

9-7-2010

## Independent - Sep. 7, 2010

Ivan Favelevic

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SPECIAL FALL 2010 PREVIEW ISSUE

# Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S

Tuesday, September 7, 2010

www.neiuiindependent.com

Vol. 28, Issue 2

## ARTS & LIFE



HAVE A "CREPE"  
DAY!

## SPORTS



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## BEARS 2010 SEASON PREVIEW

## OPINIONS



## University Justifies Payraises

*University Responds to CBS news story*



Photo by: Gordan Kalabic

By Ivan Favelevic  
Editor-in-Chief

Problems continue to cloud Northeastern Illinois University. On July 15, local news station, CBS 2 Chicago, published a story accusing Northeastern Illinois University's administration of receiving severe pay hikes. The story "Northeastern Administrators Get Huge Pay Raises," included reports that faculty was to have their salary frozen and students had to deal with tuition increases, which would make the cost of attendance "about \$20,000 a year." The article had interviews with two former staff members who spoke harshly about the administration as a whole. This was dovetailed by a quote by President Sharon K. Hahs claiming the current financial situation to be "unpromising and uncertain." The university released a prompt press release explaining the reasons behind the pay raises. They cited downsizing and subsequent reallocation of duties as causes. The *Independent* has a chance to sit down with President Hahs and discuss in detail all the issues brought up in the news story.

According to President Hahs, the United Professionals of Illinois Union (UPI) had sent a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to her office requesting the 2009 and 2010 fiscal year salary changes. In the document released, the university had agreed to seven major pay increases, including the university's president. This decision was approved several years ago as part of union negotiation contracts. There were also six new positions, four promotions, and three police officers hired to fill "equality among ranks." Downsizing had become necessary and the university became short staffed. Fewer staff and university administrators were working with more responsibility, and received adequate raises as compensation. As for President Hahs' raise, it was a decision made by the Board of Trustees in order to level her salary with other university presidents. Over half of the staff at NEIU belongs to a union. Any adjustments to salaries are decided years in advance by the president and the bargaining

unions. The document released by President Hahs only covered the 2009 and 2010 fiscal years. There are no planned salary increases for the 2011 fiscal year and the university has promised to "limit staff hiring."

The university has downsized because of a consistent cut in state funding to the school over the past 10 years. The last reported cut was about six percent. This has led to the announced tuition hikes for freshmen. However the \$20,000 tuition reported only applies to incoming out-of-state students. (the exact tuition figure is \$18,400). Out-of-state students make up only about five to ten percent of the student body. Since the university has a frozen tuition policy, only incoming students suffer tuition hikes. The university has been trying to amend its relationship with students since the activity hour rescheduling after many student groups expressed apprehension with the way the administration handled the situation. The claims expressed in the CBS news story have become another rough spot. "We are always striving to improve communication with students...that is how you build trust," said President Hahs. "Whether it's through the student Town Hall or the SGA meetings, information is always available." CBS reporter Dorothy Tucker did according to her report attempt to reach President Hahs but was told she would arrive the next day. When she called back she was told the president was on vacation. President Hahs said "I had planned that vacation months in advance and was out for the whole week... I do not know who could have told her I would be back [the next day]."

The CBS news story quoted two former staff members, Bobbie O'Connor and Tung Nguyen, who showed displeasure towards the pay raises. In the interview, O'Connor said that she retired after she requested a pay raise and was turned down. Both were non-teaching members who had to be let go by the university as a cause of the reallocation of resources. Every department suffered some loss of staff, including the president's office.

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Students face adversity in Model Illinois Government Simulation



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

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

The *Independent* is published every other week except during summer and semester breaks. Deadlines are nine (9) days prior to the issue in which a contribution is to appear. Views expressed in letters are those of the university community and not those of the Editorial Board.

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

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

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# What Is Event Driven News?

**By Janean L. Watkins**  
*Event-Driven News Editor*

I'm Janean L. Watkins, newest editor for Event Driven News at the *Independent*. I come to you with a variety of experiences, both in creative writing and journalism. Currently, I'm editor-in-chief for Seeds Literary Arts Journal here at the university. I also work with AOL's Patch.com, as freelance writer. I'm also constructing a trilogy fiction novel and a college navigation guide for teens, with the hopes of major publication. In May 2010, I celebrated my first international publication with an essay featured in Ebony Magazine.

The purpose of event driven news is to keep you up to speed

on current events and happenings on and around the NEIU campus, to promote resources for the NEIU community, and to be your tour guide on the fascinating voyage that is the college experience. Representatives of academic departments, campus organizations and other individuals should feel free to shoot me an email if you would like events promoted, or media coverage at: [J-Watkins@neiu.edu](mailto:J-Watkins@neiu.edu).

The Independent team values each and every one of you and we hope that we can service the media needs of the NEIU community, with integrity and style. I look forward to bringing you accurate news that you can use during my tenure here.

# R&B Performer Rotimi Comes to NEIU

**By Janean L. Watkins**  
*Event-Driven News Editor*

The NEIU community can look forward to a special treat on September 14<sup>th</sup> at 3p.m. Rhythm and Blues artists, Rotimi, will be performing during our annual Fall into Fun week.

Rotimi has been performing since the tender age of six. His first performance was at his aunt's wedding, and since then, he has sought only to broaden his entertainment horizons even more. His love of artist like Bob Marley, Michael Jackson and Brian McKnight contribute to his eclectic sound and expansive vocal range.

Rotimi's abilities aren't limited to his largely talented singing voice. As a student at Northwestern University he honed his skills in songwriting, acting and modeling as well. Of the skills that make him a quadruple threat, he loves singing the most. Wisely, he realized that singing could open doors for acting and modeling. Considering his innate talent for all three, it seems that he's well on his way.

Having the experience of performing with groups like Jabberwokies, and growing up listing to a variety of music, Rotimi says that he prides himself on versatility and wouldn't want to categorize himself. He doesn't prescribe to one particular style or genre of music, he leaves himself open to blending a mix of styles and applying them to the music that he delivers. Currently, Rotimi is working on finishing the single, "Forever" and a video for the tune. He is also planning a college tour in the next couple of months. His first video, which can easily be found on You Tube, is entitled "Beautiful Music". It gives people who aren't familiar with his music a taste of his capabilities. When asked what he is planning for NEIU, he says that he plans to, "give [NEIU students] a great show...the best R&B show that you've ever seen!"



Image credit to musicremedy.com

# Who to Know and Where to Go

**By Janean L. Watkins**  
*Event-Driven News Editor*

Regardless of your academic year here on the NEIU campus, there are many services and people whose assistance could come in handy. Although each incoming student experiences a freshmen or transfer student orientation, schedules, financial aid and the rigor of classes tend to make us forget about resources that are available to us. This might provide readers with a refresher about some of the campus services that are available.

One of the main features for students, an office that a new or veteran student may have experience with, is the Dean of Students Office in B-110. Upon entering, you are greeted by the Office Support Specialist, Jackie Topps. If you communicate your need to her, it is likely that she can point you in the direction necessary to answer many of the questions you may have. Supportive professionals, with the best interest of students at heart occupy each office. They are there to respond to student issues, complaints and needs; if given the opportunity, they will help you to the best of their ability. Staffers like Flora Llacuna of the Minority Student Mentoring

Program, Dean Robert Bedford of Student Ambassadors and Antoinette McConnell of Off-Campus Housing and Judicial Affairs keep students "in the know" about a variety of resources and services such as the Directory of Services, Housing, and student-related university policies and procedures. If you have lost your USB drive? Here's the place where you might be able to find it.

This office is shared with Career Services, the one-stop-shop for resume writing clinics, mock interviewing and job searching, both on and off campus. This office also provides information regarding internship opportunities.

Another very important office is the Accessibility Center in D-104. Headed by Dr. Victoria Amey-Flippin, this office provides services to self identified students with physical and learning disabilities. Students not identifying with any special needs can talk to any one of the helpful staff about being hired to take notes for students, as well. Program Specialists, Effie Sturdivant and Roosevelt Gordon, are there to lend a helping hand with students seeking support services and/or jobs.

Be on the lookout in future issues for more profiles and highlights on all the quality services and professional staff that NEIU has to offer.



# COMMENTARY

## Editorial Board

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Neda Jared *Opinions Editor*

Dulce Arroyo *Arts & Life Editor*

Marcin Chojnowski *Sports Editor*

## Editorial

Any club at NEIU suffers a particular dilemma at the end of the semester. People leave, power shifts and organizations are left with a brand new cabinet to run things. This change can be smooth, but most of the times it shakes the foundation of the club. It is for this reason that we have created this special "editors issue." In it the newly appointed editors are able to show their worth and test the waters of their new position. It is a way for the transition to occur smoothly, and for the students to get to know their new editors.

"The Independent" has experienced many changes during its history. From its beginnings as "The Print", to the eventual renaming as the "Interim", to where it stands now as the "Independent", it seems every new generation in charge has a redesign in mind. This administration is no exception. However, the choice behind this change lies more with the function of the paper, rather than its look. We want to focus on being a student run organization dedicated to bringing students the information they desire and deserve. The new look focuses on streamlining the flow of the paper while providing a look destined to stand the test of time. We hope you enjoy it.

### Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the Editor must be signed with an address and telephone number for verification.

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

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

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Students face adversity in Model Illinois Government Simulation

of using the building and respect the effort of preparing for it and coming down [to Springfield]. Minority Leader after the first day of elections," said junior Denise Byers. "I knew some men were coming, but I didn't know

## Stand Up For Freedom at NEIU

By: Neda Jarad  
*Opinions Editor*

Over the last few weeks there has been one topic which has consistently dominated the editorial sections of newspapers and newscasts across the nation. That question is whether or not Muslims should be allowed to build a mosque near the ground zero site of the World Trade Centers in New York.

When I first heard about the protests firing up against this community center, I could not believe that it would be considered such a huge issue. Do not get me wrong, I understand that September 11 caused much pain and suffering which Americans may spend lifetimes dealing with. What I cannot understand is how we, the patriotic, freedom-loving Americans we are can become so split over something guaranteed to everyone by our Constitution's First Amendment?

Did we not, after September 11, pride ourselves on that same First Amendment which our Constitution contains and others lack? As I recall, the then President Bush told America, and the world, that we were going to fight a difficult war and bring those rights we cherished to the countries our soldiers fought in. How is it then that any American who believes he or she has the right to religious freedom can also believe that others do not, especially within the borders of the United States?

Across the nation people are being faced with two options, reach out to each other and heal as a single body, or disintegrate into hateful spite. Unfortunately, many have chosen the way of spite by burning copies of the Quran, attempting to burn down mosques and even physically attacking Muslims. These acts are disgraceful and worthy only of the likes of groups like the Ku Klux Klan.

However, not all is bad. Many others, like New York's Mayor Bloomberg, have asked Americans to unite and stand up for the US values that mean so much to us. Even President Obama has called for American's to remember that we are a nation founded on the belief in freedom and we must stand up for that freedom.

We here at NEIU belong to a higher education institute which prides itself on its open-mindedness, and now is the time to show it. We have an incredibly diverse campus and we should use that to our advantage. We each have our differences but we also have similarities. As the semester is getting started, take the opportunity to reach out to each other and ask and answer questions. Visit clubs, attend meetings and take the trouble to hear about other people's experiences and perspectives. Consider things intelligently and intellectually, because we have so much to gain from each other if we only cooperate.

## New Printing System A Disaster

*New hassles instead of upgrades cause a nightmare for NEIU students.*

By Neda Jarad  
*Opinions Editor*

I can see the headlines now, "NEIU change in printing system cause massive panic attacks" or "Angry students riot, work-study students run for cover!" All right so I might be exaggerating a little bit but the new printing system, which was installed across campus just before the fall semester, has been a disaster so far. The computers have become slow and unresponsive while trying to process print jobs, and half of them cannot even do that.

If you have visited one of the computer labs recently, you know what I am referring to. I tried to print a few documents off of blackboard and the computer kept giving me a message about how it could not handle that kind of job. I ended up having to try three different computers before I found one that had semi-success. Before you say that I must be computer inept, let me tell you that I was not the only one having problems. While I waited for a rogue syllabus to reach the printer, I heard students everywhere grumbling about how they needed to print and get to class and why could we not just stick to the old system.

I cannot help but wonder why NEIU would choose to exchange a functioning system for one that is clearly not yet ready to run. With that said, I know that when this new system is working properly, there will be benefits such as: the students that use laptops will now be able to print, and students will also be able to use their print balances to make

copies, in addition to regular computer privileges. It all sounds great, but, right now, I am still trying to figure out why only half my documents are printing and I am beginning to wonder if I should just give up.

Then there is this other thing about how the amount of print jobs we can use is being quietly cut back. When I first enrolled in NEIU in 2006, students had the very comfortable balance of \$1000 in printing money. Last year that was significantly cut to only \$100 and now it is at its all time low of \$75. For students enrolled in a full load of classes, including online or semi-online classes, that is not much for printing capacity. If this trend holds, as I understand it, this time next year NEIU will have a marvelous new printing system in place, but students will have to pay out of pocket to use it.

After twenty minutes of considering the problem, while still waiting for two out of four documents, the only silver lining I could see was that, despite everything, frustrated students were not taking out their anger on the work-study student aides trying to help. I noticed a few aides standing together conspiratorially muttering but I did not hear a single raised voice or see a single smashed up computer.

Incidentally, we did finally figure out where all my print jobs were going. As it turns out, for reasons unknown, the computer sends each document to a different printer. Just think of it as a treasure hunt with you trying to find your print job and make it to class on time.

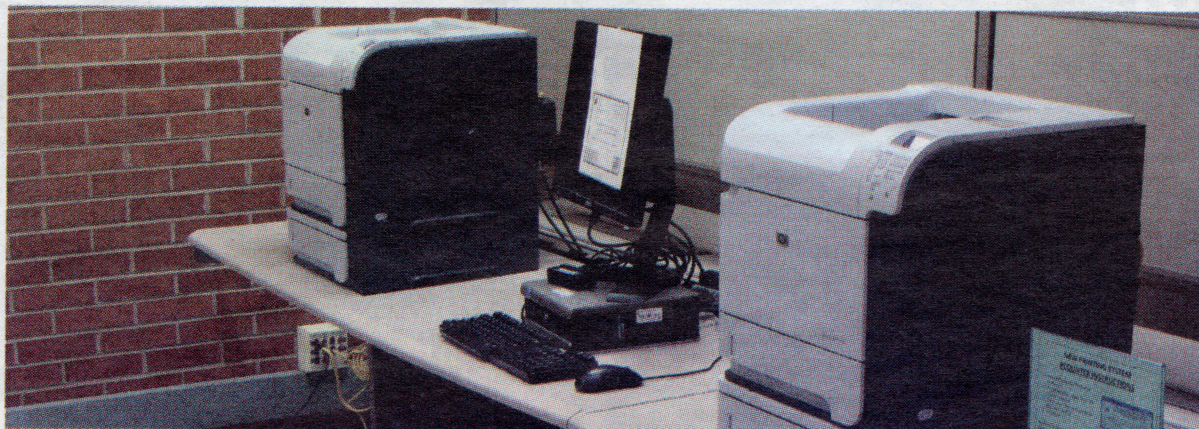


Photo by Tracey Washington



# NEIU Students for Justice in Palestine: *Crossing Boundaries to Expose Injustices*

By Sadaf Syed

Investigative News Editor

In our world, there are many challenges facing people in the Middle East because of the wars on terror. Due to these events, students at NEIU decided to form Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) to give light and spread more information on the killings and inhumane practices taking place in Palestine. The SJP has many chapters across the U.S. and was started at NEIU in the spring semester of 2010. They have a small group of active members but are growing and are very passionate about their cause.

I think that this is something that needs to be discussed because of what is happening in Palestine and its effects on the many innocent lives, from children to the elderly, who do not have any say in what happens to them in their own country.

Imagine some nation coming to the United States and telling us where to live, how to live, what we can or cannot do. I don't think we would stand for it; because we feel entitled to our rights and livelihood and we would use that sense of pride to, hopefully, fight back. However, imagine not even having those rights and, consequently, that sense of entitlement, then you would not be able, or even know how, to fight back. You would have to live in fear for your family and friends.

Well, that is exactly what is happening in Palestine. The worst part is that this invasion is supported by the U.S. in the name of "freedom", but like many actions perpetrated by our government upon other nations, it seems to be another inaccurate and superficial use of grand gesturing for the bottom line: more power.

I think this is something that we as Americans take for granted, the ability to live without such fears, which is also why I think it is important to have SJP give us, the future of this nation, some perspective.

I would hope it would humble our thoughts about ourselves and the role we play in this conflict. Even

though you and I are not involved on the front lines, we are all indirectly perpetuating the atrocities by not speaking up, despite the fact that we have the coveted First Amendment right of freedom of speech. We have all this power, yet we are indifferent to the uses of it for the betterment of, not just our society, but potentially the rest of the world. If enough of us in America rose up against what was happening in our name, we could end it all because it would leave our representatives no choice.

The SJP is trying to show people the genocide that is occurring and that it is unacceptable in this day and age, where we claim to be "humanitarians" and "civilized". People can say those words all they want, but until they actually start acting as such the words are merely words. I think that SJP should be able to continue with the promotion of knowledge and education of the atrocities in Palestine.

I believe that a club like SJP is necessary because it gives us another perspective about what is going on half a world away. At least this way we, as students, get the other side of the story, since our news media tends to forget that there is always more than one side to every conflict.

Also, considering that Northeastern Illinois University is supposed to be known for its diversity and history of controversy it seems like the perfect fit for the campus to embrace the club and prove that NEIU will live up to its own standards, for once.

Students for Justice in Palestine will, I hope, increase their membership even more so this academic year and teach us on campus that the victims of the war

are on both sides. There is a genocide occurring in the Middle East, particularly in Palestine, and it is in the name of "freedom". My question is freedom for whom exactly? If we are really there to help, then we should try to make peace between the two parties involved, not just with the side that benefits us most and makes it most profitable.



Northeastern

ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

SEPTEMBER 2010

## STUDENT UNION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

<p><b>STUDENT SHOWCASE</b> TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 1:40PM - 2:40PM EAGLES' NEST</p> <p>MATTHEW CALABRESE PERFORMING</p>	<p><b>POETRY ON THE MIC</b> TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 1:40PM - 2:40PM EAGLES' NEST</p> <p>LISTEN TO FELLOW NEIU STUDENTS IN A POETRY SLAM.</p>
<p><b>NEIU TOP CHEF</b> THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 3:05PM - 4:05PM EAGLES' NEST</p> <p>WATCH AND CHEER THE COMPETITORS AS THEY COMPETE FOR 2010 NEIU TOP CHEF</p>	<p><b>BOXING</b> THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 1:40PM - 2:40PM EAGLES' NEST</p> <p>PARTICIPATE AND LEARN HOW TO BOX WITH THE ISRAEL AND BOXING CLUBS</p>
<p><b>STUDENT SHOWCASE</b> THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 1:40PM - 2:40PM EAGLES' NEST</p> <p>LISTEN TO SPANISH MUSIC FROM JOSE VERDUZCO</p>	<p><b>CAMPUS RECREATION HOUR</b> TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 1:40PM - 2:40PM EAGLES' NEST</p> <p>GROOVE WITH CAMPUS RECREATION TO THE SOUND OF LATIN BEATS</p>

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# Arts & Life

Entertainment & Features

Image credit to news-gutle.info

## Inception: A dream no one will want to wake up from

Ivan Favelevic  
Editor-in-Chief

Originality has become a rare fruit to come by in the movie industry. Finding a movie that is completely original and compelling enough to take you outside the familiar, has become a near impossible task in American cinema. This is precisely the reason why *Inception* stands out as one of the most imaginative and compelling works of science fiction in recent years.

Director Christopher Nolan (*Memento*, *The Dark Knight*) is known for his cerebral thrillers, and has penned his most memorable work yet. The plot of the film revolves around a group of special agents who have been trained in the art of infiltrating people's dreams and retrieving information from their subconscious without their knowledge. They are eventually tasked with executing something called inception, which means that instead of taking an idea from people, the agents must travel deep into the subject's subconscious and place an idea, making the person believe it is their own. This is not your average popcorn flick, *Inception* plays with the idea of dreams in increasingly complicated ways and will require your undivided attention for two and a half hours.

The cast lends itself well to the roles, despite Nolan's reliance on emotionally

cold characters. Leonardo DiCaprio stars as special agent Dom Cobb, a workaholic with some skeletons in his closet; as usual, DiCaprio shines in his traumatic character role. Ellen Page and Joseph Gordon-Levitt both provide strong supporting roles and manage to successfully explore characters outside of their typical acting niche, while the remainder of the cast prove themselves to be talented actors.

Aesthetically, the movie goes back to the days of classic James Bond films, picture everyone sharply dressed, while scenes involve globe trotting and present lavish sets. These features, along with the hauntingly intense soundtrack composed by Hans Zimmer, strive to give the movie a dark, yet nightmarishly familiar feel.

The most impressive aspect of this movie and the reason why you will be glued to your seat is its ingenious approach to dreams. Nolan has come up with clever ideas as to how we represent our subconscious, including how things occurring in the real world affect the dream, and an approach to the most effective way of waking up from a dream. *Inception* has proven itself to be one of the best films of the summer while achieving the honor of making viewers question reality on the same level as *The Matrix*. If you are in the right mind-set and are willing to devote your time to it, *Inception* will take you on a ride you will not regret. This is one dream nobody will want to wake up from.

## OUT ON A SCHOOL NIGHT



By Dulce Arroyo  
Arts & Life Editor

Who says crepes can only be eaten in the morning? Located at 1840 W. Irving Park Road, Crêpes À Latte puts a new spin on the French pastry that will make you crave it at any time of the day.

With free WiFi, a couch to lounge on, board games and cell phone chargers, the cafe has a laidback vibe that perfectly suits any college student. The interior design includes a fake clock tower, blue clouds hanging from the ceiling and quirky furniture. The staff is also very friendly, giving the cafe an overall colorful vibe. Seating is also available outside for any customers who want to take advantage of the warm weather before temperatures drop.

For breakfast, choices include crêpes with lemon and sugar or preserves, a crumbled blueberry muffin, and eggs with ham, cheese or prepared veggie. Other crepes are categorized as "savory" or "sweet", with choices in the former including smoked turkey, avocado tomato & cheese, and honey glazed ham, and the latter offering Nutella banana, dark chocolate raspberry, and caramel apple pie.

Iced coffees, frappes, smoothies and milkshakes are available, along with various brands of juice and water. Fun flavors for smoothies include peachy keen, pineapple coconut and pomegranate blueberry, while milkshakes take a more original approach with chocolate, vanilla, and strawberry.

Since the employee who makes the crepes can be seen preparing

## 'Have a crepe day' at Crêpes À Latte

them right up front, I watched him turn a flat piece of dough into my chocolate and fresh strawberry crepe. Upon him catching me gawking, I apologized, but he quickly assured me that "It's all right, people like to watch me all the time and ask me questions," as he swiftly folded each side to seal the ingredients.

Full of chocolate and sliced strawberries, the crepe was divine, the iced mocha was also delicious and I couldn't help but try my friend's iced caramel macchiato, which was equally as good.

For those upcoming chilly days, Crêpes À Latte also offers hot alternatives like peanut butter mocha, chai tea latte, hot chocolate, and several loose leaf teas. Their signature treat, "mom's hungarian strip cake", is definitely one I'll have to go back for and try.

So, if you're ready to get your crepe on, I urge you to check out Crêpes À Latte. The cafe is open for breakfast, lunch and dinner on Monday-Thursday from 7am-9pm, and Friday-Saturday from 7am-10pm.



Photo taken by Dulce Arroyo



# Northeastern

## ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

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Information about university closures due to weather will also be provided through this system.

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1. Login to NEIUpport at <http://neiuport.neiu.edu>
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3. In the left column under "Personal Information" click on "Update address and phone/N Alert" and "Update E-mail Addresses/N Alert"



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## SPORTS

Image credit to ober-soft.com

## Chicago Bears Season Preview

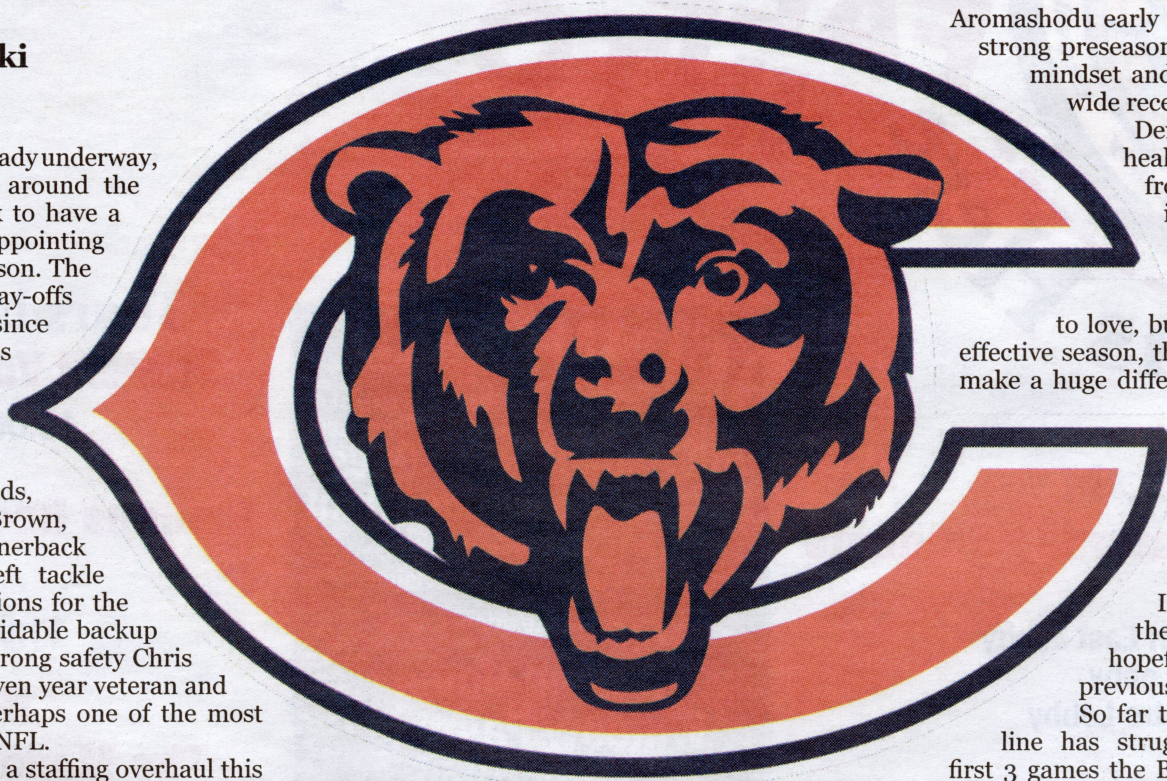
**By: Marcin Chojnowski**  
Sports Editor

With the NFL pre-season already underway, and the regular season right around the corner, the Chicago Bears look to have a strong comeback year after a disappointing 7-9 record during the 2009 season. The Bears have now missed the play-offs for three consecutive years since their forgettable Superbowl loss to the Indianapolis Colts.

The Monsters of the Midway have made many changes this offseason. Key departures include: defensive ends, Adewale Ogunleye and Alex Brown, running back Kevin Jones, cornerback Nathan Vasher, as well as left tackle Orlando Pace. Important additions for the upcoming season include: formidable backup running back Chester Taylor, strong safety Chris Harris and Julius Peppers, a seven year veteran and five time pro-bowler who is perhaps one of the most explosive defensive ends in the NFL.

The Bears also went through a staffing overhaul this off-season as they fired five offensive coaches, including scrutinized offensive coordinator Ron Turner. Taking over offensive play calling duties will be the highly praised Mike Martz, who is widely considered an offensive genius and usually favors the passing game, which may clash with Lovie Smith's running game mentality. Martz's main focus has been working with Jay Cutler after his league leading 27 interceptions last season. Martz brings with him a completely new offensive scheme, which the entire offense has been learning since the first day of training camp.

On the defensive side, Lovie Smith has relinquished his play calling duties and promoted defensive line coach, Rod Marinelli, to defensive coordinator. Smith's job has



recently been in question during the team's steady decline since the 2006 season. If the Bears miss the play-offs for a fourth straight year, Smith may lose his job.

There are still three major question marks for the Bears this season before anyone can even consider them making the play-offs.

The Bears still do not have a number one caliber wide receiver and have not had a pro-bowl wide receiver since Marty Booker in the 2002 season. Former Bears wide receiver Muhsin Muhammad deemed the Bears a place where "receivers go to die." As of right now, Devin Hester is the starting receiver, but expect his starting role to be challenged by Johnny Knox and Devin

Aromashodu early in the season. Both have had a very strong preseason, and in the end, Hester lacks the mindset and skills necessary to be a dominant wide receiver in the NFL.

Defensively, the Bears must stay healthy. Brian Urlacher has recovered from his 2009 season ending wrist injury suffered in week one.

Because of his age, he may not be the same outstanding linebacker that all of Chicago has learned to love, but if he can come back and have an effective season, the man in the middle can definitely make a huge difference. Julius Peppers will headline the revamped defensive line.

Peppers has had at least ten sacks in all but two of his NFL seasons. This is the type of player that will put constant pressure on opposing quarterbacks, along with defensive tackle Tommie Harris.

If this happens, the Bears will ease the pressure off of the secondary, and hopefully force more turnovers than in previous years.

So far this pre-season, the Bears offensive line has struggled tremendously. Through the first 3 games the Bears line have already given up 16 sacks. This is a cause for concern because Jay Cutler, like any other quarterback, needs time in the pocket in order to be effective. Every time the offensive line breaks down, Cutler has a habit of quickly forcing his passes into coverage, which makes him very prone to throw interceptions. If these offensive line problems continue into the season, don't expect the Bears offense to produce as much as one might hope.

Coming into this season the Bears are not favorites to win the NFC North Division, with the return of Brett Favre to the Minnesota Vikings and the success of Aaron Rodgers with the Green Bay Packers, but expect the NFC North to be one of the most competitive divisions in the NFL.

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## 17th Annual Fall Into Fun Week Sept. 11 – 17, 2010

**Saturday, Sept. 11**

### Welcome for Saturday Students

Coffee and Donuts

7:30 am – 12 pm • LWH East Lobby

9 am – 1 pm • CCICS Lobby

10 am – 2 pm • El Centro Lobby

**Sunday, Sept. 12**

### Welcome for Sunday Students

Cookies for Sunday Students

12:00 pm • Main Campus - B building

**Monday, Sept. 13**

### NPB Fun Fair

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

University Commons

(Village Square / Alumni Hall if bad weather)

**Tuesday, Sept. 14**

### Campus Resource Info Day

11:00 am – 4:00 pm • CCICS Lobby

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm • University Commons

(Village Square if bad weather)

### Annual Campus Resource & Student Organization Fair

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

University Common

(Village Square if bad weather)

### Hispanic Heritage Month Kick Off

10:00 am -Keynote Speaker

### Evening Student Information

3:30 pm – 7:15pm • Parking Deck

Popcorn, chips, cookies, sodas and info

### NPB Outdoor Movie - Toy Story 3

Starts at Dusk

University Commons

(Alumni Hall if bad weather)

### ALL WEEK:

Registration: Sept.10-17 @  
Student Union Info Desk

### 5th Annual Eagle Quest Student Scavenger Hunt

First Year Student Division,  
Upper Class Student Division

[www.neiu.edu/~deptsao/eq](http://www.neiu.edu/~deptsao/eq)

### Student Union Window Painting Competition

Details at Campus Information



**Wednesday, Sept. 15**

### Annual Campus Resource & Student Organization Fair

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

University Commons

(Village Square if bad weather)

### Evening Student Information

3:30 pm – 7:15 pm • LWH East Lobby

Popcorn, chips, cookies, sodas and info

### NPB El Centro Carnival

6pm • El Centro

**Thursday, Sept. 16**

### Student Volunteer Fair

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Village Square

### Campus Recreation Day at CCICS

11:00 am – 4:00 pm

### NPB Presents

### The Money Tree Game

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Eagles' Nest

### Open Auditions for "Actions" Talent Contest

1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

University Commons

(Eagles' Nest if bad weather)

### NEIU Top Chef Competition

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Eagles' Nest

### Evening Student Resource Center

3:30 pm – 7:00 pm

Science Building Lobby

Popcorn, chips, cookies, sodas and info

**Friday, Sept. 17**

### Campus Recreation Day

11 am – 3 pm • PE Complex

### Campus Rec 3K Run

11:15 am – 3 pm

### BBQ

12:00 pm

(12:30 pm Eagle Quest & Window Paint competition announced)

### Zumba Dance Party

2:00 PM