this was exactly the reason for jacking up the prices. At the meeting, Cecil justified the raising of prices, which were not "across the board" price increases but just applied to selected items, by reminding everyone "at the end of the day I need to break even."

"Inflation is going to happen," Cecil added. "For those of you that are familiar please go to the US Government website. Currently the consumer price index, or inflation, is rising at 3.4 percent per [year] for food and beverages outside the home."

Frank Cecil is no longer serving as district manager for our school and the surrounding area. When asked to comment on the boycott and Harris' recounting of his September 13 presentation that prompted it, Cecil would only say, "I do not agree with (Harris') comments." For any further comments, he referred The Independent to Dr. Melvin Terrell, Vice President of Student Affairs. Dr. Terrell refused to comment for this story.

# Retractions

The *Independent* would like to issue a retraction and apologize for any inconvenience due to an error made in the January 8 issue. David Benjaih was asked to put together the following statement to clarify our error and his remarks.

"The head of Operation Push has been on the record as being on smack and juice," an interesting quote, don't you think? But what does it mean? Nothing at all to me, and I'm the person purported to have said it in the January 8 issue of the *Independent*. What I actually said: "The head of Operation Push has been on record as being prejudiced against Jews." Close, but no cigar.

According to *Wikipedia*, Jesse Jackson claimed to be in the "Equal Rights Movement" in 1965 and started Operation PUSH (People United to Save Humanity) in 1971, ostensibly for equal rights for all beings. How then could this man of equality make a statement in a January 1984 (the year of his first bid for the Presidency of the United States) conversation with the Washington Post referring to Jews as "Hymies" and to New York City as "Hymietown"? During that year, he also started the Rainbow Coalition for the equality of peoples of all races and creeds (smacks of demagogic pandering).

Also stated in *Wikipedia*, Jackson quit University of Illinois, where he had a football scholarship in 1960, because of a supposed racial bias that would not allow him to play quarterback on the team. In reality the starting quarterback that year was an African American, and Jackson was on academic probation at the end of his second semester.

In reference to *Wikipedia*, he attended Chicago Theological Seminary but dropped out in 1966 to concentrate on the Equal Rights Movement (an honorable choice), and was afterwards ordained in 1968 without a theological degree.

There are numerous other issues with this coalition that led me to feel that they would not be an appropriate organization to charter at our institution. As a member of the Senate at NEIU, and particularly as the Chairman of the Charter and Rules committee, I feel it is my responsibility to be concerned with how groups may impact our multi-cultural environment, and to do my utmost to see that all groups are fairly served, without any prejudice. To this end I commonly discuss these issues with my constituency, and my statements in the senate and voting record are reflections of those concerns of the SGA and myself.

Senator David Benjaih  
Chairman, Charter and Rules Committee

In the January 22 issue of the *Independent* in an article called *Ronald Williams Library, a reliable source*, it was stated that "The library is open on Lincoln's Birthday, Feb. 12." This was an error. The Library will be closed on Feb. 12.

## News Briefs

### SGA spring meetings

The Student Government Association (SGA) has posted its spring meeting dates for 2008. Meetings are open to all Northeastern students and faculty. The SGA reviews requests for campus clubs and organizations. They determine budgeting needs, charter rules and bylaws. The SGA senators represent the student body in issues from administration and financial aid to parking issues around campus. Come to a meeting and get to know your student representatives. Meetings are on Thursdays at 1:40 p.m. Meeting locations vary. The next scheduled meeting will be held on Thurs., Feb. 14 in CLS 2071.

-Iris M. Feliciano, Staff Writer

### Illinois Presidential Primary - Feb 5, 2008

The Illinois Presidential Primary has come again and the heat between the three front-runners has been turned up higher and higher with each successive state primary and caucus. The polls are open today, Feb. 5, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. for anyone registered to vote. The offices up for election include U.S. President, members of the U.S. House of

Representatives, State Senators, State Representatives, Cook County Circuit Court Clerk, Recorder of Deeds and State's Attorney, judges at all levels of the state judicial system, Convention delegates, Board of Review members and Metropolitan Water Reclamation District seats. Interested students can watch the poll returns on the NVision monitors in the Student Union. To locate a polling place near you, simply type in your street address at voterinfonet.com

-Mark Clover, Senior Staff Writer

### V-Day Campaign

The 2008 V-Day Campaign, in conjunction with the Northeastern Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, is presenting a V-Day Northeastern 2008 production of Eve Ensler's *The Vagina Monologues* on Feb. 19 in the NEIU Stage Center and Feb. 20 in the NEIU Recital Hall. A New York Times review of the play has said that it is "Probably the most important piece of political theatre of the last decade." As part of their celebration of ten years of raising awareness and ending violence against women, proceeds are going to benefit Apna Ghar and Interfaith Immigration and Refugee Ministries. Tickets are \$7 before the show, \$10 at the door and are available through the Women's Studies Office, CLS 2096.

-Mark Clover, Senior Staff Writer

### Music department hosts valentines dance

The NEIU music department is sponsoring a Valentine's Day dance on Thursday, Feb. 14, from 6:00 pm until 10:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall. Music will be provided by three bands.

The NEIU Varsity Big Band, directed by music faculty member Mayo Tiana will perform from 6:45 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Caribe, NEIU's Latin jazz band, directed by student Adrian Ruiz performs from 7:50 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. and Sundance, a "top 40" rock 'n roll band featuring NEIU students will perform from 8:45 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Plans are tentative, but in the works, for having both Swing and Salsa dance lessons before the respective bands play.

A complementary snack and dessert bar, and beverages including beer and wine are included in the ticket price of \$10.00 per person or \$15.00 for two. (Must be 21 or over with proof of ID to consume alcohol.)

Tickets are now on sale at the NEIU box office, and tables can be reserved for parties of 6 - 8. Proceeds will be donated to the NEIU Foundation in support of education support and development of NEIU's music students.

## Police Blotter

by Mike Arch  
News Editor

January 8, a motor vehicle was hit while parked in parking lot J. The offense was considered a hit and run.

January 16, a laptop was stolen by an unknown offender in the Ronald

Williams Library's 3rd floor. The computer was left unattended.

January 16, a person reported that an ex violated an order of protection by following the victim around campus.

January 17, an unknown offender stole a lobby floor

mat from Building C. The theft was under \$300.

January 20, a fire alarm was set off in Building E. The alarm went off due to a sprinkler that froze and burst because of cold weather.

January 23, in parking lot H an unknown offender damaged an auto while

parked on campus.

January 23, at approximately 10:00 p.m. an NEIU student reported to Chicago Police an attempted robbery. While talking on his cell phone and walking down St. Louis toward Foster, a black male wearing all black approached him with a handgun. St. Louis is the

street immediately to the east of the main campus.

The student screamed at the sight of the gun which caused the man to flee. The student was not physically harmed. The man was described as a 5'5" black male that weighs about 170 lbs. He was wearing all black; specifically a black hoodie and black pants.

# I NEED HARMONY CONNECTION

AND TO FINALLY GET THEM BOTH IN THE SAME POCKET.

U.S. Cellular® introduces the **MOTOROKR™**—a phone and **MP3 player** in one simple, stylish **plug-and-play** form. It comes with everything you need to get started right out of the box, along with a **30-Day FREE Napster To Go** trial. Which makes it, literally, music to your ears.

U.S. Cellular is wireless where **you** matter most.™

 **U.S. Cellular**

getusc.com 1-888-BUY-USCC



MOTOROKR™ Z6m

©2008 U.S. Cellular Corporation.

**Things we want you to know:** 30-day trial available only to new Napster subscribers. Credit card or PayPal information required. If you cancel your membership anytime before the end of your free 30 days, you will not be charged. After 30 days, continue using Napster To Go for just \$14.95 per month. Active membership required to play songs downloaded from Napster To Go. System Requirements: PC Only, Windows Vista or XP and Windows Media Player 10 or higher, Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.1 or higher, Internet connectivity. Napster, Napster To Go, and the Napster logo are registered trademarks of Napster, LLC in the United States.

## The Deep End

### Its all Greek to me

by Mike Arch  
News Editor

It seems that our Greek organizations have a large presence on campus, despite the obstacle of being a commuter campus located in Chicago, which means no Greek houses.

As a college freshman at another one of Illinois' fine schools, I found myself exploring Greek life. It was a more traditional Greek experience then at NEIU, with houses and hazing. I experienced the things that people have stereotyped Greek organizations to be; things they learn from watching *Animal House*. You do things like standing on a front porch of the house pounding on your chest, shirtless screaming, "I'm a dirty ape!" But enough about hygiene.

I learned something that semester that I could not learn outside of a Greek life. (It wasn't that I was a dirty ape, I already knew that.) The lesson I developed in the Greek system was one

of community and being a part of something larger than me. Greek life was something that encompassed a community of the Chapter, other Fraternities, the University and the surrounding community. I was community service chair, and in that position I was able to get others in my chapter excited about helping and working philanthropy events in the community.

NEIU has a rich Greek life that offers a lot to the NEIU community. You don't have any of the stereotypes just due to the makeup of the campus. What you *do* have is a vibrant Greek community that works with the University and surrounding community. Organizations that do more than just have fun they help to make the world a better place to live in.

If you have been considering going Greek at NEIU, let the stereotypes go. If you're wondering about me, I'm too old for that kind of stuff now. (I'm sticking to that.) I've had my experience and now I hope you have yours.

## Building F/E remodeling

by Cheryl Lyman  
Entertainment Editor

The architectural firm John Morris Architects has been chosen for the preliminary planning of the "F"/Stage Center building. Morris has designed theatre spaces for many renowned Chicago theatres, including Lookingglass, Steppenwolf, Noble Fool and Northlight, as well as The Old Town School of Folk Music.

The project at NEIU is partially funded by the State of Illinois Capital Development Board, which has appropriated roughly \$6 million for it. This remodeling,

however, has been in the works for over ten years, and will currently cost approximately \$13.8 million. This has made it necessary for NEIU to re-evaluate the original plans for renovation.

Morris is in the process of helping the department with the conceptual designing of the space: figuring out how many rooms are needed, approved square footage, etc. NEIU is hoping to reconfigure the Stage Center Theatre itself with a 150-seat performance space, while keeping the current setup of thrust stage and adding supporting areas. They also wish to redesign the Studio

Theatre to seat approximately 65 people, add classrooms and dressing rooms as well.

The Capital Development Board will not release the funds to NEIU until the additional resources have been found and the actual design of the building has been approved. There is no word, as of yet, where the additional monies will come from. It is also undetermined where the productions and theatre classes that are currently held in the building will move to while the building is closed for renovation, or how long the actual construction will take once the necessary funds are procured.

### Tuition cont.

to go up to \$10.70 PCH. The student union fee was \$6.60 PCH and is planned to go to 6.75 PCH, and part of this fee will pay off a bond that is to be paid by 2014.

According to this proposal, the total tuition for a full-time student (12 credit hours) will be \$2,424.00 (per semester) next year for the students enrolled since 2004. This is a \$658.40 jump. Tuition will be \$2,604.00 (per semester) next year for the students enrolled before 2004, which is a \$254.40 jump from this year. These

figures include parking but exclude the \$474.00 for health insurance.

Another key factor in the tuition increase is that enrollment, while it has a general upward trend, has dropped 5.3 percent in the last couple years. "We are focused on this issue," Wilcockson said. He added that the University is working to increase enrollment. "We just need to understand why there is a decrease in enrollment," Wilcockson said. "But over the long-term we're still doing well," he added.

Provost Lawrence P. Frank, commenting on state funding at the Nov. 2007 Board meeting said, "This is not just an issue here, it is a statewide issue."

Great News! ... can be written by you! Stop by the Independent at E-049 to find out how.

## Muslim Student Association

Presents

### PRIEST AND PREACHERS ENTER ISLAM!

Schocking Reality  
of People Coming to Islam



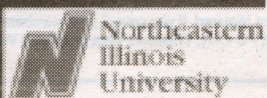
Guest Speaker

**SHEIKH YUSUF ESTES**

True Life Story, How Yusuf Estes Came to Islam\*,  
a former Christian Preacher and Federal Prison Chaplain.

February 11th, 2008, AUDITORIUM HALL  
7:00-9:30 PM

\*Free CD Giveaway\*



Do you like free snacks?



Want to try out the  
new Gatorade G2?

Even better,  
sign up for a raffle to  
win two \$50 dollar  
gift certificates to

**HARRY CARAY'S**  
RESTAURANT & BAR

At the cafeteria  
2/14/08 from 11:30 am - 1 pm

## Independent Embedded

by Felicia Maxa, Sgt. U.S. Army National Guard, Special Contributor

# "It's a love hate kinda thing"

"To wave," the definition of which is "to make a signal with an up-and-down or back-and-forth movement of the hand or an object held in the hand," according to the *American Heritage Dictionary Online*.

Then, in complete opposition, there is "to flip off," which could only be found in its entirety on *Wikipedia*. Although there is a lengthy and overly worded definition on this site—it need not be printed, as most people beyond age 7 know what that gesture means. Both gestures are made by the human hand in reference to other passersby, whether that passerby is known or a stranger.

Most times the gestures, especially the latter, are reserved for traffic communication.

This is where the story begins.

There is this rather large vehicle that the army uses

as a tow truck for other military vehicles called a wrecker. On this day a wrecker was running a mission between the far western parts of Al Anbar Province, in Iraq and Baghdad. The whole way there the wrecker drives down streets littered with children all laughing and waving, mouthing that they want snacks and water.

Small snacks are tossed from windows and water is handed out at stops.

Crowds of Iraqis, both children and adults, wave and smile as the 25 vehicle convoy makes its way through their streets. The only persons even slightly perturbed by the 25 vehicle intrusion are the goat herders who simply rattle their canes and usher their goats quickly across the gravel road.

Envision, if you will, the sun setting as the convoy pulls into an army FOB (Forward Operating Base)

just outside of the city of Baghdad.

The sun is setting; beautiful rose and orange colors are painting the sky. The people on the roads were so kind and happy today. The one day drive is over and the adrenaline that had been pumping through your veins only minutes before begins to lighten. You relax. No explosions, no sniper fire, just a safe journey across the mountainous desert to the ancient city of Baghdad.

The unit you traveled with allows a down day to recuperate from the drive and the stress. The next day the convoy leaves again, headed back to western Al Anbar Province, leaving out at 0500. It's still dark. The streets seem deserted. The sun rises. No goats. No people.

Where is everyone?

Every driver and passenger is on the lookout

for IEDs (Improvised Explosive Devices). Nothing is happening. Nothing is out of place, except the lack of people.

As the day wears on, citizens begin to show up. One here, three there and finally there is a small town up ahead that looks as though there is a welcoming committee waiting for the convoy to roll through.

This is the same city where the children were running just next to the vehicles, catching bottles of water and candy the other day. Only this time, the children stand close to their mothers; every one scowls.

The same people, who not two days ago were singing songs and laughing and waving at the big vehicles, today are raising a profoundly different gesture high into the air. They were flicking the whole convoy off as it drove through.

What a difference two days can make in this country. To go from one kind of gesture to another in less than 48 hours is remarkable.

One wonders what could have happened in the last 48 hours that could cause such a complete turnaround. To those on the ground who see this exact scenario day after day, it's all a bit confusing. Perhaps this phenomenon makes more sense to the politicians and civilians at home.

But to those of us "over here" it's a cause for concern. Seems like no matter where one goes in this country, the citizens of Iraq view the American troops and their politics the same way our current cabinet seems to view them ... is it Iraq or America that deserves this columns title?



Photo courtesy of U.S. Navy, photo by PH3 (AM) Shawn Hussong, Joint Combat Camera

## Campbell cont.

would make it as far as he had, he admitted that he never dreamt it but did imagine the possibility.

Campbell went on with some jokes about how shy he was in high school. However, he did have the ambition to try to become the editor-in-chief of his high school paper. Due to the competition and his shyness he had to do something that would make him stand out, like getting an interview with a famous person. That person turned out to be Bill Cosby and this was when he was 17-years-old. Long story short, he dreamt about the possibility and worked towards it, achieving his goal of becoming editor-in-chief.

He told the audience that his first choice was Oberlin College, but one of the civic projects of the organization he was in lead him to go to Carleton College in Minnesota. The organization took students from the Chicago Public School system and the schools of some of the suburbs and had them doing civic projects in different neighborhoods. The project that lead him to Carleton College had the students broken up into teams; one white student

and one black student per team. They had to interview people in the neighborhood on the topic of race relations. One of the first doors his team went to housed an attorney that told him to consider Carleton College over Oberlin.

He got into Carleton College and started off the way some students of NEIU start off; in a summer transitional program. During his tenure as a student of the Carleton campus community he looked into the prospects of studying abroad, but much like some of the other African American student population of the school, was discontent with the fact that there was no program to study in Africa. He, with the help of the other students and an anthropology professor who had done previous work in the Ivory Coast by working as their advisor, started up the first study abroad program that went into Africa. On the way to where they were going for the purposes of study they stopped off at Gori Island, a former prison that was used in the transporting and transitioning of slaves, for a view of the darker part of the past. He explained that he broke off from the group saying, "I was just wandering by myself in the area

where the cells were. I went down this hall that kept getting narrower and narrower. I got to the end of hall kneeling and looked out this small window and all of a sudden I burst into tears sobbing."

It was at this point where he met an elder tribesman who greeted him with a smile saying, "Welcome home" while he explained that Campbell's great-great-great grandmother /grandfather might have looked through the very same window that he just looked through with tears in his eyes. The elder told Campbell, "You are the descendant of some of the strongest of the strong people on the planet," because they survived such adverse and inhumane conditions. Before the tribesman walked away, he gave Campbell a broken chain link as a memento, which Campbell passed around during the Keynote Address.

Campbell returned to an older topic for a bit to tie the chain link into the two worlds he spoke about; the chain being the symbol of the reality of a past of slavery and the break in it being a symbol of the possibility of freedom.

On the way to France, he found out that he had come down with appendicitis. He told

the audience that by the time he had gotten to the hospital where he got an appendectomy, he technically died on the operating table. This was before the near-death experience reports started to get big. Yes, he technically died at the age of 19-years-old. "I told the doctor that I was traveling and that I saw him put the defibrillator paddles to my chest and I was seizing," said Campbell. The doctor told him that he was hallucinating so Campbell buried the experience down until he saw the film *Contact*. "The trip through the stars and tunnels just reminded me of what I had gone through," he said.

After finishing this part he let us know about the time he had trying to find a job in journalism. After a while he attempted to just stick to the job he was in. "We all tend to be human 'doings,' because we're caught up being busy and 'doing' so much. We should remember that we are in the present and just be human beings," Campbell said. Through insights and anecdotes he let the audience know how he lives. Afterward he answered a few questions, took a few photos with people in the audience and gave some autographs.

## Reception cont.

Verizon customers will be happy to hear that their signal strength will increase tremendously on campus and in the surrounding community. There are no anticipated building closings, however there are likely to be restricted access zones around some parts of the library. According to Chernov, Verizon has indicated that the antenna should be up and running approximately ninety days after beginning construction. The entire construction will be funded by Verizon and pending board approval a start of construction day will be scheduled.

Carolyn Schamberger, PR representative for the Midwest region from Verizon Wireless has stated, "We are currently looking into it, but it's very preliminary at this point." She was unable to provide any more specific details pertinent to the contract.

## Editorial Board

Jonathon Gronli *Editor-in-Chief*  
 Nick Gaudio *Associate Editor*  
 T. C. Chung *Business Manager*  
 David Mosher *Productions Manager*  
 Michael Arch *News Editor*  
 Thelma Coleman *Opinions Editor*

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

# Commentary

## EDITORIAL

### History in the making

2008 marks both an election year and an era of change. NEIU students, some of whom may actually be voting for the first time, have the ability to in this historic election period that has garnered quite a bit of attention from within the nation and outside of the nation.

Yes, it is a time of being in a largely unpopular war, much like the '68 elections. However, there are quite a few things that, at least in the '60s, America wasn't really ready for. For one of the first times ever, a third party (The Green Party) has the opportunity to show up on the Illinois presidential primary ballot. Not only that, but, they also have had the ability to put four people up on the ballot for President.

It is also the one of the first times that two parties have had an African-American candidate and a female candidate running for the office of President. It is the first time however that an African-American or female candidate has an actual chance to get the nomination for the presidency. Just these facts are enough to catch the eyes of the world even with all the problems going around.

However, with the plethora of choices, what can a student do? It's easy. Pay attention. Learn what you can, about whom you can. Don't do the standard thing of voting based off of name recognition, religious standings or other such trivial things in the political world now.

It is an American voter's duty to be an educated voter. Honestly the topics of race, gender or religious beliefs aren't ones that should be considered when voting. Look at the issues. Learn where candidates stand before you make a choice. This advice doesn't go for just the primaries, but also the general election for every single municipal, state and federal election that will happen.

Knowing who and what you're voting for will at least give voters a partial view of what can be expected during the upcoming potential four-year term of service to the American public.

## Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor must be signed with an address and telephone number for verification. Letters are subject to editing for space and style at editor's discretion. The word limit is 300 words. 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 neuu\_independent@yahoo.com

## On the Other Hand

by Nick Gaudio, Associate Editor

### Uncharted waters ahead

It's time, once again, for the bloviating of politicians to fill the airwaves. The election season is upon the United States once again, and this time the future is genuinely unclear. There is no situation in place where the American public can fall back upon the "evil they know versus the evil they don't," with President Bush leaving office next January. The candidates have been jockeying for position in the nation's primary system. With the field of choices, narrowing the right candidate, regardless of party line, doesn't seem apparent.

The candidates have decided to rely upon their most venerable and powerful weapon of mass persuasion: empty promises. The Democrats seem willing to expand governmental power to provide the most fragile veneer of support for "underprivileged" Americans. The Republicans can only seem to focus upon the prevailing issues of their outgoing president while remaining distant from public opinion regarding matters that are most important. Third party candidates, while a viable option for the country, have had little success since the 18<sup>th</sup> Century.

So now, one must evaluate the presidential candidates based upon their qualifications, even though not one of the candidates is versed in any way, shape or form in public administration. By this criterion alone, Hillary Clinton would be the best possible candidate. Yet, she's already been president for eight years as the eminence grise for her husband Bill. By this logic, she doesn't need to waste any more time, or get people's hopes up by making a bid on the White House. Barack Obama, the junior senator from Illinois, has only served in the Senate for two years, technically one as he has been campaigning for most of 2007 into 2008. His inexperience with politics on the national level should be the primary factor in disqualifying him from running the country for four years.

The most promising of the Republican candidates is John McCain. McCain has seemingly dedicated himself to the principles of the Republican party, yet his focus on issues such as terrorism and the War in Iraq have left people wondering if the Republicans are going to tackle any of the other issues on the campaign.

His experience as a senator is admirable and his notoriety as a POW in Vietnam is respectable but the Republican's vision of finding a candidate that mirrors Ronald Reagan has long since vanished. Their best hope for a 'Reaganesque' candidate was Fred Thompson, who withdrew from the race a few weeks ago.

What does all this have to do with administrating the country? The fact that these politicians, particularly Clinton, McCain and Obama, have put their senatorial jobs on hold to campaign for the top office in the country. One needs only look up these candidates voting records to see that they've had no activity while on the campaign. The only time they could have been called upon to stop the race was to attend the State of the Union Address and even then most of them, the Democratic candidates, couldn't stomach being in the same room with a president they despise.

Unfortunately, with the field of candidates thin and no sign of a knockout candidate that can unite parties, the country seems like it will put its tried and true method of voting into place: voting for the lesser of two evils.

## Letters to the Editor

I think Nick Gaudio missed the mark on his column, "A symbol of hate or a symbol of hope?" regarding the Confederate flag. I'm a History major here at NEIU, and I disagree with Mr. Gaudio's assertion that "the freeing of the slaves was not done altruistically" and that "it was a political move done militarily to cripple the Southern agricultural economy." There were a number of reasons Lincoln read the Emancipation Proclamation when he did, but slavery was not abolished merely as a retaliation on the South. Clearly there was a military (not political) benefit to weakening the South's manpower and strengthening the North's, but that was not the only reason to end

slavery. Many Northerners wanted change, spurred on in part by Harriet Beecher Stowe's prolific novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which told about the evils of slavery. They voiced their displeasure with the South by electing a president from the anti-slavery party.

Lincoln had always been against slavery, "I am naturally anti-slavery. If slavery is not wrong, nothing is wrong. I can not remember when I did not so think, and feel." The 1860 Republican platform, which Lincoln fully intended to uphold, stated there would be no further spread of slavery into new territories. The South saw the handwriting on the wall. Their two hundred year old "lifestyle" of human enslavement

was being contained by the North, and if things didn't change, eventually that lifestyle was going to suffocate and die. The Civil War was the South's attempt to change this fact. For Mr. Gaudio to write that "it could be reasonably assumed that had they (the South) not made the radical choice to secede the slaves may have not been freed..." seems to be a case of revisionist history gone awry.

As to Mr. Gaudio's assertion that white southerners should take pride in the fact that their ancestors "stood for what they believed in," I cannot disagree more. Why anyone should or would take pride in their ancestors believing in the inequality of human beings is beyond me.

Gaudio actually wrote that he felt African-Americans should be proud of the rebel flag too. "African-Americans can be proud for having such a symbol stand to remind others that the sins of the past should not be repeated," he writes. By that logic, I, a Jewish-American, should feel proud to see swastika flags flying.

Like the Nazi swastika, the rebel flag is unequivocally a symbol of bigotry and hate. It is also a symbol of treason. The sooner Americans rid it from their lexicon of acceptable symbols, the faster race relations will improve in this country. ONE NATION, ONE FLAG!

Adam Salamon, NEIU Student

It seems that there are those in our generation that can romanticize bigotry and hatred just as well as our predecessors. In response to the opinion article written about the Confederate flag and its display atop the Capitol in South Carolina, I would like to say that it absolutely disgusts me that anyone would attempt to justify this gross display of ignorance and disrespect, especially concerning the celebration of the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. By the way...I'm a born and raised Southerner.

I would like to point out that if you were to ask the average group of high school or even college graduates why the Civil War was fought, the vast majority would answer that it was fought because of slavery. The way the Confederate flag is flown by the average Southerner (at least those ignorant enough

to fly it) represents not just this, but an even worse hatred that has filtered down through generations of poor white Southerners. They still adhere to the ideology that their poverty is a direct result of the freeing of slaves, who could be paid lower wages for more work and a longer work day. South Carolina was not the only state under the banner of the states rights', and yet it is the only one that continues to fly the Confederate flag. While South Carolina can also boast being the first to secede, it is repulsive that the politicians in this state do not have the decency to lower or take down this flag when honoring Dr. King, a man who was assassinated a century after the Civil War for speaking out against the injustices that African Americans continued to be subjected to.

The freeing of the slaves was not merely "a political

move done militarily to cripple the southern agricultural economy." Lincoln had a long-term emancipation plan that was sent into fast forward by the Civil War. Also, crippling the South agriculturally would have crippled the North production-wise, as well as upset England, who was a prime investor in Southern exports. While there were two different modes of life between the North and South, the economic system was one of a nation—businessmen on both sides of the Mason-Dixon were affected by the war. It was not as one sided as some would like to think.

As far as historical symbols go, the swastika has not always been a symbol of hatred. According to BBC, the word itself is of Sanskrit origin and means "good to be" and has been found in the ruins of the ancient city of Troy, as well as in

religions ranging from Hinduism and Buddhism to Native Americans. Obviously, symbols and their meanings evolve over time and as we humans like to consider ourselves an evolving species, we should not condone the romanticized meaning of a symbol that currently represents hate and division, but acknowledge it realistically for the pain it caused in the past and the ignorance it perpetuates in the future—even the Klan is offended by those ignorant groups which misrepresent the Klan by flying the Confederate flag. While it is very pretty to think that "southerners can look upon the Confederate flag as a reminder that human lives are far too precious for one to try and oppress another based upon any factor," this is not effectually how that flag works.

Chrystyn Hart, NEIU student

# The Opinionated Co-Ed

by Thelma Coleman, Opinions Editor

## NEIU: It's not so bad

After graduating high school in 2005, I was lost about my post secondary education endeavors. I always had a passion for journalism and I knew my collegiate choice would have a reflection on my passion. Northeastern Illinois University does not come to mind when one thinks about attending journalism school. I believe attending NEIU is the best decision I made for my future career choice. As a Communication, Media and Theatre major I have encountered several quality instructors during my two year tenure here at NEIU. Dr. Katrina Bell-Jordan and Edie Rubinowitz are two instructors worthy of recognition.

Dr. Bell-Jordan and Professor Rubinowitz worked in the field of journalism before becoming college instructors. Both Bell-Jordan and Rubinowitz share the same enthusiasm about journalism and mass media. From

anecdotes about her time in the field to her discerning opinions about today's current media culture, Dr. Bell-Jordan does not "lecture" to her students, she engages them in learning experiences. Professor Rubinowitz relates her personal experiences from her time in the field and uses them as classroom examples to help students better comprehend journalistic situations.

From TTRS registration to limited class availability, NEIU has many flaws. However, NEIU also has quality instructors who are dedicated to their students. Too much attention is paid to the negative things about NEIU and not nearly enough is given to positive. If students demonstrated just a little more school spirit, a lot of things can and would change here at NEIU. Understandably, we are a commuter campus and the majority of our student population is not

traditional, however, that should not stand in the way of lifting up our university.

If students feel a void in their college life, they should seek membership in organizations on campus. Last semester, I joined the recently reactivated Black Caucus. I learned about the operations of our university and I connected with students whom I had classes with but never spoke to before. Presently, this semester, I became Opinions Editor of *The Independent* and the experience has been very refreshing.

Life at NEIU does not have to be drone and boredom. Engage in different forums and activities on campus. It will definitely change your opinion of our university. Believe it or not, NEIU students have one of the best schools in the nation. Yes, we have our difficulties, frustrations, and setbacks but what college student doesn't?

## Do we stay or do we leave?

by Felicia Maxa  
Special Contributor

As the world watches the American election process this year, one wonders how the soldiers are feeling. How DO we feel about the changing tides, about losing our current Commander In Chief? What, do we feel, must be done in 2009? As military personnel, our opinions matter little. In fact, military personnel are not supposed to share their opinions with the public at all. After all, the military is only the might of a political machine; we are not the brains of the function, merely the muscle.

Most civilians will say that it is time to pull our troops out of the war. If Iraq and Afghanistan were truly only military operations this may well be a plausible demand. However, being that the politicians on Capitol Hill have gone and changed the government in one of our occupied countries and are making attempts to change the other, a full and entire withdrawal makes little, if any sense what-so-ever. In every country that America has had any military coupe up to this point, there has been some military left in some capacity. The only exceptions have been----- and Vietnam. Both of which, unfortunately, have turned to genocide and/or civil war after full troop withdrawal.

For the most part, the military who are permanently on post in theatre feel that there needs to be *some* military left on the ground. The stability that is seen in the majority of the Iraqi provinces seems to be spreading; however, the country as a whole is still very fragile. Peace keeping missions are on the rise regardless of military branch. There is more of a push to "smooth-over" past "wrongs" by using the military as humanitarian aide. In this sense, the U.S. can no more leave Iraq en-mass than a human can stop breathing. The end product of both will be death. This, of course, is not to say that the military has stopped counter-insurgent measures. There are still plenty of units that kick-in doors and destroy road-side bombs. However, the numbers of troops doing so has decreased dramatically.

In fact, to leave now while these countries are only just beginning to rebuild would create hardships throughout the country. All the Iraqi and Afghani civilians and towns that have helped American forces in return for food, water and medical supplies would be in grave danger should the military completely withdraw. These towns and civilians have been targets for the duration of the War on Terror, looked down upon as traitors to Islam and Iraq. They will be killed for pointing fingers at the very people who plant the Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and shoot at U.S. troops.

Should America withdraw her troops completely, Iraq and Afghanistan could easily dissolve into civil war and self-destruction. Should these countries reach that point, they will *not* blame themselves, but America. America was helping and the civilians will understand only that things were fine while the Americans were here. Things may not have been great but they were okay. Now that the American troops are not here things are not fine any longer. Thus, it is only logical to believe that it was the withdrawal of the troops by the Americans that caused the mess that the countries may find themselves in. It is at this point that America finds itself with even more people who hate her and her citizens.

Here in Iraq, there are those who hate that we are here and those that love that we are here. For now, those that hate that we are in their country are fewer in number than those who love it. The troops who travel off post tell stories of their convoys regularly getting waved at from the road-side and soldiers getting hugs from children as they pass through towns on foot. Adults who scowled from the side of the road in 2003 now smile and nod at passing military vehicles. Again, this is *not* a country-wide phenomenon, but the frequency of occurrences has increased.

This "War" has evolved into a very different thing over the last 5 years. And as young as Iraq's "new government" is, 5 years is short indeed. Politicians and Civilians, alike, need to understand that an all out withdrawal may well bring home family and friends from "over there," but for how long will those family and friends remain safely at home before they are sent back to neutralize an even worse situation? Governments take generations to grow and stabilize.

Iraq and Afghanistan have been operating under religious governances for millennia, what makes anyone think for a minute that a democracy can take root in less than 5 years? Truth be told, the military presence in Iraq, at least, may be as long as a century. After all, what sense does it make to install new "software" and not keep someone there to trouble-shoot problems? The countries youth needs to grow up understanding the new government's processes. They need to learn to respect themselves as well as the other sects (Sunnis, Shiite, and Kurds) before America should feel remotely comfortable to conduct a full withdrawal.

Both those who remain on post and those who leave posts on a regular basis see this dilemma day in and day out. And each day that passes by the troops wonder what next year has in store for us.

## America's best hope

by Eron McCormick  
Special Contributor

As most of you who know me, know I am an unapologetic Republican. I will be the first Republican to admit that our party is not always perfect and we have had our political disagreements internally, but the mission, philosophy and values of the party are the core of what makes America great.

If you are a Republican you have many choices for president; but only one choice will save America domestically and on the world stage. Mitt Romney is America's best hope. Now you are probably

saying this guy became a conservative overnight, learned the proper verbiage, and seems too clean to be real. That's just wrong! Yes, Mitt seems to be different from his bids for the U.S. Senate in 1994 and the Massachusetts gubernatorial race. Looking deeper and doing some background research we see a different Mitt Romney. He wants to protect American jobs, lower taxes, preserve our military and engage in nation building, to name a few of his positions. However, did you know that Mitt Romney is the only candidate to make the following statement, "If elected president I will not accept the pay for this job, but rather I will give it to charity." Romney may be wealthy,

but this statement tells us about his ethical character and is a public servant who really cares about this country.

A great book that is objective about Romney, where these facts can be located, is *Mitt Romney: The Man, His Values and His Vision* by Lisa Ray Turner and Kimberly Field. When picking a candidate to vote for I hope you look to his or her ethical standards. Sit down and do some research on your candidate and then look to the other candidates running for office in 2008. You will see why Mitt Romney is America's best hope. I will be proud to call Mr. Romney president and I hope you can cast a vote for him.

### VOICE OF THE CAMPUS



#### Superhuman NEIU students

I ran into a friend the other day who is taking a full course load, working a lot of hours, and doing a 60-hour required internship for her minor. She feels she really can't make the most out of her classes because she has so much reading, homework and outside activities to do. I've heard such stories plenty of times around here.

It's not uncommon for NEIU students to be working full-time, carrying full course loads (sometimes 5 or 6 classes), doing internships and being responsible for dependents at home. I'm always impressed by people who are able to pull this off and wonder where on earth they get the energy to be doing all these things. It's more than just impressive multitasking; it also comes with having limited resources and having to work hard for everything you have. Nothing is a given for most of us.

Northeastern is not the traditional university. Thank god. It's so rare to have a space where so many different kinds of people come together to pursue higher education and have a shot at the American Dream. Here, I've made friends I otherwise would never have had the chance to meet. Those elitist-type folks who call this place "Northeasy" don't know what the hell they are talking about. They don't how much a lot of us have had to struggle just to be in a position to even go to college.

And here is where the exhausted, almost superhuman NEIU student comes into play. All the homework, internships, family responsibilities and hours at work take its toll on a person. There's only so much all those endless cups of coffee can do for us. Walking past the student lounge in the E-wing basement, I almost always see folks trying to sneak in an afternoon nap between classes. I once saw a student making a makeshift bed by pushing together two single sofa seats near the Financial Aid office. And of course, the quiet Reading Room is a designated sleeping area.

Next, on to other things. University president Sharon Hahs held the first Town Hall Meeting between administration and faculty in mid-January. I guess even faculty have concerns about online registration, class section availability and submission of grades. The meeting was called "experiment 101". The title seems fitting, given the seemingly poor communication between faculty and administration in the aftermath of the 2004 teachers strike. God forbid there actually be open dialogue and transparency between both campus.

How about another type of experiment in the same vein? Why can't president Hahs and other high-level administrators have a similar Town Hall Meeting with NEIU students? Let's discuss that dreadful proposed tuition hike and how that will affect our working-class/lower middle-class student body. What impact will these increases have on financial aid, student loans and grants? The Board of Trustees is likely to pass the proposed tuition hike at its February 7 meeting.

And then there's that much-coveted CTA UPASS, which NEIU has been trying to bring to campus for years. Some of us, in private, admit that the CTA student fare program will never come to Northeastern. Genuine effort has been done surrounding the UPASS, but a formulaic problem with the CTA proves to be a stumbling block.

It doesn't make sense that a commuter campus like NEIU does not offer the UPASS. But then again, it does have that huge parking garage to make up for it. The recent CTA fair hikes onlyacerbate the situation. I wonder how many votes it would take in the next SGA election for it to constitute a UPASS mandate. Even local community colleges have it, including UIC, which is the school president Hahs recently called NEIU's biggest competitor.

In many ways, she is right. This school *should* have to work for our hard-earned money, time and sacrifices at stake while pursuing our own education. Surely she will have more to say about competition for NEIU students in her Feb.21 State of the University Address. We'll just have to wait and see.

# Diversional Discourse

*One large popcorn with bugs,  
and a side of non-virgin olive oil, please*



by Cheryl Lyman  
Entertainment Editor

## KABOOM!!!!

Did that get your attention? Good. The Bomb dropped. I'm sure most of us have heard stories about who will survive a cataclysmic event like this. I'll give you a hint. It's not us. Joe and Stew do survive though, 'cause they're cockroaches.

I had the pleasure of attending a run through of the upcoming Studio Series productions of *Joe and Stew's Theatre of Brotherly Love and Financial Success* and *Oedi*. Two short (about 20 minute each) plays with an improvisational transition tossed in. It is unfortunate that the shows are only playing four times: Feb. 5 & 7 at 1:40 p.m. (activity hour) and 7:30 p.m. in room F109.

The aforementioned cockroach brothers, played by Christine Harrison

and Gail Wittenstein, respectively, dart and scurry around the Not-For-Profit Theatre that has been their home since they were orphaned, wondering, "What happened? What should they do now? and What about the intermissions?" One of them dances around thrilled that they've taken over and has visions of which entrepreneurship will bring in the most dough, while the other is thinking of how many curtain calls he'll get to do. Emotions run rampant between the two on stage and it transfers naturally to the audience.

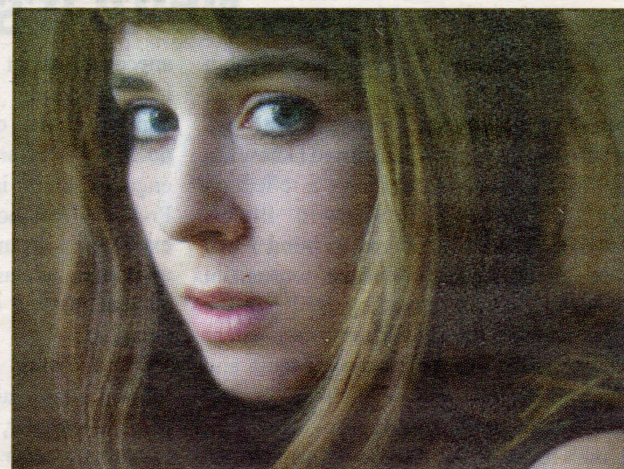
Between plays, the cast came up with a brilliant way to transform the stage from blown-up theatre to Ancient Greece while keeping the viewers entertained. Sorry, not gonna spoil it. You'll have to see it yourself.

Now that we've arrived in Greece, we find King Oedipus having a conference with his advisors. He soon discovers that not only did he kill his

father, but he also married his mother. Between the comedic timing and facial expressions of the actors, I found myself in paroxysms of laughter. Oedi and Jacosta, played by Jamie Kolacki and Kara Ewinger, really have the chemistry of husband/wife/son/mother. Hugo Rosado and Michael Villareal play Oedi's advisors; Creon, who is also the king's brother-in-law, and Tiresias the blind seer. They both have some incredibly comical lines.

This is not-for-profit theatre at it's finest. Much better than some of the professional theatre I've seen lately. So, take a break from your studies, head over to the F building and enjoy an hour or so of hilarious FREE entertainment!

Also, don't forget to see *Private Eyes* by Steven Dietz playing at Stage Center Feb. 14-16, 21-23, 28-March 1. More information and tickets for all the shows can be reserved by calling (773) 442-4274.



Images (2) courtesy of serenaryder.com

## Whispers of promise

by Jonathan Gronli  
Editor-in-Chief

Serena Ryder recently released her EP *Told You in a Whispered Song*. It is one of the most promising things released within the past year outside of the country genre.

Ryder's musical, writing and vocal style is reminiscent of Alanis Morissette. In terms of the music, it is your normal bluesy pop/folk rock style; one of the most effective styles in commercial music nowadays if done correctly. To a certain extent it's safe, familiar and easy if you want to stick to basics. While it stays pretty standard musically, she does throw in variations at the right times. When these style variations come in it is seamless.

The writing comes across in a story telling, country-style. The beauty of this writing is that for it to work, you have to be completely honest. To fear being honest in this technique will ultimately destroy the work, no matter how beautiful the music is.

Fortunately for Ryder, her writing comes across as completely honest. It works perfectly and is nothing short of poetry. The stories are the usual suspects for country writing, covering love gone right and wrong. It is relatable because people go through love and loss almost daily.

The vocals are beautiful. Part of the honesty in music comes across through the voice. The emotion-drenched voice Ryder brings to the table is absolutely moving and brings an air of authenticity.

Rather than the music being nothing more than a paycheck or a job, this woman is bearing her soul through her music. I bring up the paycheck issue because quite a bit of what is coming out lately has been rushed for the sake of getting a product out for the public to buy. The necessary time was taken to work on this music as a whole product and it shows.

So here's the bottom line: it's absolutely beautiful. It's honest, it's poetry, and lastly it's a buy. It is definitely worth the money spent on it. Enjoy.



## Crime Against Humanity

by Sophia López  
Senior Staff Writer

Nestled between two huge Puerto Rican flags in Humboldt Park, the space known as Paseo Boricua, lies Café Teatro/Batey Urbano, a Puerto Rican/Latino youth-based club and internet coffee-house which strives to showcase the creative talents of neighborhood youth, and to link Puerto Rican/Latino students with the community. The Batey Urbano is located at 2620 West Division Street and is a project of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center. On Saturday, Jan. 26 this intimate space showcased a preview of the new play entitled *Crime Against Humanity*.

It is written by Michael Reyes, a poet, activist, and NEIU student, and by former Puerto Rican Political Prisoner Luis Rosa. The play, also directed by Reyes, hopes to raise consciousness and gain support for the campaign to free the remaining Puerto Rican political prisoners Carlos Alberto Torres and Oscar López Rivera. The play is based on the experiences of fourteen Puerto Rican political prisoners who spent more than two decades in prison for seditious conspiracy.

Reyes spent hours interviewing former Puerto Rican political prisoners and through the play, the audience hears first-person testimonies about what it means to be a political prisoner in the United States. *Crime Against Humanity* shows prisoners refusing to be victimized and objectified while maintaining their dignity and humanity as they face personal hardships and adversities. Reyes comments, "By using theater as a tool of resistance, we hope to reach out to those sectors that are often

ignored by traditional activist outreach. We want our families, our brothers and sisters and our community to come out and see what these prisoners endured..."

Reyes has been involved in a variety of youth-led projects including the founding of Zocalo Urbano, a Chicano-Mexicano/Latino youth space located in the neighborhoods of Pilsen and Little Village. He brought the National Boricua Human Rights Network aboard to help bring this ambitious project to life. The organization mobilizes around issues of justice, peace, and human rights.

I had the chance to see the first performance of the play, which featured select scenes of what will become a longer production nearing its official premier. The event opened with poems, two of which were written by Reyes and Xavier Burgos, the president of the Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS) and the editor of *Que Onda Sola* magazine.

The setting of the play is a tiny isolated jail cell with a flat wooden bed and a stainless steel toilet. Highlights of the show include actress Melissa Cintron's depiction of the humanity and joy these prisoners find despite the abuse and trauma they face. Samuel Vega, a Roberto Clemente High School student, offers an outstanding and moving performance. Afterwards, this young talent observes, "It's sad because these people are fighting for peace. And it makes you appreciate the little things, but also, not to settle."

José E. López, one of the founders of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center and its Executive Director for more than three decades, offered a closing statement that expressed admiration of Michael Reyes for

being able to pull off this powerful and amazing production. He said that the end result of *Crime Against Humanity* is the fruition of seeds planted from political work done by earlier generations of Puerto Rican activists.

The play will run from March 3rd, 2008 through March 3rd, 2009 as part of the Puerto Rican Cultural Center's "100 x 35" Campaign. It commemorates the centennial of the birth of Puerto Rican national hero and poet Juan Antonio Corretjer, and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Chicago-based Juan Antonio Corretjer Puerto Rican Cultural Center. A national tour of the play is scheduled in several U.S. cities including New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Hartford, Washington D.C., Boston, San Francisco and Los Angeles. There are plans to take the production to Puerto Rico in the future.

For further information, please visit [www.crimeagainsthumanity.net](http://www.crimeagainsthumanity.net)



# The best show on television is also the most important

by Jeff Derrickson  
Copy Editor

For those who have the patience and attention span "The Wire" has long been one of the most rewarding shows on television. For just as long it's been one of the most important social commentaries of our time. But, as the fifth season builds toward the series' climax, it has also become one of television's most thrilling shows.

That's a lot of superlatives, but "The Wire" has earned them. For the uninitiated "The Wire" is a crime drama that takes place in Baltimore, but that is reducing the show to its basest concerns. "The Wire" is much more than cops and drug dealers. The first season may have been about a wiretap investigation into an East Baltimore drug ring, but the show quickly blossomed to include all facets of the city (and thus, society) from top to bottom. Each season adds another institution and looks at the problems the city faces from a different perspective without ditching any of the other stories. As viewers, we begin to see the issues as a complex and intermingled whole. As the show grows to include the

ports, politicians, mayor, education system and now the media, we begin to understand how it's all connected and how one action has a ripple-effect which touches everything else. A single decision from the mayor can have an impact on everyone else, from cops to junkies to school-children, and close viewers will understand how.

In the show's revelatory fourth season, which will be remembered and studied in years to come, it adds the education system to the mix, and focuses on a group of middle-school students who begin to grow up, deal drugs and get lost between society's cracks. The children's storyline elicits heartbreaking drama and even more provocative commentary out of a show that's always been intelligent and insightful. Now, in its fifth and final season creator David Simon is pulling out all the stops and rewarding viewers who have stuck around throughout the long build-up. However, never satisfied with solely entertaining its audience, the show has grown to include a new institution: a dying, daily newspaper. It's compelling and written with an insider's view; Simon worked for years, mostly as crime-beat reporter for the Baltimore Sun, the newspaper he's criticizing in the show's final act. Because of

this daring approach (Simon's refusal to omit anything—a common complaint among people that can't get into the show), is that it's just too confusing and deliberately paced. They think it's slow, and to put it bluntly boring. That can be a fair criticism—if a drama fails to grab you, it's not doing its job—but by the fifth season, that has become a

moot point. Every storyline has a payoff, and nothing is forgotten. And right now the bullets are flying.

If you've never seen the show I'm not suggesting that you jump in right now. Maybe catch an episode to see what it's all about, and if it's your thing, go back and start at the beginning. Think of it as a gigantic, epic door-stop of a book, that's first couple-hundred

pages seem like a chore. You know, the kind of book that once you've finished you just can't stop talking about.

"The Wire" airs Sundays at 8 p.m. on HBO. Comcast subscribers can view new episodes a week early on Mondays at midnight on On Demand.



## Shining City needs second act

by Mark Clover  
Senior Staff Writer

When God closes a door, he should open a laptop. The Goodman Theatre production of Conor McPherson's *Shining City* suffers from a few minor flaws in the acting but ultimately fails to satisfy due to deficiencies in the script. There are five scenes in this one-act play. In terms of the writing, the three odd scenes are the most even. The dialogue of the odd scenes clips along, unforced and natural. The play takes place on one set, in the apartment of the pensive lead character.

The play centers on an Irish therapist, Ian, who has recently moved and is now using his new digs as both living quarters and office space. Into his offices comes John, a new patient, referred to Ian to help him through some difficulties partially spawned by recently becoming a widower. It is safe to say that some of the problems John faces are far removed from normal fare for a standard therapist, but once the two delve into them the acceptance that this relationship will continue seems natural and well-explored. John, too, finds himself unable to reside in his own home and speaks in part of having taken up residence elsewhere.

It was not long ago that Ian faced some difficult times of his own, and with some help from Neasa, moved on, and they had a child together. Now however, something is gnawing at Ian and driving a wedge between the young couple. We soon discover that Ian is separated from his child and the child's

mother. This situation is responsible for Ian's relocation, but he has left his lover behind in a place where she feels unwelcome: the home of Ian's brother and his brother's wife.

Late in the play, into this mix is thrown an additional character Laurence, a person struggling to survive, mostly on the streets and living by a means to which Ian is simultaneously drawn and repulsed. During this scene, Ian seems to find a way to admit something to himself while at the same time having the opportunity to discover a number of truths.

Ian, played by Jay Whittaker, is the focal point of the play. Whittaker does an admirable job trying to hold his own in the often frenetic scenes with John, despite Ian having very little dialogue. I cannot help but feel the set does not lend itself well to the audience being able to pick up on just when to shift our focus from the speaker to the listener. Indeed, with so much of Whittaker's role designated to listening and reacting one might have hoped that the staging would have put the audience in better position to more easily keep an eye on both actors at the same moment.

John Judd is brilliant as John, a recent widower with some nagging, past errors in judgment he needs to exorcise. In by far the best written part in the play, Judd makes the most of the dialect to enthrall the audience and builds an empathy that fills the theatre. One cannot help but be in John's corner, despite his flaws and the missteps of his past.

Nicole Wiesner as Neasa, Ian's estranged lover, is certainly charming enough, but one gets the impression that her role is a slave to the plot. Ian's backstory is given to us

in a handful of lines seeded throughout the dialogue between Ian and Neasa. But the two do not move forward in this scene so much as get straight what Ian has, prior to the action of the play, already determined will be his path. Ian has already moved on, Neasa just has not realized it yet. By the end of the scene, we know that Ian has problems of his own that have made his decision to leave Neasa and daughter inevitable for him. I do not believe, however, that the writing ever fully supports the existence of the problems or the choices made by the characters.

Keith Gallagher as Laurence is well cast, but his character, as is Neasa's, is only briefly explored. Sadly, the actors seemed to have realized that the play falls a bit flat in the Neasa and Laurence scenes and it comes across on stage. While I can understand the impulse to use some of the awkwardness of the scenes to inform the awkward relationships between the characters, that works less well when the dialogue cannot keep the audience in the world of the play and we are left to watching the quality of the acting.

Ultimately, it is an evening of theatre worth watching to catch the scenes between Judd and Whittaker. I only wish the Ian backstory was shared in some other manner and the focus of the play remained on these two characters. The play ends abruptly and would have benefited by using the three John/Ian scenes as the basis for a first act and then exploring how John might have in turn helped Ian through his troubles as a focus for a second act.

*Shining City* runs at the Goodman Theatre through Feb. 17. More information can be found at [goodmantheatre.org](http://goodmantheatre.org)





by Jonathan Gronli  
Editor-in-Chief

It's odd. Horror's biggest critics happen to find the most support from what they criticize. The groups that give the most criticism are religion and the usually self-proclaimed moral majority.

Yes, the genre does feature a lot of immorality, depending on what you deem immoral. There's premarital sex. There is murder, vandalism, drug abuse, playing god, etc. Yes, that is where the grievances may pop up. Yes, there are movies where "evil" wins, like *The Omen*, *Rosemary's Baby* and *The Ninth Gate*. There are instances

where these criticisms of horror being the downfall of morality, might be legitimate. There is even legitimacy to Christian views against the original version of *The Wicker Man*, since it does feature the burning of a Christian in a neo-pagan ritual.

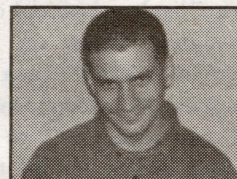
Beyond that, what legitimacy do the complaints have? They have none. By and large the genre's depiction of evil is one that ends up promoting religion and the moral standards of society. I will be getting into the dirty little secrets of how very soon. I'll tell you this fact though: Whether or not it is accidental is irrelevant. The fact that it is, does, in some way, support the moral standards

of those who have whined about horror in the past.

So, time for the dirty little secrets to come into play here. Starting off with premarital sex in a horror film, unless you're Neve Campbell in *Scream* or Jamie Lee Curtis in *Halloween 20 Years Later*, you're going to die. It always happens. The virginal integrity and intelligence of the survivor keeps her from being killed, for some reason. Let's face it though; a male virgin is going to die, unless he is a horror movie expert. In that case, his death will be saved for the sequel. Why does the female virgin survive and not male virgin? Sorry guys. Apparently, we are still animals with sexual needs, even

# Beyond the Veil of Madness

## The moral plunge



if one happens to be a virgin, and there is little hope for survival in a horror movie if you're a guy.

What about the evil of vandalism? Honestly, I don't know. However, if *The Exorcist* films are any indication, the moment evil befalls holy iconography, you know that it will be defeated. But, if someone tries to destroy the work of vandals (as seen with later *Halloween*, *Friday the 13th* or *Nightmare on Elm Street* films) they will be destroyed in kind. One of the most interesting cases is the father in *Halloween VI: Curse of Michael Myers*.

Drug abuse is simple. If you've heard people saying that they treat their body like a temple you'll understand this. Drugs, much like sex, happen to be treating your body like an amusement park ride. There are some thrills, but in the end, it could be destructive/self-destructive. Therefore, anyone going through an abuse of substances, like anyone who is being sexually promiscuous, won't survive...unless it's a horror

movie parody like *Scary Movie*.

Playing god is just a ridiculous turn of events in a horror movie or a psychological thriller. Usually, the people who go through plots dealing with playing god are either destroyed or they seek the path of most resistance, but ultimately, a lower mortality rate, atonement. What would these people need to atone for though? Simply, in some cases, the playing of god reveals part of their past. This leads to the very real manifestation of their past sins. A perfect example of this is the film *Flatliners*, starring Kiefer Sutherland, Kevin Bacon, Julia Roberts, Oliver Platt and William Baldwin. This manifestation leads to either the destruction or the humbling of the characters seeking knowledge which probably shouldn't be attained by people.

Even if it is accidental, there is an obvious religious, or at least moral, overtone to the horror genre. Even through its immorality, it proves itself to be more of a moral thought experiment.

## Audition's second act

by Regina Ramos  
Staff Writer

The Audition, one of Chicago's best kept secrets of the indie underground music scene, released their sophomore album *Champion* on Tuesday, Jan. 22 on Victory Records. The ten teasing tracks take any pair of ears for a wild ride through lively lyrics, powerful guitar riffs, and melodramatic West Coast-attitude meets the Midwest-pop-punk force. Without a doubt, the final product of the band's three year metamorphosis takes a great leap of maturity from their 2005 debut record, *Controversy Loves Company*.

Chicago Suburbia bands never sounded so fierce, thanks to the seducing vocals of Danny Stevens, accompanying the talents of Ryan O'Connor (drums), Seth Johnson (guitar), Joe Lussa (bass), and Timmy Klepek (guitar). Since their formation in 2003, The Audition has toured with a mix of listen-worthy bands such as Boys Like Girls, Jack's Mannequin, and Warped Tour's infamous heavyweight All Time Low. The quintet's success pushes ocean vast barriers with several tours in the UK, thanks to their strong following of fans.

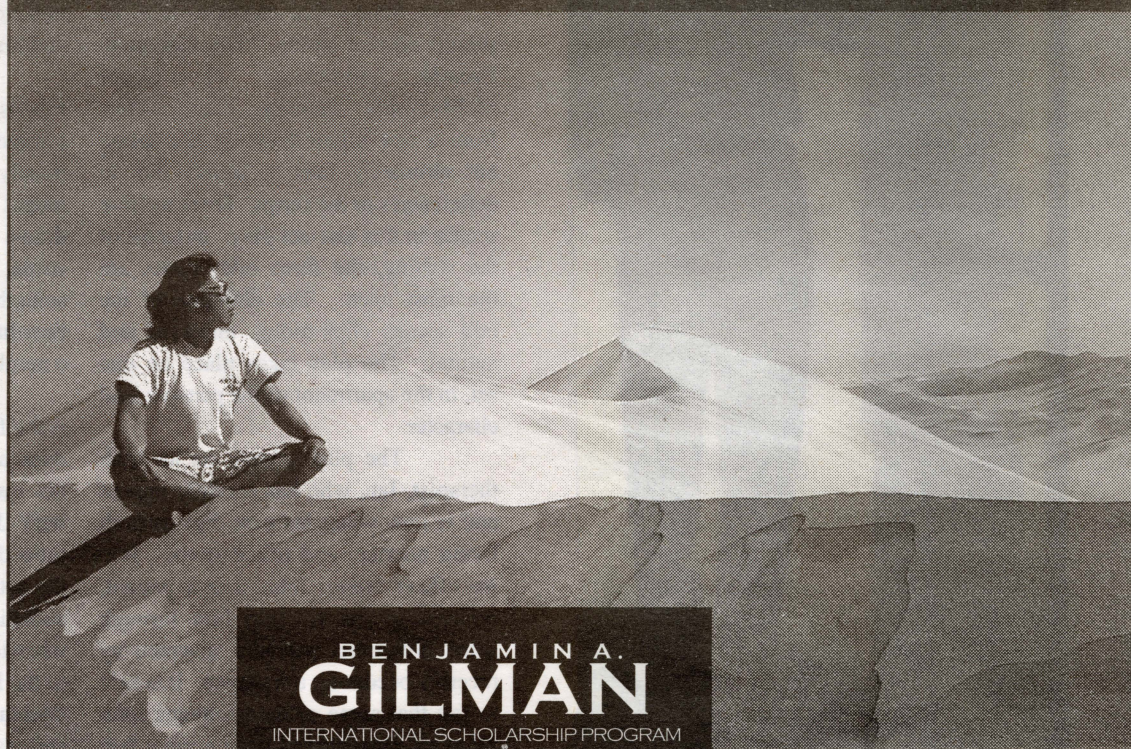
*Champion* lives up to its name with "Warm Me Up", the first single off their new album. This sexy and ear-catching song will have any person swinging their hips on the dance floor, and even in the

bedroom! The Audition changes it up with the track "Have Gun, Will Travel", with twists of country western drum beats and guitar riffs. New audiences will hear a bit of catchy west coast style listening to "Edinboro" and "Hell to Sell". Oddly enough, the cheerless yet upbeat song, "What Gets You through the Night" contains small piano details throughout the entire piece. Despite the creative variety of subtle musical details, drummers will find the constant beats of cymbals throughout the album extremely annoying. For *Controversy Loves Company* addicts, the sweet pop-punk sound is completely erased in *Champion*. The Audition graduates from middle school lyrics and sound in their second masterpiece surprising new and old fans alike.

The Audition kicks off 2008 with a nation wide tour, thanks to California-inspired clothing company, PacSun. Chicago crazed fans of all ages will enjoy an enchanting night on Friday Feb 8, when their heroes take the stage by storm at The Metro in Wrigleyville. The supporting alternative rock talent of Envy on the Coast, Danger Radio, and Another Day Late introduces the hometown show. Individuals may purchase tickets for \$16.00 through ticketmaster.com.

Sources: myspace.com/theaudition, www.theauditionrocks.com, pactour.pacsun.com

## STUDY ABROAD SCHOLARSHIPS FOR U.S. UNDERGRADUATES



BENJAMIN A.  
**GILMAN**  
INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

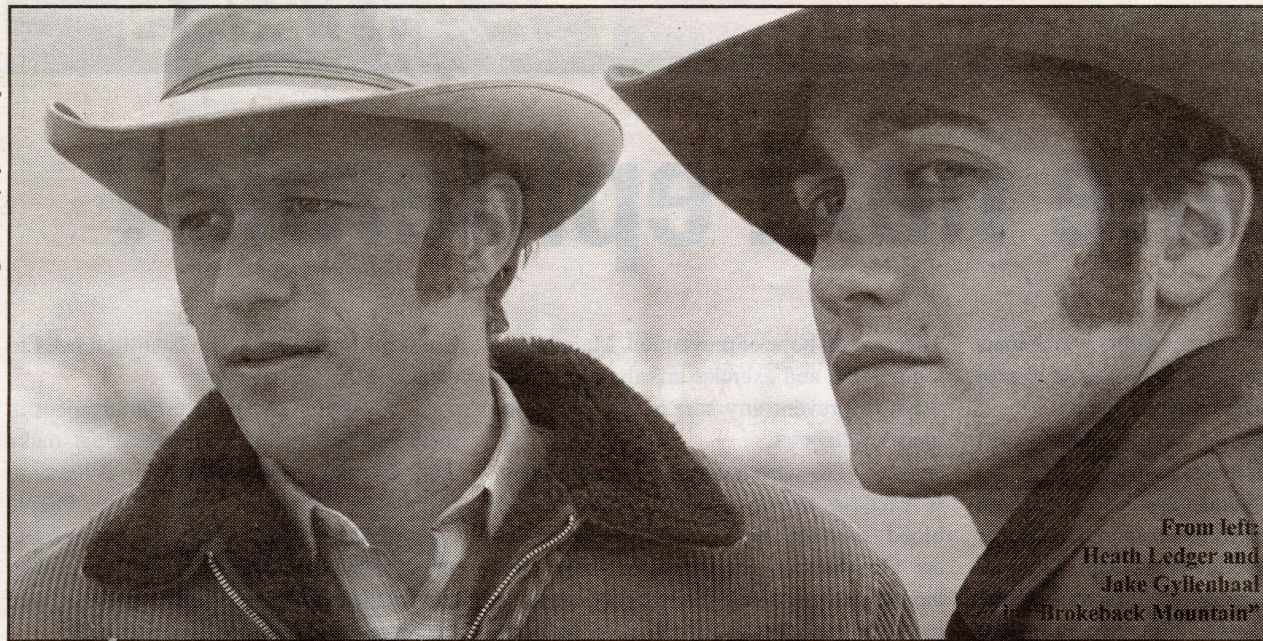
Diversifying the kinds of students who study abroad and the countries and regions where they go

- Over 800 scholarships available, up to \$5,000 each
- \$3,000 supplement available to students studying a critical need language
- Open to U.S. undergraduates receiving Federal Pell Grants
- Fall, Spring, and Academic Year scholarships available

[www.iie.org/gilman](http://www.iie.org/gilman)

Sponsored by: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs  
Administered by: Institute of International Education

Image courtesy of ullmoviephoto.com.



From left:  
Heath Ledger and  
Jake Gyllenhaal  
in "Brokeback Mountain"

## Ledger's exit too early, Oscar nominated talent dead at 28

by Duncan Macnab  
Senior Staff Writer

One rarely gets a chance to watch an actor that can emote with the subtlest of performances and wring audiences' eyes dry. Heath Ledger got an Academy Award nomination for doing just that in *Brokeback Mountain*. As the end credits were rolling, I sat there in the blackness of the theater, unable to move. An overwhelming sadness sank into me. That sadness lasted for a long time. Ledger's portrayal as Ennis Del Mar was the highest echelon of method acting and consumed my thoughts as an audience member.

When the news unfolded about Ledger's death, the same feeling that I had when exiting the movie theater consumed me. Ledger had so much going for him and had already racked up quite the résumé, working with directors Ang Lee (*Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon*), Terry Gilliam (*Brazil*) and Christopher Nolan (*The Dark Knight*). He died Jan. 22 at the young age of 28.

"[Ledger was] one of those actors who was very, very special because he played so many different kinds of roles," said acclaimed actor/director Robert Redford to the British based *The Telegraph*. Ledger had

shown this, and we rarely see this today, his performances were equal to that of James Dean, Marlon Brando (younger) and River Phoenix. Quite simply he was one of the best method actors of our day.

Ledger started getting big with FOX's short-lived series *Roar*. The show sucked, but it catapulted him to his next big role, Patrick Verona in *10 Things I Hate About You*, a simple, yet mildly good adaptation, of Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. This set him up to be the next Leonardo DiCaprio-esque teen heartthrob. Then, Ledger appeared in *The Patriot* and *The Knights Tale*. These roles helped show that he was able to hold a great presence as the male lead. *Monster's Ball* was his first arty film, where he played a suicidal son, and crept into a role that was darker and had a deeper character.

Comedians have talent in making people laugh and even doing the occasional pratfall or lowbrow humor. However, the other side has always interested me, the ability to make an audience weep. In *Brokeback Mountain*, a friend critiqued it saying that if you saw this movie and didn't feel anything, you must not have a heartbeat. A truer word has never been said about a film, and Ledger is the integral part in this cathartic movie.

He plays the Joker in *The Dark Knight*, due to be released this summer. For Ledger the character consumed him. Ledger stated, in an interview with *New York Times*, about filming *The Dark Knight*, "I couldn't stop thinking. My body was exhausted, and my mind was still going." He told reporters that he began to lose sleep and started to take sleeping pills.

This is not what is suspected to have led to his death; *The Telegraph* reports that it may have been due a heart attack. There were various reports that he may have been suffering from pneumonia. We may never know the true cause, but his family insists that it was accidental.

"I feel OK with death now, I feel I'm alive in [Matilda], but I still want to live to see her," Ledger once said in an interview, about his daughter, a couple months ago to Access Hollywood. Very haunting. Later in the interview he assured the reporter that this was only imagery of his love and pride for Matilda, not a suicidal forbearance.

Hollywood has lost someone that has earned his stripes as a shining asset to directors. We, the fans, have lost a brilliant actor in his prime. He will be missed on both ends of the spectrum. Rest in peace, Heath.

## A slice of life worth living

by Mark Clover  
Senior Staff Writer

Chicago holds world renown for its delicious deep dish and stuffed pizzas and Giordano's is one of a number of local restaurant chains that can claim to have helped make it so. Born near Torino, in Italy, brothers and chefs Efren and Joseph Boglio grew up with their mother's wonderful

recipes, including her excellent pizza. Efren came to Chicago in the late sixties and worked around various restaurants, eventually opening his own called Roma. Sampling the best of the pizzas in the Chicago area, he felt there was room for improvement. When Efren's brother Joseph followed him to Chicago in the mid-seventies, the two created what they felt was the best pizza around and, together, opened the first Giordano's restaurant in 1974.

They have grown and added many locations in the subsequent three decades.

On a recent visit to their Niles location, I ordered a standard deep dish, double-crust, cheese and sausage pizza. Although a fan of both deep dish and thin crust pizza,

I do have limits to the toppings I enjoy, generally restricting myself to either sausage or pepperoni. A quick survey of the other nearby patrons assured me that the vegetables and other toppings not on my own list of favorites, were fresh and enjoyable. Now, I know that most deep dish pizzas can be a bit thin on the cheese to crust ratio, but I was a bit disappointed in just how little cheese was included in this particular pie. The sausage, while tasty, could have been a bit more plentiful, as well. All in all, though, the tomato sauce was delicious. The crust was cooked to perfection at just the right consistency between doughy and flaky. It is worth mentioning that the leftovers were every bit as delicious the next evening, reheated on a baking sheet. This was definitely a recommendable pizza.

From those early beginnings, Giordano's has expanded to over forty locations, in and around Chicago and in Florida, with several more planned to open soon. For more information on locations and menu items, visit giordanos.com.



Image courtesy of sx.chu.

## Upcoming events on Campus

### Music Convocation

"Body Mapping: What Ever Musician Needs to Know about the Body, Part 2"  
— presenter: Maryjean Allen  
Feb. 5, 1:45 pm — Recital Hall

### NEIU Jazz Combos

Mayo Tiana, Director  
Feb. 7, 7:30 pm — Auditorium

### Invisible Children Dance Concert/Film Screening (Heather Liparotta)

Feb. 8, 8:00 pm — Auditorium  
(Co-sponsored by NEIU Dance Program/ Venetia Stifler)

### Guitar Master Class

with Angel Romero and Eliot Fisk  
Feb. 14, 1:45 pm — Recital Hall

### Valentines Day Dance Party

Feb. 14, 6:00 pm — 10:00 pm — Alumni Hall  
Music provided by NEIU Varsity Big Band  
Caribe (Latin Jazz Ensemble)  
Tickets \$10; 2 for \$15  
Call or visit the NEIU Box Office  
for tickets: 773-442-4636  
Information also available on NEIUport  
and [www.neiu.edu/~music](http://www.neiu.edu/~music)

### Jewel Box Series

Guitarist Eliot Fisk and Angel Romero  
Feb. 15, 8:00 pm - Recital Hall  
For tickets or more information call the NEIU Box  
Office at 773-442-4636  
or visit [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com)

### Faculty Recital

Mikhail Yanovitsky, piano  
Feb. 18, 7:30 pm - Recital Hall

### Faculty Recital

Kevin Keys, baritone  
Feb. 19, 7:30 pm - Recital Hall

### The Vagina Monologues

Feb. 19, 7:00 pm - Stage Center  
10 Year Anniversary of the FMLA sponsored  
production to raise awareness and end violence  
against women.  
Prices are \$7.00 before the show, \$10.00 at the door  
Proceeds benefit Apna Ghar & Interfaith Immigration  
& Refugee Ministries  
Tickets available through The Women's Studies  
Office, CLS 2096

### NEIU Jazz Combos

Mayo Tiana, director  
Feb. 26, 1:45 pm - Auditorium

### Student Recital

Feb. 26, 1:45 pm - Recital Hall

### NEIU String Orchestra

Joseph Glymph, conductor  
Feb. 28, 1:45 pm - Recital Hall

### NEIU Wind Ensemble

R. Shayne Cofer, conductor and the NEIU  
Varsity Big Band - Mayo Tiana, director  
Feb. 28, 7:30 pm - Auditorium

### Flute Showcase

Studio of Lyon Leifer  
Mar. 4, 7:30 pm - Recital Hall

To have your event covered,  
contact Cheryl Lyman at [C-Lyman1@neiu.edu](mailto:C-Lyman1@neiu.edu)

# Diabetes: the next epidemic?

by Jessica Moen  
Senior Staff Writer

Some people fear contracting arthritis or catching cancer, others fear having a heart attack or experiencing erectile dysfunction—yet diabetes, which can be a silent and sometimes deadly disease, never seems to be on people's radar!

It is something that "old people" catch or something you're "born with," and there's nothing you can do about it anyway right?

Well folks, this is not the case anymore.

Cases of diabetes have risen significantly in the last 30 years at a rate of almost thirty percent according to a study by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The rise has been linked to obesity, plus there is an increased risk for African Americans and Latinos; 60 percent and 90 percent (respectively) according to the American Diabetes Association (ADA).

When most people think of diabetes, they're thinking about the dreaded Type 1 diabetes.

Type 1 is the more serious type and usually requires daily insulin shots. Type 1 is significantly less common (about 5-10 percent of diabetes patients) and is mainly diagnosed in children and young adults. It seems to occur when the

body is not producing insulin, which puts little fault on our daily lives and is almost directly linked to hereditary factors.

The type we have to worry most about is Type 2 diabetes.

This is much more common and occurs when the cells either ignore insulin or the body is not producing enough. This can be caused by several different factors such as obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure and other lifestyle factors. Unfortunately, even with all those factors, genetic links still seem to be the highest factor for both types.

So what does this mean for us?

Don't start packing it up just yet!

There is still hope of prevention. Maintaining a good diet and exercise are always surefire ways to prevent any sort of disease, same goes for diabetes.

The reason obesity is such a factor is because obesity usually leads to high blood pressure and heart disease, which are also factors. Studies have shown that having weight reduction surgery, such as gastro bypass, has a big effect on reducing problems of diabetes. Some patients were even able to stop taking some of their diabetes medications.

If you were unable to prevent this terrible disease, which unfortunately there

is not yet a cure for, there is still no need to panic.

There have been great advances in medicine and life-style changes that make diabetes manageable. You don't have to completely change your life either. People with diabetes can still live a normal life and eat whatever they want, as long as they control their diet (specifically carbs) and take their medications and insulin regularly.

It's also important to clear up the myth that eating too much sugar causes diabetes.

There are no studies that show any links between eating too much sugar and getting diabetes. Though sugar may help cause obesity, which is a factor, it is still not directly related. In fact, patients who have diabetes are still able to eat sugar if they want as long as they manage it in a healthy diet plan. So eat all the snickers you want.

The truth is doctors aren't exactly sure why the blood just stops producing insulin in some patients. There is also no true way to completely prevent yourself from getting this disease because genetics are so much involved, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't do everything you can to help decrease your risks.

For more information go to the American Diabetes Association website, [diabetes.org/home.jsp](http://diabetes.org/home.jsp).



Photo courtesy of dascot.org

Exercise can help prevent diabetes.

## Reality Check...

Keith Atterberry  
Features Editor  
360@keithatterberry.com

## Confessions of a postcolonial subject

Postcolonialism continues to have a detrimental effect on former colonies. Formal decolonization, which has spanned three centuries, has led to the former colonies dependence; economically, politically and culturally.

The *Encarta Dictionary* defines colonialism as: "A policy in which a country rules other nations and develops trade for its own benefit." However, the process of colonizing a new land involves *un-forming* or *re-forming* the communities that were already there.

This process involved, as you might imagine, the undoing of the language and culture of native people in the name of "civilizing" them. The lack, in some cases, of a written language was viewed as a sign of heathenism and was used to justify colonization. Even the native people's religions, often polytheistic, were seen as paganistic by the colonizers.

Western religion was used to pacify the native people and make them docile, and therefore easier to conquer. The natural resources of the land were extracted and sent to the colonizer, utilizing the cheap labor of the native peoples (and settlers) to the benefit

of the "mother country." It is in this context that some define colonialism as the conquest and control of other people's land and goods.

Some point out that colonialism is not strictly a European endeavor. Other empires, such as the Aztecs, the Ottoman Empire, the Mongols and others are examples of ancient forms of colonialism. This may be true; however, Marxist scholars make a distinction between the aforementioned forms of colonialism, and European colonialism in that European colonialism is viewed as more pervasive, wrought with violence and more ruthless.

Another distinction sometimes alluded to is that European colonialism, according to the Marxist school, was established alongside capitalism in Western Europe.

Modern colonialism, in the Marxist framework, is thought to have done more to extract material wealth from the colonies via a restructuring of the colonies economies that enabled the flow of human capital and natural resources between the colonized country and the colonizer.

In my opinion, it doesn't really matter which

form of colonialism was worse. Colonialism, in any form, served the so called "mother country's" interest to the detriment of the people who occupied the land prior to the colonial powers taking over, and any attempt to make distinctions about which form of colonialism was worse misses the mark.

The bottom line is: colonialism is wrong and is the cohort of something, in my opinion, even worse—something called imperialism.

So when does the "postcolonial" begin? In other words there is empirical evidence that ones race, ethnicity and position on the social ladder in a former colony largely determine when the "postcolonial" era begins. For example, the United States is a postcolonial country, and thus, all Americans could be considered "postcolonial subjects." However, African Americans were subjected to atrocities such as hangings, murder, rape, etc. that Europeans were not, therefore there is nothing "postcolonial" about their colonization.

An argument could be made that African Americans still exist in a state of colonialism, only this could be considered colonialism

of the mind.

This is why I believe that African Americans in particular and people of color in general must learn to become self-sufficient. They must rid themselves of the mental shackles that are the remnants of colonialism, in order to equip themselves mentally for the fight to attain equal status within American society.

Only then, in my opinion, will any postcolonial argument (i.e. reparations) that the African Americans and other peoples of color (i.e. Native Americans) cite, successfully convey the requisite message to the majority—you have to pay for what you did. If the discourse on postcolonialism doesn't include amends, then what is the point?

I believe that being considered a "postcolonial subject" is important in the framework of a larger movement against Western Imperialism.

I believe African Americans have to come together first within the framework of their own movement towards reclaiming their histories, which was wiped away during the colonization process and slavery.

The aforementioned

government practices have had a lasting and damaging effect on the indigenous peoples of the colonized lands. My hope is that one day, in my lifetime, the countries responsible for these dreadful forms of domination and control will be held responsible for their collective actions.

My recommendation would be to have some sort of world tribunal, whereby the subject colonizer governments could be tried for crimes against humanity. Of course, some form of restitution would have to be involved, and I would recommend that land be a part of the equation for compensation of the affected peoples and countries.

This is not to say that money, in any form, will fully compensate the aggrieved for the mayhem committed upon them; however land will go a long way toward leveling the playing field for those individuals affected.

The reparations to the governments affected could come in the form of monetary compensation however, as long as there is a democratically elected government in place which is not just a puppet government setup during postcolonialism.

# Self-expression lives in the Fine Arts Building

by Mark Clover  
Senior Staff Writer

The Fine Arts building was constructed during George Ryan's tenure as Governor of Illinois, using the architectural firm VOA Associates who have been designing buildings since the late sixties. The early concept of a Fine Arts Building came about many decades ago but has gained renewed interest under Gordon Lamb, President of Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) from 1986 to 1995. Although the plans came to fruition under Lamb, the building was not realized until after he left NEIU. Construction began in 1996 and was completed in 1999. The building was dedicated, after a unanimous vote by the NEIU Board of Trustees at their Sept. 20, 2007 meeting, to Dr Salme Harju Steinberg, an eleven year President of NEIU from 1995 to 2006.

Steinberg joined the faculty in 1975 as a member of the History Department, working her way up over the years from Professor to Provost to President in 1995. Under her presidency, NEIU grew in enrollment from ten thousand to twelve thousand students. A controversial decision to eliminate the Division I athletic programs, shifting about \$2 million in school budget money, marked the beginning of her presidency as one geared toward academics. When in the fall of 2004 faculty complaints regarding their teaching contracts came to a head and a two and a half week strike ensued, Steinberg garnered praise in helping to resolve the strike and forge a new contract acceptable to the faculty.

The Fine Arts Building houses the offices of the Art Department, the Communications, Media and Theatre Department (CMT) and the Music Department and Dance Program (Dance available as a minor). The *Independent* will save interviewing the CMT Department for an article on the F-Wing (building) and its scheduled reconstruction later in this series of articles this semester, and focuses for now on music and art since most of what they do happens and is displayed in the Fine Arts Building.

The *Independent* spoke with Peter Goldman, who works as secretary of the Art Department, about the various spaces and usage of them. Goldman graduated from

NEIU last spring with an Art degree and his concentration was in ceramics, so he knows the studios of the Fine Arts Building personally. The first floor has the ceramics and metals and jewelry studios. The second floor has a photography studio, print making, painting, two drawing studios, sculpture, which also has a woodworking and large metals shop, and also casting for plaster, clay and fiberglass.

"I do more figurative work but I have done a lot of pottery," says Goldman. "There are quite a few pottery wheels in the ceramic studio. There's space there for not only throwing on the pottery wheels but also tables so you can do figurative work or slab work. There's a kiln room with multiple kilns, gas and electric, and a glaze room where you can mix your own glazes."

Goldman graduated last May and his senior show displayed in the library. There are two areas there for such shows as well as the student gallery on the second floor. The north end of the first floor of the Fine Arts Building boasts the Fine Arts Center Gallery, where there is currently an alumni show on exhibit. Goldman has some work in this show along with seventeen other alumni artists.

"There's generally a good turn out for shows in that gallery," states Goldman. "We're pretty consistent in our department in regard to alumni outreach. There are quite a few alumni who have work displayed outdoors on campus, near the WTTW studios and in the garden by the cafeteria."

In regard to digital art, Goldman says, "We do have quite a good computer lab. Most majors utilize that lab for 2D design, which is required for

graduating majors and minors; you do quite a bit of computer work."

Goldman is utilizing a lot of what he learned in that lab to set up his own website to display his artwork. "It's so easy now to get a website going if you have the skills and knowledge." He feels he has picked up a lot of shortcuts and tips from classmates on how best to set up his website and is ahead of the game because of that aspect of his educational experience.

The *Independent* also spoke with Steve Zivin of the Music Department and Dance Program about their involvement in the Fine Arts Building. Aside from the departmental offices, there are many practice rooms and studios. There are classrooms, electronic music studios and many more traditional studios and practice spaces, like the dance studio and band rehearsal room for band, orchestra, chorus or opera.

"The practice rooms are for music students to use by the hour," says Zivin. "There are two rooms set aside for percussion and all the other ones have pianos. Anybody who is taking music lessons can use those rooms." There are music tutors scheduled at various times to assist students.

Zivin is the concert coordinator. He

studied at NEIU, finished in 1982 then came back in 1987 to join the faculty. There are many concerts and events scheduled in the auditorium, which was completely renovated recently and seats 500, and the recital hall, seating 175, located at the north end of the Fine Arts Building.

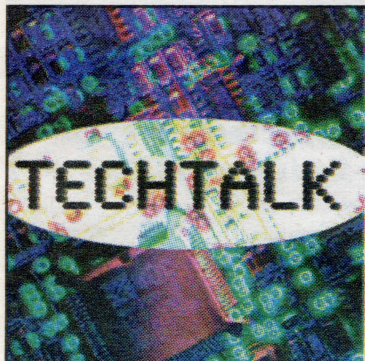
"We have five or six student recitals every semester," says Zivin, "so students have an opportunity to perform; to get experience performing. It's pretty open so you will hear a variety of things; could be singers, pianists, saxophone, or anything."

"We have faculty recitals," continues Zivin. "Those are 'ensembles' which are directed by a faculty member." There are also the various performing arts showcases and the Master Class and Jewelbox series. "We have Travis Heath coming up," says Zivin. "He's our new faculty trumpet [instructor]. And there's Larry Combs, a guest artist who plays clarinet." Both will be performing with the NEIU Varsity Big Band Feb. 22 in the auditorium.

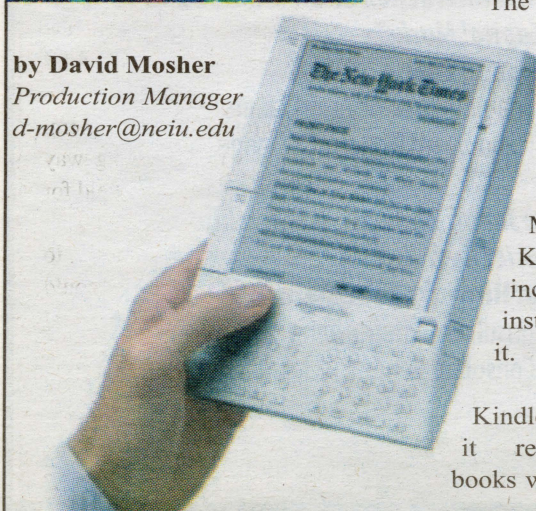
For more information on the departments or the many fine events they bring to the fore at NEIU, please visit their sections of the NEIU website at [neiu.edu/~art/](http://neiu.edu/~art/) and [neiu.edu/~music/](http://neiu.edu/~music/) respectively.



Photo by Mark Clover



by David Mosher  
Production Manager  
[d-mosher@neiu.edu](mailto:d-mosher@neiu.edu)



## Starting the fire with a bit of Kindle

Amazon, the largest internet retailer, has been advertising its own latest product with gusto. That product is the Kindle.

The good news is the Kindle is a device smaller than a standard piece of paper, but unlike Apple's floaty MacBook Air, the Kindle looks to increase usability instead of decrease it.

What the Kindle does is simple: it replaces standard books with a file that can

be easily read on its display. This gets rid of the need for paper, saves trees and is overall a cleaner way of reading the latest John Grisham novel.

Books for the Kindle cost \$9.99 across the board for new releases. The versatile Kindle can read newspaper subscriptions as well as novels, and has built in wireless for checking e-mail.

Now here's the bad news.

The device costs a smooth \$399.99. Protecting the environment and saving trees only goes so far given the steep introductory price. And that's without the books. Unfortunately, the exhaustive

collection of books currently in one's own library holds no voucher to be transferred to the Kindle. One would have to re-buy every book he or she wanted on the new Kindle.

Even with its flaws, the Kindle is a revolutionary idea. The product itself isn't what is important because the product is what it is—an overpriced pdf reader. However, replacing books with a downloadable digital source is a splendid step in the right direction.

As it stands now, trees are treated like an unlimited resource and they're not. New editions of textbooks are issued every two to three years; is it for updates or profits?

How much better would a textbook be if it was downloadable and didn't require several hundred pages of paper? The interactive practice tests and video clips made available inside the Kindle instead of requiring a home computer to access, now that's revolutionary!

The Kindle seems to be selling well as of this writing (it's sold out on Amazon.com). Hopefully this will inspire others to offer a similar product for less, with competition driving down prices. Then and only then will the Kindle and others like it have an impact on the way we read our books. But for now, it's just kindling.

# Faculty profile: David Jones

by Mark Clover  
Senior Staff Writer

David Jones is fairly new to the faculty at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU), being a full-time instructor in his fourth year. His background is in Community, Urban, Environmental and Regional Planning, which makes him an ideal instructor for classes with a Chicago focus. He comes to NEIU with two Master Degrees. Regarding his academic background, Jones states, "My undergraduate work was in geography and urban studies (. . .) in upstate New York, at Colgate." What followed was a "Master of Science degree in City and Regional Planning from the College of Architecture at IIT. More recently, in the nineties, [I received] a Master of Fine Arts from Roosevelt University. There their Fine Arts degrees include Creative Writing and Visual Arts. I combined the two. I decided what I was interested in was the visual aspects of letters, as well as the message inherent in letters, by stringing letters together, in what some refer to as Concrete Poetry. The outline of a poem is arranged typographically so that there is some visual representations of the content."

Jones is currently teaching four courses for the

Spring 2008 semester, including World Geography, Intro to Environmental Studies, First Year Experience: Chicago Geographies-Environmental Chicago, and Research Methods in Environmental Perception. This last class is particularly essential because "it's a requirement, a newly imposed requirement. Graduate students in this department have to have had [Research Methods in Environmental Perceptions] as an undergraduate, or take it now before they can continue."

It seems like a fairly heavy course schedule to handle but Jones says, "Instructors have to have, in an academic year, six to eight classes. So what we do in my department is four classes in the fall and three in the spring, or in my case, three in the fall and four in the spring, so that if somehow a class doesn't fill we can still be three and three and be considered full-time."

Jones encourages field work for all of his students offering many suggestions throughout a semester for outside projects such as visits to places like the Chicago Center for Green Technology, the Northwestern University Observatory, exhibits like the recent Maps showcase at the Field Museum and Pere Marquette State Park, down state in Jersey County,

for one of the geological field trips offered through [isgs.uiuc.edu](http://isgs.uiuc.edu)

"In the Fall Semester I will be teaching a field class on the Chicago River," says Jones. "We'll be out in the field on 9 or 10 successive Saturday mornings before getting back into the classroom in mid-November, as the weather starts to get cold."

One of Professor Jones's pet projects outside of the university is intimately exploring the coastline of Lake Michigan. This requires him to estimate how much he will explore in one of his days off, drop a vehicle at the far end of his planned journey and then to hike through the day to reach it. He says, "the walk around Lake Michigan began at the mouth of the Chicago River in the Loop and proceeded counter-clockwise, through Indiana, into Michigan, and I have now attained a distance of about 250 miles, having most recently arrived at Ludington, MI (this summer I will walk from Ludington to Manistee or Onekema, or maybe farther, depending on my schedule)."

For those interested in discussing any of a wide variety of geographical and cartographical subjects, David Jones can be reached through the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, in his office S344H or by email at [D-Jones1@neiu.edu](mailto:D-Jones1@neiu.edu)

## Good experience pays off.

Who you associate with says a lot about you. So start giving others the best impression possible and become a member of the UPS team. You'll gain the kind of real-world experience that employers notice, and put yourself at the top of everyone's list.

### Part-Time Package Handlers

- Earn \$8.50 per hour, with increases of 50¢ after 90 days and 50¢ after one year
- Consistent Work Schedule
- Paid Vacations
- Weekly Paychecks
- Weekends & Holidays Off
- Excellent Benefits (Medical/Life & 401K)

Northbrook UPS • 2525 Shermer Rd  
Sunrise Shift • 3am-9am  
Twilight Shift • 5pm-10pm  
Shift times are approximate.

For more information, apply online at:

[www.upsjobs.com/chicago](http://www.upsjobs.com/chicago)

Access Code: 4412

Or call: 847-480-6783 or 312-997-3620



Get as much as  
**\$15,000\*** in College  
Financial Assistance!

UPS is an equal opportunity employer.  
\*Program guidelines apply.

Advertisement



## EAIBC II

East Asia International Business Conference

Alumni Hall

February 25 - 26, 2008

No Admission Fee

### A Strategic Overview of China: Legal, Social, Political and Technology Issues in Contemporary China

**Mr. John L. Rogers**

President

Midwest US China Association

### Corporate Governance in Japan: Differences with the U.S. Model

**Dr. Abdul Rasheed**

Professor of Management

University of Texas at Arlington

### Cross-National & Cross-Cultural Product Issues and Strategies: Tools to Create and Evaluate Customer Value

**Al Lee**

Director of Software Architecture for the Home and Networks Mobility Business Unit.

Motorola

### Doing China Business

**Rob Collins**

Vice President, Operations

AON Direct Group

AON Corporation

Author of *Doing Business in China for Dummies*

### How is Chinese Cost Innovation Disrupting Global Competition?

**Dr. Jianwen Liao**

Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Stuart School of Business

Illinois Institute of Technology

### Japan's Perspective of East Asian Economic Integration

**Tomonori Shibahara**

Ralph Inforzato

Directors, Business Development

Japan External Trade Organization

### Strategic Alliance Partners in China:

#### Why U.S. SMEs Are Successful

**Dr. Raffaele DeVito**

Professor of Management, Emporia State University

Chair, Kansas International Trade Coordinating Council

### Outbound Chinese FDI: The Changing Dynamic of Chinese Investment in the International Marketplace

**Mr. John L. Rogers**

President

Midwest US China Association

### Some Observations about China Today

**Dr. Durward Hofler**

Professor Emeritus

**Dr. Rasoul Rezvanian**

Professor of Finance

Northeastern Illinois University

### The Challenges of Channel Development in China and Japan: Perspectives for Medium-Sized Companies

**Karl Gerberick**

International Sales Manager

Cummins-Allison Corp.

### The Interaction of the Chinese and US Capital Markets

**Eugene Zheng**

Managing Director Asian Affairs

Chicago Board Options Exchange

### The Japan-Midwest Partnership: A Brief Overview

**Mr. Hiroyuki Kamimaru**

Consul, Economic Affairs

Consulate General of Japan

Advertisement

# Golden Tee Closest To The Pin Tournament!

**1st Prize** \$5,000 and  
Golden Tee Machine  
**2nd Prize** \$3,000  
**3rd Prize** \$1,000

**FREE ENTRY!**



Be A Scratch Golfer!



**Play In A Qualifying Round Near You!**

**Rock Bottom**  
February 6, 2008  
1 W. Grand Ave.  
Chicago  
6:00pm-9:00pm

**Lottie's Pub**  
February 11, 2008  
1925 W. Cortland St.  
Chicago  
9:00pm-11:00pm

**Stanley's Kitchen & Tap**  
February 15, 2008  
1970 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Chicago  
7:00pm-10:00pm

GOLDEN TEE is a registered mark of Incredible Technologies, Inc. Used under license. Actual machine awarded will be Golden Tee Unplugged 2008. Have fun! Play responsibly. Must be at least 18 to play. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, crisis counseling and referral services can be accessed by calling 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537). For more info, call 1-217-524-5155 or visit illinoislottery.com

We're running out of  
*fresh ideas.*

Join the *Independent.*  
E-049 or ext. 4577