

8-26-2008

## Independent- Aug. 26, 2008

Lenny Ocasio

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# INDEPENDENT

www.neiuiindependent.com

Member of the Associated Collegiate Press

Tuesday, August 26, 2008

Vol. 24, Issue 21

## A new perspective of the Earth

by Mike Arch  
News Editor

Geography is all about location. It is often confused with Geology because they sound alike and they both study the earth. Where they differ is geologists study things such

as rocks and natural landforms. "Geographers are concerned with the human environment – political science, economics, psychology – as we are with the natural environment – wildlife, climate, landforms. Our focus is mainly at the

surface of the planet," said Dr. Erick Howenstine, Chair of the Geography and Environmental Studies Department.

"Our Geography major has two areas of emphasis. One is geospatial techniques – and this is one of the fastest growing fields of employment, according to the U.S. Dept. of Labor. The other is Urban Geography. Most of our students end up working in the Chicago region, so the urban focus is very good for us," said Howenstine. Geographers focus on things such as locations for schools, businesses and fire stations.

One project that is currently under development is a 3D map of the NEIU campus using Google's Sketchup software. This project is being worked on by Howenstine and Geography student, Kevin Whitney.

The geography program has a new look this year. "After three years of effort, the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies announces a host of improvements to the degree programs which will be in full effect for students beginning their B.A., M.A., or minor after Fall '08. The far-reaching changes will be reflected in the Fall catalog and are the result of more than 50 faculty meetings and countless hours of informal discussions," according to Howenstine.

"The changes better coordinate coursework, update curriculum and program requirements, and clear out courses which have not been taught for decades to make room for new requirements that will better prepare students for the demands of the workplace and/or advanced scholarly work in the field," said Howenstine.

The Department of Geography and Environmental Studies has a 40 page student hand book that is constantly updated to help guide students. More information about Geography and Environmental studies can be found at [www.neiu.edu/~deptges](http://www.neiu.edu/~deptges).

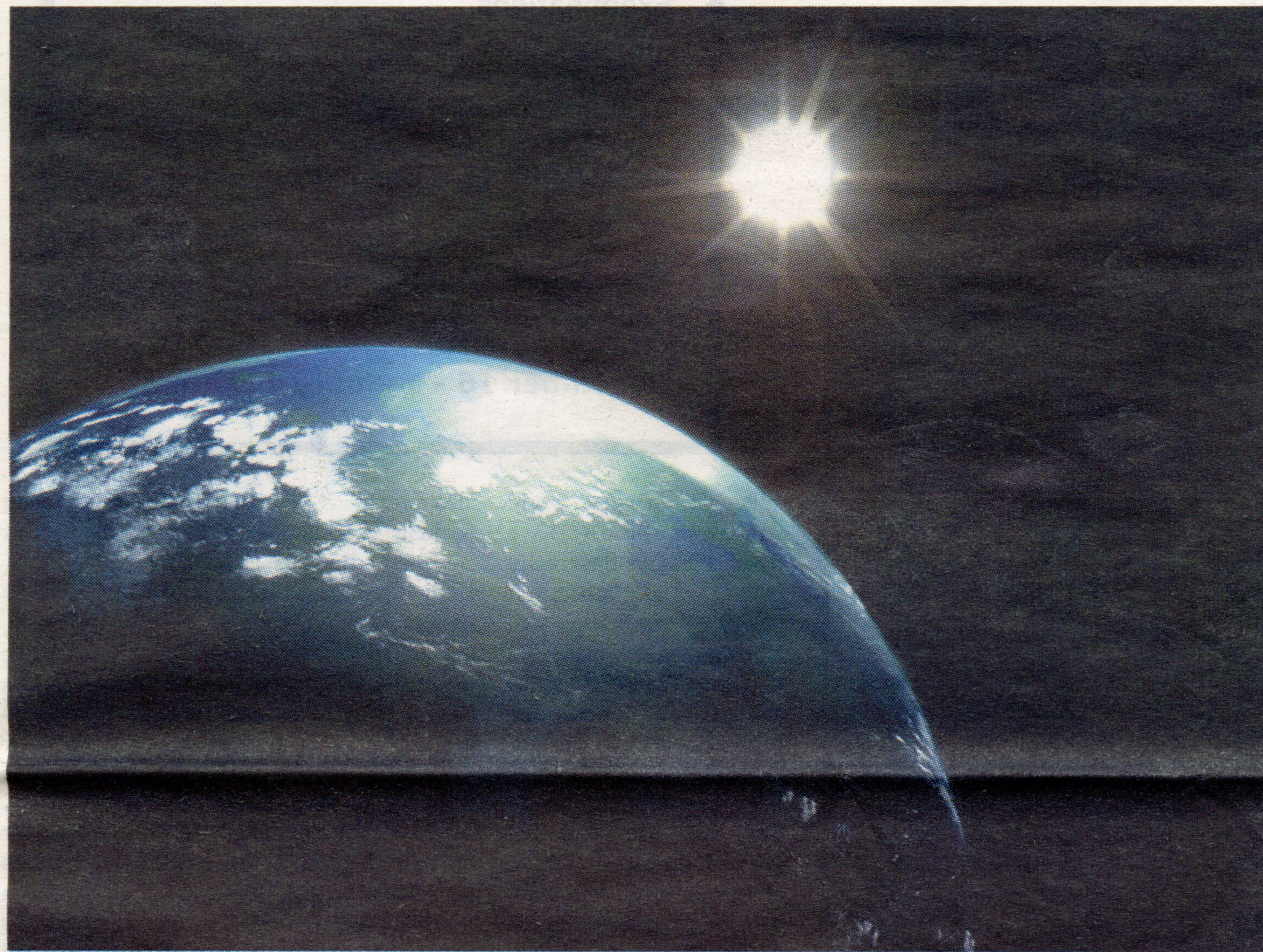


photo courtesy of sxc.hu

## NEIU's diversity in graduation

By Jonathan Gronli  
Associate Editor

*Diverse – Issues in Higher Education* revealed that Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) is among the top universities nationwide in baccalaureate (Bachelor's) and post-baccalaureate (Masters) degrees issued to students of diverse ethnic backgrounds.

The figures are based off of 2006-2007 preliminary Department of Education data. These are based off of the 4,314 degree-granting institutions in the United States as recorded by the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Educational Statistics. The stats for Bachelor's Degrees are as followed.

For degrees earned in Education by Hispanics, NEIU is ranked 15<sup>th</sup>. Degrees in Education earned by Asian Americans NEIU is ranked 15<sup>th</sup>. Degrees in Education earned by all minorities, NEIU is ranked 27<sup>th</sup>. For the number of Degrees earned in Ethnic, Cultural and Gender Studies by African Americans, NEIU is ranked 28<sup>th</sup>. Degrees in

Mathematics and Statistics earned by Hispanics NEIU is ranked 35<sup>th</sup>. Degrees in English Language and Literature/Letters by African Americans, NEIU is ranked 43<sup>rd</sup>. Degrees in all disciplines earned by Hispanics NEIU is ranked 78<sup>th</sup>.

From the same report, here are NEIU's rankings for Masters Degrees earned by ethnically diverse students.

For degrees earned in Ethnic, Cultural and Gender Studies by

African Americans, NEIU is ranked 1<sup>st</sup>. For degrees earned in Ethnic, Cultural and Gender

Studies earned by all minorities NEIU is ranked 4<sup>th</sup>. For degrees earned in Mathematics and Statistics earned by Asian Americans, NEIU is ranked 25<sup>th</sup>. For degrees earned in Mathematics and Statistics earned by all minorities, NEIU is ranked 31<sup>st</sup>. For degrees earned in Social Science and History by African Americans, NEIU is ranked 47<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, for degrees earned in Education by Hispanics NEIU is ranked 49<sup>th</sup>.

**The school ranks in the top 100 in many disciplines for minorities**

## Green Fee Committee approves money for use

by Duncan Macnab  
Senior Staff Writer

Members of the Green Fee Committee have approved the release of the spending of \$25,000. This money is coming from a fee on the tuition bill set up last year to use for cleaner energy and decreasing our carbon footprint in the world.

The money will be used to install 50 new covered bike racks in the area of the Classroom Building and Building B, as well as nine more uncovered spaces near Building B. The money will also be used to

buy two electric powered cars for the engineers' use for purposes of hauling material around campus.

"This will be the first important step in utilizing the funds," Committee member Paul Harris said. He also mentioned that June 10 would be a day that the campus will be introduced to one of those proposed vehicles. "The June 13 energy audit will lay the groundwork for the students getting the most out of their contribution," Harris said.

The car that was on display on June 10 is the ZX40ST Work Truck from Miles Electric Vehicle. This car runs

for two hours and has the max speed of 25 mph. The other vehicle is the GEM eL XD from Global Electric Motorcars.

There have been some concerns about the best stewardship form how the use of the money would benefit the students. Specifically that the money spent on a vehicle for the engineers aren't for the benefit of students. Harris said that is the first use of the money and that this fee will continue to benefit the NEIU community and that the concerns have ceased after the approval for the release of the funds.



photo courtesy of www.evworld.com

ZX40ST Work Truck from Miles Electric Vehicle is favored by many at 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.

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

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### 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, ongaurdonline.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

**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.

Your news brief or event belongs here!



**PRESIDENT OF MALAYSIAN BUDDHIST INSTITUTE TO SPEAK AT NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY.**

Venerable Chi Chern, the President of Malaysian Buddhist Institute and a Zen meditation teacher will present a cross-cultural lecture, "Zen Meditation and Art: An Oasis Within a World of Stress" at Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU), 5500 N. St Louis Ave., Chicago, IL on Wednesday, September 3, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Golden Eagle hall. This presentation will begin with a reception and an introduction of the speaker and will conclude with a question and answer period.

community and the community at large. Lim's art exhibition, Within, including Chinese calligraphy by Ven. Chi Chern, is a sculptural tribute to the Bodhidharma. Bodhidharma, who brought meditation to China 1500 years ago and was the first Zen meditation teacher, had a major impact on Chinese and East Asian culture. Within will be shown at Ronald Williams Library at NEIU from August 25 through September 5.

Ven. Chi Chern, an ordained Buddhist monk, is an educator, author, and artist, a master calligrapher. Besides being President of Malaysian Buddhist Institute for the past decade and Vice President since 1991, he has

also served as National President of Young Buddhist Association of Malaysia, as well as advisor to Buddhist associations in the U.S. He is a prolific writer having written over 50 books, some in both Chinese and English, on Buddhist psychology and philosophy, meditation techniques, art, and poetry. He has been leading meditation retreats for over 20 years. He has become a significant contributor to world Buddhism, having lectured and taught in Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan, China, Australia, and throughout the U.S., where, for the past 10 years, he has been giving lectures and leading retreats. Beyond formal education in Malaysia and Taiwan, Ven. Chi Chern has been a diligent practitioner of meditation and has gone on a 1000-day solitary retreat.

Additional activities on September 3 will include a meditation workshop led by Ven. Chi Chern from 9-10:50 a.m. in Golden Eagle, a luncheon for Ven. Chi Chern and invited guests from NEIU and the media from 12 to 2 p.m. in the Student Union SU-003, a Peace Fire led by NEIU Professor Dan Creely, in the Physical Education Complex from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., and the reception for Within, in Ronald Williams Library from 4 to 5:45. On September 4, 2008 from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m., Ven. Chi Chern will demonstrate the Chinese tea ceremony and calligraphy in "Tea and Zen Same Taste," to be held in Village Square at NEIU.

-Siew Lian Lim, Chinese Student Club

# A letter to the editor

A Contract year with a Union without Solidarity

There is a literal class warfare at Northeastern, within the faculty and union, between tenure-track faculty and instructors.

During the recent strike, non-tenure track faculty, at greater risk to themselves, maintained solidarity with tenure-track faculty and others and went out on strike with them. The payback came when we all returned to work and the faculty senate denied instructors any voting rights anywhere within the university.

There was nothing new in this disenfranchisement. For years tenure-track union members have used non-tenure track employees to swell the numbers within the union and then ignored their needs.

When several of us demanded at a union meeting that the union give consideration to non-tenure track faculty, we were told by the

past union president that ours was a majority union and he could not present such demands to the majority (that is tenure-track faculty) or the administration. As he informed the instructors' representative, those faculty members were just the caboose on the train. So much for solidarity.

Well, times have changed; and unless the union can heal the rift within its ranks, it will not be able to bargain with any strength for any one of its current demands. The administration is well aware that we are a deeply divided union.

However, if solidarity cannot be achieved, then we must reconsider the statement that ours is a majority union and realize that the majority of union voting members are no longer tenure-track faculty. Instructors constitute a majority of the voting members in the union. There are also support professionals in the union with whom they might unite to attain an even greater majority.

Instructors have been contributing members of this university for decades. They remain underpaid, exploited and without adequate protection, working as they do in fear not only of what administrators can do to them, but also of what their supposed colleagues have done. Were they to gain a decent living wage so that they would not have to supplement their income by teaching hither and yon, were they to receive the respect due them as well the protection any university faculty member requires, then we can expect them to be better committed to this university.

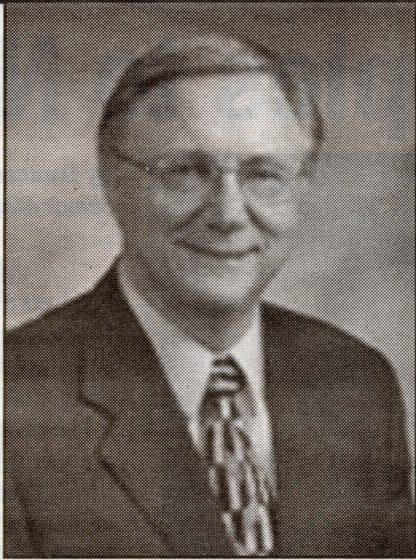
Solidarity now or no successful bargaining later.

Harry White  
Tenured Full Professor  
Eng. Dept.



# Dudycz elected Board Chairperson

by Duncan Macnab  
Senior Staff Writer



Long time Board of Trustees member and Chairperson Nancy Masterson announced her resignation in Apr.

On Apr. 10 Walter W. Dudycz was elected by the Board to replace Masterson as Chair. Jin Lee was elected as Vice Chair. Carlos Azcoitia was on the ballot for both Chair and Vice Chair but was elected to the position of Secretary.

Masterson was appointed to the board during the

Gov. Jim Edgar era. She has sat on the Board under three different university presidents, Gordon Lamb, Salme Harju Steinberg and the current Sharon K. Hahs.

“You have been the most approachable president,” said Masterson to Hahs, fighting back tears of appreciation in the Apr. 10 meeting. Masterson thanked the Board for her experience.

## Independent’s publication Schedule with advertisement deadlines

We hold our staff meetins during Activity-Hour at 1:40 p.m. on publication dates in room E-049.

September 9 – Deadline for ads is September 4

September 23- Deadline for ads is September 18

October 7 – Deadline for ads is October 2

October 21 – Deadline for ads is October 16

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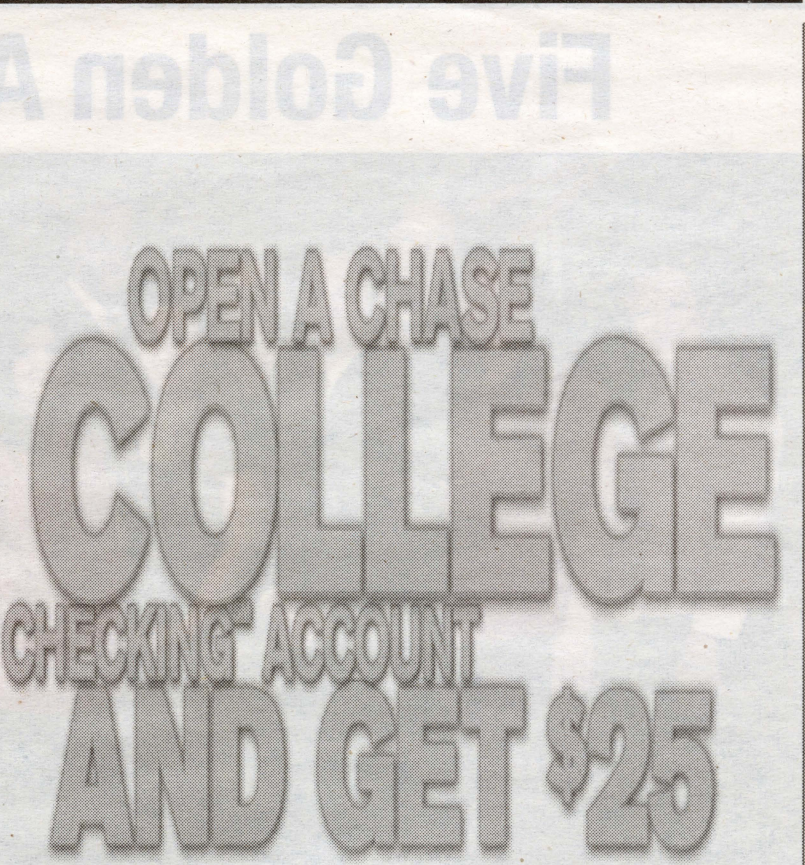
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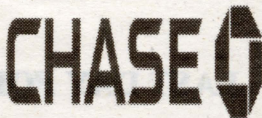
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<sup>2</sup> College student must be 17-24 years old to open a Chase College Checking account, and must provide college name and expected graduation date at account opening. No monthly service fee on Chase College Checking until after the expected graduation date for five years.

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# Five Golden Apples to NEIU alum



by Duncan Macnab  
Senior Staff Writer

Five of the 10 teachers that received the Golden Apples award for excellence in teaching graduated from NEIU.

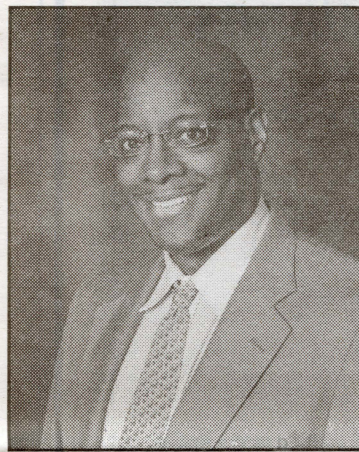
The awardees from NEIU are Carol Broos (M.A. '86 Music) who teaches music at Sunset Ridge School in Northfield to 4-8 graders, Samina Khan who teaches Science at Clark Academic Preparatory Magnet High School in Chicago to 6-8 graders, Brooke Tippet Thompson (M.A. '97 Music) who teaches music to K-8 graders at Pierce School of International Studies in Chicago, Natalie

Neris-Guereca (B.A. '02 Elementary Education: Teacher Education) who teaches 5<sup>th</sup> grade at Pershing West Magnet School in Chicago and Donnell White (B.A. '02 Elementary Education: Teacher Education) who teaches Math to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders at Clark Academic Preparatory Magnet High School in Chicago.

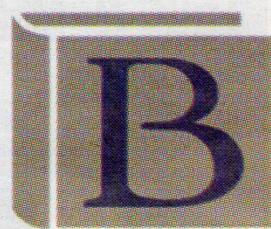
"Since 1986, when the program began, a total of 27 NEIU alumni have received Golden Apple Awards," the June issue of *Blue and Gold* states.

The article continued to say, "Currently, approximately 3,800 NEIU graduates are teaching in the metropolitan Chicagoland area. Ninety-eight percent of all NEIU College of Education graduates report they feel well prepared for their jobs one year after graduation."

NEIU alums are in italics (From left to right): Nancy Kontney, *Natalie Neris-Guereca*, John Nieciak, Daniel Morvaji, *Carol Broos*, Monica Gil, *Donnell White*, *Samina Khan*, *Brooke Tippet Thompson*, and Holly Bontkowski.



(Left to Right): Brooke Tippet Thompson, Carol Broos., Donnell White, Natalie Neris-Guereca and Samina Khan.



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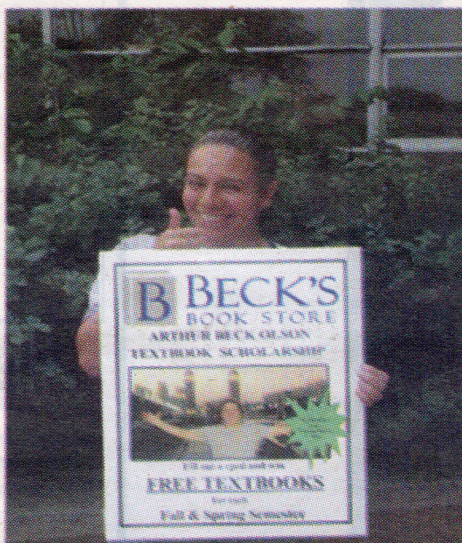
MONDAY AUG. 25TH 8:30 - 8:30  
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# V. P. Terrell retiring

by **Duncan Macnab**  
Senior Staff Writer

Vice President for Student Affairs and Professor of Counselor Education Dr. Melvin C. Terrell announced that he would resign on Sept. 1 from his Vice President post a press release sent out on June 30 said.

After stepping down, Dr. Terrell will be retiring from Northeastern Illinois University at the year's end to pursue other professional interests, spend more time with his family and travel.

"I have been privileged to be a part of the NEIU community for 20 years. I have enjoyed a wonderful career, and I am extremely proud of my tenure at NEIU," said Terrell in a press release. "I believe that the division of Student Affairs will benefit over time from new leadership and fresh ideas."

While Terrell was Vice President for Student Affairs, he advanced the department of Student Affairs in "student services, assessment,

increase in grant funding, and advocacy of underrepresented groups," the press release continued. He counts among his accomplishments the foundation in 1989 of the Minority Mentorship Program, "Partners for Success," a program designed to improve the persistence and academic goals of Hispanic and African American students the press release also stated.

In 1990 he received the Scott Goodnight Award for Outstanding Performance as a Student Personnel Administrator, National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Region IV East, being the first minority administrator to receive this prestigious recognition.

As the press release states, Terrell "has encouraged the development, scholarly pursuits and professional representation of his staff. In addition, he has mentored many student leaders, staff members, colleagues, administrators, faculty, not only throughout the Chicago

area, but also across the country."

Regarded by many of his colleagues, "Terrell is among the most prolific and influential student affairs practitioners and scholars in the country, authoring more than 30 publications including monographs, book chapters and articles in refereed journals," the press release also stated.

Before his tenure at NEIU in 1988, he was the Director of Minority Affairs and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership at the University of Toledo, where he was awarded by the student body the "Administrator of the Year Award" for three years in a row. He also served as Director of the Multicultural Education Center and Adjunct Assistant Professor of Education and Human Services at the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, in addition to several other institutions.

There will be a retirement party on Thurs., Aug. 28 at 4:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall.

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**NEIU DINING**

## The Deep End

by **Mike Arch**, News Editor

When people think of the oil business, they think of the Texas Millionaire in his mansion and cowboy hat. When people hear terms like "big oil" and "windfall Profits" people conjure up evil images of Haliburton, Exxon Mobile, and Dick Cheney. Of course, there is no greater evil than an evil that can't defend itself - like the term "big oil."

Demonizing "big oil's, windfall profits" is the easy way out. The fact is that when it comes to "windfall profits" the oil industry is no where near the top of the list of windfall profits. Not to mention, since when was it evil for an American company to make impressive profits. It is hard to dismiss such a conception because it's not far off from the truth that oil makes its money on volume, not price gouging.

Oil is a globally traded commodity. That means any oil that is pumped goes into a global marketplace at a globally traded value, whether it's here or in Nigeria. The term "supply and demand" is the evil culprit in this game.

These numbers are just estimates. The going rate for crude oil is \$114 per barrel. There is roughly about 42 gallons in a barrel. That makes the cost per gallon of crude \$2.71. It costs \$0.58 to refine a gallon of crude. Keep in mind that when you refine a gallon of crude you actually don't get a gallon of gasoline. You get less. There are many byproducts, such as natural gas, that are produced. For argument sake and ease of numbers, we will say it produces a gallon of gasoline. So the cost of the gasoline is now up to \$3.29 per gallon.

When you add in State of Illinois Tax of \$0.05, Cook County Tax of \$0.06, and City of Chicago tax of \$0.05, a total of \$0.16 per gallon is added bringing the cost to \$3.45 per gallon. The fill-up station takes about \$0.05 for its costs. That makes a gallon of gasoline cost \$3.50. At \$4.00 per gallon, that would give the oil company about \$0.50 per gallon on a fill up of 10 gallons. That comes out to about \$5 of profit.

That profit number in actuality is less because it takes more than a gallon of crude to make a gallon of gasoline. It takes about two gallons of crude to make one gallon of gasoline so that means a Saturn (10 gallon gas tank) can be filled up and the oil company makes about \$2.50 in

profit on that transaction. Not really a huge percentage margin when compared to other companies, and the other costs of doing business that have not been mentioned, such as transporting the fuel, utilities in office buildings and wages for employees.

According to Nathan Burchfiel of [businessandmedia.org](http://businessandmedia.org), Exxon-Mobil had 10 percent profits last year while Conoco-Phillips and Chevron reported profits less than that. When compared to other companies, such as Bank of America that reported an 18 percent profit margin, oil companies do not make huge profits. "By the newspaper industry's standards, oil companies must be on the verge of collapse. Newspapers, in spite of incessant fears that the industry is declining, reported pre-tax

profit margins 'in the high teens' in 2007, according to the Project for Excellence in Journalism," said Burchfiel.

Every company in America is allowed some kind of profit. They owe it to their shareholders to do so. The irony is it is very possible that you can be a shareholder in oil. 401k and mutual funds are all invested in large corporations. That was one of the big issues with bailing out investors in the Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac. Government bail out is that the largest amount of investors are tied into a 401k, money that people are counting on for their retirement. Profit is all a part of a capitalist society. Oil has the right to make some profit, although it really isn't as much as you think.



image courtesy of [www.newshouse.com](http://www.newshouse.com)



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## EDITORIAL

# How big of a threat is Russia?

Ah, the Olympics. A time where all nations can come together, in friendly competition, to show off their athletic abilities and achievements. "Friendly" is the key term. However, this year, just before the opening ceremony, Russia invaded Georgia, a small former-Soviet bloc country bordering Russia.

It's difficult to say who started the conflict, both sides are blaming the other, and stories of the conflict, and what exactly happened are sketchy at best. The Russians are saying Georgian troops attacked South Ossetian civilians, some being Russian nationals. On the other side, though, Georgia is one of the countries that has allowed the United States to build its anti-missile defense system, a system the Russian government doesn't like so close to its border.

But what is certain is that the Russian military nearly steamrolled through the entire country before withdrawing back into Russian territory, after agreeing to a cease-fire. This show of military might isn't too pleasing to the West, especially to the United States, who has bumped heads with Russia in the recent past, particularly about the Shield missile-defense system.

This past week, the Russian foreign ministry threatened Poland because Warsaw signed a deal with the U.S. allowing the installation of 10 interceptor missiles in Poland, which was once a part of the Soviet Union. Before Poland agreed to this deal, a top Russian general warned them that Warsaw could face a nuclear attack if Poland signed the agreement.

This isn't something new, though. Russia isn't afraid to push, preferably through words. What's more unnerving is the fact that the Russian military has grown throughout the years, thanks mostly to former President Vladimir Putin who increased military funding during his term. The Russian military isn't what it used to be back during the early '90s. It's much stronger and may even be considered as the second strongest military in the world.

So is Russia really that big of a threat?

After the agreement was signed, Russia's foreign ministry stated that it would "have to react, and not only through diplomatic protest." Some people are comparing this to the Cuban Missile crisis, just with the roles reversed. Could this really lead to all-out war between NATO and Russia? Could this be the beginning of World War III?

It's highly doubtful that Russia would start something so devastating as a nuclear war, or any sort of military action, since the U.S. is building missile defenses close to its border. What will probably happen is that Russia will just move its defenses closer to its border. It wouldn't be a call to war, but it would be a response to the agreement that Russia isn't happy about.

But there's still that question; how strong is Russia? There really isn't an answer yet. The Georgian-Russian conflict isn't much of an indicator because the Georgian troops were outnumbered, out-gunned and out-maneuvered by the Russian bear. It can't be said that Russian soldiers are necessarily at the top of their game. This really wasn't a test of their skill.

With the tension in Eastern Europe mounting yet again, one can wonder what will happen. However, any theories on future events are speculative. Only time will tell how the situation progresses. However, it all hinges on the political leaders from around the world.

# Commentary

## Electoral views

by Jonathan Gronli  
*Associate Editor*

With the general election looming in the near future, America wonders who will be the next leader of the free world. Will it be the charismatic young gun of D.C.? Will it be the seasoned campaigner on the Republican side of the aisle? Will a third party actually come through?

With the way things are shaping up, it seems that it might be the young, charismatic Barack Obama or the old warhorse John McCain, who might come out on top. But we also have to remember that there are two other people running against Obama and McCain.

The Greens have Cynthia McKinney, former African-American democratic U. S. Senator from Georgia. Running as a true Independent is Ralph Nader.

McKinney has already said that the least they are going for is the five percent that would make the Green Party a major national political party. With at least five percent the system will officially become a three party system. McKinney was one of the first people making a motion for the impeachment of GWB. She has been an advocate of enlisted personnel's rights and veteran's rights. She has also been strong on healthcare issues.

Ralph Nader has one big thing going for him. He is consistent. His platform is nearly the same as it was in 2004. The reason he didn't run as a Green

was partially because he announced too late to be on the Green Party primary ballot. He has been a major activist for consumer rights and safety for years, before he initially ran for president in 2000. Honestly, though, since the Greens have their first candidate that has actually won an election, and the Democrats have a strong voice for change, a snowball has a better chance in Hell than Nader has in this election.

Obama is a strong voice of change, and is a unifying factor for the Democrats. The biggest flaw he has is his inexperience. He puts up a strong front but his power as a leader might collapse when the stresses of the job kick in. If he had even one full term, and started running during his second, it would make him a stronger candidate, and also would give America a better view of his politics. At the moment, he hasn't had much time to show his politics since he spent about half his term running for president rather than doing his job as a senator. While this is a problem, Obama seems like the person who would be the most likely winner.

McCain is the strongest candidate for a war-time president, since he's served in war, and has seen firsthand the price of war. Unfortunately, his inflexibility and dedication to old school thinking in regards to modern problems will be his downfall as leader. Leaders have to adapt to circumstance and

evidence. The thing that he has going for himself is the fact that he might be the unifying factor for the Republican Party.

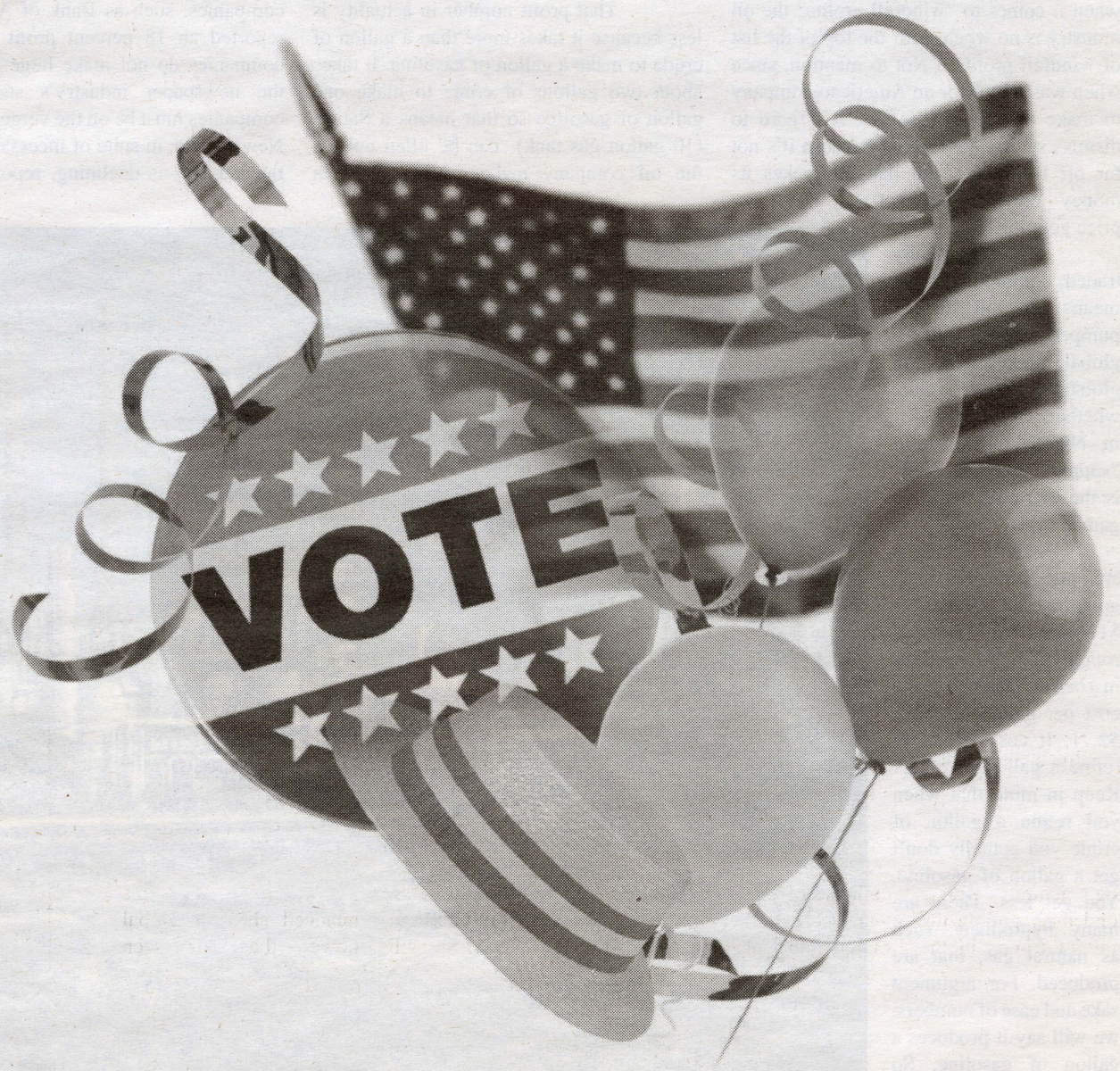
Ultimately, this election is anyone's game. The Greens stand a chance if they appeal to both the new voters and the voters who are discontented with the parties with which they are originally affiliated.

Obama stands a big chance because he brings a fresh face and new school thinking to an office that needs to adapt to the times and the needs of the people. He is also able to appeal to the discontented democrats and pull them back into the fold.

McCain stands a chance because he has firsthand experience dealing with some of the problems we currently have, and may have ideas on how to fix the problems. He can also appeal to the discontented republicans, and potentially pull quite a few of them back in.

Nader seems to be the odd man out this election and will most likely have little, if any effect on the polls this year.

The responsibility for getting a new leader that is best suited for the job is on our shoulders. The only way to elect the best-suited presidential candidate now is to get as informed as possible on ALL the presidential candidates before the general election on Tuesday, Nov. 4.





# Friend or foe

by Jonathan Gronli  
Associate Editor

Very few people manage the level of elusiveness of Bin Laden. However, we could've taken care of the problem that Al Qaeda has become in the past. There are a lot of factors that go into the issue of the rarely discussed hunt for Al Qaeda's leader.

One of the first things we have to remember is that we trained and funded him as a surrogate to combat the spread of Communism. This means the government should have been keeping an especially close eye on him while he was helping America fight the "evil red horde." Assuming this vigilance, we should have prevented some of the biggest Al Qaeda terrorists acts after the Cold War by at least putting him and his followers into custody when he started slipping into criminal activity under the guise of religious extremism.

Now some people might make the argument that it was the religions that caused him to turn against the Western nation(s) that employed him. That's just not true though. Religion is the scapegoat. The tenants of most religions are to be peaceful, tolerant and accepting of others regardless of a person's faults, beliefs or preferences.

If religion is the reason for attacks when they preach peace, love and acceptance there is a contradiction in terms from reality to religious principles. Even Islam, though some people have stereotyped Muslims as violent, is

a peaceful religion that shares the same God as the Jewish Yahweh or the Christian God. Jihad doesn't necessarily mean Holy War. It means struggle and that could include a personal struggle with your own faith.

The problem isn't with the religion itself. It's a problem of politics, necessity and religious extremism tied to criminal activity.

*Maybe we'll  
find some of the  
world's most elusive  
treasures like the  
Holy Grail  
or lost creatures like  
the  
Loch Ness  
Monster...*

Religiousness is like nationalism. It's a good thing unless people get involved and mob appeal starts kicking in. If mob appeal kicks in, it's not a big problem for everyone under the same religion or nation's flag. The only time it reaches that level of problematic influence is when the religion or nation is completely corrupted by the

leadership, also giving the standard populace the option of "open dissent means death." Examples of this include fascist dictatorships of the early twentieth century like Nazi Germany, Fascist Italy or Stalinist Russia. Before it reaches this level, it might be no more than a bunch of malcontents blowing off some steam to cope with the stresses of everything put against their group or nation from within or without.

Getting back to the topic of Bin Laden, while we could've arrested or even killed Bin Laden before he became a big problem for the whole world, we didn't. This is because until the Bin Laden family disowned Osama, both Osama and our own government had strong ties to his family. We still have strong ties to his family, although, we can't seem to find an extremist whose body is in such deterioration that the last time we heard anything, he was spending most of his time hooked up to a dialysis machine.

Who knows? Maybe we'll find some of the world's most elusive treasures like the Holy Grail or lost creatures like the Loch Ness Monster before we find this wanted terrorist that is rarely brought up as a concern by our own government.

The only time that Al Qaeda and Bin Laden are brought up now is when the government is doing some much needed fear mongering to send more funds out of the United States to fund the wars that aren't even addressing one of the biggest threats to America, a terrorist who knows our system and how to exploit its weaknesses.

## VOICE OF THE CAMPUS



by Mark Clover  
Opinions Editor

## Back to school

There are many folks who are opening their *Independent* this issue and glancing toward the right hand side of the Opinions section, looking for the familiar raised eyebrow of my former colleague Sophia Lopez. Sophia has graduated from Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) and has moved on out to the big wide world, where she will be facing many challenges similar to those she championed in these very pages, and at this school. Perhaps the stakes will be higher, but I am sure she has the tools to handle anything that comes her way. I think I can speak for all of us in wishing her the very best and great success.

To recap some of the advice tips I gave in the Freshman issue of the *Independent*, for those of you without access to one who are also new this Fall, here's a quick tips list (with some updates).

- Walk your new schedule, both to get use to it and to see what opportunities there are on the way.
  - Check out where the lockers are on your route, so that you can get one or upgrade one you have, at the Village Square.
  - If you do not have all of your textbooks by now and plan to pick some up off of ebay or Amazon.com, make sure to get faster shipping, since media mail shipping can take a couple of weeks or more.
  - Your Health Services fees are paid, so take advantage of the actual services. Cough drops, band-aids, condoms, and other things are available, and don't be put off that they swipe your ID. It's how they make sure they are getting their share of funding and justify their services to the school for their budget.
  - Keep an eye on your printing fees, which start a semester at \$200.00. You don't want to print off too many non-essential Internet pages only to find your final paper needs to be printing for cash out of pocket.
  - Printing from flash drives won't work in the library. They are strictly for printing research off the Internet. But the cash copiers are in the library.
  - Get those Math and English competency requirements, as well as the Constitution test requirement, out of the way early. Nothing worse than getting your graduation materials together and finding out you have to wait a semester to finish because of a test you did not take or a requirement you forgot to fulfill.
  - Sodas cost less in the machines than in the cafeteria. I love the people who run the cafeteria, and they make a good sandwich at a reasonable price, but when someone can walk fifty yards over to a machine and save fifty cents, it just has to be done.
  - The Science Building elevator is slow and the ramps add a quarter mile when traveling from the first floor to the third. There is a staircase around the corner from the entryway elevator, just to the east. There are also staircases at the northwest and southeast corners of the Science Building, and another at the back of the building opposite the entrance. Make use of these and your day will speed up considerably.
  - Make use of the learning center on the fourth floor of the library and the writing lab on the second floor of the classroom building. They are there to help and make your time at NEIU as fruitful as can be.
- Have fun. Learning does not need to be a chore if you approach it with the right attitude!

Mark Clover can be reached at  
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## When times get tough...

by Rolando Ithier III  
Senior Staff Writer

In the days leading up to the Olympics, President Bush, traveling through Asia on his way to the games, openly criticized China on its human rights record. China's response to the criticism was one we have grown accustomed to hearing: stay out of our affairs; mind your own business.

Russia recently responded to the United States' calls to end the conflict in Georgia in a similar manner. When the conflict broke out, President Bush and several different members of his cabinet all issue stern warnings on the implications of Russia's actions. Russia responded by upping the amount of troops in the region from 10,000 to 15,000 and ultimately escalating the conflict.

Russia later agreed to withdraw its troops, although the terms of the withdrawal

are still under negotiations. At present, there are still Russian troops on Georgian soil.

This scenario has become a familiar one for this administration's dealings with emerging super powers and what it considers as "rogue states." Tough talk diplomacy has become the default response to tough international issues. After all, why shouldn't it be? Tough diplomacy has long been an integral tool for the U.S. government. Yet, the tough talk is becoming increasingly ineffective when dealing with some nations.

Russia, for example, has been boosted by its vast oil and natural gas reserves, and has returned from the collapse of the post cold war years to become a major global player once again. Emboldened by its economic growth, Russia has taken an increasingly confrontational stance with the U.S. on certain issues.

China and its

once isolated communist regime, has seen an economic growth spurt that has put it atop the list of emerging super powers. It too has consistently challenged, if not all together ignored the U.S. on key issues such as human rights and its brutal suppression of Tibetan Buddhist monks.

It appears that there is very little the United States government can do to deter these countries from testing the waters, seeing how far they can push it. More often the U.S. is being forced to pick and choose its battles when it comes to issues of international importance.

The truth of the matter is that as the wars carry on in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the U.S. economy continues to struggle, the U.S. will become economically and militarily stretched thin.

While both China and Russia have enjoyed economic booms, the U.S. has seen a drop

off in economic activity and is becoming reliant on other super powers. A lot of it is due to activity in the financial markets in the U.S., some of it is due to our economic dealings with the countries like China.

Some argue that our economic stability, what we have left of it, depends on China. China has vast reserves of U.S. currency and the U.S. has hundreds of billions of dollars trade deficit with China. The U.S. needs Chinese exports more than the Chinese need U.S. exports. So with this type of imbalance, China can afford to carry on about their business without too much fear of how the U.S. might attempt to stop them.

It is this nuanced shift of global power that has seen the U.S. succumb to a position where we can do little more than bark out half-hearted demands that countries like Russia and China both know are losing their potency.



# ENTERTAINMENT

## Music Department hosts Opera

### Synopsis and photo provided by the Dept. of Music

The Medium is a short (one hour long) two-act dramatic opera with words and music by Gian Carlo Menotti. Commissioned by Columbia University, its first performance was there on 8 May 1946. In 1951, Menotti directed, with the help of filmmaker Alexander Hammid, a film version made to resemble film noir, and starring Anna Maria Alberghetti. A live television production starring Marie Powers took place on 12 December 1948 on the TV series Studio One.

#### Act I

In the parlor of the medium, Madame Flora, Monica, her daughter, and Toby, a mute servant boy rescued from "the streets of Budapest" play dress-up. When Madame Flora, or "Baba" as they call her, arrives home drunk, she violently chastises them for not preparing for that night's seance. Soon the guests arrive, Mr. and Mrs. Gobineau, regulars, and the widow Mrs. Nolan who is attending for the first time. With Madame Flora in a trance in her chair, a fake seance is held where Mrs. Nolan speaks with what she thinks is her deceased sixteen-year-old daughter but is really Monica behind a screen. As Monica disappears, Mrs. Nolan rushes to toward the figure and is restrained by the Gobineaus. When order is restored, Mr. and Mrs. Gobineau "communicate" with their deceased two year old son Mickey who does nothing but laugh. After they say goodbye to him, Madame Flora "suddenly, with a loud gasp... clutches at her throat with both hands." She feels a phantom hand clutching her throat and is "terror-stricken." After demanding that the guests leave, she calls for Monica and tells her what she felt, eventually blaming Toby who was in the other room the whole time. In an effort to calm Baba's drunken rage toward Toby, Monica sings her the dark lullaby "O Black Swan" which is interrupted by a voice that Baba hears

causing her to fly into a terrified rage at Toby for not telling her where the voice is coming from. The Curtain comes down on Monica again singing the lullaby while Baba recites her Hail Marys.

#### Act II

"A few days later" Toby is giving a puppet show for Monica, their mutual love becomes more obvious. When Baba comes home, she resumes her accusations on Toby, sure that he knows what went on that night. The guests again arrive, expecting another seance but are driven away by Madame Flora who tries to convince them that the whole thing was a sham by revealing all the tricks that she and Monica used. But the guests are not convinced and leave claiming that while she might have thought she was cheating them, she in fact was not. Once the guests are gone, she drives Toby out despite Monica's pleas on his behalf. With everyone gone, and Monica in her room, Baba pours herself another drink and questions her own sanity, becoming wild with drink and eventually passing out. Once she has fallen asleep, Toby sneaks back in and tries to get into Monica's room, but finds it locked and eventually goes to the trunk to find his tambourine. While searching, he knocks the lid of the trunk down waking Baba. Toby quickly hides in the puppet theater. As Baba tries to see where the noise came from and fetches a revolver from a drawer in the table. "Hysterically" she shouts out "Who is it? Speak or I'll Shoot!" and the puppet theater curtain moves. "Baba screams and fires at it several times." As Toby's bloody body collapses grasping the curtain, Baba says "I've killed the ghost! I've killed the ghost!" Monica, hearing the gunshots, enters, sees Toby's lifeless body and runs for help. As the final curtain falls "very slowly" Baba asks "in a hoarse whisper," "Was it you?"

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# THE MEDIUM

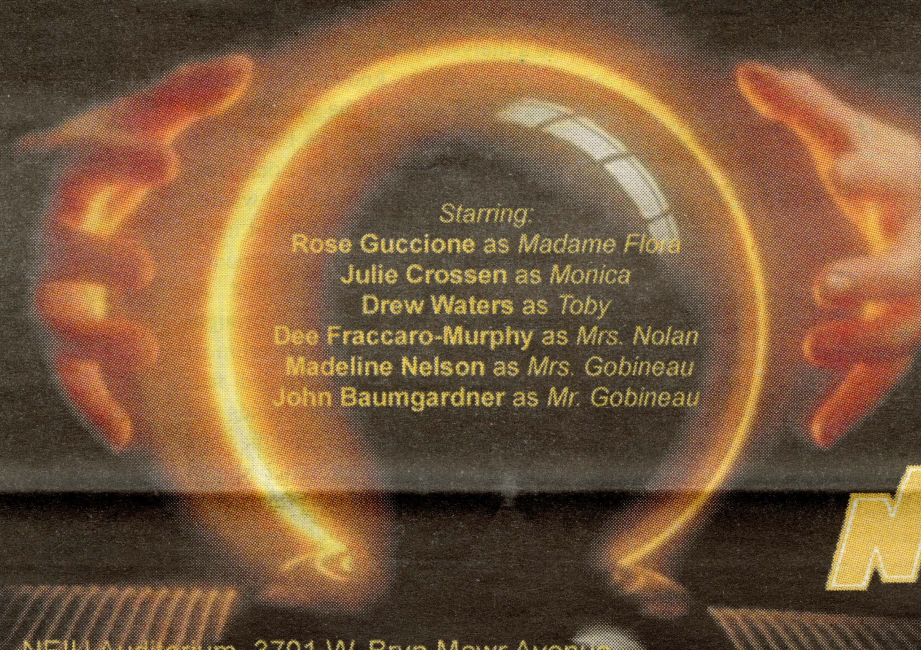
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by Jonathon Gronli  
Associate Editor

## Beyond the veil of madness

### OH DEAR GOD!! WHY?!!

For those of you who have read my column through the spring, you've probably reached the same question my family reached. For those of you who are just starting to read the paper, you'll come to the same question soon enough. Why are you obsessed with darkness? The answer is simple really. Reality only allows the occasional reprieve from the dark.

Isn't it only natural that someone would drift towards the entertainment that they understand through their world-view? I could've done a war movie or political thriller column since I tend to understand those, and the philosophies that pop up in them, but there are two reasons I didn't go for that. One, there's only so far that you can take it before it shifts from an entertainment column to flat-out political commentary/analysis/propaganda. Two, I would risk being the potential political propagandist were it not that I have bad dreams.

Let's face it. H.P. Lovecraft was right when he said, "The oldest and strongest emotion of mankind is fear..."

Regardless of our social station, quality of life or any other circumstances that come into play, we always fear something. There is no harm in embracing that reality since whatever we do fear will be sitting on our shoulders waiting for the day we either confront it, and are improved by at least admitting that we are not fearless, or until the day it destroys us.

Yes it is a strange thing to say, but what do you expect? I am strange. Though the truth of the matter is that by and large reality sucks. It's sickening, horrific and there's very few ways to cope. I mean you could cope with ignoring reality, but sooner or later it'll come around smacking some sense into you. You could cope with drugs but then you have to worry about sobering up -- and random drug tests if your employers do that. You could cope by ending it all, but where's the fun in that? Most people just follow what Stephen King has said: "We make up horrors to help us cope with the real ones."

Well comedy is fun, but where's the realism in that? Everything goes wrong. People do things that are logically

stupid, and somehow, regardless of how ridiculously bad things get, everything works out in the end. However, if you look at the way life is, nothing is that perfect at rebounding. We watch comedies to distract ourselves from reality or make fun of reality. We watch horror because either we realize that there is something more to reality than we perceive, or we realize that life doesn't have nearly as much laughs as comedy would have us think. Dark comedies are more realistic in the fact that most of the laughs out there are ones that pop up to relieve tension. It's a matter of being unsure whether or not to laugh, or be absolutely horrified.

Romance is fine but let's face it. Certainly love is a great thing. Even the largely commercialized romantic love is a great thing, a great drain on wallets. Fear is cheap, more like free; love apparently isn't. However, romance seems to be a problem in reality. A lot of people either don't find love, and end up alone, or find love and screw it up somehow, for some idiotic reason. So romantic movies are definitely not something to look at

realistically, but the most fantastical horror movies can come across as more realistic.

Sci-fi is a great non-horror genre because it deals with the same topics as horror. It's just that sci-fi presents the same stories in a scientific light. Horror movies however, tend to be more primal, more human, and therefore more understandable. This is true even in the more esoteric art-house horror films. It's the human nature of horror and dark fantasy that catches my mind.

Hopefully this is helpful as to the nature of this column. You'll probably see a more normal style of writing as time goes by, or accept that this style is normal, at least for this writer. Either way, I hope you enjoyed this bizarre informational. You'll be getting more bizarre information regarding horror as time goes on. Stay scared.

Jonathon Gronli can be reached at [jon.gronli@gmail.com](mailto:jon.gronli@gmail.com) if you want to him to cover specific horrors or to tell him he's insane. He loves that.



# Diversional Discourse

by Cheryl Lyman  
Entertainment Editor

## The yearly return to school question...



Back to school time! For many kids, this is the time of year where they let out a sad sigh, 'summer is over, and the work must start again.' Some of us big kids though, (especially parents) actually look forward to it. I'm one of those who counted days 'till classes started. New classes, new teachers, new people to meet, new things to learn, how exciting is that? Frankly, I was getting a little bored with vacation. Of course, I had plenty to do over the summer break....

I did take a history class the first session of summer, and found that early American history is still fascinating to me, especially when I learned things that I wasn't taught back in the stone age. This was only one class for part of the summer though, so what did I do with the rest of the three and a half months?

The first summer play at Stage Center, *Stage Door*, took up many evenings rehearsing and performing, for the beginning of summer. Unfortunately, I was not able to see any other productions over the summer. I do like to watch plays as well as perform in them. I did however, read seven plays, and 12 books of monologues. This is in addition to the uncountable other books I picked up for summer reading.

When I say uncountable, I do mean that.... I know that I read at least 30 books, some more memorable than others. I finally read a book that was reviewed last year by one of our staff writers, Regina Ramos, *Eat, Pray, Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert. I adored it.

Fantasy was high on my reading list, as usual, and the trilogy of *Poison Study*, *Magic Study* and *Fire Study*, by Maria V Snyder, was very diversional for me, as nothing

got done in my life, including sleep, until the last page of the last book was turned. Crime, crime drama and law drama also are favorites of mine, so I want to thank Scott Turow, a Chicago lawyer and writer, who also kept me from cleaning my room while I read his book *Reversible Errors*.

Besides reading, I spent quite a bit of time playing *Webkinz*. For those of you who are also fanatics, you understand. For the many people out there who have no idea, I'll be writing about them in the future because they can be very diversional! If you are really curious before that, Google them, or stop by Beck's and just purchase one.

Lincoln Square/North Center (where I live) holds many things to do over the summer, Ribfest was heaven for my taste buds, and the smells wafted through my windows the whole weekend even when I wasn't there eating. Concerts in the park and the two 'squares' kept me busy on Tue, Wed and Thur nights. One of the concerts I saw, advertised as being 'James Conway and Friends,' but who ended up calling themselves 'The Boyles,' played wonderful Celtic style music. They impressed me enough that I went back to another of their performances.

A surprise visit from my brother and his family from Washington led to a fairly exciting week. Most of my family live in the Chicagoland area, and hadn't met my brother's four children, so when they all showed up, there was some scrambling to get everyone together. We never managed to get everyone in the same place at the same time, but there were 22 of us at Lincoln Park Zoo one day. I'm still trying to recover. The animals might be as well.

The family trip to The Bristol Renaissance Faire was more relaxing as some of the younger children stayed at home. The RenFaire is one of my favorite things to do each year. There is always so much to see, listen to and eat. One of my favorite entertainers, MooNIE the Magnificent, once again had me in stitches. He walks a tightrope, juggles and barely speaks, but his language comes across brilliantly. Again, this is one of those things you either understand or really should check out for yourself. This year's Faire closes on Sept 1, so you still have time to go. Find out more about the Faire at [www.renfair.com/bristol](http://www.renfair.com/bristol).

I didn't take any trips longer than a day, and only spent a minimal time at the beach, but my summer vacation was as relaxing as I could have wanted. I am ready to get back to the schoolbooks and all the wonderful things that NEIU has to offer for entertainment and fun, including writing and editing for the *Independent*.

Oh, about this column's title... "What did you do this summer?" I'm interested in hearing the fun new things (or old for that matter) that kept you diverted. Did you go someplace wonderful that people should know about? Read a good book? See a great band? Eat amazing foods? Share it with me! Better yet, write an article for the *Independent* on it. Become a staff writer and get paid for having fun!

Now, I guess I really had better go clean my room. \*sigh\*

Cheryl Lyman can be reached at the *Independent* office, E-049, on M/W/F from 12-1 or by email at [c-lyman1@neu.edu](mailto:c-lyman1@neu.edu)

# Time to play musical activism

by Jonathan Gronli  
Associate Editor

In the 1960's a group joined together mixing members from the Byrds, Buffalo Springfield and Hollies. Since then David Crosby, Stephen Stills, Graham Nash and Neil Young became the face of musical activism. *CSNY: Déjà Vu* is a documentary/live CD that follows Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young through their 2006 North of American Freedom of Speech Tour.

The tour and documentary was the musician's protest against the War in Iraq and the effect it's had on general public opinion. This is Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young's version of *Lions for Lambs*. It also doubles as a greatest hits album that is largely augmented one of Neil Young's latest releases *Living With War*.

Musically they could not have picked better or more moving songs from any of the artists individual catalogs. They could also not have picked more personal and yet universally relatable songs. Even the protest songs from the Viet Nam period still ring true today.

One song which I personally found more moving

in the live version is "Families" because this year a cousin's unit was sent to Iraq. During the Viet Nam War, occasionally veterans would return to turned backs and hostile jeers thrown their way. "Families" is a song that is essentially saying "Support the troops even if you don't support the war." Neil Young starts the track saying that the song is for family of those fighting in Iraq or Afghanistan, and gave a simple but necessary message while dedicating the song to veterans as well. "We are your family."

In a time that almost perfectly mimics the time of the Viet Nam war, there is nothing more necessary than a message of peace, unity and freedom, some of the tenants that America has touted in the past. *Déjà Vu* is that necessary message. It is also another message necessary for times like now where apathetic, cynical youths are backing out of involvement with causes that are much larger than themselves and "the good life." Getting involved to do the right thing, regardless of whether or not the movement is successful, is what's important.

Buy the CD and see the documentary. It is one of those things that is necessary. Enjoy.

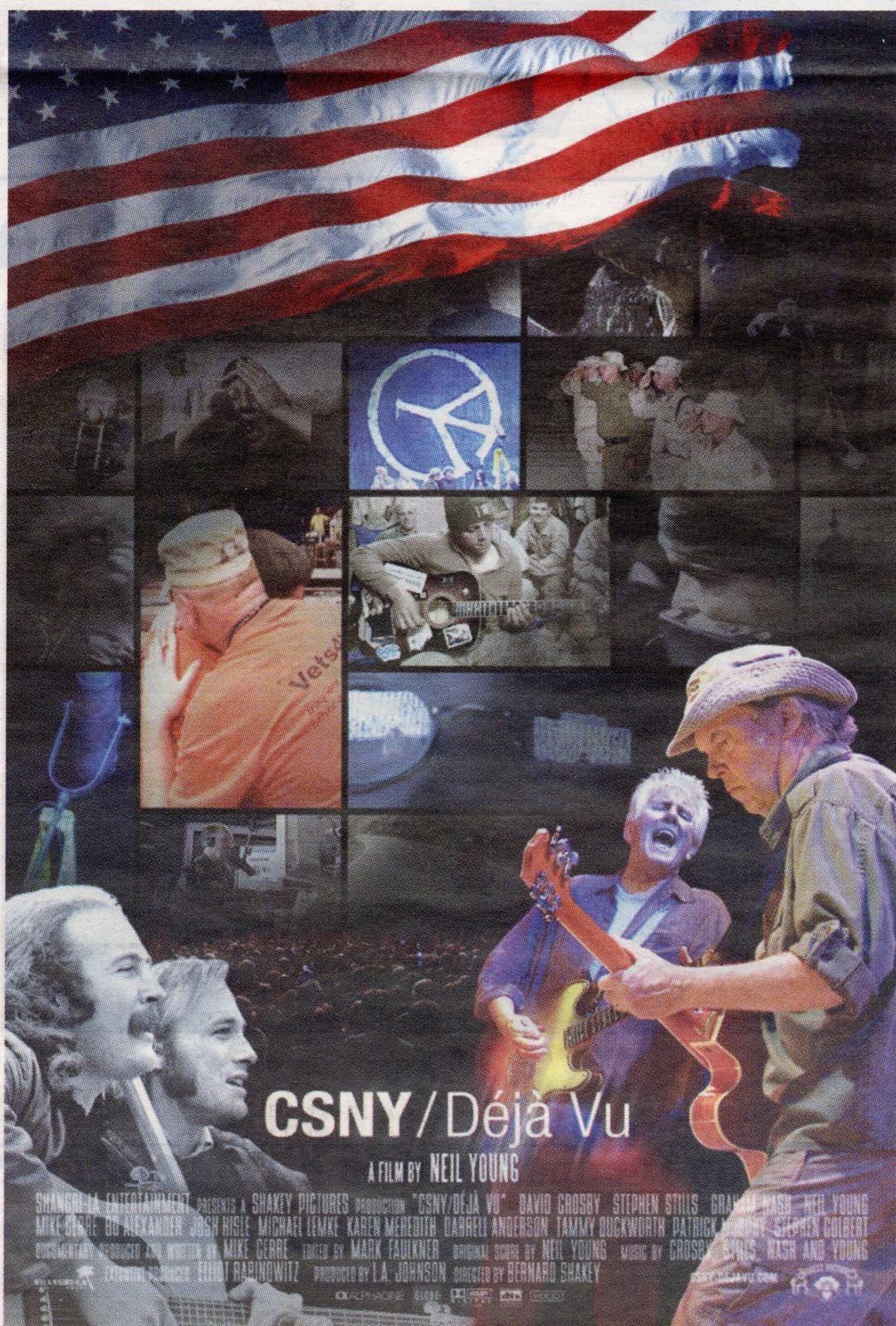


Image courtesy of [www.neilyoung.com](http://www.neilyoung.com)





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## Punk rock wrapped in cotton



by Lenny Ocasio  
Editor-in-chief

The Enemy UK, formed in 2006, consists of Tom Clarke (guitar/vocals), Andy Hopkins (bass) and Liam Watts (drums). About two years old, The Enemy UK has become exceedingly popular in Great Britain with their debut album hitting number one within a week of its release. They are now making a name for themselves in the United States. They first appeared in Chicago during Lollapalooza earlier this month and have toured other big U.S. cities during the rest of the month.

They have recently released their debut album *We'll live and die in these towns*. This 13-track album contains all of The Enemy's singles plus two bonus tracks. The legendary David Bowie wrote one of those tracks, "Five Years," the only one not written by the band. The album also contains their first single ever released "40 Days & 40 Nights."

The Enemy is categorized

as punk rock but it is an ill-fitting label. They sound like loud punk rock wrapped in cotton. It is softer and, because of that, it loses some of its intensity and meaning. The words do not have the same impact. They should be categorized as indie rock because of their unique sound. They resemble The White Stripes more than a little.

A few of their songs sound like bad slow dance music, especially the song "Happy Birthday Jane." It evokes painful images of awkward middle-school dances. Most of their songs have great melodies, but their lyrics clash. Singing about the end of the world to a slow dance melody makes the listener more aware of the music than the meaning.

Put all together, the album is good, but it lacks substance. One good song is "Technodanceaphobic." The refrains were not very original but it has a catchy tune. Most of the songs are fast and loud, but there are those that are slow and long. The lyrics are repeated over again until the total amount of new lyrics in one four-minute song is reduced to four or five lines. The band itself is great, but with original lyrics and better melodies, they could be amazing.

**The Independent is hiring staff writers, graphic artists and photographers. Come to E-049 for details or call 442-4577.**



# Come out and play at Stage Center!

by Cheryl Lyman  
Entertainment Editor

There is a plethora of fantastic shows coming up this year at NEIU! Whether you are interested in the classics, something new, children's theater or good ole' fashion rompin' comedy, you'll find something to enjoy.

For reservations for the Stage Center Theatre Main Stage Productions and the Studio Series Productions please call 773.442.4274

Auditions for *Charley's Aunt*, *Electra*, *Sangre de Atole*, *The Bear* and *The Proposal* are on Aug. 26 & 27 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. and 6:00-9:00 p.m. Please call Anna Antaramian for an audition time slot if you are interested in performing at 773-442-5975.

Here is what's coming up, courtesy of the Dept. of Media, Communications and Theatre.

## MAIN STAGE:

Oct. 2-4, 9-11, 16-18, 2008

**CHARLEY'S AUNT** by Brandon Thomas

"This world-famous farce has moved millions to tears of laughter. Jack Chesney loves Kitty Verdun and Charles loves Miss Spettigue. They invited the ladies to meet Charley's wealthy aunt from Brazil. But alas, the millionaire aunt sends word that she will have to defer her visit for a few days. What is to be done? The dear young things must not be compromised--no, never!--but neither will the youths give up the opportunity of declaring their love. The problem is solved by forcing another Oxford undergraduate into a...skirt, an old-fashioned cap and wig. As Charley's Aunt, this old frump is introduced to the sweethearts, to Jack's father and to Stephen Spettigue, Miss Spettigue's guardian. Then the real aunt turns up. In the comic confusion which results, young Lord Babberley, posing as the aunt, tricks Stephen Spettigue into agreeing to the marriage of his ward to Charley, the real aunt marries Jack's father, Jack gets Miss Verdun, and "Charley's Aunt" regains the fortune he lost at gambling and the girl he loves." (Samuel French, Inc.)

Nov. 13-15, 20-22, Dec. 4-6, 2008

**ELECTRA** by Sophocles, translated by Frank McGuinness

Years ago Electra's father was murdered by her mother's lover. Since that time Electra has daily suffered and mourned her father's death, sustained only by the belief that her brother Orestes, upon attaining manhood, would one day return to exact revenge. At the opening of the play, the morning light falls on the palace of golden Mycenae as Orestes secretly returns with a plot to satisfy Electra's deepest desire. Thus begins one of the most frequently produced of the classic Greek tragedies. "Leave it to a playwright who has been dead for 2,400 years to jolt Broadway [with] soul satisfying drama at its most passionately, intensely alive.... It's a provocative evening that not only reacquaints you with the direct, unprocessed power of Greek drama but also provides a depth of pleasure you associate with great movies" (*New York Times* found in Samuel French, Inc.)

Feb. 19-21, 26-28, Mar. 5-7, 2009

**ILLUSION** by Pierre Corneille, translated and adapted by Tony Kushner

"...this the tale of a rigid father, Pridament, who, stricken with remorse for having provoked his son to flee the family home, searches out the magician Aleandre in the hope that he will help him find out what happened to the wayward boy. Aleandre does, and the ironic twist of the piece is that after several false starts, passionate reenactments, comic delusions and confusions, the truth is revealed and Papa finds he doesn't like it. The light-hearted ending is a cynical but honest lesson in selective affection. THE ILLUSION takes us into territory on which theater thrives: fantasy, witchcraft, transcended place and time...." (*Los Angeles Times* found in Broadway Play Publishing, Inc.)

Apr. 16-18, 23-25, Apr. 30-May 2, 2009

**LETTICE AND LOVAGE** by Peter Shaffer

"Lettice Duffett, an expert on Elizabethan cuisine and medieval weaponry, is an indefatigable enthusiast of history and the theatre. She is a tour guide at Fustian House—one of the least stately and least interesting of Britain's stately homes. Lettice begins to embellish its historical past and her lecture gains theatricality and romance as it strays from the facts. Lotte Schon, an inspector from the Preservation Trust, is not impressed or entertained by these uninhibited history

lessons. She fires Lettice, but gradually becomes fascinated by her unusual past, her romantic world-view and her refusal to accept the mediocre and the second rate. The two women forge an alliance to awaken their fellow citizens to the dreariness of modern life." (Samuel French, Inc.)

## STUDIO SERIES:

Sept. 23, 24, 25, 26, 2008

**Sangre de Atole** (a new play) by Michael Villareal

Repaying your coyote when you first migrate to the United States can be difficult. Amparo and Mari are well aware of the challenges in finding work and making the rent. They provide recent immigrants a place to stay, until they can get on their feet. Their most recent arrivals prove to be more taxing, as one could expect with 6 people to a studio apartment. The tension builds on both sides, leaving them to wonder – Was the move worth the turmoil it has on their personal relationships? What was it all for, really?

Oct. 28, 29, 30, 31, 2008

An Evening with Chekhov.

**The Bear** by Anton Chekhov, adapted by Michael Frayn

"Mrs. Popoff, widow of a landowner, has vowed never to remarry and abjures the company of men forever. Then Smirnov, one of her late husband's creditors, forces himself into her presence --they seemed groomed for quarreling and they do to the point of...a duel." (Samuel French, Inc.)

**The Proposal** by Anton Chekhov, adapted by Michael Frayn

The story tells the efforts of a nervous and excitable man who starts to propose to an attractive young woman, but who gets into a tremendous quarrel over a boundary line." (Samuel French, Inc.)

Feb. 17, 18, 19, 20, 2009

**Winner of the 2009 Ronald Williams Playwright Competition**

**Queer Strindberg: A play in two acts** by Max Guillas

*Queer Strindberg* is a play about gender and sexual identity in the context of the life, personality, and character of two controversial historical and intellectual figures of Swedish and European history, August Strindberg and Queen Kristina Wasa. *Queer Strindberg* brings out the best, and the worst—assess both the benefits and costs—of the creative mind, and finds a home for both August and Kristina in the "text," performance, and mind of the audience, of theatre itself.

Mar. 17, 18, 19, 20, 2009

**Pieces of Eight: Pure Sterling**

Rich texts, luscious language, and exquisite theatricality comprise this anthology directed by NEIU Communication, Media, and Theatre graduate students. This production entertains, surprises, amuses and bemuses its audience.

## CHILDREN'S THEATRE WORKSHOP:

**Bocon!** by Lisa Loomer

Suitable for grades 5-8; performances Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10:30-11:30 a.m., \$3.00 per student, teachers free, Stage Center Theatre, Nov. 3 through Dec. 3, 2008. Contact Ann Hartdegen, 773.442.5917

"¡Bocón!, a bilingual play filled with humor and mysticism and song, tells the story of a twelve-year-old Miguel who flees a repressive military regime in Central America for Los Angeles. A natural storyteller and irrepressible 'big mouth' or bocón, Miguel loses his voice when his parents are taken and begins a metaphorical journey north to the City of Angels. Along the way he meets up with an unusual traveling companion, La Llorona, the legendary 'Weeping Woman' of Mexican and Central American mythology. Through their magical friendship, Miguel finds his voice and the courage to cross the border to a new life. Miguel's story is relevant to immigrant children from all parts of the world...and to any child who is learning the many meanings of finding one's own 'voice.'" (Dramatic Publishing Company)

**The Jungle Book** by R. Rex Stephenson

Suitable for grades 2-5, performances Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 10:30-11:30 a.m., \$3.00 per students, Teachers, free, Stage Center Theatre, March through April 2009. Contact 773.442.5917.

"Into the Indian semi-tropical jungle comes the man-cub Mowgli. Protected by the wolf pack, taught the laws of the jungle, protected and disciplined by Kaa, Baloo, and Bagheera, Mowgli must choose between two worlds when he comes of age, and he finds himself at home in neither... The dialogue retains the poignancy of Kipling at his best, while peppered with some of those delightful one-liners that make Stephenson's work so unique and special to audiences everywhere. Mowgli is especially heart-warming as the jungle boy struggling for acceptance first in a world ruled by the law of the land, then by the people of the village who are ruled by greed and superstition." (New Plays Inc.)

## SUMMER THEATRE

June 4-6, 11-13, 18-20

**A Midsummer Nights Dream** by William Shakespeare

The action begins at the beautiful court of Theseus, Duke of Athens, and later moves to the mystical forest inhabited by Oberon and Titania, King and queen of the fairies...It is the magical story of star-crossed lovers, overly ambitious homespun rustics and misadventures with the fairies.

July 16-18, 23-25, 30-Aug. 1

**Arms and the Man** by George Bernard Shaw

"Ever since its first performance in 1894, and the controversy it aroused, it has had a prominent place in the repertory of the English-speaking stage. In this play Shaw wrote a satire on war and the professional fighting man; the typical Shavian touches throughout are very good fun; but of course there are serious points to be made too and Shaw makes them in his inimitably brilliant manner." (Samuel French, Inc.)



Photos by Marshall Hong

The cast of Summer Theatre's 2008 Production of *Stage Door*



# Do they walk among us?

by Mark Clover  
Opinions Editor

From the disgusting to the sublime, *Mythic Creatures: Dragons, Unicorns & Mermaids* gives a fair overview of the many monsters man has imagined to

live beside us, but just beyond our proof down through the ages. While legends about many of these creatures, such as the dragons and mermaids, date back to ancient times, stories about Yeti, Bigfoot and the Chupacabra are as prevalent today as ever. This exhibit which has run since

last March at the Field Museum here in Chicago closes September 1, 2008. If you have yet to see it, drag the nephews, nieces, sons and daughters down to the museum campus to check it out before it is gone. The exhibit is divided into three sections, Creatures of Water, Creatures of Land and Creatures of the Air.

The section focused on the water includes the aforementioned mermaids which seem to be one of the most cross-cultural. Each continent has a number of peoples with their own version, some malign, others benevolent and some just plain weird. Like the Feejee Mermaid, made famous by P.T. Barnum as an oddity that patrons paid to

view, and which turned out to be no more than a dead Monkey's head sewn onto a fish body. Loch Ness, the lake in Scotland, and its famous monster gets a mention. There are also less well known additions like the hippocampus sporting a horse's head and a fish tail.

The land creatures range from the unicorn to giants and cyclops. The kids can play with a display that allows them to use magnetic tools to move various puzzle pieces of real creature body parts into new positions that help explain how monster forms might have been suspected by those who stumbled across strange remains. Narwahl horns are on display as examples of a body part that may help explain how stories of unicorns first came about. So, too, the dwarf elephant skulls, with their nasal passage hole where a corresponding trunk would have protruded, are used to show how the Cyclops legend may have been born. Oddly, the exhibitors

chose to include the mighty griffin among the land creatures rather than those of air despite it having the body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle.

Of course the air creatures display comes last, mostly because of the presence of dragons, but there are other monsters on display in this section. Notably, the noble Pegasus proudly guards the entryway and right above the Roc, a giant eagle, is swooping down on unsuspecting visitors. The famous phoenix which resurrects itself in flames is here and also the mysterious sphinx. But it is the dragons which hold the greatest attention and they are given their due. Eastern and Western varieties are all represented, some in the form of huge models that are quite breathtaking. This alone might be worth the price of admission.

For more information visit [www.fieldmuseum.org](http://www.fieldmuseum.org) or call the Field Museum at 312-665-7400.



Chupacabra



Barong Ket

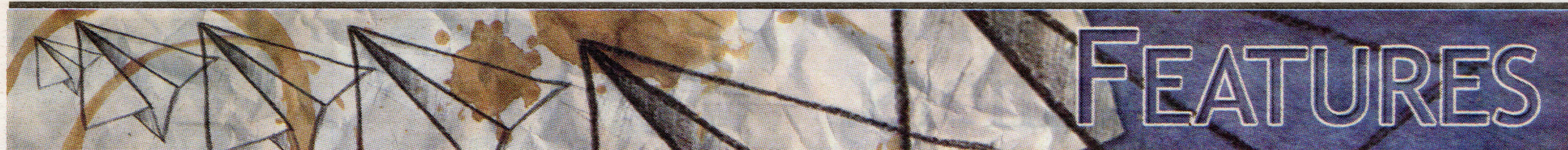


Gigantopithecus model

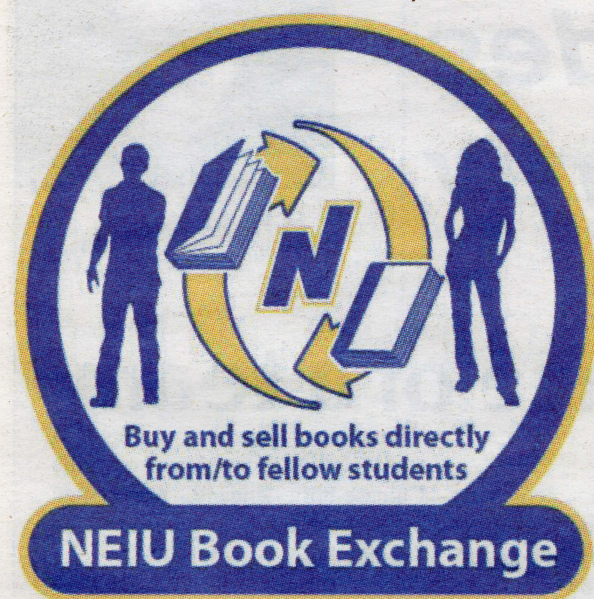


Garuda and Naga





# NEIU Book Exchange



by Iris M. Feliciano  
Features Editor

A new website helps students exchange, buy, and sell textbooks. The Book Exchange site was launched this summer by NEIU's Student Government Association (SGA). The site provides a local forum where students can post books they have for sale and search for books they wish to buy.

The NEIU Book Exchange is an online network for students similar to other online networking forums, such as Craigslist. Unlike online bookstores, the interactions are student-to-student. Along with book and course information, the site allows students to list their on-campus availability. Buyers and sellers are responsible for arranging to meet and set their own prices for books. The site also encourages the option to exchange one book for another similarly priced

text.

Since its launch on August 15, there have been a few posts to the site. The available books are still limited by student participation. Sunil Mahadeshwar, SGA Treasurer, is working to change this. He says, "It's not perfect yet, but we hope it meets students' expectations."

SGA members are advertising the site by posting flyers, creating Facebook groups, and requesting permanent links on the NEIU website and NEIUport. They are also asking professors to mention the book exchange during the first weeks of class as an alternative method of acquiring required course materials.

NEIU students often post "books-for-sale" signs on bulletin boards around campus. These signs are posted along-side a variety of other flyers. Mahadeshwar explains, "The website is more organized than the bulletin boards, and it's easier to use."

The SGA is not concerned about competition with Becks or other textbook buyback sources. "We don't see ourselves as a take-over market. We're just trying to make things easier for the student," Mahadeshwar says. "Besides," he explains, "there are books they won't buy back. Students can sell books rejected by Becks by putting it up on the exchange site."

There are a few reasons campus bookstores may not buy back a book, including the sale of newer edition. However, some students admit to using older versions of books in order to save money. Timothy Cho, NEIU junior, says he usually sells his used books on textbooks.com. "They give more money back than the book store," Cho says. He says he would consider any alternative for cheaper textbooks. "The Book Exchange is a good idea and they should definitely put that out there," Cho says.

Having a campus book exchange is not a new

concept; it is currently modeled after a previous SGA Book Exchange. Nor is the forum singular to NEIU. The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign created the Illini Book Exchange (IBX) in 2002. However, the IBX works in coordination with the Illini Union Bookstore, the official bookstore of the University of Illinois. There are several independent book exchange forums such as Campus Book Swap, where students can search different campus networks and find students who want to sell their used books.

The NEIU Book Exchange is not working in conjunction with Becks on this issue. It is uncertain the impact a free student book exchange would have on funding and support for the university bookstore. However, no one at Beck's corporate offices was available for comment on the issue at the time of this publication.

Mahadeshwar's explains the change from the old SGA Book Exchange model to the new student-to-student exchange forum. "It's more about the university and less about the SGA," he says. He admits that students will still need the traditional bookstore when they cannot find anyone in the forum selling the texts they need. Mahadeshwar also touts the benefits of the exchange forums and the campus bookstore saying, "You can get books quicker and save on shipping costs." He says there is the convenience of "touching the book" and knowing exactly what you are buying, either at the bookstore or "when you meet the seller" through the Book Exchange.

The NEIU Book Exchange is still a work in progress. SGA members are planning to implement a rating system by which students can give feedback on the forum operations and on sellers' etiquette. In the meantime, students are already networking, either online or in person, to find the best deals on buying and selling textbooks.

NEIU Book Exchange [www.neiu.edu/~books](http://www.neiu.edu/~books)



by David Mosher  
Online Editor

The Internet has spawned many ingenious ideas since its conception, and for each creation there seems to be a legal battle against it. One of the strengths of the Internet is its wealth of information available to all who access it, and with that strength come those who seek to control it. Whether it is through getting rid of net neutrality or unfairly taxing Internet start-ups, the freedom of the Internet is constantly under pressure. The latest attack comes from the Recording

## THE DEATH OF INTERNET RADIO

Industry Association of America (RIAA) against Internet radio.

Internet radio stations are different from traditional stations, like what one may be used to hearing in the car. It generally caters to the listener or offers a much wider variety of domestic and international stations. Examples of such stations are the ever popular Pandora Radio and Live365. Pandora Radio gives a unique station for each user, depending on the user's

musical tastes. One can tell Pandora Radio if a song is good or bad, and the radio will change dependent upon the user's choices. The user can also have multiple radio stations, which is where Pandora Radio is getting itself into trouble.

Early last year, Internet radio stations paid the same fee as conventional and satellite radio stations. That soon changed when the RIAA decided that Internet radio stations were required to pay nearly double the amount of fees per song played per listener, compared to the other types of radio.

The problem with this fee is that Internet radios on average play more songs with fewer listeners, due to their limited popularity against the massive amount of Internet radio stations available. Coupled with the fact that most Internet radio start ups were just figuring out how to generate limited revenue through use of advertisements, the situation does not bode well for the future of Internet radio.

Currently, the radio stations are going bankrupt. Nothing has been done to change the ruling of the RIAA even with added pressure, and rates are slated

to go up even further by 2009. It seems the RIAA has been blinded by greed since accruing record losses through piracy and is seeking vengeance through other outlets. Unfortunately, the only effect this ruling seems to be having besides bankruptcy is the loss of domestic Internet radio. Many stations in the United States are now seeking to do business elsewhere to avoid costly fees.

Only time will tell how many will survive. Heaven forbid if we actually have to resort to a conventional radio receiver being placed on top of the monitor just to get a variety of legal tunes while surfing the web.



# Good manners, fast food and bad shoes:

## *a student's exchange experience.*

by Alicja Qandil  
Special Contributor

Let's be truthful and straightforward. As we Polish and French exchange students call it – let's be honest in a European manner. Don't get me wrong; I am not accusing Americans of some nasty addiction to lying. It just seems that the people I have encountered during my exchange experience have been more concerned with being polite and avoiding hurting anyone's feelings than with the plain truth. Before I could understand this, I am sure I sounded rude and offended many people with my brutal European honesty.

The concept of talking around the truth for the sake of niceness is only one cultural difference I faced during my troubled beginnings at NEIU. During my first classes, I was appalled to find that no one in a political science class, including the teacher, was sure how the United Nation (UN) Security Council is structured. The attitude was 'no big deal, just look it up.' Okay. Maybe. In Poland, this is the kind of knowledge any political science / international relations student acquires even before getting to college. Once at the university level, the Polish student can be awakened in the middle of the night and asked, "How many permanent members does the Security Council have?" Without so much as batting an eye, she would immediately answer "five" and list them all.

Frankly, I was really frustrated. Later, I understood that teaching about UN Security Council is not considered to be such a big deal. Instead of stuffing students' heads with knowledge that is easily available in books and on the Internet, teachers encourage more critical, analytical and creative thinking. It would be hard for me to learn this way in Poland. So after a full year as an international exchange student at NEIU, I have no doubts that this is unique and priceless experience.

Other exchange students deal with similar frustrations during the beginning of their stay, even if they do not say it out loud. Learning how to overcome many cultural differences and appreciating NEIU may take a little while for a foreigner. The multicultural environment of NEIU for a newcomer from homogenic Poland, (where everyone is white, Polish and Catholic), is not only the most precious feature that NEIU offers, but also the most challenging.

American culture has a lot of race-related topics that are taboo such as, understanding the stereotypes of African-Americans and watermelons or Asian immigrants and laundries. These racial issues are more mysterious to the foreigner when political-

correctness and politeness make it difficult to even discuss them out loud. Now I have a better understand about how a melon that originated in southern Africa was used as a source of hydration for slaves working in the fields and how this habit was later linked to derogatory stereotype of blacks in America; and about the emergence of thousands of laundry facilities started by Chinese men that immigrated without their wife or family and how this practical service later developed into business opportunities during the Great Depression. But this type of cultural understanding would not have been possible if not for NEIU professors, like Sara Hoagland or Cecilia Hayes, who do not hesitate to pick up the most difficult and controversial topics during their classes.

The multicultural environment of NEIU for a newcomer from homogenic Poland, (where everyone is white, Polish and Catholic), is not only the most precious feature that NEIU offers, but also the most challenging.

There have been other difficult experiences, like dealing with public transportation, Chicago winters and walking distances. I was recently forced to buy my fourth pair of sandals this summer because, after a couple days of walking, my shoes would just fall apart. Apparently, shoes are made to look nice and American distances are meant to be driven, not walked. But I still hold this little European habit of learning about a city by walking through it.

I also found it difficult to deal with the gigantic portions of delicious foods served in all kinds of restaurants. Eating out in the States is definitely different than it is in Poland. In Poland, it is relatively more expensive, but probably more of a social event rather than culinary event. We do not have even a tiny percentage of the variety of cuisines I have found in the U.S. and it is not so cheap to have, let's say, a Mexican burrito dinner. But here, I have often seen people eating their food very fast, trying to maintain some silly small talk, and then leaving restaurant very quickly. Europeans do the opposite – we have smaller portions, eat slower, stay for hours and talk.

I could keep listing cultural differences for a while. But one crucial issue specific to exchange students at NEIU is the university community experience. As a commuter school with no dorms, it is not easy to make friends. Many NEIU students are older, working adults with family obligations. It is hard to expect someone in that situation to spend a lot of time hanging out with some newcomers. But I have met many people here.

In spite of, and because of, my experiences here, I have been at NEIU for a year now although I had not planned to stay that long. I had an airline ticket to Poland for January that was wasted and another for May before I decided to stay a bit longer. Now, I have ticket for September. So I have to hurry up, finish writing this article and start searching for cheap flights back to Chicago.

# All the shades of grey



by Iris M. Feliciano  
Features Editor

## The face of a team

The closing ceremony for the 2008 Summer Olympics coincided with the closing ceremony of my summer break. However, mine was sans the pomp and circumstance. Over 36 million people in the U.S. viewed the Olympic ceremonies where Team USA collectively received 110 medals. My pre-semester routine didn't even include 110 people, including NEIU staff and faculty members, a few bank-tellers, and some bookshop dealers. My get-ready-for-school team wasn't doing any triple-back flips. But the cultural diversity among members of 2008's Team USA finally reflected faces of the teams I encounter daily.

The U.S. Olympic team included nearly 600 athletes from all over the country including 28 foreign-born citizens. The 29<sup>th</sup> Olympiad showcased the first ever Arab-American boxer, Sadam Ali, representing the U.S. Ali, a former National Golden Glovers Champion from New York, is of Yemeni descent.

As the Chinese watched their city light up for the world, David Zhuang received cheers from both the host country and his home

team. Hailing from New Jersey, the Chinese-born Zhuang, represented the U.S. in the men's single Table Tennis.

Then there is the extraordinary story of the Sudanese track and field star, Lopez Lomong. Lomong, whose childhood included being abducted by a militia group in Darfur and living in a refugee camp for 10 years, made his Olympic debut this summer representing the U.S.

The 28 foreign-born members of Team USA each have their own stories, as do the several first-generation Americans on the team. This is a testament to the changing state of American culture.

It is not new to see colorful faces representing the U.S. in our communities. During my summer-end, back-to-school routine, I bought my books from a Korean. I got some coffee at a Mexican bakery. I cashed a check with an Arab-American bank-teller. I registered for classes with an African-American advisor. I spoke Spanish with my new classmates. At NEIU, this is the color of my team. It is only about time that our global representatives begin to reflect the same diversity.

To contact Iris, email [i-feliciano@neiu.edu](mailto:i-feliciano@neiu.edu).



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\* This rate applies to members of the NEIU community only. An NEIU identification card must be presented at the time of purchase.

Name:

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Today's Date:

## CLASSIFIEDS

Wanted - Book:

'Richardson's Guide to the Fossil Fauna of Mazon Creek'

Shabica and Hay - 1997-

Will pay \$125 per original

Email me: [veomega@gmail.com](mailto:veomega@gmail.com)



# SPORTS REC “You can Zumba”

by Iris M. Feliciano  
Features Editor

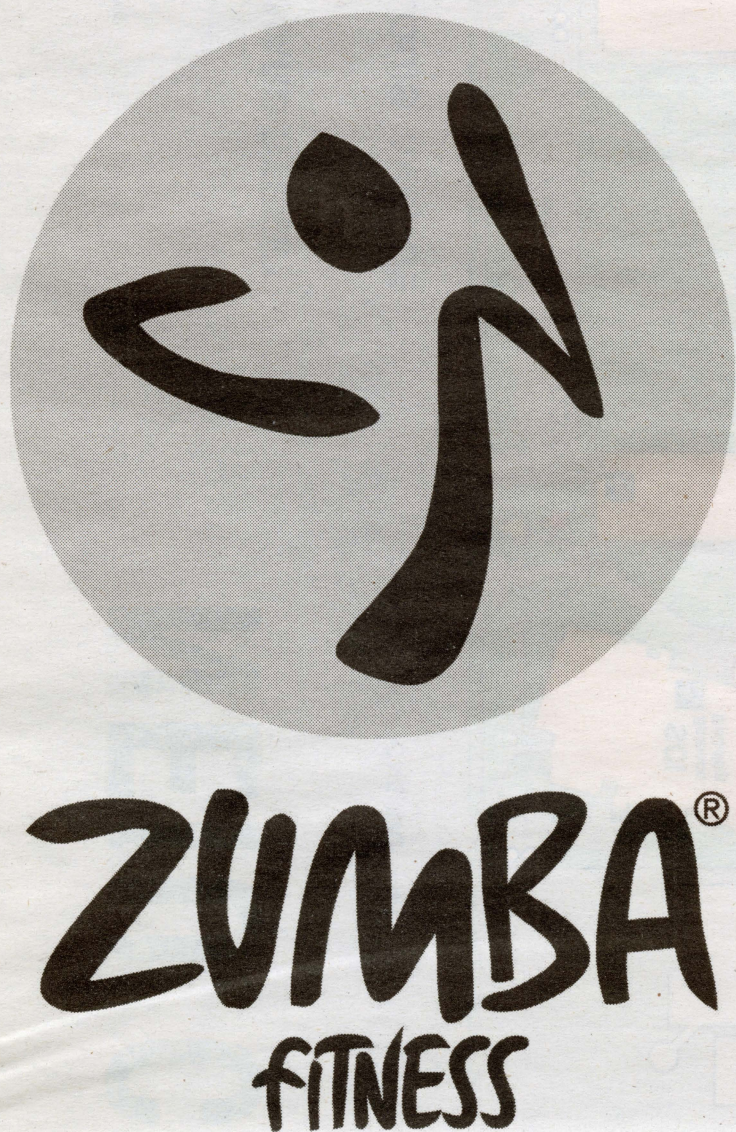


photo courtesy of www.neiucampus.com

Latin rhythms often conjure images of hot dance clubs and hot bodies. A new fitness program is banking on this image and fitness instructors at NEIU are cashing in on the craze. Zumba is a Latin-inspired fitness class that incorporates dance movements to Latin and international music.

Created in the 1990's by Colombian-native “Beto” Perez, Zumba was born out of innovation and creativity. When Perez forgot his music for an aerobics class he was teaching, he grabbed his favorite Salsa and Merengue music out of his car and improvised. The popularity of Perez's fitness routine grew and, in 1999, Zumba was introduced in the U.S.

The Zumba motto is, “Ditch the workout. Join the party.” As such, Zumba classes are structured more like a dance festival than an aerobics class. There is no cuing from instructors on when to lift or turn or jump or step. Zumba instructors face the class and dance. The class just follows along.

Zumba incorporates Salsa, Merengue, Cumbia, Reggeton, Samba, Hip Hop, and

Disco in an intermittent cardio workout. Each set lasts as long as the song plays. No previous dance experience is necessary. Martha Montes, NEIU Associate Director of Health and Fitness, was among the eight Campus Recreation staff members that attended the April training for Zumba certification. “If you can have a good time, you can Zumba,” she said.

Montes explained that she and the seven other newly-certified Zumba instructors spent the summer practicing and perfecting their routines. “The overall workout must be recognizable and adhere to the Zumba model,” Montes said. “But instructors can add their own signature and flair up to about 20 percent so each class will be different.”

The diverse specialties of the certified Campus Recreation staff will ensure no two classes will be the same. NEIU Zumba instructors include Diane Durfee, who currently teaches Pilates at NEIU; Jacqueline Lopez, an NEIU personal trainer; Kristin Burke, an NEIU fitness consultant; and certified Spin instructors Maria Jimenez and Jessica Sanchez.

Lucy Okaz, NEIU fitness consultant and newly-certified Zumba instructor, is also an experienced Latin dance instructor. However, she explained that no dance background is necessary. “Zumba uses real dance movements. You can even learn to dance in class.” For Okaz, “the goal is for students to have fun.”

Montes said, “It's like being at a club.” But she warns students from thinking it's not really exercise. “You'll definitely burning calories. We're working out upper body and lower body, and you will sweat,” Montes said.

Zumba has been added to the fall schedule of fitness classes. Like most fitness classes, Zumba classes are free to NEIU students. During NEIU's Fall into Fun week, September 8-12, there will be several demonstration classes for students to try out the different fitness classes being offered in the fall. The official launch of Zumba classes will include demonstrations from all NEIU Zumba instructors and will take place on September 12 at 11 a.m. in the first floor lobby of the PE complex.

by Lenny Ocasio  
Editor in Chief

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.

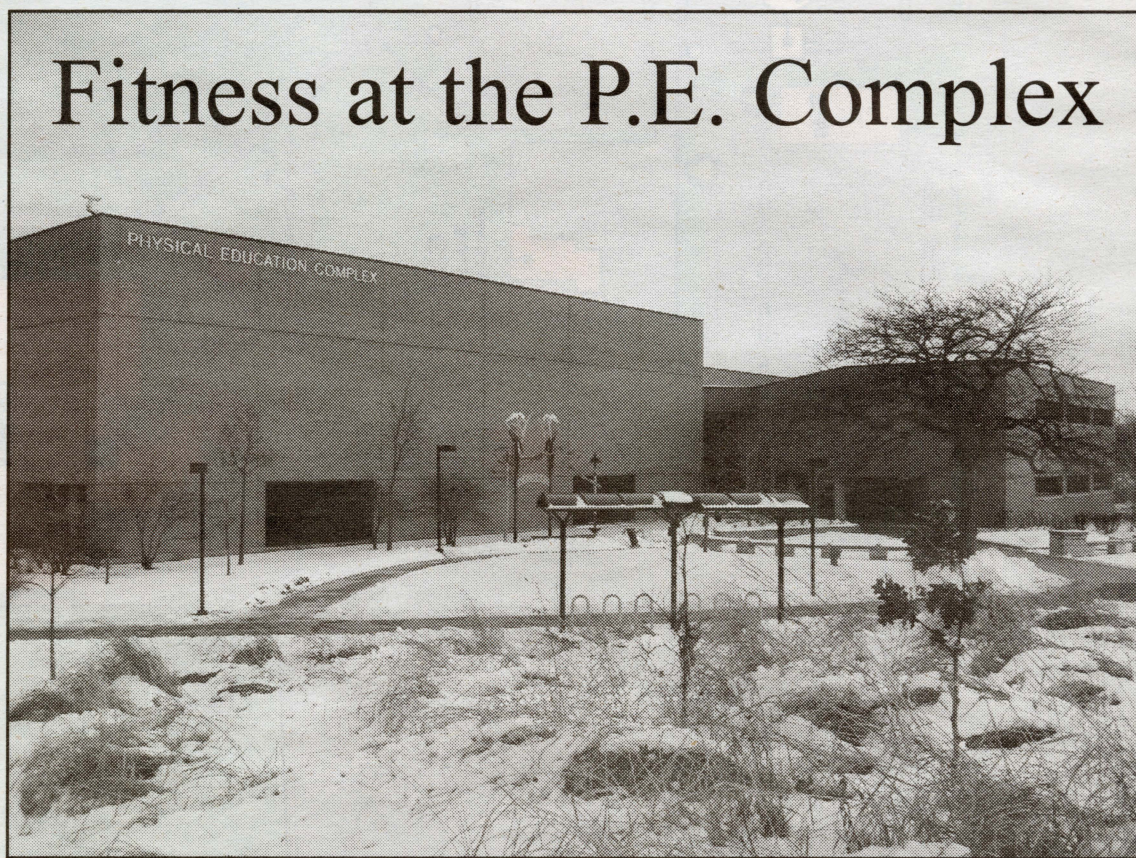
The Mind and Body classes like yoga and Pilates are available to everyone for a small fee. Members and non-members can also sign up for a personal trainer for a fee.

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 soccer, coed softball, basketball, and golf scramble. This semester, competitions will include tennis, dodge ball, kickball, and flag football.

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 and Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 4 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 (<http://neiuport.neiu.edu>), click the “Campus Life” tab, scroll down to the “Mind Body Connection” portal and click the “Campus Recreation link,” or call Campus Recreation at 773-442-4135.



# NEIU Campus map

