

11-24-2009

## Independent- Nov. 24, 2009

Victoria Tullock

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# INDEPENDENT

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Tuesday, November 24, 2009

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## NEIU salutes our Veterans

By Victoria Donates  
Staff Writer

NEIU held a Veteran's Day celebration in the Peace Garden on Nov. 11, where about 40 people gathered to honor our military heroes. The NEIU Veterans Club organized the event commemorate our fallen soldiers and support our troops at war.

Many are unaware that one out of every ten students at NEIU is a veteran. Tim Liberty, president of the club, is one of those veterans who went from "trigger puller to test taker." Liberty, a Marine who worked as an infantryman during his four years in the service, gave thanks to the veterans in his opening speech.

Some of the students and staff who attended the ceremony were Ross Prolic, a veteran who served two years in the Navy, Ebony Marshall served in the Air Force for four years, Mike Martindale, our math lab supervisor, did one tour in Vietnam from 1971-1972 and Nick Skyba, founder of the NEIU Veterans Club served in the Air Force for four years.

Liberty introduced President Sharon Hahs who referenced her father's service in the military to convey the significance of Veterans Day.

"[Today is a] day to reflect, remember, honor and commemorate," said Hahs. "This ceremony epitomizes integrity and community."

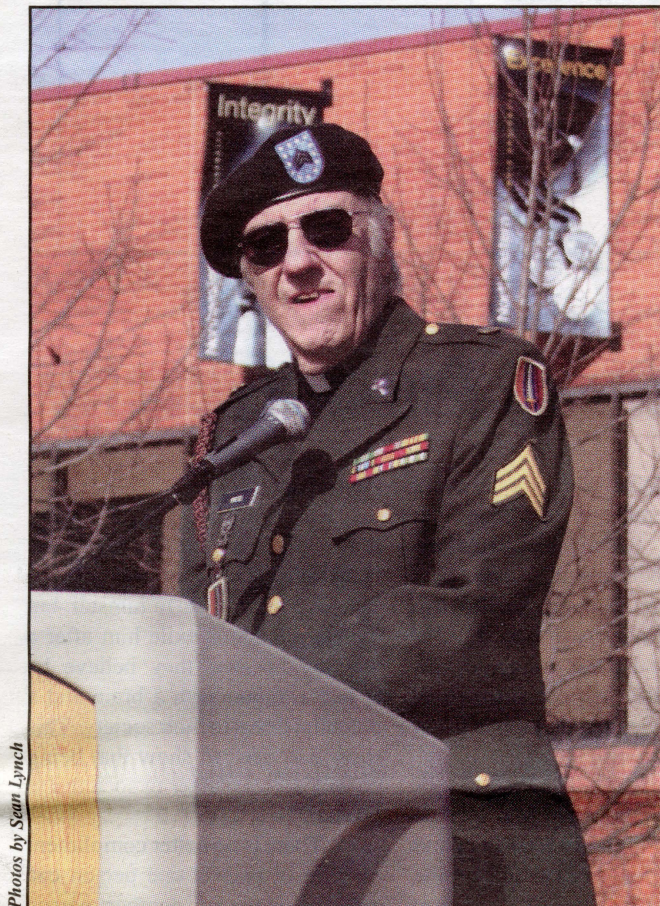
Army Sergeant Joe Hertel, founder of the university's Peace Garden, was a guest speaker at the Veterans Day ceremony. Hertel told the congregation that while browsing through all the "meaningless twits" that morning on Facebook, he noticed only one status saying "Thank you vets." His illustration brought to light how easily a smilitary

person's sacrifice can be unacknowledged.

In his oration, Hertel also answered the question, "What is a veteran?" He stated that the second a person takes a military oath they change, "from being the protected to the protector." Although many soldiers deem that they cannot call themselves veterans since they lack experience at war, Hertel claims anyone taking the oath deserves the title because they do not know what to expect from their future duties and assignments.

The Veterans Day ceremony concluded with the placement of a pair of nameless dog tags on the commemorative wall in the Peace Garden. In honor of fallen soldiers and prisoners of war, NEIU student Justine Hargesheimer, a Marine, presented the dog tags to the wall as Damien Dimas, another NEIU student and Marine, played taps.

"It's overwhelming. I feel honored representing those who served," concluded Hargesheimer.



Photos by Sean Lynch

Joe Hertel, founder of the Peace Garden, speaks to a crowd during the Veteran's Day celebration.



Vietnam Veterans Nick Skyba (left) Mike Martindale (middle) and Joe Hertel (right).

## Lech Wa-who?

By Sean Lynch  
Staff Writer

On Aug. 2, many NEIU students returned to campus for the first day of the Fall semester to find that the Classroom Building no longer existed. In its place stood the same structure, however, it was no longer named the "Classroom Building," but "Lech Walesa Hall". This has prompted many students to say "Lek Wa-who?"

Lech Walesa (pronounced Lek Wuh-luh-uh) is a former president of Poland, and the man who the former Classroom Building is now named after. He is a Nobel Peace Prize recipient, and was also instrumental in the fall of communism in Poland.

Naming the former Classroom Building after former President Walesa is an idea that was thought up some time ago, but did not go through until the spring. Working together, the institutional advancement team,

facilities management and international programs were able to get Walesa to agree to the building being named after him, as well as to attend an accompanying dedication ceremony.

The date that former President Walesa came to Northeastern has been seen by some as inconvenient, and some have even gone so far as to say that it is suspicious. According to Carla Knorowski, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, however, it had nothing to do with hiding anything, and everything to do with convenience for Walesa.

"When you're dealing with a world leader, you work around his schedule", said Knorowski. "We tried to get him on campus when all the students were here, and in fact we put forward a date where he could be here when classes were in session because that was the earliest we could do this. It

all came about extremely fast, and we put several dates before him and the phone call came two weeks before May 29 and said, 'I can come this date.'"

The suddenness of his arrival is the reason that many students did not know about the ceremony or the building being named in Walesa's honor.

"It would have been great to have it in the middle of the semester where we could have all these students," said Knorowski, "but it just wasn't something that was possible."

While the date was inconvenient for students, due to classes no longer being in session, it was in fact monumental for President Walesa. May 29 is the anniversary of the fall of communism in Poland, and rather than celebrating it in Poland, he celebrated at Northeastern.

Many students have expressed their

opinions that having President Walesa come to the campus and have a building named after him is insignificant due to his lack of a connection to the school, or even the United States in general. Others, however, feel as though it is a monumental event in Northeastern's history and might serve as a boost to NEIU's reputation.

"I think it reaffirms what many people have known about Northeastern all along, and that is that Northeastern is present on the world stage," said Knorowski, "We really are an international university, and I think the significance of him coming to our university only reinforces that international nature."

Walesa has stated that his relationship with Northeastern is not limited by his previous visit, and would like to arrange more in the future, and possibly speak with students in Lech Walesa Hall.

The great U-PASS debate... pg. 7

Gear up for Black Friday... pg. 9

A pile of  
Beautiful Garbage... pg. 10





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

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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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# November - December 2009

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
23	24 - 10am - 4pm: Future Health Professionals: Blood Drive in the Student Union-Alumni - 10am - 3pm: Be a Match Marrow Drive in the Student Union-Alumni Hall - 1:30pm - 3pm: Root Beer Pong Tournament in B-152	25 2pm - 3pm: Hillel Last Lunch in FA-247 - 6pm - 8pm: S.A.L.E. Toy Drive at the Fine Arts Recital Hall	26 Thanksgiving Holiday - No class	27 - No class	28	29
30	1	2	3 - 1:40pm - 2:40pm: Green Cycle Group: An Open Discussion in B-152	4 - 6pm - 10pm: Image Art Club: Fashion Show in Alumni Hall - 6pm - 10pm: Image Art Club: Women's and Men's Dressing Room in SU 218 - 6pm - 9:30pm: Image Art Club: Gallery Reception SU 2nd Floor Lobby	5	6

## Religion's role in public life and the university

By Sadaf Syed  
Staff Writer

Religion and its role at the university level are not usually mentioned in the same sentence. On Nov. 19, Dr. Richard Rosengarten, Dean and Associate Professor of Religion and Literature at the University of Chicago, was the keynote speaker at the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Conference to discuss why religion should be incorporated in a university setting.

Rosengarten started out the lecture with an anecdote about a colleague who often spoke about religion between the 1960s and 1980s and how it affects our society. To prove that point, his colleague would use the local newspaper and show how each of the stories on the front page had to do with religion.

He then said how even though it seems like a "parlor-trick" to us now, the point was that "religion matters more than we realize."

"In the world we live in today we don't need to have parlor tricks like that," said Rosengarten. "We really understand religions' force in the world, and the front page is literal testimony to that fact, often in ways that are vexing and troubling."

Rosengarten used the Latin poet Horace's quote, "to see all the ways of humanity," to explain the university's mission. He also talked about how to "create a space to think and talk about religion in a very different kind of world" and thinks that it is a "new kind of challenge."

However, Rosengarten was also confident that there are

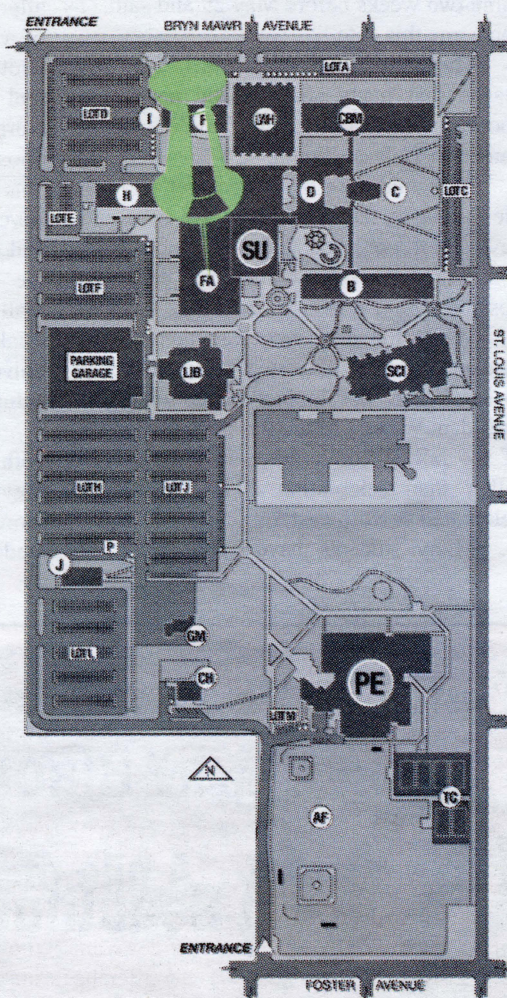
tools available that are exciting and interesting to facilitate that discussion. Rosengarten explained how he believes that there is a place where religion, public life and the university intersect. He emphasized that this discussion was limited to the American experience, and acknowledged that this left out many other world ideas.

He used the tales of "Gulliver's Travels" to show the way people think when it comes to beliefs and values. Rosengarten explained the part of the story when Gulliver ends up on the island of the Houyhnhnms (pronounced *whinim*), who are a race of horses, and how there is a system on that island only based off of reason. Then there are the Yahoos who are "human-like" creatures and are considered to be lesser beings because they are not

Houyhnhnms.

Rosengarten talked about how Gulliver sided with the Houyhnhnms, even though the Yahoos look similar to himself, but the Houyhnhnms exile him after a meeting because they believe he is just a Yahoo with a brain and a potential threat to their society. This story was used to show that being uncritical is a danger to societies in general.

"There is no better compliment or form of respect one person can pay the ideas of another person than to submit them to the most searching and rigorous criticism," said Rosengarten. The purpose of the university is to make the people there aware of their surroundings and question why something is the way it is, even in the case of religion.



## Corrections from last issue

- In our Nov. 10 online issue, the Tech Bytes story "PC or Mac?" was incorrectly credited. The story was by Staff Writer Isaac Little not Ivan Favelevic.

- In our Nov. 10 issue, our top story of President Hahs addressing student concerns, the picture shown is in fact, not a serenity sculpture, but an NEIU student Jacob Hickey

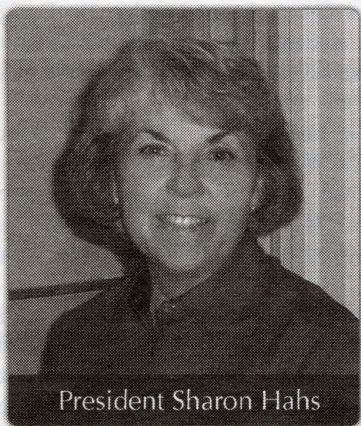
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## POLICE BLOTTER

On Thursday, Nov. 12th - University scanner was stolen in the Fine Arts Bldg



# The President's Pen



President Sharon Hahs

The Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees met on Nov. 19. Among the items on the agenda was the initial discussion of tuition and fee rates for FY11, the 2011 fiscal year (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011). The annual discussion begins at the November meeting; the Trustees approve final rates at the February 2010 meeting.

After the November meeting, the

Vice Presidents arrange a meeting with the Student Government Association to present and discuss the proposal. All students are welcome to attend. I encourage you to watch for the SGA notice, to attend, and to share your views.

Developing the proposal for next year's tuition and fees is a complex process. Northeastern actually has twelve different tuition rates. There are six in-state rates: Students attending for the first time in the fall of 2010; those who began in the fall of 2009 (or spring or summer 2010); those who began in the fall of 2008; and those who began in the fall of 2007 are the first four. Each of these groups receives a four-year tuition guarantee, i.e. the rate stays the same for their first four years of attendance. (About half of our students are in the groups who began fall of 2009, 2008, and 2007, and their rates will not change for next year.) The fifth rate is for students whose four-year rate has ended, or who began attending NEIU before this law was passed. Their rate

changes every year. And the sixth rate is for graduate students, and it changes every year. The remaining six rates are for out-of-state students who pay double the appropriate rate of in-state categories.

Northeastern has basically two sources of revenue to run the University and provide excellent education for our students. The first is an appropriation from the State of Illinois (since we are a public university). The second is tuition and fees paid by our students. In recent years our state appropriation has decreased more often than not, covering less and less of the cost of educating students. Next year we anticipate the loss of part of our appropriation that was provided this year as federal stimulus funds. So as one source is shrinking, the other is increasing its share.

We set tuition and fee rates with the goal of meeting budgetary needs—continuing commitments and new initiatives to support student success. This is balanced with determining an appropriate contribution that

students should make toward their education, while making that education affordable. We attempt to predict our revenues from both state appropriations and tuition and fees to meet needs. And we consider how our rates compare with other Illinois public universities. Finally, the University works hard to be a good steward of the resources received, so that needs can be met as efficiently and effectively as possible.

So again, I encourage you to watch for the SGA notice, to attend and to share your views. If you have questions or comments about this or any other topic, please e-mail me at [PresColumn@neiu.edu](mailto:PresColumn@neiu.edu). Until next time . . .

*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.*

## Research on Mexican American educational patterns presented at NEIU

By Iman Nasser  
Staff Writer

Francisco Gaytan, Assistant Professor of Social Work, discussed his research in the role of social support and social capital in the academic development of Mexican-American youth in New York City. The faculty discussion took place Wednesday, Nov. 11 and was sponsored by NEIU's Psychology Department.

The research was motivated by the realization that the 2002 U.S. Census brought: 50.6 percent of people of Mexican descent in the U.S. graduated from high school while only 5.6 percent completed college. Gaytan conducted research in NYC due to the large growing numbers of Mexican students in public schools and because of the lack of empirical research with Mexican students in that region.

Gaytan first explained the Mexican family dynamic as typically consisting of two-parent households with positive attitudes toward education and high aspirations for children's academic success.

Gaytan then discussed the barriers that immigrant

families face because they are unable to provide concrete tools to help their children attain academic success. The barriers that were presented included language, culture, financial support, support from society, lack of resources, segregated institutions and even legal status.

Gaytan went on to give several theories that could help explain the low numbers of Mexican students in college. He focused most on the ecological theory, which concerns the interdependence of people and institutions. He also discussed the social learning theory, which emphasizes the fact that people learn from one another by observational learning, imitation and modeling.

"So if you have access to a lot of college educated people that speak English who also have access to powerful people, you will probably do better in school. If you don't have access to those individuals, you probably won't do so well," further explained Gaytan.

In his research, Gaytan asked open-ended questions through surveys administered to 107 Mexican public school students in NYC. The results showed the majority of students depended on their parents instead of the "powerful

non-relative adults" for help with homework or studying for exams. Most sought support, help and encouragement from their parents.

"So you have a lot of students who receive homework help from an unreliable source, because parents are unable to give concrete resources to help their children educationally," stated Gaytan.

Other information that was found concerned the lack of encouragement or help from peers or non-relative adults, such as teachers, principals and friends. Gaytan also mentioned how students reported that teachers and faculty were often discriminatory towards them.

"When teachers give the class, I don't understand or I struggle and I have to learn it myself because the teachers say, 'I already said this. I'm not repeating myself,' and then I have to do it myself," shared one student in the surveys.

Gaytan concluded the talk by stating how his research shows the lack of concrete resources, tools and support from teachers may be a factor that has led Mexican American students astray from pursuing college and achieving academic success.

## A Conversation on Relationships enlightens students

By Dulce Arroyo  
Staff Writer

A panelist of four faculty members from NEIU gave advice and used life experiences to guide guests on how to maintain healthy relationships during a discussion held on Nov. 19 in the Student Union.

"The Conversation on Relationships" panel consisted of Flora Llacuna, Coordinator of Student Enrichment Programs, Hamid Akbari, Department Chair and Professor of Marketing Management, Sheena L. Warren, Director of Adult and Women Student Programs and Jade Stanley, Department Chair and Associate Professor of Social Work. The event was moderated by Yasmin Ranney, Assistant Dean of Academic Development, and hosted by the 2010 Black History Month Committee Chair Robert E. Bedford and Co-Chair Alice Pennamon.

Ranney presented the speakers and started off the conversation with a question: What are some strategies in order to create a good relationship?

Relationships start with you:

Llacuna answered first and said that one must have a good relationship with his/herself in order to have one with others. She

mentioned various quotes that inspired her, including Emily Dickinson's, "Assumptions are the termites of relationships." Llacuna said that this is most important to keep in mind when meeting a new person.

Having dynamic relationships with others, she said, means a person is a winner; those without closeness in their lives are losers. A good relationship with co-workers is composed of trust created over time. Through trust, people will come through for each other.

If relationships don't improve, Llacuna believes that "the ground is lost." She said this is true only when moral purpose precedes relationships. For this not to happen, it is up to the individual to make the difference.

She then concluded with a statement she came upon that said the human thought processes are logically metaphorical. Only the human mind can think metaphorically, and thus, only humans are granted the gift of connecting with one another.

Listening actively:

Akbari proposed to make his point through a social experiment: audience members were told to sit face to face with another person in the room who they did not know. One person was the Speaker and talked about themselves for 45 seconds, while the

Listener had to say "I'm listening" every 15 seconds; then, the Listener had 15 seconds to repeat as much as they could remember. The pair was then asked to switch and perform the same thing.

Audience members agreed that in only those 45 seconds, they learned much about the person. Akbari concluded that it does not take much time to spare in one's life to socialize with others. He also noted that successful active listening includes feedback.

Like Llacuna, Akbari said developing trust happens over time. But sparing others the time to get to know them is the first step.

Know yourself and what you bring:

Warren began her speech by sharing the advice her grandmother used to tell her, "Calm your spirit, girl—don't be narcissistic in life." She then listed aspects a person should have in life to complete the "building blocks of relationships".

Warren mentioned the Will Smith movie "I Am Legend" and said Smith's character "stayed [socially] interacted [because] a person can't do it by themselves"; if they do live alone, their heart withers.

She ended by advising the audience to not only know what they want to get from relationships, but to work on the lifelong "knowing and growing" process.

"Be impeccable with your word:"

Lastly, Stanley said that one should be humble and present wherever they are. Also, a person in a relationship should "be in it and be of it," or else they are not in it at all.

She strongly believes the quote "Be impeccable with your word" should be followed by those seeking strong relationships.

"Avoiding gossip and using the power of word in the direction of truth in love is hard," she said, "but it ultimately leads to being respected by others."

According to Stanley, a person should never take anything personally because things do not always go as planned. Even though this may be hard for a person to do, they will be able to learn through the suffering. Finally, Stanley said one should express themselves and do their best, since their best "always changes from moment to moment."

After the panel, the floor was open for questions from the audience. Afterwards, Bedford thanked the panelists and guests for attending "a taste of the Black History Month Committee." The Committee plans on having monthly events such as the Conversation, including the Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration in January.



# Kibbutz Lotan brings eco-diversity to Israel

By Tracey Washington  
Production Editor

Deep in the Arava Desert in Israel lays the eco-community known as Kibbutz Lotan. Once started as a small village with the simple goal to survive, Kibbutz Lotan turned into one of the most eco-friendly places in the entire world. One of the co-founders of the Lotan, Alex Cicelsky, visited the NEIU campus on Nov. 17 to share his experiences of living, working and teaching in an eco-friendly community.

"We're all invested in creating a community," said Cicelsky while he discussed the basic foundation of Kibbutz

Lotan. "Starting a brand new society in the middle of nowhere, I had really low expectations. Today, we've grown from that bunch of kids. Kibbutz Lotan is mostly all self reliant. 24 percent of their income [is derived] from their farming, 34 percent from dairy, 8 percent from eco-tourism, 25 percent from off-kibbutz salaries and 12 percent from rent-paying resources."

He also shared how everyday life in Kibbutz Lotan revolves around community work, describing how the builders and mostly all the workers were people that had absolutely no prior experience. He then stated how teenagers do volunteer work on the dairy farms while contract work is kept

to an absolute minimum. He also said how the construction of buildings are made of the elements and materials around them. One such building is 1,000 square feet large and completely built from tires and natural earth.

Kibbutz Lotan's eco-friendly attributes are only a half of the community's success. The other half is due to a direct democracy, where everyone has one vote and everyone comes together to decide officials and such. Also, there is no personal property in Kibbutz Lotan, the homes people live in are shared by the community, which gives a much more united aspect.

With all of the innovation Kibbutz Lotan is displaying, Cicelsky handed out

an invitation to experience it in person. With the Green Apprenticeship EcoDesign courses, students travel to Kibbutz Lotan to undertake several projects while living in an eco-friendly atmosphere.

"The Earth is not ours, but it is our children's. We must give it to them in better shape than what we had it," concluded Cicelsky. "If kids think they can save the Earth by buying a plush toy, then we're finished."

Lastly, he emphasized action even in the local community to take steps towards a healthier world, which he coincided with the Jewish biblical ideal to "till and tend the Earth."

## NEIU students participate in National Hunger and Homeless Awareness week

By Chakira Hamilton  
Staff Writer

In honor of National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness week, NEIU group Leaders Emerging and Developing (L.E.A.D.) organized for NEIU to become active for the fight for change. Through a week-long series of events and activities, students and staff members worked to raise money and understanding for the hungry and the homeless.

Monday Nov. 16 began the initiative, sponsored by United Greek Council, to provide a holiday dinner to families who might not otherwise have been able to afford

a Thanksgiving dinner. Students, staff, classes and organizations were asked to sponsor a family for the holiday. Each 40 dollar amount, which was collected both by the Student Activities office and a table in the Village Square, would provide an entire Thanksgiving meal for a family.

In conjunction with this event, the Ronald Williams Library offered its own hand in the battle against hunger. The library collected food for the Greater Chicago Food Depository and offered students and staff debt forgiveness in exchange for canned good donations. A five dollar debt waiver was given to

anyone who brought three cans or boxes of food to the library on Monday or Tuesday. The debt forgiveness project only covered fines owed as late fees and did not include lost items.

On Tuesday Nov. 17, the Assistant Director of Student Activities, Veronica E. Rodriguez accompanied NEIU students in a sleep out that took place in front of the PE Complex. The sleep out, attended by several representatives of NEIU sororities, student groups and the general student body, was meant to simulate the experience of what it is to be homeless.

The eight hour event ran from 10pm on Tuesday and ran until 6am on Wednesday morning. Participants were asked to only bring cardboard to sleep on and plastic and blankets for warmth. Before participants called it a night, Rodriguez led a discussion on what it means to be homeless and the importance of raising awareness about the issue.

The sleep out group sat in a circle amidst the chilly air of the night discussing potential reasons for homelessness, types of homelessness, the treatment of homeless individuals by the general population, the importance of providing resources for individuals and families without homes.

Approximately 14 students and staff members, including seniors Yoab Abundis, Kelly Murphy, Jesse Foresto and juniors Rachel Stein,



Participants gather in a circle to stay warm in the cold and to share comforting conversation and activities to boost moral.

Matt Groters, Cheryl Devenny and Kelly Bales, braved a night of chilly temperatures and rainy weather to show support for the cause and raise awareness within the NEIU community.

Also in attendance were sophomores Aiden Cassidy, an International Student from Australia working on a bachelor's degree in Social Work, sophomore Richard Jones and Senior Diana Rodriguez for whom the event hit a bit closer to home.

"This week is big for me because, when I was about 14, a cousin of mine and I had an experience with homelessness," declared Rodriguez. "Although it was only for a short time, we still

struggled with having a place to go and food to eat. Fortunately, I was able to go home after a while, but I think it's important to draw a focus to those who can't."

Veronica Rodriguez, who stayed awake to make sure that participants were safe during the night, was inspired to organize the sleep-out by a Loyola University group that has been hosting events in honor of Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week for several years.

Although this was the first year of the Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week activities at NEIU, the event was received so well that there are plans to make this an annual project at the NEIU campus.



Participants set up their camp site outside of the PE Complex. Students were asked only to bring cardboard boxes, plastic bags and blankets to get a real idea of what it feels like to be homeless.

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adj: To a greater or higher degree.

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## More Americans expected to travel for Thanksgiving

Nafeesa Syeed  
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The AAA auto club says a few more Americans will be traveling away from home for Thanksgiving this year, though most people are making their holiday treks by car.

The group says about 33.2 million people will travel by car this year, a 2.1 percent jump from 2008. The numbers were based on a survey of 1,350 households.

Air travel was expected to dip 6.7 percent, with about 2.3 million people booking holiday flights. The drop continues a decade-long trend of fewer people traveling by air for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Still, AAA officials say the slight increase marks a change in consumer confidence, as travelers may feel more financially secure and willing to spend money despite the recession.



Image courtesy of xxc.hu



# BETTER BOWLING NAME: COBRA or LAZER?

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# Commentary

## EDITORIAL

### R-e-s-p-e-c-t

Respect is not only a hit song by Aretha Franklin, but also should be practiced by respecting everyone and everything. As the golden rule says, "treat others the way you want to be treated." The same goes for our campus students and other people's belongings.

In recent issues of the *Independent* there have been articles about how Lech Walesa Hall, formerly known as the Classroom Building, was vandalized by graffiti. The most recent police blotter has shown incidence of battery happening on school grounds and the school has had reports about computer equipment theft. The most recent editorial talked about artwork being stolen on the campus. *The Independent* has also dealt with hateful words towards an article about the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Alliance (GLBTA). Lets face it, we are all here to get a great education and to many of us, NEIU is like a second home. Would you like it if someone came into your house and wrecked your computer and vandalized your bedroom walls? Not a pretty sight is it?

We should all learn how to respect and be kinder to each other, whether it is a kind smile to someone you are passing in the hallway or giving someone a hug instead of getting into a fight. It could be returning someone's flash drive instead of stealing it for yourself or helping someone who dropped their books in the hallway. Little acts of kindness go a long way. Not only would they make us look better but they would make us feel better as well. The university would also be a better place for it. Most of us were taught to be nice and treat others the same way we want to be treated. This is something we can apply as students and something not only our campus but also other campuses should work on as well. Let's take this concept of respect and use it as a tool to make NEIU a safer and happier environment to grow and learn.

### 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.neuiindependent@gmail.com](mailto:feedback.neuiindependent@gmail.com)

# It's time for a change

## NEIU does not need an attendance policy

By David A. Lynch  
 Staff Writer

When University announcements contradict class policies, how do students decide which to follow? This is the dilemma students face in 2009. The current H1N1 influenza pandemic has sickened around 22 million, according to the latest Center for Disease Center reports. Moreover, the traditional flu season is just beginning. The CDC has several recommendations for those who are ill, among them staying home from school. These recommendations have been forwarded to students via email. Yet staying home is in direct contradiction with a time honored tradition and current requirement of most classes.

If your adolescence was anything like mine, your parents, older family members and possibly teachers praised the importance of attending class in college. I heard how liberal class attendance policies were. Essentially, they did not exist. However, I would be paying for my own education, so I was told that I probably did not want to throw my money away by not attending a class I paid for. At Northeastern Illinois University, that is not the case. Show up to class, or your grade will suffer. Attendance is mandatory. After three unexcused absences, your grade can be lowered by the instructor (per the 2009 - 2010 academic catalog on

page 34). Who determines whether an absence is excused, and how do they do it? Is staying home sick excused?

Students that come to class sick obviously are not operating at full capacity. Not to mention their presence is only risking the spread of their contagious illness. Students may not remember what occurred in class that day from the cold medicines they are taking, let alone actually learn. What then is the reason that instructors require these students to attend class? Is it self-indulgent narcissism? Would the instructor have made such an impact on the student that their lesson got through clearly and succinctly? It is not very likely. Yet, these students must attend class.

Good students most likely do not want to miss class to begin with and are doing so only to get healthy and avoid spreading their germs. They are aware that their classmates (and possibly their families) can get sick. Responsible students will contact classmates for information that they missed because of their absence. These students are prepared for their next class and assignments regardless of their absence. The point of taking a college course is to gain knowledge and learn. Not to just show up.

At some point during your college career, you're going to have a class with those students who just show up. The ones who crack jokes every few minutes, are ill-prepared for class

and seemingly hold the class back. If you're at all like me, you wonder, "Why didn't this idiot just stay at home?" Unfortunately, the same thought comes about students who are sick. So why do instructors want these students in class? If they're bad students, won't their exam grades prove this? I was under the impression that grades in college should be indicative of a student's work produced, not be their ability to simply show up.

Technology is rapidly changing and NEIU has been slow to change with it. Hybrid classes are slowly being offered. Perhaps by the fall of 2011, there will be more online courses offered. There is a greater responsibility on students in this type of environment because the instructor is not there leading the way. These students must be truly motivated. However, simply showing up isn't something that they can always do. Students who take these classes are not any less of a student, but they may not be successful in classes that require their attendance.

In the future, perhaps NEIU and its instructors will understand that physical presence in a class does not equate to mental preparedness and learning. Policy changes should recognize this, as well as technological advances. Class information and materials can be readily available through electronic and digital means, just check with MIT. This is the 21st century. University policies should reflect this rather than be locked to tradition.

# Cheaper Meals You Can't Buy

## Sodexo Continues to Disappoint

By David A. Lynch  
 Staff Writer

Epic Failure. That is the best I can do at describing my latest attempt at a dining experience with Sodexo. Unfortunately, this is putting the entire debacle mildly. However, it could possibly be my own fault. I did, after all, have extremely high expectations.

My experiences with Sodexo date back to 2005 when I first began my undergraduate education at NEIU. I would occasionally venture into the dining area to grab breakfast. The quality of the food didn't impress me, and the prices weren't superb. In the fall semester of 2007, the SGA began a boycott of Sodexo. Check the online archives of the *Independent* for more about that. Each year the prices at Sodexo have increased, but the food quality has stayed the same.

When the current fall semester started, I was hopeful. After all, they remodeled the service space, so maybe the

food would match right. Not so much. The taste of the food still leaves a lot to be desired and the prices have risen even more. The money for that remodeling had to come from somewhere. So why not from students? According to Sodexo's reporting documents, in 2008 Sodexo reported revenues of over 13.6 billion euros, or nearly 20.5 billion US dollars. This was a growth of 7.7% over the previous year.

In the October 13 issue of the *Independent*, Trista Gunderman reported that Sodexo's manager Bill Reich was looking into a possible \$3.99 value lunch menu. The October 27 issue of the *Independent* featured an ad inviting students to try out "The most delicious math you'll ever do!" Notice that Sodexo did not say "food". Shortly before 5pm, I went into the cafeteria area (hungry) in hopes of checking out this new value meal.

The Food In Motion Station had a posted sign for that day's value meal. For only \$3.99, you

could dine on a meal of pasta and a 20oz fountain drink. There was only one problem. Food In Motion had closed for the day. In the past, this station closed at 2 p.m. but was open again from 4-6 p.m. Disappointed, I sought one of the servers to find out what occurred. I was informed that Food In Motion now closes at 2 p.m. because later in the day "people only want to eat pizza." So the only value item that is available is now only available until 2 p.m. After that, you still get the same high prices. I would not be deterred. I went to the grill and got a grilled chicken sandwich along with a bottle of Pepsi. This "meal" cost me just under \$6. No, I did not get fries with that. My grilled chicken sandwich tasted more like char than it did chicken. I was not a happy camper. I uttered several four-letter expletives that cannot be printed here as I thought of how I could have spent less and actually got better tasting food from McDonalds.

Reich pointed out that dollar menus only work in "super-high

volumes.» Currently students can't afford the menu. Would lowering the prices increase volume? Possibly. Based on Sodexo's 2008 earnings reports, it is something that they could examine. The current attempt to provide a value item is feeble and insulting. Felicia Keelen, the Director of the Student Union suggested that students go to Café Descartes to eat in the evening. Unfortunately, not everyone can sustain life on a diet of coffee and bagels.

I implore the University to find a company that will actually service the customers that NEIU offers. This is a call to action for the University administration to make a change, be stewards for the students who are already struggling to attend school. Sodexo is clearly interested in making their product look better without actually improving it. They are limiting their service hours and restricting service to students. Find a food service provider that can meet the financial needs of students while providing quality food.



# Give the U-Pass a go

By Cathleen Schandelmeier-Bartels  
Staff Writer

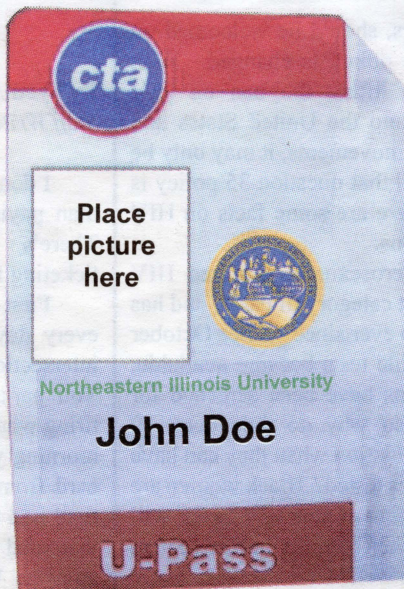
The North Pole is melting. The polar bears are losing their habitat. Also, if you believe prominent environmentalists like Al Gore, our planet is heating up so much that all life on earth is threatened; one thing that our university can do to make a difference in the face of these circumstances is offer the CTA U-Pass.

It is one of the greatest assets we, as a university, can offer in environmental protection on the local level. The U-Pass would provide students with unlimited transportation to the University, as well as being an ideal way to get to work and after school activities. The fact that it is given to full-time students for much less than standard buses is a great selling feature to potential new students in city colleges, and would prove an asset to NEIU's enrollment as well.

I have a friend, Dina Stuart, who held on to a class she was floundering in rather than withdraw from Truman College because she didn't want to risk losing her U-pass by dropping to part-time status. She said, "Public Transportation was the only way that I could get to school. I couldn't have

obtained any education without the U-Pass, and I was willing to sacrifice my GPA because of it." If our university offered the U-Pass, it is my contention that our numbers of currently enrolled underclassman, particularly at the freshman and sophomore level, would significantly increase because the U-Pass would enhance our marketability to those currently enrolled in city colleges.

According to [transitchicago.com](http://transitchicago.com), the official CTA website, important benefits of the U-pass are that it offers full-time students enrolled at participating schools unlimited rides on any CTA bus or train during an academic term. The U-Pass could be used by full-time NEIU students only. It is important to note that students who drop to part-time status would have their U-Pass deactivated, so full-time student enrollment would rise as a result of the NEIU U-Pass. The U-Pass positively impacts campus life by reducing our demand for on-campus parking, saving money (and space) on building new garage structures, and would be a valuable addition for student recruitment. The U-Pass has a positive impact on the environment by reducing traffic congestion and, as a result, air

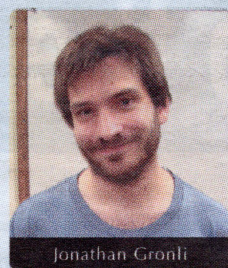


Graphic by Frank Nieto

pollution.

A significant factor that I would like to add to the aforementioned benefits of the U-pass is that it will also diminish the likelihood of getting a DUI, something college students are notoriously prone to do. I believe that the investment of our university in the U-Pass is worth a life or two, and that consideration alone is enough to give the U-Pass a go at NEIU.

## Voice of the Campus



Jonathan Gronli

### Dealing with loss

Sure, this is a bit self-serving on my end as it is something I'm currently going through, however, it is something that all students will go through at one time or another. That is, dealing with losses, more specifically deaths in the family.

It's a hard subject to tackle. Even if you have a lot of time to prepare for it, it can still blindsides you. Regardless of the amount of time you have to prepare for losses, it really is never enough. However, if it happens, there are ways of dealing with the loss.

One of the easiest ways is to think about how close you were to the person. Sure, if you weren't all that close, you have the pain of not having a chance to get to know the person better. However, that's easier to live with than the loss of someone close. If you were close, some of the tips might help you out some in remembrance and grieving.

You could make the mistake that some people make with mourning, and you could decide to cover up the problems with something addictive. Being students, we already naturally try to drown ourselves in work hoping that the losses won't derail us from our goal of a good grade and that piece of paper that says we accomplished something in our years of study. Some of us might decide to pursue the stereotypical "Irish wake" of drowning the pain from such losses quite literally. After all, some numbness can actually seem like a great reprieve from everything that is going wrong.

Ignoring the losses just opens up an entirely new problem. Drowning the losses opens up even more. There are a lot of different options available to you as a student. There is the counseling office, which is a very good thing to use if you need that kind of help. I didn't use it but as said in the previous edition of "Voice of the Campus," I've heard that they're quite good.

You've got to let your teachers know what's going on. A lot of them can, and probably will, be sympathetic and may give you some advice or some different allowances. That might differ between professors but quite a few of them can be helpful.

There's also the fact that, chances are, you've got friends who would be willing to help you out. Friends are one of the best assets you can have in this situation. You'll also be able to tell the caliber of friend through their reactions. Some friends might only help by distracting you. That can be more harmful than good because it's trying to get you to delay dealing with the loss. Then there are the friends who get you to talk out your feelings and help cheer you up. Cherish those friends.

Another way of dealing with a death in the family is quite easy, especially if you're a particularly creative person. Writing or working in any of the other arts is a good way of dealing with the death. It also makes the work much more personal and, in the case of fiction, more realistic. It is also getting your feelings and possibly memories out. Sure, you might not be working on becoming an artist of any kind, however, confronting the loss and how it makes you feel helps you grieve and isn't that what you'd be looking for, a way to grieve? At least with artistic outlets, if you've got an art, writing or film course you could easily come up with a project that helps you grieve as well.

The last thing to do is to take things in stride. Emotions, if you try to ignore them, can and will sneak up on you in some way. Even if you don't try to ignore them, they'll surprise you. Just deal with them as they come up and take things one day at a time. Dealing with stuff as it comes up and taking things one day at a time will make things easier to deal with.

## The U-Pass can't happen at NEIU

By Ivan Favelevic  
Staff Writer

As a freshman coming to NEIU, I have to say I was pretty excited to be starting college. I was able to build my own schedule, take whatever classes I wanted to take, and although not quite living on my own yet, my parents had given me the freedom to come and go as I pleased as long as all the chores were completed.

I do have to say, however, that one of the biggest thrills I had for starting college was the access to my own U-Pass. Having lived in Chicago for the past seven years and still without a license, the thought of being able to have unlimited access to public transportation would have made my life much better. I do not have to exaggerate the disappointment I felt when the commuter school I am attending did not have this most sacred of passes. Being the extremely annoying journalist that I am, I decided to find out exactly why NEIU has not been granted access to a U-Pass.

I recently sat down with NEIU's provost Laurence Frank to ask him about this very subject. Needless to say I was not the first freshman who had

come knocking at his door demanding free public transportation. In his well-organized answer he told me that in order for the school to be able to buy U-Passes, they would have to buy them for the entire student body. This didn't seem like a problem to me seeing as how NEIU is a commuter school, so I was sure everyone would benefit from the pass. He then told me that it turns out most of the commuters prefer to drive or simply live at a walking distance, making the people, such as myself, who spend five dollars on public transportation per day a staggering minority. Furthermore, if U-Passes were to be bought, they could only be used by full time students and Northeastern is comprised of mostly part time students. This in turn would jack up the tuition costs and not be benefiting many people.

Although my meeting with the provost did answer many questions, I figured one source would not be enough to build a sufficient argument. I chose to attend the recent town hall meeting during which I was sure another frustrated yet naïve freshman such as myself would go forth and ask these same questions. My predictions were correct as President Sharon Hahs

was once again pelted with demands for U-Passes. Her answers were the ones I had already heard but I did receive a little snippet of new information from her response. It turns out the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) does not want to add any more schools to their U-Pass receivers. They are losing money with the privileged schools already on the list. Anyone who survived the construction and subsequent fare hike the CTA implemented the past year can safely say that another fare hike would not be the best thing.

Despite the fact that the cost of getting to and from school is burning a deep hole in my wallet, I do have to say that I sympathize with the school. In all honesty, there is nothing they can do and most of the school does not need a U-Pass. As a self-centered teenager, I was sure that I would be bringing strong arguments to the tables of the highest powers-that-be in this institution, demanding the right that all college students in Chicago should have. It turns out logic beat me on this one and I fully support the school's choice to refrain from getting U-Passes. Hopefully, aggravated freshmen in the future can heed this advice and come to terms with the truth.

In December, we will not have a printed issue of the Independent.

Instead, head to our website at [www.neiuiindependent.com](http://www.neiuiindependent.com)

to get your December News, Opinions, Arts and Life!

# INDEPENDENT





# Letter to the Editor

Dear Student Body,

On this past election day, I ate my lunch in the student union like every Tuesday. It wasn't until after having eaten that a fellow classmate and I decided that we would donate blood here on campus in the Alumni Hall. I spent over an hour being wooed by the LifeSource volunteers, standing in line, answering questions and filling out paperwork. The questionnaire was lengthy and after answering honestly to number 35, "Have you ever had sex with a man?" I was abruptly told that I was denied and that maybe sometime in the future I could be a candidate to donate blood. Nothing more was said by the volunteer.

Having NEVER experienced, what I felt was discrimination, I was shocked to silence. It was only after gathering up my belongings, putting back on my sweatshirt and walking out of the Alumni Hall embarrassed and shamed, that anger set in. Anger that they were allowed on campus. Anger that they deny at least 10% of the student body and staff to participate in a right that all other heterosexual faculty and students have.

I immediately went to Dean Kelly's office and told him of the experience I had here on campus. He asked that I write a similar letter to him, and that he would forward it to the appropriate persons. After leaving his office, I went to the computer lab and did some research. The blood center, like all blood centers, is mandated by the FDA and the reason I was denied goes back to a 1985 Reagan Era policy. I now see the reason that I was denied, but that does not make it right. I do not believe that they, or any blood

centers' volunteers, should be welcomed on campus until this policy is changed. With President Obama lifting the ban on HIV positive visitors into the United States and other progressive movements, it may only be a matter of time until that question 35 policy is lifted as well. Here are some facts on HIV and blood donations:

In 1999, heterosexually acquired HIV became the largest category of cases, and has continued to be so ever since. Since October 1985, when suitable tests became available, all blood donations have been screened for HIV antibodies, so why do they deny 10 percent of the population when they can have ALL blood samples tested? Black women are making up 61 percent of new HIV cases, will LifeSource and other blood donation centers turn them away as well?

I would like to know what will be done on campus so that at a University like Northeastern, another gay male student is not embarrassed like I was. If they are to remain on campus, have them place a sign alongside the current one they use listing those people that they deny so that students do not waste their valuable time in attempting to do something good.

It would be a shame for a leading University like Northeastern to not be a forerunner in changing a 25 year old antiquated policy, or at the very least not invite an organization--charity or not, to make a group of students feel inferior.

"Nobody can make you feel inferior unless you agree to it." Eleanor Roosevelt

Thank you for your time,  
Michael Giblin

## Drive it or ticket-it

By Syed Ahad Hussain  
Staff Writer

I donated my car. I am better off on foot than paying \$100-200 a month for tickets. There's ticketing everywhere. There's ticketing for everything.

First of all, there's street cleaning almost every day. Unfortunately, living across the intersections in Chicago is actually a curse. You park your car after returning from a tiring work day and get some sleep. The next morning you wake up to a \$50 orange gift-card from the Mayor. Why, this part of the road had to be cleaned, again. Funny part is that road didn't really look clean afterward anyway. Winter season brings you parking restriction boards. Now you have to drive around aimlessly begging for parking. I hated buying a pack of gum again and again from the nearby fresh mart just for the sake of parking.

According to the Chicago Tribune, the Chicago Department of Revenue has a rapid \$7 million year-over-year increase in parking ticket revenue; totaling \$119.2 million. Chicago Parking Meters LLC got this amount with a promise to keep parking in Chicago subtle, for a 75-year lease. The city still has high charges and broken meters, some of which do not have proper calculators. We are forced to pay recklessly for our government's negligence. Despite the fact that the city has always been short of parking spaces.

The report says that around 327,650 tickets have been generated by faulty and expired meters in 2009, a 26 percent increase

from last year's statistics. The Department of Revenue also reported a ten percent increase in parking and non-moving compliance violating vehicles. Whereas, a 85 percent increase in missing and expired license plates, a 22 percent increase in Meter violations, a 17 percent increase in violations for not displaying both front and rear license plates, and a 4 percent increase in expired number plates is also indicated by the department. The only declines are in expired city stickers, street cleaning and prohibited parking zone tickets. This is because these are much more obvious threats for drivers than falling for a seemingly harmless evil parking meter. Those meters need to be fixed immediately. In my opinion, there shouldn't be any meters at least near train stations to encourage mass transit, as those rides aren't free either.

I had a habit of turning at red lights, but after paying \$200, I almost had a heart attack. The beautiful yellow boot is one of the few things that can make a grown man cry. But getting booted is still better than getting towed.

Just as a car needs maintenance which can cost quite a bit of money, a city too has expenses, which a government has to overcome by any means. In a city where your vehicle can be ticketed any time for any reason, where public transportation is suddenly getting expensive and jobs aren't paying enough, all a man has are his feet. Donate your cars to a noble cause and start walking now, before we start getting ticketed for just walking too, as the road you're walking on is built on your own tax money.

## Man on the Street:

By Sean Lynch  
Staff Writer

## Q: What are your plans for the Thanksgiving holiday?



"Well my [plan] for Thanksgiving is I invited my best friend and her family and they're going to come over. We're going to have turkey together, be thankful for everything, and have dessert, which is pumpkin pie."

- Banaan Alammar



"For Thanksgiving I am planning to see my family. I don't really get to see them that often. It's my mom's side of the family. My cousin just had a baby so I get to see the new baby. And then my friend is coming back from boot camp. He enlisted in the marines so he left in August so I haven't seen him for three months so I will be spending time with him and just our friends that come back from college and visit."

- Rebecca Rios



"My plans are pretty much the same every year. I frantically clean the house, usually a day or two before Thanksgiving and then invite the extended family over. And usually try to have Thanksgiving without burning down the house or killing each other. Typically we're successful."

- Ian Baker



"I spend it with the family. We go to church and the rest of the day is spent laying around, playing x-box, and doing some regular stuff."

- Oluwasegun Adeleke



"This Thanksgiving there's going to be a Thanksgiving parade downtown and I'm going to be joining a group of other animal rights activists to inform people about the cruel treatment of animals on factory farms including turkeys but also other animals. And we're going to be giving out free food of various types, all vegan, to show people that there are many substitutes for many of their favorite dishes, that are not based on cruelty arising from animal products production."

- Cezary Jurewicz

## 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](mailto:feedback.neuiindependent@gmail.com)



# ARTS & LIFE

ENTERTAINMENT AND FEATURES

## Black Friday Survival Guide



**6 tips** ~~People are shoving. Kids are crying...and half-off on plasma TV's?~~ to navigate post-turkey day pandemonium.

by Michelle Jacobson  
Managing Editor

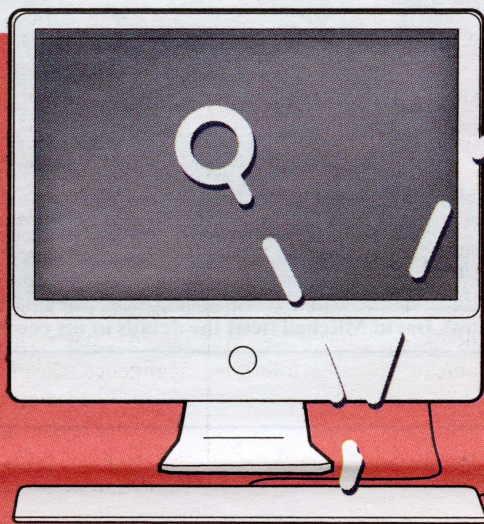
The day after Thanksgiving, typically known as Black Friday, marks the unofficial start of the holiday shopping season. The origin of its name, according to blackfriday.com, goes back to the days when accounting records were kept by hand. Red ink was used to indicate a loss while black ink was used to indicate a profit. Black Friday, then, is seen as the day when retailers go back into the "black." Retailers across the country have some of the best deals of the year on Black Friday, and shopping on this day is an experience in and of itself. The following is a list of tips to help you make the most out of your Black Friday.



1

### Do your research

The biggest sale items usually sell out within minutes of a store's opening and without careful planning, it's easy to lose out on the best deals. The easiest way to make sure you get those in-demand deals is to browse the ads and decide which deals are most important to you. Websites such as [www.blackfriday.info](http://www.blackfriday.info) and [black-friday.net](http://black-friday.net) are good places online to view deals for different stores. Decide which deals are the most important to you and consider which items are likely to be in stock after the morning rush. Larger items like TVs and appliances are likely to sell out faster than video games and DVDs, so plan to be at the stores with deals on the larger items first thing in the morning and then make your way to the other stores throughout the day. Make sure as you research sales that you also look at each store's hours of operation and plan accordingly.



Shopping with a plan will also be friendlier on your wallet. Even savings can add up!

2

### Get some sleep

Black Friday shopping can be an exhausting ordeal, so make sure you get enough sleep after Thanksgiving dinner to sustain you for the early morning hours of shopping. You won't get a full night's sleep unless you go to bed at 7 p.m., but you can still get less than a full night's sleep and be able to function on Black Friday morning. According to WebMD, a typical sleep cycle is about 90 minutes long, and during a good night's sleep we go through a few of these sleep cycles. Napping in 90 minute increments, long enough to let your body go through full sleep cycles, can be a great way to feel energized without a full night's sleep. So, after that big Thanksgiving dinner, aim to sleep for either an hour and a half, 3 hours or 4 and a half hours, and you should have just enough energy to shop to your heart's content.

4

### Take advantage of sales associates

When you finally enter the store, the best way to ensure that you find and get the items you are looking for is to ask a sales associate to point you in the right direction. The employees of any given store will probably know exactly where the big-deal items are, and asking for directions can save you time and ensure that you get those items sooner than the people who wander the store in a frenzy without a specific direction. Sales associates should be plentiful, and they will most likely be more than willing to help you find what you need.

5

### Be a respectful shopper.

Shopping on Black Friday should be fun, but the fun can easily be ruined by people who push and shove others to get what they want. Don't be one of these people. Last Black Friday, a Walmart employee was trampled to death by a stampede of customers rushing into the store. People will get riled up about the big deals on Black Friday, but no deal is worth compromising someone's physical well-being. If you find yourself in one of these stampede situations, be careful not to fall and try to keep a positive attitude. Also, when you get in the store, aside from respecting other shoppers, be sure to respect the store staff as well. Don't throw things around or drop things on the floor as you grab the items you want. Stores are going to look ragged enough after the Black Friday morning rush; don't add to the mess if you can help it.



3

### Get to the stores EARLY

As mentioned before, stores usually sell out of the high-ticket sale items like TVs and appliances early. Most of the time, these items sell out within the first 5 to 10 minutes the store is open.

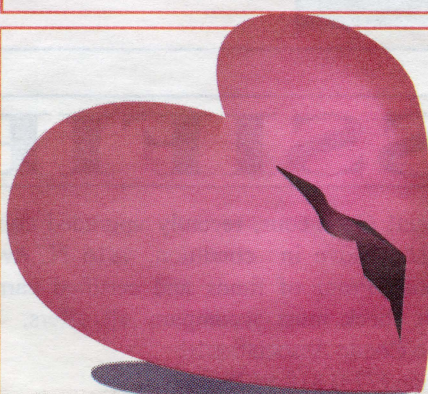
If you want to be one of those lucky people to get the best deals, you have to get to the store early and ensure that you are one of the first people inside when the store opens. This usually involves waiting in line outside of the doors, so mentally and physically prepare yourself to stand in the cold for as long as necessary.



6

### Emotionally prepare yourself to miss out on some deals

You might not get everything you want on Black Friday. Stores can only have so much of one item at a time, and even if you are in line before the store opens, it still doesn't guarantee that you will walk out of the store with exactly what you wanted. You might get angry, but don't take your anger out on other shoppers or sales associates. Shopping on Black Friday is as much about luck as it is about preparedness, and for some people, that's what makes it worthwhile.





# Tony award-winning composer comes to NEIU

By Danny Murphy  
Staff Writer

Tony Award-winning composer Jason Robert Brown came to NEIU on Friday Nov. 20 to teach a Master Class and provide feedback to student singers who performed his songs. The event was organized by NEIU music Professor Sasha Gerritson and the students were accompanied by music department accompanist Jane Henas-Keller. Brown who was named "a leading member of a new generation of composers who embody high hopes for the American musical" by the New York Times. He won a Tony Award for his score in the musical *Parade* and the New York Drama Critic's Circle Award for Best New Musical, just to name a few. My response to all this was: and he's coming here? This is exactly why Gerritson organized this event. She wishes to show the "value of Northeastern" and to show that we may be a small University but we can still compete at a high level.

Brown is a funny, charismatic guy. He instantly put the audience at ease with his wit, honesty and self-deprecation. He started the class by saying "I'm agreeably

loose until I'm not." After seeing the Master Class I can't say he is as good at putting his singers at ease. It took an immense feat of courage to do this and all the singers involved performed admirably.

The first performer was David Mitchell, who gave a brilliant rendition of "A Miracle Would Happen." He was expressive and

enthusiastic, clearly throwing himself into it. He received more than a few laughs for his delivery of the witty lyrics. When it came time to criticize I thought Brown would go on about tone and pitch and breathing. He didn't to my surprise. He told Mitchell to sit down and tell him all about who he was talking to in the song. Brown

seemed more concerned about the attitude of the singer, as he said to Mitchell "this can't be precious, smooth and cute." He wanted it to be sung for what it was, typical gritty guy talk.

In the second performance Julie Crossen and Drew Waters were instantly told that their performance was at a 15 when it should have

been a three, explaining that they were overacting what was a small number. The third performer, Michelle Jacobson, after receiving the usual brutal honesty, was told quite a funny contradiction "You have to be entirely aware of what your hands are doing and you have to forget about your hands," said Brown. Jacobson also received a rare compliment from Brown with him telling her "It's all there, it's all in you." In Crossen, who performed a second time for Brown, we seemed to see a real transition. She gave an emotional final performance under Brown's guidance. He called it "the most specific thing that's been done all day." High praise from a man who clearly thinks the song is in the details.

Brown was brutally honest with the singers, showing that he is not the kind of guy who is going to sugarcoat everything and tell you you're lovely. All the singers received the same unorthodox treatment. They had to explore what their character was singing and from what standpoint. They had to really have an idea of why their characters were feeling this way. According to Brown, it is the history of a moment that fills a song.



Jason Robert Brown (right) shows David Mitchell (left) the details in his composition.

## Beautiful Garbage

By Victoria Donates  
Staff Writer

Beautiful Garbage, an exhibit by NEIU student Megan Pigoni, addresses the problem of the media providing "harmful conventions" to women that she says, "weigh heavily upon our self-esteem and

confidence." Pigoni displays a horrifyingly tragic vogue scene where a mannequin suffocates under a pile of women's magazines. Depicting the compulsion women have to perfect themselves, the dying mannequin laying on the floor reaches its right hand up towards a floating Cosmopolitan magazine as a pink colored

blow dryer, symbolizing a gun, lies beside the mannequin's other hand. The floor around the mannequin is scripted with the words, "She's come undone."

Pigoni depicts the raw reality of a woman's insatiable desire to conform to society's view of femininity. Representative of feminine culture, lipsticks are scattered around the exhibit room while the words, "I am beautiful" are chaotically strewn across the walls. Additionally, in one of Pigoni's graphic designs, she portrays herself as a distraught pre-plastic surgery patient while scores of black dashes and lines mark her body in preparation for surgical incisions. In the poster, she holds up the pink blow dryer "gun" to her head. This picture is a scary reminder of the extreme measures women take to idealize their bodies.

Interestingly, Beautiful Garbage seizes many in a deceptive test of vanity. A decorative pink mirror staged in a corner of the exhibit catches people continually scrutinizing their appearance in its reflection. This attention-grabbing decorative piece

secretly exposes how many of us are inadvertently absorbed by our appearance.

Pigoni's showcase cleverly accentuates society's crisis with superficiality and vanity. Using stereotypically feminine objects and colors draws audiences into a Barbie world, so to speak. It gives light to women's aspirations to grow into the media's chosen definition of femininity.



Photos by Cecilia Carboni

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# Hot Mess

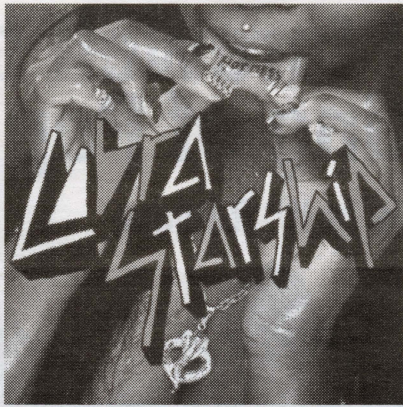


Image Courtesy of: AllMoviePhoto.com

## Cobra Starship's New Album

By Iman Nasser  
Staff Writer

It's easy to say that whoever hasn't heard the 2009 summer anthem, "Good Girls Go Bad," by Cobra Starship, featuring Gossip Girl's Leighton Meester, must believe under a rock or in a cave. The song, still playing on the radio now, hit number one on the iTunes charts within days of its release.

The band's third album "Hot Mess" was much anticipated and finally released Aug. 11. Hot Mess is definitely about letting loose of all inhibitions and dancing to the beat. The electro-pop vibe throughout the album is unlike any other form and shows an inability for comparison to other bands.

The first track, "Nice Guys Finish Last," is very low key and soft. It sounds like a mix of electro-pop with some fun 50s burlesque music in the background. The second track, "Pete Wentz is the Only Reason We're Famous," the song goes through a roller coaster of high beats, 2nd listeners can't help but dance to the chorus, "Smash it up, Smash it up, I'm gonna kick it down. Be cool tonight; don't want to start a fight." Gabe Saporta sings about what he does best in this song, boasting his fame in everyone's face, with lyrics like "And I may not be loved, but they always recall my name."

The third track is the well-known "Good Girls Go Bad." No need to describe this song, its success speaks for itself. The newest release off their

album, "Hot Mess," is by far my favorite track. It's very upbeat and the best dance track of the album. This song praises all bad girls, and their "hot" behavior with lyrics like, "stumblin', but yeah you still lookin' hella fine. Keep doing what you're doing and Imma' make you mine."

With "Hot Mess," the band experimented with a lot of different styles of music, like in tracks, "The Scene is Dead," "Long Live the Scene" and "The World Will Never Do." However, the band kept true to their own style and to the joy of their oldest fans produced three songs. The tracks, "You're Not in on the Joke," "Wet Hot American Summer," and "Move Like You're Gonna Die," sound like the old school Cobra Starship with their very playful sound and lyrics.

## A little Eastern flavor to the Western Movie

By Jonathan Gronli  
Opinions Editor

Sure, it's not a new movie. It's not even old enough to be called a classic. However, experiences like "Sukiyaki Western Django" comes along so rarely that there really is not a reason to neglect.

How can the movie be described? It's hard to explain in few words other than "It's a Takashi Miike film." That would be the shortest description. The long description would be that it's the love child of the Samurai movie, the Western movie and Shakespearean historical epics and tragedy. It has some grindhouse movie tendencies with spurs of Kurosawa level artistry. There are so many contradictions that there is no way that it would've been able to be a good movie.

The acting is interesting since the entire movie is in English (outside of the writing). There are about two or three native English speakers in the cast in total. For the rest, English was their second or possibly third language and they pass admirably. Sure, some of it sounds forced, but then again you get forced English from some actors who are native English speakers as well so there's really no problem with that. Regardless of linguistic proficiency it happens to everyone.

The setting for the movie is believable, since it's largely shot on location in a town that they built for themselves. The name of the town

is a bit hard to buy as the name of the town they built for the movie is named Nevada-Utah. However, it seems like a nice, cozy little place to live. Well that was before the gold prospectors and the warring Heike and Genji gangs came into town. It is your average little wild west town only in the East.

The soundtrack is incredible. It takes the musical motifs of Western movie soundtracks and puts it in occasionally Oriental musical styling. This comes across as something highly original but familiar to both cultures.

The DVD, which has been out for about a year now, is very light on special features, which is worth seeing. There is the usual stuff like deleted scenes. There is also about an hour long "Making of" documentary that adds a lot of insight to the film. It also shows you about how Miike even brought actors that initially didn't even like his style or movies over to his side.

So, what to do? Should you buy it? If you're into Westerns, yes you should. If you're into Samurai movies, again, yes you should. If you're into both Westerns and Samurai movies, why don't you have it already?

It's one of those movies that come by so rarely that you might as well indulge yourself. However if you're still wary and would like more proof, rent it and then decide for yourself.

## Happy 40th Birthday Sesame Street

By Theresa Celmer  
Arts Editor

Forty years ago, a magical street was created to enrich the lives of children. Families welcomed into their homes a variety of characters to teach them not only about counting numbers and the alphabet but also how to treat one another with respect and kindness.

"Sesame Street" premiered on Nov. 10, 1969, creating memories to cherish for years to come. Who could ever forget Ernie and the rubber ducky song that he sang in the bathtub Big Bird taught us about the alphabet by singing all of it as one great word. Cookie Monster taught us that the letter C stands for cookie, the Count taught us numbers, Bert and Ernie taught us how to share and Kermit the frog taught us that it is not easy being green.

The show has also had some memorable moments with celebrity guests, including Ellen Degeneres and Elmo singing "Put Down the Ducky," Sandra Oh as a cookie fairy, Neil Patrick Harris as a



Image courtesy of fun-addicts.net

shoe fairy, Maya Angelou singing "N is for Natasha" to baby Natasha. Margaret Hamilton also made a guest appearance as the Wicked Witch of the West, first lady Michelle Obama taught children about gardening, and many more. As Sesame street turns forty this year, let us celebrate by hoping for forty more years for children to be able to sing a long and look forward to many sunny days ahead where they can grow up learn and love.

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# A final farewell to the King of Pop

"This Is It" Review

By Ivan Favelevic  
Staff Writer

Introductions are not necessary. We all recognize the name, we all recognize the songs, we all like to think we know the dance moves. Michael Jackson has reigned supreme as the most talked-about performer from the moment he burst into the spotlight. Whether he was being praised by millions or shrouded in scandal, nobody could deny the man's talent and dedication to his work. In the months prior to his death, Michael Jackson had been preparing his final series of live concerts, his magnum opus. "This Is It" is a collage of hours worth of rehearsal tapes and insight into the preparations behind this monstrosity of a show. It gives his fans one last chance to bid their goodbyes.

This film is a true testament to the power of editing. Director Kenny Ortega ("High School Musical 3"), who was also directing the stage show, had only the limited footage gathered from rehearsals to create the film. There were no second takes, no re-dos, and he takes this into account while making the film. The performances seen on screen are not perfect and sometimes take footage from different days for the same song. Despite this, Jackson's true fans will be glad to finally see how the performer dealt with his rehearsals, something usually held

shrouded in mystery by the perfectionist.

As a documentary the movie succeeds wonderfully. It shows the inside and outside of what it takes to create a show of this magnitude. Equal screen time is presented to each aspect of the show, from the singers and dancers to the pyrotechnicians and costume designers. The director's voice can be heard as he tells the crew where to be and what to do as well as getting feedback from Michael. A great job is done in showing the evolution of the show. Footage is taken from the dance studio all the way to its implementation on stage.

Ortega was really trying hard to set the film up as the "would be" concert experience. The pacing flows as a show would and there is even time in between songs for the audience to clap, much like they would if they had been able to attend. The set list covers all of Jackson's number one hits as well as some interesting choices, which seem to demonstrate how Michael was feeling while preparing his last show. Your enjoyment of this film will really depend on how well you know Jackson's music and your opinion on the man. It offers one final goodbye and a chance for everyone to feel what it would be like to be in his concert. This won't change any thoughts on him or create new believers, but it is as the dedication says: for the fans.

Image Courtesy of AllMoviePhoto.com

# Modern Warfare Returns

By Nick Vracar  
and  
Ivan Favelevic  
Staff Writers

With dozens of "Game of the Year" awards and nearly universal acclaim, "Call of Duty 4: Modern Warfare" is an extremely tough act to follow. Released in 2007, the game redefined the first person shooter genre. Two years have passed, and after a tidal wave of hype and its fair share of controversy, "Modern Warfare 2" has finally arrived on the X-Box 360, PS3 and PC, and it improves upon its predecessor in every way.

"Modern Warfare 1" was a game that featured a single player campaign that was partially ignored by gamers, with the multiplayer aspect of the game outliving it in both length and variety. It's not that the single player game was bad, but rather that there is a large group of gamers that focus their attention entirely on the multiplayer. The multiplayer in "Modern Warfare 1" was extremely well done, and "Modern

Warfare 2" takes every part of it up a notch. The modes and the setup are largely the same, with the majority of the improvement given to the design of large, sprawling maps that give the player large freedom of movement. Furthermore, the famed ranking mechanism featured in the original is back and has been balanced to perfection.

In addition to the multiplayer mode there is the special ops mode, in which two players co-operate to accomplish various preset scenarios. The concepts are simple, ranging from crashing through enemy barricades to sneaking across battlegrounds. It can be played alone, but there's more appeal in finding a partner, especially considering the odds against you, as well as the particular missions in which one player fights their way across town with the second player as their air support. You are ranked by gold stars; the more difficult you make the missions the more stars you receive. The missions are short and sweet and provide

an addictive diversion that encourages teamwork and cooperation.

The single player storyline has unfortunately been left on the backburner this time around, providing a narrative equivalent to a Michael Bay movie. It only serves to show off the different locales and varied action the developers wanted to place in the game and provides enough twists to keep you interested all the way to the end. Thankfully, the "clown closet" technique used in the first game (which had enemies continually reappear until you moved forward enough to set off an invisible trip wire, triggering the next wave) has been completely removed. The levels are now much more open ended, often providing huge battlefields with multiple paths to the objective and smart enemies that will flank and relocate accordingly. Visually the game has improved, presenting rich and detailed battlegrounds, making the firefights beautiful to look at in their frenetic pace.

Despite the weak story

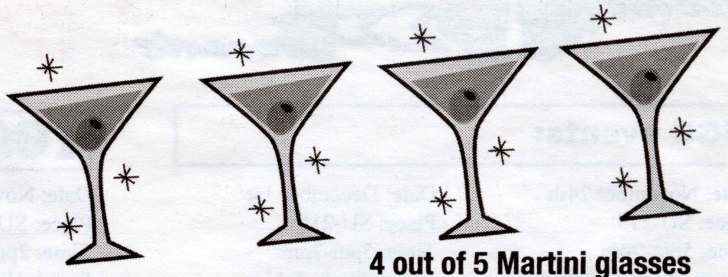
Infinity Ward has taken a bold step in interactive storytelling with one of the most controversial levels ever featured in a video game. Without spoiling too many details, the level places you in disguise as a terrorist and has you committing rather immoral acts against innocent civilians. Within the context of the game, the scenario makes perfect sense, and it is so tastefully created that it stands as a powerful message against terrorism. It has to be said though that the scene is extremely graphic and is actually preceded with a warning, allowing the player to skip it if necessary. It took some guts to place this in a game and Infinity Ward definitely deserves recognition for taking a valiant step forward in interactive storytelling.

"Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2" is one of the most polished games of the year. It provides an amazing deal with deep, entrenching multiplayer, addictive and ingenious cooperative play and an entertaining story to wrap it all together. This is definitely a must buy.

Image Courtesy of psudo.com



# Out on a school night: Name Pending



By Trista Gunderman  
Staff writer

Would you name your restaurant “Name Pending”? Or does it sound like a cop-out? Well not to Shahram Tehrani, the owner of “Name Pending,” a small eatery at 2468 N. Clark St. This establishment was originally named “Lettuce Mix” but a company has decided to sue on the basis of federal trademark infringement. The name of the company suing? “Lettuce Entertain You.”

Instead of rolling over and giving up, Tehrani has taken a stand. He renamed the location “Name Pending,” started an online name suggestion contest, and put a banner over the “Lettuce Mix” sign that says “Let Us Be!” If you are interested in entering the contest, go to [saladmix-chicago.com](http://saladmix-chicago.com) and

click on “The Name Game.”

Open from 11 a.m.- 9 p.m. every day, this cozy establishment focuses on serving salads, soups and sandwiches. The moment you open the door the atmosphere tells you what to expect. The shiny steel-like tables are set up to seat five sets of four people. One wall has lavender in little pots running the length of the seating area. The other two outside walls are made entirely out of windows. This allows patrons to see the small shops and trees that line the block. The open walls give the feeling of an outdoor café without the cold Chicago weather.

There are about 15 salads, six sandwiches and five varieties of soup available. When I went to try the menu, I ordered the Caprice sandwich. It contained mozzarella, tomato, red onion, a balsamic drizzle and basil. The

food counter looks like a salad bar. Only a thin Plexiglass wall separates the patrons from the fresh ingredients. The employees make your food right in front of you. The one helping medium sized loaf of focaccia bread out, cut it in two, and then piled on thick slices of tomato and real mozzarella cheese. That's one thing that makes this place head and shoulders above the rest: they use what appears to be handmade cheese and focaccia bread in their sandwiches. The taste of fresh cheese and focaccia bread might be strange to some people. It is more subtle and hearty than the regular kinds you find in stores.

The first bite was overwhelming, with so many strong flavors my tongue didn't know what to taste first. The focaccia bread had a heavy olive oil flavor to it. Its texture helped soak up the sweet balsamic drizzle. The

mozzarella cheese was bland with a meaty texture. Tomatoes added a vegetable flavor to the mix. However, the onion did seem a little out of place with all of the sweet flavors of the other ingredients. Overall, it had a delicious and refined taste, kept me full for hours, and was healthy enough to not have the guilt of sandwiches at other places.

You don't need to worry about having to order more than one thing on the menu; the sandwiches are as big as medium dinner plates and the salads are large enough for two people to share. The only downside of this place is that it costs about 10 dollars for the sandwiches and salads, and about five dollars for a bowl of soup, which isn't that bad considering the large serving sizes. This is a great place for a casual first date and special occasions, but is not for everyday lunch.

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## UGC events:

Date: November 24th Place: SU-215 Time: 5pm-7pm Event: Study Tables	Date: December 1st Place: SU-215 Time: 5pm-7pm Event: Study Tables
Date: November 25th Place: SU-215 Time: 5pm-7pm Event: Study Tables	Date: December 2nd Place: SU-215 Time: 5pm-7pm Event: Study Tables
Date: November 26th Place: SU-215 Time: 5pm-7pm Event: Study Tables	Date: December 3rd Place: SU-215 Time: 1:40pm-2:40pm Event: Tutoring Sessions
Date: November 26th Place: SU-216 Time: 1:40pm-2:40pm Event: Tutoring Sessions	Date: December 3rd Place: SU-215 Time: 5pm-7pm Event: Study Tables
Date: November 30th Place: SU-003 Time: 5pm-7pm Event: Study Tables	Date: December 7th Place: SU-215 Time: 5pm-7pm Event: Study Tables

## ΓΦΩ

## Gamma Phi Omega

Date: November 25th Place: SU-219 Time: 2pm-7pm Event: Hit the Books	Date: December 2nd Place: SU-219 Time: 2pm-7pm Event: Hit the Books
Date: November 26th Place: SU-217 Time: 1:40pm-7pm Event: Hit the Books	Date: December 4th Place: SU-217 Time: 2pm-7pm Event: Hit the Books
Date: November 27th Place: SU-217 Time: 11am-7pm Event: Hit the Books	Date: December 7th Place: SU-217 Time: 2pm-7pm Event: Hit the Books
Date: November 30th Place: SU-217 Time: 2pm-7pm Event: Hit the Books	

## ΣΛΒ

## Sigma Lambda Beta

Date: November 24th Place: SU-218 Time: 1:40pm-3pm Event: Study Session
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# Greek Peek

By Trista Gunderman  
Staff Writer

## What is the point of joining a Greek organization at a commuter campus like Northeastern Illinois University?

One of the reasons people join Greek organizations is so that they can live in a community house with their brothers or sisters. This can be beneficial if you already live in a dormitory situation, where your neighbors change every semester. Living in a "fraternity house" means that you know who lives with you and you have a say in the rules. The downside to living in a fraternity house is that you have to spend time with the same people every day. Fighting with your best friend and need time apart? Not when you are living with them. The benefit of living in a fraternity house is that you do have more chances to bond with your brothers or sisters.

At a commuter school you can still reap the benefits of having a close group of friends that Greek organizations provide without having to live with them. They allow you

to get to know a stable group of people that will remain in contact with you even after you graduate college. This is an excellent way to get to know a lot of people quickly at a place where people would otherwise just go to classes and leave campus. At a commuter school, Greeks also tend to be a bit more understanding when it comes to busy or unconventional schedules. Joining a Greek organization is a great way to meet a lot of new people in a short amount of time.

The quality of bonding is the same with Greek organizations at both commuter and non-commuter universities. Although you might only see some members once a week at the official meetings because of schedule differences, most Greeks make up for this conflict by having more official bonding events. There are only two main differences between the Greek experience at these places: the housing situation and how often you see most of the other members.

## Why are grades so important to Greeks?

Academics are very important to Greeks. They usually have a minimum grade point average members have to keep

to be active in the organization. When a member's grades drop too low, the organization bands together and works with the person to help raise it back to normal. Every Greek organization wants its members to graduate and succeed, as do most organizations. The main difference is that Greek organizations have to report back to their national chapter with every member's grades. When the national chapter sees that the local chapter's cumulative grade point average drops too low, they can have the local chapter suspended until the members focus more on academics.

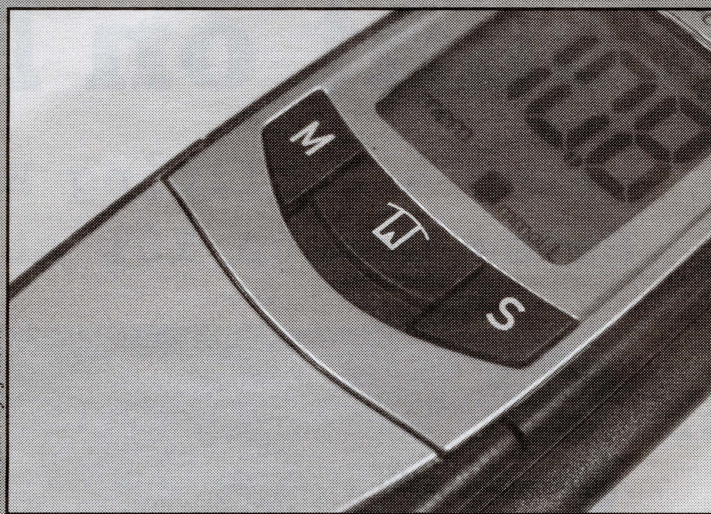
Greek organizations view their members as future leaders and current student leaders. When members postpone their graduation because of the organization, the first step is to help in the best way they can; by lightening up the member's schedule. The reason why national chapters as well as local chapters care about their member's grades is because of the sense of family. Every member of a family, biological or not, cares about every member's future. Greeks pride themselves on being family and do everything they can to reinforce this sense.

# Raising diabetes awareness

By Efren Ulloa  
Staff Writer

Most college students are far too busy to concern themselves with anything but school. Most of us hold jobs, commute to school, and have obligations to our families and friends. These are just a few things we juggle as we try to find time to fit these into our schedules while still being able to write that looming term paper or study for that upcoming final. We're often so busy that some things are neglected and simply forgotten. Aside from the recent H1N1 scare and the inevitable arrival of the flu season, most college students aren't overly concerned with their health. This inattention can be deceptive however. Although swine flu has dominated health headlines, it is certainly not the only medical issue students should be aware of.

According to a Nov. 2009 U.S. News article, it is an all too common misconception that a disease as serious and deadly as diabetes, which kills more people than breast cancer and HIV/AIDS combined, is something that only older people get. Many people are also unaware of the risk factors that can lead to a development of the disease, not to mention the sheer number of diabetes cases on a global and national scale. The American Diabetes Association estimates that 23.6 million people suffer from diabetes in



A blood glucose monitoring system is an essential resource for people with diabetes.

the United States and the International Diabetes Federation believes that there are 246 million adults affected by diabetes worldwide, with numbers expected to rise sharply in future decades.

Reputable and reliable medical websites like Mayo clinic and WebMD provide a simple and basic definition of the disease. Simply put, it is a condition that affects the body's production of insulin or the body's response to it. Insulin is a hormone produced in the pancreas that allows glucose, or sugar, to be absorbed into the body's cells, a process that fuels and energizes the body. When someone has diabetes, this process is faulty and

unresponsive.

There are two basic types of diabetes, types 1 and 2. No matter which type a person may have, there is always an excessive amount of glucose in their bloodstream, although for varying reasons. Type 1 diabetes, much more rare than Type 2, affects the pancreas' production of insulin. The lack of insulin prohibits glucose from entering the body's cells and stays in the bloodstream, where it can lead to serious and deadly complications. It's also important to note that Type 1 diabetes typically appears during adolescence but can develop at any age.

Type 2 diabetes, more commonplace,

affects the way the body metabolizes glucose. In other words, the body becomes resistant to insulin and doesn't transport glucose. Although scientists aren't sure why the body builds a resistance to insulin in diabetics, they believe that excess weight and inactivity are important factors.

What makes diabetes such an alarming condition is that scientists still, despite exhaustive research, have not found a cure or figured out whether genetics factors into the equation. They have been able to, however, develop effective treatments to manage and in some cases prevent it. Both types require getting regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight and closely monitoring blood sugar. Type 1 specifically requires regular administration of insulin. As shown, diabetes is a serious condition that can produce life-threatening complications and is a misunderstood condition that affects millions of people. Fortunately, however, it's also manageable and many people that have it can lead normal and healthy lives. As perpetually occupied students, it's easy to neglect what we eat and our overall lifestyles in general, but we should remember that NEIU offers a free P.E. complex on campus and a cafeteria that offers several healthy food options. Although we're often overburdened and stressed, it's important to keep in mind that Swine Flu isn't the only thing we should be concerned with on the medical front.



# Veteran's Day history

By Sean Lynch  
Staff writer

Every year, Nov. 11 rolls around and we remember the brave men and women who have given their lives for our country. From the young men who bravely fought the Nazis in World War II, to our brothers and sisters still fighting overseas in Afghanistan and Iraq, we have dedicated Nov. 11 to remember them. While we all know and celebrate this momentous holiday, few know of how it came to be.

On June 28, 1919, The Treaty of Versailles was signed and marked the end of the Great War, or what is now known as World War I. Seven months prior to the signing of the treaty however, fighting had already stopped. Later that year, President Wilson proclaimed Nov. 11 as Armistice Day, in honor of the

armistice that occurred on Nov. 11 the previous year.

Armistice Day became an annual holiday on May 13, 1938, primarily to celebrate the efforts of the soldiers who fought in WWI. This changed, however, on June 1, 1954, following both WWII and the Korean War when the holiday was changed from Armistice Day to Veteran's Day, in order to honor all veterans who had served and fought for America.

On Oct. 8, 1954, President Dwight Eisenhower gave the first Veterans Day Proclamation, a tradition that has occurred since. He also assigned members to the Veterans Day National Committee to ensure that the holiday would receive the amount of exposure needed in order for it to maintain recognition.

On June 28, 1968, The Uniform Holiday Bill was signed, attempting

to have several federal holidays celebrated on Mondays and ensure three day weekends to include travel and public events. These holidays include Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Columbus Day, and Veterans Day.

The first Veterans Day following the bill's signing was problematic due to the date change. This caused President Gerald Ford to sign a Public Law moving Veterans Day back to Nov. 11 due to the strong cultural ties associated with the holiday, as well as many states not acknowledging the holiday's date change in the first place.

Today, we still celebrate Veterans Day on Nov. 11, but instead of only celebrating those who fought in WWI, we now celebrate the more than 24.9 million men and women that have fought in over half a dozen wars to protect our fundamental rights.

## A memorial to peace

By Jonathan Gronli  
Opinions Editor

Since on Veterans Day the Student Veterans' Club decided to put up a commemorative dog tag for the "Whispers in the Wind" display, it would be fitting to examine the history of the Peace Garden.

In 2004, Joe Hertel, Vietnam veteran and former columnist of the *Independent*, got approval to put up dog tags to remember those who had fallen in the opening years of the war in Iraq. He chose the spot for the "Whispers in the Wind" display would be simply because

he enjoyed the ambiance of the area. He also chose it because it has a slight wind tunnel effect so the sound of the rustling dog tags in the wind would be effective.

When the decorating started, there were just over 4,000 deaths, one dog tag up for each soldier who died. While preparing to get things in order to start putting up the tags, Joe enlisted the help of some friends of his. This amounted to about half of the newspaper staff. I was part of that half.

After it was set up there were a lot of different demands made. Part of the administration wanted

it taken down after a set amount of time. Part of the art department wanted to contribute pieces to the area now known as the Peace Garden. Many of the dogs tags have been stolen as well.

The administration succeeded in taking it down but after months of fighting for its reinstatement and the arrival of Mothers Against The War, the Peace Garden returned. Along with the "Whispers in the Wind" display, the Peace Garden came back with the occasional additions from the art department.

After a while, the artwork was taken away for one reason

or another. Still additions were attempted. For example, last year a new bench was installed. If you've been in the Peace Garden since last year, it's the bench that has the inscription "For those who served." It was great to see a new addition.

The dog tag display still occasionally contends with thefts, so the wall is actually somewhere

around 2,000 tags light. That comes out to a loss of money, even though they can be bought at \$0.25-0.50 a tag. If you'd like to help out with honoring those who have died in the war, you can reach the President or Advisor of the Veterans' Club by getting their e-mails from <http://www.neiu.edu/~deptsao/stuorg/vetc.htm>.



Sgt. Jestene Hagesheiner standing in front of "Whispers in the Wind"

Photo by Sean Lynch

### Student Union Programs ~ November 2009

#### Stress Buster

November 17th— Nicole Ross— Piano Tunes  
November 24th— Urban Sankofa— Hands on drums

Join the Student Union, Urban Sankofa and Nicole Ross for some stress busting activities during activity hour in the Student Union cafeteria.

**Student Union Holiday Wreath Display Program**  
Would you like to decorate your wreath to enter the wreath contest?

Are you interested in performing for our holiday show on Thursday December 4, 2009?

If interested please contact Esmeralda Guerrero  
e-guerrero5@neiu.edu extension 6099.

#### Student Union's 1st Annual Spirit Week Contest Results

1st Place (Gold) UPRS & Que Ondee Sola Student Activities  
2nd Place (Silver) Rumba Dance Club Enrollment Services  
3rd Place (Bronze) Alpha Psi Lambda College of Arts & Sciences— Office of the Dean  
\*\*\*Best Decorated Office— Independent Student Newspaper\*\*\*

#### LAPTOP CHECKOUT

Coming Soon— Net book Checkout

Laptop Checkout at the Information Center  
3 Hour Checkout

Call or visit the Information Center for Checkout Details

#### Student Union Art Exhibit

The Student Union is looking for students who would like to display their art in the 2nd floor of the Student Union. If interested please contact Esmeralda Guerrero e-guerrero5@neiu.edu.

The Student Union would like to thank all the participants for this year's first annual Spirit Week.

Enrollment Services	*Student Activities
Ensemble Español	*Campus Recreation
Financial Aid	*Dean of Students
Graduate College	*International Programs
College of Arts & Sciences— Office of the Dean	
Alpha Psi Lambda	*WZRD
Anime Club	*Que Ondee Sola
APICS	*Rumba Dance Club
GLBTA	*Sigma Lambda Beta
Independent	*SGA
Kafeteria Krew	*SU Angels
Life Catholic Stud. Assoc	*Theta Chi Omega
Model Illinois Government	* Union for Puerto Rican Students
Movimiento Cultural Latino Americano	
Northeastern Programming Board	
Muslim Student Association	

#### CHECK US OUT ON:

Facebook — Facebook Group: NEIU Student Union  
Join our Fan page!!  
MySpace — [myspace.com/neiustudentunion](http://myspace.com/neiustudentunion)  
Twitter — <http://twitter.com/NEIUStudentUnion>  
Going Chicago — <http://going.com/NEIUStudentUnion>

Events and times subject to change.  
For more information about an event, please visit our website at [www.neiu.edu/~sudept](http://www.neiu.edu/~sudept), contact the Student Union at 773-442-6099 or [student-union@neiu.edu](mailto:student-union@neiu.edu) or the Information Center at 773-442-4290 or [info-center@neiu.edu](mailto:info-center@neiu.edu)

**N** Northeastern  
Illinois  
University



# Shedd sheds the penguins

By Cathleen Schandelemeier-Bartels  
Staff writer

With images of penguins dancing in my head, on Thursday, Nov. 12. I attended a "Field Trips Basics" workshop taught by Master of Science, Eleanor Hodack at the Shedd Aquarium. I did this while multitasking as a future educator and present journalist with my secret agenda of viewing the new "Oceanarium" and "Polar Play Zone" exhibits. This dynamic workshop for educators covered everything from an overview of the Shedd's fascinating web-based curriculum ([www.shedd-aquarium.org/sea](http://www.shedd-aquarium.org/sea)) through a delight-filled evening walk through of the almost-vacant museum that included a peek at "Granddad," an Australian lungfish which is the world's oldest aquatic animal in captivity anywhere. Another activity offered during this time was an underwater photography class sponsored by the Shedd in conjunction with the Scuba Emporium. The tour did not include the new Oceanarium or Polar Play Zone exhibits, nor did it include penguins, although I was assured that students may view them all during a field trip.

The "Field Trip Basics" workshop covered classroom interactives (my favorite was playing hide the camouflage fish that my clever classmates took to a new level) through activities to do while at the Shedd and expanded to post-field trip follow-up. The ethogram is a useful scientific technique the Shedd recommends to engage students in the study of a given species aquatic behavior. The ethogram involves recording aquatic fish/animal behavior at 30 second intervals. This technique can be diversified

for students in third grade and younger by creating different columns that identify a given aquatic animals usual behaviors, for example: grooming, eating and sleeping. The student then is responsible for recording the animal behavior at appropriate time intervals. "Field Trips Basics" is an education-based workshop that included the Shedd's hours (every day except Christmas!), availability for workshops, (workshops are available for students in grades K-12, but are not offered December 17-31 this year) and the fact that on-line registration for field trips is available for the first time.

When planning a field trip, it is important for educators to consider a focused concept, grade level and learning standards; all of which are conveniently located on the Shedd's new website that also includes fact sheets and lesson plans. There is a free educator e-newsletter called "Fish Tales" that comes out bi-monthly and keeps educators abreast of current exhibits at the Shedd and includes tips on how to make use of these dynamic exhibits in the classroom. The busiest times of the year for school field trips are late April, May and June. The best times for school groups to attend are Mondays and Tuesdays in the winter, as the Shedd is most busy on Wednesday through Sunday. When bringing a class to the museum for a walk through the Shedd advises that school groups have a focus based on a central theme, such as "Camouflage." The Shedd Aquarium is free to all Illinois Schools who attend the museum before 10:00 a.m. Monday through Friday.

The Shedd Aquarium also has a Summer Camp program that is part of the "Summer World's Tour" and includes time spent at

each of the venues on Chicago's Museum campus (other participants include the Adler Planetarium and the Field Museum). Young teens are offered an education-based day camp known as "Shedd Explorers" that focuses on Climate Changes of last summer. They made video newscasts based on this dynamic topic during the week-long camp. Applications for day camp at the Shedd begin in early April. It is offered through their Public Programs Pod.

The Shedd no longer offers field trips with a penguins focus. The penguin field trips were so popular that everything else was being overlooked! As a result of their incredible popularity, the penguin field trips are no more. Students can visit the penguin

exhibit, although we were not afforded this luxury in our time at the Shedd. Instead, we visited the sea otters, as well as the main floor galleries. The sea otters, we were informed, were Hodack focus for her Master's thesis, and her favorite animals. They have no blubber, so spend a considerable amount of time grooming their fur, blowing air into it so that it fluffs up and retains heat for longer periods of time. We viewed them shortly after feeding time, when they are at their most active, making photography difficult.

The Shedd Aquarium offers a rich educational experience that is balanced with solid science and a sense of humor. To find out more about their programs please visit [www.shedd-aquarium.org](http://www.shedd-aquarium.org).

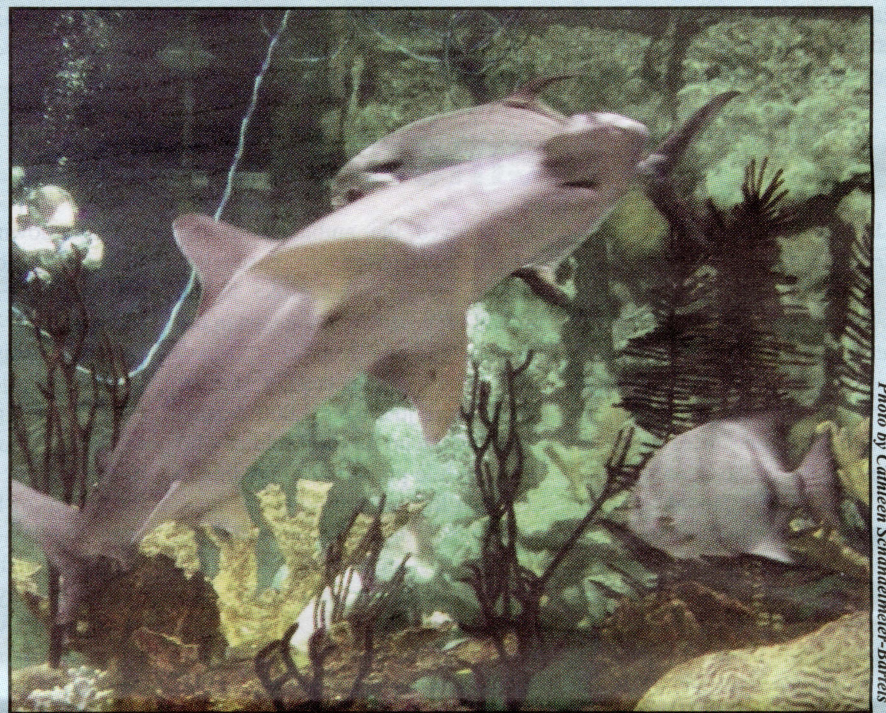


Photo by Cathleen Schandelemeier-Bartels

## Fantastic finish for flag football: 2009 Champions The Killer Biscuits

By Norris Narsa  
Staff writer

The race to crown The Northeastern Illinois University's flag football champions reached the finish line on Nov. 5. It was a classic photo finish as team Killer Biscuits squeaked out a victory against the Last Men Standing by the slimmest of margins. The final score was 21 to 20 and the Killer Biscuits remained undefeated this season. These two teams have built a friendly rivalry since last year when the Last Men Standing defeated the Biscuits to win the championship. This year's game did not disappoint, as it went down to the final seconds.

Nipun Patel, quarterback of the Biscuits, found himself a new favorite target as he connected with wide receiver Tenzin Passang on a long touchdown and a conversion. When asked about the competition and the intensity of this championship game, Passang replied, "they had better height and speed, possibly even more athleticism, but we were more sound, and most importantly, we were more organized." When asked how he got so wide open in this touchdown score, he stated, "we didn't have a lot of plays, but the few plays we ran, we ran to perfection."

Perfection is exactly what the Last Men Standing were hoping to get out of their team. However, it looked like they had some first half jitters as their half only consisted of six points. There was a bright spot however: Brian Granada, receiver for the Last Men Standing, played an outstanding game. Granada had two sacks

and a long touchdown reception from quarterback Shawn Palacio. Palacio's determination would not be questioned as he threw for two touchdowns and rushed for one. He did, however throw one interception in the first half. When asked about the sloppy first half, a disappointed Granada mentioned, "We were not as prepared as we should have been. A couple mistakes, but we have to give credit to the other team for

coming out, being more prepared than us."

It was the tale of two halves as the second half proved to be more thrilling. The Last Men Standing picked up on their defense as they allowed zero touchdowns in the second half. They also picked up their pressure as they sacked Patel and intercepted him as well. Their offense did not let them down either as they scored 14 unanswered points. The electrifying

second half was not without controversy. With 2 minutes and 20 seconds left in the game, the officials deemed there was no penalty when Joseph Rath and Tyler Heidtke went for a ball that some believed was pass interference. The officials assigned to the championship game were carefully appointed by their supervisors and were the best in the university. It is easy to blame an official when things are not going your way. This game, however, was not determined by those in stripes.

The Last Men Standing were down one point and were just itching for a chance to score again. Although Rath did not get that call he wanted earlier, later in the game, however, he had his chance for revenge. He did not capitalize on the opportunity as he dropped a potential game winning touchdown on 3rd and goal with 20 seconds left. Fourth and goal approached, and there was an incomplete pass. The Biscuits got the ball back with 15 seconds left, and the Last Men Standing had no timeouts remaining. One snap, and one knee later, Patel sighed a breath of relief as they survived a battle that came down to the last second.



From left to right: Mike Perricone, Tyler Heidtke, Servando Cedenas, Dave Merrill, Patrick Gallaghy, Nipun Patel, Jack Kearney, Tenzin Passang, on the team but not in the picture Stephen Contreras

Photo courtesy of Campus Recreation