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Independent- May 27, 2008

Jonathan Gronli

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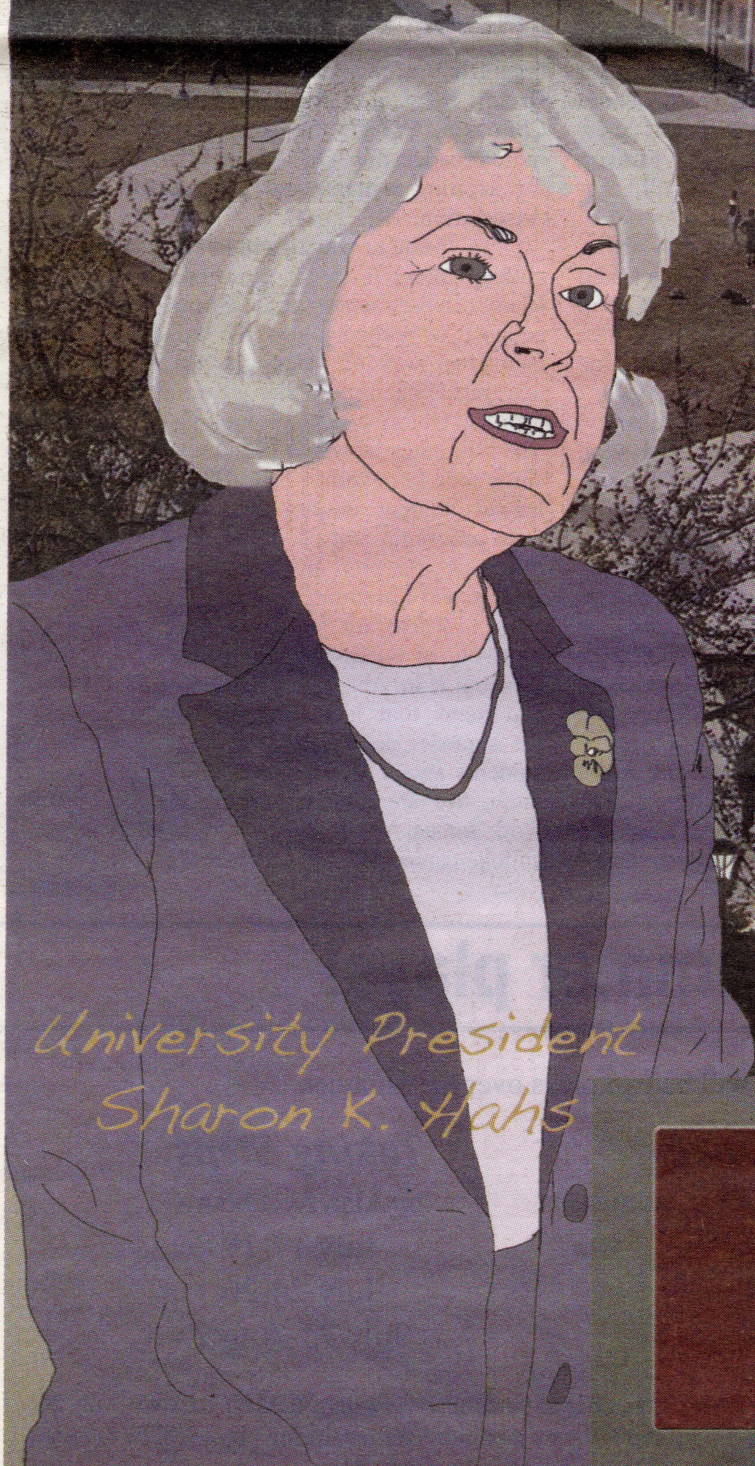
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Independent

The Freshman Issue

Tuesday, May 27, 2008



University President
Sharon K. Hahs

Your Guide to
NEIU



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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 nine (9) days prior to the issue in which a contribution is to appear. Views expressed in letters are those of the university community and not those of the Editorial Board.

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

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There is more to Northeastern than 5500

by Patrick O'Brien & Tom Robb
Special Contributors

There is more to Northeastern Illinois than what you see at 5500 N. St. Louis, the site of the main campus. There are two satellite campuses of Northeastern, each with its own history and community of learners.

The first is the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS). CCICS' mission was described by CCICS director Dr. Conrad Worrill in the April 2007 edition of *Que Ondee Sola* (QOS) as "the center sees it self as the watchdog of African American culture and history." Located at 700 E. Oakwood, near Chicago's Bronzeville neighborhood, CCICS is home to about 500 NEIU students and offers resources and even space for events to many community-based organizations, including offices for the Chicago Defender to organize the Bud Billiken Parade.

Dr. Worrill has been a long time activist, he is the chairman of the Black United Front has been working as a leader in the African American reparations movement, and helped organize the 1995 Million Man March on Washington DC. He has even been to Cuba

and met Cuban President Fidel Castro in one of the last public meetings before Castro's ill health last year. As a younger man Worrill worked as one of Mayor Harold Washington's street organizers according to the QOS article. Herold Washington was Chicago's first African American mayor. Worrill's sense of mission and activism permeates CCICS.

CCICS is home to the inner city studies programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. This program is an interdisciplinary major that focuses on urban history, racism and the sociology of the inner city. There are also general education classes taught in addition to the inner city studies curriculum.

El Centro (EC) is located three miles south of the main campus at 3119 N. Pulaski in the Avondale neighborhood. NEIU is a federally recognized Latino Serving institution and El Centro is the university's outreach center for the Latino community. EC orients community residents to higher education and provides academic resources through the university, including registration, advising, and other student services.

EC's building is owned by the

ASPIRA alternative high school, who offer classes in the daytime while classes for EC are in the same space at night. EC and ASPIRA have a close working relationship. ASPIRA students can take college level course work through the partnership between ASPIRA and EC.

A lack of parking has been an issue in recent years at El Centro. ASPIRA has acquired two lots which it is preparing and re-zoning for student use.

Two years hot food was offered for the first time when the Latino Catering Company was contracted by El Centro to provide hot meals at the satellite campus. CCICS does not currently have hot food options on its campus.

The courses offered at EC include general education courses that fulfill university requirements, as well as other humanities courses.

Both campuses have grown exponentially in recent years and are community centers with inviting atmospheres.

For more information about CCICS, call (773) 268-7500 and for El Centro, call (773) 442-4080.

News Briefs

Laptop security tips

Help keep your laptop from getting lost or stolen. Treat your laptop like cash. Get it out of the car; don't ever leave your laptop behind. Keep it locked, use a security cable. Keep it off the floor, or at least between your feet. Keep passwords somewhere else, not near the laptop case. Don't leave it "for just a sec," no matter where you are. Pay attention in airports, especially at security. Use bells and whistles, if you've got an alarm, turn it on.

-Courtesy of onguardonline.gov

Safety escort service

Don't walk alone, NEIU Public Safety Police Officers provide escort service, particularly during hours of darkness, for persons walking on campus to the parking lots or adjacent city streets. To receive a police escort call public safety at ex. 4100 and provide the following information: your full name, your pick up location, your destination and the number in your party.

-NEIU Emergency

Procedures and Safety Information

Indian Students Assoc.

The Indian Students Association (ISA) is one of the largest student organizations on the NEIU campus. Our goal is to educate the general student body on Indian culture and promote its understanding through periodic bake sales, regular Indian film screenings, and occasional campus-wide events such as our Summer Show and Diwali Show. We are very passionate about what we do and we welcome anyone who has any interest in Indian culture to join our organization. We are currently looking for organization leaders and new members. For more info, don't hesitate to contact us at neiuisa@gmail.com, or join our group on Facebook. Chak De India!

Regards,
Sunil Mahadeshwar,
NEIU ISA President

Editor's Welcome

by Lenny Ocasio
Editor-in-Chief (elect)

The *Independent* is proud to welcome all new students to Northeastern Illinois University. I hope that NEIU's diverse campus and its three satellite campuses (El Centro, Carruthers's Center for Inner City Studies, and the Chicago Teachers' Center) exceed your expectations of what college should be. NEIU is the most ethnically diverse school in Midwest and it shows. Everywhere you look there are students of different ages, races and backgrounds coming together to hang out or study. Interacting with so many different students is a learning experience in itself.

Being new to this university is a jarring experience. For some, it is a culture shock and for others, Northeastern is a lot bigger than their high school. With about 12,000 students, Northeastern is a good-sized university. One thing to remember is that it is all right to ask for help. Many students are willing to help new students adjust to NEIU and offer advice on classes.

Many new students come to NEIU with some idea of what they want to study. For those that don't know what they want to learn, my advice is to try to take as many different classes as possible. The general education courses give new students a chance to experience a wide variety of classes offered at NEIU. You could take a foreign language or an art class and end up either liking or hating either subject. A theater class could show that you have a talent for making people laugh, hopefully on purpose. A creative writing course could reveal a passion for the written word. The point is that the loose

guidelines for the general education requirement lets the students choose their own course of study.

There are many ways to enjoy your college experience. One way is to join an organization or a club. Various times in a semester a table will be set up to promote or fund raise for one organization or another. Some organizations and clubs include the six Greek organizations, the Anime Club, the Green Cycle Group, the Union for Puerto Rican Students, Chimexla, WZRD for students interested in radio broadcasting, Que Ondee Sola, Apocalypse for aspiring writers, and the Muslim Student Association.

Another way to get the most out of your college career is to get a job here on campus. Many departments and offices run partly because of student aides. Working on campus is a great way of meeting other students and learning about things that go on at NEIU. The Student Union is always looking for students. The computer labs also hire students who have some tech knowledge. The P.E. Complex is the largest student employer because they have four programs staffed completely by students (Campus Recreation, Aquatics, the Fitness Center, and Intramural Sports).

There are many other ways to get the most out of NEIU and the *Independent* is here to show it to you. Every issue is full of events and news that is happening on campus. We are students dedicated to making Northeastern students aware of what is happening all around them. We are always looking for students to work for us. We wish you a great start to your college career and a great semester.

Summer plays!

There will be two plays over the Summer.

The Stage Door

by Edna Ferber & George S. Kaufman

June 5-7

June 12-14

June 19-21

Taking Steps

by Alan Ayckbourn

July 17-19

July 24-26

July 31-Aug 2

Auditions for the fall Stage Center and Studio Series performances will be held on Tuesday, Aug. 26 and Wednesday, Aug. 27 from 1-3 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Auditions for the Spring plays will be the first Tuesday and Wednesday of Spring semester.

Come and enjoy the shows!



President Sharon Hahs and Provost Lawrence Frank
are pleased to extend much deserved recognition and

Congratulations

to members of the NEIU faculty who have been recently
promoted and awarded tenure by the Board of Trustees

Promoted to the Rank
of Associate Professor

Sophia Mihic
Political Science

Sudha Srinivas
Physics

Phyllis LeDosquet
Special Education

Janet Pariza
Reading

Brian Schultz
Educational Leadership and Development

Promoted to the Rank
of Professor

Andrew Eisenberg
History

Hamid Akbari
Management and Marketing

Kenneth Addison
Educational Leadership and Development

Barry Birnbaum
Special Education

Sandra Beyda-Lorie
Special Education

Sara Schwarzbaum
Counselor Education

TENURE AWARDS
2008

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Professor
Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics

Bonnie Chauncey
Associate Professor
Libraries and Learning Resources

Charletta Gutierrez
Associate Professor
Accounting, Business Law and Finance

Nicole Holland
Associate Professor
Educational Leadership and Development

Cynthia Moran
Associate Professor
Communication, Media and Theatre

Sophia Mihic
Assistant Professor
Political Science

Kristen Over
Associate Professor
English

Sudha Srinivas
Assistant Professor
Physics

D. S. Sundaram
Associate Professor
Marketing and Management

ISA textbook bill passed

by Ena Hadzimuratovic
Staff Writer

The House Education Committee voted unanimously in favor of advancing a bill to lower the cost of textbooks. The ISA (Illinois Student Association) plans to hold a lobby in Springfield on April 9 to advocate the bill and other issues affecting higher education. The HEC's approval of the bill is an important first step towards becoming legislature, and it is currently on its way to the House floor.

If the bill gets approved by the House, then book publishers would be required to disclose all pricing information to faculty members when they are selecting class textbooks. This would mean that teachers would be informed up-front about the wholesale prices of the books, other recent editions

of the book, what changes were made between editions and the prices of any alternative formats that may exist.

The other issue addressed in the bill is that of textbooks sold exclusively in packages and bundled up with CD-ROMs, workbooks or internet program passwords.

According to Frank Calabrese, a member of the SGA at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, "Bundling is a nuisance because it forces students to buy materials they often don't use." Books that are available only in these bundles are often difficult for students to sell back. The bill would require that books that are only available in bundles be sold individually as well.

According to Jessie Kallman, student trustee for Western Illinois University, "The

book publishers [have been] exploiting students for years because of the way the textbook market functions. The professors choose books without considering the cost, and the students are the ones who get stuck with the bill. This way, the publishers get to charge us as much as they want, especially for newly published books."

Kallman also urged all students of higher education to show their support for the bill and the ISA by attending the lobby day on April 9. The ISA hopes to bring together students statewide to lobby for higher education reform. The ISA plans on addressing issues concerning textbook costs, state funding and rapidly increasing tuition prices. Ultimately the goal of the ISA is to make higher education more accessible and affordable for all students.

Emergency Management Plan: The secret is out

by Mike Arch
News Editor

In recent history, NEIU has experienced hazardous material spills, two fires, a black out and a large flood. The last thing anyone wants is to be put in the center of an emergency crisis. Furthermore, if you are in the middle of an emergency, you need to be sure the emergency staff will be prepared to handle it. Safety on NEIU campuses is always an issue, as is the ongoing search for proper procedures to handle such events. "One of the things that I was concerned about after Northern happened was all these questions about people in the university feeling safe. I want to make sure the university community feels safe on campus," said James C. Lyon, Jr., Director of NEIU Public Safety.

The university has a plan in place called the Emergency Management Plan (EMP) that sets out guidelines on how

things will be handled in the event of an emergency. Chief Lyons said, "It talks about how different offices will prepare in the university, to evacuations, and to specific emergency responses that may occur."

President Sharon Hahs stated, "We have a document and most of the chapters are absolutely perfect, except it always needs updating. There should be a cycle of what is the latest thinking on this, and how should we improve upon things."

The EMP has been a shroud of secrecy. It is a document at a public institution that is not made public for good reason, as Chief Lyons explained, "I understand that we have never given the plan to anybody, and that's intentional. Say an incident occurred in the class room building, say it was an active shooter or whatever; we are not going to divulge how we are going to proceed in handling that situation for obvious reasons. We don't want to jeopardize anybody."

Most of the documents on campus must be made public by law because we are a public institution that is partially funded by tax dollars. For example, the university budget is placed in the library for anyone to see. The EMP is sensitive information that can endanger people if it is made public in full. That is why the university has rights not to publish or distribute it to anyone who wants to see it.

The plan is a working, functioning plan, but as president Hahs stated, "There is one chapter that has not been written carefully, even though we are doing and functioning with it. So it doesn't look pretty yet. It is a very adequate plan. It is by definition always a work in progress. We have the information we need and we will always be updating it."

The Independent was allowed to browse through the plan. There are 52 pages of information regarding the "what if" scenario, structures of who handles what in an emergency, temporary locations and

instructions on how communications will be delivered, among other things. In addition to that, there is a section on evacuation procedures, and the one chapter that is still in draft form. That chapter is titled "Training and Testing."

In the event of an emergency, the immediate form of communication will be "from a human response, [and] it is going to be from our police officers going out and notifying people, along with the parking office and facilities management. That's what is going to happen right now," said Chief Lyon. Other forms of communication are currently being looked into.

Soon public safety will be providing informational sessions about what the university is doing to keep us safe on campus. These sessions have not yet been scheduled, but it will be an opportunity for the entire university community to hear first hand what is being done to keep them safe.

WZRD Radio: Doing it free form for over 30 years

by Tom Robb
Special Contributor

Rick Martin has been a Wizard (what DJ's on WZRD Radio call themselves) in one way or another since its inception in the early 1970s. There is a lot of history behind that sticker filled doorway off the basement student lounge.

WZRD is one of the last "Free Form" stations left in the United States. Martin described the idea of free form radio at WZRD in artistic terms "The broadcast day is like your pallet." WZRD is clearly alternative radio but Martin said that it tries to go beyond even that moniker, "Not only are you (WZRD DJ's) doing alternative radio but you are doing it in alternative ways."

That was the idea in 1970 when the NEIU Radio Club was founded. Martin said that vision wavered a bit over the years but is coming back on track, "What's different today is it doesn't always follow radio as an art form, though with advances in editing

(technology) its getting back to that."

WZRD DJ's do not use their names, ever, everyone is on the air is a "Wizard" and "block programming" the idea of playing one style of music or programming throughout a whole show, is strongly frowned.

There are in fact only three regularly scheduled programs at all on WZRD, the Pacifica network's Democracy Now with Amy Goodman and Juan Gonzalez heard from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. each weekday morning, Pacifica's afternoon news program Free Speech Radio News (FSRN), which airs at 4 p.m. and again at 10 p.m. each weekday evening with headlines from around the world, including some filed by WZRD Wizards and Thursday Night Live, where live bands play in studio (currently on hiatus).

What will not be played at WZRD are the big hits and that is by design and

chartered that way with the FCC. Martin said that in the early 1980s WZRD formed a consortium of 14 ten watt stations who all bumped up to 100 watts to fend off a threat from Public Radio who wanted the space between 88 and 89 on the radio band, designated "educational" by the FCC for it self. WBEZ, Chicago Public Radio is now at 91.5 FM

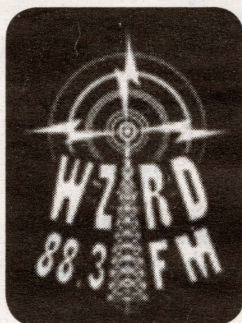
WZRD's role and mission to the community to play music and express ideas not heard in mainstream radio. That mission and guiding principal has caused them to have to fight for survival and at least once, according to Martin, and saved them in the FCC's eyes from being over taken by Public Radio.

Radio at NEIU started humbly when a few guys who knew the audio visual crew who ran a regular movie night on campus started using some turntables to play

records between and after movies. From that grew a radio club, a broadcast on AM radio broadcasting with a small transmitter only to the campus using the electric conduit lines on campus and later the fully powered FCC licensed 100 watt FM station known now as WZRD 88.3 FM.

WZRD has a history of independence and activism, they're non-music content and interviews have covered in depth everything from local poets, artists and theater in Chicago, to protests at the School of the Americas, events surrounding the conflicts and wars in Central America, Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel and the Palestinian Occupied Territories to gay rights to national elections to local housing issues and neighborhood and ward issues.

WZRD has always had this independent streak going back to the days of the Vietnam war. They continue in this vein taking advantage of alliances with new media groups like Chicago Indymedia and the Pacifica network.



Recognized NEIU Student Organizations

ACADEMIC

Alliance for Student Social Workers
 Anthropos
 Collegiate Music Educators National Conference
 Computer Science Society
 Counselor Education Student Association
 Student Alliance for Leadership & Education ADELANTE
 Free Radicals
 French Club
 Generativity Club
 Geomaniacs
 Honors Society
 Human Resource Development Student Association
 Image Art Club
 Justice Studies
 Philosophers Coalition
 Politics Club
 Psychology Club
 Student Association for Bilingual/Bicultural Education
 Student Council for Exceptional Children



CULTURAL

Assyrian Club
 Black Caucus
 Black Heritage Club
 Chimexla
 Chinese Students Club
 Hillel
 Indian Student Association
 International Student Club
 Korean American Student Association
 Movimiento Cultural Latino Americano
 Pakistani Student Association
 Polish Student Association
 Silver Dollars Women's Organization
 Spanish Club



CAMPUS-WIDE

Northeastern Programming Board
 Student Government Association

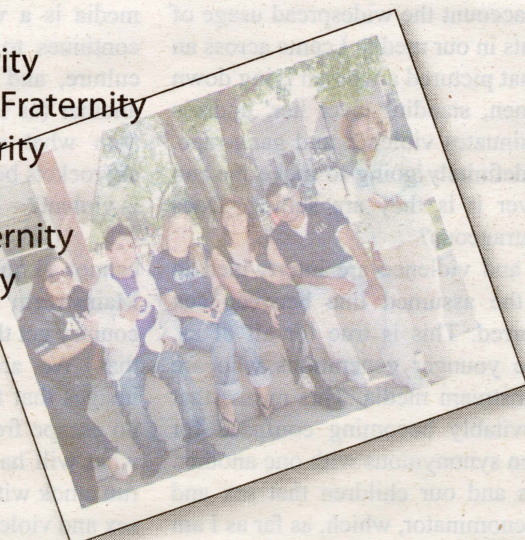


FAITH-BASED

InterVarsity Christian Fellowship
 Life Catholic Student Association
 Muslim Student Association
 TrueVine University Bible Fellowship

GREEK-LETTER

Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority
 Alpha Psi Lambda (APΛ) Co-ed Fraternity
 Gamma Phi Omega (ΓΦΩ) Sorority
 Omega Delta (ΩΔ) Fraternity
 Sigma Lambda Beta (ΣΛΒ) Fraternity
 Theta Chi Omega (ΘΧΩ) Sorority
 United Greek Council



MEDIA

Apocalypse Literary Coalition
 Independent Student Newspaper
 Que Ondee Sola
 WZRD Student Radio Station



PERFORMANCE / PERFORMING ARTS

Black Heritage Gospel Choir
 Brass Club
 Urban Sankofa

POLITICAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Amnesty International
 Animal Rights Club
 Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance
 Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Alliance
 Model Illinois Government
 Rainbow Push Coalition
 Socialist Club
 Students Against the War
 Union for Puerto Rican Students
 UTATU Collective
 Youth and Students for a Democratic Foreign Policy



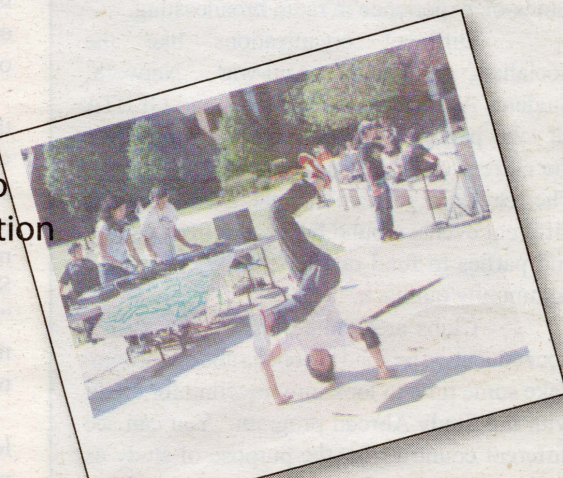
PRE-PROFESSIONAL

Accounting Associates
 American Production and Inventory Control Society
 Business and Management Club
 Economics Club
 Financial Management Association
 Future Health Professionals
 Future Teachers Club
 Illinois Education Association
 Marketing Club
 Pre-Law Society



SPECIAL INTEREST

Anime Club
 Cast-On Club
 Chess Club
 College of Cycling
 Green Cycle Group
 Hip Hop Organization
 Veterans Club



Northeastern Illinois University
STUDENT ACTIVITIES OFFICE
 Office of Student Affairs

N Northeastern
 Illinois
 University

For club contact information please visit www.neiu.edu/~deptsao/stuorg.htm

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Commentary

EDITORIAL

College is what you make of it

As your college career is beginning, you are probably wondering, "What am I going to get out of all of this?" College is a crossroad for people and many discover themselves even as they are finding their path in life.

Putting up the money to go to school is a fine idea, whether it is your own money or even if you are getting assistance from your family or elsewhere. You will get an excellent return on that investment at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU), partially through paying professors for the education they provide but also because a good deal of the money goes toward various services you can use and activities in which you can take part.

Naturally, you do not want to shirk your education, so your classes are of primary importance. But as long as you have that priority straight you should keep in mind that college is not just a place for academics. It is also a place to explore and have some fun. It is in striking a balance between fun and education that you will gain wisdom and accumulate a host of life experiences.

Making the decision early in your college career to get involved in some student activities will serve you well. Interested in the political process? Look into joining either the Student Government Association or the Model Illinois Government club. The former is a great way to make your mark on the school and student body. The latter covers different parts of the political process, including campaigns, and you will learn a great deal about the operations of all three branches of the government.

Want to learn about journalism or broadcasting? There are a number of ways at NEIU to participate in the journalistic process including the *Independent*, which is this student run newspaper, as well as *Que Ondee Sola*. The student radio station, WZRD, is always welcoming new members who wish to have a hands-on experience in radio broadcasting.

Different organizations like the Socialists, Campus Anti-war Network, Students Against the War, FMLA and GLBTA all take part in protests regarding topics like the current wars, immigration and civil rights. The Greek organizations get involved with different events around the school from dances and parties to fund raisers, charity events and community outreach.

Clubs aren't the only way to further your education beyond the books and classroom. Take some time to look into traveling for credit with the Study Abroad program. You can see different countries for the purpose of study as well as lingual and cultural emersion. Some people may never have the opportunity to see another country, but you will have the option available to you right now as a student.

So don't sell yourself or the school short. Keep your eyes open to the many opportunities that present themselves over the course of your college career, and avail yourself of them as much as possible. Never forget, though, that while you can find a great many new experiences through academics and activities, the easiest and most direct way to get involved is just to turn to the student, or staff or faculty member, next to you and simply introduce yourself, and then strike up a conversation. A person can be very strong alone, but is much, much stronger as part of a community.

Age as an inhibitor

by **Kaity Nicastrì**
Photo Editor

Ageism is loosely defined as a form of discrimination based on age. It can come in all shapes and sizes. It can be created by an age-specific environment or, in discrete and singular instances, based on political, cultural and monetary motivations and institutions.

The most cited reasons for age discrimination in the workplace is trying to save money and get fresh new perspectives. New college graduates often replace older and more experienced workers since they can be paid less and are seen to be unattached outside of work. Without the intricacies of family, and the eagerness to work, college students present a cheap alternative to family-oriented and tired older adults who have larger benefit packages and often more paid vacation days.

However, ageism is not only excluding older adults from the workplace, but also keeping young

people from participating in certain social spheres. There are certain age requirements for some living arrangements; some condominium communities require a minimum owner age of 35 and some don't even allow children under 17 to live within the unit. This is a statement of the societal belief that persons under a certain age are not responsible or orderly enough to be welcomed into a prestigious community.

Obviously, there are problems on both ends of the spectrum, but there is a large network of support for older adults in America. With the lobbying abilities of American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the Age Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA) of 1967, the interests of aging workers are protected.

Troubling beyond the fact that younger adults are hired at a faster rate than older adults, is the reality that once a worker of advanced years can be laid-off or forced into early retirement, he/she faces years of uncertainty and often loses a lot of

money in the process. This is a very selfish move by employers to avoid paying more than they have to, and it is ego-shattering for the worker. It also puts families trying to make up for the loss of a primary money-earner's salary through financial duress.

When considering the practice of age discrimination, the culture of the United States should be put under the microscope. The idea that newer is better and the belief that old is obsolete governs the behavior of employers and corporations. It is a culture of ageism that informs the behavior of those within the culture, so by slowly rotating the balance of cultural beliefs perhaps these discriminatory practices can be eliminated. Placing value on the knowledge that years of experience can contribute allows youth to take and maintain responsibility.

Here's to being able to work as long as necessary without being devalued for being over 40-years-old and buying affordable homes despite the exuberance of youth. Cheers.

Sex and violence... what's the difference?

by **Kelly Lucia**
Outgoing Senior Copy Editor

Maria Bevacqua, Assistant Professor for the Department of Women's Studies at Minnesota State University, states in her definition of "rape culture," that "images of rape and other forms of violence against women abound" in our culture, and that "images of sex and violence are intertwined." Bevacqua argues that our culture in America is in many ways a "rape culture." This is a serious problem and deserves our undivided attention, especially when we take into consideration the proliferation of pornography in mainstream media.

According to the American Heritage Dictionary, the definition of pornography is "sexually explicit pictures, writing or other material whose primary purpose is to cause sexual arousal." There is hardly a debate for whether or not pornography runs rampant in pop culture and mainstream media. According to a column titled "Media Metrics - Porn, Stickier Than you Think," from MediaPostPublications.com, "contrary to [porn's] reputation for being clandestine fringe media, porn is a fairly mainstream source of media content, reaching more than two-fifths of American online users."

This is just the online sources that they speak of, lest we forget to take into account the widespread usage of pornographic advertisements in our media. I came across an ad for Dolce & Gabbana that pictured a woman lying down submissively while five men, standing over her, undress themselves. This scene insinuates violence and gang-rape. Boy, being gang-raped is definitely going to make me run right out and buy whatever it is they are selling. Does anyone else think this is outrageous?

If images of sex and violence are intertwined in mainstream media, then the assumed line between sex and violence becomes blurred. This is true for all of us, but especially true for the younger generations who are constantly exposed to mainstream media. This means that violence and sex are inevitably becoming confused for each other and perhaps even synonymous with one another. We are teaching ourselves and our children that sex and violence have a common denominator, which, as far as I am concerned, is simply not the case.

In fact, sexual violence is an outrageous problem in our culture, and techniques like 'blaming the victim' have

only enabled heinous sexual violence like rape to become more and more acceptable in our culture. It sends the proverbial message to predators that, "yes, it is okay to rape people (especially women) because they are asking for it."

Since pornography is designed to cause sexual arousal, and sex and violence are intertwined as Bevacqua says, then we are indeed setting ourselves up for culture in which violent images of sex will become what sexually arouses us. It is already starting to happen if we use the Dolce & Gabbana ad I mentioned as an example.

The most violent image of sex is rape. Can you imagine a culture in which rape is confused for sex? I think Bevacqua is really on to something when she uses the term "rape culture," because if images of sex and violence are intertwined and sex is being used in such a widespread manner within mainstream media to promote anything and everything we might do, see or buy, our culture is following a trend towards the acceptance of rape as sex. Everyone knows 'sex sells,' and if sex keeps trending toward violence, or the line between the two keeps getting blurred, then eventually 'rape' will 'sell' too. It seems that the idea of rape is already being used to sell whatever it is Dolce & Gabbana is attempting to sell.

The proliferation of pornography in mainstream media is a very dangerous phenomenon. If pornography continues to develop widespread acceptance within pop culture, and sex and violence become confused for one another (as is beginning to happen before our very eyes), then what are we going to do when sexual violence skyrockets because people are under the impression that sex is violent?

There is no easy solution to this problem; we cannot simply turn our heads and look the other way. Mainstream media is how the majority of people in this country get their information, and there is no getting around that. We are bombarded constantly with pornographic images that feature sex and violence, and there is literally no escape from them. I have already stated my opinion of what will happen if we continue to allow pornography to run amok within mainstream media and continue to confuse sex and violence, but the real question is: are we going to sit back and watch that happen to us and our children? Or are we going to straighten out the difference between sex and violence and set some significant boundaries?

The morning-after pill myth

by Kelly Lucia

Outgoing Senior Copy Editor

There seems to be some misconceptions about the morning-after pill. If taken properly, this oral contraceptive can reduce the chances of getting pregnant by 75 to 85 percent. If taken incorrectly or excessively, it can actually increase the risk of pregnancy.

The problem is not the pill. The morning-after pill is an "emergency pill," and the use of it should be limited at all times, according to www.morningafterpill.org, to the cases of "sexual assaults, unplanned or unprotected sex, condom splits during intercourse, or if a woman has omitted to take an ordinary contraceptive for more than three days." The problem is that certain women are treating this oral contraceptive as if it were regular birth control and taking it too often.

The morning-after pill is designed to prevent a fertilized egg from implanting within the uterine wall. It contains a high dose of the hormone progesterone that does this. However, if progesterone is taken in high doses excessively, it can cause health problems and side effects, like increasing the chance of getting pregnant.

Some think that the name "morning-after pill" gives people the wrong impression about it. Instead, we should call it the "emergency pill." This way, less people will be in the dark when it comes to what this pill is and how it is supposed to be used.

Within the last few years, new instructions on how to take the pill have been approved by the FDA. They are as follows: "the first dose may

be taken up to 72 hours after unprotected sexual intercourse, with a second dose taken 12 hours later." If you have an emergency and need the pill, make sure you consult a trusted physician beforehand, as there are side effects.

It has recently become apparent by the way of several random studies that men are the most frequent buyers of morning-after pills, and that many know about it from advertising in men's magazines. Men may do this so that they don't have to wear condoms but can still have unprotected sex without the risk of fatherhood. According to www.morningafterpill.org, "Sadly, women continue to have little say in whether or not their partner wears a condom."

Comparing a woman's having to take the morning-after pill with a man's having to put on a condom, it seems that the obvious and intelligent choice would be for men to wear condoms. It is not only safer with regard to STDs, which the morning-after pill does not protect against, but condoms also reduce the risk of pregnancy more than the pill does.

Unfortunately for women, according to www.morningafterpill.org, "Although many feminists believe that the morning-after pill gives them more control over their own bodies, it would seem, judging from the few studies conducted so far, that is it actually being used by men to exploit women." Women, beware of men who refuse to wear condoms. You should question their respect for your body and well-being. Above all, remember that the morning-after pill is for emergency use only.

For more information, go to www.morningafterpill.org

VOICE OF THE CAMPUS



Mark Clover

What new students need to know

There are plenty of important things that a new student will learn in their time at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU), probably, eventually, or hopefully. While there will be plenty of idealism and political issues noteworthy to students discussed in future Voice of the Campus columns, this one will have a very nuts and bolts tenor to its content. Take heed, unless there is no interest in saving time, money, and effort.

First off, walk your schedule. As soon as you get your classes in order, break out the map on the back of the schedule of classes, your list of courses, complete with building codes and room numbers, and take yourself for a tour of the campus. While walking your schedule, you should look around at the locker locations.

Lockers can be had for a small deposit and fee from the information booth near Village Square. There are lockers all around the campus but those in the know discover where the best place to have a locker might be and get their locker early. Do the same. If you don't like squatting on the floor while going through your stuff, you might want to be sure to know which numbered lockers are uppers in the section you want before going to Village Square to find out which lockers are still available and choosing one to be your own.

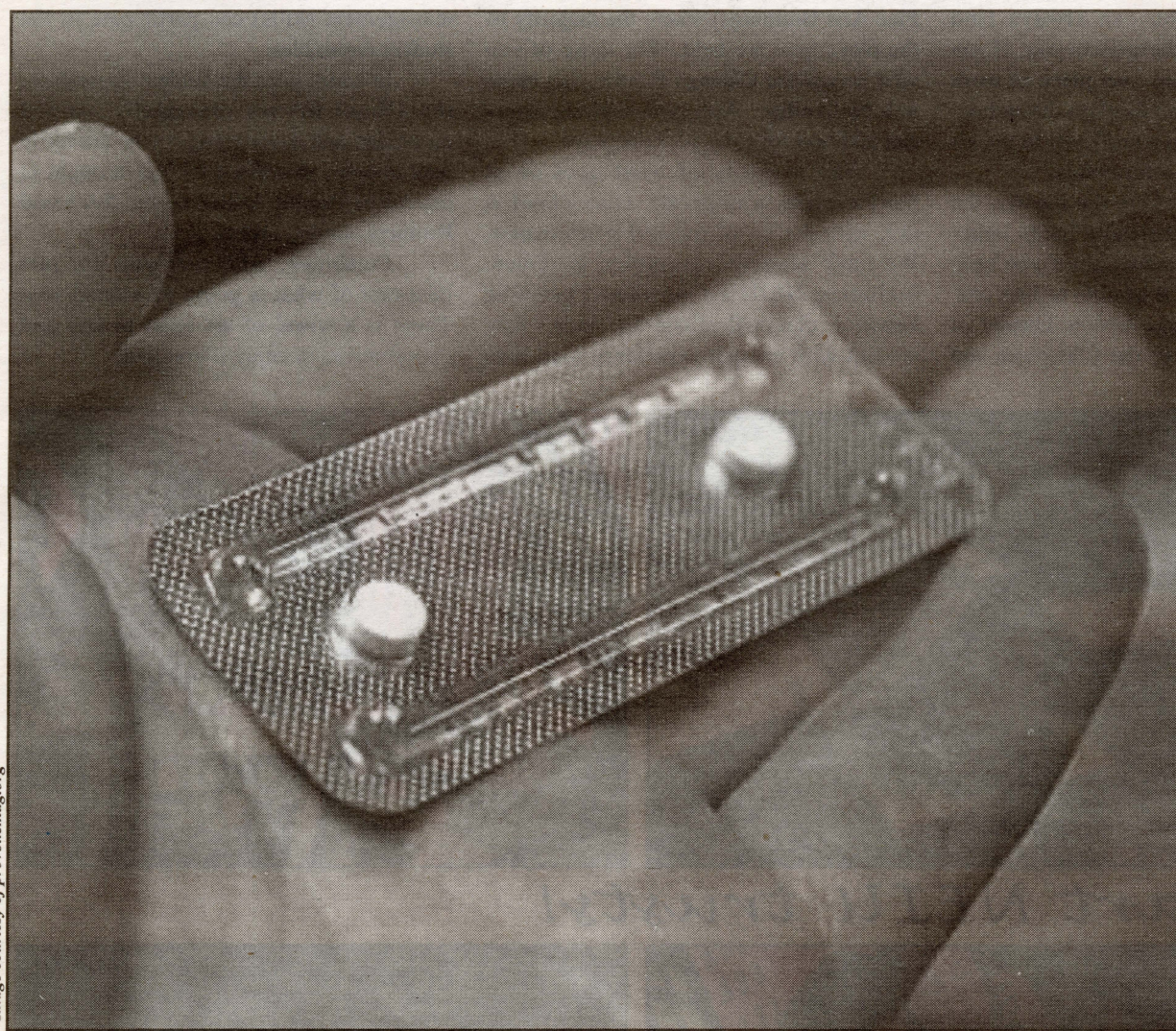
Textbooks are expensive. There are ways to keep those costs down, though, that you might not be aware are available to everyone. It has been a general policy in the past for Beck's Bookstore to not allow students to see the books for the upcoming semester until one week before the first class. You can't blame them, really, since many of their offerings are sold at absolutely the highest price possible. Even the used books are sold at outrageously high used book prices. However, if you can contact the instructor, or at least the department under which a particular class is taught, you should be able to get the name or names of any textbooks being used. Be sure to ask which edition and, ideally, get the ISBN number, as well. Armed with this information, getting books online through Amazon, eBay or a number of other places can save you a ton of money.

Your Health Services Fee goes toward a number of things of which you should avail yourself. The Health Services Offices are in the E-Building below Beck's Bookstore. If you go in there, do not be put off by the fact that they will need to swipe your student ID. It's how they keep track of how many students pass through their doors and justify the level of funding they receive. From cough drops to condoms to cholesterol tests, many such things are there for the asking.

The Computer Labs Fees on the student bill includes money for printing. There was a time when there was unlimited printing allowed. Nowadays, the amount of printing is about \$200.00 worth, and you dip into that total each time you print something out in the computer labs or at the library. By the way, note that the library computers can be used to search the catalogs and the Internet but printing from zip or flash drives cannot be done. Students need to go to the computer labs for that.

Get Math and English competency requirements, as well as the Constitution test requirement, out of the way as soon as you can. I know of more than a few students who wind up leaving that until the end and not being able to graduate when they wish. Once you get close to graduation and have a nice cushy job lined up, you do not want to have to explain to your new boss that the job needs to make allowances for you to go back to school and finish something you could have handled as a first year student.

Keep an eye on future columns for more tips and tricks on getting the most from NEIU!



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 neiu_independent@yahoo.com

ENTERTAINMENT



Pictures (7) by Cheryl Lyman

by Jonathon Gronli
Editor-in-Chief

Many may wonder what NEIU has to offer in terms of entertainment, both in art and performance. This school is as rich in the arts as it is in ethnicity.

For you paint and sculpture junkies, there are always things to check out. Whether it is the sculpture by Ruth Duckworth between Building B and the Science Building, or other art displays

around campus, you can always find something to satisfy the artist in you. If you want to showcase your own piece of work in any of the student art displays throughout the semester, just find a professor in the art department for more information.

For those who love the theater, the new auditorium occasionally holds large-scale plays. They are rare, but if you keep your eyes open, you'll be able to find one. There is also the Stage Center Theater in Building F (in between the Classroom and

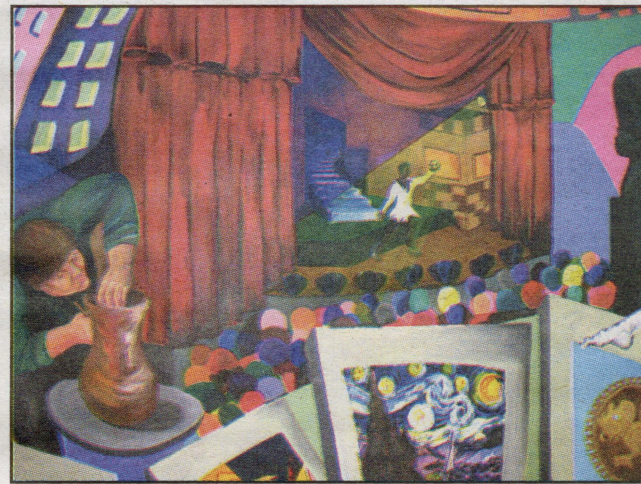
Fine Arts Buildings) where the majority of the plays here are held. For those of you who peruse the Chicago Reader, this name will be familiar. Also, you aspiring actors can audition for roles in these plays.

The majority of what goes on at Northeastern is musical. Our school is rich with the art of musical performance. We have student ensembles in dance, including NEIU's renowned Ensemble Español, classical music and jazz. Any student with enough experience (and time

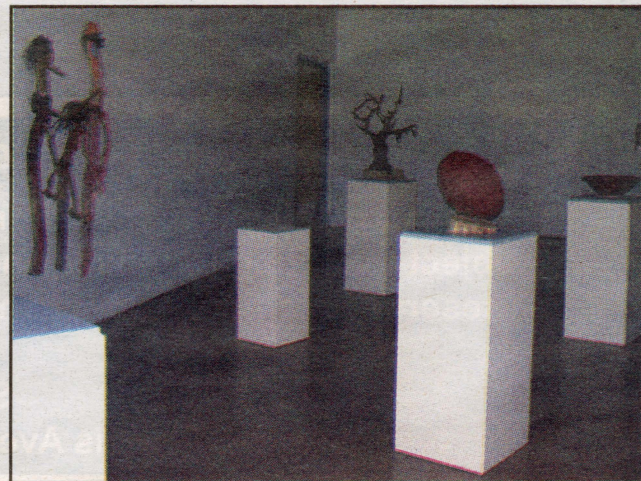
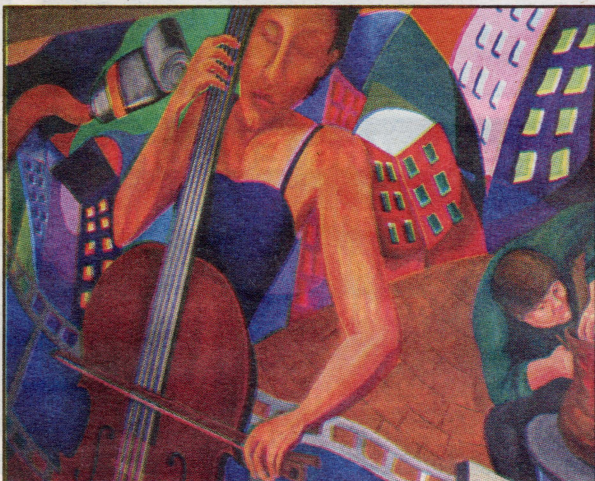
management skills) can participate in the student ensembles.

In addition to the student ensembles, the school invites classically trained musicians and dance troupes who are fairly well known. Northeastern has brought in musicians Paquito D'Rivera and the Assad Brothers, among others.

Freshmen, whatever you do, just be aware of what is going on around you. There is a world of art open to you and opportunities to enjoy if you look.



In art NEIU trusts!



Crystal Skull is a keeper

by Jonathan Gronli
Editor-in-Chief

I'm just going to come out and say it. *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* is incredible in writing, casting, cinematography, etc. It is the perfect action movie.

There are two things you think of when you think Indiana Jones; one is the signature look, which Harrison Ford still makes work, the other is the iconic score. When you hear the first two notes of the score, you get a chill that goes up your spine and into your brain. Even if you're not looking at the screen, you see Dr. Henry "Indiana" Jones Jr. in your mind while he's doing his trademark heroically absurd things.

The basic story is similar to the others. Only change the grave-robbing Nazis or Thuggee cultists to grave-robbing agents of the KGB. The film makes numerous references to Cold War tensions and the "Red Scare" is brought on as McCarthyism. It also uses the notable reported UFO crashes

in both the United States and the Soviet Union as plot devices. Much of the wit and humor hinges on call back references to the older movies. This includes the *Young Indiana Jones* series.

The casting is just about as good as it could have been. Harrison Ford obviously reprised the role of Indiana. Die-hard fans will be ecstatic that Dr. Jones hasn't lost his fire with age. The female lead, Cate Blanchett, plays Irina Spalko. Spalko is the one of the Soviet agents trying to further the Soviet attempts at psychic warfare. Karen Allen is the lovely Marion. She's one of Indy's old flames. Shia LeBeouf is Mutt, a loveable little greaser whose demeanor seems oddly familiar. Ray Winstone is "Mac," one of Indy's brothers-in-arms from WWII and Cold War intelligence missions. To close out the list of notables in the film, the last major character is Professor "Ox" Oxeley, played by John Hurt. He is a genius who starts the search that is the basis for the film's entire plot.

The film's action and special effects often end up being reminiscent of early *Indiana Jones* movies, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, *E.T.: The Extraterrestrial* and, for the sake of absurdity with one of the stunts, any *Tarzan* movie. In other words, the film acts largely as an *Indiana Jones*, George Lucas and Steven Spielberg tribute.

The action throws everything at you but with a defined method that works. With the obsession with sword fighting that currently has come into play, the movie even features some fencing action during a high-speed chase through the jungle. The special effects bring in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *E.T.* towards the end. However, the storyline has the same basic alien theme running throughout the entirety of the film.

For people who just want to sit back and enjoy a great movie that never loses any steam, *Kingdom of the Crystal Skull* is precisely that. If you're a die-hard *Indiana Jones* fan, it is a must see.



Image courtesy of media.slashfilm.com.

Multiple opportunities at NEIU's theater

by Joe Hertel
Special Contributor

How many times have we vicariously placed ourselves in the role of a character we had seen in the movies? Well, NEIU's theater program not only gives students a chance to perform a role in one of their current plays, standard or children's, but also affords opportunities to work behind the scenes in production, design and construction.

Even if Communications, Media and Theater (CMT) is not your major or minor, you can partake in several classes offered

for credit which allow you to experience what working in a theater is like. It is an opportunity to learn people skills; whether you are performing in front of the lights or working them on the console, it will give you experience in group activity, problem solving, and test your creative abilities.

Through Stage Center Theater, there are hands-on opportunities to learn set construction, lighting and sound by actively participating in a group learning how to build and paint sets, make costumes, apply makeup, and even scout for props and work publicity.

Courses such as Stagecraft, taught by John Rodriguez, M.F.A., will teach you how to build flats and sets, use tools, read a ruler, hang lights, scumble (a style of painting) and other behind the scenes construction opportunities.

Children's theater provides a wonderful opportunity to perform before an audience of young people, introducing them to live theater. You don't have to be a gifted actor to do this, just dedicated. To perform as a clown or prince/princess, and hear the squeals of delight coming from the audience of children, is an experience you

will not forget. Being mentored by experienced instructors in theater like Professors Anna Antaramian, Rodney Higginbotham, Daniel Wirth, and others, will bring out talent you didn't even know you possessed.

You will develop and hone skills that will help you in dealing with people that you just can't get without group participation and responsibility in this theater setting.

And, you may even surprise yourself as to what you can accomplish, especially with support and encouragement from the faculty and students

participating in the experience of producing a play from start to strike.

Don't be shy! Give it a try. You might be bitten by the acting bug! If you are still a bit skeptical, attend a performance of the Stage Center Theater located in the F building or, go to www.neiu.edu/~stagectr/ and visit their webpage to find out more about how you can participate and benefit by being a part of NEIU's theater program.

After all, Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage." So why not get in on it right here at NEIU!

Diversional Discourse

Skip the movie, see a play

Cheryl Lyman
Entertainment Editor
C-Lyman@neiu.edu

In today's technologically advanced society of big screens, high definition televisions and computers, many young people haven't experienced live theatre. I may never have been interested in theatre if it wasn't for my 6th grade English teacher, Ms. Frisch. She gave my class the opportunity to see a production of the musical *Guys and Dolls* at the Marriott Lincolnshire. I had never been to a real play before and thought it might be fun, so I signed up. That night started my life-long love affair with the stage. There isn't anything quite the same as the excitement of going to a theatre and watching actors bring a story to life in front of your eyes.

Film and television give you access to special effects that theatre cannot reproduce, but there can be amazing things that do happen. Peter Pan can fly, dancing girls pop out of a treasure chest, a helicopter could lift off (inside the building!), as happens in some productions of *Miss Saigon*. I know how they do it, and I am still amazed. Being there and seeing these things with your own eyes is an awesome experience.

I was in a production of Neil Simon's *God's Favorite*, where we burnt the house down between acts. When people came back from intermission, we could hear them gasping and talking about it. On closing night one of the ceiling beams that had "fallen" onto the couch during the fire, flipped over when I sat down, knocking into me. Everyone thought that was funny. It was not supposed to happen, but the audience didn't know that. Same play - opening night - the actor portraying my son got up from a chair, the chair flew off the stage. Another character needed the chair later and jumped off the stage, improvising dialogue while

doing so, to get the chair back where it belonged.

These things are some of the reasons that I encourage you to see what theatre is like in person. You can go to the same play many times and never see the same performance. Lines get delivered differently from one time to the next, sometimes they are forgotten altogether. Props may not be where an actor expects and that has to be worked around. The audience differs daily, actors feel the energy of the people viewing them, and this influences the performance as well.

How do you know what to go and see then? It all depends on what you like. Actors rehearse a long time before a show opens; they are prepared for things that happen (mostly). Any play that interests you should be good. Reviews can be found in newspapers and online at places like metromix.com or citysearch.com. Whether you love to laugh, feel like a good cry, prefer to contemplate life's mysteries, or are the type of person who sings show tunes, it's all on the stage. I attended a performance written by a friend-of-a-friend of a "murder-muzical" (misspelling intentional) in which the audience decided the ending. Audience participation can be quite fun and bring the entertainment value of the evening up.

Ticket prices can range in degree also, scaring some people away. A small theatre troupe with a basement stage probably won't charge as much as a big scale production, but even for the flashiest shows, there are ways to get reasonably priced tickets. Don't let price stop you from an evening of entertainment. Most theatres have rush tickets. These are seats that haven't been reserved



Megan Bubley and Cheryl Lyman in fall 2007's production of *Mrs. Warren's Profession*.

on the day of the performance and the theatre wants to sell them. If you have an NEIU ID card or work for the university, Stage Center shows are free! Student discounts, group rates, even free shows are available at many theatres. Call the box office where you are interested in going to find out if these options are available. You can search online at places like Goldstar Events and Hot Tix to find discounted tickets.

There are also options in the way you can dress for the performances. If you choose to see a production that takes place outdoors, chances are good you don't have to put on an evening dress or suit. On the other hand, if

you are going to see a big Broadway musical at a fancy theatre at 9 p.m., you might want to dress up. Business casual will almost never go wrong.

No matter what the show is, where it's located or how you dress, there is an exhilaration felt when the lights go off, the curtain comes down, the actors come out for the curtain call, and the audience erupts in applause, that you cannot receive from watching non-live entertainment. If you haven't ever experienced live theatre, you really need to give it a shot. You never know what you may find. You may even see me, either in the audience watching with you, or up on the stage entertaining you.

Coming to



Stage Center

The Stage Door

by Edna Ferber
& George S. Kaufman
June 5-7, 12-14, 19-21

This 1936 play, written by Kaufman & Ferber, centers round aspiring Broadway actresses living in a boarding house for young women called the Footlights Club in the West 50's of New York City. Some are cast in small chorus roles, some never even get that. The play follows Terry, an Indiana girl, who works hard at being an actress, falls for a playwright, turns down Hollywood (when her friend goes) and continues to struggle for the "art". The play is fun, witty and demonstrates the passion and the reasons theatre people have for loving and staying in the theatre.

Cast: **Rasa Aliukonyti** (Olga Brandt), **Amy Anderson** (Madeleine Vauclain), **Herman Andrango, Jr.** (Sam Hastings, Billy), **Kate Bailey** (Mary McCune), **Whitney Behr** (Susan

Paige), **Andrew Berlien** (Frank, Larry, Fred Powell), **Allen Davis** (Dr. Randall, Adolphe Gretzl), **Iris M. Feliciano** (Bobby Melrose), **Laura Gryfinski** (Mattie), **Kenneth Kirsch** (Keith Burgess), **Cheryl Lyman** (Mrs. Orcutt), **Jill Matel** (Bernice Niemeyer), **Colleen McCready** (Kendall Adams), **Pearl Paramadilok** (Louise Mitchell), **Erin Rigik** (Jean Maitland), **Amanda Rzany** (Mary Harper), **Terra Schultz** (Terry Randall), **Layla Schwartz** (Kaye Hamilton), **Josh Winters** (David Kingsley), **Kyle Young** (Jimmy Devereaux).

Taking Steps

by Alan Ayckbourn
July 17-19, 24-26, 31-Aug 2.

Taking Steps is set on a three floor building, with the attic, master bedroom and living room superimposed on one another.

At The Pines, a reputedly haunted house and former brothel,

Elizabeth is planning on leaving her husband Roland. She has called on her brother, Mark, to comfort Roland when he finds her note. However Mark, a man whose monotone sends people to sleep, is preoccupied with the fact his fiancée, who jilted him at the altar, has been picked up for soliciting by the police. He brings her back to The Pines, puts her in the spare room in the attic and leaves again.

Roland is hoping to buy The Pines from a local builder, Bainbridge, and Tristram, a none-too-bright solicitor, arrives to complete the sale. A drunk Roland arrives home and reads Elizabeth's note and breaks down, imploring Tristram to stay the night. Tristram agrees and stays in the master bedroom while Roland sleeps in the attic. Kitty, interrupted writing

a suicide note, hides in a cupboard and is trapped when Roland moves the bed across the door.

Elizabeth, meanwhile, has decided against her course of action and returns home and crawls into bed with, she presumes, Roland. She proceeds to seduce Roland - not realizing she is in bed with a terrified Tristram, who has heard of the house's ghost and believes he is being seduced by Scarlet Lucy (who, so the legend goes, will then kill him at daybreak after the seduction).

Dawn breaks and Tristram has more to fear from Mark, angry that he slept with his sister. Violence is prevented when the suicide note is discovered and mistakenly attributed to Roland. Believing he has overdosed, they try and keep him awake but Mark's voice sends Roland and Elizabeth to sleep. Tristram discovers Kitty and a mutual attraction. They fall asleep and are discovered by Mark, who again asks Tristram outside to

sort matters out.

Bainbridge turns up, unrecognizable in biking leathers, and is mistaken for a burglar and is subdued by Elizabeth. Eventually all is resolved as Roland comes round and identifies Bainbridge and completes the sale. Roland celebrates and Tristram and Kitty leave together. Mark is left having bored himself to sleep and Elizabeth stands on the doorstep, another note in her hand. Will she stay or will she go?

Info provided from
neiu.edu/~stagectr/now.htm

Unleash your inner actor!

Auditions for the fall Stage Center and Studio Series performances will be held on Tuesday, August 26 and Wednesday, August 27 from 1-3 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Auditions for the Spring plays will be the first Tuesday and Wednesday of Spring semester.

Cheryl Lyman

Food off campus that feels good

by D. Gordon Macnab
Production Editor

We all love to eat, and we have to in order to stay alive. The cafeteria is the closest place to fuel the creative student in you. If you feel, however, that a cafeteria reminds you too much of high school, then the following list of eateries will be helpful in appeasing your appetite, as well as keep your wallets from feeling too empty.

Quickies

Subway (Corner of Foster and Pulaski, across the street from the Shell Station on Foster and Kimball) – Great food and healthy to make your inner “Jared” come out. The Sweet Onion Teriyaki sandwich is very good, especially with Southwest Chipotle sauce and Honey Mustard. Try it with the Jalapeño chips, sounds weird, but try it.

Jimmy John's (A Block and half east of Kimball and Foster) – Not as a

varied selection as subway, but very fast service.

McDonald's (Corner of Foster and Kedzie) – Cheap and convenient food.

Greasy Spoons

CV's (Corner of Bryn Mawr and Kimball) – Your typical diner where the only thing missing is the tableside jukebox playing oldies. Gyros are very good and the hot dogs won't disappoint either. Open 24 hours for all those late night studies.

Charcoal Grill (Corner of Foster and Kedzie) – Best Gyros around, period. The rest of their food is also good with a wide variety to choose from AND you get free fries with all sandwiches.

Asian/Middle Eastern/Mediterranean

Hunan Wok (On Bryn Mawr just west of Kimball) – They have a lunch special buffet.

Mayflower (Corner of Foster

and Pulaski)

– The Crab Rangoon is rather tasty. It may be slower than Hunan Wok, but is still really good Asian food.

Ugly Hookah (On Bryn Mawr next to Hunan Wok) – Great falafel and hummus. Some times slow service but great tasting food. Plus for all you smokers out there you can smoke hookah, and they have student deals.

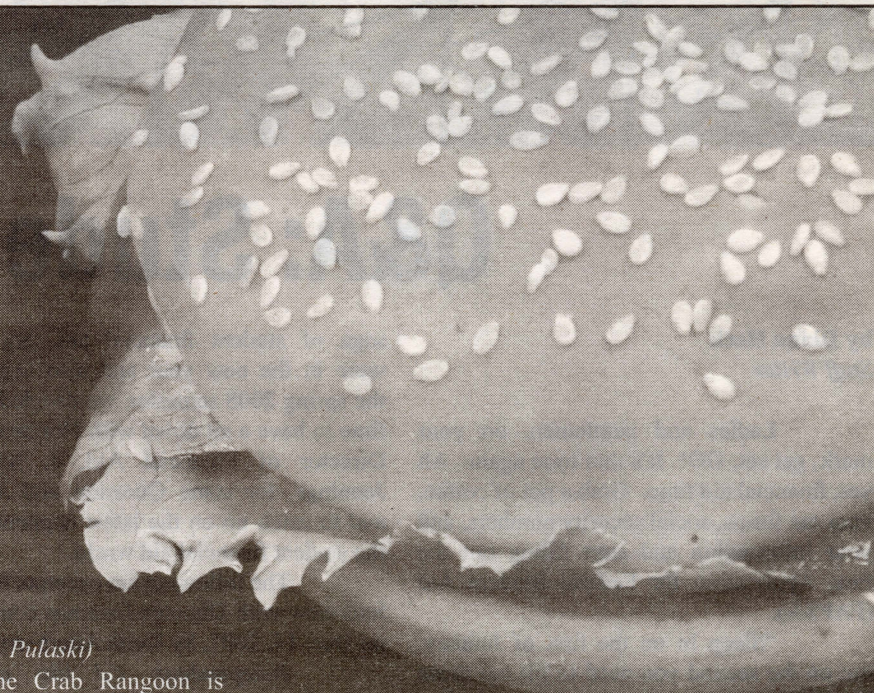
Mexican

Sergio's (On Bryn Mawr east of the Hollywood) – Combination Mexican and other food, you can get a pizza or a burrito.

A Gem

Tre Kronor (On Foster, half way between the Subway and McDonald's) – More expensive but if you're looking for class and like Swedish food, this is place for you. Their quiche is incredible, as is their salmon.

There are many more places out there, but as in college, what is listed here and what you learn is just the tip of the iceberg. The rest are up to you to find on your own. Happy eating.



Images (2) courtesy of sxc.hu



by Jonathon Gronli
Editor-in-Chief

The nature of horror

So, just what is it about horror that pulls in the people that love the genre? Frankly, it is a safe physical manifestation of both what we fear most and desire most.

The beauty of horror, true horror, is that it relies on your natural ability to suspend your disbelief. It allows you to look at something differently. Much like other forms of fiction it mirrors society at a different angle. However, what the best horror does is show it at an angle where you see the unknown shadows in your world and the possibility of what may lurk within those shadows.

OK then, what about the newer films that mimic the stark, unapologetic and gruesome styling of past films like *Last House on the Left*, *Texas Chainsaw*

Massacre and *Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer*. Honestly, it shows what we can do to each other for whatever reason we have. It shows people as they are: occasionally as intelligent animals, like some of the survivors and the killer from *Saw*, but predominantly just animals who will use others for their own pleasure or who will merely try to survive, like the killers and victims in *Hostel* or *Turistas*. Fans of horror who like this, also love the fact that it makes them question their sanity on why they are able to watch such things. They love that dirty, guilty feeling of seeing what they really should not see.

The more brutal and unapologetic horror films are also usually trying to shed light on certain unknown factors. What reasoning does someone have for killing? How far would you have to push someone (killing their friends, attacking them, making them watch you kill others, etc.) until they start fighting back? The earlier ones were often in response to the Viet Nam war. These kinds of films might now be in response to the current wars. Wes Craven's *Red Eye* is a bit of an anti-current-administration movie, since its plot is solely an attempt to assassinate the director of Homeland Security.

The horror that deals with more noticeably unknown factors of reality,

the spiritual aspect, is harder though. It forces you to make possible theories on what is going on. *Nightmare on Elm Street*, while it had a known villain, was made a little more unsettling by questioning the nature of dreams and the nature of evil at the same time. *Hellraiser*, arguably one of the best horror films put out in the 1980s, featured demons that weren't even the villains. The villain was more conceptual. The villain was desire and both the films and the novella that it was based on, *The Hellbound Heart* by Clive Barker, strove to analyze the nature and cost of desire. Howard Phillip Lovecraft wrote and theorized the unknown nature of all things from dreams to gods.

Then there are the biggest and most popular types of horror movies: Zombie and Vampire movies. Zombie movies are big for pointing out different problems of society without focusing on them directly. *Night of the Living Dead*, through its ending, was a veiled shot at racism. *Dawn of the Dead* was pointing out the ills of the American consumer mentality. *Day of the Dead* was a shot at the American military complex that Eisenhower was preaching against. *28 Days Later* was a shot at both the military and groups like PETA, since a group like PETA caused the outbreak when they broke into a lab that was studying ways to cure the “rage” disease. *28 Weeks Later* was an open blow against counter-insurgency

methods, which can boil down simply to “kill them all.” *Homecoming* is an anti-war film featuring fallen soldiers from an unpopular desert war rising from the dead to overthrow the government via the electoral process.

Vampires are symbolic of both sexuality and death seeing as how they are dead yet are also sustained by the exchange of bodily fluids, and they can create/give new “life” through the very same exchange. They also happen to be a veiled blow against organized religion since they hold a natural aversion to holy symbols and objects like the crucifix or holy water. Vampires, much like other tragic monsters, also hold the nature of racism within their being. The tragic monsters in films are doomed to be alone, hunted and eventually destroyed, merely for being different.

There is a spiritual, physical and political side to horror that makes it interesting and, especially in the case of true horror, loveable. This is because it is one of the most human genres in entertainment. It's dealing with fear, regret, desire, death, loss and all things that go into life. It's just pointing out the possibilities that we may not want to know regarding these topics.

Jonathan Gronli can be reached at jon.gronli@gmail.com

BEYOND THE VEIL OF MADNESS



Q&A: Student financial aid

by Diana Heck
Staff Writer

Ladies and gentlemen, on your mark, get set, GO! It's that time again. Ah yes, financial aid time. Grab a pot of coffee, your tax forms, social security numbers, and your information and start filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

"Sleep in on the first of January, but on the second you need to fill out those forms," says Mary Micalowski, a financial aid advisor.

Jamie Cummings, a NEIU transfer student, spent the fall semester working 50 plus hours a week, to pay tuition because she didn't apply in time. Avoid this headache. Apply early, and spend your time studying.

It's been a while since the *Independent* covered the never-ending

saga of student financial aid. So, since we were in the new year and also beginning the spring 2008 semester, we decided it was time to have a sit down with Northeastern's Director of Financial Aid, J. Marshall Jennings, for some Question and Answer and to catch up on the latest happenings in the student financial aid world.

The following are excerpts from an interview with Director Jennings conducted on Dec. 14, 2007, by Keith Atterberry:

Independent: I'd like to just start out by asking what's new in the financial aid world for spring 2008?

Jennings: Thanks for asking that Keith. January always starts off our efforts for the next year, so 2008/2009 Free

Application for Federal Student Aid [FAFSA] will be available on the second of January. What's different from 2007/2008 is that the [2008/2009] application will be processed online, so students will have to go online to fill out the form and have it processed that way.

It's a lot quicker than the paper. The paper process was four to six weeks and the electronic process is 15 to 20 days, so this year, as opposed to last year, we can't order any paper FAFSA applications for the

school so the Department of Education has curtailed that activity.

It's a simple process, so students should have their information together and available when they go online. It is preferred that they have a tax form completed; if they don't have their tax forms completed, they at least have to have their year-end earnings, their W-2 form(s), and if they're receiving untaxed income and benefits, their statement of untaxed income and benefits from the 2007 school year as a basis to start from; and they can always update that information later on.

Independent: So, with this change you anticipate a shorter processing time for the [FAFSA] application?

Jennings: Correct.

Independent: What will be necessary for students to actually get online and access the system? Will they need a user ID and password?

Jennings: Well, they can go online without a user ID. When they go to the FAFSA website they'll be asked to complete a form and request a pin. If they request the pin, the response will be immediate this year, 2008/2009. ... The application will require a school code and our code is 001693. This will allow the student's electronic application information to come to Northeastern and they [students] will also get a copy of what we get via email.

Independent: Can you give me an estimate of what percentage of Northeastern students use financial aid?

Jennings: About 50 percent of our students receive some type of financial aid. Those types would include; need based, as determined by the FAFSA, or merit based aid. It would also include assistance from

outside scholarship sources.

Independent: I know that, from my own personal experience, the financial aid process can be daunting. When I first came here, I had to learn how to navigate the [financial aid] system and I was able to succeed. The system worked for me. However, some students experience roadblocks in the student financial aid process. Are you offering any training classes?

Jennings: Keith, I'm glad you mentioned that because we will do a series of workshops in January and some in February as well. ... (Checks his schedule) [There are two workshops scheduled in January and three in February].

Independent: What do you plan to cover in these workshops?

Jennings: During the workshop, we'll go over the FAFSA, we'll give students some filing tips; we'll tell them what information they'll need and what to expect. Now, every student who applies through the FAFSA will go through a series of data checks; through INS [Immigration and Naturalization Service]; [and] through selective service, as examples. And then a portion of students, who apply for financial aid at Northeastern, as well as other schools, will be selected on a random basis by the vendor who represents the Department of Education for this process called verification. This process will ask the students to verify the accuracy of the information they're submitting.

This concludes the interview with Director Jennings. For more information, contact the Office of Student Financial Aid. Website: www.neiu.edu (Quick Links: financial Aid).

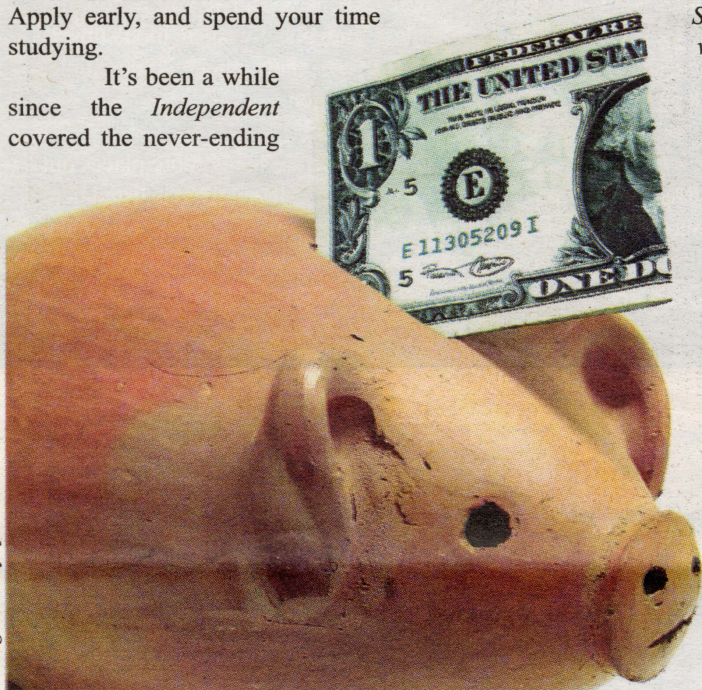


Image courtesy of xxc.hu.

Building Profile:

Ronald Williams Library

by Mark Clover
Opinions Editor

Agatha Christie died, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak formed the Apple Computer Company and Viking I and II both landed on Mars and sent back the first pictures of our nearest neighboring planet's surface. Such were events in 1976, the year the Ronald Williams Library was first opened.

The building was constructed to move the books of Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) into their own facility. The building was dedicated to Ronald Williams, the third president of NEIU, on May 8, 1987. He was President of NEIU from 1976 until his death on Dec. 11, 1985.

Ron Belda, a library employee for a decade, was kind enough to give the *Independent* some insights and tips regarding various aspects of the Ronald Williams Library. "When I was a student here [in the early 1970s] the card catalog was right there,"

said Belda as he indicates the space just inside the front of the library. "Now, we just had our 30th anniversary."

"The reference books are mostly on the first floor toward the back of the building. Both the first and second floors have computers with internet access." The computers in the library are dedicated for research on the Internet and not set up for word processing, though you can print out materials from online.

"The second floor has the copy machines," said Belda. "The second floor is also for journals and periodicals and there's a microfiche archive that go way back. The third floor does not have any computers but has the Multimedia Learning Resource Center (MLRC)."

According to the NEIU library website (<http://www.neiu.edu/~neiuilib/>), the MLRC "is an expanded service which incorporates materials from the library's audiovisual materials collection, the Curriculum Materials collection, University

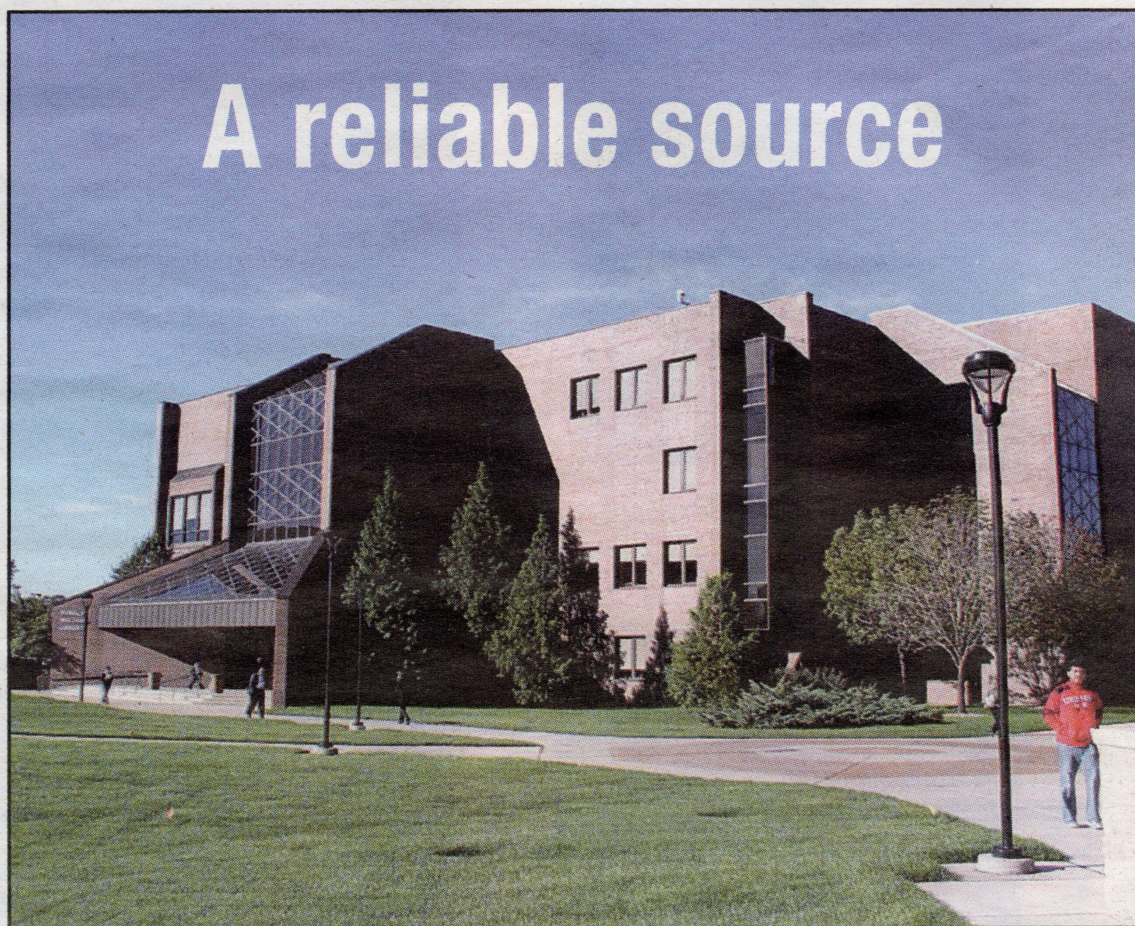


Image courtesy of Ronald Williams Library.

Media Services collection, the Music Listening Room collection and the library's special collections in music."

The fourth floor of the library has many tutorial services including the much-vaunted Math Lab. Students can get help in almost any area of study any day of the week, and into the evening.

The basement of the library houses the Government Information Center of Illinois. "If you're doing research on your

family, it has marriage certificates and death certificates, and it goes back to the late 1800s," Belda said. "They're separate from us because it is a state facility, but it is available to students."

Some folks still around NEIU from late 2005 remember there was a fire in the library back then. Belda says, "That was a blessing in disguise. The building was getting kind of shabby after all of those years. So, even though we were closed down, after the fire we

got all new computers, carpeting and stuff, so everything turned out okay."

Regular library hours during the spring and fall semesters are Monday through Thursday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. They will also have extended hours for finals. For more information on the library, call 773-442-4400 or visit the library website at <http://www.neiu.edu/~neiuilib/>.

Building Profile: Science Building

by Mark Clover
Opinions Editor

One looks at the exterior face of the Science Building at NEIU and its unusual interior and the classic drawing *Relativity*, by M. C. Escher, is called to mind.

In 1972, one year after Northeastern Illinois State College became Northeastern Illinois University, the NEIU Science Building was completed. Since that time many of its offices have been repurposed, it has seen a number of paint jobs, and the front entrance has had a major overhaul.

Still, at 35 years old, the NEIU Science Building continues to fall into disrepair and is sorely underutilized in regard to its original mission.

According to the Illinois Board of Higher Education 2006 Performance Report for NEIU, "The Science building, constructed in 1972, is in need of renovation. Insufficient laboratory space and inflexible layouts may hinder the learning activities that take place and exclude students who would otherwise enroll. In particular, biology courses have long waiting lists of students."

In the late '90s, the Science Building Advisory Group (SBAG) was formed. Their stated

purpose, according to their April 1999 bylaws, "The committee is concerned with all matters affecting the physical facilities and the operation and use of the building. Its purpose is to offer advice and to make recommendations on space allocation, upkeep, maintenance, repair, and any other pertinent matters. Such advice/recommendations will be made to the Dean, the Director of Physical facilities, or the Provost, as is appropriate."

While they had some

success in divvying up the display cases, it was and is the responsibility of the various departments to upgrade and the upkeep of their own exhibits and most are to this day gathering dust from before SBAG was ever formed.

Last updated in 2003, the Science Building Survey was one of the last gasps of SBAG and some of the suggestions gleaned from it form the basis for the long list of the building's problems and needed fixes.

Dr. Paul Dolan was kind

enough to take the *Independent* on a tour of the facility and share some of his insider knowledge of the building and its history. A full professor, Dolan has been teaching at NEIU since 1987 and has a clear grasp of the challenges facing his department and NEIU as an institution. While he is not unaware of the deficiencies in the building and NEIU's science curriculum, he comes across as hopeful that the new administration can move forward in a direction that benefits his department, others in the Science Building, and the student body at large.

Many of the classrooms and labs have severely bowed ceiling tiles, some of which have collapsed into rooms and left obvious water damage on the tiled

floor below. The electronics lab had a particularly close call with a heavy leak dropping a tile midway between a shelf full of reference books and expensive electronic equipment. On the other hand, some of the classrooms have no drop ceilings at all. Those teaching and learning in these rooms are completely unshielded from the sounds from the classes above and the busy ductwork. The closed off loading dock has two eyebeams that, according to Dolan, were never properly installed and cannot be used to secure a planned crane for lifting heavy equipment and machinery. The ceiling in the dock has been the site of a recent squirrel burrowing, insulation cascading down on various pieces of equipment below.

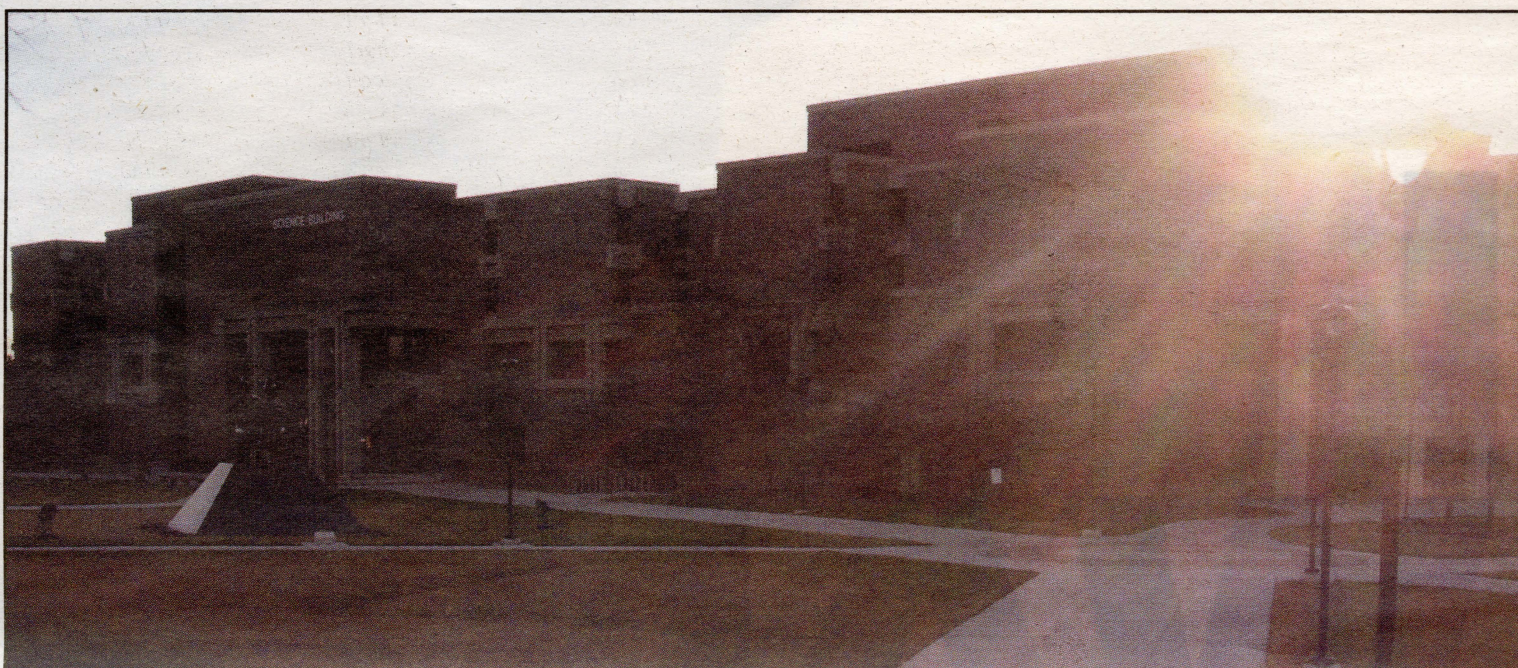


Image courtesy of renewneiu.org

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Contact Us:

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This outing is held in the memory of former NEIU faculty member Chuck Kane to benefit students in the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics, and Colleges of Arts & Sciences, Business & Management, and Education.

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Spring into fitness



by **Lenny Ocasio**
Editor-in-Chief (elect)

Isolated from the rest of the campus, the Physical Education Complex (PE Complex) stands like a fortress. Many new students, and some not-so-new ones, do not even know that Northeastern has a recreational facility. Use of the PE Complex is covered by student tuition but few students actually know what Campus Recreation has to offer.

Campus Recreation is divided into six major programs: aquatics, fitness and wellness, intramural sports, club sports, outdoor adventure, and informal recreation.

It also employs the largest number of students on campus. Various employment possibilities are available in each of the six different programs.

The Aquatics program offers many different activities to tempt water lovers of any kind. There are open and lap swimming times in an eight-lane, 25-yard lap swimming area with a diving well.

Campus Recreation also offers lifeguard, first aid, and CPR training. Additionally, they offer

private swim lessons to students, members, and non-members.

There are also swimming and diving lessons and the Neptune program for children age five and up. All information is available at the aquatics office in the PE Complex.

Fitness and wellness has everything to help you stay in shape. There is a weight room, various fitness machines, a running track, basketball courts, and four racquetball courts. Numerous fitness classes are also available free of charge.

The Mind and Body classes like yoga and Pilates are available to everyone for a small fee. Members and non-members can also sign up for a personal trainer for a fee.

The Intramural Sports program has competitions in sports such as basketball, flag football, volleyball, dodge ball, and cross-country running. Every semester the intramural staff plans different student competitions depending on the season.

Last semester, for example, the competitions included tennis, dodge ball, kickball, and flag football. This semester's

(spring 2008) competitions include soccer, coed softball, basketball, and golf scramble.

Current clubs that are open for everyone to join are aikido, men's soccer, women's volleyball, men's baseball, women's soccer, boxing, mixed martial arts, and tennis. Anyone can form a club if they follow the rules posted on the Campus Recreation website which can be linked to from the NEIUport homepage (<http://neiuport.neiu.edu>) under the "Campus Life" tab.

To sign up for Intramural activities or find out information about Club Sports, visit the intramural office.

Informal recreation means just coming into the PE Complex and trying out everything there is to offer. There is the main gym, with its basketball courts, and the auxiliary gym with its high ropes course, now open for the student body, and the climbing wall.

The locker rooms have showers and built-in steam rooms. There are two fitness studios with a daily schedule of various activities and fitness and wellness classes are also available near the four

racquetball/handball courts.

The weight room, fitness equipment, swimming pool, and the four outdoor tennis courts are also available during the open times that are posted in the Campus Recreation schedule.

All throughout fall 2007, professors and trainers passed out surveys to everyone who entered the PE Complex. These surveys were written to get the opinions on various aspects of the PE Complex.

From these surveys, a new schedule was created to serve the community better. The new hours for Campus Recreation are Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m., and Tuesday and Thursday, the complex will be open from 7 a.m. until 10 p.m.

For more information on the above programs and services and for information about family recreation hours stop by the PE Complex. Or, access the NEIUport homepage, click the "Campus Life" tab, scroll down to the "Mind Body Connection" portal and click the "Campus Recreation link," or call the front desk at 773-442-4135.

RUN!!!

by **Benny Garcia**
Special Contributor
NEIU Personal Trainer
Running Coach,
NEIU Running Club

There are many benefits to starting a running program. Running is relatively inexpensive and can be done almost anywhere. It is a great way to enhance your cardiovascular health and it can be fun.

For the true beginner, someone that has never run for exercise or has not run consistently for over six months, it is best to start by walking. After walking consistently for a few weeks, slowly add to the exercise by walking for more time, later, walking faster, and then alternating walking and jogging. The walk/jog program should be a slow progression that leads to jogging, and finally, running. Everyone has different abilities, and a beginner's running program should be tailored to address those differences.

First and foremost, every runner must begin by finding the right running shoe. This task may be complicated, since there are several different foot types, body sizes and running styles. There are also millions of running shoes on the market and they are not all created equal. I recommend visiting a specialty running store like Runner's Edge, Fleet Feet or Universal Sole to get guidance in selecting the right running shoe. Like the running program, the shoe should fit the runner's needs.

The most common mistake that beginning runners make is doing too much too fast. The beginner has to gradually ease into running. Initially, the focus should not be on speed but rather on consistency. The beginning runner should focus on how to make running a part of their lifestyle. A good starting point is to set a goal of walking, jogging and/or running at least three times a week, on non-consecutive days. Sessions should last a minimum of 20 minutes followed by one day of recovery.

As with any exercise program, it is advisable to talk to your doctor before starting a running program. For running assistance or coaching, contact Campus Recreation at extension 4135 to find out about the NEIU Running Club or set up an appointment with a trainer.

Mixed Martial Arts: Mixing it up at NEIU

by **T.C. Chung**
Business Manager

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) has been quickly gaining national exposure. While not yet a household name, MMA has had a recent explosion in popularity as a high-intensity, multi-discipline combat sport. Now NEIU has joined the craze. Mark Banks, an SGA senator and a student of Carlson Gracie Jiu-jitsu, founded the NEIU MMA Club in 2006. The primary focus of the MMA club is Jiu-jitsu, specifically Brazilian Jiu-jitsu. The main instructor for the club is Nick Garcia, and Geoffrey Gayares is the club organizer.

Jiu-jitsu started in Japan but was adopted in Brazil in the latter part of the 20th century. Brazilians modified the Japanese art form so that it focused less on raw strength and more on technique and leverage. The Gracie family, from Brazil,

revolutionized Jiu-jitsu and brought the art to the U.S., where it became known as Brazilian or Gracie Jiu-jitsu. Additional refinement of techniques included updates with modern fighting styles and a stronger focus on grappling. The reason for the grappling focus was that Jiu-jitsu could be performed at full force without additional equipment.

The NEIU MMA Club does not allow full contact because of insurance reasons, but instead focuses on the benefits of good technique. "It's practical, self-defense wise, and applies to real-life situations," said Gayares. The practicality of the ground-fighting art has been proven to work by many club members that have competed in tournaments. Some members have even earned first place rankings in the North American Grappling Association (NAGA) tournaments.

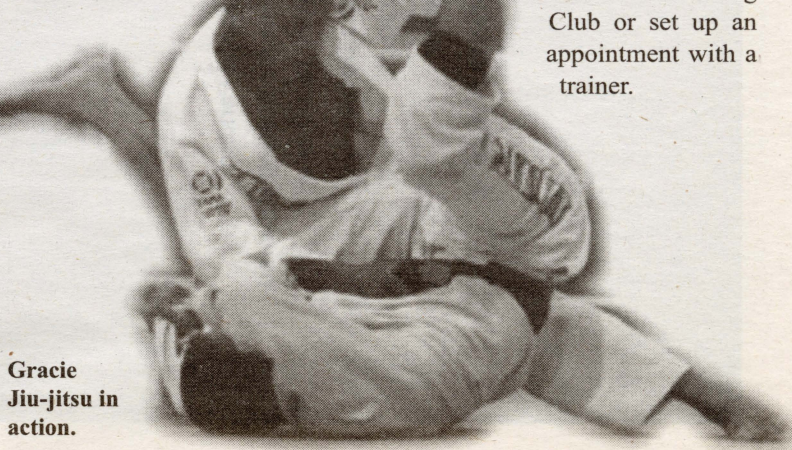
Since Jiu-jitsu is a combat sport, a new visitor to the

MMA Club's training sessions might be surprised to find that the atmosphere is friendly and cordial. "We're respectful of each other, which helps because there's no fear of getting hurt. It's very safety-conscious," Gayares pointed out.

The laid back atmosphere of the club may seem at odds since the nature of the activity is aggressive. However, members will explain that learning Jiu-jitsu is done best in a modest environment where members are easy going and willing to both teach and learn. The club provides a good base of knowledge on the art and, as Gayares explains, has an attractive price. "Most Brazilian Jiu-jitsu places charge at least \$100 a month. We're free," Gayares said.

The NEIU MMA Club meets Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 1-4 p.m. and Saturday from 12-3 p.m. in

the auxiliary gym of the PE building. No prior experience is necessary. People with a Gi can wear it to the meetings, but it is not necessary. The only required piece of equipment is an athletic supporter for males. Newcomers are always welcome. For more information, call Campus Recreation at extension 4135, or visit the club's Facebook group, NEIU Jiu-jitsu/MMA club.



Gracie Jiu-jitsu in action.

NEIU Campus map

