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Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S

Tuesday, November 9, 2010

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SGA Votes No Confidence on Provost Frank, Confidence on President Hahs

Faculty Senate Postpones Matter Until Next Meeting

Photo: Provost Frank as he hears the verdict of the Faculty Senate

By Sadaf Syed
Associate News Editor

Student and faculty senate planned on taking votes of confidence or no confidence of President Hahs and Provost Frank on Tuesday, Oct. 26 during activity hour. However, student senate was the only group to come to a consensus, voting "no confidence" in Provost Frank, but "confidence" in President Hahs. Many were surprised at this decision, because they thought that the president should have also been given a "no confidence" vote by the student senate.

Kristina Garcia, President of the NEIU Student Government Association (SGA), who is an ex-officio officer, meaning she does not vote, said she was, "impressed with the way the student government senate was able to effectively discuss the confidence votes [of President Hahs and Provost Frank] and base its decision on evidence and sound understanding of these administrative positions." Garcia also said she stands behind the decision of the Senate and looks, "forward to learning what the decision of the faculty senate is and what it will mean for the university."

Erik Robles, Vice President of SGA an ex-officio who may vote in case of a tie, also agreed with Garcia and added that he believes, "The vote of 'no confidence' in the Provost has to do with his actions as acting Vice President of Student Life, a position that creates a conflict of interest with his official title of Academic Provost, because one takes away from the other since they're competing against each other." Robles said that, "They do work together though, but they are ultimately competing interests. I think the vote against the Provost was made in consideration of a consistent lack of transparency."

According to the e-mail SGA President Garcia sent out, the vote for President Hahs was ten (yes) two (no) and one abstention, passing with a vote of confidence, however when it came to Provost Frank the vote was pretty much the opposite

with one (yes) 11 (no) and one abstention, which was a failing vote that indicated no confidence.

Senator Michelle Cardiel, said that she voted no confidence in the President and Provost Frank because she felt that, "The provost has been given opportunities to act in the best interest of the student body. For example, the activity hour change and academic concerns with faculty, such as lack of on-line classes and lack of support in their research opportunities and creation of new courses," and added that, "In conjunction with Provost Frank's lack of concern for students, Dr. Hahs has also heard these issues and has not reacted to the needs of the students as well."

On the other hand Vivian Shelton, SGA Treasurer, voted confidence in President Hahs and no confidence in Provost Frank because, "When all is said and done, I believe she attempts to represent both parties and be transparent. Decisions made by Provost Frank have interfered and disrupted student life, for example, the activity hour change was implemented despite SGA recommendations and votes."

As far as the Faculty Senate votes go, they were planned to vote on Oct. 26 during activity hour, as well. Dr. Potee, one of the several faculty members who spoke, said, "As a matter of fact many of my colleagues feel hopeless, helpless. Great service matters...we were heard but not listened to." Another faculty member, Professor Brett Stockdill, also had much to say and added, "We love NEIU. We have confidence in our students, our colleagues and ourselves. We have lost our confidence in the President and the Provost who have shredded shared governances to pieces."

However, after several statements as to why the faculty senate should vote "no confidence" and a long discussion they decided to postpone the vote until the next Faculty Senate meeting on Nov. 9., where, at the suggestion of Dr. Akbari, President Hahs may have a chance to be "formally invited" to the meeting and defend herself.

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November 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
10:00am to 4:00pm Justice Studies Club Bake Sale	10:00am to 4:00pm Anime Club Bake and Book Sale	10	11	12	13	14
All Day NPB Hip Hop Week Chalk Talk	3:00pm to 4:00pm NPB Break Dance Performance 6:00 to 9:00pm Latinas in Power - Love and Poetry	17	18	11:00am to 4:00pm Anime Club Zombie Awareness Day	20	21



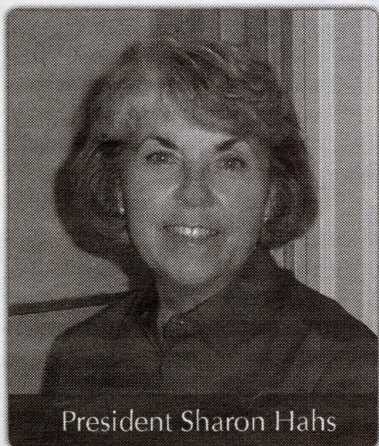
Week ending November 6th

-  Oct 20 - Lech Walesa Hall - Unknown offender drilled through door in possible attempt to jimmy the lock
-  Oct 20 -5656 N. Kimball - 3 state citations & I-bond issued to driver for missing and suspended drivers license. Car was towed.
-  Oct 20 -5500 N. St Louis - 1 arrested for displaying fake plate sticker. Stated that he had no money to buy one.

Correction:

In the October 26 issue The *Independent* mistakenly published the title of the Equity in Action presentation, A Lesson in Civil Engagement. We appologize for any confusion.

The President's Pen



President Sharon Hahs

Let me tell you about our Energy Conservation Project. In early spring of 2009 the University developed a plan to reduce energy consumption. This is part of Goal Five, Enhanced University Operations, to establish environmental sustainability as a key element of NEIU's identity, as well as Goal Six, Fiscal Strength. The process has been lengthy and complicated, but successful. The steps began with discussions with the Board of Trustees regarding increases in utility costs, opportunities for utility savings, and the need for a comprehensive energy audit to identify those opportunities. The University then undertook a competitive selection process to hire NORESKO as the University's energy services company. NORESKO conducted a comprehensive energy audit from September 2009 to March 2010 and recommended a series of potential energy conservation measures. After review of those measures with estimated costs, savings and payback,

the Board approved eleven measures and authorized the University to proceed with project financing for \$6 million dollars.

In June 2010, the Board approved a series of resolutions that authorized the University to proceed with the issuance of Certificates of Participation to finance the Energy Conservation Project. The financing with Certificates is specifically authorized in state statute and is the most typical means used by public universities to finance these types of projects.

The University then executed a series of steps for approval of the financing and for the competitive sale of the Certificates. The sale took effect on September 8. We obtained an excellent interest rate for the Certificates.

Work will begin on the implementation of the actual energy conservation measures this fall with an estimated construction period of approximately 15 months. The resulting energy savings will generate money savings greater than the amount needed to pay off

the Certificates (the savings is estimated to be \$1.5 million over the 18 year period). This positive cash flow will result in even greater savings, or being able to use funds for other needed projects.

And lastly, NORESKO, our energy services company, guarantees that we will save as much energy as projected or it will, in effect, reimburse the University for the difference. This project supports our sustainability efforts in a significant manner; we are grateful for all the work that was done to launch it.

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.

Chicago Police Torture Survivor Visits NEIU Darrell Cannon Speaks Out About His Experience

By Vasilka Atanasova
Senior Staff Writer

For many, police torture appears as an unrealistic act of a democratic country's police forces. Yet, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) has had a long history of torturing suspects to get confessions, including some given the death penalty. Darrell Cannon is one of the many who had been tortured and forced to admit, and sign a confession on, involvement in a murder and later sentenced to life.

Discussions about CPD systematic torture and brutality toward many suspects, especially African-Americans and Cannon's story were held at NEIU on Oct 28. Joey Mogul, an attorney from The People's Office representing Cannon, opened the first discussion for the day. She is an attorney who works with civil rights cases involving police misconduct, defends people engaged in street demonstrations and capital defense cases. Mogul is also an adjunct professor at DePaul University College of Law, teaching at the Civil Rights Clinic.

"If we ever want to see true justice in the legal system, we have to be organized in the streets," said Mogul. She said that she is an attorney in the city, but also an activist. She said that CPD torture cases involved over 100 African-American men between 1972 and 1991. She added, "We are not exaggerating when we say torture!" Mogul explained that Jon Burge, the commander of the area two unit of the South Side of Chicago over two decades ago, electrically shocked individuals. Burge is an ex-veteran from Vietnam where, Mogul said, he has helped to develop the "Tucker phone," an electric shock producing device. Throughout interrogations, Burge and his subordinate officers would punch, kick and hit the individuals with objects. Mogul said that throughout this, people were denied the basics: water, food and bathroom. All of this was a systematic way to get confessions.

"It is clear that these tortures were racially motivated," said Mogul adding that 12 African-American men were

sent to death row in Illinois. The police officers would use racial epithets such as "nig***" and "nig*** box" for the "Tucker phone" box. "Officers would tell the tortured that if they report this, no one would believe them," said Mogul.

"There was no question that Burge and his colleagues engaged in systematic tortures, [but] neither of them were investigated," said Mogul. She told the story of Andrew Wilson who was arrested for killing two white Chicago police officers in 1982. "After that, Burge and others were out for blood," briefed Mogul.

In the February of 1982 they found Wilson and after using the electric box and suffocating him with a plastic bag, they brought him to the Cook County Jail where, before being admitted, he was interviewed. The doctor has concluded that he had been beaten and electrically shocked and had informed the Superintendent, State's Attorney at the time and mayor Richard Daley on this. The doctor was asking that they initiate an investigation, but Daley did not.

"If Daley had acted in 1982, Darryl Cannon would have never been tortured and convicted," said Mogul. She continued that this was a patterned practice of torture and the entire chain of police officers and officials knew about it, and did nothing. Mogul stated, "I believe to this day that this was the racism in these cases." Just this past June, Burge was convicted not for the tortures, but of lying about them. Despite this, Mogul said that this was a profound day and we finally see a culmination. After laying down all these facts for the audience, she introduced Cannon. Cannon was tortured to confess and wrongly convicted and went to prison for 23 years.

"It was Daryl Cannon who led the charge for his own freedom," said Mogul. Cannon speaks out and protests on

the behalf of all individuals who were tortured and are in prison. He started by thanking God for giving him the strength to survive.

"The agony of everything that happened is still fresh as it was on Nov. 2, 1983," said Cannon. He recalled the words of detective Peter Dignan using racist epithets for him and telling him that they had a scientific way of interrogating those like him. He told the story of how he was taken to an isolated area and there the police officers had put a gun in his mouth, playing Russian roulette with him. "The third time my mind told me that they blew my head," said Cannon expressing the psychological breakdown he had gone through. Then he told how the officers pulled his pants down and put electric cattle prods to his testicles. He stumbled a couple of times while recollecting this horrifying and sick-brain led act.

"It was a pain that I can't even describe. By the end of the day I was willing to sign everything," said Cannon.

He explained how even in jail he continued to work on proving his innocence and the police brutality, but back then it was not easy to prove such thing. He said, "I have two spirits in me. One is my mother and the other my grandmother. They call me to fight." There was no evidence against him but the cruelly forced confession. In 2005, a

judge dropped all charges and Cannon said that it was because this judge had no allegiance with the police department.

"After all that time I lost my mother, my father and my son," said Cannon who couldn't hold his tears. "I will continue to hate them; I don't hate the police department, I hate *those* police officers," Cannon emotionally added. He said that he was placed in prison for 23 years, but he did not waste his time and he earned an Associate Degree in Paralegal. He said that knowledge and information is important to all of us, and that's why he speaks out now.

"I believe that God doesn't make mistakes," said Cannon, who added that he is all right and in front of us stands a man who has been tested.

Cannon emphasized that, "Information is knowledge [and] knowledge is wisdom." He repeated that what he's doing now is about the people who have been tortured and are still in prison. At the end, regarding his college visits, Cannon stated that he is doing it, "To enlighten the students about things they don't know concerning the police brutality. I need to make sure that everybody understands."

Photo: Panelists Darrell Cannon and Joey Mogul, and Professor Brett Stockdill



Photo by Jamean Watkins

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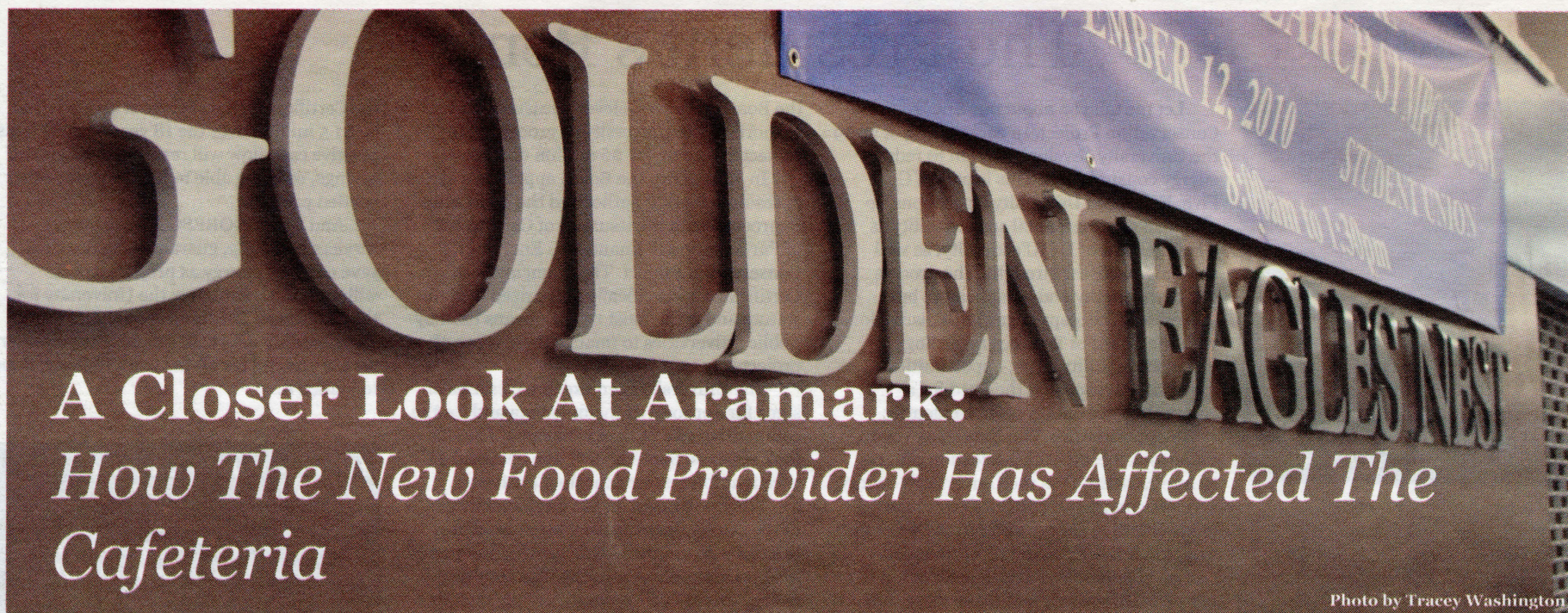


Photo by Tracey Washington

A Closer Look At Aramark: How The New Food Provider Has Affected The Cafeteria

By Zac Schon
Staff Writer

If one were to look around the campus, disarray would be the first word that would pop into one's mind. The students and staff are preparing the stakes to burn the president and provost, financial aid is disappearing and there are talks of strikes by the staff. It is a scary time for NEIU, but it is important to not forget something that is working right on campus.

When Aramark came to the Eagle's Nest this summer and removed the stagnation of Sodexo, students rejoiced at the improved choices, eatable food and friendlier staff that had become a reality. Long gone are the stale grilled cheese sandwiches hours old in the window that were harder than diamonds. Long gone are the overpriced subsandwiches with two pieces of meat on them. Long gone is Sodexo.

Aramark brings something to the table that many other companies don't in the cafeteria food business and that is brining minority owned and small business restaurants onto the campus. In an age where there is much corporate sponsorship and many corporate hands are in the pockets

of failing universities. It is nice to have a company that not only caters to local businesses, but shows that independent business is not dead. To a generation of students graduating with dismal outlooks in the job market and an overall entrepreneurial spirit that has died, Aramark has shown some responsibility by bringing in these companies.

Robinson's Ribs, Asia Xpress and Saffron are not an attempt at sounding authentic by corporate giants, but rather local businesses. The people who serve food from these stations are not Aramark employees, they are employees of the company they are representing. If one looks for these businesses, they will find that they actually exist in Chicago.

Caliente and Good to Go, however are not independent businesses, but rather "concepts" of the Aramark company. However, this does not deem them evil or part of some giant chain. An anonymous source within Aramark stated that the people working within these entities are constantly listening to their customers and developing new ideas for the customers based upon their feedback. Essentially everytime a student offers their feedback, those cooking the food listen and relay the

info back to their headquarters, which in return allows for a change for the better for the students.

Students are talking about the change also. "What I really like about the new cafeteria is that there are name brand foods. I like that I know it's going to be good because I had it before," said Davette Franklin, sophomore. "The main problem they have though is they're never open. I can't get anything to eat in the afternoon."

Other students noted that there was a lack of pizza slices and did not want to eat a Subway pizza. Almost all students were excited for Robinson's Ribs sandwiches, especially the pulled turkey. Most students complained that either the salad bar closes at an hour that would make early bird seniors protest and that the rest of the stations close far too early. Certain NEIU staff members relayed their excitement at the options and the price range of the food as they returned to eating on campus.

"Yeah, it's much better," Brad Gertz, junior, said with delight, "they have provided a much more positive dining atmosphere, better choices, with more of a food court feel, and are much more compliant to student needs

for organizations on campus. Prices for catering are a little expensive, but on a whole, it blows Sodexo out of the water and they are a much more established company."

Beyond their established image, NEIU put forth effort in researching Aramark to see the quality that company brings. To do this NEIU had sent representatives to other college campuses in which Aramark is the dining company, and see how the company works in the field. Along with the good results from NEIU's research, Aramark managed to do something that is often rare as a replacement situation for a company, and that is retain roughly 85 percent of the previous Sodexo staff.

"It should take a year or so," an anonymous source in the Aramark company told the *Independent* on getting their service fully efficient. "Right now we are working on getting things right. We are changing hours, working on establishing who will be a fixture and who will be gone at the end of the year. I'm really excited for what we will be doing in a year."

Two is a Party, Three is an Unwelcome Crowd

Green Party gubernatorial candidate Rich Whitney is excluded from WTTW debate

By Alexandra Maragha
Staff Writer

Rich Whitney, Illinois Green Party gubernatorial candidate, and supporters rallied against exclusion from the gubernatorial debate hosted by Chicago's public television station, WTTW, Thursday Oct. 28. The debate aired on WTTW's news program *Chicago Tonight* and only included Republican candidate Bill Brady and incumbent Governor Pat Quinn, leaving the legally recognized Green Party candidate, Whitney, out.

"It should be the duty of any sponsor or organization to help inform voters of choices," said Whitney. He added that the WTTW deciding to not include him in the debate was "absolutely outrageous."

Almost 30 supporters chanting "two, four, six, eight, we want Whitney to debate," stood outside WTTW as the debate began with hopes to raise awareness.

Phil Huckelberry, Illinois Green Party Chair, agreed stating, "TV public station(s) should not be in the business of excluding candidates." Responses from both the democratic and republican parties fell shy of a glance in the Green Party's direction as "they [Republicans or Democrats] don't set the rules, so it gets them off the hook, WTTW lets them have coverage," said Huckelberry.

This is not the first time the Green Party has been excluded from a broadcasted gubernatorial debate. At Elmhurst College Brady and Quinn squared off in a debate on Oct. 17, sponsored by WBEZ radio, where

Whitney was not invited. On Oct. 20, The League of Women Voters of Illinois hosted a debate televised on ABC 7 where, again, Whitney was not invited, leaving only Brady and Quinn to have the floor.

Huckelberry explained the selection and standards process to qualify for debates. "The ten percent threshold at Elmhurst College and comparably sized five percent thresholds at other debates leave for some not setting standards, rather, cherry picking standards."

The process of a percentage qualification, according to polls, leaves for skepticism among many, including those within the Green Party. "All candidates are included in polling," said Huckelberry. However, polling is conducted on a public phone number basis. "Polling tilted towards an older age demographic and leaves out those who only use mobile numbers," said Huckelberry, "the phrasing of questions can also attribute to potential skewed polls."

Whitney also expressed his feelings about polls as he addressed supporters saying, "Polls are partisan political weapons intended to marginalize a candidate like me." He also advised those who claim "Rich Whitney is the best candidate" not to get discouraged by the system and pick the lesser of two evils. The idea that the Green party "spoils voting" also was addressed by Whitney saying, "[I] can't be a spoiler because you can't spoil a rotten system."

The Green Party candidate also stated that he is the "only candidate answering questions."

"I'm fighting for Illinois politics to be more informed and responsible," said Whitney.

Bipartisanship politics within Illinois, and across

the nation, has been questioned. Movements, such as that of the Tea Party, have voiced such concerns as well, being viewed by some as a group separate from traditional Democratic and Republican parties and procedures. When compared to the Green Party, the Tea Party has become a "heavily bankrolled money movement," said Huckelberry. He added, "The Green Party does not accept any corporate endorsements." The Green Party is a fully established party of its own, the Tea Party movement "taps into voter anger." However, Huckelberry says that people are angry for different reasons.

Jon Gronli, a student at Northeastern Illinois University, showed his support for Whitney at the rally. Gronli's support for the Green Party is rooted in the objection that "media and political systems are set up on the basis that who has the most money, has the most say." Gronli supports Whitney's stance that "voters need to hear the truth."

Whitney addressed his plans to bring Illinois out of a "911 emergency" state. By investing in higher education and pursuing a green capital bill as some of his points, Whitney said he will, "do it in a way to have a functioning private sector."

"Investing in people...stolen from me by Pat Quinn," said Whitney, is his overall goal. A part of his and the Green Party's strategy is enforced by pounding the pavement. "By knocking on doors, politics becomes personalized," said Huckelberry, allowing candidate Rich Whitney and the Green Party to "become a part of the conversation."

Islamophobia: An Intangible Reality

By Galini Gkartzonika
Staff Writer

As one of the current hot topics of discussion, Islam and the social representations linked to it, urged the Sociology Club to schedule and organize a dialogue on Islamophobia. The event, titled "Islamophobia and the Anti-Mosque Protests in the U.S.," took place on Nov. 4, in LWH 2094 and was part of "Café Society," a series of events organized by the Sociology Club once every semester. A lot of people joined in order to "explore, discuss, and debate the topic of Islamophobia," according to the flyer, succeeding in this way to fulfill the actual goal of the event.

Mike Armato, assistant professor of Sociology, greeted everyone, explained that the goal of the event was "to have a respectful, hopefully enjoyable, interesting, engaging conversation" and offered some suggestions about how the event would flow. People that joined "Café Society" were divided in six discussion groups. Armato, along with the Lauren Jarrell and Bilal Hussain, the Sociology

Club Co-Chairs, and Sarah Vali and Jessica Mercer, event organizers, were the moderators of the discussions.

On the projector there were four questions, provided in order to help the groups get started with their discussion and expand their topic. The questions were about the opposition to building Cordoba House near "Ground Zero," concerns of those who oppose mosques elsewhere in the U.S., the links between views toward Muslims/Arabs and views toward undocumented immigrants in the U.S. and the links between mosque protests in the U.S. and France's recent banning of the hijab and burqa. The Sociology Club had also proposed through their event flyer some readings, though they were not mandatory for the participation in the discussions.

Each discussion group moved to a different part of the room and, after introducing themselves to the others, people started sharing opinions and experiences about the phenomenon called Islamophobia. The groups expanded their conversations to other topics too, like the effect

of Hollywood on Islamophobia, economic policies, immigration, as well as discrimination and religion in general.

The event ended with a general discussion with the whole group. There were interesting insights discussed and people reached the conclusion that Islamophobia is not merely about religion after all; it's something other and something more than just that. Hussain said that taking action against phenomena like Islamophobia "starts off with events like this, so at least people can get the engine rolling in their heads, [...] and then it goes on." After expressing their satisfaction with the number of people who attended the event, the Sociology Club members thanked everyone for participating and for sharing their thoughts and ideas.

For more information about the Sociology Club and the events they organize, visit them in their website <http://www.neiu.edu/~sociolgy/socClub.html> (watch out the spelling of "sociology" in the link, since, in this case, it is actually "sociolgy").

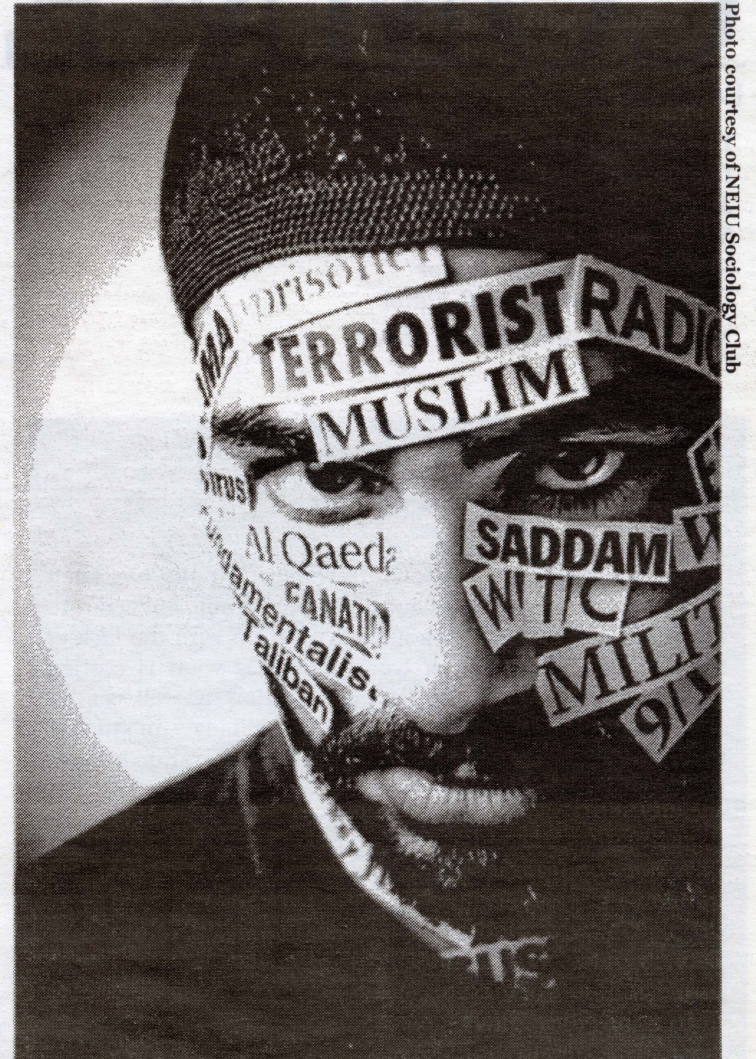


Photo courtesy of NEIU Sociology Club

Andy Shaw Advocates For Better Government *Revered Reporter Visits NEIU*

By Tracey Washington
Production Manager

Andy Shaw, famed Chicago reporter and currently the executive director of the Better Government Association (BGA), visited Northeastern Illinois University on Nov. 4 as part of the Political Science Day events. "I don't think I've ever felt a passion about anything the way I feel about this," said Shaw. Both a retired journalist and newscaster, Shaw entered the world of news with the City News Bureau of Chicago, something that is extinct in this age, along with their methods of teaching journalism. With a career that he thought had good bookends with the election of Mayor Harold Washington and the election of President Barack Obama, Shaw decided to step away from news reporting in 2008 to pursue other interests. Less than a year later and feeling revitalized, Shaw decided to join the Better Government Association (BGA), an organization that he followed throughout his reporting career.

"What I witnessed was government in crisis at all levels," Shaw told the Golden Eagles' audience. "It made me sick as a reporter, and I thought to myself, here is an opportunity to lead an advocacy group and do something specific about it." The BGA does three basic things: Investigate, litigate and advocate. Before Shaw took over for the BGA, he described the group as a "watchdog with very, very, dull teeth." Over the course

of 17 months, the association went from two employees to 13 and quadrupled their budget thanks to donations. "People understood the critical need for watchdogging."

The goal of the organization is reduce Illinois' "Corruption Tax," as Shaw calls it. "That is what we pay when the government is run for the betterment of the politicians and not the people." The group has been as active as ever with investigations with salaries at METRA, missing charity "donations" at the Circuit Court Clerks' office and more. Even so, with things turning around for the BGA, Shaw wants to keep up the progress and transform the organization so it can identify and respond to day to day behavior of public officials and gather an army of volunteers, members and donors to support their cause, something that the old BGA couldn't do and, in consequence, ended up limping through decades of corruption throughout Illinois. Shaw reminded us that everyone can help out with the new BGA. "You see something, you hear something, you feel something you think merits further review, call us, send us an email." With the recent elections and shifts in Illinois, the BGA hopes to keep their upward trend going with the help of everyday citizens. "Better government is a right and a responsibility and if we work together and if we're smart, creative, tenacious, it can become a reality."



Andy Shaw speaks about the Better Government Association

Photo by Tamara Susa

NEIU Alumni Miguel Del Valle Runs For Mayor

By Cathleen Schandelmeier
Senior Staff Writer

Chicago mayoral candidate Miguel Del Valle was a featured speaker after a tribute to Senator Edward Kennedy at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. Unlike Senator Kennedy, Del Valle is scandal-free. Del Valle hasn't quit his job, nor has he made front-page news in a negative light. Regardless, Northeastern Illinois University College of Education alumni Miguel Del Valle has made it clear in no uncertain terms that he is serious about running for mayor. On Oct. 30, he attended an enthusiastic rally in Michelle's ballroom at 2800 West Belmont in Chicago. Del Valle's wife, Lupe, and their son, Esteban, personally welcomed supporters in a grassroots effort to help Del Valle become mayor. Del Valle was introduced by State Senator Iris Martinez, who said, "If people want honest change in city government, Miguel Del Valle is the man!"

Senator Martinez now holds Del Valle's former seat (a post he held for over 20 years) in the Illinois State Legislature. Senator Martinez noted that Del Valle was known during his time as State Senator as the "Dean of Education" due to his ardent support of public education. She regretted that many games are being played right now, pitting Latino against Latino and concluded with "Miguel Del Valle already has experience

successfully running a large city government office (as Chicago City Clerk). If we want a true and honest city government, there should be no doubt but that is Miguel Del Valle."

Del Valle humbly refused the microphone as he stepped up to great applause. He encouraged his supporters to gather around in a circle surrounding him. He admitted that he cares deeply about public education for our children, as well as training opportunities for adults. He believes that job-training programs need to be developed through community colleges and in community centers across the city. He said that he is excited about the opportunity to engage every neighborhood, where people of all ethnicities come together in harmony to make this a better Chicago. In the midst of his speech, he stopped to receive a tweet stating that Lisa Madigan had dropped out of the race for mayor. He explained that contenders for the mayoral election have begun to drop by the wayside.

Del Valle avowed that his goal is to exceed the 12,500 signatures needed to put him on the ballot by submitting 36,000 signatures by the deadline of Nov. 15. He also said that he had attended an event hosted by the Chicago Teacher's Union on the West side on Friday, Oct. 29, where he was deeply touched by their overwhelming support. He admitted that he even got pulled out on the dance floor.

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 Marcin Chojnowski *Sports Editor*

Editorial

The Northeastern Illinois University campus has been dealing with many problems, varying from financial to academic. Many NEIU students are fed up with the lack of transparency. This lack of transparency is what is costing the NEIU student body, on the main campus, as well as at El Centro and CCICS, to suffer from drastic changes in student life, or at least what seems like, without consideration to what the students have petitioned for.

Now with the recent Student Senate votes of confidence for President Hahs, but no confidence for Provost Frank, we must wonder if our voices will again be dismissed as just a petty nuisance. We feel that if the Student Government Association (SGA), and other student clubs and organizations that voiced their opinions and petitioned, was basically ignored last year despite all the vehement rallying that occurred.

We at the Independent hope that this time around our voices are taken into account and that President Hahs does something to actually better this university and follow the suggestions of her constituents, meaning the student body, and her dedicated faculty, instructors and staff, who actually make this university run as well as it has in the past few years, despite being under-appreciated and under-paid.

It goes to show that, at least among the SGA, the president has not been completely thrown to the curb and there is still hope for her to improve her presidency, since most NEIU presidents have decade long careers, to make sure her legacy leaves behind a positive image, rather than the dismal account of it we have it at present.

It is finally time to consider more than just the bottom line, and if that is what the real matter is, then maybe they should start making cuts starting with their own salaries, instead of raising tuition and cutting our faculty and staff. We understand that President Hahs took a pay cut, but she has pretty much everything else taken care of, so we really don't see how much it can be hurting her, besides the fact that she is not being paid at the same level as "her peers."

That sounds like a band-wagon excuse and should not be the reason whether or not President Hahs receives a raise. We appreciate the fact that she was kind enough to take this pay cut when the Board of Trustees was willing to give her a raise to keep in line with her peers, but it should be something she should do anyway as the president of a university in financial trouble. The Board of Trustees should also realize this and not be giving out money we do not have, even if it is to keep the status quo.

The NEIU administration needs to step up and take responsibility for some bad decisions and listen to those who they are affecting with those decisions. We hope that the administration takes more than the financial side into account, and takes into consideration quality over quantity.

Letters to the editor policy

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

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



Photo courtesy of house.gov

Rahmbo to the Rescue! Wait, What?

Can Rahm Emanuel Really Make a Difference?

By David A. Lynch
 Staff Writer

Two years ago, a media darling took the world by storm and won the United States Presidential campaign. When Rahm Emanuel left his position as the Congressional representative from Illinois' 5th district to become the White House Chief of Staff, he made it clear that one day he wanted to be the mayor of the third most populous city in the United States. Emanuel, however, provided the caveat that he only wanted to run if Mayor Richard M. Daley was done serving, as he did not want to run opposed to a powerful Democrat.

Emanuel was born in Chicago and grew up in both Chicago and nearby Wilmette. Born to a Jewish family, Emanuel has two brothers, Ezekiel, an oncologist, and Ari, a Hollywood talent agent, whom the Entourage character Ari Gold is based upon. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence College for his undergraduate studies, and of Northwestern University with a Masters in Speech and Communication, Emanuel has been deeply rooted in Chicago and politics for the last 15 years. He is a man who cares about Chicago and, much like Mayor Daley, will be unable to hide his passion.

Emanuel volunteered with the Israel Defense Force during the 1991 Gulf War. He was a civilian volunteer responsible for the maintenance of vehicles. Perhaps during his experiences in the gulf, and now at the White House, he will bring a sense of urgency to

resolving the manpower shortage the Chicago Police Department faces. The problem that both Emanuel and Chicago face now is the status of his residency. Emanuel states that he maintains his residency because of his property ownership, driver's license, voting status and, of course, because of the property taxes that he pays. The issue is that Emanuel has lived in Washington D.C. for over a year and a half while working in the Obama administration. If loopholes for residency can work for Emanuel, then the same case should be applied for all other city employees who currently must reside within the city limits.

While Emanuel has qualities that would make him a great steward for the city, there are more pressing reasons that he should not be elected mayor. First and foremost is the question of his residency. For years, the city has clung to the residency for employees and making an exception under these circumstances would be a horrible precedent. Rahmbo has also long been a supporter of gun control, and has spent countless dollars fighting the city's misguided handgun ban. More importantly, however, Emanuel is likely to continue the same Democratic machine that has broken down recently. With his deep ties to Mayor Daley and his henchmen- I mean politicians- it does not appear that much will change in Chicago, and change is what is desperately needed. While Chicago is not nearly as blue collar as it once was, it certainly is middle class, and the next mayor of Chicago should be able to connect with the people.

Letters to the Editor have been moved to our website for this issue. To read them and participate in an open discussion through the comments visit our website: www.neuiuindependent.com

Ensemble Espanol: Much More Than Dance

By Cathleen Schandelmeier-Bartels
Staff Writer

My 11-year-old son is busting a move! It is a good thing our downstairs neighbors moved these days because they would be going crazy with all the toe-tapping and snappy dance moves my son is practicing. All this dancing is a result of his having been accepted into the Ensemble Espanol Youth Company. He was awarded the tremendous honor of a \$10,000 scholarship to dance flamenco with this world-class dance company. However, he is experiencing much more than simply dance: discipline.

The contract I first read - and later signed - which is mandatory for accepting any youth into the company, clearly articulated expectations for him as a scholarship recipient. The contract continued to state that beyond the discipline of dance:

"Dame Libby Komaiko and the Ensemble Espanol uphold the highest standards of behavior. 1) you are responsible for your actions, you are responsible for your behaviors and 2) as a scholarship recipient you represent the Ensemble Espanol Youth Dance

Company in the community and the University."

Delighted, I read on: "All dancers are expected to maintain a "B" average;" no problem for our son who is a straight-A student. It also stipulated that there could be no gang involvement, no earrings for boys or men, no drugs and no drinking. Furthermore, it required the youth to inform their parents of their whereabouts at all times. For a mother whose teenage son - my oldest living child - had disappeared for almost two months of hell for our family and the family of the girl he'd run away with, these words were music to my ears. My oldest son graduated high school early, as a valedictorian, while managing to avoid gang involvement and violence and he is also on his way to becoming a father at 19. Their choice, not mine.

I cherish babies and am delighted to be welcoming a new family member that I did not have to provide for myself. I also delight in the richness my daughter-in-love - yes, the same "Juliet" he had run away with - has brought into our lives. My son did go to college for one semester at my insistence, but refused to so much as open a book because he was much too busy being in love. I, personally, would have preferred my son

to willingly go to college and establish himself in his career first, before having children. Life is hard and having children at 19 makes it harder. Now, a quote from the contract:

"A very important part of your learning process is learning self-control, self-respect, respect for others and learning to accept gracefully what you cannot (at the moment) change. You may be right, still you must conduct yourself with dignity and show, above all, that you have self-control and respect. Without self-control, a strong mind and an open heart, you will not become a good dancer. This good behavior will also benefit you in all other areas of your life."

Flamenco dance may or may not be my youngest son's calling as he undertakes his life's adventure. However, I am grateful for the village it is providing in helping to instill the values I support and wish to see in my children. "As role models for the community and university, it is our hope that all of our dancers will pursue a college education after high school graduation."

The Need for Women to Continue Their Education

By Jennifer Gubala
Staff Writer

When I think about the past, I always think about the question "what if?" Looking at how we used to be and how we are now, anyone can see the drastic change we have made over time, especially for women. Women used to be looked at as the bearers of children, so they were taught to focus on being good wives and mothers rather than attend school and graduate. Now women are becoming more independent and are focusing on school or making lives of their own before they have to share it with someone. Thinking about how my life, and other women's lives, could be if our opportunities and views did not change over time, I have become more and more thankful for what I have.

Many people dream about finding their soulmate, getting married and making a family, but some would rather make a career and experience life as an independent person. Every person is unique and has different goals for their future, and they should be able to make a life of their own without ridicule. In the past, there were not as many opportunities for women but now there are so many ways for women to have the future they want, so there is no reason for them not to use the resources at hand. Having a family is something that some women want in the future but it is not their main focus in life, because they feel they need to make a life for themselves before they have a family. If they have no means of financial support or have not lived life to the fullest, family life would be far from easy. Going

to school gives someone the chance to make a career so they do not have to wake up and dread the thought of work. When I have children, I want to show them that trying to make something out of yourself, whether it is going to school or just being independent is something to admire rather than just settle for something you are expected to do.

Going to school is a very important thing to many women because it gives them the chance to learn things about life, and themselves, and make something out of their lives. In the past, women were not able to further their education with college because the only thing they needed to know was how to cook and clean for their families, while their husbands were out making the money. Before they could even decide what they wanted, they were being

told what to do and how to think. A woman was taught that her only self-worth was to be a wife and mother, not an individual that could make her own choices.

That is not an acceptable way for someone to have to feel; everyone is their own person and should be able to make their own future. There will always be people who feel this is the way for a woman to live, but a woman should be able to make the decision for her self, rather than having it forced on her. Living how others want you to live will not bring anyone happiness, because you end up living someone else's ambitions and not your own. If someone wants to have an opinion on how a woman should live their life, they can, but in the end, a woman is entitled to decide how she wants to live her life.

What's the Beef?

By Jeff Dutton
Staff Writer

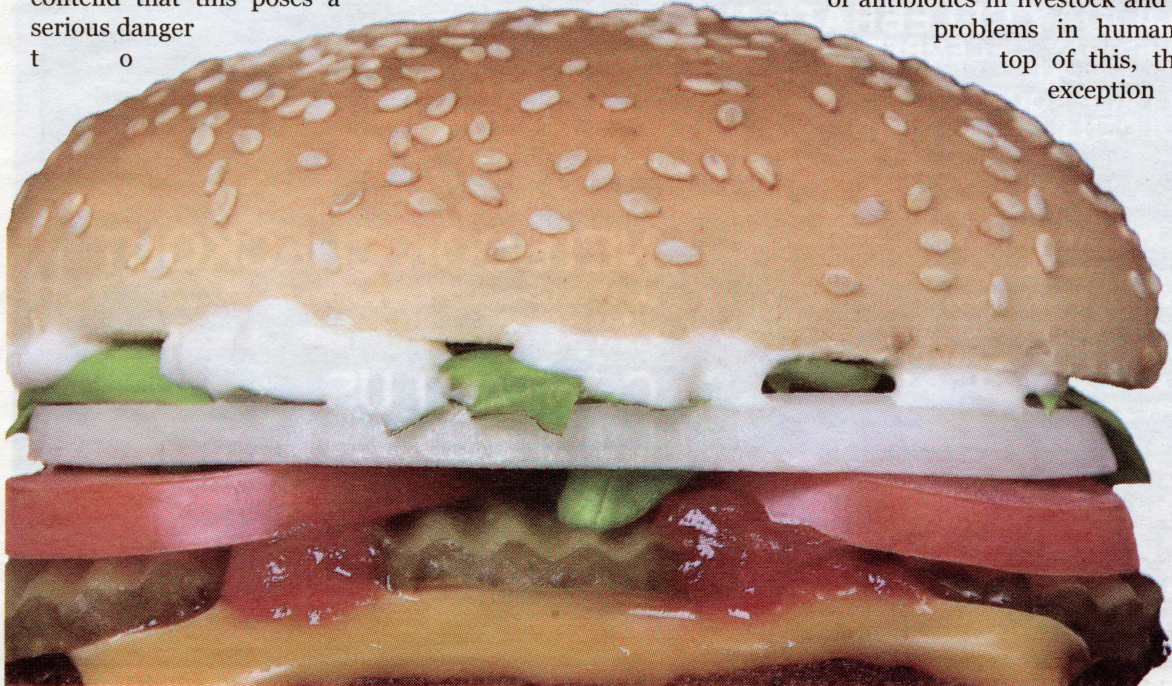
The beef you eat today may very well hinder your ability to be cured of illness tomorrow. This is a scary thought, especially if you are reading this while eating a roast beef sub at the Eagle's Nest. That is why the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) is set to issue new recommendations that cattle farmers only use antibiotics in sick animals, with a veterinarian overseeing their use. This has raised objections from some in the cattle industry, but if you ask me the FDA is more than justified in taking these actions.

Since the end of the Second World War, it has become common practice for farmers to administer antibiotics to healthy animals in order to promote growth and prevent disease in livestock. This has been considered a necessary consequence of our industrial agricultural practices that keep livestock living in extremely close quarters. Some medical and public health experts contend that this poses a serious danger

human health. They claim this practice leads to the creation of new antibiotic resistant bacteria, which are difficult to treat in both animals and humans. Russ Kremer, a Bonnots Mill, Mo., farmer who travels the nation to speak out against this threat to our health knows firsthand how serious the issue is. He was gored in the leg by hog on his farm which lead to a strep infection that caused his leg to swell to twice its normal size. When penicillin proved ineffective in curing the infection, he found out that the hog that gored him had been fed low doses of penicillin throughout its life, causing a penicillin resistant strain of strep to develop in the animal. You may not find yourself gored by a hog anytime soon, but this gives you an idea of the threat overuse of antibiotics in our farm animals poses to our health.

The cattle industry states that the practice is a benefit to the public because it allows for a cheaper, more plentiful meat for consumers. They argue that there is not enough evidence to show a link between the use of antibiotics in livestock and medical problems in humans. On top of this, they take exception to the

recommendation that a veterinarian be present when antibiotics are administered, stating that there is a severe shortage of large animal veterinarians around the country. To this I ask is cheaper, more plentiful meat for consumers really that big a benefit to the public, especially if this meat poses a risk to our health and quality of life? It seems to me that cheap, plentiful meat is actually a benefit to the factory cattle farmers who produce it. It makes meat a far more attractive purchase to the budget conscious shopper, and keeps it from competing at the same price point level with more expensive protein options, such as fish. Industry concerns over the lack of veterinarians is understandable. It is unreasonable though for the government to mandate activity that may be extremely counterproductive and expensive to businesses, due to the mandates lack of feasibility. This brings me to my next point; this is only a recommendation from the FDA, which means there is no enforcement! I am not sure what the big fuss is all about when you consider this fact. Here is an idea that seems reasonable to me. Why not set up a labeling system that informs the consumer as to whether or not the farmer has followed this recommendation? That way the consumer can decide if this practice is truly a threat to human health and make their own purchasing decisions accordingly. Also, it will allow farmers who incur any extra costs from following these guidelines to charge extra for their products without having to worry about competing directly with cheaper, antibiotic injected beef. Consumers would then know that they are paying more due to how the beef was raised. This is already in practice in the case of Organic foods in this country. Organic foods are more expensive, but consumers, thanks to labeling practices, know why and what they are paying more for. I urge you to look into this issue for yourself, discuss it with family, friends and neighbors and see what ideas you come up with. For it is becoming more and more obvious that we cannot look to our politicians, or business leaders, for fresh ideas on the myriad issues, like this one, that we face today.





UNITY IN THE COMMUNITY: NEIU International Week 2010

November 1-5, 2010

Thank you to all of the student organizations, departments and others that made the 1st Annual NEIU International Week a success:

Dean of Students Office
The Student Union
The Office of Student Activities
Carruther's Center for Inner City Studies
The El Centro Campus
Office of International Programs
NEIU Child Care Center
University Events
Campus Dining
Alpha Psi Lambda
Anime Club
Black Caucus
Chinese Students Club
SOUL Creations
Sandra Bucio

French Club
Latinas In Power (LIP)
Life Catholic Student Association
Muslim Students Association
Omega Delta Fraternity
Northeastern Polish Student Association
Northeastern Programming Board
..seeds.. Literary Arts Journal
Students for Justice in Palestine
TrueVine University Bible Fellowship
WZRD Student Radio Station
Aedeoklee Korean Dance Company
Ensemble Espanol
Guadalupe Concepcion
Stephanie Durant



[HTTP://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/NEIUINTERNATIONALWEEK](http://www.facebook.com/NEIUINTERNATIONALWEEK)

For more information about an event please visit Facebook fan page, contact Felida Keeler, International Week Committee Chair at 773-442-6099 or email Felida at f.keeler@neu.edu

Northeastern
ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

STUDENT UNION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER 2010

URBAN SANKOFA
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9
1:40 - 2:40PM
GOLDEN EAGLES' NEST
COME LEARN SOME NEW BEATS AND
HAVE SOME FUN!

STUDENT SHOWCASE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11
3:00 - 4:00PM
GOLDEN EAGLES' NEST
VICTOR MIRIAM
PERFORMING

CHILD CARE CENTER VISIT
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12
10:15 - 11:15AM
GOLDEN EAGLES' NEST
THE CHILD CARE CENTER WILL BE
VISITING THE STUDENT UNION

RECREATION HOUR
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16
1:40 - 2:40PM
GOLDEN EAGLES' NEST
TAKE A BREAK FROM BOOKS AND
STUDY AND LEARN ZUMBA!

HOLIDAY CELEBRATION
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2
1:00-4:00PM
VILLAGE SQUARE
GOLDEN EAGLES' NEST

1:00 - 1:30PM - WELCOME STUDENTS & PHENOMENAL STORYTELLING
1:30 - 2:00PM KWANZA LIBATION CEREMONY
2:30 - 3:00PM - HANUKAH DEMO
3:00 - 3:55PM - STUDENT SHOWCASE & GINGERBREAD MAKING CONTEST
3:55 - 4:00PM - WINNER ANNOUNCEMENT
WINDOW PAINTS ARE FROM 1:00 TO 4:00PM

WREATH CONTEST

CALLING ON ALL DEPARTMENTS AND ORGANIZATIONS!
REGISTRATION FOR THE ANNUAL WREATH CONTEST
WILL BEGIN ON 11/12 AT 10AM IN SU207. WREATHS MUST
BE PICKED UP BETWEEN 11/15 AT 11AM THROUGH 11/19
AT 3PM. DECORATED WREATHS MUST BE DROPPED OFF
BY 11/22 AT 3PM! GOOD LUCK!

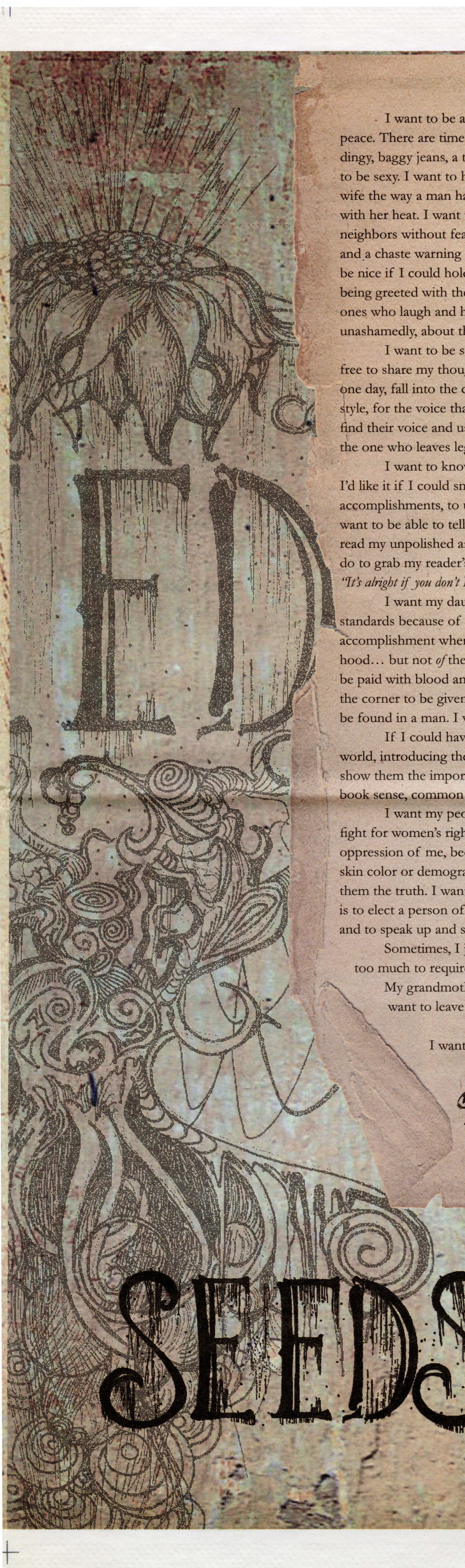
NETBOOK CHECKOUT

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

CONTACT US

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





I want to be able to speak, and be heard. I want to learn, grow, live, laugh, and nurture. I want peace. There are times when society says that I have to be “lady-like”. But I want to wear ripped and dingy, baggy jeans, a t-shirt with cut-off sleeves, and a baseball cap – and *still* have people consider me to be sexy. I want to have someone think, *‘wow, her jogging pants make her look FIERCE!’* I want to have my wife the way a man has his. She’s *my* wife, she’s *my* lover, and I want to feel her surrounding my intimacy with her heat. I want to break headboards and cause commotion. I want her ecstasy to be heard by the neighbors without fear of backlash. When the cops arrive, I want them to leave with a knowing smirk and a chaste warning about the noise, but then I want them to tell us in undertones to have fun. It would be nice if I could hold her hand in public, kiss her... touch her, and be smiled at by passers by instead of being greeted with their scowl. If *I* could have all that *I* desire, I would find myself surrounded by loved ones who laugh and hug my life-mate, who ask how she’s doing, who fail to separate our children and ask, unashamedly, about the well-being of six. I want them to love me, for me.

I want to be sought after, for the words that I sequester and put into lines of text. I want to feel free to share my thoughts without fear of retribution. I want to be someone’s favorite author. I want to, one day, fall into the classification of “Great American Literature”. I want to be known for my writing style, for the voice that I project through my words on paper. I want to teach generations after me how to find their voice and use it to entertain the world. I want to be recorded and taken seriously. I want to be the one who leaves legacies, roadmaps, and paths to brighter futures. I want to empower others.

I want to know what it’s like to be held in the arms of my mother, just because I’m her daughter. I’d like it if I could smell her perfume, and feel her supple warmth. I want her to be proud of my accomplishments, to understand her own power, and to know that she passed that power along to me. I want to be able to tell my mother about my writing and to have the ability to witness her being ecstatic to read my unpolished and unpublished works. I want her to tell me where I’ve gone wrong, and what I can do to grab my reader’s attention; then I want her to say, *‘It’s alright if you don’t Baby, Mama still thinks it’s good.’*

I want my daughters and sons to be free of persecution and free of being held by certain standards because of the color of their skin. I want them to be challenged and feel the glory of accomplishment when they rise to the occasion. I want people to understand that they, and I, are *from* the hood... but not *of* the hood. I want folks to understand that the price we pay for freedom, doesn’t have to be paid with blood anymore, that sometimes – the pen *is* mightier than the sword. I want my brothers on the corner to be given a chance to flex their brilliance. I want my sisters to know that their worth cannot be found in a man. I want peace.

If I could have what I wanted I would find myself with the ability to take my children around the world, introducing them to different folkways and morays, different traditions and belief systems. I would show them the importance of knowledge by way of experience. It’s important to me for them to have book sense, common sense and street knowledge.

I want my people to understand that the fight for gay rights, the fight for immigrant’s rights, the fight for women’s rights, and the fight for civil rights **are** one and the same. I want them to know that the oppression of me, because of my sexual orientation, is the same as oppression of them because of their skin color or demographic orientation. I want churches to stop lying to them. I want schools to teach them the truth. I want society to stop fooling *themselves* into thinking that the only way to *truly* find change is to elect a person of color. I want society to take responsibility. I want people to use their own brains, and to speak up and speak out for everyone. I want a revolution.

Sometimes, I just want to not *want* so much. Is it too much to ask for an equal playing field? Is it too much to require patience and empathy of us all?

My grandmother “Nana” was strong, smart, dignified and empowered – I want to be like her. I want to leave my family with a legacy that they can be proud of.

I want to be free...

What Is It That I Want

By Janean L. Watkins

SEEDS

Literary Spread
2010

Ye-Ye By Jacob Grossman

I thought having this baby would make things better
Bring us closer together
Maybe even forever
Now I'm like whatever
'Cause it ain't like that at all
Springs turn to summers – summers turned to fall
And you ain't stopped by
Sent a card or called
When I ask you to visit
You can't even get with it
I'm not asking for money
Just come by and kick it
But because of your absence
I'm another statistic
A baby mama
Like some talk show
Hoopla Maury Povitch drama
I told him I love him
That I'd be there no matter what
Now things in life seem harder
As if life wasn't hard enough...
(To Be Continued...)

Ikea Shelves By Zac Lehon

The shelves are called **EXPEDIT**, according to the box that sits flattened on the white ceramic floor. The directions are in English, Spanish, and Swedish. He kneels over the pieces and sorts the particle boards according to shape and size all the while wondering if he is doing enough.
It's her first apartment and she is excited to be living the "life" in the city. She has her new furniture, new haircut, new job, essentially she has a new life. She's been waiting to escape the suburbs for years.
He pushes small wood pins into holes that will hold the weight of books and picture frames that will hopefully hold pictures of them. He says he's finished as he stands the shelf up.
She comes to the room and jumps up and gives him a hug. He makes eye contact with her, she goes for her phone in her pocket. Her him, a new him, is coming out tonight. He dragged his feet too long. He thinks the new him will take his place. He still doesn't understand.



Child of the Corn

By Cathleen Schandelmeier-Bartels

Morning Glory By Aaron Leica

Do you remember:

Raindrops upon the street soon to be
The rising plumes of hot summer steam
The smoke that signals, embers fanned
A whole city dry enough to catch fire

Now:

Blue ice
E X P A N D S
Within the hollow C
R
A
C
K
S
The rain once helped form

Pull the covers over the head and bodies beneath the sheets
Hide there all day from the cold gray world outside+--
That causes the bones to crack and the joints to moan
Numb morning stiffness: a coma you can't shake

You hold my hand as I light your cigarette
And we wait for a flame that follows the spark
This is our early morning fog, yet I can see you still
An apparition surrounded by a crimson aureole
And all you ever wanted in life was to be Merry
Giving a glimmer of hope to a hopeless humanity
through the knowledge you never indulged in
How long has it been since you knew me?
An average joe, faithful and never lifting a finger
But when did you ever hear a savior say
There are enough people here to save?

Untitled By Stephanie Gomez

Corporations privatizing the earth and the moon,
Commercializing our thoughts,
Manipulation of mankind
Ownership of hope,
Humanity's demise.



Morning Glorious

By Cathleen Schandelmeier-Bartels

Barbie and Me

By Cathleen Schandelmeier-Barrels

Barbie and I were born the same year
She was born full woman
I had a more difficult transition
Yanked into the world
By forceps
My Barbie survived
Holes poked in her nipples by needles
So her babies could nurse
While at two, I withstood
My parent's divorce
My Barbie survived
My brothers ripping her head off
While I withstood
My mother's death when I was four
My brother's tossed my stiff-legged Barbie from
The window of our VW bus
When I was six
The great thing about Barbie was
She came back in time for Christmas-
With longer blonde hair
and more flexible than ever!
She came back with Ken!
She came back with friends!
She came back with – a career!
She came back with those long legs
Firm breasts
Flat belly
And impenetrable thighs
Barbie came back-
Thing about me is
When I'm gone....?
I mean, when my breasta are poked full of holes
And my head is ripped off
And I'm tossed out of the bus
I'm not coming back
At
All....

Cathleen Schandelmeier
7-6-07



A Raise By Zac Lehon

Today is the day he decided to stop taking all this shit, for this price.
\$11 an hour is enough to support a habit, not a person.

He smirks as he thinks to himself as to how he is going to lay down the law and get financially stable. He is going to tell her he has an Associate's, he is bilingual, he has and is etc. He will not walk out of that office with less than \$13.

She's at her desk with the giant glass panels called walls and looks up. He walks to the doorframe and leans. She has to be somewhere else. She asks, "what's up" before she has to go.

He begins to ask about his position in the company as she stands up and leans in the doorframe with him. He looks down at her hips. She notices. He moves back up to make eye contact, but gets caught at the cold sore lounging on her lip. She notices.
He tells her that the warehouse is cold and could use some heat. She says thanks. He screwed that one up.

Exiles in Granada

By Nathaniel Joseph

Andalusia, beautiful in June
Granada sunshine one bright afternoon

Two Parisians make way to the coastline
Exiled by choice return home in due time

These winding streets twist and turn with each wind
Stop to respite, down by the river bend

They find good work in an apple orchard
Go with the Gitana, sleep by the torches

Lunar heights as the sunbows to the night
The hours pass by as their minds take flight

Tinto verano, a dash of hashish
Spanish guitar strings, hand claps for drum beats

Gypsies sell herbs to gringos on the curbs
While they observe from their perch undisturbed

Muslim markets move wild and intense
They move with ease, smell the fragrant incense

All hours explored, no minute unturned
Each second ticks by, yet no one concerned

No excuse for sweet melancholy blues
Less its Picasso's famous tainted hues

Lovers rise slow to an orange scented wind
Breathe deep to the lungs exhale with a grin

Two Parisians hope for utopia
Found one in Spain, their spirits opened up

Yearn to return, lose all track of the time
Settle in the bliss, relax, and recline.

Golden October

By Alexandra Maragha

Pictures

By Galini Skarizonika

Εικόνες

κόκκινος μπαμπούλας
με πράσινα δόντια
μέσα σε πλυντήριο με ασπρόρουχα
κομματιάζεται ενώ πνίγεται
αίμα ροζ απαλό, ρομαντικό
βάφει το σύμπαν
και πολλαπλασιάζει το παρόν.

χρυσά δαχτυλίδια σε λευκό δέρμα
ασημένιο μενταγιόν περασμένο σε κρίκο στο αυτί
πέτσινο κολιέ με αρχικά
πολλά τατουάζ στο σώμα
κοντά μαλλιά καστανά
ρούχα φαρδιά σπιτιού δανεικού
και μάτια παντού σε όλο το κορμί.

σώμα γυμνασμένο, στιβαρό
γλώσσα που χαϊδεύει το αυτί
κι ανασαίνει μέσα του
προκαλεί σπασμούς και φασαρία
χορεύει προκλητικά αργά με γρήγορο ρυθμό
θέλει κι άλλο και το δείχνει
και δεν το παίρνει ποτέ.

ξενέρωτη ύπαρξη με προκλητικές ματιές
αρκείται στην ύλη και ξεχνάει το χρυσό
φτύνει παντού και πολύ και συχνά
πίνει νερό και κλαίει και μετά γελάει
φαντάζεται μπαμπούλες
κλείνοντας τα αυτιά της
φωνάζει χωρίς να μιλά.

("Pictures" English Translation)

red bogeyman
with green teeth
in a washing machine with white clothes
is minced while drowning
pale pink romantic blood
paints the universe
and multiplies the present.

golden rings in white skin
silver pendant thread in a ring in the ear
leather necklace with initials
a lot of tattoos on the body
short brown hair
loose clothes of a borrowed house
and eyes everywhere on the body.

figure athletic, sturdy
tongue that caresses the ear
and breathes inside it
it provokes spasms and noise
it dances provocatively slowly in a quick rhythm
it wants more and it indicates so
and it never gets it.

a social loser with provocative glances
settles in materials and forgets about the gold
spits everywhere and a lot and often
imagines bogeymen
closing her ears
screams without talking.

Color Druck

By Lakeesha J. Harris

I've watched you throw
your silken black tendrils back in laughter,
how I've longed to do that with my natty hair.

To attend the Ivy League and graduate
Summa Cum Laude. One day
be the doted, center of attention.

The floral scent of my imagining
never seem to mask the musk
of poverty, rancid and penetrating.

Cover girl proclaims
you're easy, breezy, and beautiful.
You assumed your role as a yard stick.

Maybelline says
you're born with it and I try
to birth children of your complexion.

Privilege comes in bottles labeled "natural" and "nude"
to be smeared across ashen Black faces. For a small fee,
I too can have visions of assimilation.

Privilege is savored in spaces clear of conscious,
marinated in aromatic thyme; crusted over and placed
on a beds of organic field greens.

Privilege, you're the clanging of silver on crystal and fine
china,
and the lies of deservedness that you share;
ring finger blinding and heavy of death and two months
salary.

And as your feet wades in plump pastures
I whisper, she should know concrete.

Submissions

For submission guidelines, feature
artists, feature videos, and more at
our website: www.neiu.edu/~seeds

Meetings are every alternating
Thursday, during activity hour
(3:05pm - 4:05 pm) in the Student
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Arts & Life

Entertainment & Features

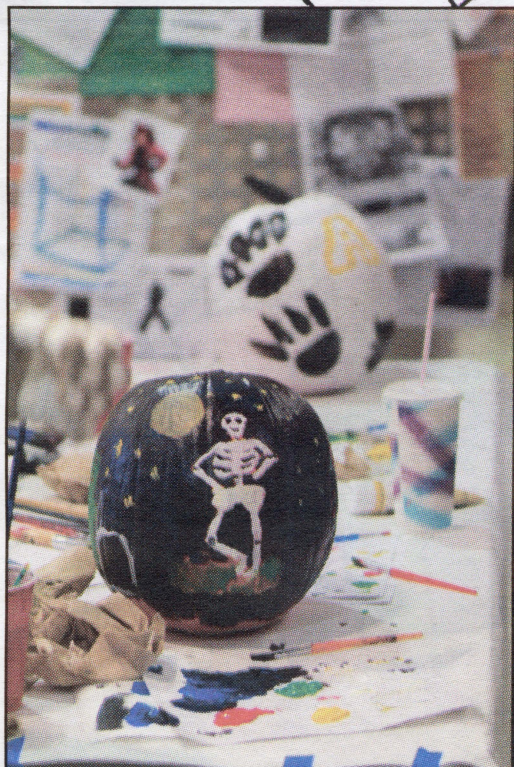


"Dead Grandma" Jacklyn Nowotnik

"Mad Hatter" Wyn Rysdahl

Winners of the Halloween
Costume Contest, organised by
Student Activities Office

Photo by Tamara Susa



WWE Smackdown vs RAW 2011 Review

By Tracey Washington
Production Manager

For a sport that has had its popularity wane in recent years, World Wrestling Entertainment's games have always sold extremely well, and why not? The digitalization of wrestling's dramatic matches and storylines draw crowds and copies steadily fly off the shelves. With this year's iteration, "WWE Smackdown vs RAW" improves on last year's major changes and adds some of its own.

The Superstar controls have more or less stayed the same, as previous iterations of the series. The major difference is the switch of controls between the pick-up grapple and the pin commands. If you're new to the "Smackdown vs RAW" series, you probably won't notice a thing. However, if you've played previous versions, then you might accidentally pin your opponent prematurely, instead of trying to pick him up.

A major change that started with last year's game was the replacement of season mode with the "Road to Wrestlemania". In previous games, there would be a standardized season mode, where you could choose any "WWE Superstar" and have him go through the same storyline. In "Road to Wrestlemania" mode, there are several different, detailed storylines made for specific WWE Superstars. In this update, the storylines are more detailed and have better writing. Also, there's the inclusion of backstage area that your Superstar can explore freely before competing in a match. There are some fun moments exploring backstage, as you can start fights with other Superstars or you can eavesdrop on their quirky (possibly romantic in one) conversations. This mode, however, would be a lot more charming if the camera didn't try to work against you. It's not fun trying to see what's ahead of you when John Cena's giant orange t-shirt takes up half of the screen.

While improving on some aspects, the game also introduces new things too. In the WWE "Universe" mode, rivalries, alliances, number one contenders and even champions are decided just by playing matches. In-match cut scenes and wrestler interferences are also determined by what goes on in your own universe.

As usual, the "Smackdown vs RAW" series is wealthy when it comes to online game play. Almost all of the single player matches are available for online play. A newcomer to that already extensive list is "Online Royal Rumble". The in-game single player "Royal Rumble" is a match where anywhere from 15-30 players are in the middle of the ring and trying to eliminate each other by throwing them over the top rope. However, the "Online Royal Rumble" only supports up to 15 players, but it's still a fun experience, if everyone has a decent internet connection.

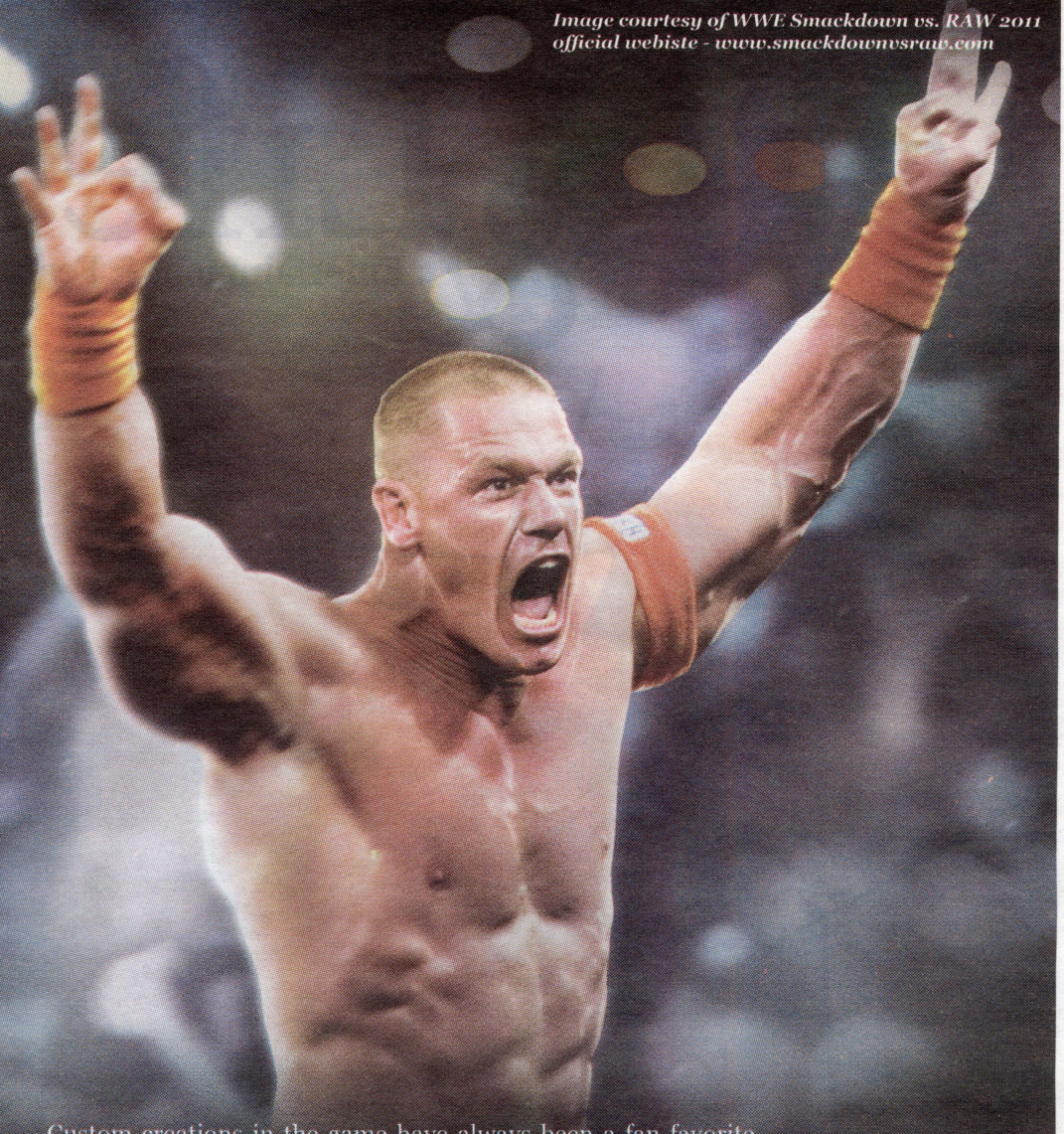


Image courtesy of WWE Smackdown vs. RAW 2011
official website - www.smackdownvsraw.com

Custom creations in the game have always been a fan favorite and in last year's game, the concept jumped forward several times with the introduction of both "Create a Storyline" (a mode where players can create stories and matches for either pre-existing WWE Superstars or custom-made ones) and "Community Creations" (a menu that allows users to both download and upload custom-made content). Community Creations gets a practical makeover for 2011, allowing the user to sift through content much easier.

Over all, "Smackdown vs RAW 2011" isn't exactly a "run to the store and buy right now" kind of game due to the fact that it polishes up existing things, rather than adding new features, but if you're a wrestling fan and have \$60 to throw around, it definitely won't disappoint and like other "Smackdown vs RAW" titles, you'll be finding yourself distracted for weeks, or months, on end.

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Ronald Williams Library

Bean and Corn Salsa: Colorful, Fresh Side Dish Easy To Make in Minutes

By Dulce Arroyo
Arts & Life Editor

What You'll Need:

1 can of black beans
1 can of corn
onion
tomato
cilantro
jalapeños (optional—but gives it a better kick)
olive oil
salt

Directions:

1. Dice the onion, tomato, jalapeños and cilantro.
2. Mix all of the ingredients into a bowl, along with a tablespoon of olive oil and a few quick dashes of salt. Stir ingredients until they are mixed well.
3. Serve as dip with tortilla or corn chips, or use as a side dish along with rice. Serves 6-8 people.

Photo by Dulce Arroyo



Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego?

By Syed Ahad Hussain
Senior Staff Writer

The NEIU Programming Board (NPB) organized 'Where in the World is Carmen Sandiego? – Cafeteria Edition 2010,' the event was a part of the university's ongoing international week celebration. The title of the event refers to the 90s PBS game show based on Brøderbund Software's 'Carmen Sandiego' franchise, as detailed on the fan site, carmensandiego.info.

The event was presented by Omar Gonzalez and Daniel Clark from the NPB in the cafeteria. Participating students were asked geographical trivia questions; like naming the state capitals, guessing the countries by their flags and maps, word jumble was also played for guessing world capitals and countries. The usage of Google and other sites were strictly prohibited and students could win and participate only once, so more students were able to get a chance to participate. The winners were rewarded with NPB t-shirts and toffees. Besides trivia questions, Play Station 3 Move sport games were also being set up and students were encouraged to play.

Events like these are organized, so students can have a chance to test their general knowledge and gain it as well.

Photo by Tracey Washington



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Image courtesy of Taylor Swift Official Website - www.taylorswift.com



"Speak Now" Review: Don't Anger Taylor Swift Unless You Want To End Up In One of Her Songs

By Sean Lynch
Opinions Editor

Have you ever broken up with someone and became so angry that you wrote a song about how horrible they are?

Well, don't. Taylor Swift's already done it and it's better than anything you'll ever come up with.

"Speak Now" is Swift's third studio album and takes off where "Fearless" left off. It contains a mixture of up-tempo songs that make you want to move, as well as plenty of emotional ballads. True to her style, each and every single one is written from her own experiences with real people and real situations.

"Mine," the first single off of "Speak Now," draws from numerous relationships that Swift has been in and how she "runs from love." In the song, however, she talks about how she would ideally like to settle down, to have a family and to experience love in a mature manner.

"Better Than Revenge" is an up-tempo song reportedly about actress Camilla Belle and how she allegedly stole Swift's then-boyfriend, Joe Jonas. In the song, Swift doesn't hold back her dislike and refers to the girl as "an actress... she's better known for the things that she does on the mattress." She also says Belle "should keep in mind / there is nothing I do better than revenge"—which Swift has indeed proven by writing such a song.

In addition to this one used as revenge, "Dear John" is a hauntingly emotional ballad about a breakup between her and an older man (who is allegedly singer John Mayer). In the song, Swift pours her heart out about trying hard to make a relationship work with a man who only played games with her heart. The almost seven minute song is wonderfully written, spaced and sung, and is perhaps the biggest standout on the album.

"Speak Now" is very much similar to Swift's previous albums, albeit better. While some won't see her masterfully crafted songs as anything but the diary entries of a scorned girl, many will understand and relate to the honesty of the album.

Commercially, it is bound to be one of the best selling of the year and could help Swift nab a second Grammy for Best Album. "Speak Now" is one of the best albums of the year and proves that Swift is an ever-growing singer-songwriter at the top of her game.

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Today!!! Last Bake Sale of the Semester!!!
The NEIU Anime Club will be also be selling baked goods and mangas/comics/dvd's.
One last blowout for the semester! :D

NEIU MSA SISTERS HALAQA
THURSDAYS in SCI 102
(3:05 to 4:05)

The purpose for the Sister's Halaqa is to bring together all women (regardless they are muslim or nonmuslim) on NEIU Campus and to talk/learn about various topics. Various speakers will be attending throughout this fall semester InshAllah!
So bring your questions & thoughts - be ready to learn & explore the world of Islam!

NEIU GLBTQA

Join us for our regular
Thursday meetings at 3:05 p.m.
in FA 203.

Student Government Association

NEIU SGA REFERENDUM 2010
Speak your mind and vote on the issues that matter to you as students. NEIU SGA will be hosting our first ever Referendum! Voting is from November 8-13 on campus or online. Referendum questions will be posted as of Tuesday. There will be two per day until the end of the week. Village Square or online!!!

ASSW - Association for Student Social Workers

Tuesday, November 16th, the NASW Illinois Chapter will be on our campus. Please stop by to hear about all the benefits of being a member!

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Toni Morrison's Discussion on *A Mercy*: An Experience of a Lifetime

By Cathleen Schandelmeier-Bartels
Staff Writer

Thunderous applause and a standing ovation greeted Toni Morrison as she stepped onto the stage at Symphony Center to discuss her book, *A Mercy*. Morrison—humbly dressed, with her grey and black braids pulled into a large ponytail extending mid-way down her back—sat on a red chair and sipped water. A sign advertising her book *A Mercy*, which was named the “One Book: One Chicago” selection for Fall 2010, was on her left, along with the picture of a black bird facing her, as if held captive.

This was no ordinary book talk.

Morrison was introduced by Mary Dempsey, head of the Chicago Public Library, as “an icon of American letters”—a title that she has certainly earned. From her first book, *The Bluest Eye*, to her latest, *A Mercy*, Morrison has many well-deserved honors because of her unique ability to write historically accurate, richly poetic and deeply moving representations of the black experience in America. She also earned the Pulitzer Prize in 1988, and went on to become the first African American woman to win the Nobel

Prize for Literature in 1993.

Morrison praised the Chicago Public Library for their extensive research on the background of *A Mercy*; instead of covering the history of the novel, she wanted audience members to read the in-depth analysis given in the program for the event. Although she had forgotten the name of the rebellion in Virginia that is covered in the book, Morrison found the name (the Bacon Rebellion) in the program. According to Morrison, “Chicago should be complimented constantly for ‘One Book: One Chicago.’ She went on to discuss the consequences of racism as being self-loathing, misidentification, and much more than “just atmosphere.”

Morrison said that the idea for her first book, *The Bluest Eye*, sprang from a conversation she had with a childhood friend when they were about nine or ten years old. While they were talking about the existence of God, her friend said she did not believe in him; when Morrison asked why, her friend replied, “Because I’ve been praying for blue eyes for two years and I still don’t have them.”

She then took a step back and considered the beauty of her friend: she was perfectly proportioned, with flawless brown skin and big, brown

eyes. She thought that if her friend had blue eyes, she would be grotesque. This experience led Morrison into a lifetime inquiry into the idea of race.

“No one is born racist,” said Morrison. It is a culturally accepted and institutionalized set of beliefs. Her goal for *A Mercy* was to explore whether America really started out like that, so she decided to write about the period of time before the Salem witch trials in 1690.

Morrison discussed how slavery and race are not inseparable by noting that Greece was built by slave labor, and that Russia needed serfs at one time to survive. She said most of the people who came to America early on risked their lives to be here because they were being shot, drawn and quartered for religious reasons. They were left looking at their own entrails and being thrown in the river over religion because religion is bloody.

Bacon’s Rebellion was interesting to Morrison because it was unique in that it was a rebellion of landed gentry, indentured servants, slaves and yeoman, all of whom decided to get rid of the governor. After Bacon’s Rebellion, new laws were enacted in Virginia that said “no black person can own a weapon.” The laws also said that

any white person could maim or kill a black person without any reason, and not receive punishment.

This was allowed because there needed to be a distribution of some type of power to people who had nothing, and this gave them status.

“The function of racism is dysfunction,” said Morrison. “Our job as human beings who have cultivated language is to become better human beings. It is what corn, cabbage, collard greens and rabbits do! With each generation, everything tries to be a better thing of its own species, and so should we!”

Then, in a soft bedtime story voice, she read the beginning and end of *A Mercy* to those fortunate enough to be in the Symphony Center. Grown adults were holding their breath while listening to this master storyteller with rapt attention.

Once the story was through, to Morrison’s delight, Dempsey gave her the framed catalogue card of *A Mercy* from the Chicago Public Library. Morrison left as she arrived, with everyone on their feet, showering Morrison with applause for the experience of a lifetime.



Image courtesy of www.disney.co.uk

By Alexandra Maragha
Staff Writer

The majesty of the award-winning Broadway musical, Disney’s “The Lion King,” displayed a moving and creative performance at Chicago’s Cadillac Palace Theatre. The atmosphere of the Cadillac Theatre played an equally astounding host and partner as part of the Broadway in Chicago series.

The entrance to the theatre half an hour before curtain held a full house that included adults, children and those from all backgrounds, yearning to catch a glimpse of the beloved characters, Simba and Nala.

The pageantry of the opening song, “Circle of Life,” brought excitement and wonderment to the costumes and presentation of characters. The imaginative costumes allowed the actors to embody and translate animalistic behaviors—not disguising but, instead, enhancing their forms—and helped combine animal and human traits to present each character’s own personality. The talent of acting, singing and puppeteering performed by all members of the cast left no question of showmanship.

The familiar music and lyrics, composed by Elton John and Tim Rice, and the lovable characters created an enthusiastic atmosphere, along with new songs and a new artistic approach to tell the story. Although the orchestra was not seen, two percussionists displayed talents on a range of African drums, which added to the authenticity of the African dance choreography and even enhanced the musical’s language elements.

While the performance was exceptional, the concessions in the lobby of the Cadillac Palace instilled a feeling of being in a movie theater as candy, pretzels and pre-packaged popcorn existed to accompany ticket prices. Despite the theatre’s accommodations, the performance was exceptional, moving, and brought a whole new type of enthusiasm for the familiar Disney classic. “The Lion King” runs now through Nov 27 at the Cadillac Palace Theatre.

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SPORTS

NFL HITS

By Zac Schon
Staff Writer

In an interview from a long time ago and with no particular context that I can remember, Brian Urlacher was talking about receiving a call from Dick Butkus after a good game. Essentially, Butkus told Urlacher that next time he should stomp the running-back in the genitals. Urlacher replied that you cannot do that in modern football. Butkus then hung up.

Change is a difficult thing, especially in a classic institution like football. Football is known for being tough and for separating the men from the boys. Consequently, when a new rule imposes that players actually become suspended from gameplay for hard hits, the game essentially changes. The evidence lies in the first week of the new policy being the highest scoring week in NFL history.

One of the main issues that come to focus is defensive players complaining they cannot play the game anymore. One of the dirtiest players in the league who plays for the Steelers threatened to retire over this whole fiasco. Then, hundreds of sports anchors, philosophers and guys riding a bar stool had something to say over the issue. But before anyone takes any sides, let us look at both sides of the issue.

PRO NEW PENALTIES: Advancing medical sciences show that, not only are concussions bad, but repeated concussions are absolutely horrible for long term health of players; they can lead to loss of motor skills, a destroyed equilibrium and, in the worst case, lowered life expectancy. By lowered life expectancy we are talking about shaving a small sum of 30 or so years in some case off of a player's life.

Another pro to this side of the coin is that players can play the whole season. That means the Cowboys would still be half alive as Tony Romo's clavicle would be intact, Michael Vick would not have missed critical games for the Eagles and Jay Cutler would have to look for another excuse as to why he has been the biggest waste of two first round draft picks. This means that divisions would be decided elsewhere, fantasy football team owners could rest easier Sunday nights and, in general, games might be better.

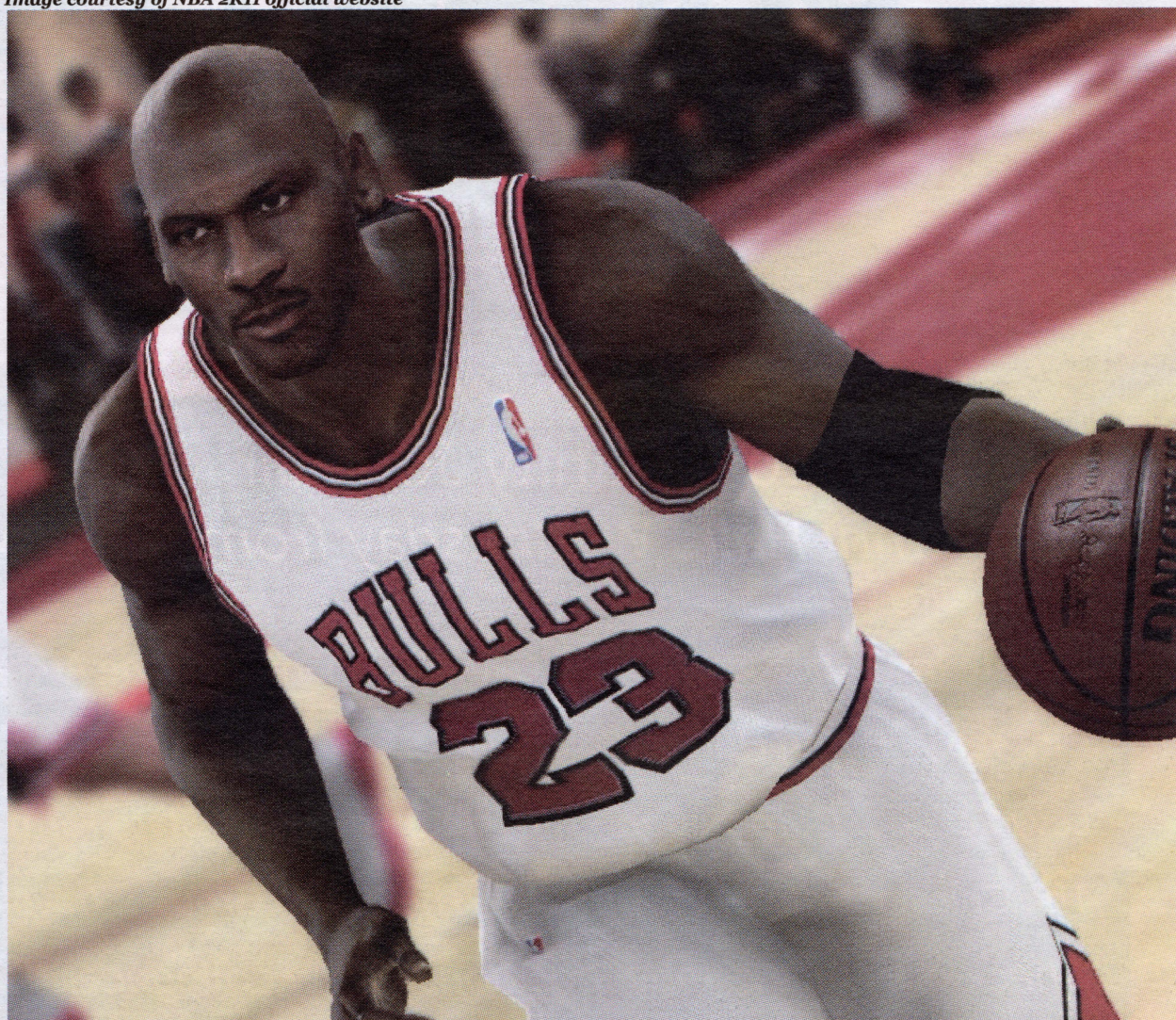
CON NEW PENALTIES: If I played football in high school, I would have played safety for one reason: Picture a third down with 12 or more yards to go. The quarterback steps back and throws his receiver running a slant route. The corner reaches out for the ball and misses. The receiver reaches outward and begins to cradle the ball with his eyes fixated on the pigskin. There is then a sickening thud as the free safety sends all 220 pounds with full speed into the side of the receiver. The ball pops out and the receiver walks back to the sideline, wondering if it is still Friday night.

Hits are one of the best parts of watching football. Every person cheers in a Chicago bar when Brett Favre is railed in a sack or some hotshot receiver gets his head taken off. So when someone gets drilled, we love it (granted they are not on your team or fantasy team).

Another problem is the defense. As mentioned previously, the first week of the new penalty was the highest scoring week in NFL history. This probably also happened when players were thinking about how the refs are looking for the first player to make an example out of. While one could see big defensive men, like Ray Lewis or Jarred Allen, relishing in being the first, the loss of a game and a weeks pay kept these defensive bullies at stake.

So, if you cannot play defense to the fullest degree, then what is the point of having \$15 million defensive ends? What good is a great pass coverage, if the corners and safeties can only tickle the receiver or file a written request for a dropped pass? What will become of the league? The likely odds are that the NFL will turn into the same spectacle of arena football. For those that have not sat through a full game, its essentially ran like someone that is calling plays on Madden with the difficulty set to rookie.

Image courtesy of NBA 2K11 official website



NBA 2K11 Review

Xbox 360, PS3, Wii, PC, PS2, PSP

By Marcin Chojnowski
Sports Editor

Michael Jordan has yet again come out of retirement and is looking to make one last championship run with the team of your choice. Headlining the cover of an NBA licensed videogame for the first time ever, it would only make sense that the greatest player of all time would be showcased in undoubtedly the greatest basketball videogame of all time – “NBA 2K11.”

Before even seeing the main menu screen, the gamer is immediately transported to the old Chicago Stadium for game one of the 1991 NBA finals which featured the Bulls against Magic Johnson and the Los Angeles Lakers. With a camera focused on Jordan standing in the tunnel of the stadium, his Airness shifts his head towards the screen and simply asks, “Are you ready?” He then turns back around and heads onto the basketball court to the cheers of crazed fans paying witness to the Bulls on in their first NBA finals appearance ever.

When word went out that Michael Jordan would grace the cover of “NBA 2K11,” many fans wondered how he would be integrated into the game. 2K Sports developers not only incorporated Jordan into the game, they recreated ten of Michael Jordan's greatest career performances in a game mode called the “Jordan Challenge.” In this mode, you must recreate Jordan's greatest career performances including the flu game in which virtual Michael Jordan must score at least 38 points, record 7 rebounds, 5 assists, and win the game. If any of these goals are not met by the end of the game, you must start over and try again. The “Jordan Challenge” lives up to the name it has been given and proves to be quite difficult at times, as you are brought back to the past to play the glory teams of the late 1980's and early 1990's, such as the Celtics, Lakers, Pistons and the Jazz.

Upon completion of all ten Jordan challenges a new game mode is unlocked, in which a user can draft Jumpman 23 as a rookie onto the team of their choosing. However, there is a downside to this game mode as there is a restriction player lock on Michael Jordan, meaning you can only control Jordan and not the rest of the team. After each game you get a score based on how well Jordan is clicking with the team. Ball-hogging and bad shots result in a bad score whereas sharing the ball and making plays improves Jordan's ratings.

Not only does the Jordan upgrade help make this game one of the most dominant of its kind. Improved artificial intelligence (AI) makes this game one of the most realistic videogames on the market. The days of making pinpoint precision cross court passes, breaking a defender's ankles and sprinting in for a monster dunk are over. Increased AI makes you work for every point scored during the games and proves to be quite the challenge, no matter what a player's skill level is. Success in games depends on how well you utilize your playbook by keeping opponents on their toes.

Also new to the game this year are the player control aspects. From dribbling to passing to scoring, every aspect of the game is player controlled. This new control system happens to be quite hard to get the hang of; however once mastered, gamers can develop a certain style to their game and ultimately control their fate at the end of ballgames.

The “NBA 2K” series has been neck and neck in previous years with the EA Sports “NBA Live Series” (now called “NBA Elite”). This year, “NBA 2K” developers had the goal of edging past their rival basketball videogame franchise. The game is so intimidating that this year's “NBA Elite” game has actually been cancelled. With Michael Jordan gracing the cover, as well as the pure realism of the game, “NBA 2K 11” is truly one of a kind – just like Mike.

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