

9-28-2010

Independent - Sep. 28, 2010

Ivan Favelevic

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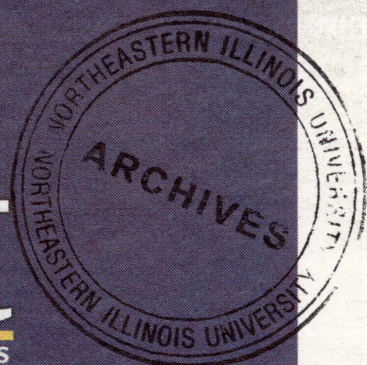
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Independent

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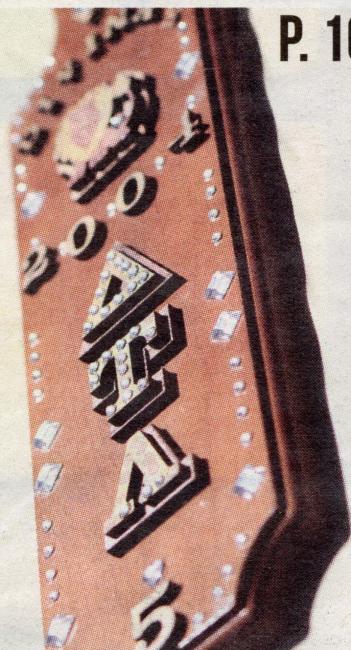
Tuesday, September 28, 2010

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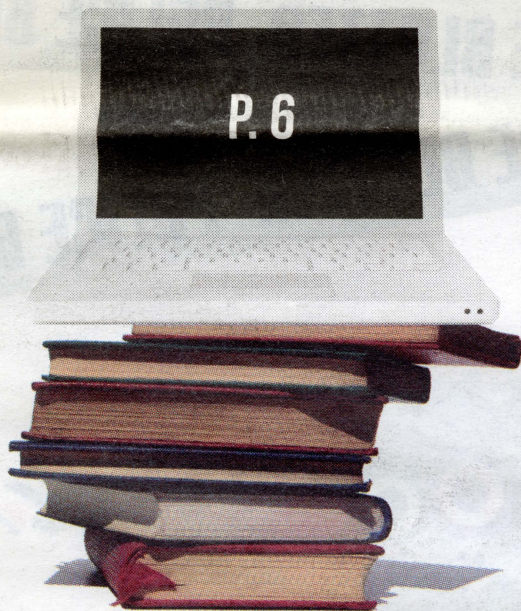
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BLACKHAWKS SEASON PREVIEW

Fall Into Fun Week Kick-Starts the Fall Semester

By Farheen Mashhood, Staff Writer

Photo by Tamara Susa



The 17th Annual Fall into Fun Week is one of the most exciting events for students. This event came at a great time, surely. The new freshman and returning students saw the opportunity as a well deserved break. After a fun filled summer break, students are working hard to get organized and adjust to their new schedules. Students grooved to Rotimi's mini-concert, organized by the Black Heritage Committee (BHC), in the University Commons. Rotimi is a Nigerian born, up and coming Chicago artist who recently graduated from Northwestern University. His albums are already number one in Nigeria, and ready to conquer US music charts. Regarding other plans for BHC, Erica Brown-Pierce, one of the committee members, explained, "Continuing the Conversation on Commonalities' is an event organized with the help of the Hispanic Heritage Committee to discuss commonalities among the two communities." They are also planning a poetry event which

is something that they have added this year.

The weather was hot and allowed the atmosphere to be filled with more enthusiasm and encouragement from club members to introduce their clubs and entertain the students. Passing by the table of Students for Justice in Palestine, students couldn't resist asking about the mission and purpose of the club. Wafa Mohammad, the vice president of the club, said: "We are here to inform people about Palestine. American journalist Alison Weir is going to be the speaker for the upcoming event. She saw that the media portrayed Palestine differently here than what actually was happening there. Various other people are going to share their experiences about Palestine."

The SGA committee organized a fun game of rolling dice and getting the right number to win prizes like SGA mugs, T-shirts and candy. Another interesting table was that of newegg.com, which looks similar to chegg.com. However,

Continued on page 3

Silence Equals Death: NEIU GLBTQA Hosts Filmmaker Roger Goodman

By Janean L. Watkins
Event Driven News Editor

The NEIU community can look forward to a night of insight, reality and dialogue around the AIDS epidemic in Chicago during the 1970s and 1980s. The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning and Allies (GLBTQA) will host a screening and lecture on "From the Ashes Risen" – a story of ten gay men over 50 living in Chicago with HIV/AIDS, and those who cared for them. Roger Goodman of Tribal Elder Productions, a member of their Board of Directors, and an individual from the cast of the film will feature the trailer, provide a lecture and discuss with attendees the importance of community and, essentially, this film.

Goodman, who was a chaplain from 1987 to 1995, decided to make the film because of his own experiences with an AIDS diagnosis and his work in the community.

Goodman says that during those years, he lost over 200 friends, colleagues and lovers to the epidemic and saw the breakdown of humanity when people were turned away from emergency rooms because they were infected with the disease.

His reasoning behind making the film is simple. "It's important for college-aged students to know about the history of AIDS in Chicago," said Goodman. When asked why there might be a rise in the numbers of young adults and teens who are infected, despite what has happened in the past, Goodman said: "Young people feel invincible... we're not a society of 'people with people,' we don't talk to each other anymore. I want my film to stop sweeping this truth under the rug."

The film will be used as a way to bridge the generational gap between the LGBTQ youth community and the elders who pave the way for them. Goodman hopes that the film will remind both groups that "...if we look at

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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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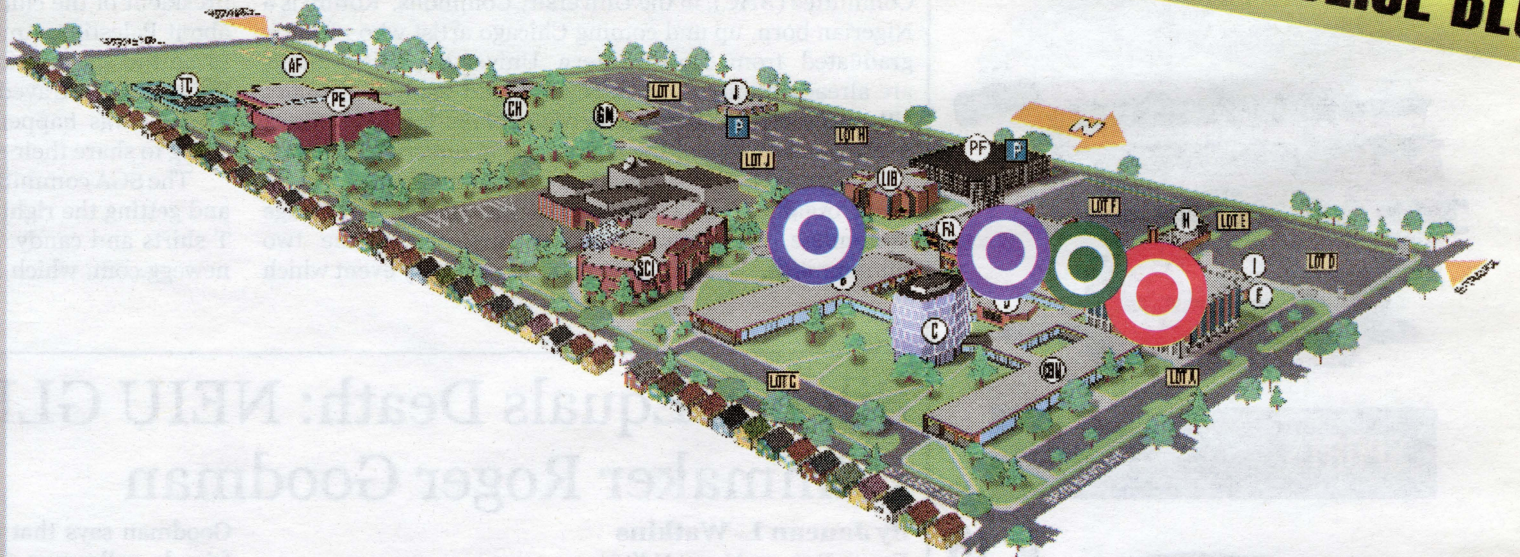
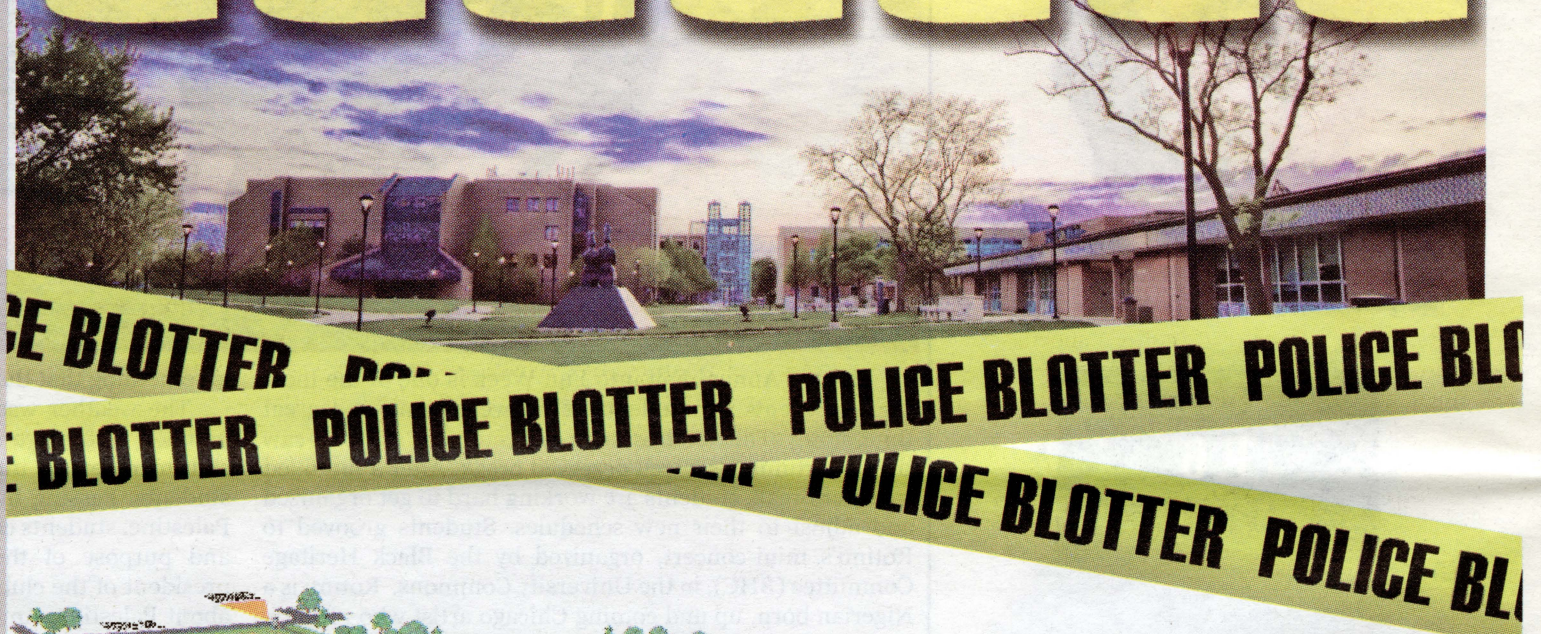
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September 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
27	28 3:05pm – 4:05pm Lyon Leifer performs - FA 160A	29	30 7:00pm – 10:00pm Talent Show – E106Aa	7:00pm – 9:50pm Noche Cultural Rumba Dance Club – E106A 7:30pm to 9:30pm – Kathy Cowan Faculty Recital – FA160A	2 6:30pm – 12:00am Persian Night of Music and Poetry – E106A	3
4	5	6 7:00pm – 9:30pm Golden Eagles Future Filmmakers Professional Development and Awards – SU214	7 3:00pm – 7:00pm – NEIU Open House – Student Union	8 7:00pm – 10:00pm Latinos Stand Up Performance – SU115a	9	10



Week ending September 25th

Sep 14 – Lech Walesa Hall – 1:03pm – Unknown offender stole victim's bike from bike rack. Case is under investigation.



– Offender caused verbal disturbance in class & was disrespectful to classmates & faculty. Case is under investigation.



Sep 15 – Commons Quad – 3:03pm – Offender threw food at complainant and further harassed her in class for no apparent reason. Case is under investigation.



Sep 17 – E Building – 4:40pm – Victim claims she was harassed by co-worker & verbally insulted in front of customers. Case is under investigation.



Sep 19 – Village Square – 6:00pm – Unknown offender activated air duct smoke alarm switches for unknown reason. Case is administratively closed.

Corrections from 9/14 issue:

In the story "NEIU's SGA is working for you!" the *Independent* accidentally listed the Executive Freshman Commision as the Freshman Orientation Comision. If you have any questions about the SGA they can be reached at (773)-442-4970. Furthermore we would like to extend our appologies to Que Ondee Sola magazine for incorrectly reffering to them as a "Latin poetry magazine" and for stating that Delta Tau Lambda had a table at their event when they didn't.

Fall into Fun continued...

they are two completely different companies. Newgg has some amazing offers on electronics, such as computer products. They even gave away Microsoft 2010 software package through a raffle.

The Hip Hop Club aims to encourage an artistic expression of culture from the NEIU community. President of the club, Kris Mika, was adamant about inviting people who love music, art or any artistic culture to join the club. He is looking forward to organizing lecture events on hip hop culture from various artists.

The event was another success for the Student Activities Board, who coordinated the whole thing. Clubs and organizations had ample room to showcase their missions and attract plenty of followers. Aside from the Organization Fair, Fall into Fun week had multiple activities such as a bungee jump trampoline and a human bowling alley.

Overall, students seemed to enjoy the week as much as the staff that organized it. Everything ran smoothly and it was smiles all around.

Silence Equals Death continued...

each other as teachers, we'll have much more respect for each other." Sadaf Syed, vice-president of the NEIU GLBTQA is excited to have this event. "It's a win-win situation. We get the story behind the rise of HIV/AIDS and the production company gets promotion and funding for an important film," she said.

Goodman says he wants a conversation, and wants people to ask questions. Hopefully, the event will help to raise more funds to complete the film. Donations are accepted and highly encouraged. As written in the production company's mission statement, the goal of the film is to, "transform people's understanding of and increase their empathy for the history and current challenges facing LGBTQ people and those battling HIV/AIDS," showcasing how community is and was. Goodman also hopes that the film will, "have audience members walk out as bigger people than they were when they came in."

The event will take place on Thursday, October 7, 2010 from 5pm - 7pm. The cost of entry is \$5, and the event will be held in the Auditorium Theater. Roger Goodman is also always open to talk more about his endeavor and possible contributions that people in the community can make. He can be reached by email at: roger@tribalelderproductions.org. More information about the film, video clips and a section to submit your story can be found at their website at: www.fromtheashesrisen.org.

New Staff Spotlight: Dr. Wilfredo Alvarez

By Alexandra Maragha
Staff Writer

Universities such as NEIU take pride in developing and encouraging an actively diverse campus culture, which adds to the extracurricular and academic experience. Such an endeavor can be felt through students, faculty and staff where personal experiences merge with relationships. A new addition to the Communications, Media and Theatre Department at NEIU is Dr. Wilfredo Alvarez. In him, we find a professional who hopes to contribute to the NEIU culture through encouragement, mentorship and compassion.

Born and raised in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, it was not until the age of 17 when Alvarez moved to live with his father in the Bronx, New York. The challenges of "culture shock," which were centered around language barriers, attributed to much of Alvarez's adjustment struggles in the U.S.

Ultimately, his mentors sought to "polish a diamond in the rough," mentoring and encouraging Alvarez to attend Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in NY. There, he found his niche in communications, comparing his experience to a quote by Morgan Freeman, "I didn't choose acting, it chose me." After completing his B.S. in Professional and Technical Communication from RIT, Alvarez attended Florida State University at Tallahassee, where he received an M.S. in Communication and continued on to University of Colorado, Boulder to receive his PhD.

In the excitement of being a part of the NEIU community, Alvarez already feels a sense of belonging, even in the short time he has spent at the university. Alvarez feels that he is "here for a reason." He proclaims, "when I hear about the students, the culture, it just fits."

This semester, Alvarez teaches three Communication courses which reflect his experience and passion, specifically for organizational

communication structures and studies. Outside of academia, Alvarez is becoming acclimated to Chicago, but is still "undecided" as to whether he is a Cubs or Sox fan. However, he enjoys the game of baseball.

Never forgetting his experience, nor those who encouraged and mentored him, Alvarez looks forward to contribute to the NEIU community through his position. He hopes to use it as "a vehicle to give back to those coming behind me like those who gave to me," and to even "save lives." His positive outlook derives from the motivation that he has received throughout his life, as well as the excitement and possibilities that interactions and exchanges between people have. "People motivate me," he said.

Alvarez says that "small moments of hope" fuel his aspirations and expresses his hopes for others to "think compassionately." His advice for students and peers of humanity is, "believe that through empathy and compassion, we can change the world."

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Who to Know and Where to go - Scholarship Office

By Patrick Romanowski
Staff Writer

Going to college in this age is a dangerously expensive thing. But, whether you are aware of it or not, there is relief from these expenses. Northeastern has a scholarships office that is bursting with financial opportunity.

The Office of Scholarships gives students the chance to be recognized and endorsed for their hard work and achievements. Any kind of scholarship can be a giant help when handling the mammoth debts which haunt and weigh in on you like a tyrant beast, even after you have received your education and left the university. Northeastern Alumni and scholarships office Director, Michelle Morrow, answered a few questions about the department.

Surprisingly, Morrow stated that only in recent years have students begun to

inquire and apply for these scholarships. "This office was created back then," she explained "but there wasn't an Office of Scholarships. One thing I notice now is that more students are aware of scholarships. Before they didn't really know that we had institutional-type scholarships, probably because of the outreach that we do".

Ms. Morrow's office deals, specifically with the Foundation Awards, Merit and Talent Scholarship Awards, the Dean's Award, and the prestigious, Presidential Award (a full ride), though Ms. Morrow said that this may change, "if people are working to fund raise and also bring in new donors". Ms. Morrow thinks that it is important for students to be aware, and take advantage of these resources, "We try to find ways to get the word out to students, especially when they're new". It is imperative for students to realize that these financial opportunities actually exist and are attainable.

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INVESTIGATIVE NEWS

What Is the Amistad Legislation and Why Does It Matter?

By Janean L. Watkins
Event Driven News Editor

When faced with the challenges of Chicago's public educational system, many people think that it may be beneficial to revamp curriculum to include the tenets of black studies. The solution to the problem of the exclusion of many significant experiences of African-American people does not have to be a difficult one. An introduction to the 'history of oneself' just might be a great way to help students 'own' their educational experience and engage them in active learning.

The Middle Passage, chattel slavery, Jim Crow and the overall physical and psychological terrorism related to the vestiges of oppression of black people throughout American history are items from our historical past that are in dire need of recapitulation. James E. Watson, Executive Editor of The New York Amsterdam News, one of the nation's oldest black published newspapers stated, "I am disturbed about how many students don't know this history. Many teachers are ill-equipped to talk about

is evidence that the measure and its education goals are publicly supported. Why is it that many educators, administrators and parents don't know that it exists? Former DCFS Caseworker, Joulaika Buchan has a theory that begs to answer this question. "The curriculum is already set and people don't want to go with change. If you change things, you're telling current supporters of curriculum that they're doing something wrong."

This resistance to change may be true. But others believe that change in regards to our public thinking about the importance of race is happening. Change in our valuing knowledge of race-based experiences, legislators believe, will take time. Research and general knowledge shows that the point of the Commission is to 'fine-tooth-comb' the public educational system and historical societies to understand where change is needed.

The next step is to educate people in preparation for delivering accurate and comprehensive information about European, African and American race-based history. Educating our children is an important collective responsibility.

The Commission is also responsible for providing access to training to educators to prepare them to deliver this African-American history curriculum to students.

This past year Sen. Donne E. Trotter (D-IL) proposed legislation [SB 2961] that would appropriate 30,000,000 dollars to the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency. Some of this funding would be used to fund the work of the Amistad Commission. The bill was 'Referred to Rules' on March 19, 2008 and thus far this bill has not been introduced in the Illinois House by Monique Davis. Walker reports that no money has been appropriated to the Amistad Commission, despite the fact that 40,000 dollars funding mandate was written into the legislation. When asked how the members of the Amistad Commission proposed to make the education curriculum changes required of them with no resources, Walker stated, "We are in collaboration with the Illinois Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Commission (ITSTC)."

Dr. Conrad Worrill, Director of the NEIU Jacob H. Carruthers Center for

ITSTC and the Amistad Commissions. The Commissions are working side by side with the Illinois State Board of Education, whose members have expressed "sincerity" in wanting to see these changes. They want to ensure that textbook makers provide appropriate information as prescribed by the two Commissions. Walker also does not know how long it will take to complete the first phase of the Commission's charge. Walker expressed fears that Governor Blagojevich's successor might not consider backing the existing legislation on this issue. Now, with the Illinois budget deficit, and a complacent constituency, will Pat Quinn push the already way-laid legislation into further regression?

The Commission members realize that there aren't any extra appropriations being directed towards support of their efforts. Walker explains, "Scholars aren't attaching money to success when it comes to school. We must stay practical and utilize the resources that we have right now to the best of our ability. We can't say that the state of Illinois by 2015 will have 'x' amount of data in textbooks.

"Change in our valuing knowledge of race-based experiences, legislators believe, will take time. Research and general knowledge shows that the point of the Commission is to 'fine-toothcomb' the public education system and historical societies to understand where change is needed."

slavery." This is the sentiment of many of the nation's leading proponents of the Amistad Commissions, which have been established in eight states in the past five years.

In July of 2005, the Illinois General Assembly enacted HB0383 Amistad Commission. The purpose of the bill is to address the problem that public schools in Illinois direly need a curriculum that is rooted in the teachings about the legacy of slavery in America, African American contributions to the U.S. and the hardships that African Americans have endured in the past 409 years. The proposed enforcing arm that would ensure that progress is made towards these curriculum changes was named The Illinois Amistad Commission.

The commission was established four years ago, yet Illinois residents, students, educators and administrators have little to no knowledge of its existence. On January 25, 2005, Rep. Monique Davis (D-IL) introduced HB0383, "An act to establish an Amistad Commission in Illinois," and six months later the 'Amistad Commission' became a public act.

The Illinois Amistad Commission consists of 15 members, including three ex officio members: the State Superintendent of Education, the Director of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Director of Historic Sites and Preservation and 12 public members. Public members are residents of Illinois and chosen with regard to diversity and demographics, as well as their experience serving actively in organizations that educate the public on the history of the African slave trade, the contributions of African-Americans to our society and civil rights issues.

The establishment of the commission

If we do not do it properly, we risk defeating the purpose of creating a think tank of this magnitude.

Rep. Monique Davis, a sponsor of the Amistad bill, has led the way in progressive education legislation. She has spearheaded investigations into the merit of charter schools, and is currently sponsoring HB 3361, which would increase the number of charter schools in Illinois. But her work with the Amistad Commission has come to a standstill. When asked to speak about questions in regards to her recent efforts in support of the Amistad Commission, she was 'unavailable for comment,' so what is happening with the Commission that she fought so hard for?

In an interview with Lee Walker, a member of the Amistad Commission, and Founder of the New Coalition for Economic & Social Change, he noted that the Commission was enacted in 2005, but didn't officially convene until 2007. When asked if the Commission had considered creating a scholarship fund to support teachers who are interested in returning to school to take Black Studies courses, his response was, "We have to take this one step at a time. It would best serve educators to review their current curriculums to see where there are gaps in educating students about the African Slave Trade."

A foreseeable problem with this strategy is that if teachers are not knowledgeable about the topic, how will they close the gaps in student learning on the topic, or student achievement in general? One purpose of the Amistad Commission is to learn what information is out there about the history of the slave trade and understand if it is included in textbooks used by Illinois public elementary and high schools.

Inner City Studies is a member of the ITSTC. Dr. Worrill and others worked extensively to research and document invaluable information about African-American history that should currently be available to Illinois students. But there are more excuses from others for why this information is still unavailable.

Walker said: "The Amistad Commission will eventually provide Illinois textbook makers and educators with researched information given to us by the ITSTC in regards to the true history of the slave trade and its effects. They were given 400,000 dollars by the Illinois legislature last year for their research. It is understood that the monies given to them will help us as well. Last year, we did get 150,000 dollars, but that money will go to hiring an Executive Director [for the Amistad Commission]."

Whether the Illinois Amistad Commission will actually reach its goals is a different question. More than one person has stated that the issue is less academic than some may think. It is apparent that legislative rigmarole has tied the hands of concerned citizens who are interested in developing this curriculum. We know that new governmental mandates designed to enhance education are not always enforced. In 2006, the budget deficit crisis created a rift in funding for many educational initiatives. Illinois ranked number 35 in Morgan Quitno's annual reference book, *Education State Rankings, 2006-2007*. This is an indication that education is not a priority for the Illinois legislature.

Textbook publishers such as Houghton Mifflin, Thompson and others would have to adhere to the curriculum changes recommended by both the

At the rate things are going, we won't see that happen for quite some time."

People who are aware of the Commissions find their goals misguided and doubt that the Commission will achieve any meaningful results. In regards to the commission, one citizen who requested anonymity said: "How about a commission on healthcare reform? Or, [how about we have] one on industry-retention, to reduce high paying manufacturing job loss? No. Instead, we are going to re-pay some [of] our political cronies with do-nothing jobs to create a report no one is going to read and which will not lead to any meaningful legislation."

It is obvious that this information is pertinent for the historical enlightenment of all Americans, regardless of race or ethnicity. However, it will take the power of concerned educators, parents and constituents to actually see progress and tangible results in achieving the educational inclusion goals of the Illinois Amistad Commission. The legislation itself is not the most important need when all is said and done. It is our shared commitment to, and responsibility for, the education of our children.

Write to your Congressmen, State Representatives and State Senators to push for the completion of this important work. The knowledge gained by students could change the dynamics of student achievement and self-responsibility. Knowledge is an important, but often forgotten, piece of the 'school reform' puzzle. It's high time that citizens took the reigns in replacing the missing piece.

COMMENTARY

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Editorial

With the absence of dormitories on or around the NEIU campus, all of NEIU's students commute to school daily. While the means of transportation vary by student, it is highly doubtful any student would not benefit from unlimited CTA rides per semester. Therefore it is crucial for the university to make a stronger effort in providing its student body with the necessary means of receiving their education and place their efforts in providing students the option to have a U-Pass.

The U-Pass is a bus card distributed by CTA to full-time students who are eligible for financial aid, which enables students to ride CTA buses and trains with no limit, seven days a week, for the entire semester. With America's current economic crisis and the ever-rising bus fare prices, many students would benefit from having a U-Pass. In the past there has been attempts made by NEIU's Student Government Association (SGA) to move forward with getting U-Passes however, nothing has been finalized yet.

The university has also hosted a number of surveys in the past couple of years to see the amount of students that actually take public transportation to school. However, what these surveys failed to ask was how many people would rather take the CTA than drive were they to have unlimited rides for a small fee.

It is understood that a student has to be studying in the university full-time for the pass to be eligible to them, yet what is still in the gray is whether all students in the university need to be for the student body to receive U-Passes. The university has repeatedly said that the CTA does not allow any more schools into the list of eligibility for U-Passes, but it seems a little ludicrous that they would not allow one of the largest commuter schools in the city access to this very valuable student resource.

This issue has been brought up multiple times and it will continue to reappear until the student body receives a clear response. Every semester brings a new wave of freshman looking forward to the great university life, yet, at NEIU, one of the most sought after rights any Chicagoland area student wants is not available. It is time to fix this problem.

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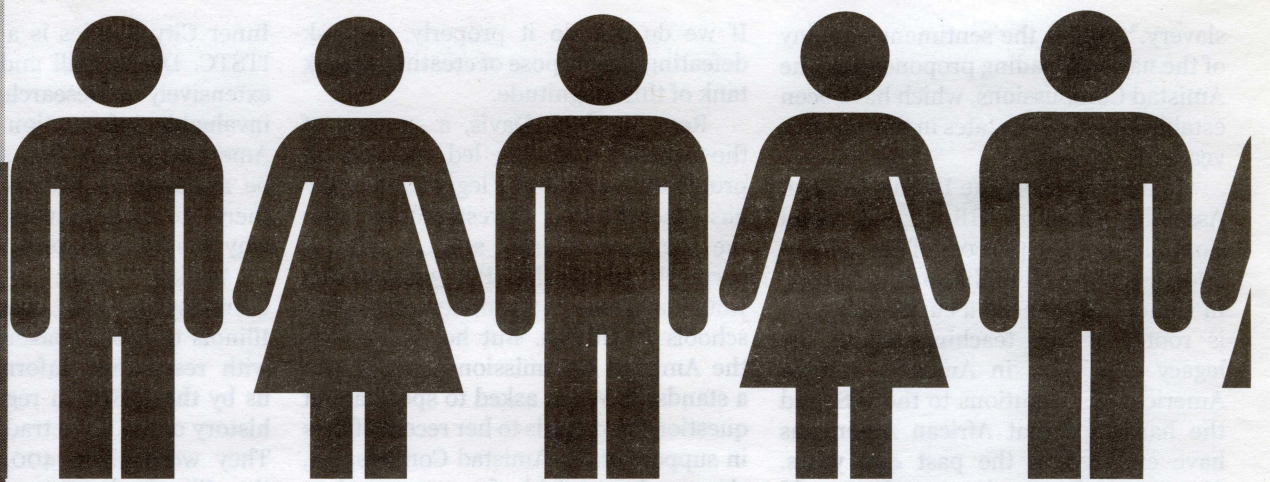
The Digital Age: An Era of Passivity and Egomania

By Mohna Khan
 Staff Writer

"We are becoming like cats, slyly parasitic, enjoying an indifferent domesticity. Nice and snug in the social, our historic passions have withdrawn into the glow of an artificial coziness..." Jean Baudrillard

It is undeniable that the advent of technology has significantly altered the way we communicate, how we share and acquire information and even the way we maintain relations with others. The technological realm has essentially become a microcosm (within the equally bizarre world of the 'real') wherein simulated projections of ourselves reside. It is this very domain that, in my opinion, has led to an obsession not just with technology itself, but with every mundane happening of our day to day lives, which can now easily be broadcast to anyone via the usage of our chosen digital medium of communication. It is not just the self-worship and shameless self-promotion of today's culture that is disconcerting, it also seems we have been driven into an age in which many find it unnecessary to be aware of what exists and is occurring outside of one's social sphere. Though I do not believe this generational passivity has overtaken the lives of every individual in our current age, I do, however, believe that it would not be irrational to make the claim that a great deal of today's youth are incredibly uninformed and apathetic towards occurrences, past or present, that do not directly impact them. It is not uncommon for a generation to face scrutiny for exhibiting, what some would consider to be careless and self-indulgent behavior; 60's youth were condemned for their overtly sexual behavior, habitual use of mind-altering hallucinogens, and

social and political activism (though it seems only the far-right disapproved of this). Youth of the 70s and 80s were deemed by many as the generation of excess and flash. Of course, 90s youth, most commonly referred to as Generation X, became the decade in which its members simultaneously wallowed in and celebrated their feelings of alienation and existential angst. But what separates each aforementioned generation apart from our own is that we now have the ability to be passive in one domain (again, that of the 'real') and wholly present and active in the digital sphere; we are simultaneously absent and present. We embrace the inane notion that everyone we have ever encountered have become our 'friends' and every insignificant moment of the day is worth relaying to said friends. And in reference to the meaningless "status update" topic, what I find most interesting is the frequently used expression of "I'm bored", which affirms that, even with countless forms and sources of entertainment at our fingertips, we are still bored. We are in an age of hyper-consumption of both the material and the intangible. As we fulfill our collective appetite for the real by devouring everything in sight, the contrived dimension of the digital is devouring us. The concept of the self is no longer one of singularity in that we are now just one of many mediocre imitations of ourselves. We have created false reflections in realms we will never step into and we have become virtual voyeurs and sociopaths, who seek to exhaust every inch of this illusory domain of instantaneity and egomania. I leave you with another relevant quote by Postmodern theorist, Jean Baudrillard: "We are no longer in a state of growth; we are in a state of excess. We are living in a society of excrement. The boil is growing out of control, recklessly at cross purposes with itself, its impacts multiplying as the causes disintegrate."



"The concept of the self is no longer one of singularity in that we are now just one of many mediocre imitations of ourselves."



The Internet: Going the distance

By Alexandra Maragha
Staff Writer

When considering sources for academic, business and personal purposes, The internet is superior to books. While I agree that a library and book medium holds a sentimental and nostalgic charm for the history of how information has been passed, The internet reflects a sense of globalization, connectivity and interaction between information consumers and information distributors.

The internet provides a window to the world in connecting not only people, but information instantaneously. This allows the table of ideas to be further broadened and thus, continues the exploration for understanding of ideas and learning. Of course, an internet connection is necessary, just like access to a library or bookstore is necessary for books, but once a user is connected the information that is accessible is limitless.

While books also provide information, they are limited to the scope of the view and context that the book is created. Likewise, the information a book contains is limited to the number of pages in the book, and many times a full scope of the credibility of the author(s) is limited.

The vastness of The internet allows for all types of information with differing contexts to exist. With any source, evaluation is essential to allow all sources to be reviewed. Being a communication major and journalist, it is always crucial to check the source of information. Much like writing techniques, there are tests that can check the currency, relevance, authority, accuracy and purpose of information posted. These sorts of tests allow internet users to become more engaged and efficient in getting the most from their web experience and tell if the source is reliable or not good to use.

Too many times, students and professionals alike make the mistake of thinking The internet is not a valuable resource. If the sole source of information that a person uses for research are sites such as *Wikipedia*, then yes, I would have to agree. However, sources that contain information databases, which include peer reviewed journals, studies and valid information are great to use. In this setting, information from more than one location and viewpoint are accessible and furthers the cause and phenomena of connecting people across the globe. Likewise, The internet allows one to investigate an author and to learn the background and intentions that they hold in distributing their message and information.

The internet also provides an outlet to current and relevant information. While some information is timeless, when the most up-to-date information is desired The internet is the medium to turn to, unlike a one-time published book that is stuck in time.

When deciding where to go for information, I would generally suggest using all sources to prove and fully support a thought or point, but the internet is a great place to start and embellish on initial findings, as it can act as a connection to other places which, when using books, may not be possible. When used properly, The internet can be a door to the rest of the world.

“While I agree that a library and book medium holds a sentimental and nostalgic charm for the history of how information has been passed, The internet reflects a sense of globalization, connectivity and interaction between information consumers and distributors.”

Books, Fostering In-Depth Knowledge

By Vasilka Atanasova
Senior Staff Writer

Many studies have been conducted in order to prove that the access to computers and internet declines students' performance in many areas. And they have done so. Researchers have concluded that kids with access to computers and internet have significantly lower scores in reading and math. Some might say that college students are a different area, but how much? What do we use the computers and internet for most of the time? What type of information are we used to seeing online? And asking the same questions about books, what would the answers be?

Just think about it. You see something, you read from it, you touch it, you fold the corner of a page where you have hit a great quote, you also underline, highlight, mark down with stars or any other artistic symbols you have in mind at the moment and the process of reading has just become a whole new creative experience. Would you not remember what you just read? You will, if not everything, then the most important information, because you have probably highlighted it. Because you have touched this at so many levels, physical and psychological, in ways that you cannot experience when reading on the computer.

The internet is an immense source of information. However, researchers have proven that only three percent of it is actually true. Internet is there to cover everything, which means chaos. A

book is 'here', in your hands, to cover the subject you need. This means order. It is an in depth reading, while most online publications are not. Internet changes the way we think, act and study. They makes us demand more and on a faster pace from the people and environment surrounding us; making us believe that if we do not remember it now, we can always Google it.

Computers and The internet, by simply making a lot of information available change our perception of how things should happen in life and how they actually happen – This idea of the constant one-click access of information deludes our brains into believing that we have learned something, when in fact we have not; we have only read it.

Because we can always go and find it a second time, we do not put much effort in remembering it. The effort you employ to do something plays an enormous role in how you do it and what the effects are.

Remember that the great minds of the centuries became such by reading real books, written on real paper and doing physical experiments, not sitting in front of a computer.

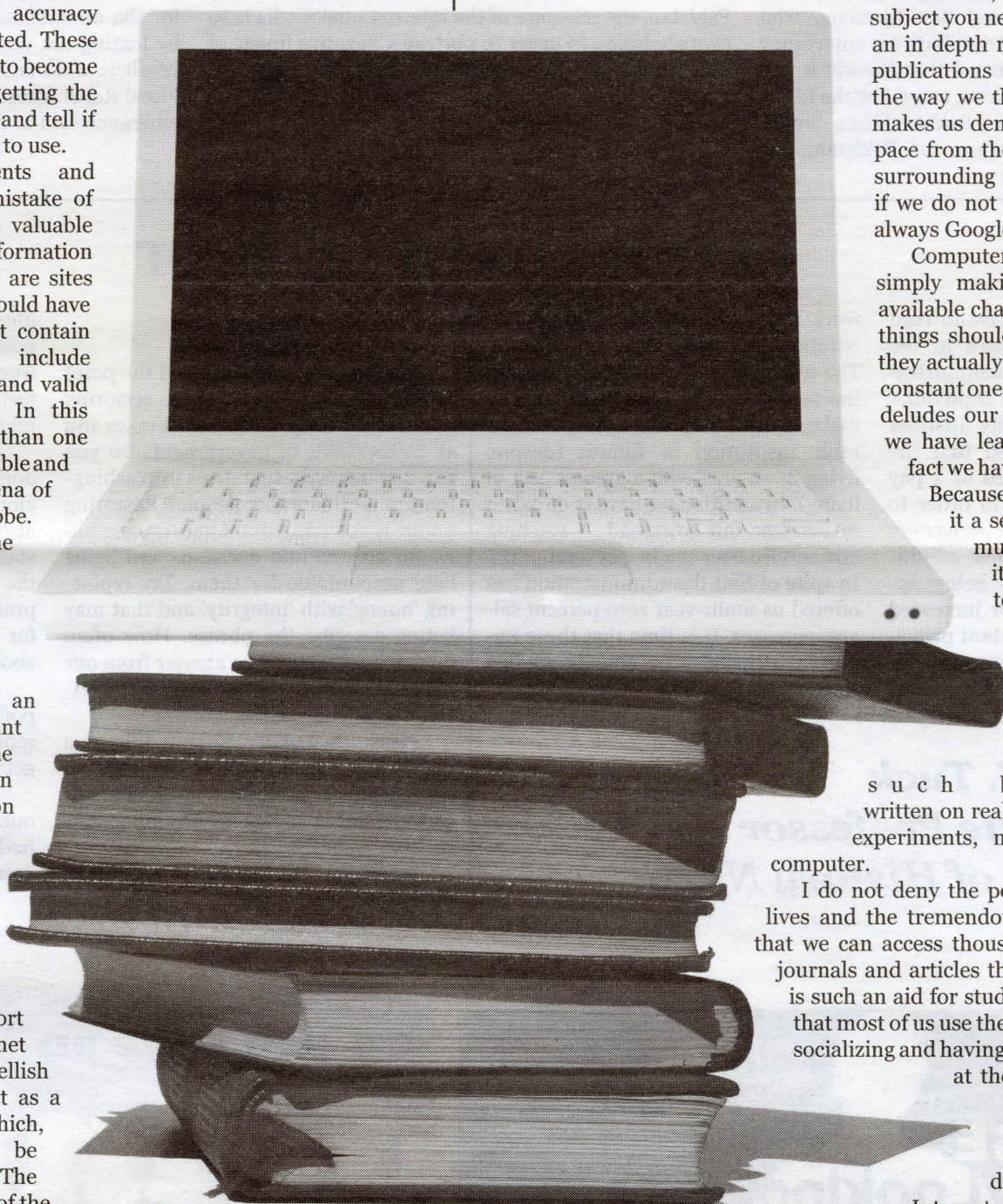
I do not deny the power of technology in our lives and the tremendous help it lends. The fact that we can access thousands of scientific studies, journals and articles through the school's library is such an aid for students, but you cannot deny that most of us use the computer and internet for socializing and having fun, or just to quickly peak at the most important news of

the day. That is what we are used to when surfing the internet, nothing too deep and engaging. The

Internet world, multi-effective, multi-linking and hyper-interactive is leading us to a destructive model of learning and behaving. We

should employ both media to help us study, but foster love toward the deep and lasting knowledge we have to plunge into the depths of books.

“[The] Internet changes the way we think, act, and study... [it] makes us demand more and on a faster pace from the people and environment surrounding us; making us believe that if we do not remember it now, we can always Google it.”



Rasing Awareness on Pakistan Floods

By Syed Ahad Hussain
Senior Staff Writer

The 2010 Pakistan floods, since this past July, have claimed lives of approximately 2.2 million people and is the worst disaster to happen in the country in 80 years. According to an estimate made by the United Nations, more than 21 million people are injured or homeless as a result of the flooding, exceeding the combined total of individuals affected by the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, the 2005 Kashmir earthquake and the 2010 Haiti earthquake. At one point, approximately one-fifth of Pakistan's total land area was underwater due to the flooding. Over 200 mm (7.88 inches) of rain fell over a 24-hour period, according to the Pakistan Meteorological Department, leaving 500,000 or more people homeless and four million Pakistanis suffering from food shortages. The United Nation said that, "[s]ix million [of the 14 million affected] are children and three million women of child-bearing age. This is a higher figure than in the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami."

"This disaster – Pakistan Floods – is like few the world has ever seen. It requires a response to match", said the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who had announced an aid of \$460 million for emergency relief; however, he also admitted that the aid is not arriving fast enough. The disaster, caused by the heavy monsoon rains in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Sindh, Punjab and Balochistan regions of Pakistan, has

caused an extensive damage to the nation's economy, infrastructure and crops, while structural damages are estimated to exceed 4 billion USD, wheat crop damages are estimated to be over 500 million USD and the total economic impact to be as much as 43 billion USD, according to the report by UN.

Whenever any tragedy happens to Pakistan, the government of the country has a history of failing to make the desirable impact. The current and leading government officials continue their Euro Trip, costing millions of rupees of the treasury in such hard times, when the country needs money more than ever. This is a clear example of recent white-collar corruption in the world. For crying out loud, the governing bodies reportedly used their powers to direct and divert flood water towards densely populated villages to save their own crops and lands. The judiciary of the nation should take immediate steps to inquire and look into the matter. There is nothing a common man can do to stop the government officials from continuing tours.

The frequent delay of the arrival of international aid is probably due to a lack of the international media's response and the coverage of the disaster. Whenever someone is killed or a bomb is detonated in Pakistan, the response of the international media is so overwhelming in order to portray a negative image of the country, and now with the advent of such a horrible natural tragedy, the international media's response is not sufficient and efficient enough.

To make things worse, the powerful and influential

feudal warlords and landowners are having a lion's share of the funds by allegedly making fake NGOs to divert funds for their own. How can a human stand, seeing all those people crying so loud for help which grows by every second, leaving them dead and snatching the relief money instead of helping, while being fully capable of helping.

Now that everybody else, including their government, has turned their backs on them, it is the average human's job to stand out to help rebuild the country. Pakistanis now need to be united more than ever before and I personally request every human being of the world, including the students of NEIU, to help and donate as much as they can. Besides money, other items are needed, such as clothes and other household items. The campus' very own Pakistan Students Association (PSA) headed by SGA Senator Wajihah Moonis, is currently organizing charity events on campus to raise money, students are encouraged to join and participate. You can also send your donations via Bank of America which has donated about \$50,000 through their 'Save the Children' program. Also, the non-profit website developed exclusively for the disaster, www.pakistan-floods.com, has several links for the donations. Moreover, you can donate simply by texting the word "SWAT" to 50555. The text will result in a donation of \$10 to the UNHCR Pakistan Flood Relief Effort. Every \$10 helps provide tents and emergency aid to displaced families.

Letters to the Editor

It was a pleasant surprise to read the administration responses to the question of pay raises for administrators in The Independent of September 7. In the article, "University Justifies Payraises", it was reported that the Board of Trustees approved of a pay raise for President Hahs "in order to level her salary with other university presidents." Raises for other administrators were justified as being appropriate compensation for increased work. These are two important principles: equity of pay with comparable institutions, and greater pay for greater

work. It is heartening to see the administration recognize their importance. The next step will be to apply them to the faculty as well. The NEIU faculty make less than faculty at any comparable institution in Illinois (despite living in an area with a greater cost of living). In addition we have been asked to increase our workload of teaching and service over the last several years. In spite of that the administration has offered us multi-year zero percent salary increases. It is time that these important principles be equally applied across the university.

- Michael W. Tuck
PhD Associate Professor
Department of History NEIU

Dear Jonathan,

I found your article missed the point of the rally on 8/28. As far as restoring honor is concerned, I believe it takes aim at EVERYONE in government. Do you feel that our representatives in Washington are all honorable people? Restoring honor is referring to taking responsibility for actions and decisions and being held accountable for them. Try replacing 'honor' with 'integrity' and that may better describe the phrase. How often do you hear a yes or no answer from our politicians? Restoring honor has NOTHING to do with race.

Please do not try to spin this as a racist rally. I firmly believe that most of those who attended were not racist, nor was the event meant to appeal to any racists.

What does "taking the country back" mean? It means taking it back from

life-long, corrupt, fiscally irresponsible politicians. "We the people" are the first words of the Constitution. We the people feel like we are not being accurately represented in our Republic.

Lastly, in this country we have freedom of religion, not freedom from religion (although anyone is free to do that also). Separation between church and state is meant for the state to stay out of the church. I do not go to a church nor practice a religion but I respect religion for what it is and do not wish it were abolished.

As far as your question, "Why support people that use sensationalist fear mongering, race-baiting and hatred to get their point across?"

Hmm...you know I just can't figure it out. And the other day that nutty Beck had an entire show dedicated to Moses, Jesus, Ghandi and MLK. What a freak.

Glad to read your article.

- Steve via website

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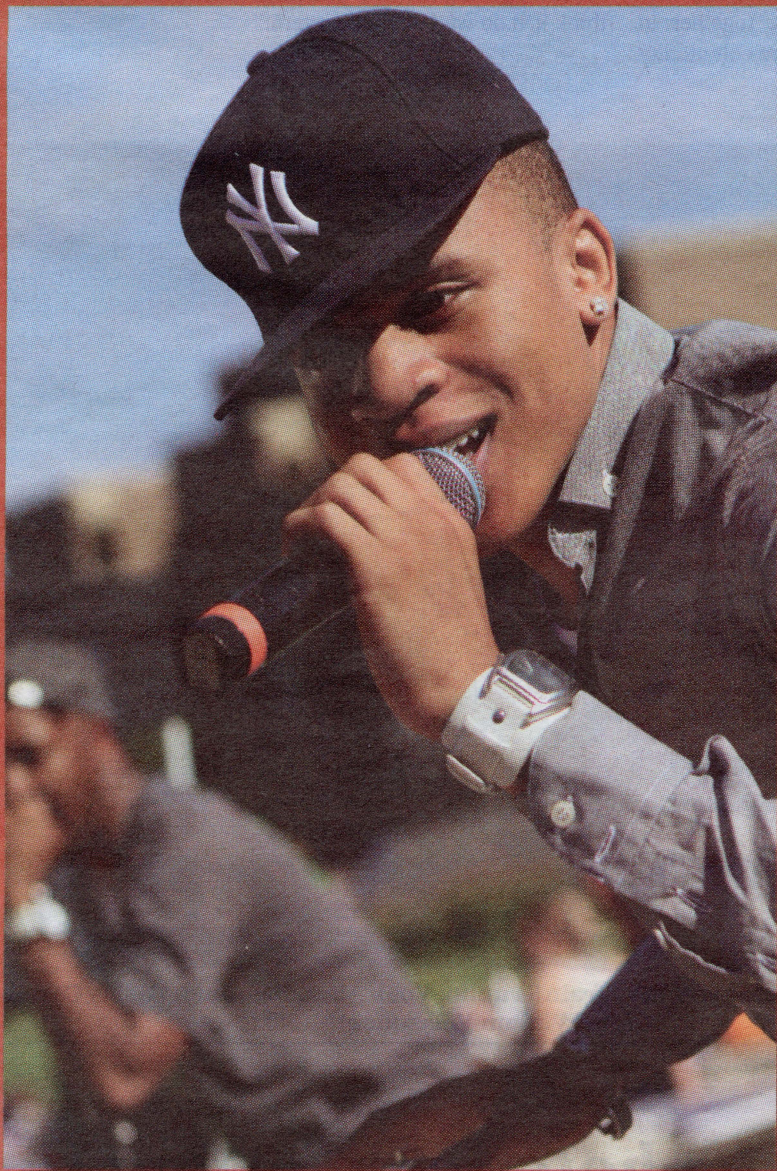
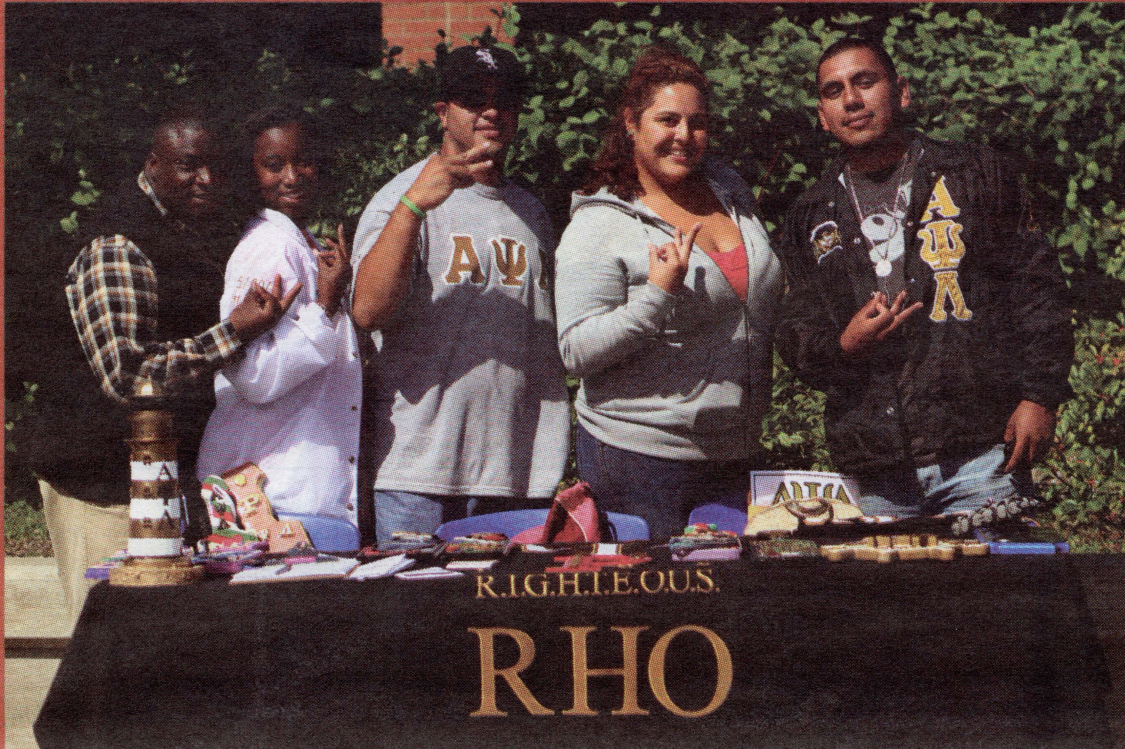
Arts & Life

Entertainment & Features

FALL INTO FUN!

NEIU KICKED OFF THEIR FALL SEMESTER LAST WEEK WITH ITS ANNUAL FALL INTO FUN EVENT. HERE ARE PHOTOS FROM THE WEEK OF EVENTS!

PHOTOS BY TAMARA SUSA, ZAC SCHON AND SEAN LYNCH



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: A STUDENT ENJOYS BUNGEE JUMPING OUT IN UNIVERSITY COMMONS, MEMBERS OF ALPHA PSI LAMBDA CO-ED FRATERNITY POSE IN FRONT OF THEIR TABLE, ROTIMI PERFORMS OUT IN THE COMMONS, NEIDA HERNANDEZ COMPETES IN THE NEIU TOP CHEF EVENT, SIBLINGS CHRISTOPHER AND REBECCA RIOS DANCE TO SALSA UNDER THE SUN.

Multicultural sorority Gamma Theta Chi beings chapter at Northeastern Illinois University

Photo by Tamara Susa



Yasmine Acosta, NEIU chapter founder of new multicultural sorority Gamma Theta Chi, stands by to recruit members

By Dulce Arroyo
Arts & Life Editor

Yasmine Acosta recently acquired her Associate's degree from Robert Morris College, but as a former NEIU student from 2006, Acosta is back and ready to expand her sorority, Gamma Theta Chi.

Gamma Theta Chi was founded at Roosevelt University on Nov. 1, 2004, and allows graduates and undergraduates to join no matter what age, major, or nationality. The United Greek Council recently accepted the proposition of starting a Theta chapter at NEIU this February.

The Alpha chapter at Roosevelt currently has over 50

members, so Acosta's goal at this year's Greek Fair was to recruit new members for the second chapter.

"I'm very content about how the recruiting has been going so far," said Acosta. "People either inquired about the sorority or I reached out and talked to them, so things are looking up."

According to Acosta, over 50 people signed up to learn more about Gamma Theta Chi between the first two days of Greek Fair. Although it is common for students to glance quickly at the tables and hurry off to class, Acosta was able to convey information to those who were interested.

"Our slogan is, 'United in friendship, together in sisterhood,'" she said. "And our principles are community

service, diversity, team work and friendship."

Gamma Theta Chi's Roosevelt chapter has hosted fun activities such as karaoke night, bowling night and dinner. Its members also attended Chicago's popular boating and firework event, Venetian Night.

With diversity as a principle, it is no wonder that the sorority decided to pick NEIU for its expansion.

"We thought it would be a good idea to bring Gamma Theta Chi here because it's the most diverse university in the Midwest," said Acosta. "Our goal is to have fun and focus on getting to know the ladies that decide to join; we think it'll do well at Northeastern."

Student Org Fair full of friendly, Greek spirit

By Dulce Arroyo
Arts & Life Editor

During the second week of school, Northeastern's Greek organizations came out to recruit new members and have some fun under the sun, despite the pesky bees that surrounded students.

There was the usual scene of members from fraternities and sororities gathered at their tables and were happy to talk to freshman, as well as interested upperclassmen. Salsa music blasted from the speakers as students relaxing on the quad took the opportunity to dance away the start-of-school-blues.

Although some believe that NEIU should have Greek organizations because of its non-campus residence reputation, passionate members disagree.

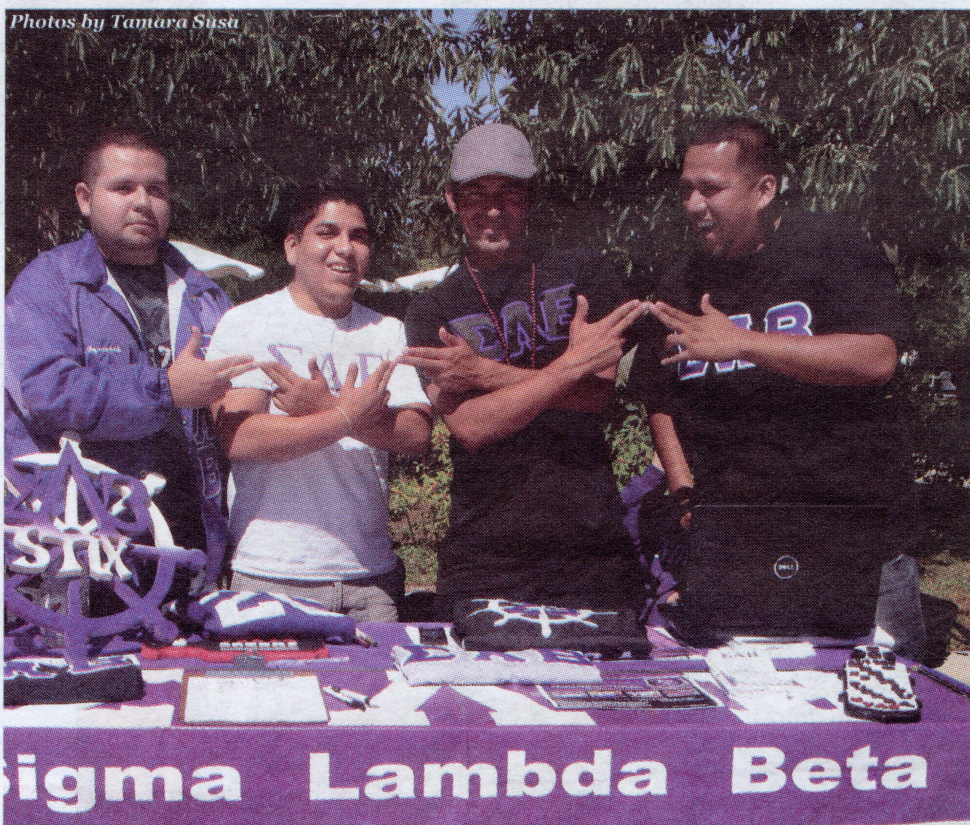
"Because it's a commuter school, Northeastern should have a Greek life," said Yoab Abundias, vice president of Sigma Lambda Beta, the nation's largest Latino fraternity. "When you're in an organization you make friends and grow networks, otherwise you'll just leave after class."

And these networks serve twice as important.

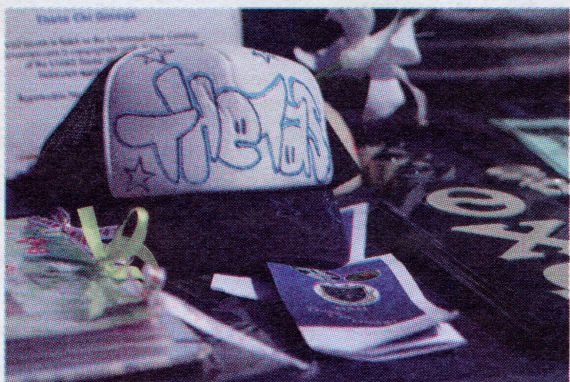
"Once you join, you're part of a family not only in school, but also out of school," said Abundias.

Like others that set up their tables, Abundias and his fraternity brothers displayed their colors and school spirit for students walking by that seemed uninterested, but noticed the loud and welcoming sounds from the Greeks.

Photos by Tamara Susa



Sigma Lambda Beta brothers Efrain Trujillo, Yoab Abundias, Juan Carlos Castellon, William Velazquez



More Greek photos can be found
at
www.neiuindependent.com

Emma Stone is a gem in hilarious, raunchy teen flick ‘Easy A’

By Dulce Arroyo
Arts & Life Editor

Every so often, a movie comes out about an unpopular-turned-popular high school student, who gains self-respect and teaches us to stay true to ourselves. And while “Easy A” follows that road, it also promises Emma Stone punching a guy below the belt to make a fake hook-up sound real. Oh yes, it goes there.

The movie’s heroine, Olive (brilliantly played by Stone), is just another face out of the hundreds at high school. Her best friend Rhi (Alyson Michalka) is more interested in hearing herself talk, so Olive’s parents (Patricia Clarkson and Stanley Tucci) are her silly, but accepting, support system.

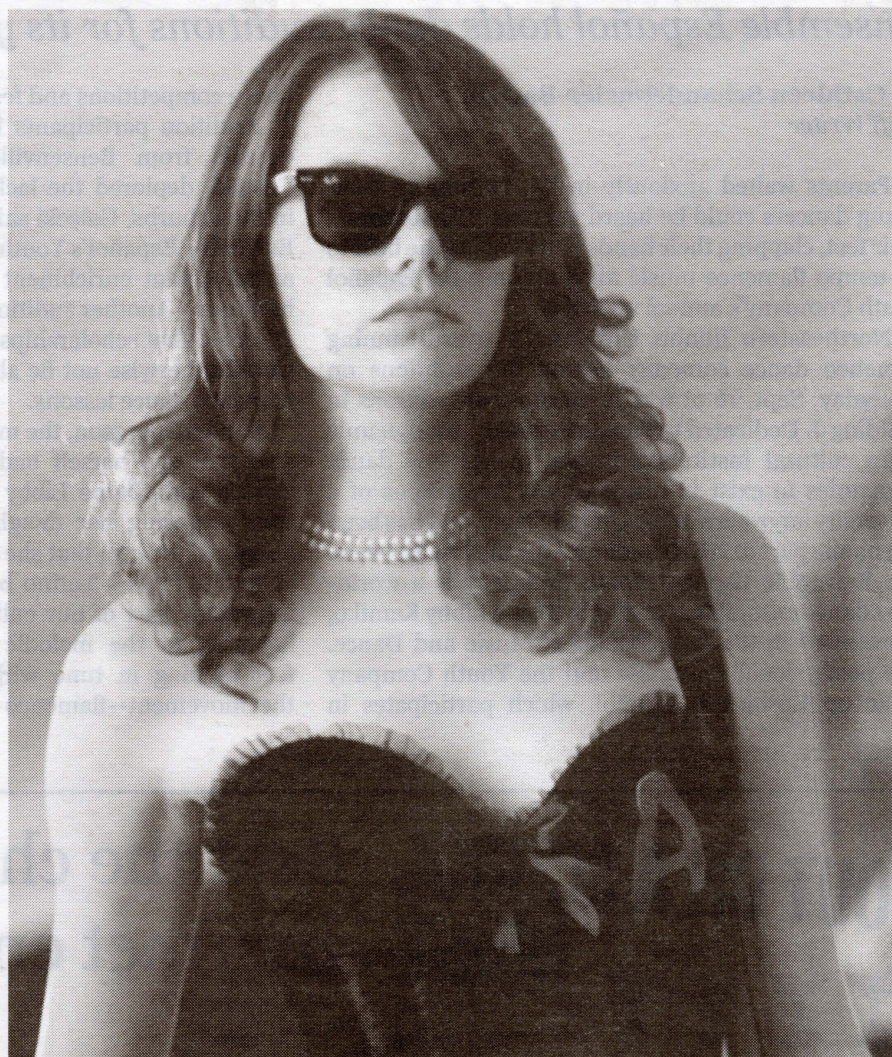
But Olive’s status quickly goes from virgin to one with much experience, when she is overheard telling Rhi a lie about her steamy hook-up with a non-existent guy. And who better to hear this lie than Marianne (Amanda Bynes), the cliché, devout Christian?

The movie mirrors much of the book “The Scarlett Letter,” in which a woman sleeps with a pastor and is cast out and deemed a harlot by the rest of the town. Consequently, Olive references the book throughout her narration in the movie—like why she sews red A’s on her clothes—in an attempt to debunk her own misconception as a floozy.

And let’s not forget Gossip Girl eye-candy Penn Badgley, who plays Todd, Olive’s crush since they were kids. Goofy and sweet, Badgley’s character suits him perfectly, allowing him to be Olive’s knight-in-woodchuck-mascot-armor.

“Easy A” is full of hilarious scenes, mainly due to Stone’s adorable sarcasm and antics (you won’t be able to keep a straight face when listening to “Pocket Full of Sunshine” afterwards). But all the laughs are easily silenced when things get out of hand and Stone’s tear-streaked face reminds audience members how lies can sometimes ruin lives.

However, as the rule for teen flicks goes, things get better once the moral of the story comes to light: the truth shall set you free. Pretty straight-forward, right? Well, watching Stone become every quiet girl’s alter ego by wearing corsets and stripper heels to school makes her white lie worth it all.



Emma Stone (above) plays Olive in “Easy A”

©2010 Sony Pictures Digital
Image courtesy of Easy A Official Website - letsnotsquiththead.com

“The Last Exorcism” slightly redeems Eli Roth as a producer

By Jonathan Gronli
Staff Writer

Eli Roth is one of those directors/producers that makes quite a few people just cringe when they hear he’s working behind the camera in any capacity. “The Last Exorcism” is one of those movies where, if it didn’t grab your attention, you just cringed or laughed when you saw the previews for it. However, the movie actually does a fairly decent job as a horror movie.

What works in “The Last Exorcism” is the story, which is very well written and incredibly intelligent. The basic idea is that Cotton, the movie’s hero, is a religious charlatan preying on people’s superstitions, to both profit and to make them feel better. For him, exorcisms are all about the show, since he is having a crisis of faith. After the death of a patient during a fake exorcism, he decides to take a documentary crew to film what is going to be his last exorcism so he could expose the entire business and then retire. That alone poses an incredible psychological character study.

One of the biggest problems in an Eli Roth movie is that, most of the time, the characters are horrible. Even the main characters are despicable.

What sets “The Last Exorcism” apart from previous movies that Roth has been a part of is that all the characters are likeable to a certain extent—including Cotton. What makes Cotton so great is the fact that he feels like a genuine person, and that the writers did a great job at “saving the cat” (creating aspects or actions that make a character more relatable and likable) for him.

One of these positive characteristics is allowing him to give his justification for doing false exorcisms. Cotton does this because he provides a service that comforts someone, even if it is a complete fabrication. Another reason why I liked Cotton is because he is honest about the nature of religion and says that if he could preach anything the right way, a congregation would still be experiencing religious fervor. He proves it by preaching a recipe.

But the problem with the movie is twofold.

First is the mood music in the movie, which is a found footage style of film. So a soundtrack (unless the people are actually listening to music) isn’t warranted at all. If anything, it takes away from the immersive nature of the style of film.

The second problem is the ending. The movie is great... until the closing scene. The ending would work better for a movie that has more of a Lovecraftian horror story. It could have been a good ending only if it was done in the right context, or just carried out longer so that there was something resembling resolution. But the ending proved to be the biggest plot hole in the movie, and if a movie does this, it contradicts the whole found footage premise.

Overall, “The Last Exorcism” is worth seeing—just not in theaters. Wait for it to come out on DVD.

“The Strain” book review: returning to better vampiric days

By Jonathan Gronli
Staff Writer

Guillermo del Toro is a bit of an insane genius when it comes to dark fantasy horror stories. Chuck Hogan is a bit of a toss up as a novelist even though he is a strong writer. “The Strain,” the first book in a trilogy to be finished in 2011, shows what can happen in literature when writers of two different mediums put their minds together. Since the second book is to come out within the coming weeks, it’s a good idea to examine the start of the trilogy.

The premise of the story is pretty simple: a plane landing takes an eerie turn when all power and communications on it go out. Almost everyone on the plane is either dead or appears to be dead. Then, the investigations and oddities ensue until a vampiric plague breaks out.

The general presentation is where it gets interesting. Right from the start, since the plague reaches America through overseas travel, it brings back memories of the good old days of Bram Stoker’s “Dracula”—if you threw out the entire gothic

romanticism; it also goes back to the idea of Stephen King’s “Night Flyer,” which was a deliciously devilous vampire story. But then it starts to present aspects of different tellings of Richard Matheson’s “I Am Legend” and Stephen King’s “Salem’s Lot.” Thus, there are a lot of throwbacks to some greats in the vampire lore genre.

But the question is whether or not it works. This book draws from four stories that defined and redefined the vampire genre, but it’s very difficult to come up with stories that are good while making references to even just one classic story. And it’s even harder to make an honest vampire story, since the hip thing to do nowadays is to make soulful, emo bloodsuckers like in “Twilight,” “True Blood,” “The Vampire Diaries,” etc. The Strain goes back to the source material of vampire tales, which would probably turn off quite a few people; then again, this book seems to be more for the people who have been waiting for an actual vampire story.

The writing gets straight to the heart of the matter, while it stays hidden enough so that the atmosphere encompasses the reader. This is quite a feat to do,

so it isn’t perfect. The characters have lapses in realism where occasionally they seem fine, and then they suddenly start taking themselves too seriously or not seriously enough. Some of the action in the story could be better developed and described; imagery, that’s supposed to shock the reader, also ends up falling flat because, even though it is good, it doesn’t go far enough. Still, the overall writing is strong, even though there are some stylistic quirks and inconsistencies that don’t make the reading experience as immersive as it should be. Despite these quirks, which will probably be addressed and fixed in book two (titled “The Fall”), “The Strain” is enjoyable and pretty fun to read. It is only worth buying if you plan to get the rest of the trilogy that will come out. However, if you want to read it but aren’t sure that the trilogy would be right for you, it’s still worth a read through, so just head to a library and see if they have it. If you like things like “Twilight” though, for the love of Stoker, read the book and see what real vampires are supposed to be like.

¡Viva flamenco! Providing skills that can help pay the bills

Ensemble Español holds dance auditions for its youth members.

By Cathleen Schandelemeier-Bartels
Staff Writer

Parents waited anxiously in the hallway as their young dancers could be heard rhythmically stomping their feet, clapping their hands and keeping the beat to up-tempo flamenco music for the Ensemble Español Youth Company's annual auditions.

Northeastern Illinois University's award-winning flamenco dance company hosted the auditions on Thursday, Sept. 16 at 6 p.m. on the main campus in Building J. Dedicated to flamenco dance, this dynamic Latin cultural institution is one of the few dance companies to exist in-residence on the campus of a university anywhere in the United States, and has been a dynamic part of NEIU's campus for the last 30 years. The Ensemble Español Youth Company is a world-class dance ensemble founded by Dame Libby Kamiko, a professor in the Department of Music and Dance. The professional Ensemble and the Youth Company make up Ensemble Español, which participates in

dance competitions and festivals around the world.

Audition participants included 10 year-old Laila Galecki from Bensenville, whose mother, Cindy Galecki, deplored the lack of cultural programming in the suburbs. Galecki said that she is delighted that Ensemble Español's Youth Company exists to provide an important enrichment of her daughter's cultural heritage. Another audition hopeful, Teodoro Bartels, 11, noted that scholarships are offered to dancers who would otherwise not be able to afford the tuition for flamenco dance lessons.

Chandel Spurgeon, the mother of 11 year-old Yisrael, said that she herself had taken beginner flamenco classes with Dame Libby nine years ago. Spurgeon tried exposing her daughter to flamenco and was delighted to learn that she loved it.

"Being from a Latino background, flamenco is an important part of our culture," Spurgeon said while listening to the melodic sound of her daughter's feet tapping in tune with the music. "The music, the movement—flamenco is strong, passionate and

aggressive. There is nothing airy about flamenco; it is very grounded, graceful and elegant. As a performer and an audience member, you can't help but feel mesmerized by such a unique dance form."

This strong, passionate dance is predominantly full of female dancers, although parent Carmen Alvarado is doing her best to counteract that fact. Alvarado's three sons, Mario, 13, Brandon, 10 and Jacob, nine, have been dancing flamenco for the last 18 months and they all really enjoy it. A testimony to their commitment to the dance was their recent audition for Ensemble Español.

Abby Ventura, NEIU sophomore, gushed with the fact that while she was performing with the Ensemble Español Youth Company at the Bucktown Arts Fest in August, she was selected for the first-annual Effie Mihopoulos Scholarship for her exceptional dance skills. Ventura believes that dancing flamenco with the Ensemble Español Youth Company is not only an incredible opportunity to dance, but it also provides skills that can help pay the bills.

OUT ON A SCHOOL NIGHT



By Ivan Favelevic
Editor-in-chief

Empanadas are a cultural staple of any Latino country. In essence, they are dough wrapped around a recipe of toppings, and either fried or baked. Its variations can be seen inhabiting other cultures, such as the pierogi, and within Latino cultures, each nation adds their own twist to the original. Lito's, located at 2566 N. Clark St., attempts to add a gourmet twist on the long-loved favorite—and succeeds in almost every way.

The restaurant is a small, inconspicuous venue, squeezed in between other shops of its kind; the sitting room is restricted to a few chairs facing a bar-like setup by the window and overlooking the street. In the summer, they often place a small table and a couple of chairs outside, but if you have ever been to Clark Street on a great summer day you know there is not much room for anything on the sidewalk (this is definitely a to-go kind of place).

Thankfully, Lito's offers delivery. The staff is small enough that you will get to know them quickly if you come often. It is open most days from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m., except Sundays when they run from noon to 8 p.m.

But you are not going in there to look at the décor, nor complain about the small space. If you are anything like me, you want good food—and lots of it—and this is where Lito's delivers, with 11 deliciously fried dumplings, ranging from traditional favorites to gourmet delicacies.

If you are yearning for a traditional Colombian empanada, the beef and rice or chicken empanada will surely fulfill your desires. However, the gourmet incarnations that are present are the reason why you go to this place. The Hawaiian, for example, is a take on the original ham and cheese empanada, except with some pineapple thrown in for good measure. It seems strange on paper, but trust me when I say it is the best empanada on the menu.

The BBQ chicken is there simply to attract curious Americans and it doesn't disappoint. The champignon chicken and chorizo and cheese empanadas are other must-have items. To further add a gourmet aspect to the menu, Lito's offers dessert empanadas, such as the Choco-Banana or cinnamon apple; they are both a perfect way to end this delicious meal. One needs to keep in mind, however, that all the empanadas are deep fried, and although they use heart healthy oil, it still is not the best diet supplement.

Overall, Lito's is definitely a place to keep in mind if you are in the neighborhood. Furthermore, it is very affordable, with each empanada hovering around three

Beat the chilly weather with traditional gourmet empanadas at Lito's

dollars once you add tax. They are also designed to fill appetites, making sure not even the most seasoned food lover can handle more than three. Although, it's not open late enough to satisfy the late night munchies, it is perfect for those cold winter days when some warm, delicious food you can hold in your hand as you walk is the only cure for the freezing weather around you.



Lito's Empanadas
2566 N. Clark St.
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Photos courtesy of litosempanadas.com

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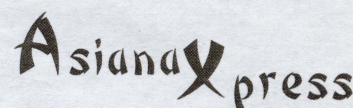
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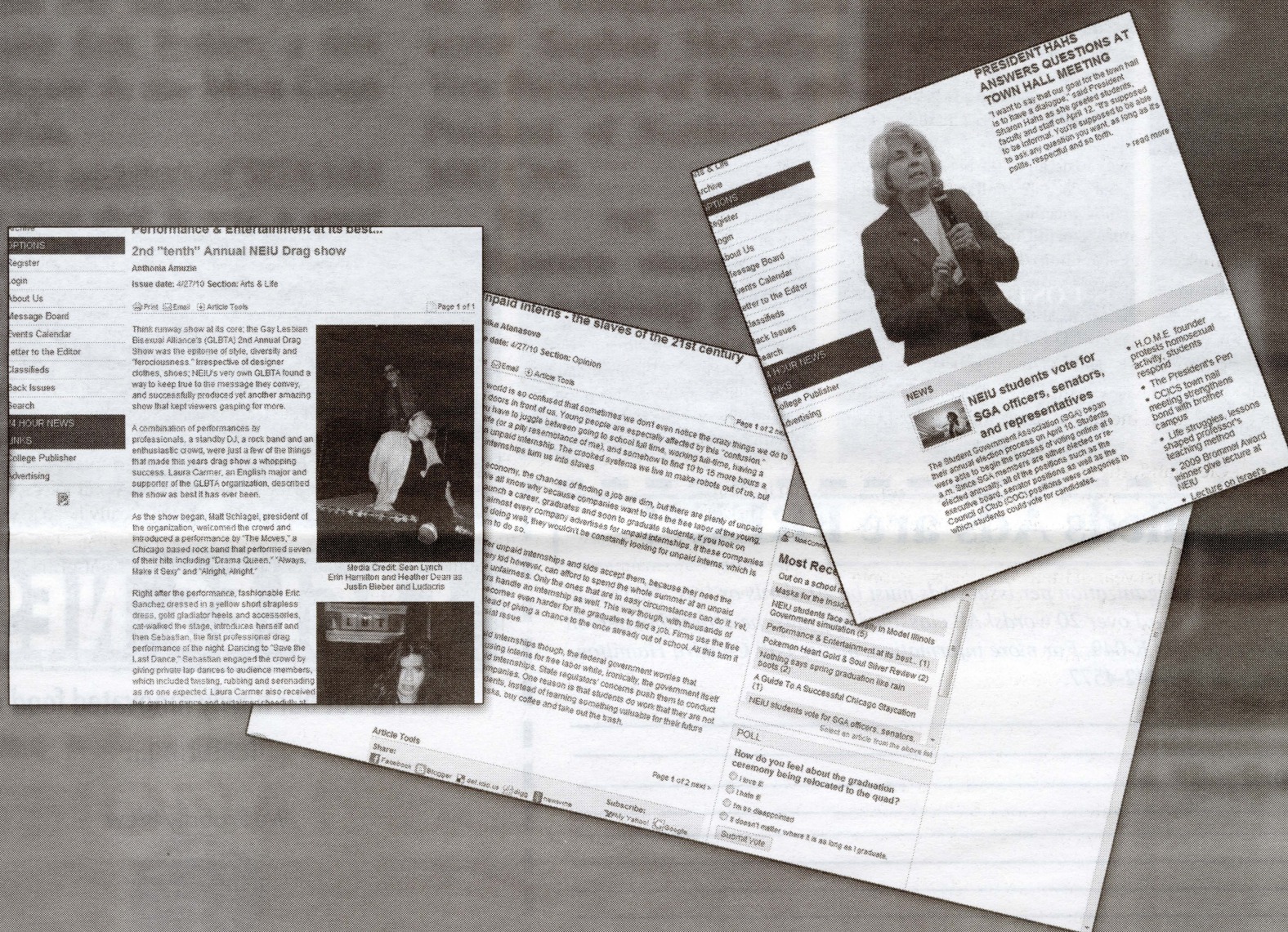
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SPORTS

Overpaid Athletes

By Zac Schön
Staff Writer

Alex Rodriguez signed a 10 year contract with the Texas Rangers in 2000 for \$252 million, which is probably close to the budget of Chicago Public Schools. Cristiano Ronaldo of Portuguese football fame and famous transfer from Manchester United to Real Madrid put the 25 year old part-time model for Armani in a 6 year, £80 million (\$123 million) contract, making Jim Jones come out of the woodwork to scream "Ballin." Tiger Woods, prior to his adultery scandal, was making more money than he could burn in a day.

With poverty in much of the world, disasters that decimate the economy and lifestyles of countries that are trying to catch up to the industrialized fraternity of the Western World and education receiving more cuts in funding than NASA in America, why are these players making such ridiculous amounts of money, and why can't we spend the money elsewhere?

Look at the Cleveland Cavaliers and their soon-to-be-missed income generator LeBron James. In a 2005 report from Forbes, the Cavs were worth \$356 million. The revenue pulled in was set at \$102 million, operating income at \$12 million, player expenses at \$52 million, and gate receipts at \$30 million. In other words, this small market team generated large amounts of cash flow for something that some would simply write off as a stupid game.

To further exaggerate this point, take into consideration that this is an era in which LeBron is spoken of as the next big thing, as opposed to him just being the biggest thing in the NBA. When one thinks of what LeBron did for Cleveland, the word renaissance is an exaggeration, but stimulus is definitely an understatement. A downtown revival occurred as people spent money on jerseys and local restaurants and more public works income was gained from increased taxes and sales at the stadium.

When LeBron left Cleveland, the city felt a huge loss of cash flow and watched the city begin to return to normal form. When LeBron left, \$40 million was the projected loss of income to the city. People will not flock to watch whoever the Cavs can scrape together to fill a roster in the first year of their "dark ages." People will not go to the bar and drop \$50 to watch their team become a laughing matter. LeBron's \$2 million income tax paid to the state will be a rather large gap. Merchandise sales will plummet as no one even knows who is actually on the team.

Aside from the economy of a team, let us look at another aspect: simple supply and demand. How many people do you know who play a popular sport? How many of them are good enough to play in college? Professionally? The bracket of numbers you just gave was probably first a good chunk, then maybe 10, then 1 (that one person is only good in comparison with the people they are playing against).

I can throw a football 45 yards, I can crack a softball out of the park, and I can read a defense, so why don't you pay me super amounts of money to play? The answer is because I'm horrible at these sports in comparison to the pros. So are most of your friends and their friends. Granted, everyone has a cousin who spent some time in the minors to never make it to a MLB roster; people you know are simply not good enough for this job.

Great athletes who sell seats make good money. A-Rod, Cristiano and Tiger Woods sell tickets and merchandise, and they draw attention. How about less noticeable players like Mike Fontenot? 2010 was his first million dollar year, compared to the usual \$420,000 he made. Mike is most known for playing second or third and being compared to Theriot before the Cubs traded everything minus Wrigley this season. How does he hit? Alright. How does he play his position? Just fine. However, if you think of your friend who plays baseball the best, he doesn't come close to Fontenot.

A solid superstar player who makes multiple millions of dollars is a rare find as they possess intangibles in strength, speed, reaction time, the ability to stay cool in pressure and many other physical things I would opt for in my next life. There can only be so many players out there at a time, so strength per number instead of strength in numbers is the key. If the team wants to win, they need players who possess these intangibles, who in turn increase their income numbers and bring a city prestige.

Therefore, these players are not overpaid. They are just better than me, you, your most athletic friends and most of their colleagues. Entertainment, including sports, is one of America's biggest economic exports. Exports are one of those things that fuel our economy, so when it comes down to the bottom line, high-paid athletes get paid for the amount of money they generate through raw talent that everyone you know lacks. You don't have to watch any sports, but keep the hating to a minimum.

Image provided by Official Blackhawks website - www.blackhawks.nhl.com

Chicago Blackhawks Season Preview



The Blackhawks are entering this season as the reigning champions, but can they repeat their success?

By John O'Callaghan
Staff Writer

The Stanley Cup has made its way around various parts of North America as well as Europe, and the Chicago Blackhawks have big shoes to fill this upcoming season after an incredible championship victory over the Philadelphia Flyers. The question on all of 'Hawks fans' minds is will they be able to do it again?

The 'Hawks had to ship out many players this offseason due to the salary cap restrictions enforced on Stanley Cup Champion franchises. Some of these players include Dustin Byfuglien, Kris Versteeg, Antti Niemi and many more. Though many fans were upset about losing these players, it's safe to say that Stan Bowman, the 'Hawks General Manager and Vice President, did a great job in keeping the team below the salary cap as well as retaining other bigger stars.

Offensively this year the 'Hawks are looking just as good as they were last year. The team still has many of their core players such as Marian Hossa, Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane, who as a trio piled up 207 points during the 2009-10 regular season and 72 points in the playoffs. Along with players like Patrick Sharp, Thomas Kopecky and more, the 'Hawks will be looking strong offensively.

The real question on everyone's mind is who will replace Dustin Byfuglien, the 6 foot 4, 257 pound giant. This may be quite a big uniform to fill, but it is safe to say the 'Hawks might just have this covered. The most likely candidates to take his position are Troy Brouwer at 6 foot 2, 214 pounds or 6 foot 3, 224 pound Bryan Bickell. Both had a combined 35 points last season with the Blackhawks and their American Hockey League affiliate, the Rockford Icehogs. This season, the 'Hawks will still be the same fast, break-out style offensive team that they were last year, but even though they lost some big names, the core is still there and fans can expect a lot from them.

The 'Hawks defense didn't take too much of a hit in terms of losing players. They still have their big names and big players. Defensive leader Duncan Keith is one of the best defensemen in the league with 69 points last season, a plus minus of 21 and the winner of the Norris trophy (best defenseman in the league). Also backing him up is his defensive pair partner Brent Seabrook, who had a plus minus last season of 20 and is the perfect man to be shoulder

to shoulder alongside Keith. Of course, the second defensive pair, Niklas Hjalmarsson (plus minus of 9) and Brian Campbell (plus minus of 18) are proven defensemen which 'Hawks fans can put a lot of trust in to keep their net protected.

Receiving lots of big talk in the defensive line from the team is John Scott. Signed in the off-season as a free agent, Scott is going to be the 'Hawks new tough guy at a staggering 6 foot 8 and 258 pounds. The 'Hawks now have a new enforcer to help protect their stars. The role they really hope to put him at is to be Chicago's new Byfuglien. The team may be planning to throw him in front of the net to screen goalies and make his presence known. If he is able to do the job as well as Big Buff did then, he will be making a big name for himself very quickly in the lineup, and the defense may even be able to step it up a notch from last year.

The biggest talk from the off-season was the loss of newborn star Antti Niemi. The rookie goalie really proved himself as a star in the playoffs and will truly be missed by all 'Hawks fans, but don't count our new goalie out. Marty Turco was signed by the 'Hawks as a free agent in August. Many still obsessing over the loss of Niemi haven't noticed what the team has picked up. Though Turco is 35 years old and starting to get old for a goalie, he is still proven as one of the best in the NHL. He is a two time winner of the Roger Crozier award, which is awarded annually to the goalie with the best save percentage in the season. He also has the record for most shutouts in a playoff series. However, Turco is showing that his age is catching up with him as he doesn't use the butterfly style of goaltending which has rapidly invaded the NHL. Will this be a ball dropper? No, of course not. Turco is a proven MVP and is still one of the best at his position. With the 'Hawks defense in front of him, Turco should be a great replacement for Niemi and with his experience, might prove to be even better.

This coming season, the 'Hawks have a great running for the Stanley Cup, but will they be able to do it again? It's not a sure thing since we have yet to see the new players in the regular season. Will they make the playoffs again? Absolutely. They are the strongest team in their division with a skilled and young, speedy offense with a rock solid defense in front of one of the best goaltenders in the NHL. With all that said, the Blackhawks will be a big player in the upcoming season, and all of Chicagoland will be singing "Chelsea's Dagger" into the postseason.

Carmelo to Chicago?

By Marcin Chojnowski
Sports Editor

The crazy NBA off-season may have cooled down after "The Decision," but the madness is not over yet. According to ESPN's Chris Broussard, all-star small forward Carmelo Anthony wants a trade out of Denver. Anthony, who was drafted as the third pick in 2003 by Denver, has averaged 24.7 points per game during his NBA tenure, and has led the Nuggets to six straight playoff appearances. Although the first five playoff showings by Denver ended up in first round exits, it wasn't until last year that the team advanced past the first round to the Western Conference Finals and ended up losing to Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers.

It was highly anticipated that Carmelo would finish up his contract with Denver through the 2010-2011 season and test the free-agency waters during next year's off-season, just like LeBron James, Chris Bosh and Dwyane Wade did this year. Reports began surfacing early last month that Denver was trying to trade Anthony, but they cooled down quite a bit - until

now. Three teams are apparently front runners in the Anthony sweepstakes: the New Jersey Nets, New York Knicks, and the Chicago Bulls. The Bulls seem to be the team that has the most to offer Denver in return for the all star. But that would come at a cost the Bulls may not be willing to pay.

Many speculate that a deal for Anthony would require the Bulls to give up Taj Gibson, Luol Deng, Joakim Noah, as well as a future first round draft pick. Team management is debating whether or not it would be worth it to trade away a young and talented player like Noah, who is one of the up and coming centers in the league that is almost sure to be an all star in the near future. That raises a question: Are the Bulls closer to winning a title with a core group of Derrick Rose, Carlos Boozer, Luol Deng, Taj Gibson, and Joakim Noah, or a group of Rose, Anthony, and Boozer?

This is the tough decision that Bulls management has to make within the next few weeks. Although he had a rough start to his career during the first two years of his NBA career, Noah has become a great center in the league. Last year he averaged a double-double with 10.7 points per game and 11 rebounds per game, which

is sure to go up this year. Noah will be 100% healthy to start the season after being limited last year with a plantar fasciitis injury that he played with nearly the entire season. This is the type of player that adds a lot of energy and leadership both in the locker room and especially on the basketball court. Noah does the little things such as hustle, rebound and play good defense, which makes the Bulls a team to be reckoned with in the Eastern Conference with the addition of Carlos Boozer in the post.

In a perfect world, the Bulls would be able to put together a trade excluding Noah from the deal and keeping him in Chicago. The they could contend for a title against teams like the Miami Heat, Los Angeles Lakers, Orlando Magic, and the Boston Celtics. In the real world though, Denver will not just let their best player go to another team without being compensated for their loss. The Bulls must quickly weigh their options and try their hardest not to take a step backwards by losing a player that could very possibly stand alongside Artis Gilmore and Bill Cartwright and become one of the best centers that has ever put on a Chicago Bulls jersey.

P.E Complex Calendar Upcoming Sports Events

By Syed Ahad Hussain
Senior Staff Writer

This fall, the Physical Education Complex is hosting some exciting sporting events and tournaments including volleyball, hockey, table tennis and tennis, just to name a few.

Coed volleyball games are played 6-on-6 (divided equally as amongst three men and three women to a team). Games will be played at the campus' main gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays during activity hour from next October.

Floor hockey games are played 6-on-6 (no restrictions on men and women per team). Games are played in the auxiliary gym of the campus. The registration deadline for coed volleyball and floor hockey is Thursday October 12.

Bowling matches are played with a minimum of four-person, and a maximum of six-person, teams. However, only four bowlers will bowl per night. The games will be played in a six week season, followed by a two week playoff. Teams will bowl three games per night in the tournament. The fee for teams wanting to join the league is \$25, which will be used for prizes. Also, each bowler will be responsible for paying individual game fees and shoe rentals, if necessary.

3-on-3 basketball games for men, women and coed teams will be played in the main gym on Friday, December 3 at 12:00 p.m. The registration deadline

is Tuesday, November 23. Campus recreation will provide all necessary equipment.

Students can register their teams by submitting their team registration form to the Intramural Sports Office (PE 1110), and can also sign up as a free agent, although free agents will not be formed into teams; teams may choose to contact them to fill up any free spots.

The individual and dual sports include NBA2K11, tennis, a bench pressing competition, and table tennis. NBA2K11, a Playstation 3 game, will be played in a round-robin format followed by a single elimination tournament; students can register at the Intramural Sports Office.

Tennis leagues are available for Men's and Women's singles and doubles as well as mixed doubles, and the format will be a challenge ladder. Singles and doubles will be placed into challenge ladders in the order in which they register, and there is no limit on the number of participants in the ladder. The leagues started on Tuesday, September 7 with the competition ending on Friday, October 29. However, there is no registration deadline for tennis. The specific rules of the challenge ladder can be found outside the Intramural Sports Office.

The Bench Press Competition is a one day individual event which takes place on

Friday, October 22 consisting of men's and women's divisions. The competition will be based on the ratio of weight lifted relative to body weight. The Intramural Sports Office staff will be available to conduct the weigh-in and to spot the competitors. The registration deadline is Tuesday, October 5.

Table tennis leagues are available for singles and doubles with the Challenge Ladder format. There is no registration deadline. The leagues began on Tuesday September 14 with the competition ending on Friday, December 10.



Photo by Ivan Favelevic

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