

Northeastern Illinois University
NEIU Digital Commons

The Independent (1988-present)

NEIU Student Newspapers

4-1-2009

Independent- Apr. 1, 2009

Lenny Ocasio

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

Recommended Citation

Ocasio, Lenny, "Independent- Apr. 1, 2009" (2009). *The Independent (1988-present)*. 403.
<https://neiudc.neiu.edu/independent/403>

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

INDEPENDENT

www.neiuiindependent.com

Member of the Associated Collegiate Press

Wednesday, April 1, 2009

Vol. 24, Issue 31

Senator Martinez Speaks About Her Voyage to Israel

by Victoria A. Tullock

Photo Editor and Co-News Editor

Senator Iris Martinez of the 20th district, a Northeastern Illinois University alum, came to NEIU on March 16 to speak to students and the community about her voyage to Israel.

Before speaking about Israel Martinez talked to the audience about the looming recession that has begun to affect people everywhere. Martinez has many ideas on ways to help lessen the pain of taxes such as finding out some feasible tax ideas. Although she is a strong opponent of tax increases with many programs barely hanging on Martinez points out that in order to save these programs and get other programs going we must work on a solution that we can all live with. Martinez hopes people will be understanding and suggest helpful ideas. After quickly addressing the recession issue that have had been weighing on the minds of many college students and residents she then went on to talk about Israel.



20th District Illinois State Senator Iris Martinez

and there were no bomb shelters around to escape. All that Aman could do was pull the car over and shield her children with her body.

Many Israelis must live with constant fear and many have had to deal with persistent relocation. However, Martinez said that the people were proud of their country and clung onto their belief that one day this will all end and they can live in peace again. Martinez also described a trip to a college that had been canceled because eleven rockets had fired into it, but luckily they kept the group safe. However, it serves as a reminder of how Israelis live every day with the threat that they may be caught in gunfire. However, she points out that most people who live in Israel and Palestine wish for peace, but there are groups on both sides who fight against the peace efforts.

Martinez was one of fifteen people nationwide that was selected to go on this trip. She learned about the issues and controversies that are plaguing not only the Israelis, but the Palestinians as well. She spent nine months preparing for the journey which included reading and learning about the country and its people spending twelve hours each day in

research. During her seminar Martinez shared a slide show of photos with the audience, which showed the country and its people.

Martinez explained how all citizens of Israel are obligated to serve in the Israeli military after graduating from high school, and commented on how proud they were to do

so. Then she told a story of an Israeli woman named Aman, a mother and psychologist who had two children, one of which was autistic. The woman struggled everyday to cope with the situation in Israel and the difficulties she dealt with on a daily basis with an autistic son. On one particular day while driving through a park in Israel a bomb siren went off

Martinez talked about how people should go over to Israel and see for themselves and find ways to help, and she also expressed how happy a person feels when they see a country that is fighting so hard to have peace it seems strange to Americans. The experience alone she described as surreal that it makes you realize “Oh my God thank

SEE Iris Martinez, page 3

Latinos in Science panel series

by Regina M. Torres
Senior Staff Writer

On Wednesday, March 18, the Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Initiative presented a “Latinos in Science” panel discussion for interested members of NEIU’s community.

The main objective of

this academic program’s series of panel discussions is to help foster education and promotion within the fields of science, thereby presenting these fields as more accessible to the Latino population. The demographic focus is geared specifically towards informing NEIU Latino undergraduate and graduate students of the inherent need for Latino representation within the many sectors of the sciences. The ongoing “Latinos in Science” panel series seeks to bring successful NEIU science professionals out to speak to students, along with professionals from other parts of Chicago as well.

During this panel series, a small roomful of mostly Hispanic students turned out during activity hour in room SU 218 to ask questions and take notes. Answering student’s questions and providing useful information based on personal experiences were two scientific

scholars; NEIU’s Dr. Ana Fraiman, and visiting professor/scientist Dr. Vladimiro Mujica of Northwestern University.

The discussion was steered by Dr. Ana Gil-Garcia, ELAD faculty and co-director of this ongoing project of panel series.

Fraiman began by speaking about her upbringing and the challenges faced in her pursuit of a scientific education, focusing on the added challenge of being a Latino female within the context of an already under-represented segment of the population, the scientific realm. Fraiman belongs to NEIU’s organic chemistry department. She related how Latinos within the sciences are an under-represented group, even by today’s standards. She went on to speak about her educational history and travels, while mentioning her interest in providing “a lot of mentoring” to interested parties. Fraiman is involved in research and other projects in order to help peak the interest in scientific learning within the Chicago Latino community.

On that same note, Mujica next opened up about his personal

SEE Latinos Science, page 3

The way to a paid internship

by Cesar Sanchez
Staff Writer

Internships that pay \$450 to \$480 a week are ideal for a recession time like now. Northeastern Illinois University, through a partnership with the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, offers such internships.

The internships are in different fields such as Justice Studies, Communications and Education to name a few, and are completely paid for by HACU.

HACU has been around since 1992 and started out as one agency serving 22 interns. Now since 1999 HACU works with over 40 federal agencies and has over 700 interns in many different states, mainly Washington D.C., according to Amanda Gonzalez, the traveling director.

Sophomores with an internship average about \$450 per week, while seniors average about \$480 per week. Airfare is included through HACU, as well as orientation and

lodging fees.

However, students must have a 3.0 G.P.A and must be at least sophomores enrolled full time for a semester to qualify. Also, students must submit a 250-500 word essay online expressing their major and areas of interest, including the state where they would like to intern. To apply a student can visit <http://www.HNIP.net> and the deadline for fall of 2009 is June 19.

Although housing isn’t covered by HACU, interns receive help from HACU to find affordable housing with other interns in the same field. HACU has helped interns in various fields and corporate jobs such as Hormel foods, Lockhead Martin, and Census Bureau to name a few. NEIU college credit can also be obtained through NEIU while doing an internship.

All who meet those requirements stated above are encouraged to submit their applications on <http://www.HNIP.net> and visit HACU’s site and <http://www.HACU.net>, said Gonzalez.



Dr. Vladimiro Mujica

March Is the Month of Revolution

by Michael Nguyen
Staff Writer

The Revolution may not be televised but it is a hot topic of discussion in "The Past and Future(s) of Revolutions: A Global Exploration," which is a series of conferences focused on the debates about the ideas of revolutions and revolutionary events abroad, current, and past. NEIU Academic Development, with key members such as Hamid Ackbari and Yasmin Ranny involved, hosted the event from March 9 - 12.

Many variations of the subject matter of the revolution were discussed. Tuesday 10, one of the lecturers discussed about the Marxist aspects of revolution in the keynote panel "The Marxian and Anti-Colonial Legacies: What Have We Learned from the Revolutions of the 20th Century?" Ronald Aronson, who is a professor from Wayne State University, discussed the importance of engaging socialism in American society.

"Americans don't see themselves as 'socialists'," Aronson said, "We are part of a meaningful social society." He explained that Americans must add the social experience to their life and look for "social solutions" to "social problems". The privatization of social process hampers the socialist reformations and capitalism itself destroys humanity.

Another lecturer was James Le Sueur, an Associate Professor of History from

the University of Nebraska, discussed the political changes in Algeria in his presentation "The Death of the Revolutionary Mystique: What Happened to Revolutionary Nationalism during the Carnage of the 1990s in Algeria?" Le Sueur said the political revolution in Algeria during 1990's is "a revolution that didn't happen." He explained the violent civil

conflicts led to a military dictatorship. It took a period of time until elected Algerian president Abdelaziz Bouteflika introduced reforms to limit the power of the military in government and granted amnesty to terrorist



Presenter, Ron Aronson speaking about the Marxism

Photo by Tracy Ellen

groups to encourage them to lay down arms.

Another important conference included in the event was the keynote panel "The End of Revolution? Iran, Nicaragua, and Beyond." Karen Kampwirth, Professor of Political Science and Chair of Latin American Studies at Knox College, talked about experiences in a Sandinista

Kampwirth also said that none of the female guerillas joined the revolution for gender equality; it is only after the revolution the feminist movement started.

Val Moghadam, Professor of Sociology and Director of Studies at Purdue University, discussed the feminist movement in Iran, describing the similarity of the Islamic revolutionists' actions of suppression against voices of dissent; pre-2009 the Islamic revolutionists arrested communists, and now currently they arrest feminists. She notes the growing female education in Iran which is aiding the feminist movement and culture, which may lead to further secularization of Iran.

Misagh Parsa, Professor of Sociology at Dartmouth dedicated his presentation to the refutation of Islamic Revolution in Iran as a religious revolution. He said that liberals in Iran were much involved in the revolution as the Nationalist Front. "The mosque was the safest place to criticize the Shah," Parsa said, "Once Khomeini took control of the mosque, no place was safe."

There is many a discussion and argument regarding the matter. However, it is clear that there is no right way to best define the revolution.

Nicaragua, with a focus on women who were involved in the revolution.

"Social revolutions are rare," she said, "People put their differences aside and come together when a crisis is so bad."

Revolutions Conference at NEIU

by Sergio Guzman
Staff Writer

Northeastern Illinois University hosted a special conference from March 9 to the 12. "The Past and Future(s) of Revolutions: A Global Exploration" heavily focused on the Nicaraguan and Iranian revolutions, celebrating the 30th anniversary of their revolutions. Other themes included the EZLN revolution in Chiapas, Mexico, Marxism's history, and the Cuban revolution, among other subjects. A series of movies were also presented throughout the conference. The titles included "John Adams", "A Place Called Chiapas", "Lucia", "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised", and others.

On March 9, Cyndi Moran presented the movie "A Place Called Chiapas" which focused on the struggles of the EZLN revolutionary movement in the Mexican state of Chiapas. The film was produced by an independent Canadian production group,

Canada Wild Production. The crew spent over seven months in Chiapas filming. The filming crew heavily concentrated on the residents of the village of La Realidad who were forced to leave the town because they supported the Zapatista movement. The narrator made an emphasis to stress that these individuals were unarmed and simply wanted their ejidos back. The ejidos was land that was promised to peasants by the Mexican constitution. This land was taken away as a result of the signing of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

The film crew interviewed many of these villagers and many of them claimed that they left their villages out of pure fear. The film showed the local men in La Realidad forming their own small militia for the purpose of defending themselves and their village from, what they claimed, the unpredictable Zapatista supporters. This militia, who was responsible for many unjust beatings and deaths, ironically called themselves "Peace and Justice". This militia also blocked and forbade the Zapatista supporters from returning to their villagers. As the narrator explained, "They have become refugees in their own country."

"A Place Called Chiapas" ended with the Zapatista supporters moving back to La Realidad after they negotiated with "Peace and Justice" and the

Chiapas State Police. The Zapatista supporters were basically tired of waiting for the EZLN to protect them. When the supporters returned to La Realidad the film crew was attacked by rocks that were hurled by "Peace and Justice" members. The same militia also did not answer directly when they were asked if they were going to let the refugees live in



Karen Kampwirth, Professor of Political Science and Chair of Latin American Studies at Knox College

Photo by Michael McNelly

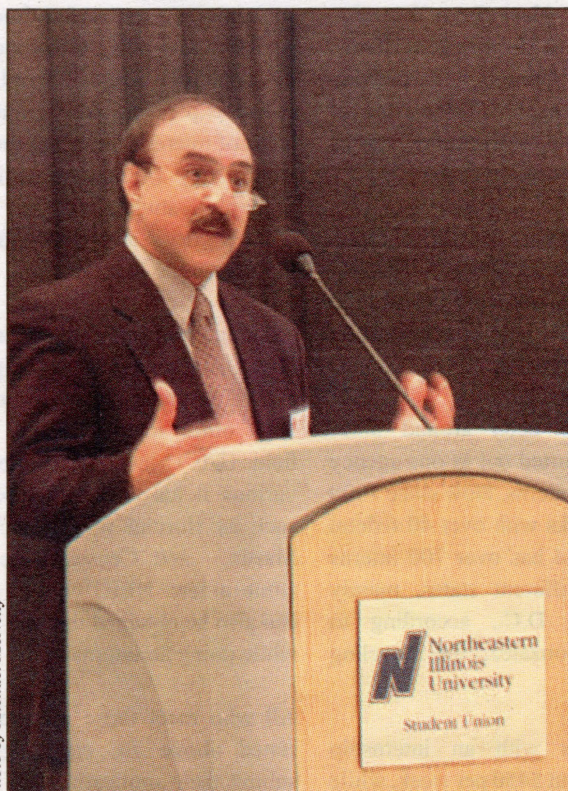
peace. The crew asked the viewers to think critically about the injustices La Realidad's refugees were experiencing and how they were being unjustly attacked by a group who supposedly claimed to be carriers of freedom and righteousness.

Besides screening a number of films, the Revolutions conference also held several panels and discussion workshops. The panel "A New Route: Autonomy--EZLN of Mexico/Santa Anita Peace Community of Guatemala" mentioned the importance of social revolution in countries that have suffered years of upheavals and violence as a result of governments catering to businesses instead of public needs. A short clip of a Guatemalan farmer emphasized the significance of having his own business that did not involve large capitalist interests. The clip also stressed the importance of education and how parents just want to leave their youth with something, anything to help them move on in life. The panelists informed the attendees that through a government that would allow real representation of the people in Guatemala, more than 2% (which is the current percentage of Guatemalan teenagers that attend high school) of the Guatemalan population would have the opportunity to develop their educational skills.

The workshop "Teaching Reform,

Resistance and Revolution in Higher Education" educated the attendees on the steps and struggles of teaching reform, resistance and revolution in the classroom. Two NEIU professors shared their experiences in teaching these subjects to their classes. June Terpstra lectured on how to successfully reach a sense of resistance. Terpstra claimed that resistance meant "clamping down your teeth with no intention of letting go." She also mentioned that in order to reach full resistance one must know the history of the invader, the oppressed, and the occupied.

Brett Stockdill, another NEIU professor, spoke about activism at the local level. He mentioned the free speech impediment NEIU has attempted to force upon its students to support his point. He also drew connections between the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan with the oppression of undocumented immigrants in the United States. Lastly, editor John K. Wilson shared his knowledge on activism and its effects on higher education. He explained how some individuals argue that professors should not teach political activism in class. These individuals claim that professors that do teach activism in class teach it in a biased form, ultimately resulting in skewed opinions.



Fakhreddin Azimi, History Professor at University of Connecticut

Photo by Michael McNelly

continued, Iris Martinez

God we live in a country like the United States.” Martinez was amazed by the people who lived in Israel and along the Gaza Strip and their resilience, strength, faith and love for their country and it was an experience that she said she never will forget and one from which she has learned much.

The Senator also took questions and comments after the seminar from the audience. She then went on to see the booths set up in the student union and reminisced with the Ensemble Espanol studying under Libby Komaiko when she was a student at NEIU. She also went to go see President Hahs and received an award from the school.



UPCOMING EVENTS AT NEIU

March 30- April 3- 14 Annual Asian American Heritage Conference Various times and locations	Alumni Hall Patriotas Boricuas- Human Rights in the Puerto Rican Context A lecture organized by Que Ondee Sola and Union for Puerto Rican Students 1:40 p.m.- 2:40 p.m. CLS 100	Career Awareness Workshop Series- Education 1:40 p.m.- 2:40 p.m.- CLS 1001	Sponsored by the Graduate College 9:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m. B 158
April 1 Into the Woods, a musical by Stephen Sondheim 7:30 p.m. NEIU Auditorium Free for NEIU students, faculty and staff, \$10 general admission	Pre-Health Presentation Midwestern University- Pharm, PT,PA,OT,DO and more 1:40 p.m.- 2:40 p.m. SCI 102	April 3 Asian Lion Dance and Variety Show Presented by Chinese Student Club 6:30 p.m.- 7:50 p.m. Alumni Hall Free Admission	April 9 Pre-Health Presentation University of Illinois, Chicago- College of Nursing 1:40 p.m.- 2:40 p.m.- SCI 102
April 2 NEIU University Day 1:40 p.m.- 5:00p.m.		April 4 Professional Development Seminar Series- Project Management	Career Awareness Workshop Series- Social Work 1:40 p.m.- 2:40 p.m.- SU 003



Staff

- Editor-in-Chief**
Lenny Ocasio
- Associate Editor**
Cheryl Lyman
- Production Manager**
Francisco Nieto
- Business Manager**
T.C. Chung
- Business Assistant**
Vicky Donates
- News Co-Editors**
Victoria Tullock
Michelle Jacobson
- Opinions Editor**
Gregg Christie
- Entertainment Editor**
Jonathan Gronli
- Features Editor**
Michelle Jacobson
- Online Editor**
David Mosher
- Photo Editor**
Victoria Tullock
- Photographers**
Tracy Ellen
Michael McNelly
- Production Editors**
Megan Pigoni
Marchesa So
- Graphics Editor**
Michael Nguyen
- Senior Copy Editor**
Anna Cannova
- Copy Editors**
Natalie Cattouse
- Senior Staff Writers**
Regina Torres
Kaitly Nicastri
- Staff Writers**
Adam Salamon
David Mitchell
Whitney Behr
Sabrina Gasulla
Theresa Celmer
- Media Adviser**
Tasha Neumeister
- Faculty Adviser**
TBA

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

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

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

The Independent is published every other week except during summer and semester breaks. Deadlines are 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.

Independent
Northeastern Illinois University
Room E-049
5500 N. St. Louis Ave.
Chicago, Illinois 60625
773-442-4577

neiu_independent@yahoo.com
www.neiaindependent.com

continued, Latino Science Panel

experiences, starting with the fact that he was born in Venezuela. He has traveled much abroad in his quest to pursue his education in science, specifically chemistry. Mujica expressed how this natural science is very high up on the abstraction ladder, as compared to language per se. He, like Fraiman, spoke on some of the rewards and frustrations found in the practicing/ studying of the sciences, such as found in scientific research. Mujica also noted (just as Fraiman) how the rewards for Latinos in the sciences are apparent, but how the reality is that it is harder for a non-U.S. born person to adjust to another culture



Group discussion

successes and satisfaction within their respective fields, while facing and overcoming challenges faced along the way.

With poor workforce representation within the sciences regarding the Hispanic population (only 3.2 percent according to the National Science Foundation) the “Latinos in Science” panel series strives to interest budding Latino scientists and other professionals to reach for their goals. By providing access to information through open discussion, the panel seeks to build further interest and representation in the scientific community for the Latino population.

while pursuing upper-level learning.

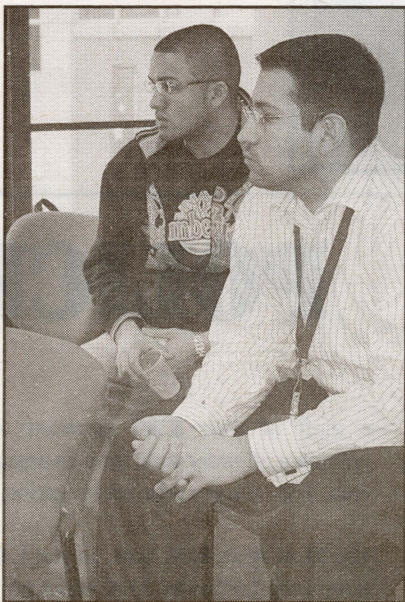
In general, it was interesting to note how both Fraiman and Mujica have found many



Dr. Ana Fraiman
Speakers of Latinos in Science Panel



Dr. Ana Gil-Garcia, Co-director of the project Latinos In Science



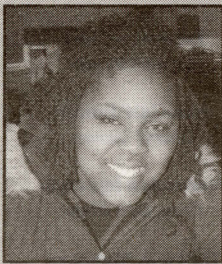
Students, Jose Fulgencio (left) and Student trustee, Eduardo Arabu Jr. (right)

The Independent is hiring staff writers, graphic artists and photographers.

Come to E-049 for details or call 442-4577.

ADVERTISEMENT

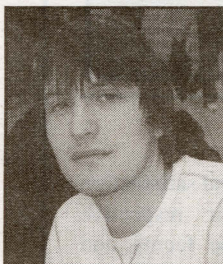
What was your most memorable April Fools joke?



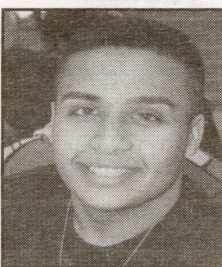
Darlicia Montgomery
Freshman

"I told my mom I was pregnant and she almost took me to the hospital. At first, she kept questioning me and when she started the car I told her April Fools."

"When I was younger, my mom told me that there was a mouse behind me, I looked and freaked out."



Alex Britton,
Freshman



Nick Rashid,
Freshman

"In high school journalism class, our class made a fake newspaper and everyone believed it."



Tony DeAsa,
Senior

"In 6th grade, a guy had a crush on my friend (a girl), so we convinced her to ask him out, of course he said yes, then she said April Fools and he ran away crying."

Here is what you said....

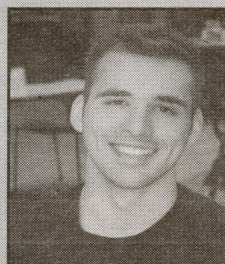
Photos by Tracy Ellen



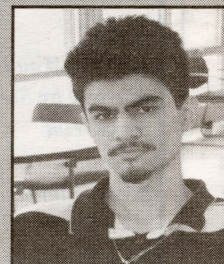
James Ki,
Freshman

"My friend's sister had gotten a body cast for his friend and he wrapped him in it and pushed him in a wheelchair all day and made everyone think he was in a car accident. Then at the end of the day, he got up, took off the cast and just walked away."

"At work I called my girlfriend pretending I got hurt and that something fell on my hand. She came rushing to see me and I told her April Fools; but later that night, she got me back by saying she was drunk at a party and made out with her ex-boyfriend."



Patrick Meraz,
Sophomore



Salvador Gaytan,
Senior

"The most memorable April Fools joke was when our whole class showed up 15 minutes late - the original plan was to get everyone to skip class."

"When I was little, I went in my parents room when they were sleeping and screamed that there was a rat on the floor."

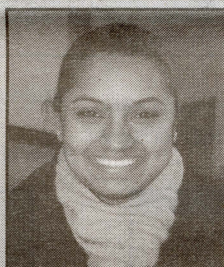


Stephanie Subach,
senior



Karolina Rebielak,
Senior

"My mom always wanted me to get good grades, so on April Fools, I told my mom I got a bad grade on a test."



Upexa Kevat,
Senior

"In high school, someone made brownies for everyone, and when she ate it, it wasn't sweet at all, the person put all different spices in the brownies."

POLICE BLOTTER

On Mar. 2 at 6:30 p.m. in the Classroom Building a theft of over \$300 occurred when an unknown offender stole credit cards from the office and made several illegal charges on the cards. The case is under investigation.

On Mar. 3 at 10:18 a.m. in the P.E. Building

a theft of over \$300 occurred when an unknown offender stole from an unsupervised area. The case is under investigation.

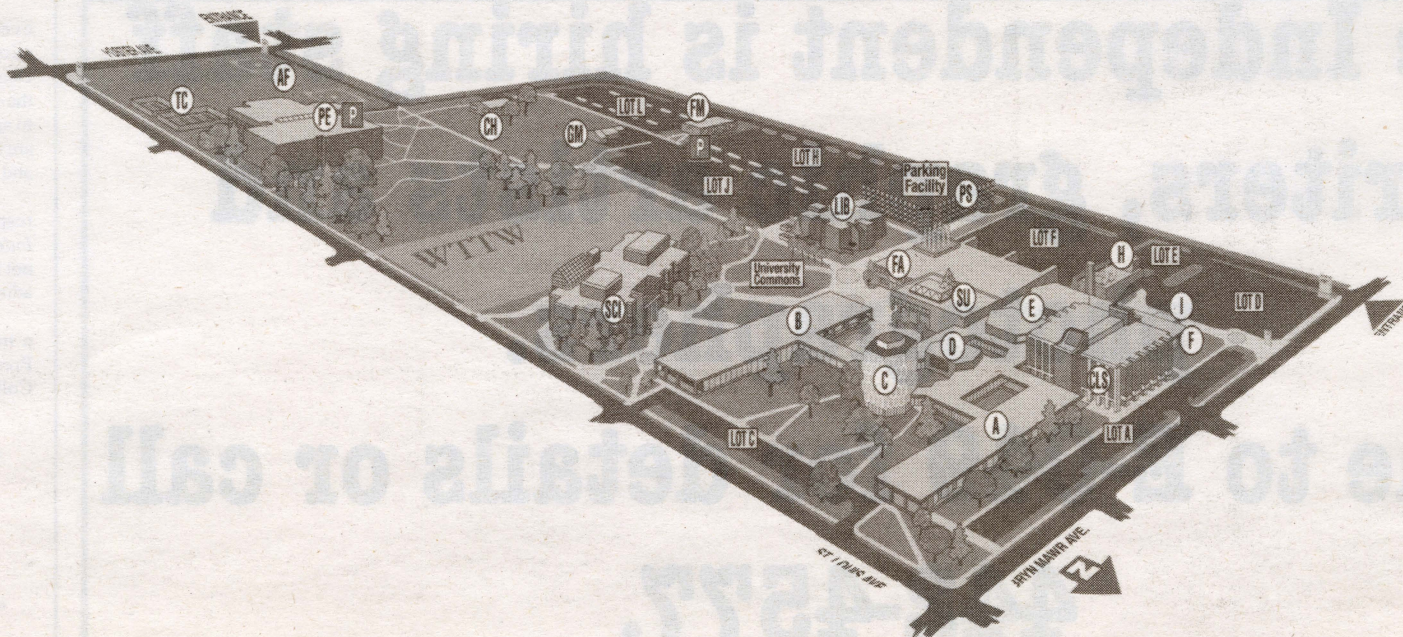
On Mar. 6 at 5:36 p.m. in the Library 4th floor a theft of under \$300 occurred when an unknown offender stole a victim's I-Pod from

book bag. The case has been administratively closed.

On Mar. 9 at 1:05 p.m. on the 2nd Floor of the Garage an unknown offender "keyed" a victim's car while it was parked on campus. The case has been classified as

criminal damage to property and has been administratively closed.

On Mar. 10 at 11:00 a.m. Property Control reported a laptop stolen a theft of under \$300 dollars by an unknown offender. The case has been administratively closed.



STOP CHECKING YOUR PHONE. IF *she* CALLS, YOU'LL HEAR IT.

With Free Incoming Calls, you can enjoy the calls
you get, not worry about paying for them.

getusc.com



U.S. Cellular

believe in something better

©2009 U.S. Cellular.

Editorial Board

Lenny Ocasio *Editor-in-Chief*
Cheryl Lyman *Associate Editor*
Vicky Donates *Business Manager*
Frank Nieto *Productions Manager*
Michelle Jacobson *Co-News Editor*
Victoria Tullock *Co-News Editor*
Gregg Christie *Opinions Editor*

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

Letter to the Editor

I was horrified to read the letter by Professor Harry White "A Jewish Voice against Zionism". The professor's main point is that Israel has no right to exist both from the stand point of Judaism and International Law, it is these two points that I will address. If the Arabs are correct that the Jews came in and usurped a land, then the professor would be correct in his assertion Israel was one of the "two major mistakes in the middle of the last century". However if the Land of Israel is the eternal heritage of the Jewish Nation, historically and religiously speaking, then the re-birth of the State of Israel is was a tremendous blessing.

When the professor stated that Israel is "in violation of Geneva accords to which it is a signatory, to colonize neighboring territory", I am not sure what he is talking about. The Jewish communities of the West Bank are not located in an "occupied territory." The last binding international legal instrument which divided the territory in the region of Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza was the League of Nations Mandate, which explicitly recognized the right of Jewish settlement in all territory allocated to the Jewish national home in the context of the British Mandate. These rights under the British Mandate were preserved by the successor organization to the League of Nations, the United Nations, under Article 49 of the UN Charter. 2. Until 1993 there was never in history a Palestinian State or autonomy of any kind. Meanwhile the Jews have reestablished sovereignty for the third time in their history. It is therefore natural for Jews to build homes and communities in these areas. 3. The territory of the West Bank and Gaza Strip was captured by Israel in a defensive war, which is a legal means to acquire territory under international law. In fact, Israel's seizing the land in 1967 was the only legal acquisition of the territory this century: the Jordanian occupation of the West Bank from 1947 to 1967, by contrast, had been the result of an offensive war in 1948 and was never recognized by the international community, including the Arab states, with the exception of Great Britain and Pakistan.

I would like to provide some examples of the Jewish-Israel connection: Hebron in which lies the tomb of the Jewish patriarchs and matriarchs, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rivkah, Jacob and Leah; Bethlehem, and its tomb of our matriarch Rachel (second wife of Jacob); Schem (Nablus) which hosts the Tomb of our prophet Joseph; Shilo in which the remains of the Jewish Tabernacle are still visible; Jerusalem, where King David and Solomon reigned, where the first and second holy Jewish Temples were built and destroyed, and where the third Temple awaits; Hashmonayim, the home of the courageous Maccabees; Massada and Betar, where holy martyrs fell resisting the Roman occupation.

When the professor writes, "Throughout Judaism, land has never been holy", I wonder if he has ever opened any Jewish holy book of any kind. Chronicles - 16:15-18 states: "Forever remember His covenant that he commanded forever; That He made with Abraham and swore to Isaac; and confirmed to Jacob, a decree for Israel, as an eternal covenant; saying to You I will give the Land of Cannan (Israel) as your allotted heritage". The national command on the Jews to settle and conquer the Land of Israel is repeated at least 10 times in Deuteronomy. One of the greatest deciders of Jewish Law, Rabbi Moshe Ben Nachman (Ramban) wrote "We are commanded to posses the land that the almighty God gave to our forefathers... and not to leave it in the hands of other nations or in desolation, as it says, 'posses the land and live in it' (Numbers, 33:53) ... we may never leave the land in the hand of other nations in any generation." Numerous rabbinic authorities concur. You may not like it, but this is Judaism.

Unfortunately we were unable to perform the holy command of "inheriting and conquering the land" for nearly 1900 years. As we say in our prayer service, "Because of our sins, we were exiled from our country and ripped from our land". Now due to the grace of God, for a brief period in the middle of the last century, the hearts of the nations were opened and they helped to facilitate our return to the land. The same land that the Romans illegally occupied after ethnically cleansing most of our people 1900 earlier. We have merited seeing the first signs of redemption as the Talmud teaches. "Rabbi Abba taught, 'There is no greater sign of redemption than this, as it is written (in Ezekiel ch.36), 'You O mountains of Israel will give forth your branches and give forth your fruit for My People Israel will soon return'".

Anticipating the speedy and complete redemption of the Nation and Land,
 Yosef Rabin
 Jewish student at NEIU
 Ret. Sergeant, 97th battalion, Israel Defense Force

PS. Zionism is as Jewish of a concept as refraining from eating at non-Kosher restaurants like Manny's Delicatessen.

Commentary

What would Jesus do?

by **Ryan Storck**
Staff Writer

Give up your churches. It's time for lent, right? I am asking for everyone who believes that the correct way of life would be to follow Jesus Christ and his teachings to give up something extremely valuable to them. I'm saying that if you really want to live in the way of Christ, then you have to give your churches. There is no other way.

I walk around the city of Chicago and I see churches that people attend every Sunday morning, afternoon and Saturday night. I see churches with people dressing in their finest, and I see them throwing money into a wicker basket passed along for contributions. I also walk around the city of Chicago every morning and see people that live on the street, morning, afternoon and every night. I see people asking others for change, for a little help. I see them asking for acknowledgement.

Give up your churches because you can. Keep the same belief, the same faith. Do something for humanity with that faith. Give them up for people who don't have the luxury of paying for a building only used on Sundays and a few religious holidays, a building such as your church. I'm reaching out to all Christians because they have the capacity to do something about this problem. There are hundreds of Christian churches in Chicago, if you count all the denominations.

There are also thousands of people who are homeless in Chicago. They sleep on the sidewalks, between the buildings where you work, in the

trains that you take to work, and on the benches in the parks where you walk your dog. You have seen them, they have nowhere to go and no one to go to. You need to realize what is happening and ask yourself, "What would Jesus do?"

So what *would* Jesus do? Based on the stories I have read, from what people say he was like, I have a pretty good idea of exactly what he would do. He would see that there are people living on the streets who take the fact that it's raining outside more seriously than forgetting their umbrella at home. These people don't have a home to leave an umbrella in!

He would do something to shelter them. He would not look through them on the corner of a downtown intersection. He would not pretend he was looking at his cell phone, or changing the song on his I-pod, while passing a suffering palm turned up to him. He would see those people and he would see all those churches, and he would lead the homeless to desperately needed shelter.

You have churches; there are many of them in Chicago. Instead of giving money to the people who tell you to be good, be good people and give up your apathy for people who could truly use your help. I know many churches in the city reach out and have dinners for the homeless. To those churches I say thank you. Yet I, and presumably Jesus, would also say that it is not enough.

Many churches have gyms with fifty foam mats for people to sleep on a couple of nights a week. We are stuffing human beings into church gyms. I say give them everything; all the space you have. Rip out the wooden pews and instead assemble beds on your Sunday mornings. You can still go to church any day you want, but instead of singing from a book and shaking each other's hands, saying "peace be with you", bring peace to other humans by lending your hand to help someone in need.

It will get messy. Sometimes problems will arise, but if you think Jesus is looking down at you and judging the way you are treating one another, then giving up the churches to house your fellow man will look better to him than any weekly hymnals or prayers. If you believe Jesus is watching you, then what do you think he would say about your indifference? He would want you to show others your love. You love and believe in Jesus, and He loves *all* human beings. Therefore you must love all human beings with him. Show Jesus how much you love him and give up your churches. Simply worshipping him is no longer enough. You have to act.

Everyone can help. I'm not asking for compassion from just the Christians. I will be there when the decision is made for this change. I will help along with everyone else. Email me at: R-storck@neiu.edu and let me know when we can begin.

NEIU Online Classes are a Joke

by **Victoria A. Tullock**
Photo Editor

As I sit down at a computer, preparing to register for my summer classes, I quickly find myself frustrated with the schedule. I had planned on getting a full-time job this summer. My plan was simple: get a full time job and take online courses. Except for one problem, there were none.

Well, let me backtrack a bit on that statement. Yes, there are online course, but they are mostly 300 or 400-level, with an extremely minimal amount of lower level ones scattered here and there. This means that I will have to take actual in-class courses, which further frustrates me because all the classes I need are offered at the same time and on the same day!

So I say to myself, "What is wrong with this school? Doesn't anyone sit down and consider the students when they create these schedules?" If I am willing to make the trip to school during the summer, then why can't the teachers? It is a difficult situation for me, because I need to stay a full-time student to keep my full military benefits. On the other hand, if I work instead of going to school, then my graduation date is postponed. But I only have so many months left on my grant in the first place.

I am tired of school! I want my degree, just like most students here. I thought this was a school that offers cheaper tuition for the same amount of time spent attending other schools? Maybe it's just me, but it seems like the average student is here for more than four years, which

means that in the long run the school is getting just about the same amount as many other school do.

I argue that this is about the so-called online classes they offer here. As I see it, other universities and community colleges have great summer and online courses to offer, so why doesn't NEIU? I asked President Hahs this question at the last town hall meeting, and her response was that they keep the summer classes that fill up and get rid of classes that don't do so well.

Really? So all the introductory classes people need to complete their general education requirements do not get filled? Do the 200-level courses people need in order to move forward in their major also have the same problems? I am not saying that this is not true, yet it's extremely hard for me to believe. I can only say this, because I hear complaints by students about this issue everyday that I walk these hallways.

I know it is not just me who is frustrated with the lack of summer or online classes. NEIU should at least offer more courses on the 100 or 200-level, and if they do not get filled by a certain date, then just cancel the course. It would show that they at least made the effort. Isn't that all a student really wants from their school? The school expect it from us as students, so don't we have the right to expect the same in return? So in my last attempt to reach out to NEIU on this subject, I beg of you, please post more online classes for the students. If a class doesn't fill up, then cancel it. But please give us more of an option then you are giving us now, which in my view is little more than nothing.

ENTERTAINMENT

An Evening with Dzhuryn

by Gregg Christie
Opinions Editor

Recently, NEIU's Music Department proudly showed off their fine new acquisition. On Friday, March 13, pianist Ivana Bukvich joined faculty cellist Nazar Dzhuryn for a passionate evening of cello and piano masterworks in the Fine Arts Recital Hall. Dzhuryn came across as accomplished and confident to a very receptive audience that night, allaying any concerns that the university may have hired the wrong man.

It took a while for this feeling to sink in, however, as the first piece came across somewhat dry and uninviting. Giuseppe Valentini's sonata seemed a weak choice, and there were problems with Bukvich's playing. It was unclear whether she was properly warmed up or if there were structural issues since the music was originally just for piano. Perhaps it just wasn't a very good piece.

After Valentini, the duo tackled Schubert's "Sonata in A Minor, D. 821." The first movement, a moderate allegro, brought out more energy in the performers. Then came the adagio, where we see Mr. Dzhuryn handling the movement's emotional depth and complexity with consummate skill. Ms. Bukvich's keyboard work finally begins to pay off near the end, where she finally seemed to find her

voice.

In the third and final movement, the allegretto, Dzhuryn shared with the audience the somber melancholy and deep, wrenching passion of later Schubert. This allegretto moves so beautifully, and playing in close harmony they indeed showed the audience the way, walking us through Schubert's melodic progressions with tight and well-rehearsed precision. Their own passion for the piece was also readily evident.

After the intermission, Bukvich retired from the stage so that Mr. Dzhuryn could tackle one of the most iconic cello pieces of the modern age. Hungarian composer Zoltán Kodály's "Sonata for solo cello, op.8" is perhaps the epitome of solo cello's showpiece. It is a deep and somber work, so Slavic and serious. Its long, cruel notes blend together into a tonal landscape of sad beauty and deep contemplation. Dzhuryn demonstrated complete mastery of this work, adeptly conquering the tricky pizzicato work and deliriously sonorous melodies.

Kodály called his third movement an allegro molto vivace. It speaks to me of a secret, inner resonance, of the dark places within us all that never rest. Dzhuryn brought us to that place and only let us breathe again with the piece's final notes. He moved us through the sonata as only one whose serious study and

understanding of Kodály's work could have accomplished.

Afterwards, Bukvich rejoined him for a series of short works by Manuel de Falla called "Suite Popular Española." The piano playing was superb throughout, and for a moment each piece opened a window onto a particular emotion. Serious respect must be placed before Bukvich for her shining performance in the contemplative, slow serenade of the "Asturiana," and in the serene and sad "Nana." However, the pieces were too short to develop any serious structures within them, much less the simple harmonies of a song form. Altogether, de Falla merely teased his public with these fragments, so that they could hardly be called anything more than snippets.

Finally the ensemble arrived at Prokofiev. Sergei Prokofiev was a master of the delicate interplay found in the more accomplished examples of instrumentation. His chamber pieces are a case study in this crucial balance, a tonal bargain between the musicians. The renowned French composer Maurice Ravel was another master at this balancing act. The structure might wander, but never too far, and playing Prokofiev on the concert stage always requires a high level of skill and a whole lot of practice. Nor was the audience disappointed, as Dzhuryn and Bukvich's working relationship paid off

wonderfully.

One problem with this piece was that the acoustics in the recital hall couldn't handle the full volume of a Steinway grand piano, so at times the cello was drowned by this booming assault. Ms. Bukvich also tended to slightly overplay the heavier parts, yet she more than made up for it in the lighter sections. Her sensitivity to the delicacy of emotions in this sonata reminded me of her renderings of the Schubert and de Falla, that careful perfection she used when communicating with her keyboard.

The third movement, an allegro ma non troppo, showed Dzhuryn's playing falling a bit short. It seemed a bit sparse, somehow not evocative or emotive enough for the score. In his defense, this is at least partially due to Prokofiev's score, in which he seemed to have stuffed a bit too much ornamentation into the conclusion. In orchestral music, this often tends to drain the theme of its emotional intensity.

Leaving the hall at the end of the recital, I could only come away with the sense that I was both entertained and fulfilled, and that I would be very excited if Mr. Dzhuryn performed at NEIU some time in the future. Having thoroughly enjoyed his near-flawless performance and the skillful and beautiful playing of his piano counterpart, I might be persuaded to skip a class just to see them again.

Ana Castillo: "I didn't know what I wanted to be, I just wanted to be me"

by Victoria A. Tullock
Photo Editor

The office of cultural events brought renowned poet, novelist, short story writer, painter, and essayist Ana Castillo to NEIU.

Ana Castillo was born and raised in Chicago and is an alumni of NEIU, even though she was a secondary education major, she said she spent most her class periods writing poetry. Ms. Castillo got through college on scholarships and worked hard

to stay out of the factories. She currently resides somewhere in New Mexico close to the border and Juarez, Mexico. This is where she has found new inspiration to write about.

She shared what she saw a few years ago while taking a morning view of the Franklin Mountains. She asked herself what it would be like to be someone on the other side watching a loved one leave to cross the border.

As Ana Castillo continued, she read a piece from one of her novels. The room seemed to stand still as she read, the words were captivating. She becomes Regina, a woman on the other side of the border awaiting her brother's return, and talks about the crimes of killing women in the deserts of Mexico. I do not wish to talk about too much of her book, but it was an exciting and a sad story at the same time.

Later, Ana Castillo took questions from the audience and then took time to sign copies of her books owned by fans and students. She encourages "her people" as she states to write their stories. If you are interested in obtaining some of Ana Castillo's work, they are available at the Ronald Williams Library.

Works Available:

"I Ask the Impossible"
"Sapogonia"
"Massacre of the Dreamers"
"So Far from God"
"The Mixquiahuala Letters"
"Watercolor Women, Opaque Men"

"Les" is more

by Dan Dziedzic
Staff Writer

Come with me, and you'll be, in a world of Pure Imagination. That was the song, fittingly playing as concertgoers left the Mutated Mini Fest at the Riviera on Saturday night. It was a black lit evening affair filled with creepy costumes, mangled masks and psychedelic sounds courtesy of Les Claypool and the rest of The Oddity Faire.

Claypool came on stage looking a little Willy Wonka and a little Clockwork Orange. The long-nosed mask and derby were accented by banners of mutated half-animal, half-human heads, which are also featured on the cover of his new album, "Of Fungi and Foe."

The set began as Claypool slowly paced the stage, bass, looking to be an extension of his own body, strapped across his shoulder. He acknowledged the roar of the crowd, which featured the likes of hippies to metal heads to someone wearing a weird large dog costume. The band started with an old favorite, "Buzzards of Green Hill" which got the crowd into a set-list that lasted over 90 minutes.

The energy from the crowd was pretty high the entire show. This was especially true when Claypool brought out his Whamola, a very rare bass instrument played with a drumstick, for the song, appropriately named, "Whamola". His arsenal overflowed throughout the show as he also jammed on his dobro bass for "Booneville Stomp", inciting the sea of people into a torrent. After the song ended, it was percussionists Mike Dillon and Paulo Baldi's turn to take over. A staple of



Les Claypool is known for doing music for such shows as Robot chicken

every Les Claypool show, they treated the crowd to an explosive percussion battle with their expansive drum and xylophone set-up.

The evening seemed to peak with "Cosmic Highway", a long psychedelic trip to a place that only Les Claypool and his soothing bass guitar can take you. The trip that was the Oddity Faire ended with a treat for long-time fans. Claypool serenaded the crowd with an encore of "D's Diner", a familiar end for anyone who has been up all night chasing away sobriety.

The Faire also featured DeVotchKa, whom have appeared on the soundtrack for the film *Little Miss Sunshine*. They played an interesting mix of American folk rock with Eastern European overtones. The crowd embraced most songs with melodic clapping and dancing to the beat of the music. However, some slower songs tended to lose the audience's attention. Also performing at the faire was the mostly inaudible def poetry progressive rock of Saul Williams and Secret Chief 3.



Ana Castillo speaks to her fans and students in the NEIU recital hall.

Waller and Maxwell spread some guitar appreciation

by Gregg Christie
Opinions Editor

Anne Waller of Northwestern University and Mark Maxwell of DePaul have been touring the western world for over twenty-five years. Needless to say, they have had plenty of years together, in the practice and recital halls of the finest universities and music foundations.

It was both a pleasure and an honor for the NEIU Music Department to host their performance on Thursday, Mar. 12. This is especially true since our own faculty guitar instructor Brian Torosian studied under Maxwell and had the opportunity to join them on stage.

They began the recital with five short Elizabethan Lute duos. An anonymously penned ballad called "La Rossignol" was short and sweet, a truly gorgeous tune. There were several dance pieces as well, but the jewel was Thomas Robinson's "A Plaine Song." A very lovely song, melodic and reflective, they played it with intuitive depth.

Soon Torosian joined them for a rendition of Filipo Gragnani's Trio for Three Guitars, Op. 12. All of the early pieces were played on beautiful period instruments, and as an introduction to the piece they proudly displayed their guitars, explaining their histories.

Gragnani's piece is all about filigree and ornamentation, which is your classic baroque sound; with room for the performer's own improvisations in the second movement.

The Allegro's performance saw a missed note or two, but it was played with a warm and rich fullness that did justice to the composer. Then the Tema con variazioni was performed with subtlety executed and wisely crafted improvisations by all. Finally came a Minuetto, with a brisk, soft and complex structure that required careful delicacy in the playing. It is not an easy thing to coordinate three guitars in such a work, yet these guitarists pulled it off with extremely smooth and well-practiced form. It was a joy to hear this piece again; so familiar and warming were its melodies.

Before the intermission, the Waller and Maxwell Duo tried to tackle Fernando Sor's Fantasie, Op. 54 bis. I had mixed feelings about the performance, as I thought they got off to somewhat of an uneasy start. There were a couple more mistakes from Mr. Maxwell, less avoidable to the ear within the context of the composition's tight structure than were his earlier mishaps. Moreover, Ms. Waller couldn't quite handle the dramatic ascending runs that were such

an important aspect of the latter part of the first movement.

As Sor's Fantasie progressed, their playing seemed dry and cold for a while, lacking the passionate, vivacious Spanish air that Sor had written into the work. Yet by the third, an Allegro called *Danse le genre Espagnol*, the playing finally warmed up to the task and their years of working together finally salvaged the performance.

Maybe what they needed was a bit of rest, because their playing did not falter after the intermission. A series of short tonal 'polymetric' studies by contemporary composer Dusan Bogdanovic were interesting and very well executed. "Reversible Cowboy," with its horse canter rhythm was jaunty and cool, a very jazzy little piece. "Hommage a F. Mompou" was melancholy, with a quirky depth to it. The rest were not as interesting, and they were all too short to be extraordinarily impressive to those who don't actually play the guitar. One would just get a taste of the piece when it would suddenly end, which was very frustrating to sit through.

Joaquin Rodrigo's classic Tonadilla was the best played of all their chosen works, and ultimately the most satisfying. This was especially

apparent in the second movement, with its proud and rich themes. There is such perfection of composition in Rodrigo's piece. So contemplative, like staring at ripples on a pond, with that slow Spanish rhythmic style that gradually morphs into a Flamenco dance, then back to the main theme. I had heard this composition many times on a CD, yet closing my eyes and listening to it performed live truly took my breath away.

The third movement, performed in Vivace, is by all accounts extremely difficult to play. Waller and Maxwell were nearly perfect in their attempt, and their enthusiasm for Rodrigo really showed. With that prickly, strident theme that gives way to an undulating, almost liquid reprise, it was all superbly played in rich tones and ease of transition.

They finished the piece to resounding applause, and then came back for an encore with the "Ritual Fire Dance," Manuel by De Falla. A spunky, feisty piece, they devoured it with skill and passion. By the final notes they had found a perfect harmony and balance with one another. A second, even louder round applause was well deserved. Another good night of good chamber music at the recital hall was enjoyed by all.

Women's right to composition

By Sabrina Gasulla
Staff Writer

The NEIU Department of Music offered a concert featuring "Women Composers" Tuesday, Mar. 10 during activity hour at Recital Hall. The concert featured faculty and student artists (both male and female), all performing music composed by notable women of the music world in honor of "Women's Day" (Mar. 8).

This included "Artistry in Viola", a piece by faculty artist Shelley Foster Gurin. The piece, a crowd favorite, showcased the beautifully rich sounds of the viola as well as its versatility, an exploration of the varied sounds the instrument can produce. Guest artist Loretta Gillespie bowed, plucked, strummed, and struck her viola expertly.

The concert opened with "Kokopelli", a piece for solo flute by Katherine Hoover, performed by Trent Santonastaso. This seemed an apt choice for the occasion as Kokopelli is a fertility deity presiding over childbirth agriculture and music in some Native American culture of the Southwestern U.S. Santonasto's flute soared in this stirring performance.

Faculty members Lydia Snow and Jeff Kowalkowski on piano performed two beautiful lieder by Alma Schindler Mahler and a chanson by Nadia Boulanger. These songs are essentially poems set to music, the words of a poet inspiring the composer. Though Snow offered translations of the poems before

singing each song (first two in German, the last in French), the meaning came through loud and clear through the artistry of the composers, matching tone, subject and emotion in the original poems.

The third piece, "Interlude from Piano Sonata #3" by Emma Lou Diemer proved remarkable both for its simple musicality and the skill with which Kiyona Ohshika performed it. The second movement of Diemer's third sonata is short but features interesting achievements in harmonic color.

Jane Kenas-Heller sang a medley of songs by Carrie Jacobs-Bond, accompanied by Michael Melton on piano. Both of them are faculty artists. "The Half-minute Songs" (though some were shorter than 30 seconds) were funny and provided a light-hearted source of enjoyment for the audience (as well as the performers), showing Jacobs-Bond's great skill at combining music with lyrics and a bit of social commentary.

The last piece was a clarinet quartet by Yvonne Desportes, performed by Matthew Bordoshuk, Jason Thomson, Miguel Hernandez and Konrad Pawelek. This piece, titled "French Suite" really showed the extensive range of the clarinet and provided a lovely finale for the concert.

Music composition seems to still be a predominately male-dominated field and it was certainly enlightening to listen to very skilled performances of music composed by some remarkably talented women.

ER closes its doors

by: Theresa Celmer
Staff writer

Set in the heart of Chicago, the longest running medical drama in U.S. history will be closing its doors after 15 seasons.

"ER" premiered on Sept. 19, 1994. It originally starred Anthony Edwards as Dr. Mark Greene, George Clooney as Pediatrician Doug Ross, Sherry Stringfield as Dr. Susan Lewis, Eriq LaSalle as surgeon Peter Benton, Noah Wyle as Dr. John Carter and Julianna Margulies as Nurse Carol Hathaway. It currently stars Parminder Nagra as Surgeon Neela Rasgotra, Scott Grimes as Dr. Archie Morris, John Stamos as Dr. Tony Gates, David Lyons as Dr. Simon Brenner, Angela Bassett as Dr. Cate Banfield and Linda Cardellini as Nurse Samantha Taggart.

The show has had many memorable episodes including "The Pilot" where we learn that Nurse Carol Hathaway has attempted suicide possibly over her relationship history with pediatrician Doug Ross. Season one also had the classic episode "Love's Labor Lost," where Dr. Greene misdiagnoses a pregnant woman with preeclampsia and as a result of the mistake she later dies.

In season 2 in the episode "Hell and High Water," Dr. Doug Ross saves a boy from a storm drain. In season three the episode "Union Station" where Dr. Susan Lewis leaves the ER to live near her sister and niece in Phoenix and Mark Greene finally tells Susan of his feelings for her.

In Season 5 in "The

storm parts I and II," Doug Ross decides to leave ER and relocate to Seattle after showing a mother how to change the medication for her dying son and leaves his love nurse Carol Hathaway in Chicago. Season six had "Great Expectations," where Carol gives birth to her and Doug's twin daughters Tess and Kate. Season six also had "Be Still My Heart," Dr. John Carter and medical resident Lucy Knight (Kellie Martin) get stabbed by a mentally ill patient and Lucy does not survive. Also in the episode "Such Sweet Sorrow," Carol Hathaway also leaves the ER and reunites with Doug Ross in Seattle.

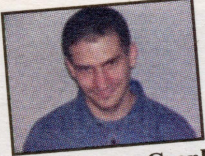
In season eight in the episode "On the beach" Dr. Mark Greene dies of a brain tumor in Hawaii. In season 11 "The show must go on," Dr. Carter leaves the ER to work in Africa. In season 12 in the episode "The Gallant Hero and Tragic Victor," Neela's Husband Dr. Michael Gallant (Sharif Atkins) dies in Iraq. In Season 13, in "The Honeymoon is Over," Neela learns of her former roommate and love interest, Ray Barnett's (Shane West) double leg amputation after being hit by a truck. In Season 15 in "The Book of Abby," Dr. Abby Lockhart (Maura Tierney) leaves the ER and relocates to Boston with her Husband Dr. Luka Kovac (Goran Visnjic) and their son Joe.

"ER" has had many memorable guest stars over the years including Rosemary Clooney who played a delusional singer, Bradley Whitford who played the widowed Sean O'Brien. Sanford Misner was featured as the patient Joseph Klien, who Carter reads Walt Whitman's "Leaves Of

Grass." Ewan McGregor showed up as Duncan Stewart, who holds up a liquor store with Carol Hathaway inside. The list goes on with other actors whether they are high profile one or ones looking to make a name for themselves

As this series draws to a close, many familiar faces have already returned or will be returning during this final season. In an episode titled "Heal Thyself," Anthony Edwards reprised his role as the beloved Dr. Mark Greene in a flashback sequence as he cared for Dr. Banfield's dying son. William H. Macy who portrayed Dr. David Morgenstern appeared in the episode, "A Long Strange Trip" to visit Oliver Kostin. Noah Wyle guest starred as Dr. John Carter in five episodes in search of a new kidney and to work in the ER. Shane West also came back to his role in two episodes as Dr. Ray Barnett in "Haunted," where he comes to visit Neela and we learn he has prosthetic legs, and "Shifting Equilibrium," where Neela leaves the hospital for a new position and reunites with Ray. In the episode titled "Old Times," George Clooney, Julianna Margulies, and Eriq LaSalle return as Dr. Doug Ross, Nurse Carol Hathaway and Surgeon Peter Benton. We learn that Peter Benton now works at Northwestern while Carol and Doug are now married and work at a hospital in Seattle.

Sherry Stringfield who portrayed Susan Lewis is also returning and so are many other beloved characters in the series finale titled "And in the End" that airs on Apr. 2 on NBC at 9 p.m. ER has entertained many viewers over the years. It will be greatly missed.



by Jonathan Gronli
Entertainment Editor

Beyond the veil of madness

Writing madness

OK. This is the first column that will cover something that has little, if anything, to do with horror. I'll be plugging my blog, titled "Skeletons in the Closet."

Yes, even though this is my outlet for madness-inspiring horror in its many forms, I have many other tastes and views. So much so that even the two other writing gigs I have outside of the paper don't really suffice. I'm very much like Stephen Colbert the way he opens up "I Am American (And So Can You)." Where he's still talking after the camera stops running, I'm still writing after the story(ies) are sent to the editor. It isn't an ego-trip or anything like that. It's just an overabundance of

material out there.

So my writing for this paper isn't enough. Neither is writing for Gamertell as I do. It obviously isn't enough for Associated Content either. The blog might make a dent in that need for being productive that I have.

So what am I covering with the blog? Good question. A better question, even though it is cliched, is "what am I not covering with the blog?" It's going to be me talking about where my knowledge lies. It's politics and satire. It'll be film in general, because even though I am very knowledgeable about horror, the biggest section of my film collection is romantic comedy (Just because we all need

to laugh and need to feel loved. Yes I had one of those cheesy, sardonic Gregory House smirks plastered across my face while writing that). It will also cover literature. Even though I love horror and dark fantasy, the biggest parts of my book collection are political thrillers (Thank you Tom Clancy and Robert Ludlum) and crime novels (Thank you James Patterson, James Ellroy, Brett Easton Ellis and the list goes on).

While I will be doing mostly analysis, commentary and reviews, sometimes I feel the need to be creative. This means that when the muses are plucking the right strings, I might try my hand at fiction. Sure these will all be short

stories, unless a demand for more lengthy stories pops up. These will largely be bizarre stories that would fit more under horror and dark fantasy than anything else but hey, if it works.

So check it out every once in a while. I could use the company. "Skeletons in the Closet" can be found at jgronli.wordpress.com. For consistent readers, and I know you exist since some of you actually come up to me to talk about my column, don't worry. I'll still be returning to the flat out madness of it all in this column until I graduate.

Jonathan Gronli will still be around. If you want specific things to be



image courtesy of notepad.tv

covered by all means let him know by e-mailing jon.gronli@gmail.com

ESTABLISHED IN CHARLESTON, IL
IN 1983 TO ADD TO STUDENTS GPA
AND GENERAL DATING ABILITY.

JIMMY JOHN'S
Since **JJ** 1983
WORLD'S GREATEST GOURMET SANDWICHES
Corporate Headquarters Champaign, IL

\$4.99
8" SUB SANDWICHES
All of my tasty sub sandwiches are a full 8 inches of homemade French bread, fresh veggies and the finest meats & cheese I can buy! And if it matters to you, we slice everything fresh everyday in this store, right here where you can see it. (No mystery meat here!)

#1 PEPE®
Real applewood smoked ham and provolone cheese garnished with lettuce, tomato, and mayo.

#2 BIG JOHN®
Medium rare choice roast beef, topped with yummy mayo, lettuce, and tomato.

#3 TOTALLY TUNA®
Fresh housemade tuna, mixed with celery, onions, and our tasty sauce, then topped with alfalfa sprouts, cucumber, lettuce, and tomato. (My tuna rocks!)

#4 TURKEY TOM®
Fresh sliced turkey breast, topped with lettuce, tomato, alfalfa sprouts, and mayo. (The original)

#5 VITO®
The original Italian sub with genoa salami, provolone, capicola, onion, lettuce, tomato, & a real tasty Italian vinaigrette. (Hot peppers by request)

#6 VEGETARIAN
Layers of provolone cheese separated by real avocado spread, alfalfa sprouts, sliced cucumber, lettuce, tomato, and mayo. (Truly a gourmet sub not for vegetarians only..... peace dude!)

J.J.B.L.T.®
Bacon, lettuce, tomato, & mayo.
(The only better BLT is mama's BLT)

THE ORIGINAL JJS

\$4.08
PLAIN SLIMS®
Any Sub minus the veggies and sauce

SLIM 1 Ham & cheese
SLIM 2 Roast Beef
SLIM 3 Tuna salad
SLIM 4 Turkey breast
SLIM 5 Salami, capicola, cheese
SLIM 6 Double provolone

Low Carb Lettuce Wrap
JJ UNWICH®
Same ingredients and price of the sub or club without the bread.

JIMMY TO GO® CATERING
BOX LUNCHES, PLATTERS, PARTIES!
DELIVERY ORDERS will include a delivery charge of 50¢ per item (+/-10¢).

★ ★ JIMMYJOHNS.COM ★ ★

\$7.71
THE J.J. GARGANTUAN®
This sandwich was invented by Jimmy John's brother Huey. It's huge enough to feed the hungriest of all humans! Tons of genoa salami, sliced smoked ham, capicola, roast beef, turkey & provolone, jammed into one of our homemade French buns then smothered with onions, mayo, lettuce, tomato, & our homemade Italian dressing.

\$5.90
GIANT CLUB SANDWICHES
My club sandwiches have twice the meat or cheese, try it on my fresh baked thick sliced 7-grain bread or my famous homemade french bread!

#7 GOURMET SMOKED HAM CLUB
A full 1/4 pound of real applewood smoked ham, provolone cheese, lettuce, tomato, & real mayo!

#8 BILLY CLUB®
Choice roast beef, smoked ham, provolone cheese, Dijon mustard, lettuce, tomato, & mayo.

#9 ITALIAN NIGHT CLUB®
Real genoa salami, Italian capicola, smoked ham, and provolone cheese all topped with lettuce, tomato, onion, mayo, and our homemade Italian vinaigrette. (You hav'ta order hot peppers, just ask!)

#10 HUNTER'S CLUB®
A full 1/4 pound of fresh sliced medium rare roast beef, provolone, lettuce, tomato, & mayo.

#11 COUNTRY CLUB®
Fresh sliced turkey breast, applewood smoked ham, provolone, and tons of lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (A very traditional, yet always exceptional classic!)

#12 BEACH CLUB®
Fresh baked turkey breast, provolone cheese, avocado spread, sliced cucumber, sprouts, lettuce, tomato, and mayo! (It's the real deal, and it ain't even California.)

#13 GOURMET VEGGIE CLUB®
Double provolone, real avocado spread, sliced cucumber, alfalfa sprouts, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (Try it on my 7-grain whole wheat bread. This veggie sandwich is world class!)

#14 BOOTLEGGER CLUB®
Roast beef, turkey breast, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. An American classic, certainly not invented by J.J. but definitely tweaked and fine-tuned to perfection!

#15 CLUB TUNA®
The same as our #3 Totally Tuna except this one has a lot more. Fresh housemade tuna salad, provolone, sprouts, cucumber, lettuce, & tomato.

#16 CLUB LULU®
Fresh sliced turkey breast, bacon, lettuce, tomato, & mayo. (JJ's original turkey & bacon club)

#17 ULTIMATE PORKER™
Real applewood smoked ham and bacon with lettuce, tomato & mayo, what could be better!

★ SIDES ★

- Soda Pop \$1.36/\$1.59
- Giant chocolate chip or oatmeal raisin cookie... \$1.59
- Real potato chips or jumbo kosher dill pickle.... \$1.13
- Extra load of meat..... \$1.36
- Extra cheese or extra avocado spread \$0.68
- Hot Peppers..... \$0.68

FREEBIES (SUBS & CLUBS ONLY)
Onion, lettuce, alfalfa sprouts, tomato, mayo, sliced cucumber, Dijon mustard, oil & vinegar, and oregano.

WE DELIVER! 7 DAYS A WEEK
CHICAGO 3234 W. FOSTER AVE. 773.539.SUBS (7827)
"YOUR MOM WANTS YOU TO EAT AT JIMMY JOHN'S!"®

©1985, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008 JIMMY JOHN'S FRANCHISE, LLC ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. We Reserve The Right To Make Any Menu Changes.

Do you know what could've gone here? An ad or one of your stories! Come down to E-049 and find out more!



Tweet with the Independent!
Follow us on Twitter@NEUIndependent
for event updates,
breaking news, and more!

ADVERTISEMENT

Women's art: an escape to nature

by Gregg Christie
Opinions Editor

What makes artists tick? And what about women's art might be a recurring theme? As part of the International Women's Month, the Ronald Williams Library hosted the sixth annual NEIU Women's Artist Exhibit, which ran from March 2 - 13. Perusing the exhibit's wealth and diversity of art definitely showed a common theme among the majority of pieces. In a word, it was nature.

Feminine forms and references to women's history were seen here and there, but most works were either images or representations of the natural world. An unexpected but welcome theme, it was the dominant aspect of the exhibit if one took the time to look. The variety of approaches and techniques were impressive, from beautifully painted beach scenes to recycled tree stumps utilized as sculpture, as well as more iconic and recognizable images painted or woven onto stark backgrounds.

Maybe immersing themselves in nature is an unconscious way for these women to escape from the stress of the big city and their own hectic lives. When interviewed, they often had similar things to say.

Netiva Caftori, a professor of computer science at NEIU said, "I love being in nature. I spend all my free time in

summer outdoors." She had found a large piece of alabaster and carved into all sides of it many faces and forms, some feminine or masculine and some beastly. The sculpture was a wonderfully incomprehensible blur of figures and shapes, challenging one's imagination to drift where it may.

Jean Potillo of administrative informationsystems works with fabric mosaics, painstakingly cutting and sewing cloth together into works with the emotional depth and sensory detail of an oil painting. When asked what her art was to her, she simply said, "complete and utter satisfaction." On the subject of art being an escape or an outlet, she remarked, "An outlet for an overactive imagination, takes my focus from my job or my current stress and redirects it into a project that I can hundred percent control."

Alice Brinkley reused old stumps she found because she wanted to pay respects to all of the trees destroyed in last year's floods. "I see beauty in nature and now I'm in a sense trying to recreate it by using found objects of nature," Brinkley said.

Jill Althage spoke of an inner world. "I like to describe the part of nature that looks one way, but on closer inspection opens you [to] another aspect. I like my pieces to invite one to look inside," said Althage.

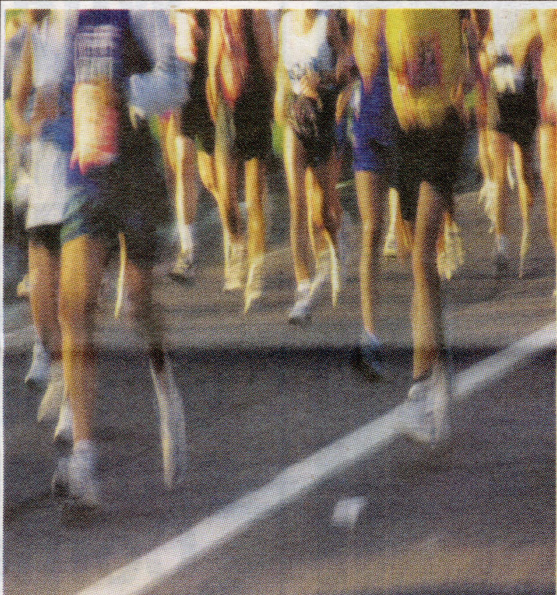
Many others said that their art was basically an outlet for their stress, to let their minds run free and be creative.

Others saw it as a form of communication to the world at large. Christina Joe showed her untitled painting that featured a ghostly figure bound to the ground with string and bent over tree stumps, set in a barren and ethereal background.

"For me, creating art serves as a way to understand and communicate personal thoughts, memories, impressions, ideas and experiences that I don't know how to put into words," said Joe.

Theresa Walloga showed profound artistry in her own work. "The Girls" was a portrait of her own daughters; a fundamental statement of feminine emotion and camaraderie, although she admits leaving room for the viewer's own interpretation. Another one of her oils was called "Gerhard's Corner," a salute to the artist Gerhard Richter. Visible on the canvas was a complex blending of the urban environment and natural forms, with a play of light within her brushstrokes softening the boundaries between tree and building.

The exhibit was a delightful success, and those who missed it will have next year's to look forward to. As for this past display, an interesting debate comes into play. Is nature where the female mind wanders when the rationality and structure of their modern lives falls away? Or is this form of escape just a symptom of living in a big and stressful city? Either way, there was no solid evidence found in the women's art on display, just some provocative food for thought.



The 2nd Annual NEIU Golden Eagle 5K Sunday April 19 9am Main Campus

NEI U Students \$10

Staff/Faculty/Alumni \$12

Community \$15

Sponsored by Campus Recreation & N E I U Running Club

www.neiu.edu/~campusrec
773-442-4131

-----cut here-----

Complete registration and take to the PE Co mplex for payment before A pril 1st, 2009

Last Name: _____

First Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

M F Age on Race Day _____
must be 18 years old on race day

Circle One: NEIU Student

Staff/Faculty/Alumni

Community

Signature: _____

Date: _____

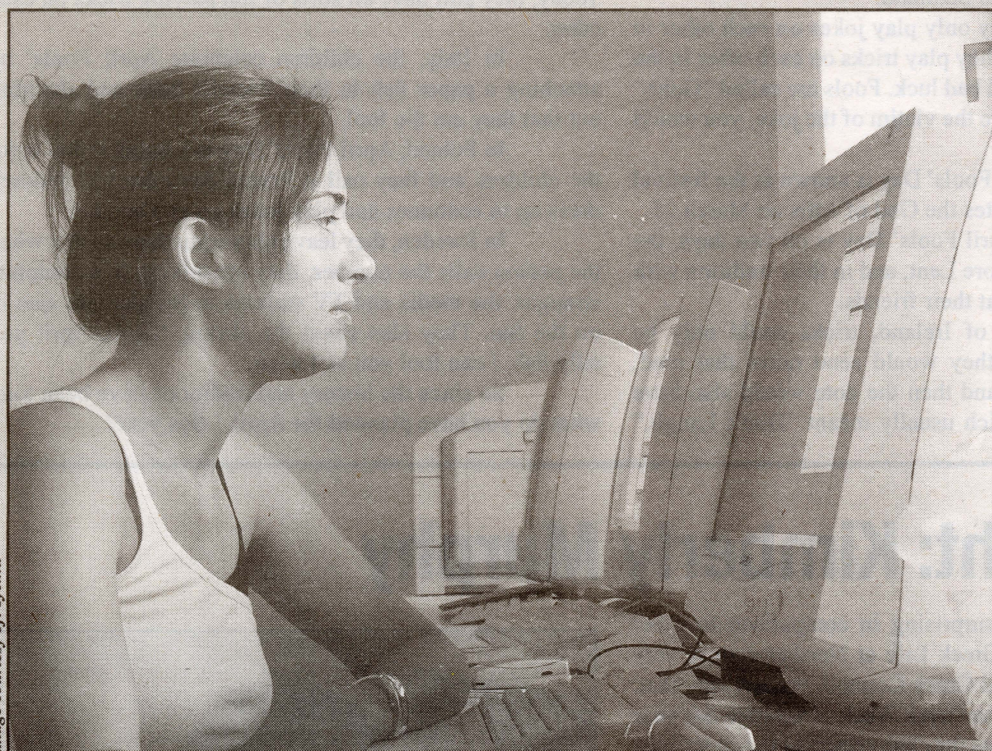
ADVERTISEMENT

**The Independent is hiring staff writers, graphic artists
and photographers.**

Come to E-049 for details or call 442-4577.

ADVERTISEMENT

Women AND TECHNOLOGY



by Theresa Celmer
Staff writer

In honor of Women's History Month, on March 19, Professor Netiva Caftori gave a lecture in her first year experience class (FYE) about women and computing, which is a presentation about the history of women and computers, and about why there are so few women in computing and what can be done about it. Here are some interesting facts from her lecture.

- According to a 2004 study, there are fewer women in computer science and engineering programs in universities and high schools.
- There are less women working in the industry for development and design software.
- Grace Hopper invented the term

"bug" for the computer if there was found to be something wrong with it like for example a virus is a type of bug.

- High school counselors don't really send girls to computer classes.
- The geek culture alienates women who resist it, some find it repulsive, and many see geek as the culture norm.
- In 2005, 63 percent of women were attracted to computers because of enjoyment.
- 32 percent are encouraged by other people.
- 38 percent of women are already in math and science related fields.
- 16 percent of PhD's in engineering were earned by women but only ten percent are full professors.



by David Mosher
Online Editor

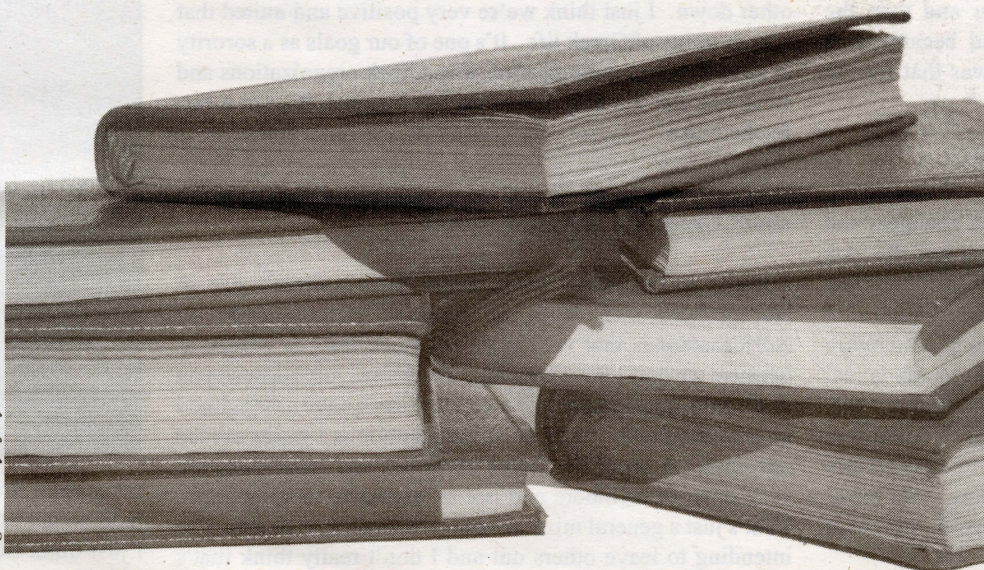
The original Kindle, produced by Amazon, was a landmark in the world of e-books. While e-books have existed for some time, they haven't caught on quite as much as Amazon probably hoped.

The Kindle 2 hoped to remedy that problem. It has a whole list of new features and enticements, not to mention the alluring promise of not having to carry around heavy books all the time. Indeed, it advertises a capacity of 1,200 books. Try fitting that in your backpack.

Even so, it's hard to recommend the Kindle, or any e-book for that matter. It will remain a niche product until retailers realize the consumer need for a complete fair use policy.

Fair use is the idea that once a consumer buys a product, they own a license to that product. Buy a CD and you buy a license for yourself to listen to the music on that CD. You can burn copies for yourself, rip it onto your computer, and throw it into your iPod – none of which is

KINDLE 2.0; STILL THE SAME FLAWS



illegal; all of which companies aspire to make as difficult as possible so you buy it twice.

The same would apply for the Kindle or any other e-book reader. It would be lovely to have every book you have already bought available on the e-book reader, free of charge. But there is no such thing.

There are logical reasons for this. Converting it takes time, and time is money. But still, it seems there should be some sort of discount to buying an e-book if you already own the crisp, well-loved paper back version. I'd hate to buy a 2nd or 3rd as the case may be, copy of my favorite books on an e-reader.

Other problems come with the technology. Loaning a book to someone is a favorite past time activity among friends, which is currently impossible with e-book readers. An e-book bought is an e-book that stays on its current machine.

Some people simply enjoy the feel and weight of a book in their own hands. Same could be said for a newspaper; some just enjoy having a

real, print edition. E-books will never be able to compete with that, even if they have been slowly progressing towards the same form factor as a regular trade paperback.

Perhaps one day Kindle will be a viable option for saving trees, but for right now it remains an accessory for the rich and environmentally friendly.

Disclaimer: The following article is in celebration of April Fool's Day and is strickly satire.

Facebook Changes Layout, Rocks the World

by David Mitchell
Staff Writer

On Friday March 13, online social networkers around the planet felt the foundation of their internet world crumble beneath their very feet when they signed on to their Facebook accounts and saw that the layout of their homepages had been radically altered.

The reaction to this violent upheaval of normalcy has been particularly rough on the usually peaceful streets of American suburbia, where mutinous teenagers and overprotective parents have been taking action. The maneuvers have ranged from psychotic, Cheetoh-fueled rants in community college computer labs to the creation of such groups as *OLD*

Facebook, 1,000,000 Strong Against the New Facebook Layout, and I'll Bet I Can Find 100,000 People Who Want the Original Facebook Back!

Local Authorities have tried in vain to exercise control over the hordes of discontented masses. Naperville Police apprehended a young man who, after seeing the jumbled homepage and apparently overcome with emotion, caused a disturbance of the peace.

"The suspect in question signed off of his account at approximately 3:40 a.m. on Friday March 13 after seven hours spent mainly tending to his 'Lil' Green Patch' and 'Liking' the statuses of friends. At this point, he went to sleep, only to awaken at approximately 2 p.m. to sign back on."

The details of the events that then led to the first call to police regarding the young man 33 minutes later have not yet been officially released, but eyewitnesses say that they involved Mardi Gras beads, scotch tape and a 77-car pile-up.

Physical disturbances aren't the only consequences of what Facebook is calling "updates." A tenth-grader from Aurora who wished to remain anonymous gave this statement: "Okay, so I was, like, seriously crushing on this guy in my friend's algebra class and so she was all, like, 'I'll totally hook you guys up!' so she suggested me as a friend for him on Facebook and he was all, like, 'for sure' and sent me a friend request but when I signed on, I didn't see it. I couldn't find *anything*. I thought I had finally figured it out but I didn't see

the friend request from him because they moved them way up to the *top* of the page. So then he saw that I had made a comment on my friend's new profile pic and that it was, like, three hours or whatever after he had sent the friend request so *he* thought that *I* had ignored his friend request! Now he thinks I didn't want to be his friend which would mean that I didn't want to go to the movies with him which would mean that I didn't want to be his girlfriend which means that my life is *OVER!*"

There is a superstition that has given Friday-the-13th notoriety as the unluckiest day of any given year, wherever it may fall. Being that this marks the second Friday-the-13th that has fallen consecutively in 2009 alone, simple mathematics tell us that this was eleventy

April Fools Around The World

by Theresa Celmer
Staff writer

In America on April Fools' Day, many people celebrate by prank calling their friends, using a whoopie cushion, switching salt and pepper in the shakers, super gluing coins to the sidewalk, having various alarm clocks in a family members room go off at various times, putting holes in a plastic cup and seeing the victim of the prank have their drink dribbling on their shirt, and other various activities. Many countries also celebrate April Fools Day in their own special ways and here is how they do it.

In Scotland, it is called Taily Day since they celebrate by pranks aimed around the buttocks. Also the infamous "kick me" sign that someone wears on their back

can also be traced back to Scotland.

In England, they only play jokes on each other in the morning because if they play tricks on each other in the afternoon it is considered bad luck. Fools are called "Gobb" or "Gobby" and if you are the victim of the joke, you would be called the noodle.

In Rome, April Fools' Day is known as the festival of Hillria, which celebrates the God of Attis on March 25.

In Portugal, April Fools' Day is on two days, the Sunday and Monday before Lent, and in their tradition with pranks they throw flour at their friends.

In the history of Ireland, tricks could only be played until noon and they would send notes that read, "send the fool further" and then the note would also have an Irish verse on it, which usually meant "Don't Laugh."

Today, they still have all sorts of fun playing tricks on each other.

In Italy, the children celebrate April Fools' by attaching a paper fish to their friend's back and shouting out that they are the fool.

In Poland, April Fools' Day is a holiday that is for the children and they call it Pryma Apryelis and children dress up in costumes and play jokes on one another.

In Sweden, they leave phone numbers so that when the person calls the number, they are talking to a complete stranger; the media and TV stations in Sweden are also in on the fun. They also chant the saying "April, April you silly fish, I can fool you as I wish."

So since the history and traditions have been told, what do you have planned for April 1 this year?

Student Spotlight: Kimberly Murphy

by Michelle Jacobson
Features Editor, Co-News Editor

During her past five years at NEIU, Kimberly Murphy has been involved in many aspects of extracurricular life. From being a University Ambassador to Vice President of SGA to President of Theta Chi Omega, Murphy has not only kept herself busy as a student leader, but has also learned a lot along the way.

M.J. -Where did you start and where did you end up with SGA?

K.M.-My first year I ran during the spring election for speaker of the senate which was pretty much the secretary of SGA and held the position for one year and then the following year I ran for vice president and became vice president of the student government and I was that for the whole year from 2007 to 2008.

What was your best experience with SGA?

Probably just the experience of working with strangers and becoming friends in a lot of aspects and yeah just the idea of working with people you don't know anything about and having a common goal and understanding roles. I have a lot of friendships out of SGA and I think learning how to figure out your goals and how to represent the student body is real challenging, so coming together to do that and figure it out, it's not always easy and it's endearing though that that was always the goal and we were always trying to achieve that because I think that's the most important thing. We never gave up and even if we didn't totally achieve it, we never gave up on that.

So what was your next step after SGA?

Well I decided to be president of Theta Chi Omega, multicultural sorority. I joined Theta Chi Omega in the spring of 2007 and you have to be a member for two semesters so one year later in the spring of 2008 I was elected president and that's my current position.

What attracted you to the sorority?

I don't know, I guess just the idea of being a network of girls. I really like the idea that it's a lifetime commitment, that once you're in, you're in for life, that I have my letters, I can put them on my desk when I'm 60 and that I'll only keep gaining more sisters and kind of having a really strong network of women to lean on and to be there for you and that never goes away. You're in it for life, you've joined something for your whole life. I just don't think we have networks like that in our society or in our lives.

What has been your best experience with Theta Chi Omega?

I think really becoming organized. In October we had a Founders' week where we had an event every single day and just being organized enough to pull off an event every single day and having fun events and always meeting new people. There's always new women joining and there's always someone there for you and you can do fun things together. I just think in terms of campus life, having our Founders week was a huge accomplishment for us and also we made chapter status this year. So achieving a chapter letter was a huge accomplishment as well.

What was the most surprising thing that you found out about Greek Life?

I think what's kind of surprising in comparison to other universities is that our Greek Life at Northeastern is very united. We have a United Greek Council, but not only that. I've been working with the Greek Week committee this year for 2009 and last year I was the chairperson of the committee and I didn't have a lot of support and this year a lot of the Greek organizations have come together and been supportive and I think at other campuses Greek organizations are very competitive and very against each other. We're different at Northeastern because we are a commuter school and we face different challenges as Greek organizations. I think we all unite about that. We can have a camaraderie among ourselves even though we're all different. And of course we all push our own organizations when we're recruiting and stuff, but we don't recruit negatively, we don't put each other down. I just think we're very positive and united that way in terms of Greek life. It's one of our goals as a sorority to have better communication with Greek organizations and so to see that it's easy for us on this campus, it's not a far-fetched idea.

What do you think is the most common misconception about Greek life at Northeastern?

I think people don't even know there's Greek life at Northeastern. I think a common misconception at Northeastern is that we can't even have frats or sororities because we don't have housing. You know, just because you don't have housing doesn't mean you can't have a sisterhood or a brotherhood. Another misconception is I guess maybe openness. A lot of the Greek sororities and fraternities are very open to members and not as exclusive as they seem. That's just a general misconception of Greeks, is that they're intending to leave others out and I don't really think that's true. I think we all try to be as inclusive as possible for people who are interested.

What was it like to go from being a member to being president?

That was a huge leap for me personally because everyone kept asking me if I was going to be president of SGA because I went through the two positions below the president, but I just really wanted to be president of my sorority because I really think I had valuable leadership qualities that would help our sorority grow and blossom. The hardest challenge is splitting the professional and the personal. We're all sisters, and then to enforce the rules and be a professional, it's the hardest thing about being the president, is being the enforcer. That's what I wanna do and it's something I struggle with, enforcing the rules and regulating and mandating and kind of being the one that comes down on regular members. Because with regular members, we can all keep each other in check, we all know the rules, and if one person says it to another, it's a little different where if the president says it to you, it feels like you're in trouble. At the same time, I was elected by my sisters and they wanted me here for a reason. It just doesn't always feel like I can uphold it all the time. The hardest struggle is being consistent with it and trying to be fair. It's something I will try to do and I think the future presidents will try to do, and it's not always easy.

Why do you think it's so important at a school like ours that students get involved?

I think it's important because I've always thought of it as a resume builder. And that's not necessarily the only reason I've done it but I think you just need to work with other people and we are so fortunate to go to a campus with so many diversities here and so many different kinds of people. And to just have an opportunity to learn about other people and learn their life stories I think really helps keep you stay



Photo by Tracy Ellen

more open-minded and less judgmental. You just can't be judgmental at Northeastern. You won't have any friends. I just think that those are such big life lessons that in your career and in your jobs you're not always going to be able to work with people you like and you can't judge them for it and you can't hold things against people, and I think I've really learned that here at Northeastern. You learn to listen. And being involved is just such a realistic experience for the future and I think we have such a hard time in college listening to methods and theories and we don't know how to apply them. But when you're involved in a club or organization, you're applying collaboration, you're doing what you will be doing in the future. Maybe you don't realize it yet, but I think a bigger life lesson than any class you'll take is learning how to work with people.

If you could give the student body any advice, what advice would you give them?

My advice as a fifth-year college student is do it. Reach for your goals. I struggled academically from being involved, but I don't regret that because I do think I got a lot out of my clubs and organizations and it's important to focus on academics, but I think it needs to be more than that. And maybe you learn the lesson the hard way, but that's okay because you can still recover and you learn from things. It's all about learning and growing. And don't hesitate because you only have this time now. People just always tell me enjoy college and do college while you can, and I think especially because we're a commuter school and we don't have an environment that fosters being involved. I mean, you have a part time job, you have a family, you take public transportation, you have clubs, and it's like, if I ever had a free moment to breathe I could tell you what that feels like, but I don't. But I don't regret that and I like that my life is so busy because I feel like this is the time. I've talked to a few people who miss college because, whether they regretted doing something or not doing something or just miss that they used to do something that they don't get to do anymore, this is the time and you only have now and just do it.

"In Celebration of April Fools Day, We at the Independent have created the following Fake Newspaper. The following content is fictional....so enjoy and Happy April Fools Day."

Entertainment News for April 2055!

by Nick Vracar
Staff Writer

It's Apr. 1 and you're wondering what are the top stories in your average everyday entertainment tabloid. Well here's what's happening in entertainment's neck of the woods.

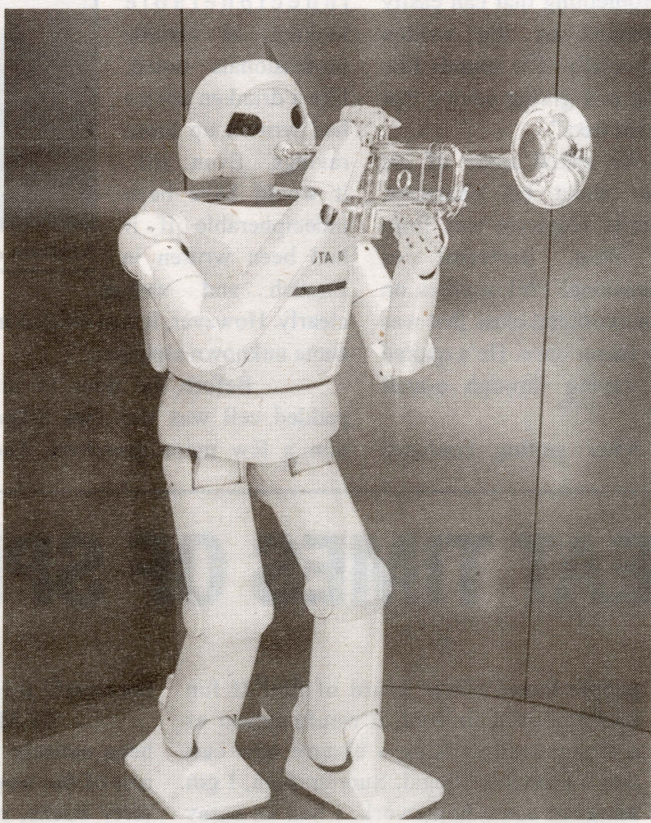
Heath Ledger, after being recently revived from the grave, accepted the Oscar bestowed to him forty-six years ago for the award of Best Male Supporting Actor. During a moving speech Heath thanked his surviving family, along with the scientists that played God. No mention was made of recent statements made describing his new performances, as critics have described, as "being a bit stiff."

Seventy three year old pop star and mother of fifteen Brittany Spears was in the spotlight today after accidentally flashing photographers from an exposed dress on her way out of a limousine. Police were immediately called to the scene, and as of this writing five men and three women remain hospitalized under close psychological care. When asked why she had lifted up her dress to expose herself, she claimed that she was

merely "checking to make sure there weren't any more kids in there."

ER returns to television this season with its twenty third cast change, and fans couldn't be any more pleased. This time the entire cast will be played by robots, engineered and created to play melodramatic, emotionally unhinged characters. Though critics of the robots claim that they contain the equivalent emotion to that of a stump, the engineers argue that all the emotion of a stump is already greater than what the regular actors portrayed anyway.

Fashion has been flipped completely around when Jovan Oscavite released his latest trend to the world:



Robots that entertain us!

"Potpuno Nag." Roughly translated to "Completely Nude," this represents Jovan's idea that the only clothes people need are the emotions they wear over their body. Anonymous flashers around the country claim that if everyone walked around nude, they would lose their only hobby.

The most expensive movie of all time, "The Long Way Down," will be released in theaters next month, costing just over two billion dollars. Over its five years of filming the budget had grown from its initial five hundred million to its final summation. Critics predict that if new actors were cast instead of big stars, the movie would have actually cost just under fifty million dollars.

Finally, Doctors have reported that watching epic action films are bad for your health, causing unwanted stress. The Film Medical Council has determined to lower the maximum stress level of a movie within the next few months. The first movie to be released under this new regiment will be, "A Mild Breeze," featuring the harrowing tale of a young man who must divert a five mile per hour wind, before it blows off a small, crumpled up piece of paper from atop a nearby fence.





UPS delivers so much more than a great job.

Part-Time Package Handlers

- Earn \$8.50-\$9.50 per hour, with increases of \$1.00 after 90 days and 50¢ after one year
- Consistent Work Schedule
- Paid Vacations
- Weekly Paychecks
- Weekends & Holidays Off

Northbrook UPS • 2525 Shermer Rd
Sunrise Shift • 3am-9am
Twilight Shift • 5pm-10pm
Shift times are approximate.
847-480-6783
312-997-3620

For more information, apply online at:
www.upsjobs.com/chicago
Access Code: 4412

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



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

NEIU PLANS TO SELL NAMING RIGHTS OF BUILDINGS

by Eve N. Worse
Staff Writer

Facing a budget crisis that could raise tuition for students and force cuts in developing and modernizing the university, Northeastern Illinois University President Sharon K. Hahs, announced a drastic solution to the problem March 21, 2009. Following the example set by many other Chicago institutions, most famously the former Comisky Park, Hahs has opened the university up for corporate sponsorship. Work on transforming the university is expected to begin at the end of the spring 2009 semester and finish before students return for the fall semester.

"Face it, our university buildings could use some better names," Hahs explained. "The B building? Whoever thought of that? Now that could become the Best Buy Building! We already have a Chase ATM on campus; the C building could be the Chase Building!"

Students, however, were less than thrilled with the prospect of having a school bought out by a corporation. "Sure, we might have a more modern university, but what happens if we want to speak out against what that corporation is doing?" Gus Grissom, a junior and member of Green Cycle, argued. "If BP buys the school, what if we want to encourage people to bike to school? Will they even allow that?"

More complaints were raised especially now that the recent 'Learn in the City' marketing

campaign drew more Chicagoans' attention to the name 'Northeastern Illinois University.' "What if they change the name of our school to PepsiCo University?" complained Dee O'Hara, an employee at the Information Desk. "We would have spent all that money for nothing!"

"What am I supposed to do if they change the name of the school?" Wally Schirra, a manager at Beck's Bookstore, announced. "I have boxes of hoodies and T-shirts and coffee mugs that say 'Northeastern Illinois University!' What are we doing to do, sell 'nostalgic' souvenirs?"

Yet others argued that the benefits of a corporate sponsorship would outweigh the possible complications. "I think it would be great," Alan B. Shepard, Jr., a freshman countered. "If they could give us money to do stuff with the school that I would have had to pay for, then who cares? I'm broke, man!"

"Maybe if we could convince an airline to buy our school, then they could give us free airfare for those classes that goes overseas?" Marge Slayton offered another viewpoint.

Whatever happens, the map of the school will never be the same. Although it may be difficult to feel any lingering affection for the unimaginative names of some of the school buildings, the alternative could always be much worse. "Oh, I got it!" President Hahs continued.

CLASSIFIEDS

IF YOU CAN READ THIS PLEASE APPLY AT ROOM E049!

ADVERTISEMENT

ADVERTISEMENT

YEAH, HE'S CERTIFIABLY INSANE NOW!

By Josephus the Elder
Office Scholar

On Apr. 1, Jonathan Gronli, Entertainment Editor for the "Independent," was committed into the newly built Arkham Asylum for the Transdimensionally Confused.

It came about while he planned for the "Independent's" April Fools edition. The people who knew of his plans were already worried. Gronli's attempt to see how much he could get away with by writing a legitimate dark fantasy horror fiction short story for his column lead to multiple demon sightings for the people who took the advice of burning the column. Some of these led to madness-inspired

violence. Many people blame him for this hysteria.

Some people, Gronli included, just say, "When you're dealing with the Great Old Ones, strange things happen. It isn't the writer's fault if the reader's mind is something that can easily be influenced by the written word, especially if it sounds like something evil giving advice that would set it free."

We asked some of his professors about his character. Our favorite response was from Herbert West, professor of Interdimensional Philosophies on Death, an unofficial class that was taught in secret once. He's quoted as only saying through e-mail "WTF?"

After getting confused

about the Great Old Ones we ended up conferring with some of research manuscripts that were in Gronli's mailbox. They were almost indecipherable looking, as various professionals noted, like a drunken doctor had written up these ravings. Even still, it would have been indecipherable if it had been written in English and written clearly. However, it was written in some unknown alphabet.

Before the door to his padded cell was shut, we asked him a few more questions. The



Arkham Asylum: For the Criminally isane.

responses all had a theme. The interview closed with Gronli saying, "The Devil's greatest trick was convincing the world that he didn't exist. I would've gone for

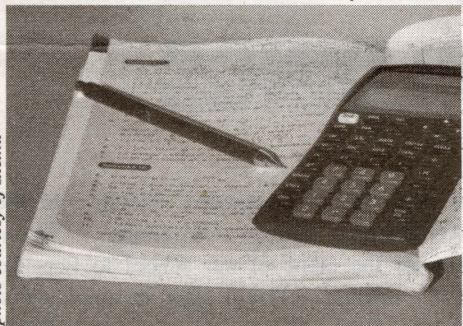
something like that but where's the fun in that. My greatest trick was making people think my mind didn't exist, well, at least not anymore. Victory is mine."

THE GREAT TIMES OF SPRING BREAK 09'

by Nick Vracar
Staff Writer

When I saw that spring break was just around the corner, I couldn't get any more excited. Every single day that passed, all I could think about was the parties that would go down. There would be alcohol of the highest quality! There would be plenty of babes, all of them smokin' hot. The anticipation alone was exciting enough,

yet class



Sigh... homework

people haven't ever heard of fun! If fun knocked on their door, it would appear as a stranger advertising a bizarre new cult that's probably illegal. Sure enough, I got assigned some homework. I had an essay to do and even a mid-term take home, due right when I came back. I swear that they don't have any feelings. But that's okay, "I'll tough it out," I said to myself. Homework comes and goes, tests are recorded forever, but spring break only occurs once a year, and I was going to make the most of it.

School finished up and then there was work over the weekend. Every single minute dragged as if each were an hour long. Every single hour seemed to last a day. Every day a week, and since there were two days of working four hour shifts, that was a full two weeks of the endless boredom shuffle. I couldn't believe how many people wanted to buy things that simply weren't related to spring break. Pens? Paper? Books that weren't required

for class?! It just didn't stop coming!

By Monday, the pain of work had been entirely forgotten, and suddenly the rest of the week was in front of me. I had forty bucks, my fake ID and my mom's Jewel card. I was ready to go! So I go to pick up the beer, I drop it in the cart and I'm about to pay for it, but there's only one line open. There's not one, but two old ladies in front of me, and each one wants to count out exact change. And they both buy things that cost twenty-three dollars and thirty-nine cents. What are the chances of that? It's as if they were actually plotting against me, intentionally sabotaging any chance of me enjoying my break! I don't even know how many times they recounted the change; my mind was just a blur.

Finally I get the beer and stuff it into the trunk of my 1986 Yugo GV. I start the car and drive off towards my friend's place, a house in the suburbs built right in front of the train tracks. The heat

is blasting out of my air-conditioning, the check engine light is flashing twice a second, and nobody's moving! It's as if there's an accident down the block from me, but I knew there wasn't any accident. It seemed like an eternity in that stupid traffic jam!

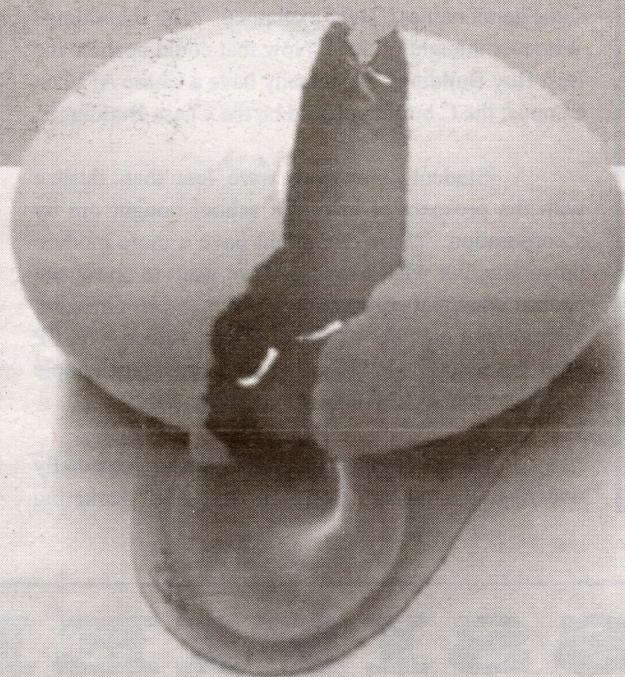
Anyways, Todd, Gary, Jessica and Lisa were supposed to be there already, and I knew that more were coming. Todd was in charge of getting the babes this year, 'cause last year Gary only managed to find more dudes. I don't get it, why did he only get dudes? Was there a shortage of babes and a surplus of dudes down at the production line?

What? I'm running out of space? But I've got a whole spring break to talk about, here! What? I've got to wrap it all up? Uhh...spring break was fun, yeah. Except that Todd messed up, and brought over more dudes, and um..., it was just the same lame crap as last year. Uh, yeah, I'll see you in class.

Learn to handle the pressure.

Deal with deadlines. Understand teamwork.

Break out of your shell.



The Independent E-049
neiu_independent@yahoo.com

FINANCIAL AID



photo courtesy of xxchu

\$400 Rebate

xB Price starting at **\$16,420** MSRP¹

xD Price starting at **\$15,320** MSRP¹

tC Price starting at **\$17,670** MSRP¹

Get by with a little help from your local car dealership. We're honoring recent college grads with a \$400² rebate on any Scion. Ask your dealer for details.

Scion's Pure Price[®] policy means the dealer's advertised price is the price you pay. Dealer price may vary from MSRP.

¹MSRP includes delivery, processing, and handling fee; excludes taxes, title, license, and optional equipment. Dealer price may vary. ²Rebate offered by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. Rebate will be applied on lease contracts, first toward the amounts due at lease signing or delivery, with any remainder to the capitalized cost reduction, or toward the down payment on finance contracts. One rebate per finance or lease transaction. College Rebate Program and Military Rebate Program are not compatible. Finance or lease contract must be dated by March 31, 2009. Only available on new untitled Scion models. Programs are available on approved credit to qualified customers through Toyota Financial Services and participating Scion dealers. Programs may not be available in all states and are subject to change or termination at any time. Some restrictions apply. Not all applicants will qualify. Please see your participating Scion dealer for details. Toyota Financial Services is a service mark of Toyota Motor Credit Corporation and Toyota Motor Insurance Services, Inc. © 2009 Scion, a marque of Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A., Inc. All rights reserved. Scion, the Scion logo, xB, xD and tC are trademarks of Toyota Motor Corporation.



what moves you

ADVERTISEMENT

"In Celebration of April Fools Day, We at the Independent have created the following Fake Newspaper. The following content is fictional....so enjoy and Happy April Fools Day."

NEIU NO LONGER A COMMUTER SCHOOL

by Josephina Permits

NEIU President Sharon Hahs announced this morning that the school board had finally come up with a solution for college students who were desperate for housing accommodations. "The solution is simple," Hahs stated, "We are going to kick out those dead-beats next door and begin building dorms".

Government officials were mortified by the sheer thought, mostly due to the fact that the Bohemian National Cemetery was chartered in 1877 by the State of Illinois and is a Chicago landmark. President Hahs suggested that they get over it, "That cemetery floods every year. We are planning to move the residents to a better location a few acres away."

The location of NEIU campus is in the center of a residential area with the Bohemian National Cemetery encompassing the majority of land around NEIU. Although it may not be an ideal location, it may be the only solution. President Hahs had one more blast before leaving the podium "Look, I am tired of hearing the students whine about every little thing on this campus. We are trying our best! This is all that we have come up with to fix the housing solution, so take it or leave it, but so help me...if I see one protester near the construction site, I will deal with them accordingly. By that I mean I will personally knock you out, I may not be a spring chicken, but I have fists of fury."

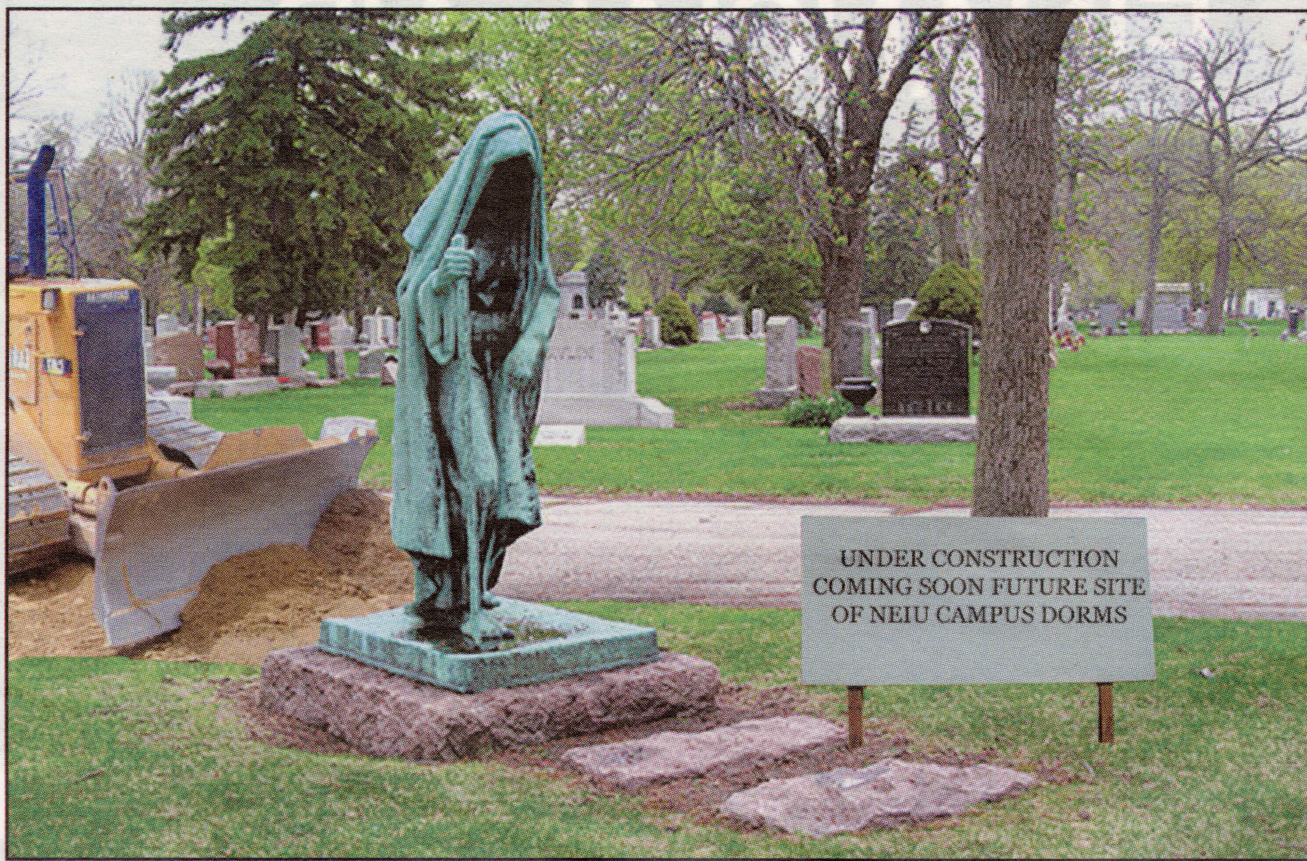
Students froze as President Hahs stared down the crowd. After the meeting,

students crowded in circles talking amongst each other about the proposal. One student, Edgar Morte, was enthused about the idea stating, "This is awesome. I have always been a big fan of Poltergeist. Now I actually get to live it. Do you know if they still sell those TVs with the wire things coming out of them?" However other students were not

so enthused as Edgar was. Suzy Supercilious whined to a group of students. "Is she like kidding me? Ew, I would never live in a building built on top of a cemetery. Luckily for me, my family has money so I can afford to rent a place around the campus."

The construction is schedule to start immediately, because there is no

need to evict, there are just the residents to move. The dorms should be done by the beginning of the fall semester. Although the residents are a little mad about the situation, we at the *Independent* have not been able to interview them. We should have more to report once Madam Isabel becomes available for the séance.



More space!

Image courtesy of Victoria A. Tallock

THIS SUCKS!!!

by Candy Barbs

This really sucks! I mean, how long does a winter have to be? I'm freezing here, I really need to be in Cabo right now. I can hardly wait for spring break, I mean I just can't stand the cold, it's killing me! I wish they had heat in that parking structure, I just about froze my tush off just walking to my class. I get so sick of winter, it goes for like ten months of the year here.

I really don't like to complain, I'm not trying to paint a bad streak on your mood. So, how are you, anyways? How are your classes going? Really, that's great! Congratulations, that's wonderful! God, can you believe the food that they serve? It really sucks! What is that stuff on your pizza, it looks like rabbit turd. Are you really going to eat that? It's sure not like the pizza in my neighborhood, and they actually stay open late, unlike this stupid place.

Oh, I'm sorry, am I bumming you guys out? I didn't mean to do that. How's your girlfriend, anyways? Oh, you did? That's great, did you have a good time? Ugh! Can you believe this fall schedule? I mean, they don't offer anything I want to take,

except at some ungodly hour of the morning! What do you mean I should take that class? You actually like that professor? You've got to be kidding, he's soooo boring, and so not sexy. I think he dresses like a total dork, and he's always readjusting his belt when he sits down. Ewww!

What's that? Which one did you want me to read? You mean your friend wrote it, she works for the paper? That's cool, um... I think the paper sucks. I mean, you think they could really hire some better writers or fire some people or something. It isn't anything like the Sun Tribune, at least they don't make any mistakes. Oh, there's no journalism school here? I see... Well, I could write much better than that, I mean, get real! What? Why don't I write for them? No, I don't have the time to write for that stupid paper. I mean, you think they could get better writers or something. Gawd!

No, I'm not a hypocrite, I think that there are good people who try hard, and probably don't get paid enough. Man, this place has so many problems! I mean that you think that they could change things around here, it would be a lot better. They don't seem like they

try at all, I mean anybody! They just wait for their lunch break, that's all they care about. It's soooo not like the college I went to before. Oh, why did I transfer here anyways?!

Oh, and how about that stupid financial aid department? It seems like everyone I know has had problems with them. Who me? No, I got my money on time and they were really nice to me. But get real, you think that they could get things right for a change in there. They're always screwing things up, and my friend told me they were rude to her friend. Then they make them wait for a month to get their money. Gawd!

What do you mean I complain all the time? No, I'm not cynical! What are you talking about? I have plenty of good things to say about this school. What, for instance? Like, well... um, the gym is really nice. I go swimming sometimes and I use the machines. But like, you can never get on those workout machines, especially after four or so. Like you think they could spend some money to get more machines or something? What, the school is broke and cutting the budget? Where do they get off, cutting the budget? Where's the money



Yeah, I'm complaining; big whoop, wanna fight about it?!

photo courtesy of p-4-u.org

going? Did Blago steal it or something? Get real!

I don't see what you're talking about. I'm

not like totally cynical! How dare you call me a

hypocrite! What are you saying? I have plenty of nice

things to say, and I don't complain about everything!

Hello? Where did everybody go? Hello?? Oooohhh!