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Independent - Nov. 23, 2010

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Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY'S

Tuesday, November 23, 2010

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Vol. 28, Issue 8

Students and Faculty Protest Adult and Women Service Program Closing



Students lay out in front of Village Square to protest the closing of the AWSP .

Photo by Janean L. Watkins

By Zac Schon
Senior Staff Writer

As the students lie in the middle of the student union to protest the closing of the Adult and Women Service Program, it is hard to overlook the irony of an institution that boasts diversity, but is closing such a program is hard to overlook. For those not familiar with the term "diversity", Merriam-Webster's Online dictionary defines diversity as the condition of having or being composed of differing elements: variety; especially *: the inclusion of different types of people (as people of different races or cultures) in a group or organization. On Nov 15, students from across the university came together as one, to protest the

closing of this program and the refusal of the administration to work on a physical Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Trans-Gender and Questioning (LGBTQ) center in the school. "I'd like to lay down with them," said Dean Kelly, as a voice rumbled over a megaphone with protest chants that did not to capture the attention of those that were in line to order their coffee. The protest comes just days after an overwhelming amount of students voted in the SGA referendum to keep the program that caters to women (60 percent of the student body) and adults.

As of now, there are current

talks of an online, or "virtual," LGBTQ center. "It's essentially putting us back into the closet," remarked one student on the possibility of the online center. The center was first brought up in the President's town hall meeting and was met with warm reception by those in the audience. There is currently no exact explanation of how an online cultural center would work.

"It's important that, with the budget being all messed up and all, that Northeastern still keep some sort of dignity," a student who wished to remain anonymous said. "I just hope it's worth it."

Closing of Adult and Women Service Program Causes Concerns in Student Life

By Vasilka Atanasova
Senior Staff Writer

Being an NEIU student means access to many services and academic programs. Our school is well known for its cultural diversity and affordable tuition. It's tolerant community committed to providing an excellent education leading the students to future success. Among those academic commitments, NEIU has been providing the

diversity of students with various supportive services to ensure that they all have equal access to the university's resources. Nevertheless, one utilized utilized center, this office responds to the unique and varied needs of adult learners and women students on a culturally diverse, urban campus and facilitate the involvement of these students in the total educational fabric of

promote unrestricted access and active involvement of adult and women students in NEIU life. "As a resource and action

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Act One Scene Two: Crossroad Tango

By Alexandra Maragha
Staff Writer

A university wide discussion, organized by the Northeastern Illinois University Professionals of Illinois (NEIU-UPI) membership, about the fate of public education and the future of NEIU was held Thursday, Nov. 11 in Alumni Hall. The event titled, "Visions for Northeastern and our shared future," centered on creating an open forum for faculty, staff and students to reflect and discuss current and future trends, thoughts and feelings regarding the climate and culture of NEIU and education.

The five faculty speakers included Nanette Potee (Communication Media and Theatre), Erica Meiners (Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies), Sophia Mihic (Political Science and Philosophy), Sarah Hoagland (Philosophy) and Christina Gomez (Sociology). Each presented their evaluations leaving time for audience members to pose comments and questions at the end.

Almost 100 faculty, staff and students intently sought answers and hoped to establish a communication lifeline between members of the NEIU community. Potee began by voicing her concerns about organizational culture. "Changes need to be organic from the ground up," Potee said. "Change is inevitable, but growth is optional."

Dr. Erica Meiners started her thoughts by stating up front that faculty presenting are "not here representing the union, but representing ourselves as part of the union." She continued by summarizing the current state of public education nationally, emphasizing the harsh reality of economic crisis and the impact decisions made by those in power have had on public education. Meiners said, "History tells us strong people don't need strong leaders."

Then Dr. Sophia Mihic took the floor and captured the audience by stressing urgency to hold on to

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

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

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November 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
22	10am - FHP Blood Drive Alumni Hall	11am-4pm WZRD Bake Sale Village Square 2-6pm Gamma Phi Omega Hit the Books	25	26	27	28
Delta Tau Lambda co-sponsored with L.I.P. Love Your Body Week	12-6pm FMLA Rosie the Riverter Bake Sale Village Square	9am-5pm Hillel info table Village Square	12-5pm ASSW Bake Sale Village Square	3	4	5



POLICE BLOTTER POLICE BLOTTER POLICE BLOTTER POLICE BLOTTER POLICE BLOTTER POLICE BLOTTER



Week ending November 20th



Nov 08 - P.E. Complex exterior - Unknown offender damaged light post. This case is administratively closed.



Nov 11 - Library - Kids found wandering around unsupervised. They were turned over to mom, who was found in another building. This case is administratively closed.



Nov 10 - C Building - Unknown offender stole victim's link card from office area. This case is under investigation.

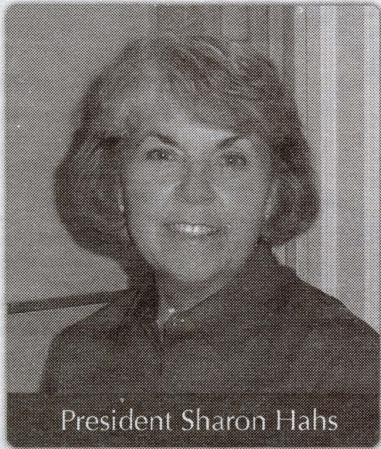


Nov 10 - B Building - Unknown offender stole victim's I-Pod after it was left unattended. This case is administratively closed.



Nov 11 - 5555 N. Kimball- 3 state citations & I-bond issued to driver. Drug possession (cannabis, 30 grams or less). Court date pending. Car towed.

The President's Pen



President Sharon Hahs

One of the great joys of being president of Northeastern Illinois University is meeting alumni. The common theme of the remarkably diverse stories they tell is the gratitude they feel for their education at NEIU and for the faculty who made it possible. Many of these graduates, in addition to making important contributions to their professions and communities, have gone on to achieve prominent leadership positions. One of these is Jose Rico.

I first met Jose in April of this year when I was in Washington, D. C. representing Northeastern at the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Capital Forum. The two-hour meeting took place at the U. S. Department of Education in the conference room located across from

Secretary Duncan's office. Like many of you, Jose was a first-generation college student, who worked while attending college. He knows from experience the challenges to be met in order to earn a college degree.

Prior to attending Northeastern, Jose attended the University of Illinois-Urbana where he studied mechanical engineering. In his senior year, Jose realized he that his career interests were changing and he began to explore other options. After working as a science teacher at Chicago's Latino Youth Alternative High School, and serving as program director for Public Allies, a Chicago nonprofit organization, Jose enrolled at NEIU.

At NEIU, Jose was a student in the University Without Walls Program. Jose's academic concentration was in Community Leadership Development. His academic advisor was Professor Renny Golden and his community advisor was Michelle Obama. In May 1999, Jose received his Bachelor of Arts degree. Later on, Jose also completed two master's degrees: one in curriculum and instruction from the University of Illinois-Chicago and another in administration from National-Louis University.

On February 1, 2010, President Obama appointed Jose to be Deputy Director for the White House Initiative. This program focuses on ways to improve the academic achievement of Hispanic students.

Jose's background and his experience at Northeastern have served him well in this position. As Deputy Director, he has reached out to us and to other institutions who share our special commitment to Latinos. Through Jose our university has established an important and mutually beneficial relationship with the White House Initiative and the programs it sponsors.

This past summer, Jose helped secure a paid internship for an NEIU student to work with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. You can imagine what a priceless opportunity that this was for one of our students. It is also the kind of opportunity that raises the profile of the University and benefits all our students.

This past October, Jose reached out to us once again to facilitate Northeastern's participation in the National Education Summit and Call to Action, events sponsored by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics. It is important that NEIU, as a federally designated Hispanic Service Institution, participate in events which focus on the Hispanic community. Participation also provides us with an opportunity to establish contact with key Department of Education and Obama Administration officials who develop policies which affect all of our students. Jose was also instrumental in arranging for an NEIU student and the Chair of our Board of

Trustees, Carlos Azcoitia, to attend the White House Initiative Executive Order Signing Ceremony held at the White House.

All of us—students, faculty, and staff—who are committed to NEIU are proud of the success of graduates like Jose, and grateful for their contributions as alumni to the on-going mission and current students of our university. The achievements of students like Jose give me special pride to serve as President of NEIU.

In just a few days we will celebrate the December commencement. For me, graduation day is always a special event. It celebrates achievement, promise, and commitment. This year joining us for the celebration will be Jose Rico of the Class of 1999. It will be my honor to present him with the 2010 Distinguished Alumnus Award. It will be a special moment all of us can look forward to sharing together.

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.

Act One Scene Two continued...

procedure. "Proceduralism is the cradle that forms the community of the university," Mihic said. She commented on her enjoyment of engaging in groups that allow her to learn and grow as an individual, even if there are conflicts. "We have to learn to settle conflict without threatening force," she said.

In an effort to reiterate the importance of signed agreements, Mihic reminded that those who signed the Declaration of Independence did so deliberately because they understood and supported, in word and action, what they signed.

This motion of inconsistency of procedure versus implementation has called for roles and intensions to be further questioned by many faculty members, as they struggle with what is written in their contracts versus what is said by administration.

Dr. Sarah Hoagland followed this sentiment with her own thoughts, briefly addressing statements made by President Sharon Hahs, in that "she [Hahs] made claims that she feels she justifies herself." Likewise, Hoagland speculated "If she [Hahs] could do it over again, she would pay attention better, but the outcome would be the same."

Hoagland was the first speaker to state that a strike may become a closer reality, saying she is, "concerned and afraid we are going on strike."

Dr. Christina Gomez spoke regarding the visions and values of education and the NEIU community. "Having values mean we must live it every

day and...must be lived through our actions," said Gomez. She emphasized the importance of giving faculty "time to teach" and "time with students must be valued and research time must be respected and compensated." Gomez closed by restating the importance of holding a "dialogue with students that lead to teaching moments."

After remarks were presented, students, faculty and staff voiced their reactions and concerns. Dr. Charles Steinwedel of the history department at NEIU, encouraged all to "take control of our own lives." He spoke of his experience participating in the faculty strike of 2004, stating "Once you have a strike, the next one comes more easily." However, he added that, "I don't want to do it again." Steinwedel also said that "what separates us is not that great, but it is very important."

Nancy Underwood, an NEIU student, said, "A strike does not make me happy. It would show no communication between people who make more money than me and make as much money as me. It would be unacceptable to me as a student."

Kristina Garcia, Student Government Association (SGA) President, added her thoughts stating "We are assessed as students, but faculty are assessed from both sides- students and administration," and said that there seems to be "confusion about who you [faculty] represent."

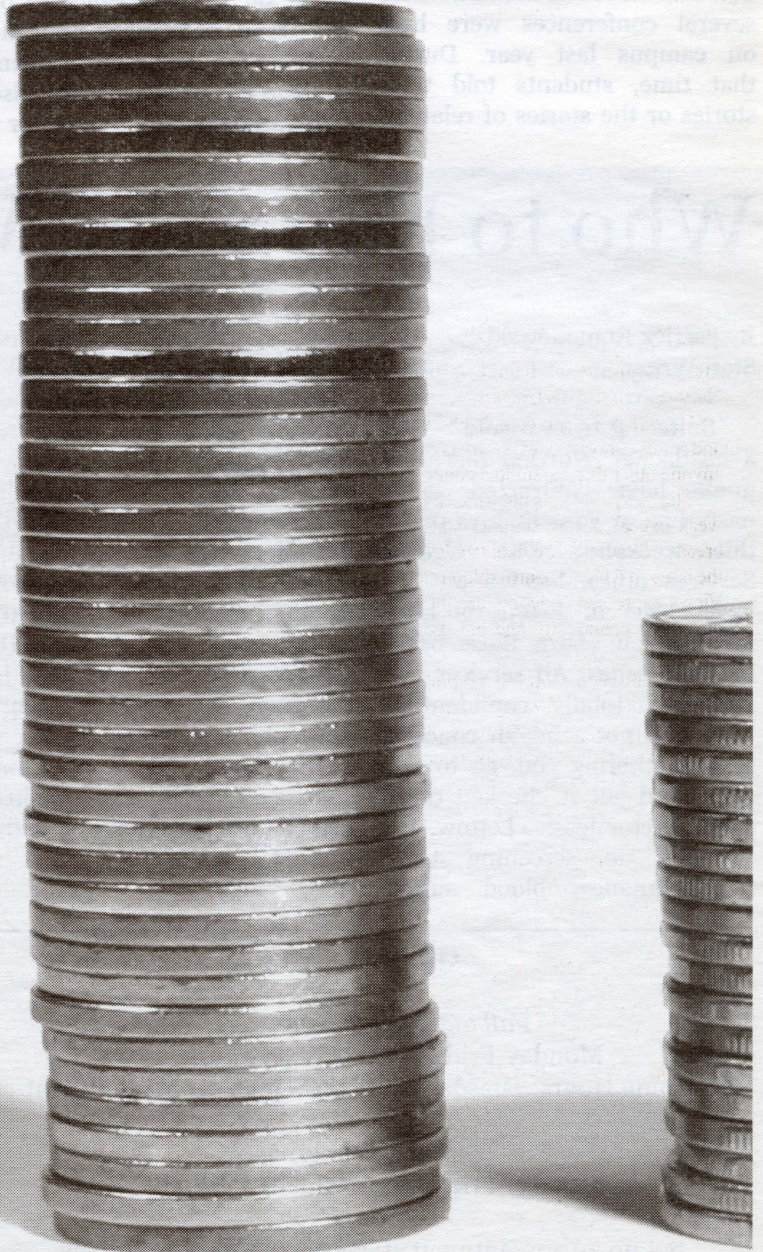
Garcia also encouraged faculty to exercise their power by formally evaluating the NEIU administration through the

faculty senate. She stated, "we voted, and they got the grade," referring to a recent vote where SGA determined a vote of confidence on President Hahs, and a vote of no confidence on Provost Frank. Garcia again asked the present faculty to "step to empower representatives to vote and give a grade."

NEIU history instructor Richard Grossman also commented on his feelings of distress. "I get paid less than a Chicago public school teacher. We can't go on strike." A feeling of agreement emerged as "no one wanted to stand in the rain eating doughnuts to solve problems." Grossman said, "It takes two to tango and we have showed up at the dance. It is time for administration to show up to the dance and make some motion."

President Hahs, and a few members of the board of trustees, were present sitting in the back of the hall. Hahs' reaction to the thoughts presented was restrained as she stated, "They initiated this event, it is their forum with that was said."

The Independent is currently hiring undergraduate and graduate students with a business background. Potential applicants should be able to manage the day to day monetary needs of the Independent as well as sell advertising space for future issues. If you are currently in the school of business and management or have prior business expertise please send your applications to neiuadvertising@yahoo.com



"I get paid less than a Chicago public school teacher. We can't go on strike."

- Richard Grossman - History instructor

AWSP Concerns continued...

the institution,” says the mission statement states.

“As a resource and action center, this office responds to the unique and varied needs of adult learners and women students on a culturally diverse, urban campus and facilitates the involvement of these students in the total educational fabric of the institution,” is the mission statement.

In the beginning, the office of the program was located in the basement of D-building and it had a different name. Many students didn't know about it because of its location. The director of the AWSP, Dr. Sheena Warren, said, “One of the challenges was the visibility and the poor location.” Last summer though, the office was moved to B-building room 119, which made it much more accessible. The next step was overcoming the lack of visibility to inform the students of the resource available to them, by using tabling activities.

“I got out and made myself visible,” said Dr. Warren. She said that AWSP had a lot of space down in the basement, but the program and staff had shrunk over the years because of the tough economic times. The program has its hands in many functions; including supporting veterans, transfer students, as well as adult and women students. It provides services such as childcare and housing resources, transitional university orientation and domestic violence and sexual assault counseling.

“The Clothesline Project” was one of the program's very successful events, which is a month long initiative and outreach on sexual assault, where several conferences were held on campus last year. During that time, students told their stories or the stories of relatives

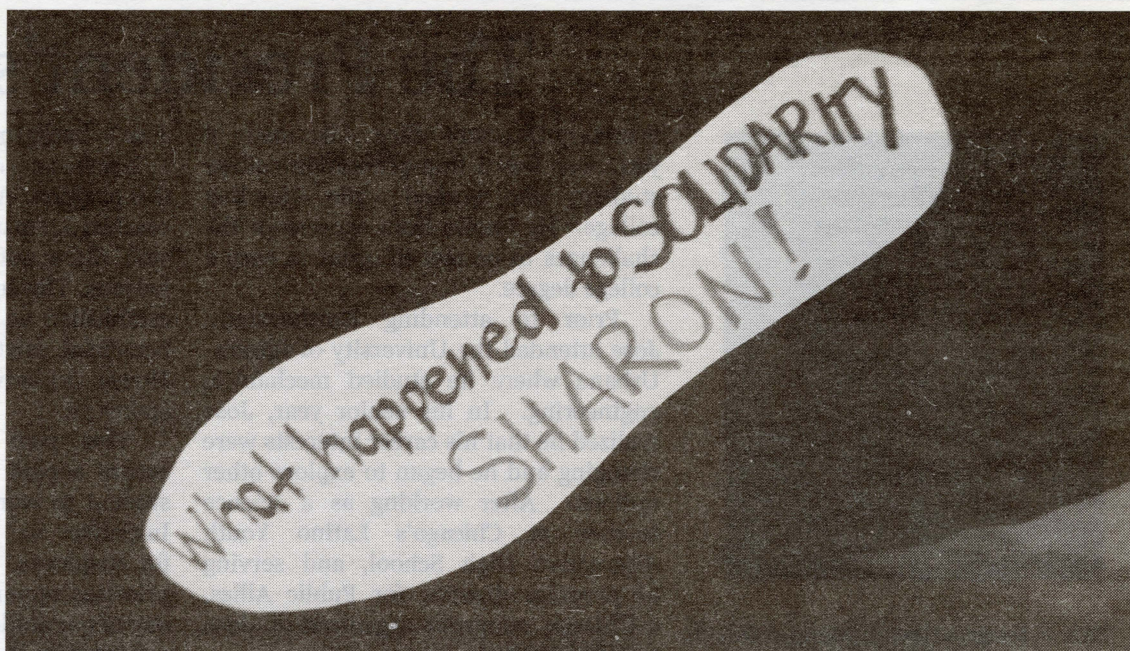
and friends who have been victimized. Warren connected with faculty within different departments, such as political science, sociology and justice studies, to bring their classes to the sessions and workshops. The number of students visiting “The Clothesline Project” on a daily basis was around 3,000.

Dr. Warren said that the biggest problem many adult students face is time management, and since she is a certified trainer in “Seven Habits for Highly Effective College Students”, she has organized numerous workshops and one-on-one sessions with students to help them manage their time more efficiently.

However, she said, “I never know what my day will present.” The issues she faces daily range from women victims of sexual assault, women whose children are being bullied in school and students in violent relationships whom she helps to get an order of protection or to prepare and plan to leave.

Moreover, Warren helps set up child care or housing resources. She noted that she has helped many students to get short or long term housing, so they don't become homeless. She added, “You won't believe how many students are homeless, but they are still in school.” The issues, she continued, are women being raped, sexual orientation, Muslims who are secretly baptized and are afraid and various other issues.

“Nothing in the world prepares you to deal with these issues,” said Warren. She explained that people need to be set up in advance to be successful, not to wait until the middle of the semester for them to drop out of school. She also helps students find a career or a



Paper shaped like footprints are used in protest of the Adult and Women Services Program closing

Photo by Janean L. Watkins

“If this program is broken down, it will separate the bond that the AWSP members have established...a program where we are connected with individuals that share common interests is a pleasure and comfort.” - Patricia Barnes - Student

nontraditional degree and teaches how to use it.

“The services are viable and much needed,” said Warren. However, on Aug. 24, she received a letter giving the reason for the closing of the AWSP – AWSP did not align with the strategic plan of NEIU.

As far as we know, some services will be redirected to other offices. This is what Michael Kelly, the Dean of students said, “[AWSP] is not closing, it has been reorganized.” He said that the most important services will be retained and that they are trying to prioritize what the most important services are for students. Kelly added that it is the director's position that has been eliminated, as a result of financial circumstances. He said that they are talking to students now regarding which services to keep.

However, Sheenita Robinson, a student utilizing the services of AWSP, said that nobody has talked to her. Having heard the news of eliminating AWSP's office, she said, “Who will I talk to now?” Robinson explained that Warren had helped with her management skills, with organizing her time and with keeping her academics in order. She added that Dr. Warren is the only African-American who facilitates the needs of African-American women on campus.

“If you see a face like yours it's, easier,” said Robinson. She added, “[Warren] is a great motivator, moms get discouraged, [but] she is like, ‘hey you can do it.’”

Other people using the services AWSP provides shared the same opinion. Timothy Liberty, a president of the Veterans' Club, said, “Although

veterans take care of veterans, it is nice to have people like Sheena to go the extra mile for us.” Liberty explained that Dr. Warren was the first to inform him that NEIU had services for veterans. Warren herself said that last year, for the first time, AWSP began outreach to the military and veteran students. Before that, it was difficult to identify those students.

Patricia Barnes, another student benefiting from the AWSP services said, “If this program is broken down, it will separate the bond that the AWSP members have established...a program where we are connected with individuals that share common interests is a pleasure and comfort.”

Who to Know and Where to Go: Health Services

By Patrick Romanowski
Staff Writer

Suffering from a cold? Got a headache? Worried that you might have contracted some nasty bug at your buddies place this weekend? The Health Services office, located on the lower level in E-051, is here to help you assess these basic medical issues. All services are free and totally confidential. “If you've got a health concern that's bothering you, go to the office and get it checked out,” says Director Jessica Lettow.

They do screening tests for pregnancy, blood sugar,

tuberculosis, strep, cholesterol levels, hemoglobin testing, HIV/AIDS testing and testing for other sexually transmitted diseases. They also administer vaccines for the flu and meningitis. Contraceptives are available in the office, and they can prescribe most forms of birth control. Appointments can be set up online at their page on the NEIU website. The office has been in the same location for twenty years and isn't going anywhere anytime soon. So, if you think you may be pregnant, or you just need an ice pack, now you know where to go.

Office Hours

Fall and Spring Semesters

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Evening Hours: Tuesdays until 6:00 p.m., by appointment

Summer Semester

Monday-Friday: 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Set up an appointment at: www.neiu.edu/~heathshs



Health services is located in the basement of E Building.

Photo by Tracey Washington

COMMENTARY

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Editorial

We in America have the right to vote. This powerful decision is essentially the foundation of our society, yet so many of us refuse to do.

This month, we've had the ability to vote twice, both times for something very important: The 2010 Midterm Election, and the 2010 NEIU SGA Referendum. While both are different in that you elect leaders in the former and choose causes in the latter, both are essential.

Many people say that they don't vote because their vote doesn't count; that they are only one single person. What we as a society need to realize that voting isn't just one single person, it's one single person joining another single person who is joining another single person and so on and so forth. This unity is what makes voting so powerful.

In the NEIU SGA Referendum we see the power of voting because students vote directly for what they want. This year's ballot contained subjects such as library hours, online classes the ever talked about the U-Pass. This year's referendum showed a voter turnout of 1,430 - more than twice than that of last of year.

In the Midterm Election we see that everyone voting really is important. While the majority of races were decided later on Election Day, by November 9, a full week after the election, seven races were still undecided, including Illinois's own race between House of Representative candidates Melissa Bean and Joe Walsh, with Walsh eventually coming out the victor.

Even as of November 19, five of these races are still undecided because the races are so close. This only proves that ever vote counts.

As students that chose to pursue higher education, it is our responsibility to vote because it decides the future not just for ourselves, but everyone around us. While we on campus did have an increase in voter turnout, 13 percent really is not enough. If you want your voice to be heard, if you want to see change and if you want to do your duty as an American you need to get out there and vote. Whether or not you believe it, it does make a difference.

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Bipartisanship Failure in America

By **Jeff Dutton**
 Staff Writer

At the beginning of this month, something great happened. The annoying political advertisements, that seemed to run every two minutes on every single television station, finally ceased. This happened, of course, because the 2010 mid-term elections came and went. There are still races that have not been decided, but as of the writing of this article, the Republican Party has gained six seats in the Senate and 60 seats in the House of Representatives, helping the party regain majority control of the House after losing it to the Democrats in 2006. By now, I am certain that many of you have heard all kinds of predictions and analysis about what statement the American electorate has made at the polls this election cycle. Some say that the American people have rejected the policy agenda of President Obama. Others claim it was mainly a statement against the recent health care legislation, and some will argue it was a statement about the lack of economic progress over the past two years. The underlying statement of this election and recent previous elections is clear: the American people want and need better choices of leadership.

After years of bitter bipartisanship and a relative lack of progress on serious issues facing our nation ranging from the ballooning national debt, the solvency of our entitlement programs, the proper execution of two foreign wars, improving the quality of and access to education, serious trade imbalances and the need for domestic energy sources that do not line the pockets of hostile nations, the American people became fed up and removed the Republican party from power in the House of Representatives in 2006. Then in 2008, still fed up, the American people removed the Republican party from power in the White house. Now in 2010, fed up even still, the American people have removed the Democrats from power in the House of Representatives and diminished their power in the Senate. After three election cycles of "throwing the bums out," you would hope that the other party - mind you there are really only two - that regained power would get the message. We need a mix of ideas. We need statesmen. We need consensus. We need well debated and carefully considered action! We need an understanding that the beliefs and values of the electorate, as well as the solutions to the challenges our nation faces do not and will not fit into one of the two clearly defined options we are given.

Yet, what do we get? We get Mitch McConnell, the Republican minority leader of the Senate, giving a speech in which he declares the agenda of the Republican party over the next two years needs

to focus on taking all possible actions to obstruct the actions of the President and focus on defeating the President in the 2012 election. He claims this is necessary because the elections clearly show that the American people want the Republican party agenda implemented, and in order to do this the focus of the Republican party has to be on the 2012 elections and on defeating President Obama. I am not sure how Senator McConnell has missed this fact, but when it comes to having to pick between the only two options we have, the American people are just about split 50/50. This fact would say to any intelligent person that the desires of the people, the people that this government is supposed to work for, are not homogeneous, and that compromise and cooperation are required in their governance. Democrats won control of our government and felt it was their right to relentlessly pursue their agenda without compromise, and look what happened to them this election. We keep screaming for statesmen, and we keep getting politicians concerned with consolidating their party's power.

America is a large nation, the third largest by population on this planet, with over 300 million citizens and countless different philosophies, ideals, values and concerns amongst its citizens. It has become clear that the two parties, which increasingly take opposite positions on every issue, do not accurately reflect the range of values and opinions amongst our people. Many of the immense challenges we face as a nation absolutely require action that would constitute a compromise of the policy positions of our only two political parties. For instance, our national debt, which the baby boomers are so graciously leaving to us as they retire, requires both the cutting of government spending and programs (the Democrats scoff at this) and a raising of taxes (the Republicans abhor this), in order to be paid down and our budget to become sustainable.

The question now becomes, "what do we do as a people?" Do we keep "throwing the bums out?" Do we simply wait and hope that our only two choices somehow begin to work together and accommodate the numerous and varied views of the American people? Personally, out of an absolute desire to see the end of this dichotomy of gridlock, I have begun to vote only third party. Yet, I understand the fear that a vote for a third party is a wasted vote, but how else do we bring forth more political choice? How do we obtain leadership in government that represents a wide range of ideas, beliefs and values; that is willing to exchange and genuinely debate these ideas and reach compromise in order to get the business of the American people done? This is a serious question. Please write in and let your voice be heard.

"We need an understanding that the beliefs and values of the electorate, as well as the solutions to the challenges our nation faces do not and will not fit into one of the two clearly defined options we are given."

Educate Yourself About Politics: Don't Cast a Blind Vote

By David A. Lynch
Staff Writer

The power to cast a vote in to elect an official is exceptionally powerful. When the United States was founded in 1776, the founding fathers of this country restricted the ability to vote. Only wealthy white landowners were afforded the right to vote initially. For nearly two hundred years, those who had the ability to vote made attempts to legally prevent women, African-Americans and other minorities from participating in the electoral process. Today, there are several laws in place to guarantee that almost everyone over the age of 18 has the right to vote.

The United States uses a representative democracy. That is, we as individuals are not directly involved in the governing process. We empower another individual to represent us and our interests. Those elected officials should be knowledgeable, responsible and ethical. The election of poor representatives will not necessarily run the government into the ground, but the effects will certainly be felt by voters.

In the current age of 24/7 news coverage it is far easier for voters to be aware of political issues. With the Internet readily accessible for many, it is far easier for voters to become knowledgeable about the stance that candidates have on many issues. When Barack Obama was elected as President in 2008, he campaigned on the promise of change. Change is something that needs to occur at a fundamental level for everyone if this country is going to improve. Voters need to educate themselves about candidates. They need to elect representatives who will best represent their interests, and elect those who have a similar stance on political issues.

Voting simply because of party affiliation does not accurately reflect the complex issues that we face today. Sure, a candidate may be a member of the Democratic Party, but what is her stance on same sex marriage, abortion or education? These are questions that voters should know before they cast their vote, but often that is not the case.

Feb. 22 is the date of the next Chicago Mayoral election. In the next three months, use some of that free time to educate yourself about the candidates. Vote for the person that you feel will best represent you and the city. There is an old saying about Chicago elections: "Vote and vote often." Be a part of the change and vote responsibly.

McDonald's Gets a Price Hike

By Cathleen Schandelmeier-Bartels
Senior Staff Writer

"Mom! I'm hungry!" This refrain greets me every day when I pick up my children from school. While I try to pack healthy food and be prepared with after-school snacks, I am not perfect, especially in times of stress. Occasionally, we go through the drive-through at McDonald's and attempt to make healthy vegetarian choices.

I must not be alone in my choice to take my children to McDonald's, because our precious few purchases alone are not enough to justify the chain's third-quarter profit, which, according to www.marketwatch.com, "rose 10%, with growth driven by increased comparable-store sales and higher customer visits around the globe." Proving that McDonald's continues to claim profits and offer jobs, because in these times of economic hardship, no matter what, people have to eat to live.

In fact, many people go to the drive-through at McDonald's without a second thought because of its accessibility and affordability. The affordability of McDonald's is now in question, as it is raising its prices. Sales for McDonald's are rising thanks to its dollar menu, which offers an affordable alternative for people on the go. Recent price increases include several one-time dollar menu items, like the McChicken sandwich, which is now going for \$1.25. While McDonald's menu has been enhanced by the addition of grilled chicken and

salads, its image is still tainted by the stigma of high calories and the animal fat in its french fries.

Animal fat content at McDonald's is a huge concern for our family of vegetarians. My teenage son is on a permanent hiatus from McDonald's due to his ardent vegetarianism. He prefers Burger King because they offer a veggie burger. My vegetarian 9-year-old daughter orders a no-meat cheese burger with her apple dippers in the Happy Meal when we go to McDonald's. This serves as a kind of cheese sandwich. She also enjoys the small side salad available from McDonald's for a dollar. Other items on McDonald's menu include such healthy fare as the Asian salad, the Santa Fe salad and apple slices.

McDonald's is working to edge in on the Starbucks market with its new McCafe offerings which are - more affordable than Starbucks, including a McCafe Mocha, the McCafe Latte and the McCafe Cappuccino. When I recently asked how many calories were in a McCafe Caramel Frappe, I was given a place-mat style calorie guide, which stated that a small McCafe Caramel Frappe is 550 calories, more than a McDouble with cheese (390 calories).

Calories aside, it is my contention that McDonald's will not suffer by raising its prices. People will continue to eat there, and the great franchise that is McDonald's will flourish.

Recent price increases include the one-time dollar menu items, like the McChicken sandwich, which is now going for \$1.25

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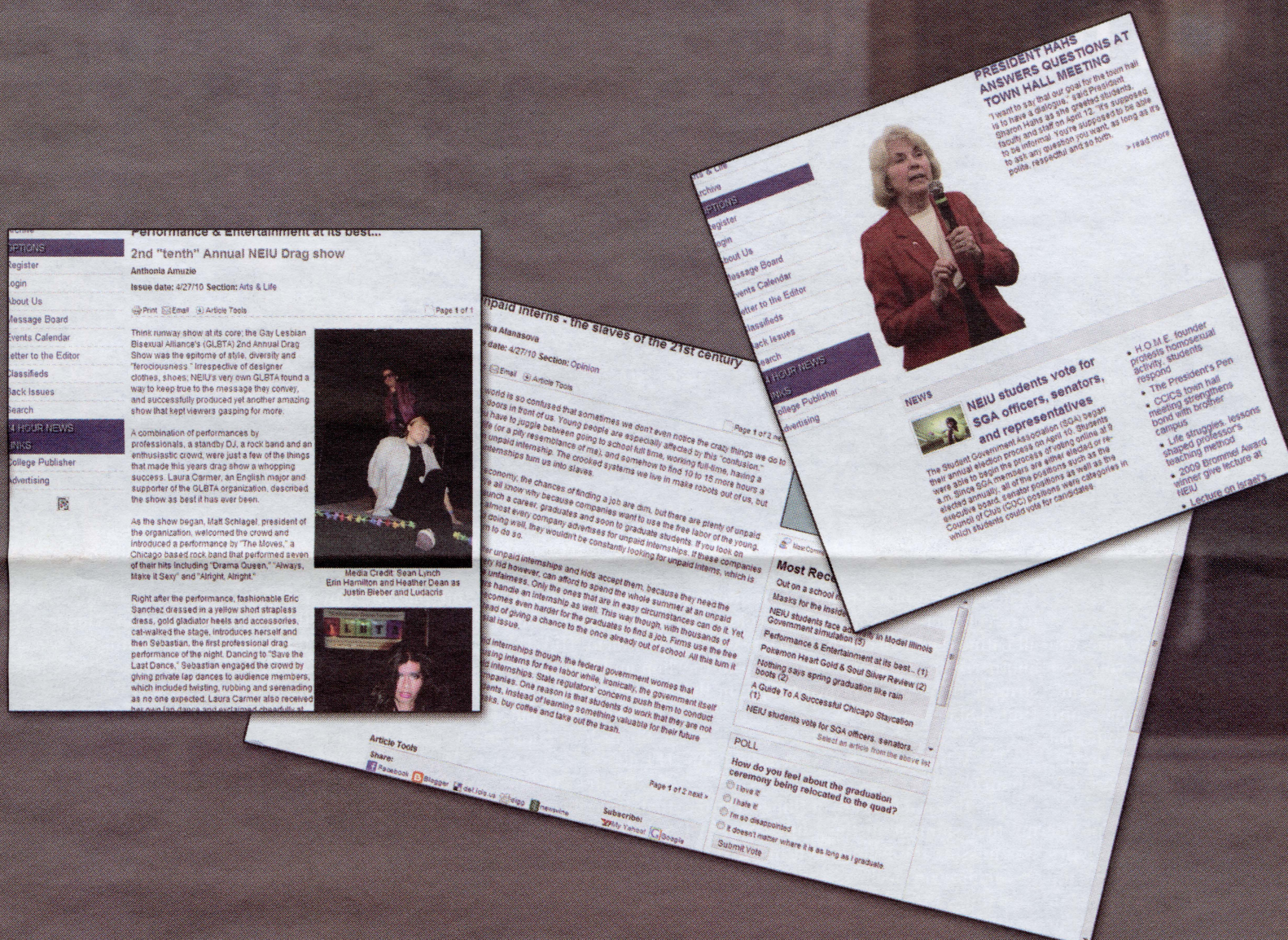
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INTERVIEW WITH HIP HOP ARTIST RUBÉN BORRERO



Photo by Jacklyn Nowotnik

By Jacklyn Nowotnik
Contributing Writer

Do you remember the first time you heard hip-hop? The first time you ever heard “A Tribe Called Quest”, “Common”, “Big Pun” or “Immortal Technique”, and felt the originality that spoke to your soul and made you bob your head to the beat?

That’s exactly what Rubén Borrero’s “The Color Brown” will do to you.

The Color Brown is a recipe for musical perfection, as the sagacious lyrics flow along with beats that represent the solidness of hip-hop and the slickness of a Jazz bass line. As you begin to take in every lyric and sound, you soon begin to feel a sense of pride for the color brown, regardless what shade of brown you may be.

As John Diaz said in Pasitos Andinos, “The color brown baby, yo se que te gusta” (I know you like it).

Jacklyn Nowotnik: Who made “The Color Brown” possible?

Rubén Borrero: The Color Brown was a project made possible by the musical talent of John “Skeptic” Diaz and my lyrics. This past summer I sat down and listened to John’s beats, and my mind just went crazy. I always had the poetic talent to express what I feel, but I was never comfortable using a specific rhythm or pattern to utter those feelings. Skeptic’s beats provided me with this opportunity and I took it.

JN: What’s the story behind the name “The Color Brown”?

RB: After coming to the U.S. from Puerto Rico, I had a newfound love for the Latino culture in general. Not only Puerto Ricans, but also Mexicans, Salvadorians, Guatemalans, Colombians, Venezuelans—just everybody that identifies themselves with this mix of cultures that have to go through the same struggles in this country, regardless of their country of origin. I also realized that white Americans often referred to us as “brown” people not as

an offense, but as a way to categorize us. I guess “The Color Brown” is an attempt to re-conquer this word and this color that all Latinos share in common in one way or another. It is, in short, my tribute to the struggle of all those brown people in the United States.

JN: What made you want to put this album together?

RB: It was a mixture of things. During my first summer in the United States, I was missing the Island, so it inspired me to canalize my feelings through music—something I’ve never done before. I also wanted to experiment with music, and this was my opportunity to do it. But the main reason was my experiences as a Latino in the United States. It’s something really powerful, something you see everyday in other people, and music was the best way for me to canalize all those feelings.

JN: When is the release date?

RB: “The Color Brown” is still in the making. There was a lick of these five tracks because a lot of people convinced me to put something out there, but the project is still “under construction,” so stay tuned!

JN: Personally, your flow reminds me of Calle 13, but who influences you as far as music goes?

RB: Yo soy salsaero [I’m a big salsa head]! So, people like Ismael Rivera, Hector Lavoe, Cano Estremera, Sonora Ponceña, Gran Combo, Ruben Blades and Frankie Ruiz have inspired me since I was very little. I also grew up listening to Cultura Profetica, Siete Nueve and Vivo C. My music is a mixture of different genres, just like my musical taste, but I will say that Caribbean rhythms are the basics in this musical project, as well as my main musical influence.

JN: For our readers who may not understand Spanish, can you sum up each song you’ve released so far?

RB: “Gigante ven pa’c”: Basically a short shout out to “mi pueblo” (my hometown), Carolina, Puerto Rico.

“Nacio Hip Hop”: The story of hip hop and how it came to be; there will be a second part to this track. For all those Common fans out there. It is kind of a Spanish version of “I Used to Love H.E.R.”

“Pasitos Andinos”: A feel-good track that describes one of my many muses. Saludos, nena!

“Skeptic Le Llama Rumba”: I consider this track to have the best musical arrangement of the album. In this track, Skeptic made a good musical composition that complimented El Jooks on the guitar; I just put some raw lyrics to top it off. It is a shout out to all of those that believed in me, and for all of those that didn’t—coñaza pa’ ti (shame on you)!

“Ya Nadie Sabe”: This track describes the issues that made me start writing. From love to social inequalities...this is an ode to all my muses.

JN: Have you performed any of these songs yet?

RB: I have performed my music in different places around the Chicago area. I performed in the “Bandera a Bandera” (Flag to Flag) festival down at Humboldt Park. I have also performed in numerous colleges across Illinois, [like] Loyola University, Northwestern and Elgin Community College.

JN: What separates your album from the other music that is currently getting played—both commercial and underground?

RB: I think “The Color Brown” is very different from every single artist’s music out there because of the style and the content of the lyrics. It is really uncommon to come across an artist who appeals both to the musical senses and the lyrical senses in a composition, since an artist usually focuses on one of these two things. As an artist, I understand that the musical

aspect has to be appealing to the audience, but at the same time, I always stay true to the essence of hip-hop. This is not to say that my lyrics are confusing, because they aren’t, but at the same time I feel that is my duty to tell a story to the audience, and that story unites us.

“The Color Brown” seems to have a growing popularity within the college community. Is that popularity growing elsewhere, to your knowledge?

RB: The college communities in Chicago and in Puerto Rico are the two main audiences of my music right now, although people in Ecuador are also listening to my music—the wonders of Internet! But I hope and believe that it will transcend from a college campus to a national and international [audience]. Como diria mami “ojala y se del!” (as mom would say, “I hope everything goes your way!”).

Once “The Color Brown” is done, what do you want to come out if it?

RB: This is an artistic project that could go beyond music. I think it is everybody’s duty to clean the image that urban music has of being a misogynistic and hyper-masculine concept. The origins of hip hop were not those that the mainstream media show to us everyday, but rather the history behind communities of color in the United States. I believe “The Color Brown” can also accomplish its mission in Puerto Rico, which is lacking, besides showing few examples of musical intuitiveness and originality. [Basically], it’s an attempt to unite communities of color in the micro level (Chicago) and hopefully in the macro level (the U.S.) too!

OUT ON A SCHOOL NIGHT



By **Zac Schon**
Staff Writer

Usually, the only knowledge and exposure to Hawaiian food that we get, comes from a short stay in the Islands, a Pulp Fiction reference or a few stereotypes, but Lincoln Park has its own little piece of paradise with Aloha Eats on Clark and Deming. Located at 2534 N Clark, this gem is open from 11am-10pm everyday except Tuesday.

This small Hawaiian themed restaurant offers an extensive menu of Hawaiian favorites, colonial inspired treats and a few other basic staples of American cuisine.

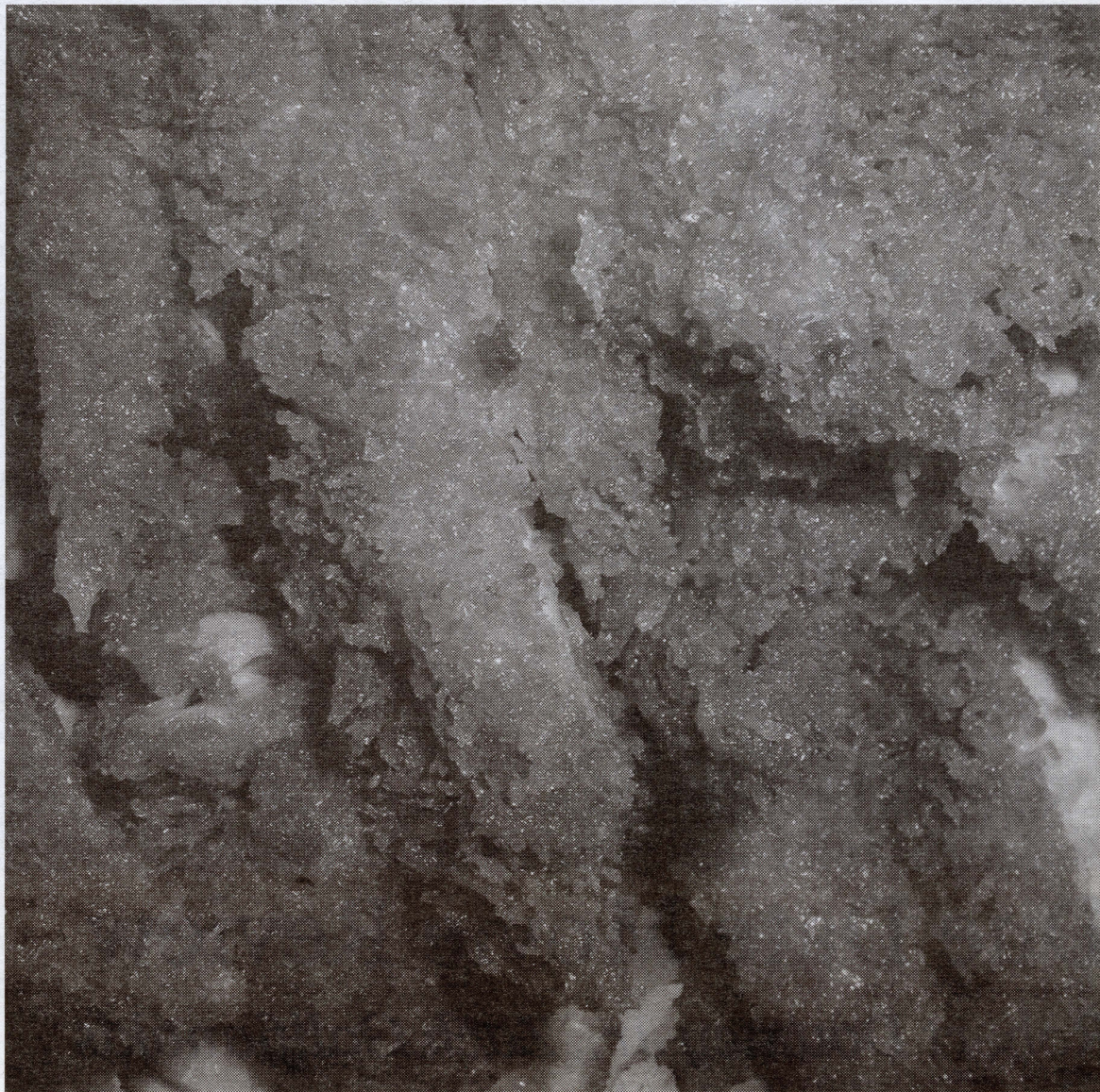
One of the favorites of most customers is the chicken katsu. What's a katsu? Katsu is a specific type of breading that is sweeter and crunchier than regular breaded items one would typically find in many foods. The chicken is hand-filleted and served with a sweet barbeque sauce and a side of your choice ranging from french fries, rice or one of the best macaroni salads I've tried on the North Side.

Another favorite dish consists of a bed of rice, hamburger patties and a couple of eggs on top of the patties, which is then covered in gravy and according to customers is absolutely delicious.

However, one dish is a complete failure. The noodles in broth dish sounds delicious to most when described, but one will quickly find out that the soup is a large bowl of Ramen noodles with cut up chicken and a \$5 price tag. The soup comes with no sort of side or bread, and gives a reason to say that it is a real disappointment.

Overall, the quaint place on Clark has a great atmosphere, super friendly staff, very affordable prices and offers a setting that allows customers to eat with a group of people, or dine solo without feeling weird. Aloha Eats is a great place to eat, but be warned, there is no bathroom for customers.

A Little Piece of Paradise Found in Lincoln Park with Aloha Eats Restaurant



Chicken katsu is a customer favorite at Aloha Eats.

Image courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

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127 Hours Review

An astonishing survival tale translated beautifully into cinema

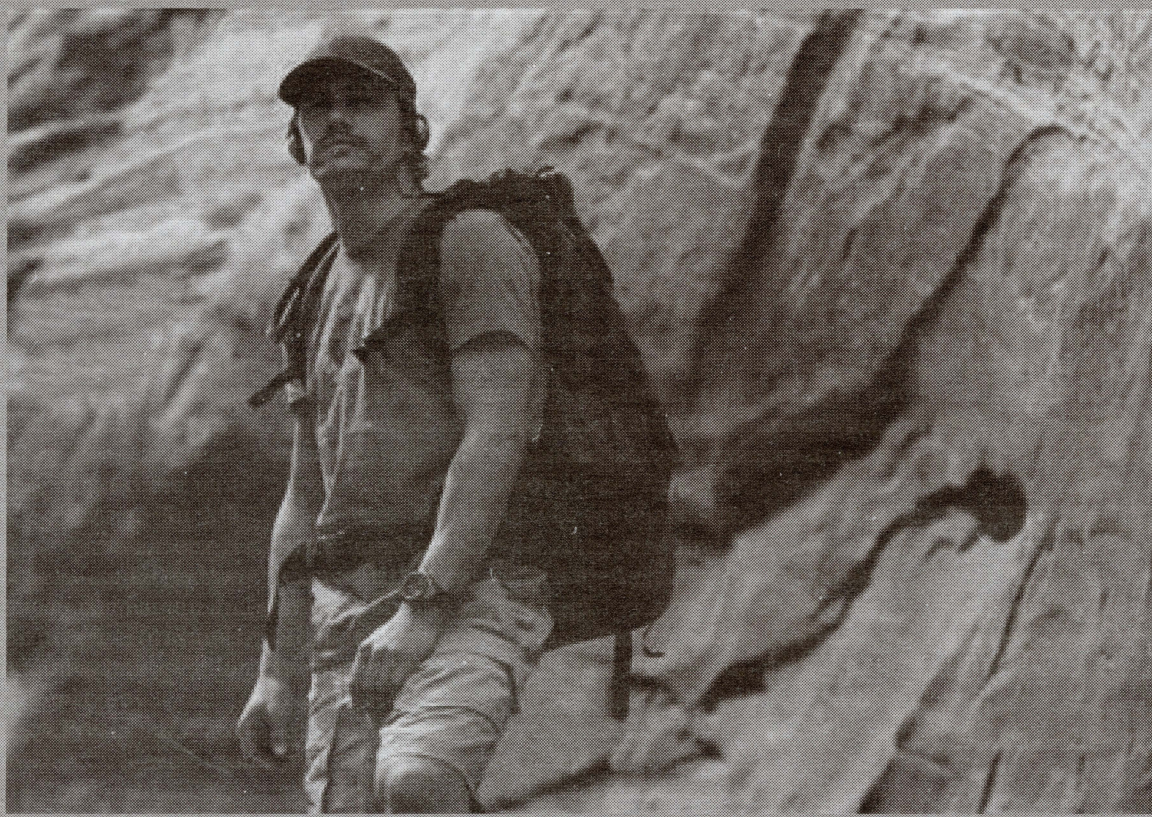


Image courtesy of reuters.com

By Ivan Favelevic
Editor-in-Chief

As far as survival movies go, Hollywood has shown us nearly every exploitation of the formula. From "Castaway" to "Alive," the premise is simple: leave a survivor in a remote location and have them fight to survive. However, "127 Hours" does something refreshingly different. It repeats the overused formula, yet strips the main character from one of his most crucial tools. Throughout the length of the movie, Aron Ralston (James Franco) is pinned to the side of a canyon by a boulder that crushed his right forearm. He has to survive with whatever he was carrying on him at the time of the accident. While it looks good on paper, it has the potential to easily buckle under its own weight. Thankfully, director Danny Boyle ("Slumdog Millionaire") has crafted a thoughtful and gut wrenching piece of cinema, that tells much more than what the synopsis would lead you to believe.

"127 Hours" is at its core a one-man show. James Franco's portrayal of Aron Ralston is something to be witnessed. The emotion coming out from within is honest, and one can truly grasp the fear and helplessness Ralston must have felt during those horrifying moments. We see glimpses into his past as well as a haunting look into his future. We see how reckless he has been throughout, how his actions led him to that moment, how that boulder had been waiting for him his whole life. His need for freedom has cost him dearly, and the film forges an incredible story around this.

Boyle is known for his brightly colored films, and this plays surprisingly well with the story in "127 Hours." Whenever Ralston imagines a drink, your mouth will water. The sensory overload present throughout helps depict to the audience just how desperate this man must have been in his struggle for survival. Of course, if anyone knows Ralston's story, you know how it ends. In order to avoid spoilers, details will not be divulged, but do know this; it is not easy to watch. It is as intense and brutal as one would imagine. You will be beat up and left breathless after it, people will walk out of the theater, and the image will stay with you long after you leave. However, do not let this prevent you from watching the movie. The scene is as carefully directed as the rest and it never comes off as tasteless.

This is a movie that needs to be seen. Nearly every aspect of it screams quality and it crafts a believable story better than most movies based on real life. Through careful scriptwriting and amazing direction, this survival story has carved itself a one way ticket to the Oscars.

Due Date Movie Review

Robert Downey Jr., Zach Galifianakis play an unlikely duo in a cross-country road trip

By Dulce Arroyo
Arts & Life Editor

Driving across the country with Zach Galifianakis would be an utter nightmare if he was anything like the character he plays in "Due Date," Ethan Tremblay. Peter Highman, played by costar Robert Downey Jr., probably should have even received an award after being in a car with Ethan from Atlanta to L.A., since the hilarity that ensued was usually at his (painful) expense.

After an unfortunate start in his mission to get back home for the birth of his first child, Peter finds himself in a helpless position when he has to hitch a ride with Ethan—the reason why he was kicked off the plane in the first place. Ethan, a heavily bearded man with an equally obnoxious perm, is Peter's seemingly only hope to get to L.A. after he loses his wallet at the airport and succumbs to Ethan's offer. But this is no regular road trip.

Ethan's awkward—and sometimes flamboyant—nature makes him quite the character; his reason for traveling to L.A. is to become an actor, specifically on the show and his inspiration, "Two And a Half Men" (enough said). His condition of glaucoma sparks a constant need for medical marijuana, leading to an exceptionally odd, but hilarious, scene where Peter ends up under the

influence—something that as a Robert Downey Jr. fan, I just couldn't get over.

But there's a touch of dark humor in the movie: Ethan not only carries his pet bulldog around in a tote, but also keeps the ashes of his dead father in a coffee can. Absurdities like these, along with Ethan's allergy to waffles, pretty much make up most of the movie's scenes. However, Peter sympathizes for Ethan in his lonely state and ends up feeling responsible for helping him say goodbye to his father.

Ethan's need for a companion during his time of loss and Peter's expectancy of a baby with his wife ultimately allow them to create a dysfunctional friendship. After all, how can you resist calling the person you were involved with in a high-speed police chase and accidental gunshot your best friend?

Despite my interest in the strangely funny plot, I send a message to future viewers: this movie is not for those who can't stand humor that is lewd, crude, and downright intense. There were certainly times when I was surprised that both characters were still alive. But for viewers with a backbone, "Due Date" will give the phrase, "You better check yourself before you wreck yourself," a whole new meaning.



Image courtesy of Due Date Official Website - www.duedatamovie.warnerbros.com

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SPORTS

Yearly Blunders

By Zac Schon
Staff Writer

Every season begins with a Super Bowl prediction simply based upon trades and the first preseason game. As you may well know, no one's prediction is ever right as teams implode, certain players go nuts and one team from a small market comes out of nowhere and has everyone scratching their head. This is a tribute to them.

1) The Kansas City Chiefs: If someone told me at the beginning of the season that the Kansas City Chiefs would not only be winning the AFC west, but that they would be a legitimate team, I would have laughed at them. On top of that, the Chiefs defense has been among the top secondaries. I'm still baffled.

2) The Oakland Raiders: The Raiders are hated by almost everyone not in the Bay area simply because of their owner and the cannibals/barbarians/two-minutes-from-mob-action-at-any-time sort of fans. On top of that, their team is usually just awful. But the Raiders are winning this season and winning big, with Darren McFadden going crazy against the Broncos in week seven for a total of 196 yards on 18 touches and four touchdowns.

3) Peyton Hillis: The Cleveland Browns will always be horrible. Its not an opinion, it's a fact or rather a law like if you throw something in the air, it will come back down. However, Cleveland managed to get one of the best offseason trades of the year with Peyton Hillis bolstering their ranks. As of the writing of this article he has been ranked the fourth overall running back in the league by the espn.com fantasy football department. What does that mean? If you combine total yards ran (10 yards is a point), received (same number), and touchdowns (6 points a touchdown receiving or rushing) he has put up the fourth most points for running backs in the entire league. Want an even better story about this guy? Hillis was traded for none other than pretty boy Brady Quinn in the offseason. In case you forgot about Brady Quinn, he was supposed to be Cleveland's messiah at QB, but has failed to do much other than collect a paycheck in his past 3 seasons. He currently sits third on the depth chart in Denver behind Kyle Orton and Tim Tebow.

4) The Vikings: Somehow people seemed to think that the Vikings were going to win NFC North before the season started. I was wondering if they were going to be in one piece before then. Favre is old, Adrian Peterson's ankles are made of chalk, Sydney Rice has broken ribs, Percy Harvin has migraines, etc. The team also signed Brad Childress to a lengthy and high paying extension before the last playoff game last season, in which they lost. Since then, it's been a downward spiral with every person in the Midwest, outside of Minnesota, clapping their hands in excitement. Plus they made the worst trading decision of the season, which is number five.

5) Randy Moss: At 33 years old, most receivers' careers have been over for a while, but Moss is still one of the best, strongest and, according to Tom Brady, one of the most intelligent receivers out there. Brady said that playing with Moss is like having a second quarterback on the field. However, Moss burnt out his welcome in New England and wound up in Minnesota for a third round pick. He claimed there would be a homecoming, we wondered where he would be when the season ended and we both were wrong. After four games, Moss was cut for flipping out at a catered meal for the Vikings and generally doing what Moss does. He was then picked up by the Titans on waivers. Expect to see a retirement soon by force, not choice.

Those five things have baffled me the most about the NFL this season. Other things have caught my eyes and ears, but I can't fit everything here. If you have an idea as to something that should be covered or would like to offer some rebuttal, praise, etc, email me at alkalinezachmo@yahoo.com



Randy Couture (left) and Gabriel Gonzaga (right) fight in a Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) match.

Image courtesy of nytimes.com

Mixed Martial Arts: The New Fight Club

By Sean Lynch
Opinions Editor

Punching, kicking, striking, grappling, elbowing, kneeing, clinching and throwing. No, it's not your uncles fighting over the last Thanksgiving turkey leg; they're all legal moves in Mixed Martial Arts, a sport that's been taking over the world as it gains notoriety as each month goes on.

Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) is as it sounds, a contact sport that combines various martial arts such as boxing, kickboxing, muay thai, karate, wrestling and judo, among others. By bringing together so many different practices, it allows people from a multitude of martial art backgrounds to participate and forces fighters to become specialized in one art, while becoming generalized in others.

Modern MMA was only recently created in the past few decades, with professional competitions taking place with the creation of the Ultimate Fighting Championship (UFC) in 1993 and an international governing body, the International Sport Combat Federation (ISCF) in 1999.

Rules for the sport include putting fighters into weight classes similar to boxing with the lightest fighters being featherweight (145-155 lbs.) and the heaviest fighters being heavyweights (206-265 lbs.) although some organizations also have a super heavyweight class (265 lbs. and over). In the ring, fighters are only allowed to wear approved shorts and must wear MMA sanctioned gloves that are padded and open-fingered. This provides protection but still allows them to grapple.

MMA fights are usually three rounds, with title matches going five rounds. Each round is five minutes, and there is a one minute rest period

between each round. Judges score each round with the winner receiving ten points and the loser usually receiving nine points, but the loser can receive less. Fighters can receive fouls for actions such as hair pulling, eye gouging and various other unsportsmanlike conduct.

Victory in MMA can be achieved several ways. Knockouts (KOs) occur when the opponent falls unconscious. Technical Knockouts (TKOs) occur when the referee must stop the fight due to an opponent no longer being able to defend him/herself, or has developed injuries too significant to continue fighting. Defeat by submission occurs when a fighter admits defeat during a hold by tapping on either the other fighter or the mat. A technical submission occurs when the referee intervenes because the fighter has either become unconscious during a hold or has sustained a severe injury. If the match goes all three or five rounds, then the winner is decided by the judges.

The increasing popularity of MMA is becoming more apparent as time goes on. Since 2006, Pay-Per-View MMA fights have been grossing as much money as World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) fights. On top of this, renowned WWE wrestlers, such as Brock Lesnar and Ken Shamrock, have broken off of professional wrestling to show off their real fighting prowess as UFC athletes.

With how competitive and spectacular the sport is to watch, MMA is bound to become an enjoyable pastime for many. It has had such an astonishing evolution from its conception that even the United States Army has recognized the effectiveness of MMA by sanctioning it at their combative schools. If you're tired of seeing the same old fighting then turn on an MMA fight. You won't regret it.

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Chicagoland Area Native Brian McBride Bids Farewell to Soccer Career

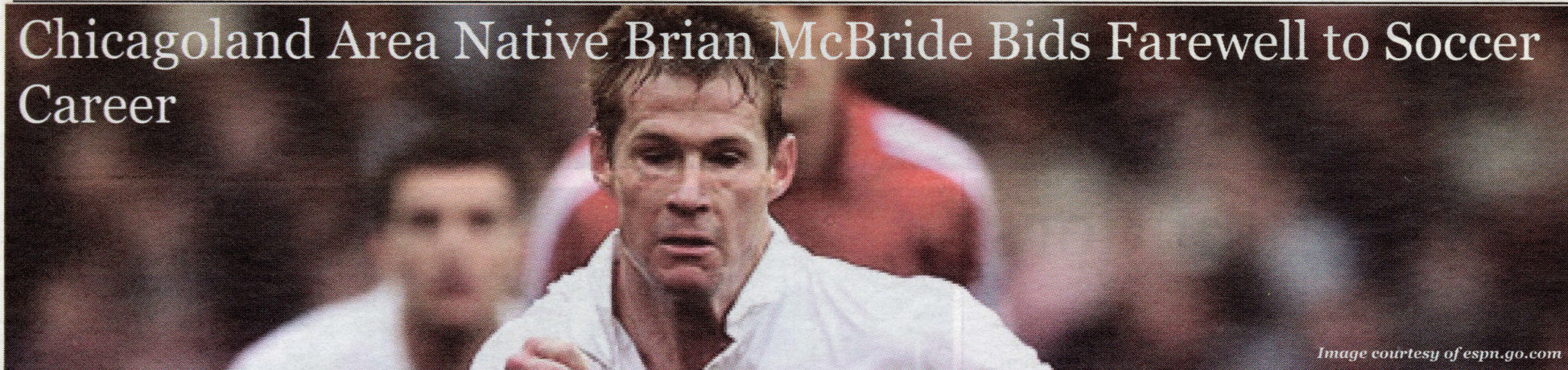


Image courtesy of espn.go.com

By Roberto Rivera
Staff Writer

The MLS season has come to a close with the MLS Cup final being played between F.C. Dallas and the Colorado Rapids on Sunday, Nov 21.

On the home front, however, Bridgeview's Toyota Park closed its doors on the Chicago Fire home season back on Oct 16, along with former US national soccer team member, Brian McBride's farewell and final home game. The Chicago Fire, with several opportunities created by McBride, were unable to take the lead, ending the game with a 0-0 tie against DC United.

McBride a Chicago area native, announced his retirement

back on Sep 3 of this year after a long and productive career

During his farewell speech at Toyota Park, with one of his daughters in his arms, McBride expressed his gratitude in being able to conclude his career close to home with his family. Growing up, McBride called Buffalo Grove, where he played in high school and met his first accomplishments, his home.

While a member of the Buffalo Grove High School soccer team, McBride lead the team to the 1988 Illinois State Championship. Thereafter, he played his college career at St. Louis University, where he became a two time All-American and set career team

records with 72 goals, 40 assists and 184 points for the St. Louis

University Billikens.

McBride's club career began in 1994 with US minor league team Milwaukee Rampage and later that year joined Germany's second division team VFL Wolfsburg.

In 1996, McBride was drafted to the Columbus Crew for the MLS inaugural season, where he played for eight seasons. While at Columbus, he played 161 games and set the team record at 62 goals while earning 45 assists. It was during this time with Columbus that he gained more international experience, having been loaned to England's second division team, Preston North End, and later The Premier League's Everton F.C. In 2004, he was finally bought by Fulham FC., where he was very

successful.

His time at Fulham FC granted McBride wide recognition as a top international football striker. While at Fulham, McBride scored a total of 40 goals with 154 appearances and 111 started games. In 2005 and 2006, he was voted the club's Player of the Year and later served as team captain for the 2007-08 season. McBride's contribution to the Fulham organization was thought so significant that the club renamed their restaurant lounge "McBride's."

As a member of the US national soccer team, McBride proved to be a significant contributor to the US Soccer organization. Having been called up for the national team for the 1998, 2002 and 2006 World

cups, he is the first US national team member to score goals in three separate World Cups, and he is ranked third on the USA's all-time leading scorer, behind Eric Wynalda and Landon Donovan. In total, his international career racked up 95 caps and 30 goals.

McBride played his final two seasons with the Chicago Fire. His Fire debut was on Aug 16, 2008 as a second half sub. In the following two years McBride played 65 games, scored 19 goals and recorded 6 assists. His final game was on Saturday October 23, with a Chicago Fire 4-1 win against Chivas USA at The Home Depot Center in Carson, California.

Quade Era Set to Begin 2011



Image courtesy of Wikipedia Commons

By Jeff Dutton
Staff Writer

The Cubs wasted very little time after the close of a disappointing 2010 season on picking their new manager. They didn't have to look very far either. Mike Quade, who served as interim manager following Lou Piniella's abrupt retirement in August, was selected to serve as the franchise's 51st manager. The decision was somewhat expected, even amidst a loud chorus of Cub fans calling for the hiring of fan favorite Ryne Sandberg.

The decision does not appear to be a bad one when considering that Quade took a Cubs team that had just lost 20 of its last 25 games to a record of 24-13 under his guidance. Yet, the team went only 2-4 against eventual NL playoff teams and posted a 9-7 record against teams in playoff contention, a fact that has some Chicago sports commentators and Cubs fans leery of the hire.

Quade had no experience as a big league manager until

taking the helm in the Cubs' dugout with six weeks left in the season. Prior to his ascension to interim manager in August he was Lou Piniella's third base coach. He has managed minor league teams from Puerto Rico to Western Canada, with a myriad of stops in between. His resume includes 17 years and 2,378 games of experience as a manager at the minor league level, compiling a career record of 1,213-1,165. He is a well traveled baseball man. Beginning as an outfield prospect in the Pittsburgh Pirates organization in 1979 and culminating in his hiring as the 51st manager of the Chicago Cubs.

There is some controversy in this decision amongst many of the Cubs' faithful, who had hoped to see their longtime hero Ryne Sandberg awarded the position. Sandberg had spent the last four seasons managing in the Cubs' farm system, compiling a record of 284-277-1. He spent last season managing the Cubs' Triple A affiliate, the Iowa Cubs, to a tie for first place with a record of 82-62. This would earn him Manager of the Year honors

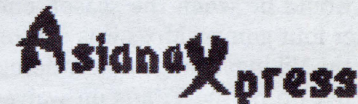
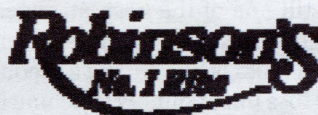
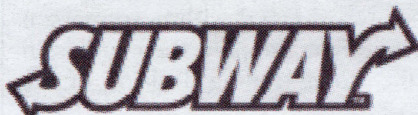
in the Pacific Coast League. Unfortunately, to the dismay of Cubs' fans, Sandberg has decided to sever ties with the organization after learning he would not be awarded the manager position he openly coveted. In doing so, he has decided to return to the organization that traded him to the Cubs when he was a young, minor league third baseman. He will spend the 2011 season as the manager of the Lehigh Valley Iron Pigs, the Triple A affiliate of the Philadelphia Phillies.

While many of the Cubs' faithful may be disappointed with this hiring, it is important to note that many veteran Cubs' players spoke out and lobbied for Quade's return as the full-time manager during the final week of the season. Many of them especially praised Quade for his communication skills. Three months from now, pitchers and catchers report to spring training camp in what will be the official beginning of the Mike Quade era. The 2011 season will offer Cubs fans a chance to evaluate the first major baseball decision under the new ownership group.

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