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Ivan Favelevic

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Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S

Tuesday, October 12, 2010

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Vol. 28, Issue 5

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Faculty Voices Concerns:

State of the University address overshadowed by union bargaining delays

Photo taken by Tracey Washington

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Common Cents Leaves Change for Some

By Alexandra Maragha
Staff Writer

The current economic times have been no mystery in determining the stability of the financial world. The clash between Wall Street and Main Street has caused law makers to take action against the inflation, recession and negative outlooks we face as a society today. While such efforts are still underway, it is apparent that many Americans have been faced with economic hardships. Many within the NEIU community, and operations of NEIU, have also been touched by economic hardship, forcing not only students, but also procedures within the administration and financial aid department, to adjust as well.

At the state of the university address, President Hahs focused on the relationship between institutional goals and the current budget, based off the 2009 fiscal year, to set the tone to "match priorities and funding".

While public sector funding, which includes state and federal aid, is lower than previous years, enrollment has increased. "Enrollment growth can compensate additional funding," said Hahs. Tuition-based income increased from 46 percent in the 2009-2010 academic years to 52 percent

this academic year, while state funding decreased from 54 percent to 48 percent for the university. Despite the decrease in state funding, total revenue for the university has increased, allowing NEIU the choice not to engage in borrowing money from the government, while other state universities have borrowed.

While the financial status of the university is sound, state and federal funding must be maintained. "It is not a simple matter," said Hahs. The idea that educators must protect funding for public education was strongly emphasized by Hahs as well.

An example of how funding has been maintained and increased over the past year is the Federal Pell Grant, which for the 2010-2011 academic year totaled \$28,654,000, the highest in three years, according to the Department of Education Appropriations Act.

For qualified NEIU students, the maximum Pell Grant award increased from \$5350 to \$5550, reflecting an overall increase of \$9,276,059 from the 2009-2010 academic year to this year.

Maureen Amos, NEIU's financial aid director, said the "Pell does not run out". Amos and financial aid assistant directors, Jenny Fisher and Miriam Ocasio-Collazo, agree

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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.

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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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October 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS:

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|---|---|--|--------|--|--------|
| 11 | 12 1:00pm-4:30pm NPB: Spirit Week/ Student Appreciation 3:00pm-4:00pm Hillel: Guest Speaker | 13 2:00pm-6:00pm Gamma Phi Omega: Hit the Books | 14 9:00am-4:00pm LIP: In Power Bake Sale | 15 | 16 10:00am-6:00pm Six Flags Fright Fest! | 17 |
| 18 11:00am-3:00pm LCSA: Bake Sale | 19 | 20 | 21 6:45pm-10:00pm Generativity Club: 4th Annual Aging and Film Symposium | 22 | 23 | 24 |



Week ending October 9th




-  Sep 23 – Library – 12:11pm – Victim reports he received threatening e-mails and voicemail messages from unknown offender. This case is under investigation.
-  Sep 27 – University Commons – 6:51pm – Unknown offender stole victim's mountain bike from bike rack. This case is under investigation.
7:19pm – Unknown offender stole victim's bike from lamp post. This case is under investigation.
-  Sep 28 – Lot J – 1:33pm – Unknown offender stole front plastic grill from victim's car. This case is under investigation.

Photo taken by Tracey Washington



State of the University Address

By Ivan Favelevic
Editor in Chief

While President Sharon Hahs tried to place a silver lining on NEIU's status in this year's state of the university address, many faculty members continue to express concerns with the lack of progress in union negotiations.

The speech, which took place on September 21, began by congratulating various members of the staff as well as several organizations in the school for their contributions to the university in the past year. Once the various honors were awarded, the president introduced the university's new television commercial that is set to air on select Chicagoland stations. The purpose of the advertisement is to highlight the diversity present at NEIU. Filmed this past summer, the commercial opens with the line "what do you want to achieve?" and comments on the university's flexible hours and multitude of programs.

President Hahs then followed with a presentation of graphs which depicts student enrollment data for fall semester of 2010. According to the figures, there are more students taking more credit hours at NEIU. Graduate and freshman enrollment has had a small dip, but Hahs says that this may just be a small blip in a higher enrollment curve. However, a point of concern was the noticeable drop in people graduating from NEIU.

Once Hahs finished guiding the audience through

the student enrollment rates she proceeded to outline the current budget. Hahs said that "higher education has seen a permanent cut in its funding." In prior years whatever amount of funds the state took away, they reimbursed at a later date. The money the university has lacked may never return. Nonetheless Hahs assured that the administration was doing everything in its power to fix the budget. Hahs thanked the university as a whole for struggling through this tough times.

Other high points of the speech include the announcement of the Energy Conservation Project, a means to cut university energy expenditures in the long run. Furthermore, President Hahs announced that the Science building is to be renamed the Bernard J. Brommel Hall due to a seven-figure donation by Mr Hall.

Once the speech was finished, Hahs opened the floor to questions from the audience. Various members of the faculty had the same issue on their minds: the union negotiations. One member commented on how demoralized the faculty is. He said that they have been "shamefully overlooked for the past two years." A member of the Psychology department commented on how they had entered their third year of bargaining without any progress, while the administration had received the previously reported pay raises. All of the faculty members who spoke up commented on how overworked and underpaid they felt, one member even noted the requirement of two full time jobs to

maintain himself.

President Hahs said that she is not allowed to discuss on the status of the bargaining. According to Hahs "we need to be fiscally sound in the long term" before there can be progress. For that reason there is "no time frame available" for when the negotiation will be finished. Hahs then said that the faculty has "smaller workloads at NEIU than other institutions" and for that reason there are lower wages for the faculty.

The subject of union negotiations was hard to break with faculty members asking for more university involvement in receiving state funding and bringing up an unfair labor practice filed against the President.

Other issues were brought up, as well. Laurie Fuller, of the Women's Studies Department, spoke about the new Angelina Pedrosa Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs and how she would like to see an LGBTQA center in the future. President Hahs said "stay tuned."

The atmosphere was bitter at the end of the presentation, with the faculty having clearly expressed their concerns. Despite President Hahs' best efforts, the faculty has had enough and demands progress immediately. The future looks unpromising for NEIU if the union negotiations do not get solved soon and the faculty morale cannot be brought back up.

expect less,
pay more at NEIU

the administration wants to increase class sizes and cut one-on-one instruction through tutorials and independent studies

at the same time, they are going to raise your tuition

welcome to their new concept

NEIU UPI 4100 Membership

Posters just like this one have been circulating NEIU the past few weeks criticizing the lack of progress in union negotiations and tuition increase

**You need money and we
need production staff.**

Seems like the ideal symbiotic relationship.

E-049

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No Wonder She's Smiling!

- Recently President Sharon Hahs received a 17.1% raise adding \$43,256 to her salary
- What has NEIU's faculty received? This year the administration is offering faculty and staff a 0% raise; and last year, they received 0%. In fact, the last faculty and staff raise—3% in 2008-09—barely covered increases in the cost of living.
- Hahs claims she deserves this whopping raise to keep her salary competitive with other state university presidents in Illinois, while ignoring the fact that NEIU's faculty is among the lowest paid in the state university system.
- While she compares herself to other state university presidents in Illinois, she claims in negotiations with the union that the comparable schools for NEIU faculty are in rural Texas and rural California!
- Whatever happened to:

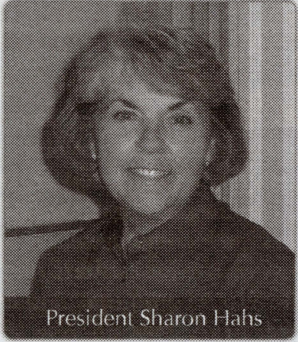
Learn in the CITY, Lead in the World?

- And for the privilege of even considering cost-of-living adjustments to faculty salaries, Hahs insists on increasing class sizes and work-loads.

You're gonna love the new Northeastern!

NEIU Employees for Equity and Integrity

The President's Pen



President Sharon Hahs

Greetings! And I hope the 2010-2011 academic year is going well! I was delighted to be asked by Editor-in-Chief Ivan Favelevic to continue the President's Pen column for the Independent this year. I hope this will be a useful way to enhance communication throughout our busy

campuses.

While I plan to write about topics I think will be of interest to you, I also hope to hear thoughts from you—about columns I've written or about columns you would like to read. In order to facilitate this, we have available a special e-mail account, PresColumn@neiu.edu, where I invite you to submit questions or comments about the column. While I can't promise to answer them all, I will address the most frequent queries in this column and in other venues such as the Town Hall Meetings we have each semester. By the way, I will be hosting the next Town Hall Meeting with Students on Thursday, October 21, at 3:05-4:05 in the Auditorium. I hope many of you will attend.

As we begin a new year, let me re-introduce myself. I like to say that I have been in school since kindergarten—I went to college right after high school, graduate school right after college, started teaching college courses right after my Ph.D., and entered university administration directly from teaching. In college, I was a chemistry major. I had not initially planned to study science, but the experience of my first chemistry course (both the content and the amazing professor) put me on that path. I completed my baccalaureate, masters, and doctorate degrees in chemistry, then I started teaching college chemistry. Over time I became interested in the broader issues of higher education, and I enjoyed helping everyone help students, so I entered administration. I have served as dean and provost, and I came to Northeastern in 2007 as president—a role I am honored to have. My work has been entirely in public (state) universities, and I sincerely believe that they have a critical role in our nation's progress. On a personal level, I am married with two grown daughters and three grandchildren, and am an avid gardener. I share a hobby with my husband of traveling around the world to observe solar eclipses; most recently we visited Easter Island.

Some great things are happening at the University this year. We received three Student Support Services

grants, totaling \$3.3 million dollars over five years, which will enhance advising, academic support, mentoring and cultural activities; four science laboratories were renovated and two new gathering spaces created in the science building to enhance learning and research in the sciences. We are also pleased to report that Northeastern students graduated with the least debt for all Midwest regional universities, with only 16% of the 2009 graduates borrowing for an average total indebtedness of \$10,903. Details of these and other achievements were highlighted in the State of the University Address, posted on the NEIU website under "President's Addresses."

In closing, let me say again that I look forward to your questions and comments. I also look forward to seeing and greeting you around the University. Best wishes for a great year!

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

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Common Cents Leaves Change For Some Continued...

that filing early, recruiting and retaining students, allows for the greatest opportunity to receive federal funding. "Students seem to be more savvy to look for free money," said Amos.

While such trends and information reflect an optimistic approach to educational funding, since federal funding and budget allocations have increased, economic uncertainty still remains.

Recent changes in the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) reflect the recent economic times. For example, the inclusion of "special circumstances" questions allows applicants to indicate if they have "special circumstances" or are "homeless or at risk of being homeless".

Even though such circumstances are taken into account, grasping on to financial aid is still difficult for many. The expected family contribution (EFC) score determines who is eligible for Pell Grants, assigning a score to each individual according to their information. Amos agrees, "the lower the score [the EFC], the more likely it is a student is going to receive more Pell

funding." If students do not fall within the range, then they are not eligible for Pell grant awards.

U.S. News & World Report (2010) ranked NEIU as number one in the country for least amount of debt students incur when they graduate. Factors such as low tuition help in achieving this spotlight. However, despite the comparatively low cost of tuition, the fact is students do accumulate debt through student loans.

Due to the banking crisis, congress has removed banks from the loan process, allowing universities to go directly through the Department of Education for federal loans. This has created competition for alternative private lenders to try to stay involved. However, if students choose to stay with private loans through banking institutions, they become vulnerable to a particular bank's policies.

Amos stressed the importance for students to only "borrow what they need." She adds, "The Stafford loan program is a tremendous opportunity to stay out of debt...there is no credit check and loans are guaranteed."

Despite opportunities for financial assistance for students, and the university, the changes in financial trends have left many cautious overall. The administration is satisfied with its current financial status, however, Hahs underlines that the budget and financial decision making will take a "conservative approach".

Compared to other public Illinois universities, tuition rates have remained conservative in accordance with "financial aid department studies, which use profiling to see if it is possible to raise tuition," Amos said.

Although there will always be a need, for financial aid, it is clear that public institutions, such as NEIU, allow an opportunity for students to receive a quality education backed by financial support. However, this climate is only underlined by the business of education, which in general has been hit hard from all sides of economic change; dispersing change to some, while restricting change for many.

Anticipating Latino Scholars' Contribution to Knowledge in their Disciplines

By Farheen Mashhood

Staff Writer

One of the events organized during the Hispanic Heritage Month was a panel discussion with some of the students of the McNair Scholars Program. Among the panel students were Salvador Montes, Urban Geography major; Pearl Martinez, Bilingual/Bicultural Education major; Juan Ibarra Flores, Sociology/History major. Kim Sanborn, the moderator for the session, gave an introduction explaining what the program was about.

This program helps first generation students from various disadvantage backgrounds an opportunity to pursue their PhDs. Every year, 12 scholars are selected

and prepared for graduation record. They are funded to help in research throughout the states. Questions were asked to each student about the knowledge they would gain in their respective disciplines.

Salvador Montes referred to the focus on resources, whereas Pearl Martinez talked about the funding issues faced by Latino schools due to which there are budget cuts, which leads to programs being cut as well. On the other hand, Juan Ibarra Flores was keen on immigration issues, identity issues and [force migration] issues faced by Latino community. Martinez said, "If teachers are not exposed to different cultures and diversities then it becomes a problem. They should be mandated to take cultural classes, or professional development classes, so that they have

cultural exposure." She also explained further the importance of role models, played by teachers, in Latino communities. Through teacher's motivation and leadership skills children of low minorities can excel better in subjects such as math and science.

The session ended with a light moment about the differentiation among the Latino and Hispanic cultures, because many people don't know that they are different. The direct descendants from Spain or Europe are called Hispanic, whereas Latino is from Mexico or Porto Rico.

NEIU's Learning Center

By Zac Schon

Staff Writer

Part of being a student is learning when to ask for help, which is not a sign of weakness. Every professor and administrator asks, so with that being said, the mature thing to do is to go to someone that can help, or at least point you in the right direction. At NEIU, Katherine Gleiss is the person of interest as she is the coordinator of the Learning Center on the fourth floor of the library.

Gleiss has worked and refined methods for helping students develop skills essential to not only succeeding as students, but succeeding in places where being professional and mature are prerequisites. Gleiss focuses on student's behavior, skills and attitude to get them through college, as these skills are not taught in public high schools and many students do not come to the university level with these intangibles already engrained in their heads.

Gleiss has years of experience in fields related to youth, such as previous work in a halfway home for the juvenile

justice system, the department of corrections in St. Charles High School, and a few others to have a well rounded resume for helping youth.

It is important to understand that NEIU is not just another college or the cheaper college, but rather when passing through the doors one is essentially entering the "Gateway to opportunity," as Gleiss said. Part of finding this opportunity for success means students utilizing what their tuition pays for, which is the help of the Learning Center, and the lack of utilization of this resource is one of the concerns for Gleiss. Asking for help is not a degrading process, nor does it make one stupid, which, as she paraphrased, are the basic misconceptions of why students don't come to get the help they need, it is essentially a part of being a good student. If you would like help, please stop by the fourth floor of the library and find one of the tutors that are employed by Gleiss, or talk to her yourself.

Photo taken by Tracey Washington



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Editorial

We at the Independent consider ourselves a student newspaper. We are a student run organization where every story we publish is aimed at student interests in the university. However, recent indicatives by the NEIU faculty have geared our attention towards the lack of progress in union negotiations.

As many students may have noticed, several flyers have been posted throughout the school attacking President Hahs. They advertise her base salary to be \$296,000 and comment on the zero percent increase in faculty salary in two years. The flyers claim that the current faculty salary does not match the cost of living in the city.

For those of you who are unaware, the various faculty unions have been bargaining for the past two years, trying to receive some level of increase to their salary to match the increased cost of living in Chicago.

Anyone who attended the recent state of the university address was witness to the aggravation the faculty currently has against President Hahs and the administration as a whole. Rumors are floating around about harsher measures than the aforementioned flyers taking place if there is no progress in the near future.

Although the student body is fully aware of the situation, we would not be had our professors not spoken out. This situation further alienates the administration from the rest of the university.

It is doubtful that there is a single student out there who wishes against the faculty in this situation. We can see injustice where it is present and if the information that has been leaked is true, then the faculty have been treated unjustly for far too long.

While we as students have very little power over the administrative powers that be, our professors have spoken and we demand action. There is a clear demoralizing sentiment running through the faculty and we fear the worse. Despite the back and forth with the administration and faculty, if the faculty takes any further action it will be the students who suffer in the end.

Why the American Education System Falls into the Obsolete Category

Nationalizing High Schools Would Mean Less Work in College

By Vasilka Atanasova
Senior Staff Writer

Nowadays, traditions are not what they were. One good thing that emerged with time though, and has been valued in every culture, is respect of education. The most important pillar in one society today is its enlightenment.

Every nation has developed national educational standards, grades one to twelve, as this is the staple of a society. The US though, pretending to be a world leader, has not. Scholars compile data on a national level, talk and debate on national literacy statistics, asking why tens of millions of Americans are illiterate and why high school students graduate unprepared for college? The US government spends more per pupil on elementary and high school than any other country, yet it is behind most of them.

Every year the US keeps investing money in public high schools and then grant money to community colleges for developmental courses. This vicious cycle needs to be eliminated. Children all around the world take general education courses in high school. The US system should not be different; it should follow the example of countries with high literacy rates and national programs, and change.

After intensive research, pedagogues and scientists from different areas have determined which subjects should be taught at the different levels. I have always had in mind that the school system is well developed and organized for each grade's programs. The educational systems in many countries are systematized in strict national programs, valid and obligatory for all children aged between 7 and 16.

Take Germany for example, even though the main responsibility for the educational system lies with the states, a multi-state agreement ensures that basic national requirements are met. If you drop out of high school in Germany, you must enroll in a special school that teaches the same subjects at a slower pace. There is no other way of obtaining your high school diploma.

In the US, you have the option of taking a GED

exam. This is how children lose the connection with school, what it means to go to school every day and sit down and read or solve math problems. Thinking they can pass a GED test, in their minds, undervalues the school as an institution.

A high school dropout crisis in the US poses one of the biggest threats to the nation's competitiveness and economic growth. How do we address 7,000 students dropping out of high school every day and only about 70 percent graduating with a regular high school diploma? Clearly, it will not be easy, but one of the first steps must be implementing national programs. Those programs should define standards that put American children on equal ground with students around the world, because today, most American high school students do not come out of school ready to compete on the world stage.

Children around the world take college level algebra, trigonometry, psychology, physics and other general education courses in high school, not in college. In Illinois, for example in Algebra, students graduating from high school are required to know how to solve quadratic equations with one variable. In Europe, you are required to know this in ninth or tenth grade and before you graduate, you have to know how to solve equations and systems in two variables. Someone here is trying to convince us that Americans cannot learn this at the age of 15, but can at 19 or 20 when they go to college? Instead of taking these general education classes in college, students could be taking higher-level courses and stop wasting money and time for something they could have learned in high school.

National programs would bring more fairness and equal opportunities to all children around the country. Implementing these must be done with students' success in mind, thus, legislators need to clearly see that for American kids to be able to compete in a global society, they have to be prepared for college. Consequently, general education courses have to be a part of high school requirement. College is called higher education intentionally, because we take education to another level.

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If You Don't Want Homosexuals, Then Don't Call it "the Service"

By Sean Lynch
Senior Staff Writer

True or False? Homosexuality is a part of society. Unless your name is Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and you live in Iran, the answer is true. America is a society for all individuals, homosexuals included. We are here! We are queer! Now give us our rights, America!

On Tuesday, Sept 21, the senate turned down the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT) policy, a law that was created to prohibit actively enrolled members of the military from disclosing their homosexual or bisexual orientation, as well as prohibiting such individuals who are open about their sexuality from enlisting.

Military discrimination against homosexuals is long withstanding in American history, but the DADT policy is fairly recent. It was enacted by President Clinton in 1993 as a compromise to allow homosexuals to enlist. As long as they did not tell anyone about their sexuality, they were allowed to remain.

Supposedly DADT was enacted to ensure cohesion amongst military personnel, as homosexuals will cause disruption amongst the ranks and make heterosexuals uncomfortable. To that I say, what says cohesion more than a group of members who are of various eth-

nicities, religions, genders and political parties? If the military is so worried about cohesion, then why does it not mirror the military of Nazi Germany, as it was comprised of individuals who were exactly the same. They certainly did not have to worry about conflict based upon an individual's background.

The American military, however, is nothing like that of the Nazis. In fact, the American military has made great strides to diversify. African-Americans and women are two prime examples of minorities that were not allowed to enlist, but have since been found to be as capable recruits as Caucasians and men. If it has been found that these groups can be invaluable members of the service, then why is it that homosexuals are still under speculation?

One of the reasons that repealing DADT has become such a big deal recently (other than popstar Lady Gaga leading a campaign) is the increasing practice of the military outing homosexuals. While the policy states that individuals will be discharged if they publicly announce that they are homosexual or bisexual, the military, as of late, has been essentially searching for them. Cases such as Lissa Young, a 48 year old former pilot, who was discharged in 2003, are becoming more frequent. Not only did Young not announce her

sexuality to a superior, but she did not even state it. Her orientation was found when her private email was searched.

This surge in outing military personnel is even more alarming given that America is still at war. I would think, since our country is stationing troops overseas in other countries, and we no longer have a draft, that it would make sense to have as many soldiers fighting for us as we can. Apparently this is not the case. In 2006, Sergeant Bleu Copas was discharged from the military after one of his private emails was read. Copas had one of the most crucial positions for our current war: Arab linguist. Personally, If I was at war in a country with a language so different from my own that everything sounds like a swear word, I would not care about my translators orientation, as long as he can converse and keep me alive.

DADT is a policy that desperately needs to be repealed. It is fundamentally un-American in that it does not guarantee equal rights to all. It is time to accept the fact that being a homosexual makes you no less of a soldier than being female, Asian or Jewish. Homosexuality is not a choice, discriminating against homosexuals is.

Represent Yourself!

By Cathleen Schandelmeier-Bartels
Staff Writer

"Everyone knows that politicians in Illinois are corrupt," a friend of mine from Florida once dismissively said to me with a sigh. My heart skipped a beat, and I felt a fist clench inside of me in anger at those words because I do not believe that is true. I know it is hard to trust after having been burned by such a bumbling boy as Blagojevitch, but like a bad break-up, it is time for Illinois voters to move on. While I know that every decision I have made in life has not been 100% perfect, it is good to know I am in such good company with others in the state of Illinois who vote. Regardless, I continue to take a chance, suit up, show up and cast my ballot. It was not always that way. When I was an undergraduate student who had earned the right to vote, I decided who I liked the best in the election, then went to a party. I did not vote until

my son, Vincent, was born. I finally thought I had best take an active role in shaping the society he was born into. I believe it is my right, and my responsibility, to make a difference in the world for the better through my actions, therefore I have worked very hard as a poet and a playwright to shape the world into an ideal one where all people are accepted as one people: with transparent souls and open hearts. I have worked to create a multi-cultural world of positive attitudes, where there is no child abuse or violence. As a result of that work, I have been named an Outstanding Leader in Peace (the Peace Museum, 1994), earned a Certificate of Leadership in Racial Justice (The YWCA in DuPage County, 1994), was named one of the 100 Women Making a Difference in Chicago (by Today's Chicago Woman Foundation, 1998) and earned the Jane Addams Scholarship to attend NEIU in 2008. This responsibility to impact the world for the better includes my vote. There are as many ways to research

an official running for office as there are Google hits for Gandhi, (26,300,000 versus Blagojevitch's 3,000,000) but personally, I like to compare what the "Chicago Sun Times," the Illinois Education Association, the Chicago Tribune, the League of Women Voters and the Bull of Kitty HaHa recommend. (just checking to see if you are paying attention). To say I voted for Bill Clinton and Obama is one thing, to suggest I voted for Rod Blagojevitch is another. I researched my candidates, drew a conclusion that was right for me, walked over to my local polling place and cast my vote. This might seem a simple thing to do, but to many people the right to vote is so taken for granted that they do not bother. Yes, the election will go on without you, but it is essential for every vote to count, and we cannot do that equitably without voters. Only you know what is in your own best interests. Represent yourselves, NEIU!

The Not So "Imperial" Mayor Daley

By Syed Ahad Hussain
Senior Staff Writer

Mayor Daley, who was first elected on April 4, 1989, was since re-elected five times, according to the City of Chicago website. On Sept 7 he announced that he will not run again for the 2011 election, as his term will end in May, 2011.

Mayor Daley's notable achievements include the construction of Millennium Park to make the city more "environmentally friendly," according to the City of Chicago website, and he took over the Chicago Public Schools and formed a new management team who set strict academic criteria, which resulted in satisfactory academic progress and a decrease in drop-out ratios. He also created new and improved safety measures for the schools, as well as building forty-one new schools in Chicago, according to the City of Chicago website.

On the other hand, he also created the "hired truck program," which was revealed by the "Chicago Sun Times" series of three investigative articles, published in Jan 2004, to not only be a failed project, but also corrupted. The "Chicago Sun Times" report says that trucking companies, in a \$40 million-a-year city of Chicago program, were just paid to do nothing. Also revealed in the articles was the involvement of the mafia and the practice of bribery and favoritism to get into the "hired truck program." The Daley family's own involvement in the corruption was indicated by the subsequent investigative articles, as it was Mayor Daley's brother Richard P. Daley who sold insurance to the trucking companies. The report says that Daley's 11th ward power-base companies got almost 25 percent of hired truck program money. \$108,575 in campaign contributions were taken by the mayor himself, who continues to defend the program and refused to take the blame, according to the "Chicago Sun Times" article 'Clout on Wheels.'

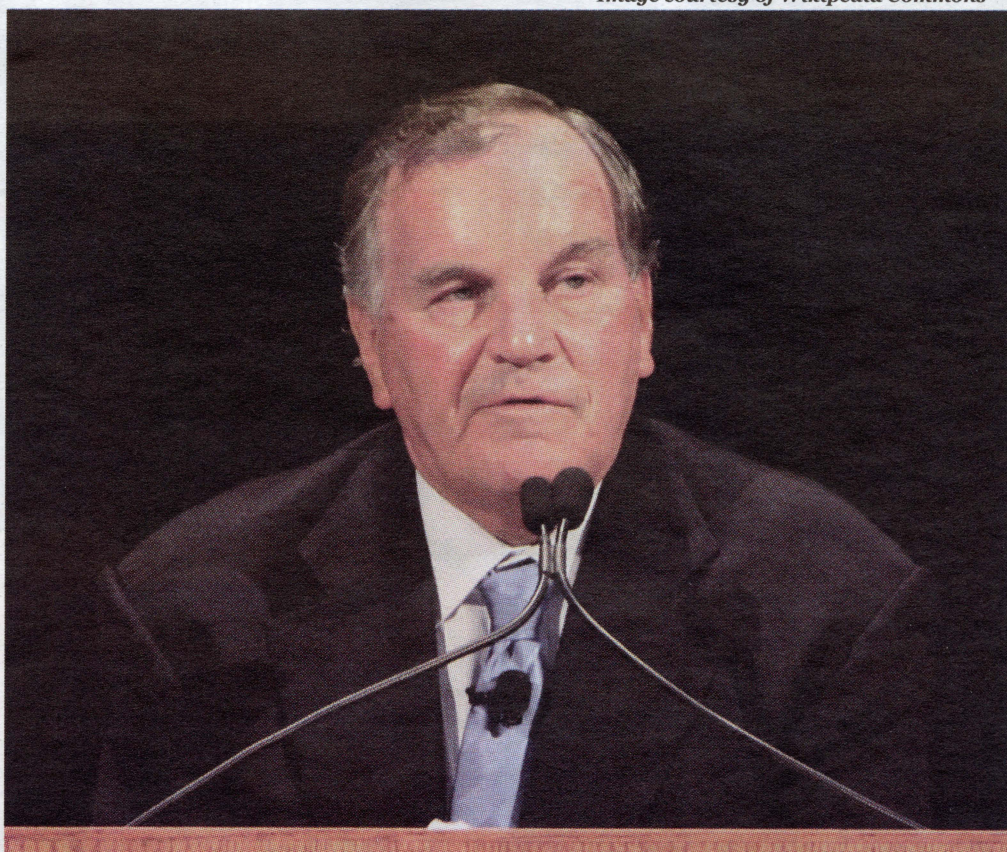
This clearly indicates the corrupt practices of the city's government in this era of current economic downfall. The program was initiated to benefit the Chicago taxpayers by saving tax money, but because of the government officials' corrupt practices it became a hurdle in the city's economic development, causing students to struggle to make ends meet with tuition fees with little or no financial aid grants or employment.

Mayor Daley has failed in his attempt to benefit taxpayers and stabilize the economy, with the leasing of parking meters to the global financing firm Morgan Stanley for the next 75 years as detailed on the City of Chicago

website, in turn increased parking meter rates. Also, Daley's modernization of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) resulted in increased fare, reduced service hours and several layoffs of CTA employees.

Daley has done enough damage to Chicago; it is not surprising to hear that he will not run again. I would rather live in a city without a park than live hand-to-mouth to survive and educate myself. It is the economy which needs to be human friendly first, not the environment.

Image courtesy of Wikipedia Commons



Give Us the Facts

By Jeff Dutton
Staff Writer

There is something seriously wrong with our news media today. Whether you are a ninth year senior or a first year freshman, in a relatively short period of time the world beckons beyond these university walls. This world, which awaits your ideas, insights and talents, contains no shortage of issues and challenges for our generation to face. Just a brief moment of reflection allows one to generate a fairly extensive list: two foreign wars, a slow recovery from a great recession, environmental degradation, dwindling resources, ballooning national debt, terrorism, political gridlock and the list goes on. As we obtain our college educations and prepare to face the challenges that meet us in the world, it is imperative that we have the tools necessary to do so. One of the most important tools I can think of in rising to meet these challenges is accurate information, for we cannot have honest and open discussion and debate on these issues without knowing the facts surrounding the matter. This brings me to the topic of the news media, where most, if not all, of us get our information regarding the issues of the day. The role that the news media plays

in setting the tone of public discourse is immense, but what type of reporting is being provided to us from this important, eminent source of information? Ideally one would be able to turn to the news medium of their choice and find a wealth of articles and newscasts providing detailed, accurate, unbiased information regarding the facts surrounding today's most pressing issues. My own experience as a news junkie tells me that this is not the case, but I decided to review the news to see what is being reported. My review began with the front page of the Sunday edition of one of Chicago's two major newspapers and ended with a channel surfing session through the world of cable news. The results of my review were disappointing, yet not at all surprising. On the front page of the Sunday edition newspaper, the largest edition of the paper printed during the week, the most prominent story was an article discussing how today's young adults have packs of friends, instead of a singular best friend. As for my perusing of cable news, the most prominent stories I found being discussed were about a reality TV star from a show about a certain East Coast shore being an alcoholic, and a story about landslides in a foreign country. While the landslide story is indeed newsworthy, I cannot help but wonder why stories about a reality TV

star, or young people's social circles, deserve such prominence with all that is happening in the world. It seems as though, regardless of the serious issues that challenge these times, our news media is bent on sensationalism; printing and airing stories that appeal to the MTV generation and capture the attention of the all important young adult marketing demographic with tabloid-esque fodder. Facts about the fiscal policy our government is taking during these tough economic times, the happenings in our two war zones and the science behind the notion of climate change are seemingly not the main focus of our news media, and this is disconcerting. Yet, the news media is not the only entity to blame for this sad state of journalism. The newspapers and cable news outlets must turn a profit to survive, and apparently sensationalism sells. Some of the blame falls on us, the general public, for so willingly accepting this tabloid reporting as desirable news and not demanding journalism that reports the facts on the most pressing issues of the day. If the state of journalism today concerns you, stop and think before you buy a newspaper with a sensational headline and begin to invest your hard earned money in media outlets that bring you quality journalism and relevant news.

MSNBC NTH TELEVISION NEWSPAPERS
BET FOXNEWS CNN CSPAN
CBS ABC MTV VH1
TRIBUNE SUN-TIMES

OCTOBER 2010 STUDENT UNION CALENDAR OF EVENTS

RUMBA STRESS BUSTER
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH
1:40PM TO 2:40PM
EAGLES' NEST
COME DOWN TO THE EAGLES' NEST TO
RELIEVE SOME TENSION WITH RUMBA!

POETRY OPEN MIC
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19TH
1:40PM TO 2:40PM
EAGLES' NEST
YOU CAN SAY IT AND DISPLAY IT AT THE
POET'S CORNER!

NEIU SPIRIT WEEK
OCTOBER 25TH - 28TH
OCT 25TH - REGISTRATION
OCT 27TH - OLDIES BUT GOODIES
OCT 28TH - COSTUME & PUMPKIN CARVING CONTEST
OCT 28TH - CARIBBEAN DANCE DEMO & TATTOO ARTIST
OCT 29TH - CHILD CARE HAUNTED HOUSE

STUDENT SHOWCASE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21ST
1:40PM TO 2:40PM
EAGLES' NEST
MATT VON MOSS PERFORMING

CARIBBEAN DANCE DEMO
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH
3:00PM TO 4:00PM
EAGLES' NEST
THE CHI-CARIBENA DANCE TROUPE VISITS
NEIU AND WILL PERFORM AND ENTERTAIN!

CHILD CARE HAUNTED HOUSE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29TH
CHILD CARE CENTER'S ANNUAL HAUNTED
HOUSE! CONTACT A-CAMACHO@NEIU.EDU
FOR MORE INFORMATION

NETBOOK CHECKOUT

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

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Arts & Life

Entertainment & Features

NORTHEASTERN SHOWCASES STUDENT TALENT

By Sean Lynch
Senior Staff Writer

NEIU held its annual talent show this past Thursday to a crowded audience in the auditorium. While this year's show improved in several areas over last year, like emcee Arick Lockhart's amazing job hosting, it lacked in one very critical category: talent.

Each audience participant was given a double sided sign that read "!! LIGHTS OUT !! Try again next year!!" and "!! LET IT SHINE !! YOU'RE A STAR!!" Pamphlets, which listed all of the performers, immediately informed the audience of a lack of diversity, since one could speculate that singing is the only talent NEIU has to offer.

Although there were non-musical acts, they were far fewer than those consisting of singing and acting; in fact, every award this year went to musical acts. With 19 performers, one would expect to see more than five that didn't incorporate song in some way.

Sadly, many of the music acts weren't even good enough to justify their heavy numbers. For instance, a contestant who sang a Spanish cover of Robbie Williams' "Angel" ruined one of the greatest pop songs of the 90s. The only crime worse than that is the recycled 90s prom dress she wore while performing.

The worst performance, however, had to go to the cover of Queen's "We Are the Champions." While the audience had been conservative with the "!! LIGHTS OUT !!" side of their signs, the singer's bedroom karaoke performance changed this. It was especially sad since, prior to her performance, an original standup comedy routine that ran over the four-minute time limit was cut short (something that one could only wish had happened to the Queen performance).

Also performing in the talent show were two female impersonators. While the argument could be made that this is a talent, it's perhaps not best showcased with performers that actually sing, but rather at, as audience member Miguel

Salgado suggested, "Tuesday night at Roscoe's." Poorly moving your lips to a song and thrashing your body and fake hair about may be entertaining, but it doesn't compare much to a powerful performance with substance.

However, there were some amazing performances that got justly awarded. The award for "Most Unusual Act" went to Sevan Loughran for his original song "Beyond Problems," which criticized commercialism, globalization and British Petroleum specifically as he had two BP canisters on stage during his charged performance.

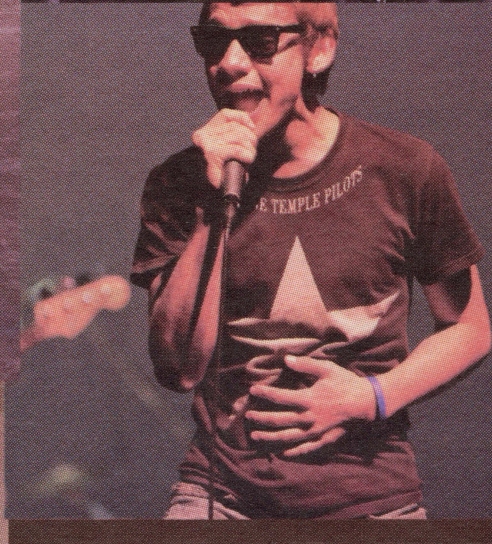
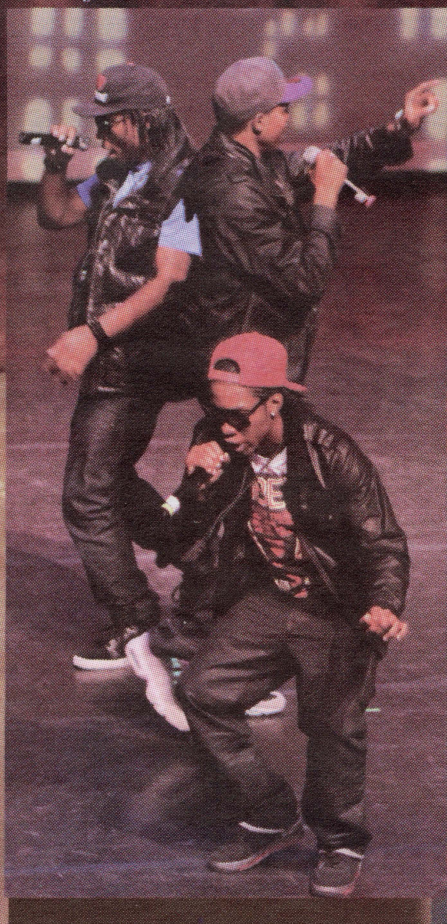
Matthew Hayes was given an honorable mention for his genius mash up of Oasis's "Wonderwall" and "Airplanes" by B.O.B., which received a standing ovation from the crowd.

Xavier Rios gave perhaps the most emotional performance of the night, singing "El Triste." Rios started out a cappella and then switched to playing piano, all the while remaining composed and controlling his voice. He was hands down the best contemporary vocalist of the night, warranting him third place, as well as a huge crowd reaction.

Second place went to the last act of the night, The Young Heavies, a rap group whose rap "Super Swag" received loud screams from many of the female audience members. The group used the stage better than any act that night and had such tremendous energy that even the show's emcee got on stage and danced.

The honor of first place went to talent show veteran Aldo Perrelli, whose performance of the "Aria of Conte Partiro" proved that appreciation for classical music isn't dead. While it wasn't the most unique act, it proved that talent isn't doing something new—it's doing something well.

Photos by Tamara Susa



IN THIS ISSUE....

GREG BERLANTI TALKS WITH THE INDEPENDENT
HALO REACH REVIEW
OUT ON A SCHOOL NIGHT

From top to bottom; Second place winners Young Heavies perform, student hopeful Samantha Lento entertains for the crowd, "Two-Ton Hammer" preforms with Dylan Woelfe on vocals.

Exclusive interview with 'Life as We Know It' director Greg Berlanti

By Dulce Arroyo
Arts & Life Editor

Director, writer and producer Greg Berlanti was recently in Chicago to promote his upcoming romantic comedy, "Life as We Know It", starring Katherine Heigl and Josh Duhamel. Sitting comfortably in a room at the Four Seasons Hotel downtown, Berlanti shared tidbits about his years at Northwestern Illinois University, his filming experience and the lessons learned along the way.

For Berlanti, theater and writing have always been his life's passions.

"I went to the Steppenwolf Theater when I was in high school to see an adaption of 'The Grapes of Wrath' by Frank Galati," he said. "I loved it so much that I cried; it was then that I knew I wanted to make something just as beautiful."

Berlanti kept the ticket in his wallet, where it still remains today, and was inspired to study under Galati's tutelage.

"He was a professor at Northwestern, but it took me three years to finally have the courage to talk to him," said Berlanti. "So one day, I went up to him and said 'I came to this school to study [and] write with you,' and we took a walk and talked for hours."

With the help of Galati, Berlanti adapted Moss Hart's "Act One: An Autobiography" during his senior year. The play was then read in a theater in Chicago and made its way to Los Angeles, launching Berlanti into his present day career.

His college interests besides directing, however, also involved fraternity life.

"I was on the homecoming court senior year, but since the guys at Delta Tau Delta would only mess with you if something good happened to you, they

got me when they found out," said Berlanti, laughing as he recalled the memory. "I loved college—I was one of those freshmen that didn't want to be home on Thanksgiving weekend. There's just no better time to be thrust into something new and exciting."

As the creator/executive producer of the WB's series "Everwood" and co-writer of "Dawson's Creek," Berlanti became well-rounded in the teen genre. He then transitioned into more adult material like the film based on his life, "The Broken Hearts Club," about young gay friends living in West Hollywood.

Berlanti's experience in writing and film-making changed in some ways and remained constant in others.

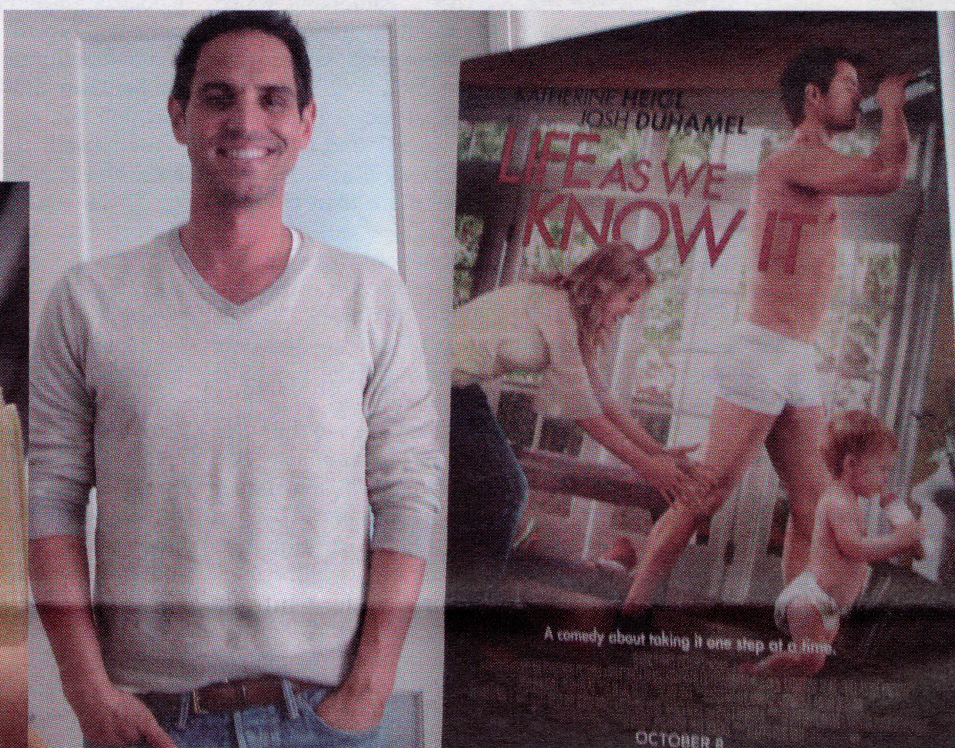
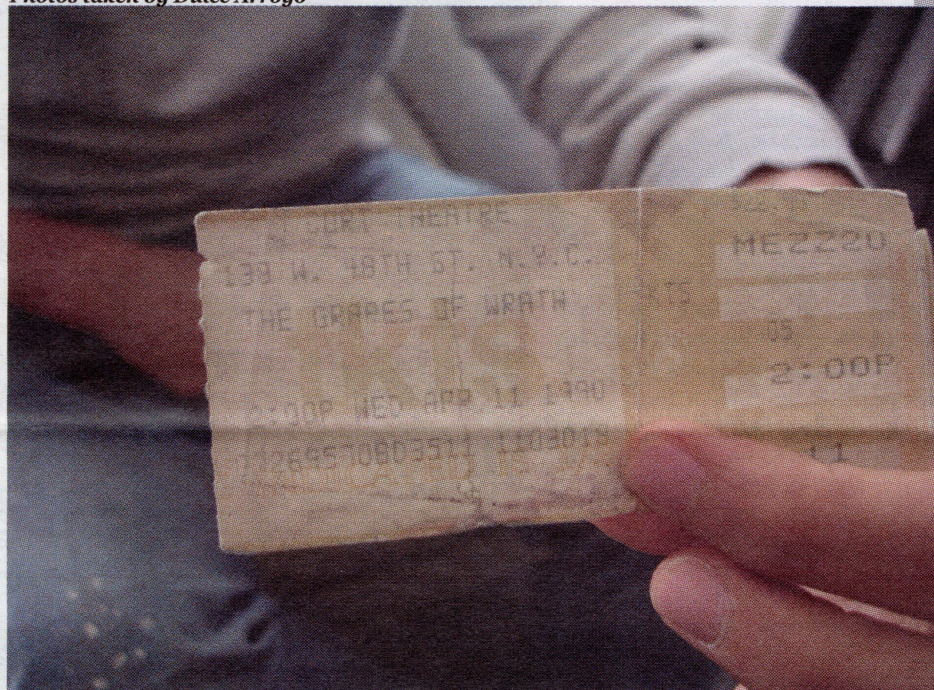
"As the director, you're the first and last person to be on set," he said. "You're challenged with responsibilities like the time pressure element, and you have to premeditate what you're going to do. But the best part about it is that as a conductor, you translate the story for the audience, and as the writer, you're finally on set in the creative and social process."

It is with experimentation of genres that he attributes his never-ending learning process.

"I encourage people to really try as many different things as possible—the more you push yourself, the more you learn," said Berlanti. "You just have to have tenacity and love what you're doing, or else you'll give up. There are going to be a lot of setbacks, but don't listen to anyone except yourself."

Besides directing "Life As We Know It", opening on Oct. 8, Berlanti is also a co-writer and producer of "Green Lantern," which comes out next year.

Photos taken by Dulce Arroyo



From left to right: Berlanti shows the ticket that's been in his wallet since 1990, Berlanti stands by the poster of his upcoming romantic comedy, "Life As We Know It"

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Students will be invited via e-mail to share feedback about their experiences at Northeastern Illinois University in an online survey to be conducted between:

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Halo: Reach Review

By Ivan Favelevic
Editor-in Chief

Over the past decade, Bungie has treated us to one of the most loved and respected franchises in video game history. The *Halo* series has solidified itself as a catalyst in the console shooter movement, implementing design choices that have quickly become standard in the genre.

Halo: Reach is the final Bungie developed installment in the series, and they made sure it was their magnum opus.

As a prequel to the original *Halo*, the game follows Noble team in their efforts to defend planet Reach from the Covenant invasion. Introductions for each character are brief, and rarely do you see any emotion come out from their hollow canvases. While the attempt to give each member of Noble team a personality is clear, they still end up becoming faceless space marines fighting for the cause.

However, the interesting part of *Halo: Reach*'s storyline is that you know you are fighting a battle that's already lost. Any self-respecting *Halo* fan knows the fate of Reach, and the game still makes sure newcomers understand they will not make it out unscathed. Nonetheless, the story does create some jaw-dropping set pieces that truly capture the scale of a planetary alien invasion; you will always feel like a small part of a much larger conflict. Thankfully, *Reach* manages to struggle out a narrative that, while still lacking in character development, gives a more compelling reason to fight for humanity.

Game play has remained largely unchanged throughout the series and *Reach* is no exception. But the addition of armor abilities shifts the tide of battle, adding a new layer of strategy for *Halo* veterans to uncover. These range from something simple, like a sprint mechanic, to making a hologram of your character in order

to confuse enemies. They are definitely an appreciated addition.

Another feature for which the franchise has gained recognition for is its multiplayer option, and, once again, Bungie has delivered.

A couple of new game modes have been added to the almost overflowing amount already present, the most noted of which is Invasion. Invasion matches are multi-round games where an attacking team needs to achieve certain objectives to destroy the defending team's base. Cooperation is key in these matches, in which an unorganized team can be taken down within a few minutes. There is a variable known as Invasion Slayer, where the objectives that have to be taken are constantly on the move and the roles of defender and attacker become extremely ambiguous.

The amount of modifications that can be applied to each match are staggering, and at times, harkens back to the days of *Goldeneye* for the Nintendo 64; it is simply that kind of unadulterated fun. Housing one of the deepest and most varied game creation options, *Halo Reach* makes sure you are getting your money's worth.

Finally, one cannot talk about *Halo* without mentioning the soundtrack. Composer Marty O'Donnell has outdone himself with an appropriately epic, yet somehow subdued, score that fits the mood of the game perfectly. And the fact that the world around you is slowly being destroyed does opt for a much more somber atmosphere than the other *Halo* games are able to achieve.

Halo Reach is without a doubt the best game in the series. It combines the best aspects of previous games, and stands as a testament of how much the developers have grown over the past decade. The game has been polished to a shine, and the multiplayer has content to keep anyone busy for months. This is definitely a must-buy for fans of the series.

OUT ON A SCHOOL NIGHT Enjoy pasta and homemade cookies at Panes Bread Café



By Dulce Arroyo
Arts & Life Editor

If you're in the mood for comfort food, look no further than Panes Bread Café on 3002 N. Sheffield Ave. (between Nelson and Wellington). The menu ranges from lunch meals, like salads and sandwiches, to yummiest dinner items, like various pastas and homemade pizzas.

The café is a small place, and it's easy to pass by if you're in a hurry. Random art pieces cover every wall, along with some certificates awarded to the café for its food. There is a warm, mellow atmosphere inside that not only comes from the decorations, but also the welcoming staff.

Appetizers include stuffed mushrooms, humus con pan (served with garlic, parsley and toasted bread) and chicken quesadillas. For the vegetarians, you can choose from the fresh salads menu, which includes the tortilla salad (mixed greens with crispy tortilla strips), portabella, potato salad and spinach salad. But if you enjoy some meat in your salad, like I do, healthy options include the grilled feta chicken or turkey salad.

The sandwiches are also made fresh daily, but make no mistake—these are no flimsy Subway ones. The only problem here, however, is choosing from over a dozen delicious options. Ranging from \$5-\$6, the sandwich menu contains

items like the Veggie Cabra, Todo Italiano, Sloppy Pollo, Spicy Philly and Oaxacan Pork.

For evening dining, Panes offers pasta that comes in big bowls for those who stay to eat. My choice was the Smoky Penne, a decision I did not regret due to the sensational combination of chicken, mushrooms and smoked cream sauce in my bowl. But it wasn't an easy decision to make; other options that I dwelled upon included the Baked Macaroni, Greek Pasta and the Fusilli (whose tempting description of cork screw pasta with grilled vegetables, olive oil and mozzarella cheese will have me going back).

But make sure to save room for dessert. Their popular Monster Cookie is truly a unique treat; the cookie's dough is purposefully baked to come out with a crazy texture and contains bits of chocolate. Other homemade pastries and cookies are also available to customers with a sweet tooth.

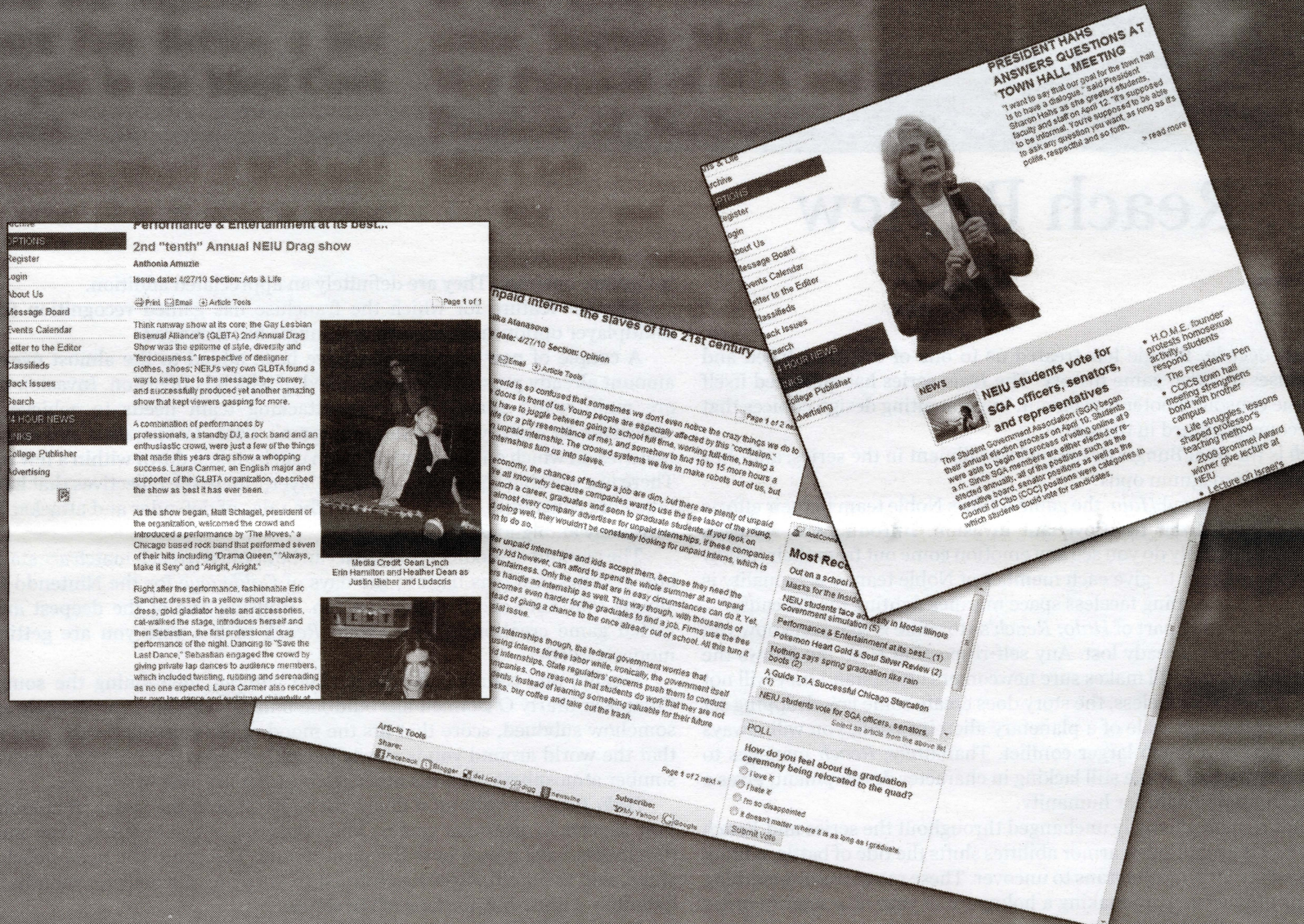
If Italian restaurants are too cliché for that special date, venture out to Panes. The café looks especially nice at night, when the lights are dimmed and the food looks extra tastier. But if you're looking for a romantic night in, it also offers take-out.

Panes is open Monday-Saturday from 10am-10pm, and Sunday from 9am-9pm.

Independent

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True Vine at NEIU! Join us for Bible study. Contact: Matt Groters at 1(630)-261-5991 or truevineclub@yahoo.com for more details.

seeds. Literary Arts Journal needs you! Editors, writers, marketing and more. Contact Janean L Watkins at J-Watkins@neiu.edu

Attention any HOCKEY players at NEIU!! If interested in starting a competitive club, contact Bryan Geras at (847) 894-9975

Art Club Meeting - Tuesday, September 14th 5:30pm to 6:30pm in FA114. If you cannot make it but wish to be involved, email us at neiu.art@gmail.com

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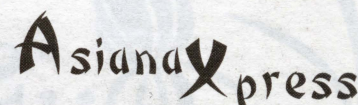
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THE SOCIAL NETWORK REVIEW

"The Social Network transcends any stereotypes thrown its way by being a movie not about the mere creation of Facebook, but in itself a social commentary on the frail relationships one builds on this website and how much we strive to make them seem real."

By Ivan Favelevic
Editor in Chief

Known by many as the Facebook movie, "The Social Network" has made waves as the supposed retelling of the creation of Facebook and the subsequent lawsuits against its creator, Mark Zuckerberg. However, to simply shrug off this movie as another misunderstood genius tale would completely miss the point. The Social Network transcends any stereotypes thrown its way by being a movie not about the mere creation of Facebook, but in itself a social commentary on the frail relationships one builds on this website and how much we strive to make them seem real.

"The Social Network" recounts the story of Mark Zuckerberg and Eduardo Saverin, two Harvard sophomores who created the social networking revolution. After creating a website called Facemash, in which visitors were told to rate two girls based solely on looks, and crashing the Harvard servers, Zuckerberg gains the attention of two members of the school crew team, Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss. They want to use his programming skills to create a "Harvard Connection", a social networking site exclusive to Harvard students. Zuckerberg then

supposedly uses this idea to create Facebook. The story is told through a series of flashbacks while Zuckerberg and his attorney try to defend themselves from the lawsuits pressed upon him by the Winklevoss twins and Eduardo Saverin.

When a movie bases its story on true events, there are bound to be some dramatic freedoms taken by the writer, and "The Social Network" is no exception. However, most movies based on true events are made decades after the event in question, making sure anyone who could have anything to do with said event is either dead or does not remember every detail. The events in this film occurred seven years ago, assuring that those mentioned will be very vocal about the inaccuracies. With that said, do not take "The Social Network" as a literal retelling of the creation of Facebook.

Dramatizing the story does lead to some exaggerated characters. For example, Mark Zuckerberg (played brilliantly by Jesse Eisenberg) is portrayed as a social loner, someone who is unsure of his pursuits and creates Facebook as a means of gaining attention. To imagine the real Zuckerberg as such an aloof personality seems strange, but in the context of this story it makes his actions seem more plausible. The same can be said for Justin Timberlake's character, Sean Parker, who cruises around life as an Internet

genius looking for his next big break. If one were to run into these characters in real life, sympathy would go out the window, but in the context of the film it all makes perfect sense. Friendships are broken and backs are stabbed, all happening on a very thin veil of trust. The similarities to the dynamics of the website are obvious.

On its surface, "The Social Network" is a movie about computer programming and the rise of the youngest billionaire of our time. However, when crafted with the talent of David Fincher (Fight Club, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button) and Aaron Sorkin (The West Wing), it keeps you engaged until the very end. An extremely smart script coupled with the soft tones and atmosphere created by Fincher ensures that this movie is a treat to be had. Not to mention an amazing soundtrack by Trent Reznor that sets the mood throughout the entire film.

Whether or not you have jumped into the social whirlpool that is Facebook, this film still has all of the necessary ingredients to make a great movie. Strong characters, a finely crafted story and, in the end, a lesson to be learned. Don't be afraid to log into "The Social Network." You might just like it more than you expected.

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SPORTS

How We Can Improve The Cubs

By Zac Schon
Staff Writer

I don't remember the first time I made it to the Friendly Confines as I was only concerned with playing videogames as a child and was unappreciative of things given to me, but I do remember going to games in the late 80's and later. Upon reflecting on the past, the Cubs have always been sort of good, which is followed by really good, back to sort of good, and in a few instances, such as this year, just awful. Yet every year since ticket sales have been online, I have been in my room at 9 a.m. ready to buy tickets through both my laptop and my desktop. Despite the two computer method (you cannot have two windows to buy open at the same time), I still wind up with games against the punching bags of the National League instead of seeing Albert Pujols or Johan Santana play on the field known for its ivy.

But as with each year, the team fizzles out. The Cubs lack any sort of consistency. They buy expensive stars who fail to produce, trade away fan favorites for two pitching prospects (the Cubs have one of the richest sets of minor league pitching prospects next to the Yankees), or put out a team of fresh twenty year olds who were bussing tables two months ago and sell them as a major league team. So why are we watching these lovable losers?

Good question. Now before the Sox fans begin to start jumping on their chairs at a Cubs fan admitting his team sucks, remember your teams' fan base was lower than the balance of the average college student's checking before your team won the World Series, and most of your bandwagon fans have come back to Wrigley. Now that my throat is cleared and the table is set, the solution to the Cubs' problems does not come through the death of a goat hung from Harry Caray's statue outside the park, an exorcist, or some other form of mysticism; it relies on forcing the Cubs to be a proper business.

Sports teams are franchises, not services to the community. They have great success at making money by making people identify with the team by attaching a city or a state's name to it. The team essentially becomes part of the identity of the citizens of the area. If you don't think this is true, look up the stories of bar violence between rival college fans who never attended the school. The identity of being from a certain city is enough for someone to get stabbed in the liver or some other mob violence. Within the fibers of these people's very being, fandom is engrained into their mind and identity, though proximity works wonders on those that are looking for it.

Chicago has these concepts very well engrained, as Wrigley is the second oldest major league baseball stadium in America, has years of baseball history, and is a strong identifier with who you are based upon your Northside/Southside alliance. The Cubs represent a form of heritage and something you're supposed to do as a Northsider. By becoming a piece of the cultural landscape of Chicago, the Cubs have evaded the responsibilities of having to perform quality service as most businesses must do to stay in business. Essentially, they can put out an inferior product season after season because regardless of the product quality, the customer is still buying. The seats still sell out, the merchandise still gets bought in large amounts, and the television stations still obtain rights to televise the team.

So how does one combat the lack of quality and commitment of the franchise? The same way you combat a regular business's lack of quality: you don't spend your money there. You're likely wondering if I'm calling for the boycott of the Cubs, and in a way I am. I stopped buying box office tickets this season. Why would I pay \$75 to watch a storied franchise like the Cubs put out a couple of jokers on the field and charge \$7.50 for an Old Style? Why would I buy another Cubs licensed MLB shirt for \$35 that goes to a business owner or branch of owners who benefit off of concessions and broken dreams of Cubs fans? The answer is I shouldn't have to and neither should you. Force the Cubs to be a good team if you're such a fan instead of shelling out money in blind faith that they will be of some quality before my hair goes completely gray.

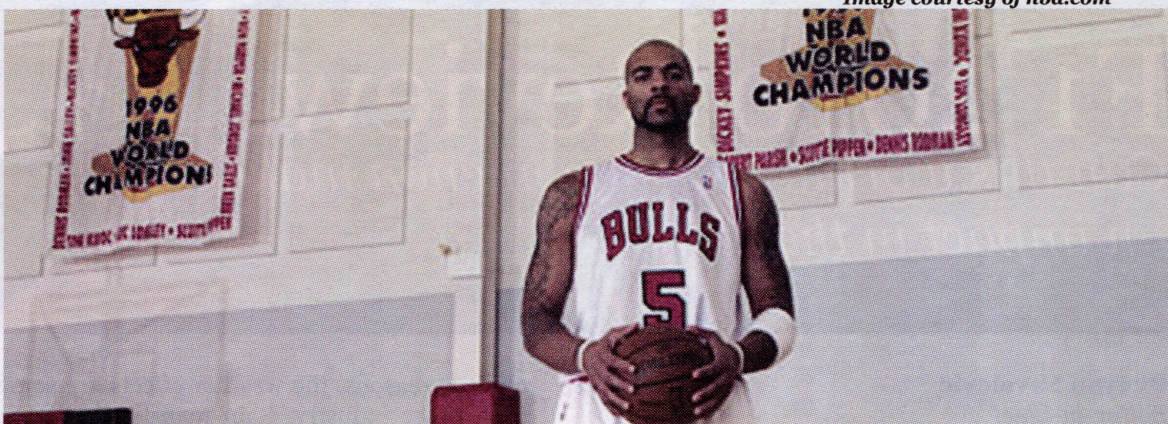


Image courtesy of nba.com

Carlos Boozer Out

By Marcin Chojnowski
Sports Editor

The Chicago Bulls will have to wait a little longer than expected for help to arrive in the post. Newly acquired free agent Carlos Boozer is expected to miss the first 15 games of the season with a broken hand (requiring surgery), after falling over his gym bag while trying to answer the front door of his house. His possible return is tentatively scheduled for early December, depending on how fast the injury heals.

"It's tough. Obviously, I'm disappointed. I feel bad about it, but we got guys who can play, man. Guys will be able to step up and play. We've been practicing hard, getting ready for the preseason right now. I'm going to be there supporting them. I'll be their biggest cheerleader and sideline coach, and I'll be busting my butt trying to get back and healthy and attacking my rehab trying to get right," said Boozer, as he spoke to reporters about his injury.

The signing of the two time all-star power forward over the summer to a 5 year, 80 million dollar contract came as a big relief for a Bulls team that needed more presence in the post to complement emerging star Joakim Noah after getting nailed in the playoffs by the Cleveland Cavaliers.

This won't be the first time that Boozer will miss significant time throughout the course of the season. The power forward's injury problems have plagued him over the course of his career, as Boozer has sat out 145 regular season games (23 percent) throughout his career with multiple kinds of injuries.

So what does this mean for the Bulls? They will have to change their game plan at the start of the season because the success of this squad featuring many new faces relies on the presence that Carlos Boozer offers near the basket. Boozer has earned a career average of 17.2 points per game, as well

as 10.2 rebounds per game throughout his 8 year tenure in the NBA. With the offensive arsenal that Boozer has, he requires a double team while having the ball in the post, which would give players like Derrick Rose, Luol Deng, Kyle Korver and Ronnie Brewer many open shots in the perimeter.

With Boozer being unavailable until December, Derrick Rose must carry the team on his shoulders, much like he did last year. However, Rose is coming into the season fresh off of winning the FIBA World Championship with the team over the summer. Rose started at point guard for team USA and gained a lot of confidence in a leadership role, which he hopes to bring back with him to the Bulls.

As many fans already know, the Bulls are notoriously slow starters. Through the past 5 years, Chicago has always been a team that seems to get red hot after New Years and make a spectacular run into the playoffs. If the Bulls want to be major players in the Eastern Conference this year and finish top 4 within the conference, the start of the season is crucial. If the Bulls can survive their annual "west coast circus trip" and play their way into December with an above .500 record, they will be in pretty good shape, as the tides of the Central Division have turned with a new Cavalier team sans LeBron James. With LeBron taking his talents to South Beach, the Bulls have been chosen as the heavy favorite to win the Central Division.

Boozer's possible replacement, Taj Gibson, will look to fill a pair of very big shoes. Gibson is coming off a rookie season in which he started 70 games, averaging 9 points and 7.5 rebounds per game.

"It was kind of hard," Gibson said to reporters about the injury, "because I came in, I was expecting to just go against him again in practice, just get better, because the whole [experience] was a positive, just learning from him, getting better. Then to come in, see him hurt, hopefully he gets back [as] soon as possible because I know our team's going to need him."

NHL 11 Review

By John O'Callaghan
Staff Writer

The NHL series by EA Sports is known as one of the best sports series on the market right now. With NHL 11 being the twentieth anniversary game, sports gamers would hope that the NHL series would step it up even more. EA Canada (the developers) did not disappoint at all this year. With a new physics engine, the Hockey Ultimate Team game mode (HUT) and many more new options and goodies, the game has really stepped up.

The NHL games have always been good, but they have never felt as real as it does now. This is the year that the game itself starts to feel more and more realistic, close enough to almost feel like you're right there on the ice. With brand new face-offs that add strategy to each level, you feel like you are in total control and not just under the command of a random dice roll from the game. This was definitely one of the best new features added. The game has also added a brand new physics engine that makes each hit feel different and unique, though at times it is a little off and it does need some tweaking. Nonetheless when it works its amazing. EA also added broken sticks and a "hustle button," which can completely change moments within the game. Whether you

can hustle and skate past the defensemen to get that crucial breakaway, or your stick breaks and you miss an open net. This new feature makes playing the game feel much more realistic.

The developers have also added new leagues, which was really good to have for game types like GM mode and for fans of those leagues. Some of the leagues include the Czech leagues, the Canadian Hockey League and more. Another new selling point of the game is the HUT. This is a cool new add on, in which you get trading cards and you can build a team from real players and deciding their pay and their training routines. This is becoming a common thing in EA sports games, but the NHL series really added to it this year by adding more depth.

NHL 11 definitely has stepped itself up this year with new game types, new physics, and many more features throughout the game. These are all definitely cool, but are still works in progress, and by next year's game will be perfect. NHL 11 is by far a much better game than last years' version and really is just showing how this game is evolving more and more each year. I know this game will keep hockey lovers wanting to play more each night and will leave you going back to show your friends that crazy hit again and again.

Image courtesy of F1 2010 official website - formula1-game.com

F1 2010 Review

Can this worldwide phenomenon make an impact in the states?

By Ivan Favelevic
Editor-in-Chief

Formula 1 is another of those sports that, while the rest of the world seems to adore and worship it, the United States just finds no interest in. It seems ludicrous when you break it down to the core of the sport; have the world's greatest car manufacturers build the fastest cars they possibly can and race them across some of the best tracks in the world. However, despite the lack of mainstream attention in the United States, Codemasters has seen it fit to release the official F1 racing game for the 2010 season, and it is just what fans of the sport have been asking for.

Codemasters are known for creating immersive racing games, and F1 2010 is no exception. The game begins in a press conference, where you introduce yourself as the new rookie driver and pick what team you would like to race for. Of course, since you are the new amateur you will not be jumping into a Ferrari anytime soon. This makes the game have a tangible lasting appeal and has you thinking of a career strategy from the very beginning. The immersion continues with a fully rendered garage, where you can tweak your car and talk to your mechanic, and a paddock area, where you can have impromptu interviews with the press. Once on the track, the drivers you are pitted against will act realistically to their real life counterparts, assuring that, if you follow the sport, you will fall in love with the racing here. Not to mention you are sitting behind the wheel of a car which can go zero to 60 and back down to zero in seven seconds, so you are playing with true power. It can be a near death experience driving the car from the driver's perspective in a track you don't know. Credit needs to be given where credit is due, and F1 2010 does an amazing job in giving you the experience of being a true racecar driver.

As far as game modes are concerned F1 2010 does suffer a little. The career mode is where you will spend most of your time, going from city to city participating in various races. There is something to be said, however, about the fact that you can take part in the entire race weekend, doing all three practice sessions in real time as well as qualifying and, of course, the race. You can pick how long you would like to participate, but having the option to do everything in real time, as well as all 70 laps per track, is a great detail for hardcore fans. Yet once you are bored with the career, there isn't really much else to do. You can set some times in time trial mode and then jump into the multiplayer for some shortened versions of the season, but that's about it. There are not enough tracks or cars as your average simulation game and not enough modes as an arcade racer. The game is best reserved for fans.

Codemasters' previous games have been real lookers, and F1 does not disappoint. While not featuring as many effects as the Dirt series, for

obvious reasons, the weather effects are some of the best in the industry. Rain realistically dampens the track and obscures your vision, forcing you to change race strategies on the fly. All this occurs while there is constantly 24 cars racing at the same time. However, there is a really horrible draw distance in the rearview mirrors while you are racing. It's not a big issue, but, once you notice, it really becomes hard to ignore. Nitpicks aside, F1 2010 is an amazing looking game.

It is hard to recommend this game to anyone

who is not a fan of the sport. It's not as accessible as the average racing game out there, mostly due to the insane power behind the cars, and the replay value you will receive from the game depends on how much enjoyment you get from building a career and becoming the next Michael Schumacher. Yet, it is a really well-balanced racing game with some neat features. If you have any curiosity do not hesitate to pick it up, you might just find something new to follow on Sunday nights.

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