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INDEPENDENT

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Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Vol. 25, Issue 3

SGA put foot down on Diwali budget

By Sergio Guzman
News Editor

The release of exactly \$6,000, around 10 percent of the "Event by Event" funds that students pay for with their Student Activity Fee, was approved by the Student Government Association (SGA) on Sept. 16. These funds will be used for a one night event, the Diwali Festival, which is hosted annually by NEIU's Indian Student Association (ISA).

The ISA expected the SGA to approve their initial funding request for their event, but was surprised to have the SGA alter the request's details. According to the SGA, this was done in order to make sure the money allotted to the ISA would be used in a way that they believed would be beneficial to the student body.

The changes made by SGA included altering the prices of the tickets for the event. The ISA will have to sell tickets at five dollars each, with a limit of two, to students and ten dollars each for non-students. This is radically different to prior ticket prices and limits, since students used to be able to buy up to five

tickets, while non-student prices were lower.

Also, ISA initially wanted to donate two dollars of every ticket sold to the Asha Foundation like they have done in the past, but this year only a dollar of each ticket will be donated as a result of SGA's changes. SGA also made sure that the rest of the money ISA made with the Diwali Festival would return to the "Event by Event" account. In other words, the ISA will not be able to profit from the event.

"Somehow it has become a contrived ideal of the ISA... that the practice of making money for the club should be shouldered by the entire student body"

After the Sept. 16 meeting, the ISA wrote a letter to the SGA explaining how they felt the SGA's decisions were unfair. In it, they stressed how they felt the SGA treated them. "The ISA feels that it has been unjustifiably disrespected by the SGA," reads one

line from the letter.

Two weeks later, Prayagi Patel, the president of ISA was asked how the organization felt after having time to think about the results.

"We feel disappointed," said Patel "The changes imposed were one-sided and only set by SGA. Even if the changes were mandatory, had there been some consultation with ISA, the entire process would have been more fair instead of the outright imposition of the conditions."

In the response letter, the ISA also deemed it unfair that they would be unable to make a profit off the Diwali Festival. In a letter from the SGA, spearheaded by Student Senator Stephan McCollom, a response was given to the many accusations the ISA stated. To the profit question, the Senate responded by saying, "Somehow it has become a contrived ideal of the ISA that this is a fair and equitable agreement and that the 'practice' of making money for the club should be shouldered by the entire student body of this University through their student activity fee."

Continued on page 3

Sodexo discusses renovations and prices

By Trista Gunderman
Staff Writer

Because of the recent renovations to the cafeteria and new food policies, Sodexo has come under scrutiny. Recently the Independent spoke to Felicia Keelen, Director of the Student Union, and Bill Reich, the Dining Services Manager for Sodexo. Both were considerate enough to answer questions we had about the new renovations, policies, and prices Sodexo has adopted.

The first question we asked Director Keelen concerned the new renovations on the cafeteria and the surrounding area. She informed us that the funding from the cafeteria came from the Student Union's budget. This was money that the Student Union was allocated from the Student Union fee in the university's budget. She made it clear that the funding did not affect student activities in any way, and that it was considered a building renovation. The funding for the renovations also went towards buying the new picnic tables,



A student orders food at the Chicago Deli at the NEIU cafeteria.

napkin dispensers, and other amenities one can see in the cafeteria today. She said that the new features would create a different atmosphere for the entire area.

Director Keelen did not know exactly when Sodexo came on campus, but she stated that they have been on campus since before she started her position back in 2003. At the time, they had a five-year contract renewal, now they just have a year-to-year contract. This means that NEIU decides every year if Sodexo should continue to

provide food services to the university.

For the evening students that come to classes when the cafeteria is closed, Director Keelen suggests they try going to Café Descartes. While there is not as much variety, students can still purchase sandwiches and other treats there.

Bill Reich clarified the confusion about the food handling course required by those wishing to serve food at campus

Continued on page 3

NEIU Students Come Out for Coming Out Week

By Chakira Hamilton
Staff Writer

October 5 kicked off the annual tradition known as National Coming Out Week. Every year, thousands of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied students at hundreds of high schools and colleges around the country get together to celebrate this historical week. Students at NEIU were no exception.

National Coming Out Week, which was created 22 years ago in Washington, is a celebration of the civil right achievements the LGBT community and the women and men who sacrificed so much of themselves to earn equality. It is also a time for openly-gay individuals to remember, share and discuss their own experiences by revealing an important part of themselves to those around them.

NEIU's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Alliance (GLBTA), a student organization catering to the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students at NEIU and those who support them, commemorated National Coming Out Week in a variety of ways. On the first few days of their celebration, various club members had a table set up in the Student Union and Village Square areas advertising ideas of acceptance and equality. They also encouraged anyone to write messages on rainbow colored buttons with a coming-out story or words of support. The buttons will be displayed on the GLBTA bulletin board, located between the Information Center and the University Events box office, alongside flyers for future GLBTA events and meetings.

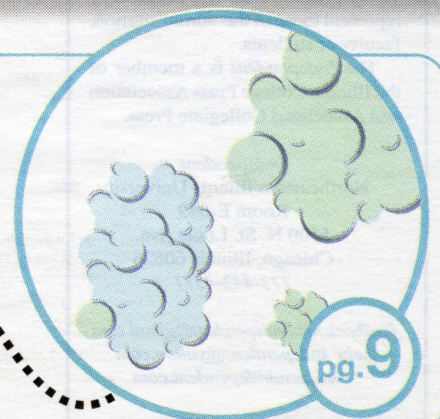
Following the tabling and button event, the GLBTA hosted a poetry slam on Oct. 8. The slam, which was held in room FA 203, encouraged participants to share their writings, thoughts and experiences related to coming out and gay culture in general. Among the pieces shared were an anti-discrimination poem by an unnamed author and several intriguing tales, some lightly comical and some deeply emotional, of what it was like for GLBTA-identifying students to tell their loved ones of their alternative sexual orientation.

To top it all off, on Oct. 9th, some NEIU students attended the 8th annual Coming Out Ball, a prom-like, annual event that allows LGBT-identifying, college age students and supporters to dress up and have a night out on the town in a safe and welcoming environment.

The Facebook events page for this year's Ball, hosted by Columbia College Chicago, drew an excess of 500 of potential attendees to the Facebook group created for the event. Hosted by Chicago's own Miss Foozie and featuring several performances, a raffle and artwork provided a welcomed transition into National Coming Out Day. Proceeds from the annual ball are donated to a LGBT serving charity of the host college's choice.

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE

Let the President do his job... pg. 6
Avoiding the flu
Job interview tips... pg. 9





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

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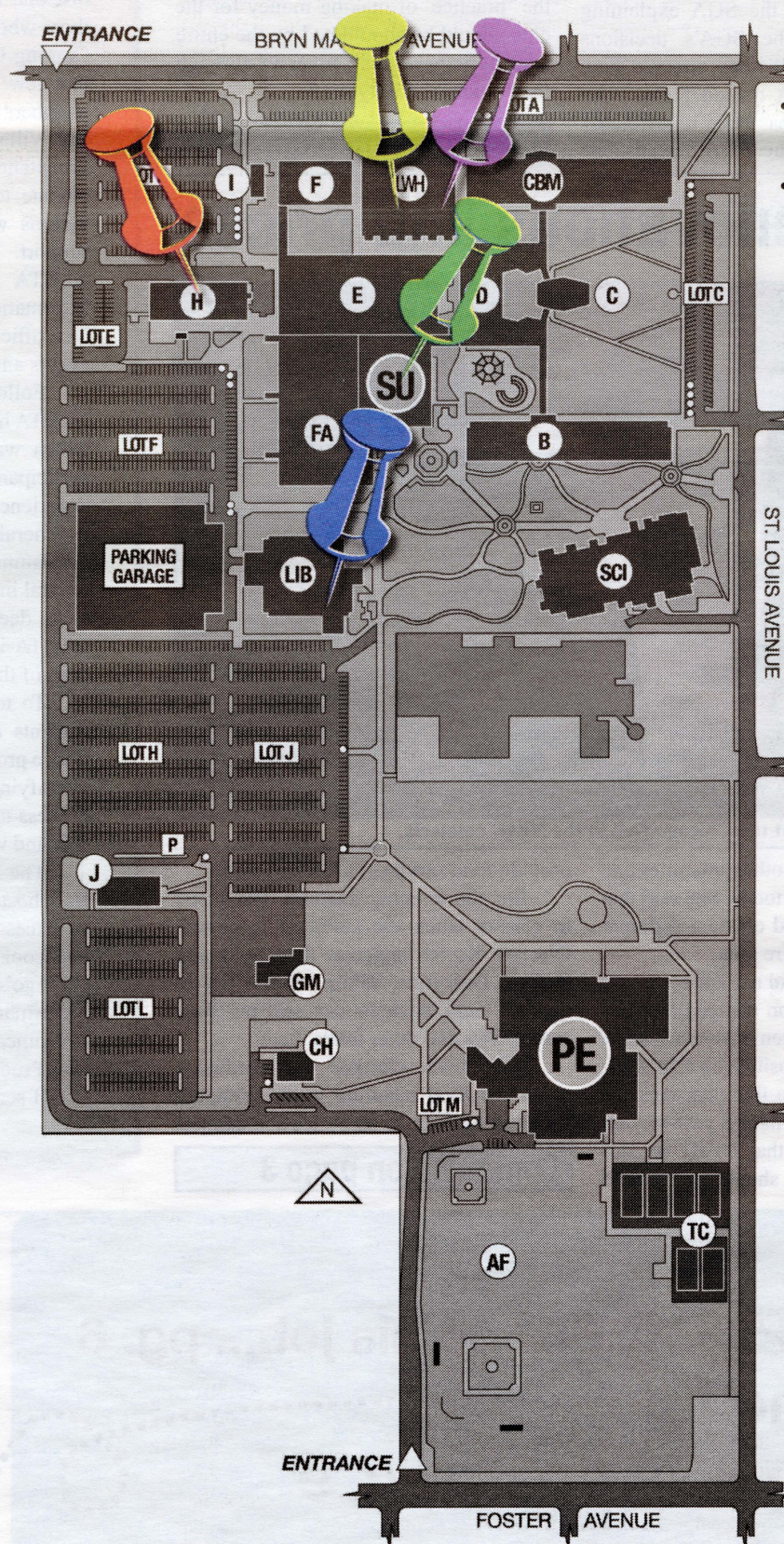
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Upcoming Events

Would you like us to include your event on our calendar? Email it to us at feedback.neiuindependent@gmail.com

October 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	12pm-6pm Village Square- NPB: Ghost Hunters Activity Hour (1:40 - 2:40) B-152- Student Veterans Club: Meeting	4pm-9pm SU 218- ISA: Rehearsal for Diwali show	1:40pm-2:40pm SCI 101- FHP: National university of health sciences 1:40pm-2:40pm LWH 1002- Marketing club: pizza party 4pm-9pm SU 218- ISA: Rehearsal for Diwali show 5pm-9:45pm Cafeteria- Rumba Dance Club: Rehearsal	1pm-3pm SU 219- Rumba Dance Club: Bachata 5:30pm-9:30pm SU 003- Anime Club: Game night		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
4pm-9pm SU 218- ISA: Rehearsal for Diwali show	10am-7pm Village Square- NPB: Coffeehouse 7pm-9:30pm Alumni Hall- Sociology Club: Dr. William Ayers lecture	7pm-9:30pm Alumni Hall- Sociology Club: Dr. William Ayers lecture	10am-7pm Village Square- NPB: Pumpkin distribution Activity Hour (1:40 - 2:40) B-158- Student Veterans Club: Meeting	5pm-11pm Auditorium- ISA: Diwali show celebration	9am-Midnight NPB hosts trip to Six Flag Great America: \$25 for students, \$30 for guests. Purchase at Information Center	



POLICE BLOTTER



On Sept. 28 at 4:26 p.m.

An offender stole a laptop left unattended at a table in the Student Union. This case is under investigation.



On Sept. 29 at 10:02 p.m.

A person was arrested for being on the premises after they had been banned from the campus near the library. This case is closed.



On Sept. 30 at 5:44 p.m.

An unknown offender damaged a victim's car while it was parked on campus in Parking Lot H. This case is closed.



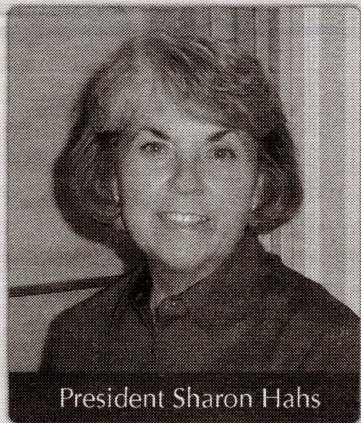
On Oct. 6 at 10:10 a.m.

In Lech Walesa Hall an unknown offender stole a printer and computer/printer cable. This case is under investigation.



On Oct. 6 at 1:38 p.m.

In Lech Walesa Hall an unknown offender stole computer docking station from office area.



President Sharon Hahs

The President's Pen

Should religious groups be allowed to just show up and carry signs promoting a particular message on our campuses? Does it matter what that message is? Can controversial literature be posted anywhere? Does it matter what that literature advocates or condemns? Since some balance would seem to be inevitable, how is that balance achieved? Is there a difference between the right to free speech and the right to demonstrate?

All of these questions have come up in just the last few weeks, proving once again (if proof were needed) that issues which Americans define broadly as "free

speech" are apt to surface at anytime in an environment as open and as committed to openness as Northeastern. As a value freedom of speech is easily understood; as a principle which is practiced daily, it is very complex. We must work together to address these questions.

So how do we begin? For Northeastern, we look to our guiding documents. In our Statement on Diversity, it says, "We support divergent perspectives and expect our community to voice their differing views of history, politics and world events—that is how we add value to our educational experiences and grow as individuals." This makes it clear that we value different views, and those views should be expressed.

We also look to our University Values. Below I have listed each of the six Values with an excerpt from the descriptor of that Value that I think relates directly to our discussion.

Integrity—We are committed to honesty, respect, and transparency in our words and our actions.

Excellence—We value opportunities

and experiences that support personal and professional development for all members of our community.

Access to Opportunity—We value a welcoming environment which provides appropriate support as well as encourages mutual responsibility for and commitment to learning.

Diversity—NEIU values the inclusion of a broad spectrum of students, staff, and faculty in the life of the University. We encourage the open and respectful expression of ideas and differences in thoughts, experiences, and opinions.

Community—An environment [that] is characterized by civility, fostering humanity and engagement, and creates a sense of community through inclusion, mutual respect, and empowerment.

Empowerment Through Learning—We are especially committed to transforming students' lives by engaging them in an educational experience that empowers them to graduate with the skills and knowledge to become effective leaders and citizens in their personal and professional lives.

So we have a solid foundation to build on. What else? Speech by its nature is a dynamic issue. The dialog on free speech will continue as long as there is a free society—both are essential to each other.

To pursue this dialog, planning is underway for a fall symposium on free speech. Individuals from the Student Government Association, the Faculty Senate, Student Life and my office are considering a variety of forums for this event—panels, expert speakers, question and answer sessions. We would appreciate suggestions for content and format as the plans move forward. Please write to me at PresColumn@neu.edu. I will be sure the group receives your ideas.

Thanks for reading my column—let me know what you think.

Editor's note: The ideas and opinions expressed in this column are only those of President Hahs and are in no way associated with the ideas and opinions of the staff of the Independent.

Sodexo continued...

events. He explained that the course is actually a 20-30 minute overview of basic food handling and food safety procedures. It would need to be completed two weeks before the event. The reason why most of the food handling and catering rules only apply to the Student Union is because Sodexo only has jurisdiction in that building. Although he did explain that the university is looking at an at-large food policy for the entire university. Whether Sodexo would have any say in the matter of an at-large policy is unknown at the time.

Some students find the appeal of a dollar menu alluring, and wonder why Sodexo does not have one. Manager Reich explained that dollar menus only work in, what he referred to as, "super-high volumes" of production and sale, citing that other fast food chains sell thousands of burgers a day. He did mention that Sodexo is looking at the needs of the university populace, and spoke of a possible \$3.99 lunch menu that is being looked into. One other alternative he suggested was purchasing items from the "to go" coolers in the cafeteria, stating that those are usually

ISA continued...

The SGA also pointed out the fact that they had learned from the organization's past mistakes. This was referring to last year's approval of \$9,000 for the Diwali Festival. "...\$2 of each ticket [went] to the Asha Foundation, \$1 returned to the event-by-event general fund and THE REST OF ALL PROCEEDS going to the ISA! This [meant] that 40 percent of all Campus Wide ticket sales and 70 percent of all non-University attendee sales went into the ISA Club Account." Because of this, the event-by-event money

ran out early in the semester, leaving many clubs and organizations unable to hold events as a result of the lack of funds.

For her last remarks, Patel explained why the Diwali festival is so important for NEIU as a whole. "The Diwali show is one of the biggest events on campus and a very high visibility event not only in the South Asian community and other communities apart from it, but as well as among prospective students in high school." The Diwali Festival is still on track to take place on Oct. 23.

Conversation on Commonalities addresses diversity problem at NEIU

By Dulce Arroyo
Staff Writer

The Golden Eagles Room held the first Conversation on Commonalities event on Sept. 29, hosted by the 2010 Black History Month Committee (BHM), and supported by the Hispanic Heritage Committee. Retired Northeastern professor Dr. Barbara Scott and Senior Executive Director Emeritus Dr. Santos Rivera addressed current problems regarding diversity and what it should mean to students and staff.

BHM Chair Robert E. Bedford and Event Chair Dwan Buetow announced that the theme of the event was "the right to dream," and followed by presenting the speakers. Afterwards, five students performed the poem "Human Family" by Maya Angelou, taking turns reading stanzas in both English and Spanish. The students that performed were a mix of undergraduate and graduate students and memorized the poem days before the event.

"My mom put [the event] together and a few of us students volunteered to [recite] the poem," said Dana Buetow, a transfer student. "I'm half black, so African-American

history [involvement] is the kind of stuff that me and my mom always do."

Scott spoke first, and said that a conversation on commonalities was "long overdue" at Northeastern. According to her, people cannot ignore cultural differences and must value both those differences and commonalities in order to respect one another.

Scott then stated two problems she found at NEIU, "Not one new hired faculty member this year is African-American," and then stressed that something needed to be done about this. The second problem she mentioned was immigration. She believed that immigration is represented as a "one-sided discourse" because other cultural groups are not as included in immigration programs as much as Mexicans are.

Rivera's discussion focused on his belief that marketing NEIU as diverse simply because its students come from various backgrounds is not enough to actually be diverse; students have to branch out and be willing to engage with others from different cultures. Then, Rivera mentioned how the NEIU tagline "Learn in the city, lead in the world," seemed

misleading to him because it was created without input from people of color.

The floor was open for questions before a multicultural potluck was presented, and students received feedback and suggestions from Scott and Rivera on how to initiate "extreme student activism" in order to improve relationships among others.

"This is an extremely diverse campus, but one of the few times you can really see that is when tables are set up outside and you can get a variety of information about cultures and societies," said Win Rysdahl, a senior and one of the students who asked a question. "Even if [what you want to know] has no connection to you, just ask."

Rysdahl appreciated the event, though he wished it could have lasted longer. "I thought that the contributions put in by Dr. Scott about nationalism were more profound than she gave credit for," he said. "I liked that they encouraged at several points to have this continued. Like, OK, our conversation on commonalities is over—so what? Keep talking [about it]. The day is over, so what? Keep talking."

Sexual Harassment Fliers Facilitate Conversation

By Sadaf Syed

Students may have noticed the "Talk It Up" fliers around campus about sexual harassment. The possibility of an inappropriate relationship between a faculty or staff member and a student is an issue many students are aware of.

"The point of the fliers is to get students, faculty and staff talking among themselves and becoming more aware of this and related phenomena that can proliferate in hierarchies such as universities,"

said Sarah Hoagland, Professor of Philosophy and Women's Studies.

Hoagland is helping to promote awareness and to get the campus community to understand the dynamics more clearly. Sexual harassment has a ripple effect and does not only affect the individuals involved but also fellow students, faculty and staff.

"More often than not, these structures maintain the status quo because they are designed to protect institutions, not individuals. So rather than going up the hierarchy for protection, my work and the work of those whose efforts I take

up involve resistance at street level, on the ground, going down the hierarchy to generate interaction among students. I advocate women students relying on each other," says Hoagland.

However, she states that men are also affected by sexual harassment, as seen in recent news about David Letterman for example that, "...male students who do not get selected attention and male employees who do not get airtime (on the Letterman show) also are hurt. The atmosphere in the classroom changes, and generally the atmosphere of a learning environment is

undermined for most students."

The people who have been posting the fliers up have chosen to remain anonymous because of the possibility that if they are known the impact will be diverted by the attention placed on them as individuals and not the effect of the issue at hand. One of the main reasons Hoagland says she is involved is to empower students because, "Abuse of power is the problem, silence is its handmaiden," says Hoagland.

This, however, is not the first time that the issue of sexual harassment has arisen at NEIU. In the 1970's, the Women's Studies de-

partment recognized the problem and put together testimony collected from women students. "Out of that we developed Northeastern's first sexual harassment policy, and President Ronald Williams was happy to adopt and promote the policy. To my knowledge, that was the beginning of Northeastern's efforts at addressing the problem," said Hoagland.

For more information regarding sexual harassment, contact Roberto Sanabria of the Affirmative Action Office at 773-442-5416 or Laurie Fuller, Coordinator of Women's Studies at 773-442-4552.

SCARIER: SNAKES, SPIDERS, or CLOWNS?

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State Representative candidate talks litigation and running for public office

By Sean Lynch
Staff Writer

The Pre-Law Society is a NEIU club comprising of students who would like to pursue a future in law. They recently hosted an event in which they had a guest speaker, David Schroeder, a litigator and candidate for the Illinois House of Representatives, representing the fifth district.

Schroeder, who has been practicing law for 25 years, relayed his experience in civil litigation, owning one's own practice, and the difficulties of law school to the aspiring lawyers, as well as expressing his desire to become a politician.

Schroeder talked about important aspects of being a lawyer, the most important of which is writing, due to the large amount of documentation that must be written up for discovery during pre-trial. "If you're a bad writer and you're thinking of a legal career," says Schroeder, "you might want to have some second thoughts."

When asked about the importance of what school you go to, he said "The better the school, the more likely you are to get a job," further explaining that someone at the

bottom of their class at a school such as the University of Chicago is likely to find a job, while someone at the bottom of their class at a school such as John Marshall is "going to have a very difficult time finding employment." He also commented that the first year of law school is exceedingly difficult, and compared it to the film, "The Paper Chase."

Schroeder is hoping to help reform Illinois politics. He believes Illinois needs "new people in Springfield" in order to get away from the "pay for play" politics, such as former Governor Blagojevich's attempt to sell President Obama's vacant senate seat, that has been running the Illinois Government.

Schroeder is running against fellow democrat and incumbent Kenneth Dunkin who has gone unchallenged since 2003. Schroeder believes that Dunkin's "Blagojevich enabling" behavior, which includes being the only member not present for Blagojevich's impeachment trial, isn't what Illinois or the members of the fifth district, deserve, and he is capable of better representation.

Should Schroeder beat the democratic incumbent for his district at the primary in February, he will become the third openly gay legislator in Illinois' history.

NEIU professor presents latest research on African slave trade

By Sergio Guzman
News Editor

New research in West African societies and the Atlantic Slave Trade was presented by history Professor Michael W. Tuck to a packed room on Oct. 8. The event was hosted by Phi Alpha Theta, NEIU's History Honors Society, and the History Department.

Professor Tuck presented the argument that slave exports or trade dominated West African commerce after 1700 as an overall generalization. He then pointed out the sheer size of West Africa and how easy it is to generalize about the area. "What I'm going to argue is that the commodity trade in many stateless societies continued to be the dominant form of trade, that the slave trade was never the dominant form of trade," stated Professor Tuck.

Tuck used an 18th Century stateless society, known as the Diola, in the region of Senegambia (present day Senegal and Gambia) to prove his argument. When the Portuguese and English began trading in Western Africa, they saw the beehives the Diola kept and raised for honey. "In this way," Tuck shared, "The Diola were able to access Atlantic trade by providing beeswax

to the Portuguese and then the English."

Tuck mentioned how beeswax was the Diola's main export, not slaves. To show how important and expensive beeswax was at the time, Tuck shared a quote by the English Trading Company- "Beeswax is so valuable a commodity here [London] that you cannot send over too much of it... we wish you would have filled the brig with it, we wish you would have sent us more."

"Unfortunately," Tuck explained, "The Diola did not have a happy ending." Once the slave trade threatened the Diola civilians, they began to trade beeswax for weapons, mainly guns. These were initially used for self-protection, but the Diola eventually began to capture other tribe members for trading purposes.

Either way, beeswax continued to be the Diola's main export. When asked why the Diola began selling slaves, Tuck responded by saying, "It was crucial in order to continue with Atlantic commerce."

Professor Tuck teaches African and African American history courses at NEIU. He visited the Senegambia region in West Africa this past Summer for research purposes.

The Silent Witness exhibit raises awareness of domestic violence

by Theresa Celmer
Arts Editor

To celebrate Sexual Awareness and Domestic Violence Month, NEIU held The Silent Witness International Initiative, also known as The Silent Witness exhibit, in Village Square on Oct. 1 and 2. This event honored men and women who have lost their lives due to domestic and sexual acts of violence. The exhibit had red, black and white cardboard cut-outs of either male, female or child-like silhouettes placed around in a circle. On each of these, a slip of paper told the individual's story.

For instance, one female cut out read "Vida McCree, Age 41, Woodridge May 5, 2004. Vida was a native of Ghana who married a Chicago man named Jeffery McCree, 33 in 2001. He had a history of 27 prior arrests and spent three stints in prison in Illinois. Five days after his release, he murdered her, stuffed her in a suitcase. A neighbor saw him drag the suitcase down a flight of stairs put it into Vida's car. Her body was found dumped in a trash bin in a West Ohio street ally."

Near the circle of cardboard cut-outs was an information table where pamphlets about sexual abuse and domestic violence were available. Purple ribbons were also given out. Director of the Women's Studies



Students reading stories of domestic violence on cutouts in Village Square.

Program Sheena Glover explained that it is a national event and that takes place at other campuses. She also mentioned that it has been going on for about 30 years.

In honor of Sexual and Domestic Violence Awareness, Northeastern Illinois

University will hold The Clothesline Project. It will be held on Oct. 12-16 in the Village Square. The Clothesline Project mainly addresses the act of violence against women. Individuals express what they are feeling and put it on shirts to be seen as a testimony to the

problem of violence against women. Glover also said that "the best way to raise awareness varies." She mentioned that it could be done through the purple ribbons surrounding NEIU's many trees, through electronic media and through pamphlets and other exhibits.

Photo by Theresa Celmer

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Commentary

EDITORIAL

The Olympics aren't coming to town

If you haven't heard yet, Chicago lost the chance to host the 2016 Summer Olympics last Friday to Rio de Janeiro, in Brazil. Yes, we will only be able to watch the Olympic games through our television sets, unless your bank account can handle the trip all the way to Rio. You will not be able to see your favorite Olympic athletes in person as they strive for their gold medals.

However, there would have been a price to pay had we won the bid, a very hefty price that some people don't think would be worth seeing the Olympics come to Chicago. The organization that was leading the effort to have the 2016 Summer Olympics hosted in Chicago projected an estimated cost of \$3.8 billion. They also had a fund estimation of \$450 million just in case that \$3.8 billion wasn't enough. Does the city really need any more money problems? Bidding alone costs \$100 million in and of itself.

The question of money isn't the only thing to think about when talking about hosting the Olympic games. Security is going to be high. You're not only going to have famous athletes who are here to compete, but you're going to have celebrities, leaders of nations and tourists from all over the world who will be here to watch the games and see the city. Good luck finding a hotel room downtown or anywhere near the city. Bars and restaurants will be filled to capacity. Everywhere you go, there will be more people than there would usually be; things will get crowded fast.

Because of all this, the police would be very busy during the games, making sure security is tight around the city. The police force will be all over making sure people don't get too rowdy or too drunk. Think of what an officer during the games would have to deal with on a daily basis. Now imagine being the one who has to police the drunken crowds, the angry fans or the happy ones. Keeping order in a city packed to the brim with sports enthusiast is going to be a monumental undertaking for Chicago's finest.

You have the enormous price tag of hosting the game, the massive influx of tourism, celebrities and powerful people. But there's something worse out there; something that will blacken the heart of any good willed person. The one thing that would turn the most optimistic person into a spiteful, angry body filled with cursing and hatred. Traffic.

If you feel bad for the police, you'll feel even worse for the city workers who would have to deal with the traffic mess during the Olympics. This monster will clog every major artery in and out of Chicago. People trying to just go to work might as well take a bike or public transportation. It'll look like a scene from all those end of the world movies where everyone's trying to leave the city at the same time. The road rage would be immense.

After drawing a picture for you, the reader, would you have liked for your city to pay all that money for you have to get hassled by police who are keeping security tight, deal with sometimes drunk, sometimes rowdy tourists and the divulge of traffic, all so Chicago can be known as the city that held the 2016 Olympics?

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor must be signed with an address and telephone number for verification. Submissions must not exceed 250 words. Letters are subject to editing for space and style at editor's discretion. The editor reserves the right to omit any work submitted. Letters are on a first-come first-served basis.

Send letters to: *Independent*, E-049, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave., Chicago, IL. 60625 or to: feedback.neiuindependent@gmail.com

Obama's not perfect... But change will happen with time

By David Lynch
Staff Writer

Change. Yes we can! This slogan galvanized the public during the 2008 Presidential election, propelling Barack Obama past John McCain. In January of 2009, Barack Obama delivered a powerful inaugural speech, continuing the promises of change-change in the multifaceted war that the United States was waging, change in the failing economy, change in partisan politics and change in health care. Change.

What has changed? Since President Obama has taken office, politics in Washington continues just as it has in the past. Party-line politics continues in both houses of Congress. President Obama's primary domestic policy, health care reform, has hit a roadblock that seemed unlikely. It is not the Republican Party that is grinding reform to a halt but instead it is the President's own Democratic party that is putting up a fight. In July, Republican Senator

Jim DeMint stated that a loss on health care reform would be his Waterloo. How could it not? The Democrats have control in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. When the Republicans had this control, President Bush took advantage and pushed his agenda through with ease, yet today President Obama seems unable to pass health care reform, which would provide a public insurance option that the American public deserves.

While on the campaign trail, then Senator Obama vowed to bring the American troops home from Iraq. Since taking office, the President has lowered troop levels in Iraq and devised an exit strategy. However, according to congressional reports, troop levels in Afghanistan have increased by 30,000 in 2009 alone, while the U.S. will maintain a military presence in Iraq until December 2011. The ongoing war in the Middle East is one that the American public wants to see come to an end, but there is no end in sight. The cost of American lives continues to

mount by the day. When are these soldiers truly coming home? When will we stop committing our military as a global policing force?

When President Obama took office, the American economy was in the worst shape that it had been in since the Great Depression. The solution was to inject large amounts of money into public works in hopes of creating lasting jobs. According to the Department of the Treasury, since January the national debt has increased by over 1.1 trillion dollars, while the unemployment rate has increased from 8.5 percent to 9.7 percent. It is still far too early to judge these decisions, as they will take years to truly make an impact. However, jobs created next year mean little to those who are laid off today.

President Obama's administration had a major victory with the success of the Cash for Clunkers program. The U.S. Department of Transportation announced that nearly 700,000 cars were traded in under the program. However, the program raised

many public concerns. If the government is having such great difficulty paying car dealerships a few thousand dollars for cars, imagine the difficulty paying health care bills on a much larger scale.

There are those who say, "Leave the President alone and let him go about his business." That's difficult to do when he is making a public address nearly every week. The President is spending so much time on network television, he may be replacing Jay Leno before Thanksgiving. President Obama came into office under huge expectations. He was hailed as the next FDR. However, today's society is impatient. We want everything now and cannot wait. The problems that President Obama has set out to change are not going to be solved overnight. We will have to be patient and let the President do his job. The President is doing the best job that he can, and we have to have a little hope and faith the situation in our country can turn around. Change will happen, it's just going to take time.

Being informed is a healthy habit

Cecilia Carboni
Visual Media Editor

Living with a disability or a chronic illness is not an easy task. Whatever form it may take, either for you or for a loved one, there are a myriad of obstacles to face everyday and they are unique to each of us. The one thing that is constant though is the need to be informed and proactive about one's health.

I feel it is important to do research from credible resources and know what the current understanding of the condition is, how it can affect you, what treatments are available, and the side effects of those treatments. This way when you go to the doctor you work with him to achieve the best results. Some may argue that there lies the risk of self-diagnosis, but only you know what is happening with your body. If you are unaware and misinformed then you are not making decisions about the most crucial aspect of your life: your own self.

I have had family members who were put on several drugs that they didn't even know what were for. Some were to counteract the side effects of others, and it was a vicious circle. The problem is that

people don't ask and don't understand. There is a fear in questioning the doctor.

I myself am a person living with epilepsy. It was my own research into a secondary treatment that finally controlled my seizures after five years. I heavily advocate that next time you find yourself in the doctor's office consider whether or not you could be managing your health differently. Does that mean asking more questions? Do you understand the values related to your blood tests? What do your medications really do? What is the long-term goal of your current treatment? Are you truly satisfied with it? Are there other options recognized by the medical community? Educating yourself can really make a positive change in your life.

Research can also lead into discovering support forums, as well as shared activities with others in your area. Whether in-person or online, you can make friends who you can talk to about your experiences.

Secondary to personal health is what I could call "social health". As individuals we face stigma from others who may not be aware of what our condition may entail. But when we ourselves do not fully understand it then

we spread misinformation to our peers. As long as discrimination exists against individuals with disabilities then it is our individual duty to make sure the people in our lives know what the issues are, how they do or do not affect us, and to dispel the misconceptions they may hold.

Misconceptions can range from what or what not to do in an emergency situation to more dangerous notions about what a condition reflects about somebody as a person. In my life, I have met strong resistance from people who were taught that someone in the middle of a tonic-clonic seizure (formally referred to as a grand mal) needs to have something placed in their mouth to keep them from swallowing their tongue. This is simply outdated and false information. Epilepsy has over 70 types of seizures, a common one is complex partials seizures which can initially manifest as odd behavior or confusion. Since this is not how the media portrays epilepsy, this is one place where misunderstandings arise in the workplace and amongst friends and family. The only way to combat this is by making others aware in the beginning.

Of course, this is just one example that I can give. Being open is important, and being informed even more so.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to Jonathan Gronli's article under the Voice of the Campus entitled, "Don't condemn, learn."

He spends considerable time saying that it is wrong for people to impose their beliefs on others. I agree with him. But I do not agree that holding up a provocative sign about hell is the same thing as imposing one's beliefs upon another person. It may have offended some people who did not agree with it, but in a culture that values freedom of speech those things will happen. I do not agree with Mr. Gronli's article, but I would not say he was imposing his beliefs upon me. He was exercising his freedom of speech as I am exercising mine and as this group was exercising theirs.

However, what really bothers me is the double standard with which he approaches this topic. On the one hand, he says that everybody has a right to their religious beliefs, and that, "We should not fear or condemn religious difference" but "learn to embrace it." Yet, there is nothing in his article to suggest that he tried to embrace this group or their teaching. And although he tries to dispassionately raise some reasonable points, in the end, he gives in to the old *ad hominem* fallacy by advising his readers to not "fall into the same ignorance" as this group.

It is one thing to say, "Don't condemn, learn"; it is another thing to actually do it.

Sincerely,
Darren Gruett

In Cutler We Trust

Graphic by Cecilia Carboni

By David A. Lynch
Staff Writer

The last day of the 2009 baseball season was the day that the Denver Broncos traded Jay Cutler to the team he grew up rooting for. That day Jay Cutler was anointed the savior of Chicago. After all, not since Jim McMahon, or possibly the great Sid Luckman, have the Bears had a “real” quarterback. The Bears have had a revolving door at the starting quarterback position since Jim Harbaugh was run out of town in 1994.

Kyle Orton definitely was not the worst quarterback that Chicago has seen. Cade McNown arguably can boast that achievement. In three years with the Bears, Orton had a 21 – 12 record. Despite that, Orton was just never “the guy” for the Bears. Orton isn’t the kind of guy who is going to go out and win a game, he’s the guy that manages the game, and hopefully keeps you from losing one. That is why when Jay Cutler became available, a quarterback who lives to go out and win the game, the Bears jumped on the opportunity.

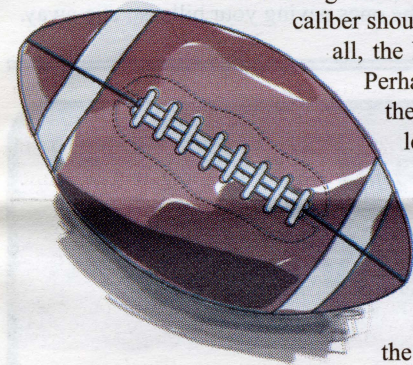
Jay Cutler did not win even half of his starting games in Denver, going 17 – 20. However, expectations could not have been any higher for Cutler as he strode into Chicago. The Bears defense is widely considered one of the best in the NFL and Matt Forte established himself as an elite running back in 2008. Cutler was the missing piece. Finally, the Bears have a quarterback that they could count on. After all, in 2008 Cutler threw 25 touchdowns. That is almost as many as the 30, which Orton threw during his entire Bears career.

Since coming to Chicago, Cutler has appeared at games for other Chicago sports teams. Bears jerseys bearing Cutler’s name and number 6 quickly became popular. The buzz surrounding Cutler and the Bears drowned out almost everything. This was a remarkable task, given the Bulls’ and Blackhawks’ return to the playoffs. There was talk of how crisp and strong his passes were and of how great he was fitting in with the other players. Not everything being said about Cutler was good though. This after all was the quarterback who forced his way out of Denver.

He was upset that the team involved him in trade talks. He was being too emotional. Players of his caliber shouldn’t be doing that, after all, the NFL is also a business. Perhaps more importantly, the heir to John Elway’s legacy should quietly go about his business of leading the Broncos to another Superbowl. Cutler was the man in Denver. Cutler said he had the strongest arm in the league, stronger than even Elway’s. That is the confidence Cutler brings now to Chicago, along with a rocket arm. Denver can have Kyle Orton, Chicago loves players who exude that type of confidence.

Make no mistake though, Cutler needs the Bears. Cutler has outplayed the other quarterbacks taken in the 2006 draft. That does not say much though. Vince Young and Matt Leinart both have led to disappointment. Cutler needs the Bears to perform well so that he can begin to cement his legacy. Other young quarterbacks like Eli Manning and Philip Rivers recently signed contract extensions totaling nearly \$200 million. Cutler is still playing under his rookie contract but he needs to prove something if he wants to earn that kind of payday.

The 2009 season opened with the Bears playing in Green Bay and Cutler disappointed. Cutler threw four interceptions, but the Bears kept it close and almost came back to Chicago with a win. This game was telling about Cutler. He provided a chance to come back and win. Since that atrocious first game, Cutler has thrown



Sports: The necessary obsession?

By Jacob Jones
Staff Writer

Chances are that if you were born and raised in Chicago, you love Michael Jordan. He is the unofficial deity of nearly all Chicagoans. If one were to object to MJ’s greatness in a crowd of Chicagoans, that person’s very life and liberty may be in jeopardy.

The same can be said of many other Chicago greats such as Walter Payton or Ernie Banks. Is this to say that sports too heavily influences us as a society? Many will argue that sports do distract the general populace from more important issues or that they detract from the fame of people who really deserve to have the spotlight on them like scientists and Nobel Prize winners. To these people we just have to say “Ok fine, but when’s the last time a Nobel Prize winner dunked from the free-throw line?” Sure Steven Hawking contributed greatly to the field of physics and devoted his life to hard work so that the rest of us could live better lives and even someday explain the very nature of the universe, but he just does not have the star power and aesthetically pleasing traits that a sports superstar has.

This is not to say that great scholars and scientists are not due their fame, they just do not capture the imagination and fascination of the people like sports stars do. While someone like Steven Hawking deserves multitudes of credit for his work, he is probably the only famous living physicist that anyone can name off-hand. Sports stars, on the other hand, can be counted dozens at a time.

In Chicago especially, sports is a lifestyle. How else in this oftentimes bleak and

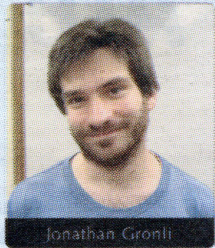
divided city can people of all colors and creed come together and identify on a single subject? While this is not to say that sports do not make people mortal enemies, i.e. Cubs and Sox fans or Bears and Packer fans, it all depends on the perspective that one views these divisions from. In a sense these divides strengthen our identity as either Americans on a larger scale, or Chicagoans on the community scale. We rely on sports to establish who we are and further broaden our sense of identity.

The values that sports emphasize are also as American as apple pie. Anyone who has participated in a rigorous sport can tell you that playing sports teaches self-discipline and perseverance. This is why sports stars are amongst the most admired in the world. People look up to these athletes and strive to attain even a sliver of the greatness that these people have achieved. Everyone can learn something from sports in order to better themselves. Critics may argue that all sports promote is steroid use and super-ego, however, these aspects of sports are not promoted in the mainstream or as the core values that sports convey. These negative attributes of sports are punished and not promoted so it is unfair to hold them against the overall positivity of sports.

Societies across the world have recognized the influence of sports in keeping people entertained while at the same time establishing culture and identity in a society. To say that sports play too large an influence in a society is to not look at what has made the society what it is. Sports are an expression of cultures, they are the essence of societies, and they are ultimately the face of the values that a people hold.

seven touchdowns to one interception. More importantly, Cutler ran for a touchdown in the first quarter of the game against the Lions, something that had to inspire every Bears fan. Cutler leapt into the air and reached for the goal line as he took a hit that spun him around. This is the kind of guy that Bears players and fans need. Heading into the bye week, the Bears have a 3 - 1 record, along with a quarterback that seems destined for very big things.

Voice of the Campus



Curse of bureaucracy

A lot of people usually end up complaining about incompetence in regards to some of the staff that they end up having to deal with here at NEIU. The reason for the complaints usually has to do with paperwork getting lost or not processed at the right time. The mass majority of the complaints, at least the ones I’ve heard, usually circle around the Financial Aid Office.

This article might sound like support for various departments. It’s not though. It’s just a statement of fact. Bureaucracy usually screws something up and it’s the person whose paperwork has been lost that suffers most. It’s not the department’s fault, but the system’s fault. Unfortunately, if you’re going into higher education, it usually doesn’t matter where you go. The same things can, and will, go wrong.

What people fail to realize is that they need to try to plan ahead and prepare for anything that could go wrong. After all, if you do anything with education, you’re automatically buying into the bureaucracy of the city, and possibly the state, that the school is in. Seeing as how we’re a Chicago-area state University, we’re buying into the city and state’s bureaucratic mess.

Paperwork gets lost. Things aren’t always processed on time. It happens. However, there’s a right way and a wrong way to do things. Sure, we could get mad and possibly make ourselves look like irrational idiots. I’ve seen this happen quite often before. Sometimes you’ve got to hound people about things so that they don’t forget. Persistence is a good thing, but, you have to be polite as well.

These problems happen everywhere and the only reason you hear more complaints about it here at NEIU is simple. Elsewhere people remember that if someone in the lower rungs of a department is screwing up for one reason or another, there’s someone else in the department to look to for help. The students climb the ladder to get help and are persistent but polite.

Here, people complain but don’t really do anything like trying to find someone else to help them. When we do look for help, it’s usually after the fifth or sixth screw up and by then it’s usually too late anyway.

If you work your way up the ladder at the beginning of your problems, the sooner problems are going to get fixed. If you just complain, nothing will really get done because, we’re in a state where higher education is bogged down by problems. If you just complain and aren’t being proactive, aren’t helping yourself by finding the right people to talk to, you’re just putting one more problem on the top of the pile that needs to be taken care of. If you aren’t being proactive, your problem might be one of the latter ones that actually get fixed, if it’s even reached or realized.

Be pro-active. Be polite. But also be persistent. Things will work out if you climb the chain of command when something goes wrong. It’s as simple as that.

Rolling the Dice with Milton Bradley

By David A. Lynch
Staff Writer

2009 will be known as the year that Jim Hendry rolled the dice playing Milton Bradley’s games. Unfortunately for Cubs fans, Hendry wasn’t playing Monopoly with friends or family. Hendry was gambling on Chicago’s chance at another World Series and put the Cubs up as collateral.

In January, Bradley signed a free agent contract with the Cubs. The contract was for \$30 million over a period of three years. Fans were already predicting that this would be an arduous three years of dealing with the mercurial outfielder. Hendry seemed willing to roll the dice in hopes that the player who showed up would be the slugger who led the American League in OPS (on base plus slugging) during the 2008 season, and not the player who continuously stopped himself from having success.

Bradley’s career has been plagued with numerous arguments with umpires and, of course, the suspensions that

followed them. Umpires have not been the only people to feel the ire of Bradley, as he has shared his displeasure with team management and fans in the past. Bradley is best known for two incidents. In September of 2007 as the San Diego Padres were in the heat of a playoff run, Bradley was engaged in an altercation with an umpire. While being restrained by Padres manager Bud Black, Bradley fell to the ground and tore his right ACL. As a result of the injury, Bradley missed the remainder of the season and the one game playoff with the Colorado Rockies, which the Padres lost. While with the Texas Rangers, during the 2008 season, Bradley heard comments by a television announcer which he felt were unfair. Bradley took offense and left the clubhouse to confront the announcer in the booth but was restrained by Texans manager Ron Washington and general manager Jon Daniels.

Hendry undoubtedly hoped that the reward of signing Bradley would far outweigh the risk. After all, the Cubs outfield consisted of an underachieving Alfonso Soriano and a disappointing Kosuke Fukudome to go along with Reed

Johnson and a few unproven prospects. In Hendry’s defense, no one could have predicted Jake Fox’s breakout year. However, trading away a proven player like Mark DeRosa to play Bradley’s game now looks foolish.

The Cubs demise in the 2009 season cannot be solely attributed to Milton Bradley, however, he certainly carries his share of the blame. Bradley never became the presence in the middle of the order that the Cubs hoped and needed him to become. Injuries and poor performance plagued Bradley and a demanding Cubs fan base, rabid for the franchise’s first championship in over a century, simply became too much. In what has become typical Milton Bradley fashion, Bradley lashed out at the media and fans. On Sept. 21, Bradley was suspended for the remainder of the 2009 season and it now appears that the Cubs will attempt to trade him.

In 2009 Jim Hendry took a card from the Chance stack and it worked out poorly for the Cubs. Hopefully in 2010, Hendry will stick to Milton Bradley board games rather than risking a chance of ending the Cubs curse on the player.

Are you a college clipper?

By Victoria A. Tullock
Editor-in-Chief

As the economy seems to keep throwing devastating punches to my finances, I'm left wondering what am I going to do. I am barely scraping by month to month, and I am in constant fear of losing my apartment, car and life as I know it. During spring, however, I picked up a job at a retail store and learned a few things on how to hold onto my much-needed cash. The answer was something I knew about all along, but was too ashamed to admit- COUPONS!

Growing up I used to dread when my father or mother would pull out the coupon saver wallet and meticulously go through every section to make sure they gave all the proper coupons for the items they were purchasing. I would look around at the people standing behind us as they rolled their eyes and made little huffing noises. I hated when my parents brought out the coupons.

Through my early twenties, though, I never worried about money. I had a great job and was bringing in more than enough money on a regular basis. I never thought about saving money nor did I worry about it. When I made the choice to go back to school, though, I gave up my full time job and decided to sacrifice my comfortable life for an education. Instead of being rewarding, it has put me in a state of perpetual worry.

So, for a person who isn't the most

financially savvy, and who is teetering on bankruptcy all the time, I needed a solution, and fast. The area I work in is mostly in an upper class neighborhood and the people who shop there have money to burn. A person might think people like that probably throw money around like it was nothing. On the contrary, they are sticklers with their cash. This is when I really learned about the power of coupons. I would say almost every customer that comes to my check out counter brings coupons.

I will never forget the day a woman bought about fifty dollars worth of items and only paid about thirty. She bought things that were on sale and coupled them with store coupons and manufacturer coupons, and some stores, like my store, have in house money.

In house money is a coupon that prints out at that store and can only be used at that store. For example, if I shop at store x and buy twenty dollars worth of items, a coupon of say, five dollars off my next purchase, may print up. So next time I go to store x and I shop and say my items equal ten dollars I can use my store x bucks and only end up paying five dollars for a ten dollar purchase. The best thing about store bucks is that you can save them and use them together. So if I have two coupons of store bucks one is ten dollars and one is two dollars I can still use them on my next purchase!

I know it's weird to get excited about



Drawing by Zeenat Ismail

all of this, but when you use your coupons and your store bucks, look at the bottom of your receipt, it has an area that tells you how much you saved on that purchase. At first, because you're maybe new to this it might not seem like a lot. The first time I utilized my coupons and bucks I did it wrong and only saved two dollars and something cents, I know, not much. However, the next time

I did it I was much more savvy and saved almost 15 dollars on a 30 dollar purchase. I am hoping to shoot for saving 20 dollars one of these days. Saving money is not only fun, but is rewarding especially for the struggling college student. And as far as those grumbling people in line, rolling their eyes as you get out your coupon saver book, who cares, they are not the ones paying your bills, so clip away.

Man on the Street:

By Sean Lynch
Staff Writer

Q: What is your favorite or least favorite building on campus, and why?



"Least favorite would be the classroom building. It just sucks. It's a further walk from everywhere else."

- Matt Calabrese, Senior



"Least favorite is Lech Walesa. It's a very general building. I prefer the fine arts building."

- John-Paul Kreatsoulas, Sophomore



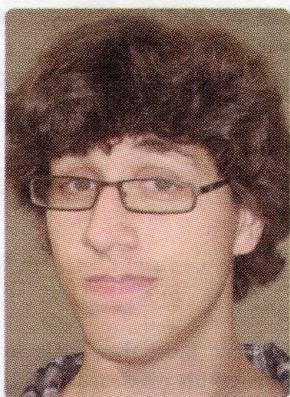
"Parking. That's my least favorite. It's because they should have a sign at the entrance informing you that level five is for level three parking only, so students won't drive up there with level two permits."

Patricia Barnes, Senior



"Classroom is my least favorite. It's a little too crowded."

- Ramcin Cannon, Sophomore



"Least favorite is the J building. It's an island classroom in the middle of the parking lot where they hold dance class. However well bundled up you are, if you've put forth any effort at all you're likely sweating, if not slightly fatigued, and it's a considerable distance from any other building."

- Win Rysdahl, Senior



"I like the student union the most. Least favorite would be the classroom building. It sucks. No signal, no windows. It's like a jail cell with no locks."

- Melly Ruan, Sophomore



"Least favorite would be the Lech Walesa building. It's boring. I hate the name."

- Mujahid Rahman, Freshman

Look out for the Man on the Street!

Have a question you'd like him to ask?

Send them over to feedback.neuiindependent@gmail.com

ARTS & LIFE

ENTERTAINMENT AND F

By David A. Lynch
Staff writer

An interview is your opportunity to set yourself apart from every other applicant. Depending on how things go, you can either knock one out of the park and secure the job, or just as easily slam the door shut and kiss it good-bye. By following these tips, you should be on your way to filling out paperwork with Human Resources in no time.

Have you ever heard the saying, "dress for success?" Of course you have. It goes without saying, the day of your interview, you want to leave those jeans and gym shoes in the closet. Gentlemen, wear a suit and tie. Stick with something simple like charcoal, black or navy, nothing flashy. If you are unable to wear a suit, slacks with a dress shirt may suffice. Ladies, please dress sophisticated, not busy. Like men, a suit would be preferred. However, slacks and a dress shirt will pass. If you choose to wear a skirt, it should fall to your knees. Makeup should be basic, remember you are interviewing for a job, not heading out to a nightclub. Take advantage of a dry cleaner and have your interview clothing pressed. If you are questioning an outfit you plan to wear, do yourself a favor and move onto something else.

You should treat your interview as though it begins the moment you leave your home and does not conclude until you have returned. The person you cut off for a parking space just might be the person that is interviewing you. Saying hello and holding the elevator can go a long way. You never know how the people sharing that small space can influence your future

career. Be mindful of what you say when you are in the bathroom or in the waiting area. It is amazing how those conversations, no matter how insignificant you think they may be, can make or break your employment with the company. Once you get the job, treat every moment you are at work just as though it is an interview for your next position.

Do your homework on the company for which you are interviewing. Nothing is more impressive than an applicant who has knowledge of the company. During the interview process you will be provided with an opportunity to ask questions about the company. Having well thought-out and prepared questions shows the interviewer that you are serious about the company and your future employment there. This is not the time to ask about compensation. Don't worry, there will be time for that when they offer you the position.

Put time in to prepare for your interview. The more experience that you have being interviewed, the easier being interviewed becomes. You will be questioned about your work experience and possibly your education background. Interviewers will ask how you can improve the company. Going through a series of mock interviews will enable you to provide intelligent and well-structured answers. It is natural to feel nervous and uneasy when someone is being critical about you and your skills. However, with practice, you will be able to handle the interview process, because you will already know what is going to be asked and more importantly, have the right answers.

Take a moment to think about questions and your answer before responding. When you pause before answering a question, it shows the interviewer that you are being thoughtful of your response. If you are unsure of how to respond to a question or what is meant, ask for clarification. You are better off giving yourself a moment to compose an answer than to just wing it and throw just anything out there.

By following these tips, you should secure the job that you deserve. You have it in yourself to succeed, you just have to show them how much they need you.

Interview Tips For Success

graphics by Cecilia Carboni



Fighting the Flu Frenzy

By Whitney Behr
Staff Writer

Face it: you might have the flu. If you don't already have it, you might get it. This flu season is different from recent ones in that above and beyond the ordinary seasonal flu, there's the world famous H1N1 (or swine) flu going around, too. Vaccines for seasonal flu are in high demand, but available. H1N1 vaccines are not even available yet. This means that even if you get your regular flu shot (which experts are recommending), you still have to be extra careful this flu season.

It is widely known that the flu spreads by contact with a contagious person. An infected person can be contagious one day before showing symptoms and up to a week after being symptom-free, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Some contagious people may not even show symptoms, so sanitary vigilance must be maintained regardless of the amount of sick people in your life, yourself included.

Outside of getting vaccinated, the CDC recommends frequent hand washing as the top preventative measure against the flu. Use of alcohol-based hand sanitizer (like the kinds found at various locations around campus) is also recommended if hand washing is not readily available. Regardless of how clean your hands are, it is also recommended that you avoid touching sensitive areas of your face, such as your mouth and eyes as these are areas through which the flu virus can enter your body.

Common symptoms of the flu characteristically include a high fever and sore throat, often paired with body aches, fatigue, and a dry cough. Those suffering from H1N1 flu have also reported vomiting and diarrhea. Sick people are advised to avoid unnecessary contact with other people. If possible, those with the flu should stay home for seven days after the symptoms begin or 24 hours after the symptoms have stopped, whichever is longer.

Northeastern students have received several messages from the administration regarding the University's flu policies. Students experiencing flu symptoms, whether the symptoms are severe or mild, are "strongly encouraged" to stay home until they have been without a fever for 24 hours. Instructors are prepared to make accommodations for sick students, including using tools like Blackboard to allow these individuals to keep up in classes. Parents of recently sick children are being advised not to bring them to NEIU for up to ten days after they are symptom free, as children are contagious longer than adults. Faculty and staff should contact the Office of Human Resources regarding sick leave policies.

According to the public announcements made via NEIUport, the University staff is keeping informed about the situation through reports from the US Department of Education, the CDC, and the Illinois Department of Public Health and plans to keep the students up to date as more information becomes available.

Now, go wash your hands.

My robot self and I & some mass destruction too!

Review of "The Surrogates" comic series

By Syed Ahad Hussain
Staff Writer

Imagine a life of ease and comfort. You do not have to leave home for work, school, grocery shopping or boring social gatherings. Your robot self is here for you to work. All you have to do is to lie down on that chair and plug yourself in. Your 'Surrogate' will do the rest. He is smarter than you. He is better looking, and younger than you. But, since they say that every innovation has its own way of mass destruction, you may not want a surrogate in the end when you finally begin to realize its capability. But it's already too late.

The premise of "The Surrogates" by Robert Venditti and artist Brett Weldele begins in the year 2054 with the main protagonist detective Harvey Greer handling the case of the destruction of two surrogates by the 'Prophet,' the leader of anti-surrogate association. Determined to eliminate the human dependence on surrogates, is it for their own good or this so-called Prophet has something else on his or her mind? But wait, someone killed the 'Prophet' - the mythical seemingly obvious culprit behind the destruction of Surrogates. Who? And Why? Greer, after years, stepped out from his house himself to investigate, since he cannot rely on his surrogate anymore. What he found will make you bounce off your chair. It is one of those thrillers that will prove wrong your every prediction of what will



happen next.

The prequel, "The Surrogates: Flesh and Bone," set sometime around the year 2044, traces the back story of then patrolman Harvey Greer and the surrogates- a new invention and a sudden sensation. When a teenager's prank goes horribly wrong, resulting in sudden death of a homeless man, a racist slur also occurs. The boy in question was using his father's surrogate at the time of the incident. Though his father was unaware of that at first, he later came to defend his son and lied to police that he was using his surrogate, for his self defense, and it wasn't his son. Moreover, the eye witness of the incident was later killed too, and the father and son are free to go. This led to several deadly riots and massive protests by the 'Prophet' and his 'followers'. The rest of the graphic novel deals with law's struggle with the anti-surrogate association and Greer's promotion to detective and his shocking discovery about the incident.

"The Surrogates" series has every ingredient of suspense and thrill of any sci-fi human-versus-machine struggle. What makes it different from any other sci-fi graphic novel is its inter-textuality, allusions and metaphors about the suddenly increasing human appetite for and addiction to machines. This graphic novel has a very strong message and you should read it if you care a little about the world you live in.

The movie adaptation of "Surrogates" is currently in theaters.

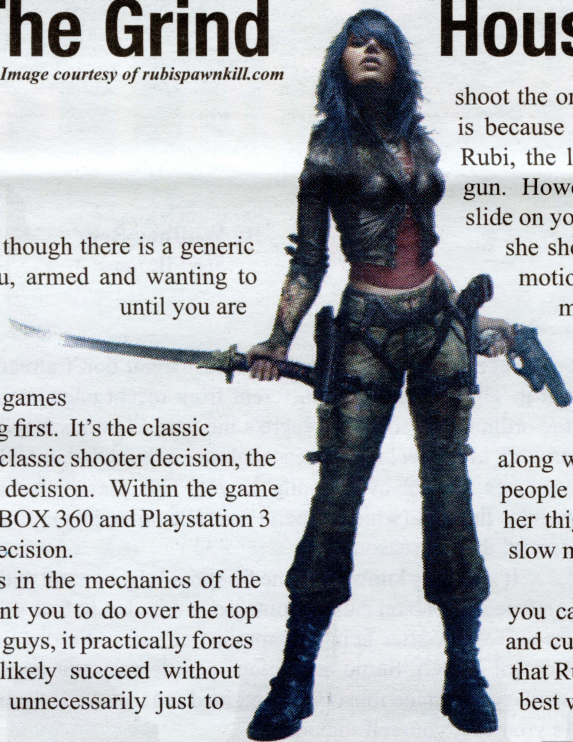
The Grind

Image courtesy of rubispawkill.com

By Nick Vracar
Senior Staff Writer

Oh no! It appears as though there is a generic thug standing before you, armed and wanting to deplete your life bar until you are forced to restart! What do you do? The logical decision in most video games would be to shoot the thug first. It's the classic video game decision, the classic shooter decision, the classic spaghetti western decision. Within the game of "Wet," released for X-BOX 360 and Playstation 3 consoles, that is a poor decision.

The reason for this lies in the mechanics of the game. It doesn't just want you to do over the top acrobatics as you kill bad guys, it practically forces you to. You will not likely succeed without jumping through the air unnecessarily just to



House Stylized Video Game

shoot the one guy in front of you. The reason for this is because if you merely choose to stand and shoot, Rubi, the lead character of Wet, will only shoot one gun. However, if you choose to run past the bad guy, slide on your knees like a rock star and aim backwards she shoots two guns and faster. And it's in slow motion, and as we all know, all things in slow motion are cool.

The entire game is designed so that Rubi can constantly be shooting people, albeit not while running or walking. She shoots people while jumping, sliding, running along walls and jumping off of walls. She shoots people while sliding down a ladder, upside down, her thighs squeezing the rails. All, of course, in slow motion.

She also has a sword. Now then, in theory you can walk up to the bad guy in the scenario and cut him up. The problem with this theory is that Rubi's sword does less damage that way. The best way to use your sword is to run past the guy,

slide, and then tap the sword attack, making her lunge back up to do the exact same attack she would have done on foot. It's a strange setup that recalls Strangehold's desire to make you run up stair rails in order to shoot guys.

Outside of the strange gameplay setup there are the visuals of the game, strained and faded and constantly flickering. The design of the visuals was to mimic the old Grind House film, much like what Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino did in their set of films, "Death Proof" and "Planet Terror." It's a style that the game does well, complete with film burnouts and cheesy commercials for in theater refreshments. Above the visuals there's the soundtrack, consisting of a large selection of various indie punk bands, constantly setting a hectic mood for Rubi's spree of violence.

The story line is action packed, though four to five hours after you begin it will be over. You will have hacked and slashed and blasted your way through hundreds of generic goons only to defeat a final boss by pressing buttons in time. You will have jumped out of an exploding plane, without a parachute, for a book. And you will be stuck with an ending that resolves half the story.

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Welcome all NEIU students

Grito de Lares at NEIU

By Jacob Jones
Staff Writer

"Grito de Lares!" or "The cry of Lares" is the official call for independence of the Puerto Rican people. While there were no calls for independence at the Grito de Lares Celebration at NEIU hosted by the Union for Puerto Rican Students (UPRS), there was an abundance of celebration for a culture that is rich in traditions and diversity. The UPRS celebrated the anniversary of Grito de Lares on Sept. 23, 141 years after the original event that marked the beginning of the Puerto Rican plight for independence. During this celebration Puerto Rican students, as well as many others came together to share different aspects of Puerto Rican culture and heritage.

From the soothing and passionate adaptation of "Preciosa," an ode to the beauty of Puerto Rico by Jackie Nowotnik, to the rhythmic conga performance by Ruthy Venegas to the tune of "Fuego Fuego Muchana," the celebration brought the sounds of the island alive right here at NEIU. A poetry recital that put a face on the plight of Puerto Ricans living in Chicago, by poets

Samuel Vega and Jessie Fuentes, spoke about the troubles and struggles that Puerto Rican youth face in society, but also the hope and dedication that Puerto Ricans have to achieve greatness and impact society. Speaker Xavier Luis Burgos told the intricate story of the Puerto Rican people's struggle for independence and the triumphs and losses that the Puerto Rican people have endured in order to secure their sovereignty.

"It's very dynamic and it's very rich [culture] and that's something that people don't really recognize, and it's also kind of a unique experience that Puerto Ricans have in Chicago," said Burgos. "And so we're dedicated here at the university to promoting who we are not only to our own people, but also to people who want to learn more about this unique Latino experience that we're part of."

Puerto Rico is a country of rich heritage and fascinating history. It is important to remember that Puerto Rican people as a whole come from all different types of ethnicities and encompass a people that are wide ranging in terms of background. The UPRS welcomes all of those who wish to share in this rich culture and want to get a taste of what Puerto Rican culture is like.

Murder and mayhem on ice

Whiteout [Graphic Novel]review

By Syed Ahad Hussain
Staff Writer

The graphic novel "Whiteout", by Greg Rucka and artist Steve Lieber, begins with a murder that took place in Antarctica and U.S Marshall Carrie Stetko is called to investigate. Her arrival is welcomed by a killer who left her unconscious in the cold after brutally assaulting her. No, she didn't die; she somehow managed to survive, losing two of her fingers.

The rest of the novel follows her investigation, from an asylum to dead zones of that frozen part of the world, and results in chaos and mayhem which will keep you thrilled and finger-bitten until the end. The identity of the real culprit, to some extent, is a shocker. The only thing missing here are the penguins. Maybe hunted by the killer? This should be investigated too.

Stetko is a lovely and pitiful character for whom you sympathize at some point but she has some frightening moments too. One of which is a flashback sequence which details her encounter with a schizophrenic ruthless killer whom she caught and was locked down with for hours in a room due to some unknown circumstances. The killer both physically and mentally assaults her despite of being handcuffed. She suddenly loses her temper and bursts out on him madly, and almost kills him before the cops are able to break the door. This incident will haunt her forever.

"Whiteout" is followed by 2000 Eisner Award winning sequel, "Whiteout: Melt." The



sequel follows Stetko's return to Antarctica from her vacation in New Zealand, where she investigates the theft of nuclear warheads at a Russian science outpost. She is accompanied by a Russian intelligence officer, she also walks on foot on ice for miles to track down thieves.

The third installment, named "Whiteout: Thaw" was first expected to come out in 2007 but now will be released sometime later in Fall 2009.

The feature film adaptation of "Whiteout" is currently in theaters.

A Serious Man

By Nick Vracar
Senior Staff Writer

The Coen Brothers are an odd sort, in that they drift from making strange mainstream movies to strange art house movies. There's very little middle ground with them and not all of their movies are going to appeal to the same audience. Lots of people remember there more musical journey, "Oh Brother, Where Art Thou?" along with "Fargo." Less people remember "The Big Lebowski" and "Blood Simple." One or two people actually watched "The Man That Wasn't There."

Their new film, "A Serious Man," is likely to be more of a film that only a few people watch. Critics will love it, it will win Oscars for acting, writing and directing. However, a lot of people will not like it and it's all due to one thing- It purposefully tells a story without resolution. That is, in essence what every aspect of the story is about. Like "The Singing Detective" states, only clues, no solutions.

The story is about a guy named Larry who attempts to deal with an onslaught of problems from his family and work. It's also about his son, Danny, though the movie doesn't give him as much attention as it gives his father. All of the problems that he faces constantly are adding up and wearing him down mentally when, at the advice of several people, he visits three Rabbi's in an attempt to find some sort of help to deal with his emotional troubles.

Then it ends. It ends just as abruptly as it begins. It's ending is so sudden, it's almost as if it was talking to you and it stopped mid-sentence. It's like if Spider-man felt his spider senses tingling and then the credits rolled. It's both a shocking and disappointing thing, and a strange thing because that's really the point of the whole film. It's that kind of ending that will push away any hope for a mainstream audience.

It's not that it's a bad movie entirely, though. The acting is incredible, especially considering the majority of the main cast are new faces in the spotlight. Michael Stuhlbarg, as the protagonist Larry, is excellent in his first major movie role. The Coen Brothers maintain an amazing standard, flashing from the unnerving to the hilarious with ease. So, if the lack of any proper ending doesn't scare you away, it is worth watching, even if you'll walk away from it wondering what you've just watched and whether or not you'll be able to get Jefferson Airplane's "Somebody to Love" out of your head.



Image courtesy of coenbrothers.net

National Novel Writing Month

By Nick Vracar
Senior Staff writer

Have you ever tried to write a novel? It doesn't matter if it was fiction or non-fiction. It doesn't matter whether it was an action tale of spies against spies, or a story of love between two misanthropic socialites. It's just...have you? If you have, then you probably know the amount of work that is required in preparing for and actually attempting the feat, let alone being successful with it. Well, don't give up! National Novel Writing Month approaches with hopes that this time you'll be more successful.

National Novel Writing Month, NaNoWriMo for short, is a contest that runs through the month of November. The idea behind the contest is to get as many different writers together onto one online forum, www.

nanowrimo.org, and then write a novel. Your entry into the contest would be your finished novel, clocking in at over 50,000 words, by the end of the month. That said, you're not left high and dry to do all the work by yourself. Here's how it works:

First, you need an idea for your story. You can come up with it yourself, or you can hop onto the online forum and get ideas. You can show your idea to other people that are there and maybe they can help you clean it up. It might be a good idea to do this before November, so you don't have to lose any time that could very easily go into writing your story. There are separate forums for every genre, spanning from adventure to mystery, from science fiction to erotica, so there's definitely a spot for whatever story you want to tell.

Then comes the waiting for the contest

to begin. The weeks turn to days, the days turn to hours, and then finally November comes around and you're able to start writing your masterpiece. Only of course, you've got to be timely. It'll be tricky balancing a school schedule, a work schedule and writing but if you set aside a little bit of time each day you might be able to produce enough content to stay in the race. Plus, you've got everyone on the forum on your side, willing to help you out if you get stuck. The idea behind the battle is you just can't give up, even if you realize that half of November has gone by and you've just started chapter two.

Oh yeah, and don't forget, this is a contest! Complete your novel, send it in and you automatically win a prize. What prize? One complete novel! Written by you! Good luck!

Image courtesy of vracar.net

Fantastic first week for flag football

Image courtesy of ClipArtHeaven.com

By Norris Narsa
Specal Contributor

Who needs Big Ten athletics at Northeastern Illinois University when we have intramural sports? The 2009 flag football season began Sept. 29 which saw four teams battle for supremacy on the athletic fields by the Physical Education Complex. The two fields played host to opening day for flag football.

The returning champions, set to defend their reign as the "Last Men Standing," took on a newly assembled team with quarterback and captain Nader Elmasri at the helm. Team "We're 40" put up a valiant effort but lost to the champions 20 to 34. Field 2 saw another one of the favorites to win it this year, team "Killer Biscuits," destroy the packed team of "They Coming!!!" 38 to 0. Fans got to see

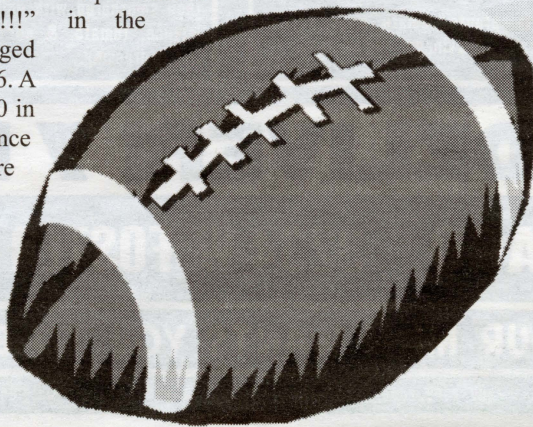
an amazing array of trick plays and sound fundamentals to an astounding win. Nipun Patel, starting quarterback for the Biscuits said after the win, "We're gonna win it all".

Day two quickly matched the excitement of day one where fans got to see a nail biter between "We're 40" and "They Coming!!!" In a defensive struggle, "We're 40" edged out a victory and got their first win 12 to 6. A frustrated Omar Sidiqian, captain of the 0 in 2 "They Coming!!!" said, "I know that once we practice more, we'll be better. We're gonna blow every team out."

While the players play and the fans cheer, none of it would be possible without the intramural sports staff that train student officials, prepare the fields and keep everything organized. Opening week of flag football also saw the debut of new officials, who are

all looking forward to a season filled with excitement and competition. It can be a very tough job but without them there would not be a league. When asked about opening week of Flag Football, Edric Cruz, one of the supervisors in the

Intramural department said, "although there are few teams, the competition is fierce. Players and officials alike both had a great start to the season. This looks



to be the start of something special."

Games are held during activity hour Tuesdays and Thursdays on the athletic fields. If you're not fully satisfied with NCAA football on Saturday or NFL football on Sunday, Tuesdays and Thursdays should be just the thing to satisfy your football fix.

Playlist

In every issue, we'll be featuring the top five songs on select students' playlists.

Marchesa Gran - Online Editor

1. Breathing Underwater - by Marie` Digby
2. Taylor - by Jack Johnson
3. Mixed Tape - by Butch Walker
4. Use Somebody - by Kings of Leon
5. Capri - by Colbie Caillat

Francisco Nieto - Production Manager

1. D-Code - by Dust Devil
2. Holiday in Cambodia - by Dead Kennedys
3. Thunder - by ACDC
4. Stairway to heaven - by Metallica
5. The seeker - by The Who

Jacob Chavez - Production Editor

1. Bad Time - by Apocalypse Hoboken
2. Send Help - by Blue Meanies
3. Coast - by Oblivion
4. Dehumanize - by The Bollweevils
5. The Decline - by NOFX

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Goodman Takes on Vintage Shtick with Animal Crackers

By Regina M. Torres
Staff Writer

Think late 1920's, when performed musical skits carried with them the vitality of variety. The Goodman Theatre is transforming their large stage into a slice of 1928 in order to bring to life the improvisational and slapstick musical, "Animal Crackers."

This colorful show, gorgeously and skillfully choreographed by John Carrafa, will take you through many silly belly-laughing moments. It was originally written by George S. Kaufman and Morrie Ryskind during the height of the Marx Brother's era. Three talented actors/actresses respectively handle the Brother's Groucho, Chico and Harpo's naughty roles. Most interesting is Molly Brennen playing the mute rascal Harpo, i.e. the Professor. Though this gender switch for a role portrayal is bound to cause some controversy with some theatrical purists, the demands of her physically comedic and well-timed performance are met perfectly well. The thick-eyebrowed, bespectacled, cigar toting Groucho is personified through Joey Slotnick. Slotnick nails this vintage musicals' one liners with rapid-fire punch, feeding his modern audience some anachronistic wit as well. No doubt some of this vintage wit may not hit home, being that the musical is eighty years old. The spirited Emanuel Ravelli/Chico is played with gusto by Jonathan Brody. These three are mostly weaved through the scenes, adding lots of color and energy to the skits containing an oddball mix of interchangeable characters.

The other characters are meshed in a

soup of trying to solve a comedic stolen painting "who-done-it," with the Marx Brothers creating, or at the very least adding to, all the chaos which ensues. Some stunning performances to note stem from the high energy choreography. Since this is a musical, there are many singing and dancing skits throughout. Take for example the dancing duo of Mara Davi (Mrs. Whitehead) and Tony Yazbeck. Backed by a small orchestra on set throughout the whole production, Davi and Yazbeck flawlessly light up the stage with a bygone era's elegant dancing. Another surprise in choreography concerns some "soft shoe" tap dancing; something you just don't see in musicals these days.

Besides the choreography, the whole cast is solid in their slapstick (and serious) acting performances. One moment to note is a prize winning slapstick roll down the whole mansion set's staircase by the talented Ora Jones (Mrs. Rittenhouse). Also, there is a wonderful fantasy-esque scene in the second act which includes dancing and transforming puffy clouds of cheesy romantic wonder.

If there are any gripes to be had at all, it may be over the pacing and stage size (well, the Goodman is just, big). Modern audiences may find the pacing to drag a bit at times, especially by the second act. And given that there is so much detail going on onstage, sometimes the actors and props get swallowed up by sheer size and magnitude of the set itself.

All in all, this is one "Animal Cracker" that will leave a laugh in your belly. "Animal Crackers" continues through October 25th at the Goodman Theatre. Call the box office 312-443-3800 for more details.

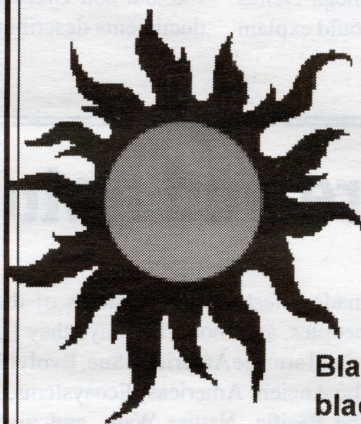


The cast of the musical, Animal Crackers

Image courtesy of chitagsosingerreview.com

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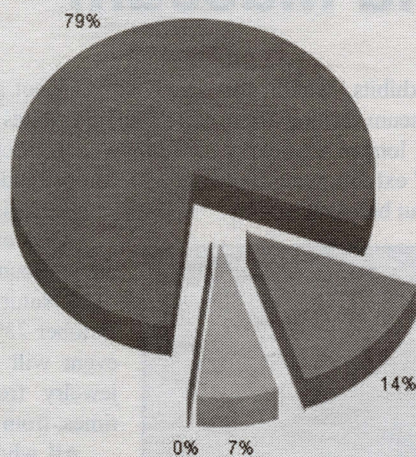
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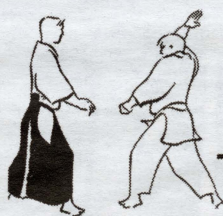
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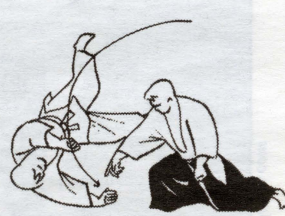
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Gamma Phi Omega

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Time: 1:40pm - 7pm
Event: Hit the Books

Date: October 14th
Place: SU-219
Time: 2pm-7pm
Event: Hit the Books

ΣΛΒ

Sigma Lambda Beta

Date: October 13th
Place: SU-218
Time: 1:40pm-3pm
Event: Study Session

Date: October 16th
Place: SU-217
Time: 11am - 7pm
Event: Hit the Books

Date: October 19th
Place: SU-217
Time: 2pm-7pm
Event: Hit the Books

ΩΔ

No Events Listed

Omega Delta

ΑΨΛ

Alpha Psi Lambda

No Events Listed

ΘΧΩ

Theta Chi Omega

No Events Listed

Greek peek

By Trista Gunderman
Staff Writer

Question: I've heard Greeks refer to 'big' and 'littles.' What are those?

Big is short for 'big brother' or 'big sister.' A big is someone who is assigned to mentor a pledge at one point during the pledging process. How the big and little are chosen for each other remains a secret within most organizations and can vary. Most of the specific duties of a 'big' vary from organization to organization, with a few base duties that remain consistent. The big is supposed to guide the pledge through the process, providing support and taking the place of a mentor. He or she will also be there to answer any questions that the pledge might have. When the pledge becomes an official full-fledged member, the big might also pass down traditions or items that were kept in the lineage.

A little is the pledge that the big takes under his or her wing. The little can go to his or her big with any comments, concerns, or when the little just wants to talk. Each big can have several littles, but each little only gets one big. In other words, the big is 'older' in the eyes of the organization and the little is 'younger,' similar to the way you cannot gain any older siblings after you are born. The big and little usually form a special bond because of the hardships they face together.

Get to know the fraternities. Fraternities that currently have active members: Omega Delta. The Omega Deltas were contacted for a description as to how they would explain

Omega Delta to a non-Greek. There was no reply, but this reporter found this on their Alpha chapter website: "Omega Delta is dedicated to building Men of Principle and Leadership. Our brotherhood aids the individual, builds the Fraternity and strengthens the host academic institution through lifelong devotion to intellectual excellence, high standards of moral conduct and responsible citizenship. As individuals, we strive for professionalism in character as we continue our pursuit of knowledge and meaning." www.omegadelta-alpha.com

Sigma Lambda Beta. When Yoab "S.T.I.X." Abundis was asked how he would explain Sigma Lambda Beta to a non-Greek he said: "Sigma Lambda Beta is the largest multicultural membered fraternity in the nation with brothers coast to coast, being a beta is about promoting cultural awareness and establishing life-long friendships, we differ from other Greek Organizations in the fact that we are a family composed of individuals, each of us bringing something new to our rapid growing family, we come from different backgrounds and lifestyles and one quick glance at us and everyone can see we truly are a family, and we all get perfectly along with each other despite our differences." When asked if being the largest was true, he stated that they had over 100 chapters and 20 colonies.

Fraternities that are rushing at NEIU: Phi Rho Eta. When Marvin Randolph was asked how he would explain Phi Rho Eta to a non-Greek he sent this reporter several promotional documents describing what they were about. The documents

stated this about the organization: "Phi Rho Eta Fraternity, Inc. is a three-pronged organization that revolves around the universal aspects of academics, community service, and social interaction with others. Committed to excellence, Phi Rho Eta Fraternity, Inc. has rapidly earned recognition as a premier organization. The fraternity is routinely honored for its groundbreaking endeavors, and it has received numerous awards from various social, academic, and civic institutions. The purpose of the fraternity outlines the structural components of the organization. The membership of the fraternity continually infuses the fraternal vision with new life."

Omega Delta Phi. Omega Delta Phi is another new fraternity that is pledging in the Fall 2009 semester. Their organization's website stated this about the organization: "The men of Omega Delta Phi are founded on the concept that in order to truly grow as an individual, one must experience views which can challenge preconceived perceptions to foster growth and enlightenment. "One Culture, any race." This is a completely new way of looking at ourselves and the world we live in. "One culture, any race." A challenge to the closed minded to look beyond what they believe to be true and realize the truth is largely dependent on one's perspective. "One culture, any race." A philosophy that suggests the coexistence of various races can be a win-win situation if we are willing to learn from one another. "One culture, any race" is an ideal for a new millennium and a new fraternity."

www.omegadeltaphi.com

Culture and nature at The Field Museum

By Nataly Torres
Staff Writer

There are so many things we can do and many places to go. The city is known for their delicious famous pizza, amazing landscapes and its lively night clubs, to name a few. Although Chicago is known for its rich history; its collection of museums provide a fun, enlightening experience for all who are looking for something to do. The Field Museum is located right by the lake and next to Soldier Field on Lake Shore Drive. You can check out various exhibits that consist of artifacts along with information discussing its history, location and other interesting facts. Each exhibit offers the patrons an opportunity to learn about cultures from around the world.

There are permanent exhibits about culture, and nature – showing how life formed, different cultures and species that existed back in time, the kinds of works of art that were

made, lifestyles and customs of the ancient peoples, and more. Displays they have year-round are: the Americas, Sue, Evolving Planet, the Ancient Americas, Ecosystems, Asia and the Pacific, Nature Walk, and many more.

There are temporary exhibits, which are paid for, at the Field Museum, lasting from months to a year or even longer. Currently, there is the "Real Pirates" exhibit open until October 25th, so check it out before it's gone!

You will find out about pirates' adventures, well-known pirates of the oceans and seas, the life they went through (both their successes and hardships) and the treasures found from nautical archeologists.

One of the coming attractions the museum will put on display is "The Nature of Diamonds." Starting October 23rd through March 28th, the event will showcase diamonds and jewelry from ancient and modern times, from all over the world.

All who attend should expect to pay a fee for admission, but there are days throughout the year where entry is free to the public. Residents of Chicago do receive discounts, along with children, students and senior citizens. The museum has package deals that offer access to various exhibits not available to those who pay for basic admission.

The museum district is as synonymous with the city of Chicago like the Sears Tower or Wrigley Field. From beautiful artifacts to unique pieces, the Field Museum will offer any patron vast knowledge from past, present and future. It will deliver an experience one will never forget.



Image courtesy of inyourfacechicago.com

TechBytes

Notebooks vs. Netbooks

By Marchesa Gran
Online Editor

Techies and regular consumers alike share the love for getting more bang for your buck. As an aspiring computer professional, and definitely a techie at heart, it is difficult to exclude myself from the divulgement of all these head-turning gadgets. Therefore, I would like to allude to the most current portable electronic battle that lies between notebooks and netbooks.

Upon daily observation, many college students have recently opted for netbooks. These portable, and dare I say 'cute', little things can be carried around in your book bag without the added brick-like weight. You can take notes with it, watch YouTube videos here and there, and check your emails or check how your team is doing on fantasy football; whatever floats your boat. Unfortunately, the portability of netbooks does not come packed with the power that many notebooks can offer. Netbooks these days come with slower processors which are comparable with the lower end notebook models. Netbooks are usually equipped with a Linux or Windows XP operating system, but very rarely could one handle Windows Vista. Battery life is also a concern being that the battery itself is smaller, hence, a shorter battery life. In addition, netbooks unfortunately don't always have optical drives (CD or DVD drive).

Nowadays, notebooks are comparable to desktops. They are equipped with upgradable processors, some of which are as fast as those

in desktop computers. They may not be as small or as portable as netbooks, but they are equipped with more power. They are built with a bigger, higher resolution display with a VGA (video graphics array) and graphics card perfect for gamers, graphic designers, programmers and other computer or software developers.

On the flipside, notebooks are much bigger.

They are twice the size of netbooks, making it a task to tote one around when commuting or just traveling in general, with the probable exception of the MacBook Air which is built to weigh approximately 3 pounds but with a screen size still double that of netbooks. Since the advent of netbooks, many have opted for them because of their lower and more affordable prices. For example, a Dell Mini 9

Netbook

equipped with a 1.6 GHz single Intel Atom processor, 512mb of memory, 8GB of a Solid State Drive, with Bluetooth capability and Windows XP, costs about \$399. On the other hand, a Dell Inspiron 1525 Notebook is priced at \$599 with a 15.4" Wide-Screen, Optional Hi-Resolution, 1.86 GHz Intel Duo processor (with an optional upgrade), 3GB of memory (equal to 3000mb), 250GB mechanical disk, with Bluetooth capability and Windows Vista. With this direct comparison, it is very obvious that the notebook packs more power than the netbook.

Purpose is what will draw the definite line between notebooks and netbooks. If you are just looking for something portable, just to do some notes, browse the internet, check emails, listen to music or whatever your heart desires – so long as it is very basic – then netbooks are the way to go. No reason to pay an additional \$200 or \$300 to do the basic of the basics. Just remember that anything over basic, such as video editing or doing any gaming, will not be able to be handled by the netbooks because they are not built with such capacity.

However, if you are an avid gamer, a programmer, a computer or software developer or just an aspiring computer professional, more often than not, you will need something with more power, more memory, more hard drive space and just overall something with a greater capacity. So, it's a matter of choosing between portability without greater power or performance, and something with a slightly varied portability but with equipped power and therefore better performance.



Image courtesy of thinkmoss.net

Student Union Programs October 2009



10/13, 10/27 & 11/10

Recreation Hour!!!

Come join us in the Student Union cafeteria for an exciting demo class from Campus Recreation Center. Demo classes include the following: Zumba, Belly Dancing, Cardiovascular Kickboxing and Latin Rhythms.



10/6, 10/20, 11/17, & 11/24

Stress Buster!!!

Are you stressed out? Tired of so much work and no play. Come join us at the Student Union Cafeteria to relieve some stress and learn some basic Latin moves with Rumba Dance Club.

Interested in displaying your art work in the Student Union? Experience an opening ceremony and share your art with the NEIU community. For more information contact Esmeralda at e-querreno5@neiu.edu



CHECK US OUT ON: Facebook – Join our Fan Page: NEIU Student Union, MySpace – myspace.com/neiustudent_union, Twitter – <http://twitter.com/NEIUSStudentUnion>, Going Chicago – <http://going.com/NEIUSStudentUnion>

LAPTOP CHECKOUT



Laptop Checkout at the Information Center
3 Hour Checkout
Call or visit the Information Center for Checkout Details



Family Recreation Day!!!
October 17, 2009
10 am to 2 pm
Campus Recreation Center

Bring your family to this event for FREE, we will have activities and snacks for the family to enjoy. It is a great opportunity to get everyone on a healthy path.

Events and times subject to change.

For more information about an event, please visit our website at www.neiu.edu/~sudept, contact the Student Union at 773-442-6090 or student-union@neiu.edu or the Information Center at 773-442-4200 or info-center@neiu.edu



El Barco seafood restaurant makes a splash

By Dulce Arroyo
Staff Writer

Ahoy, hungry mates! If you're looking for a seafood restaurant with food as fun as its bold decorations, look no further than El Barco,

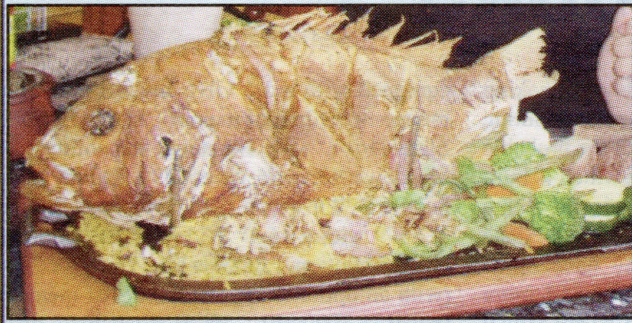


Image courtesy of menuism.com

located on 1035 N. Ashland Ave. El Barco has provided Chicago with seafood off the coast north of Acapulco for over 15 years, attracting customers with their authentic Mexican dishes.

With both indoor tables and an outdoor patio, El Barco's service is exceptionally friendly.

Decorations range from fake, giant fish comically hanging from the ceiling and windows, to a vast collection of different liquors behind a glass wall. There are flat screen televisions that play current games for sports fans as well as Latin pop rock videos. The tables are adorned with

various types of condiments, limes, saltine crackers and tostadas (round Mexican corn chips), along with two spicy homemade salsas to dip them in.

Once seated, you'll receive strangely large menus that take up half of the table, but what is inside is enough to make you hungrier by simply reading it. Fresh seafood dishes include red snapper (El Barco's signature dish), shrimp cocktails, prawns, salmon, snow crab legs, ceviche (a cocktail mix of shrimp, fish, octopus, tomatoes, and cilantro) and lobster. There are also choices of non-seafood such as enchiladas, soups, salads and skirt steaks.

The names and descriptions of dishes are written in Spanish and English, as well as choices of drinks. El Barco offers colorful

margaritas, different beers for those who are 21 and over and "Chicken Drinks" (nonalcoholic beverages such as pop) for those who can't or don't drink.

My recent visit to El Barco proved to be a delightful one; the waitress was very welcoming, my ceviche was delicious—and I'm not a big fan of fish. The prices were also affordable and won't make you go overboard, a fact that sounds delicious itself due to the current economy. The only catch is that El Barco has a slightly small parking lot although there is parking available on Armitage as well as Ashland.

So make it an adventure with friends and family to voyage to El Barco, where according to their card, "If you don't like it, you will pay for it."

Family fun at Didier Farms Pumpkin Fest

By Matthew Paul Burns
Staff writer

A good Halloween attraction to see this season is Didier Farms Pumpkin Fest in Buffalo Grove, Illinois. The fest is open until Halloween from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. with activities from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Although it is more of a family event, they do have some attractions that are a must see, including carnival rides, hayrides, very interesting animals attractions (other than farm animals), a Halloween store (if you need to get that special costume they have a store on site for that) and much more!

The carnival rides are more children orientated but there are some good ones including the classic scrambler and other interesting attractions such as the Haunted Forest Fun House. All rides run Thursdays through the weekend with weather permitting. Some will run on the weekdays. The cost per ride including the hayride is \$3.00 per person. The pony rides are \$4.00 per person.

Besides the rides, there are the animal attractions. They have the usual farm animal attractions where you can see chicks hatched from their eggs. One fun farm animal attraction is the "Pig Bin" where you will see a sow with her piglets. Come and see this because this attraction draws quite a few people.

For a real thrill there is Woody's menagerie with over 200 creatures exhibited. Most of them are of the creepy crawly type-

spiders, snakes, scorpions and other types that you don't want to find in your closet. However, the biggest ones are the baby grizzly bear, ligers (a cross between a tiger and lion), a hyena and others you won't see anywhere except in a zoo or circus.

However, for a real Halloween treat you can kill two birds with one stone by taking care of your costume and party needs shopping there while having fun! They have their own Halloween store called "Spooky Cabin." There, you will find everything you need to decorate your home and office and fulfill your costume needs.

Hungry? There is a wide variety of food available. Hamburgers, hot dogs, pizza, corn dogs and nachos are just some of the food items they offer. They also have freshly made doughnuts, pies, cakes, cookies, caramel apples, homemade candies and other tasty stuff.

Looking for fresh organic produce? They have their own vegetables grown on their farm and from local growers in the area. All fresh and ready to eat, their grape and cherry tomatoes are excellent! They also have straw bales and pumpkins (49 cents a pound) for sale there too.

They are located in Buffalo Grove which is about a 30 minute drive from NEIU depending on traffic. You can take I-94 north to the tollway and get off on Deer Field Road, go west towards Milwaukee Avenue, go north to Aptakisic Road and go west you'll see it on your right.



Image courtesy of didierfarms.com

Take a tour through "The Labyrinth of Lost Souls"

By Matthew Paul Burns
Staff Writer

If you want to go to a fun haunted house this Halloween, but don't want to pay an arm and leg and wait in a long line just to get in, I recommend the Labyrinth of Lost Souls in Beach Park, Illinois. It is a small, out-of-the-way place set up on a miniature golf course off of Sheridan Road. The place is just fantastic, you don't walk through it, you participate in it. No trip through it is the same. Every time you go in you take a different route through it!

It starts out as a usual haunted house by going into a dark maze, but where it is different from other haunted houses is that the characters you encounter greet each person differently. They know you're expecting something to come at you, they don't do anything. They will get you when you least expect it. Now, this sounds like the same thing they do at other haunted houses. However, on top of this while you

are traveling through the Labyrinth you'll definitely

find yourself going around in circles and find out that you are possibly being followed. That's the thrill! When you think there is no one there, the next moment you're running from a creep chasing you.

After you finally escape you again find yourself trapped and the only way out is to find the keys to open the doors. Unfortunately, they are hidden, and you must find the first key to open the first door to get the other key and so forth. Have no fear, there is help for you to get the keys. A seemingly friendly ghoul will be there to help

you if you are unable to find it. One word of caution- don't take your time on this because your friendly helper might turn on you! If you make it through, there are possibly still some perils left. Or are there? It all depends on how alert you are and where you are.

If you want to go Haunted house hopping, come out to Lake County and see the Labyrinth of Lost Souls, which is only \$8.00 per person. There is no waiting in line and afterward you can play miniature golf and have a snack there too.

To get to the Labyrinth of Lost Souls take 94 North to 41 and keep going until you get to Washington and then go east until you get to Green Bay Rd. Go north until you get to Sunset Rd and go east until you hit Sheridan Rd. Then, go north and you will see it on your right with a yellow sign by the big Golf O Ramma neon sign. Enter at your own peril!

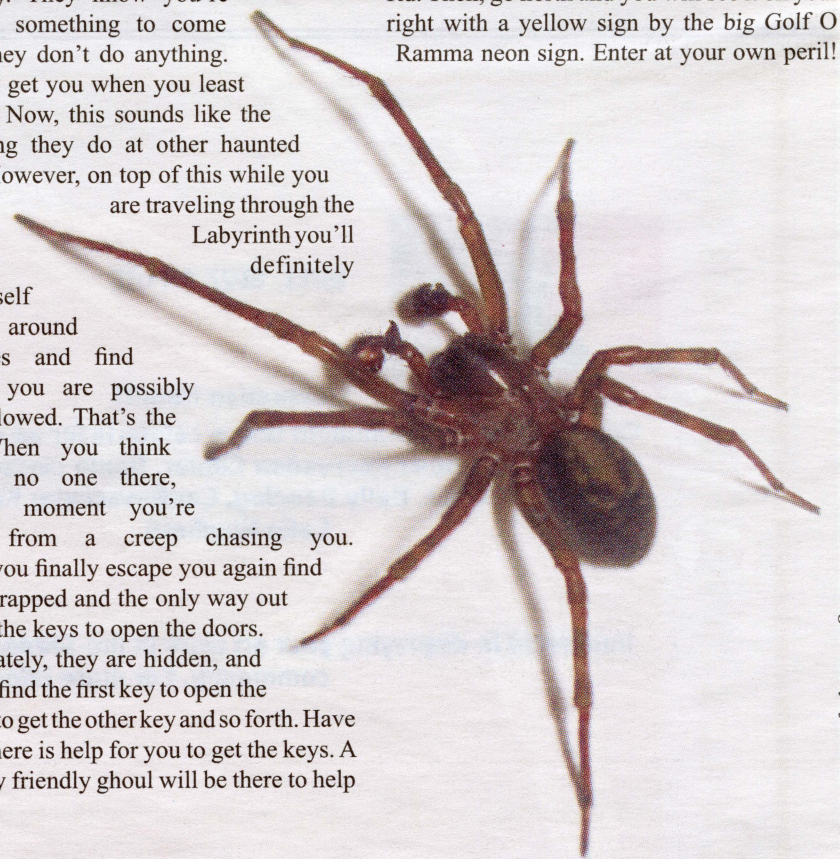


Image courtesy of sxc.hu

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