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## Independent - Feb. 8, 2011

Ivan Favelevic

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PG. 15

# SPORTS INTRAMUTRAL SPORTS GETS INTO THE SPRING OF THINGS

## Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, February 8, 2011

www.neiuiindependent.com

Vol 28, Issue 11



This car (along with countless others) were covered in snow as a result of last weeks super-blizzard.

## “SNOWPOCALYPSE”

Chicago, along with the entire Midwest gets hit by a blizzard that rivals record-breaking storms in ‘67, ‘99.

IN NEWS P.2

Arts&Life

## NEIU'S ANIME CLUB COMES TO PLAY

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## OPS!

Too Cool for School?

*In the middle of a dreadful winter, why are there people dressing up for Spring weather?*

P.6

## A&L

Knights of Seduction Dance

*Omega Delta Phi puts on a night of intense dancing and live shows.*

P.9

## ONLINE

Vote of Unconfidence

*More on the vote of confidence of President Sharon Hahs and Provost Lawrence Frank.*

WWW.NEIUIINDEPENDENT.COM

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Image courtesy of ign.com



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

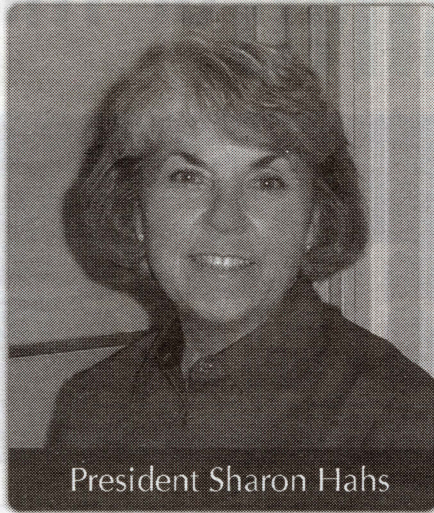
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# The President's Pen



President Sharon Hahs

I want to commend your Student Government Association for the good work is doing on behalf of the student body at NEIU. The SGA developed and conducted a referendum in late fall, having first listened carefully to students and their concerns. The referendum had six basic questions. The SGA worked hard to encourage participation, assuring that the

results reflect the views of students. When the results were tallied, SGA leadership met with a sizeable group of administrators who would be able to address the results. I'm pleased to announce that we are making good progress.

The first question concerned making the U-Pass available to full-time students. A fee has been proposed to do this. The fee will be considered at the February meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The second question considered the assignment of service department liaisons to strengthen communications on behalf of students. Enrollment Services is working informally with senators to consider options.

The third question recommended the inclusion of GLBTQA and Adult and Women Services into the multicultural center. This is an important issue and I have established a working group of students, faculty and staff to review and make recommendations over the spring semester which address the needs of women and LBTQ students. Their work has begun.

The fourth asked about extended Library hours for mid-term and final exam times. It

was determined that presently there is no specific mid-term timeframe. However, the Library hours have been increase by 12 hours per week for the two weeks prior to final exams. This is a pilot program, with the potential to make additional increases if merited.

The fifth dealt with the availability of more on-line classes. Currently there is a training course for faculty to learn the elements of successful on-line courses. An additional program has been added for next summer as an incentive for faculty to create specific courses.

And the sixth reflected the possibility of making a list of amenities and services available on-line. As it turns out, there is already a directory on the portal, but it is not easily accessible to all students. University Technology Services is working to correct this as well as adding additional links.

I want to thank the SGA for its positive efforts and hard work. I also want to thank those who are addressing these student concerns. Together we will continue to make NEIU a better place for all our students and community.

# Storm of the Decade

BY IVAN FAVELEVIC - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"Snow day" is not a term Chicago students often hear. With such an organized system of snow removal and prevention, the city has rarely faced a storm capable of tearing down its structure. On Feb 1, the city faced its match; a massive winter storm roared through the country and left Chicago in the thick of it. The Chicago Public Schools closed due to weather for the first time in twelve years and NEIU followed suit. Students throughout the city dealt with the storm in different ways. The following pictures, taken by NEIU students, are a statement of how widespread the damage was.

Winnemac and Cicero



Harlem and Foster



Belmont bus

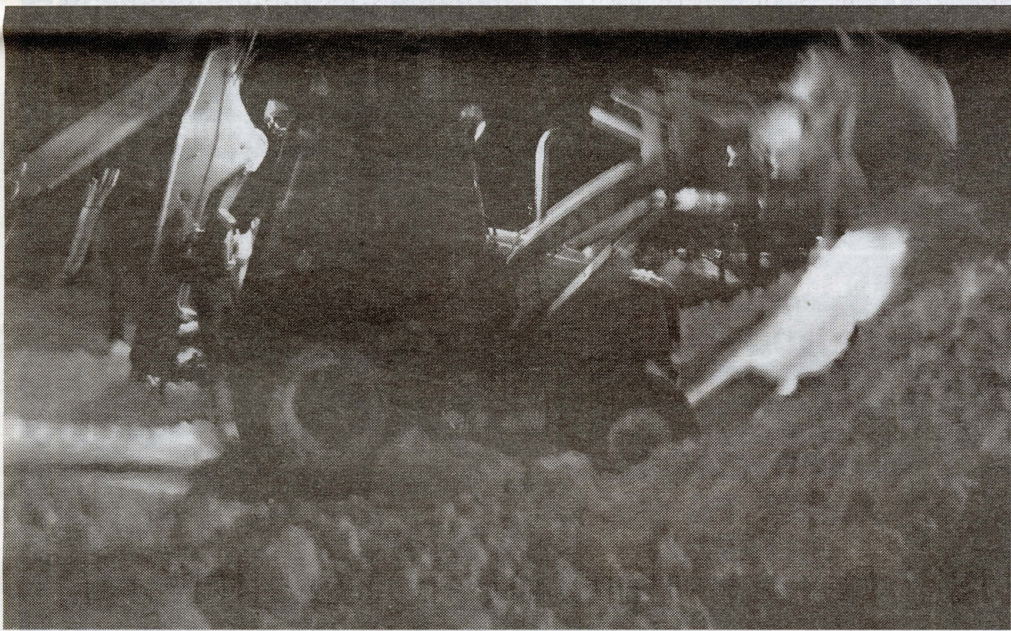
## CORRECTIONS:

In the Jan. 25 issue we misprinted NEIU Hockey team's practice location. They meet at Northbrook Sports Center at 1730 Pfingsten Road.





Abandoned Belmont bus found with interior nearly annihilated by snow.



Bulldozer busily cleans up the side streets on Campbell and Berwyn Wednesday night.



Intersection of Clark, Diversey and Broadway on Wednesday.



Diversey street on Wednesday.



Car covered in snow on Lakeview street.

Photos by Tamara Susa, Syed Hussain, Nikki Ashmore, Aleida Soto, Ivan Pavlovic and Tracey Washington



## Chicago's Mayoral Election: Candidates and Issues

BY ROBERTO RIVERA - STAFF WRITER

Since the announcement by Mayor Richard M. Daley that he would not be seeking another term, the stories that have followed by most media outlets consistently beg the question, who would be taking his place. Now with the election coming up on Feb. 22, the final list of candidates has dwindled to Gery Chico, Rahm Emanuel, Miguel del Valle, Carol Moseley Braun, Patricia Van Pelt Watkins and William "Dock" Walls III.

All of the candidates have significant experience in local and national politics and strong ties in the City of Chicago. Carol Moseley Braun served as US Senator, State Representative, United States Ambassador, and Associate U.S. Attorney General. Gery Chico served as Mayor Daley's Chief of Staff from 1992 through 1995, President of Chicago Public Schools and later The Chicago Park District, and Chairman of City Colleges. Rahm Emanuel most recently served as White House Chief of Staff for President Obama, he has also served in the U.S. House Representative, and Senior Advisor for President Clinton.

Northeastern Illinois University alumni Miguel del Valle was elected as Illinois State Senator in 1986 and gained a position as the first Hispanic Assistant Majority Leader in the Illinois General Assembly. In 2006, del Valle was appointed Chicago City Clerk by Mayor Daley and was later elected for a 4-year term in the same office.

Patricia Van-Pelt Watkins is a candidate that is presenting herself as a community leader; she founded the Target Area Development Corps that produces jobs for the community. The last mayoral candidate is William "Doc" Walls. He is a political activist, and is a former aide for the late Mayor Harold Washington. He is also currently the director of the Committee for a Better Chicago.

Although NEIU government relations are more closely tied to the State, which is where the school receives its funding, one must consider what is important is the effect that the next mayor will have on Chicago's educational system, since about 60 percent of NEIU students come from Chicago Public Schools and 26 percent are transfers from the City Colleges of Chicago, this is highly relevant.

In recent days, the most popular of the candidates are Chico, Emanuel, Braun and Del Valle. All of them were present on the Feb 27 debate held at WGN studios, where they addressed questions regarding sales taxes among other hot button topics. Candidates Watkins and Walls were not invited to attend the debate.

As of the last week in January, according to the polls, Emanuel holds the lead at 44 percent, with Moseley Braun trailing at 21 percent, Chico at 16 percent, del Valle seven percent, and nine percent of the voters are undecided.

If on Election Day, Feb. 22, no single candidate receives more than 50 percent of the votes, a run off election will be held on April 5 to decide the mayor of Chicago.

## Bollywood Crash Course Comes to NEIU

CASSIE COLON - STAFF WRITER

This semester the 16th Annual Asian American Heritage conference is bringing its students a wonderful opportunity to experience and engage themselves in these beautiful dances. The students have a chance to witness an aspect of the wondrous culture of India. The dances are meant to be fun and easy to learn. The theme, "Globalization and Identity: Preserving our Heritage," is scheduled for the dates of April 5-6, at Northeastern Illinois University. As part of this conference, the Angelina Pedros Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs is welcoming a well-known Chicago based classical Indian dance guru, Pranita Jain, of Kalapriya Dance Company, and her senior dancers. These dance lessons are free and the students will be showcased in elaborate beautiful traditional East Indian costumes Apr. 7, in Alumni Hall. There will be two performances, one during activity hour and one during the evening for friends and family at 7 p.m.

Beautiful images of exotic places, ancient architecture and stone monuments with lustrous adornments of headdresses, jewelry and brightly patterned clothing flood

one's perception when Bollywood, which is a play on words that combines Hollywood and Bombay, now known as Mumbai, comes to mind. As one of the largest entities in the film world, it has catered to a massive fan base.

Many films end in an epic dance scene that is a mix of classical Indian dances such as Bharata Natyam, kathak and bhangra. These dance scenes would incorporate the main, as well as supporting, characters in traditional East Indian dress set around beautiful architecture and landscapes. Some of these dances were performed for devotional purposes to the deities in the Hindu religion and also a symbolism for sensuality. Some forms consist of gestures, such as facial expressions, in order to tell a story and express emotions. The songs in the movie are referred to as "dream sequences."

Students interested in participating have to register and attend rehearsals. There will be a maximum number of 30 dancers. In order to register, contact Steven Spawn at: s-spawn@neiu.edu.

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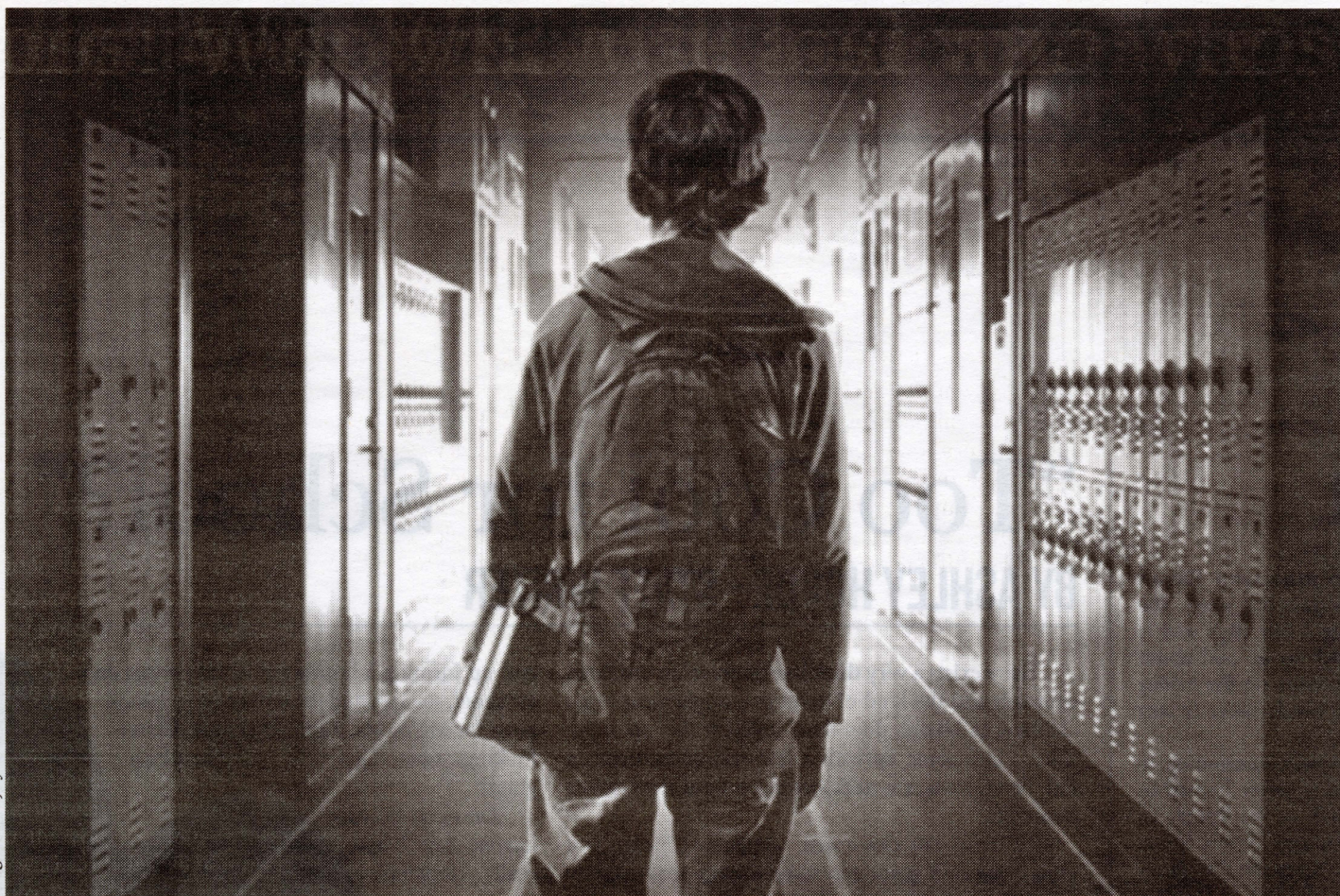
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Image courtesy of racetonowhere.com



## “Race to Nowhere”

*College of Education presents viewing of a film that reflects over the over-exertion of young students.*

BY CATHLEEN SCHANDELMEIER-BARTELS - SENIOR STAFF WRITER

In an age where students are pushed to the brink by their parents' high expectations for achievement, consequences arise in alarming ways: suicide, demanding schedules, and academic dishonesty—all resulting in calloused young people who just don't care. The College of Education hosted the viewing of *Race to Nowhere*, a controversial film that shows the dark side of achievement that many are not aware of, to a full house in the NEIU Auditorium Theater. Directed by Vickie Abeles and Jessica Congdon, *Race to Nowhere* is an alarming reflection of the results of pushing young people too hard in schoolwork, sports and community service. Abeles, an attorney, admits in the film that her own family had difficulty with nightly homework battles, and that her daughter was suffering from stress-related disorders.

Contrary to modern myth, the film argues that the push for educational excellence, competitive sports, and outstanding community service is not necessarily the answer for all students. There needs to be balance in life's different areas of home, family and school; young people need time to create, play, and discover their inner selves – not be over-scheduled to the point of no return.

The film offers Devon Marvin as evidence of our over-burdened education system that emphasizes “teaching to the test” over fundamental human needs. Thirteen year-old Devon was a “normal” straight-A middle school student who committed suicide one week after she received an F on an algebra test. While Devon left no note and spoke to no one about her frustration, she took her own life one afternoon, when

she was supposedly working on her algebra homework.

“The only thing I can think of is that she had this internal pressure, and she was torn up about this math grade,” said her mother, Jane Marvin in the documentary. “This child was so successful on so many fronts, and then there was this stupid math grade.”

*Race to Nowhere* is a demand for change that includes such revolutionary new ideas as *The Blue School*, co-founded by Charles Wink; *The Blue School* is brainchild of Wink, who is also one of the founders of the Blue Man group.

“The Blue School is dedicated to a new outrageous idea: We want to create an educational program where creativity is cherished and encouraged and where children fall in love with the joy of learning,” said Wink.

According to Sara Bennett, author of “The Case Against Homework” and who appears in the movie, “There is so much more in a child's life than school that excessive homework deprives children of the sleep, play and exercise they need for proper physical, emotional and neurological development.”

The film claims that since 1983, when educational standards began being utilized, there has been a radical upswing in the amount of homework given to students. Since the amount of money a school or a teacher is given is based on test scores, they tend to push it for a bonus check.

However, the refreshing thing about this documentary is that it doesn't cast blame on any particular group of people, unlike the documentary “Waiting for Superman,” which casts derision on unions and teacher

tenure. It brings the subject to light with the goal of hopefully bringing about a change in our broken education system that values test scores over humanity.

The screening was then followed by a fascinating panel discussion moderated by April Nauman of the Reading Department and Steve Wolk from the Teacher Education Department. Dr. Charles Pistorio, from Counselor Education, Dr. Durene Wheeler, of Educational Foundations, Dr. Mark Melton of Special Education, Jessica Lifschitz, a classroom teacher in Northbrook, and Nick Aquino and Julie Klien, reading specialists from Aspira Early College, all engaged in a riveting discussion about this topical film.

Dr. Wheeler emphasized that education needs to be a collaborative effort, and that she felt the film represented only one side of the story. She also noted that aside from a nod in the direction of minority representation, it really doesn't tell the story of urban, African American youth today.

Throughout the discussion, the importance of recess and the value of creative play were explored. The fact that schools are designed to work in the best interests of the adults in charge was offered as a factor that works against children being excited about education.

One speaker noted that while ideally all teachers (and parents) want their students to go to college, it is important to remember that there is nobility to be found in the trades: there is nothing wrong with a student who chooses to be a barber, car mechanic or carpenter. The truth is that learning is a lifetime skill to be cultivated and nourished through genuine engagement.

## The Life & Legacy of Dr. Ronald McNair

*Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Challenger Space Shuttle Explosion*

BY SYED AHAD HUSSAIN - SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Continuing astronaut Ronald McNair's legacy of scholarship and involvement in higher education, NEIU participates in the federally funded Ronald McNair Scholars Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program. The purpose of the program is to prepare low-income, first generation and minority undergraduates for graduate study to increase the number of such students who complete their doctoral degrees.

McNair, born in Lake City, S.C., on Oct. 21, 1950, had a mother who drove him 600 miles a week for his elementary education. He picked cotton and cucumbers and tended tobacco fields growing up, he learned to read by age three and went on to become an academic advocate and astronaut. “I gained qualities in that cotton field, I got tough. I learned to endure,” McNair recalls.

“I think that the scholars program is very meaningful for the students who have higher academic goals, and it acts as a support system which helps them achieve those goals,” said Dr. Kim Sanborn, Director of NEIU's McNair Scholars Program.

“79 percent of our participants go to the graduate school right after they graduate. Students need this kind of support because most of them are first generation and low income students, so they don't necessarily have family support.”

“It's nice for them to have support of our program, they meet with peers with whom they can talk about their aspirations and challenges they have,” said Sanborn, “So far we have no one who has received a PhD because we are in our seventh year, so it's too early for that, we are anxiously awaiting our first PhD, maybe in a year and a half we'll have one,” he also said.

“To become a successful scholar, students need a high GPA, as well as a good GRE score, and that's where most students fall down because they didn't always have a good GRE score, a reason for this could be the fact that they mostly come from Chicago public schools and they tend to be a little unprepared after the school,” says Sanborn. “They also need good letters of recommendation, and research experience helps. Being a McNair scholar means a lot because it's a nationally recognized program, and there are 194 programs in the U.S. All of the graduate schools know about the McNair Scholars Program and NEIU participants are always considered by them.”

“It's been great working for the program,” said Sanborn, “I have always worked as an advocate for the minority and underprepared students, so this was a good fit for me, and I am really happy that they selected me for the position. But we had to start from nothing and now we have two other trio Student Support Service (S.S.S) programs running and working with us because their student profile is similar to us.”

The McNair program has been met with great success with funding across 194 institutions within the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Funding has increased over the years as participants and institutions enrolled in the program continue to grow. Interested students can visit the program's official website, <http://www.neiu.edu/McNair.html>

**“Race to Nowhere” encourages parents, teachers, students, counselors and administrators to create awareness, change the dialogue, mobilize for action. Here's how:**

Register on the website: [www.RaceToNowhere.com](http://www.RaceToNowhere.com)

View the “call to action” items. Facilitation Guide and additional resources.

Join [www.Facebook.com/RaceToNowhere](https://www.facebook.com/RaceToNowhere) and show strength in numbers

**Advocate for Change.** Write letters to your school board, state and federal representatives and education departments

**Attend school board and education meetings.** Encourage others to join you.

**Add your voice.** Change the dialogue around education.

**Empower students.** Give them a voice.

**Work in partnership.** Include all stake-holders in the process for change.

**Refer** 10 people to the website and Facebook page, or call (925) 310-4242 to contact REEL Link Films directly.



# OPINIONS

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## Editorial

Chicago's enormous snowstorm provided Northeastern Illinois University Students with not one, but two snow days last week. The storm left the entire city in shutdown mode for a few days and is currently still in recovery. However, there's much to be said about the University's decision to re-open the school's doors on the Friday following the storm, whereas it might have been much easier to stay closed and resume classes on Monday.

Several bus routes were unavailable, which made commuting to campus virtually impossible in some cases, and a safety hazard in others. Opening the university for resources such as the library or computer labs would be understandable, but resuming classes forces students to make a decision to brave the weather to make it to class, or stay at home and risk missing vital course information. In the case of the former, there are professors forcing students to attend class, or completely miss their lesson – which in turn could earn the student a strike against their class attendance, or worse.

NEIU, as most of you know, is a commuter college. There are no dorms and the closest we have to them are apartments in the immediate vicinity. Even to today, houses are still surrounded with mounds of snow, and that's not the majority of our problems in relation to the storm.

Being that NEIU is a commuter campus, it's also very difficult for students who are parents to leave their children at home while they're out on a snow day. Students shouldn't be penalized for a situation that is beyond their control – and which affects their attendance. There are also sick and elderly individuals whose caregivers might not be able to make it to them during increment weather. Therefore, their loved ones – some of which are NEIU students, would need to stay home with them. Should they be penalized?

A rare circumstance, such as Chicago's recent snowstorm, really puts into perspective the need for a standard university attendance policy. Currently, professors can determine how many absences (if any) a student can miss without the penalty of losing a letter grade. The obvious disadvantage of this is that it differs from professor to professor. Setting a university attendance standard will not only improve student attendance, it could also make it easier in situations like an unavoidable blizzard for there to be a certain level of realistic expectations in regards to school closures.

## “Too Cool for School?”

BY ASHLEY HOVDE - STAFF WRITER

There exists a very thick line between an insulated snowsuit and the kind of outfit one might wear to go clubbing in Miami, does there not? Off the top of my head, I can come up with a few exemplary items: a knit beret, jeans, a v-neck sweater, a wool scarf, suede boots, etc.

As far as I'm concerned, winter in Chicago is a great time and place for fashion, and it is entirely possible to simultaneously look good and stay warm during the annual pseudo-Arctic months. Don't get me wrong, I love my heels, peep toes, flowing scarves and adorable fall/spring jackets, and putting them away each year always seems to catalyze my winter funk. However, I also really love having intact bones and no frostbitten skin, so the aforementioned items hibernate in my closet, snuggled up next to my skirts, sun dresses and sandals, awaiting their spring revival.

If you too have seen women in stiletto heels wipe out on the ice this semester, or you've scratched your hat-covered head while looking at a coed wearing a jacket in lieu of a coat, you probably see where this piece is headed. So, please enlighten us, urban ice skaters and polar bears, what gives?

Beyond having been introduced by mutual friends, through internet dating services, and at religious gathering places, most people meet the person they

end up forming a lasting romantic partnership at school, so I can understand wanting to look good for Mr. or Ms. Right. That said, doesn't looking sane figure in to looking good?

I've never heard anyone say “I'm really looking for a man with so little sense that he doesn't wear a coat and gloves during a blizzard!” So why, gentlemen, do you forgo wearing hats and gloves in sub-freezing weather? You're not fooling anyone by saying that you're warm. The icicles on your mustaches and the chattering of your teeth



Continued on page 8

## Woolly Mammoths to a World Near You?

BY ZAC SCHON - OPINIONS EDITOR

Three drunks sat at the bar on a Tuesday night arguing over what animal they wish still roamed the planet. The first man wished for a stegosaurus, the second man wished for a raptor for some sadistic reason and the third wished for a woolly mammoth. However, no punch line followed this ever so fruitful conversation as I enlightened them over the recent ambitious quest of researchers at Kyoto University, who plan to resurrect the long lost cousin to the modern day elephant. Just as I predicted, this comment elicited a set of dangling jaws with the ever so poetic words of “whoa” emanating in unison that sounded roughly like a choir of singing cherubs.

To be exact, researchers are looking to clone a woolly mammoth from a preserved specimen's DNA which will be used in an elephant's egg. It's at this point the embryo will be inserted into the elephant to produce a baby woolly mammoth. In theory, the

elephant will give birth to a woolly mammoth which, by my calculations, would be pretty sweet.

Just to make things even better, the researchers are planning to do this within the next five years. For those who need five years put into rational terms, we are talking roughly the time it takes to get a bachelor's degree or pay off a car loan.

It quickly drew to mind many issues that are still a problem in the world, which should probably be addressed before cloning the mammoth; food shortages in any given developing country, cures for cancers or development of clean energy. If one would even want to reduce this type of science to more productive use of time for the future of animals in general, one could ask why not save the chimps and gorillas? Why not clone more pandas? How about develop fish that won't die out from the rising ocean temperatures?

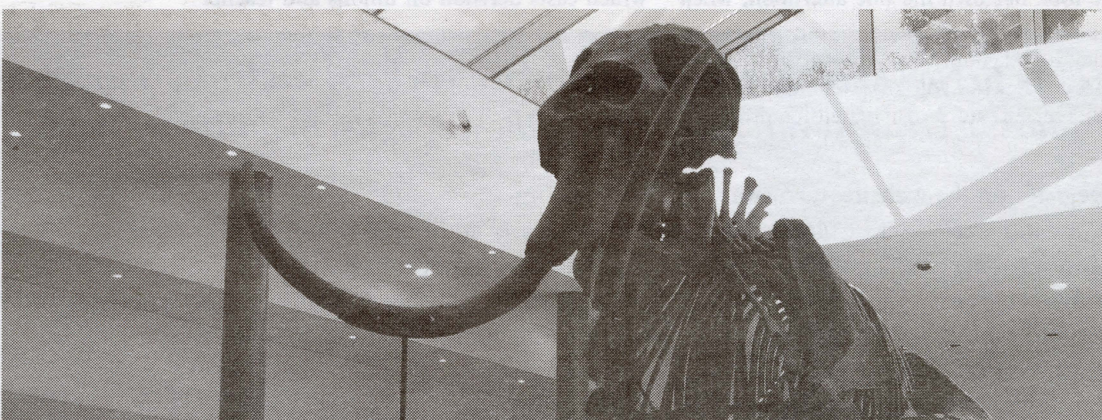


Image courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Continued on page 8

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*Opinions expressed by contributors are solely the views of the individual writer, not the NEIU Independent Production staff.*



# Tunisia's "Electronic Revolution"

*Will it be a  
model for the  
Arab world?*

BY AGUSTIN FLORES - STAFF WRITER

Tunisia's appearance in the headline of the New York Times in January may have welcomed it to world politics and rebranded the conceptions Westerners have learned towards the Arab world. But to those versed in the region's modern history, socioeconomic reality and Tunisia's remarkable circumstances, the popular removal of Tunisia's heavy handed executive and president Mr. Ben Ali has marked the coalescence of long accumulating forces of discontent and stifled populations. Tunisia broke the mold of the mass media's contrived imagery of oil politics, and Islam, as a potent mobilizing social and political outlet, along with other Orientalism based notions feeding Arab peculiarities, were given no credence, as Tunisians reached for the pinnacle of those values sacred to Western thought: democracy and economic dynamism. The initial comparison would have been the Iranian revolution, which installed a theocracy, but Tunisia's history of secular government and non-fervent Islam has led it to be likened more to a socialist-type revolution, though this comparison also seems inappropriate. Other Arab countries, primarily Egypt but also Jordan and Algeria, have demonstrated solidarity with Tunisians' efforts in replicating their massive street protests. There is now a widely expressed idea that Tunisia's sudden political transformation may have larger implications for the Arab world's incipient democratization, and understandably so considering its history of authoritarian rule, from its caliphs in Islam's early history to recent executives such as Ben Ali and Hosni Mubarak in Egypt. However, the region's diverse people and vastly different political arrangements make such an expectation seem too simplistic, even though it has some merit in light of the tumults throughout. Tunisia has one of the most educated populations in the Arab world, ironically an achievement of Ben Ali's commitment to having an intellectual country which has now rejected his patronizing rule. Its unusual proximity to western Europe has given it a taste of post-industrialism and individualism in contrast to other larger and more poverty ridden Arab countries, which have retained a more traditional lifestyle.

I visited Tunisia in 2009 and even the Sahara desert region showed little symptoms of developing nations type poverty. In fact, Tunisia is not considered such a country by the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank. A Tunisian friend of mine termed it an "electronic revolution" because of the use of the Internet's social medium like Facebook to coordinate protests. The reality is that this social upheaval was not a "bread riot" or a demand for a better lifestyle, but anger against childish stunted political rights and economic woes. The indictments against Ben Ali are certainly egregious, from his 23 year rule to his tacit acceptance of government corruption endemic even at the lowest levels, but the imbroglio comes down to structural inefficiencies common to most developed countries. A look north across the Mediterranean will give striking parallels to the recent life-as-usual halting protests in France and England's massive student riots because of rising tuitions. Basically, we are yet to see what real changes will occur in Tunisia as the rest of the Arab world's people may desire to emulate their struggle, but each country has a different destiny and varying aims. Rulers like Libya's Gaddafi and Yemen's Ali Abdullah Saleh do not face the same sort of enlightened popular challenge.



Image courtesy of Kevin McCoy, via Wikimedia Commons

## Masters of Disaster Are Back! Why? *Why Americans Put the Republicans Back into a Position of Power*

BY JEFF DUTTON - STAFF WRITER

After holding the presidency for eight years and controlling both houses of Congress for four of those eight years, the Republican Party by 2008 had effectively lead this nation into the worst economic recession since the Great Depression, started one absolutely needless war while mismanaging another, costing this country roughly \$2 trillion dollars to date, not to mention the lives of numerous brave young men and women. Yet, after all of this tragic loss of life (American, Iraqi and Afghan), waste of money and ruinous economic stewardship, here we are in the early days of 2011, just two years after the Republican Party was wisely removed from power, and we find ourselves with Republican leadership again in the federal government. Their return to power is a result of their winning back the House of Representatives in last November's mid-term elections, but I cannot help but ask why?

My first inclination is that Republican voters, especially those from the working, lower/middle class, are ignorant of certain facts and lack the ability to think critically for themselves and appropriately analyze arguments. I point out working, and lower/middle class voters on the account that Republican policies are incredibly hostile to their economic interests and hopes for long term prosperity. It is no coincidence that the working and lower/middle classes of this nation have been steadily eroded since the Nixon administration; all the while the rich in this country have gotten richer. My inclination here has recently been bolstered by the fact that in recent debates and discussion with some Tea Party types I have found that their arguments are nothing, but parroted lines from the likes of Glenn Beck and Bill O'Reilly. When I challenged some of the assumptions their arguments were based on, I found they knew very little on how our market economy system works, even though they are constantly touting the virtues of the market to fix societies problems. They

like to discuss the founding fathers with pride, yet seem to know very little about the enlightenment philosophies that our founding fathers had drawn inspiration from in creating this great nation. Their knowledge of how our political systems and government institutions operate has also proven to be lax in my experience debating them. When I questioned a Tea Party voter as to why they don't think critically for themselves, and why they simply take part and parcel what conservative commentators say as truth, I was rebuffed with the fact that they search the internet and find verification of everything these commentators say. You are a university student you don't need to be told of the shortcomings of relying solely on the internet for research. It is no wonder that the Republican Party wants to get rid of the Department of Education, voter ignorance and inability to think critically plays right into their hands. Yet, ignorance is not the only reason for the Republican victories last November.

As I have already alluded to the media plays a strong influence on Republican voters, as it can do to anybody. Not only are their openly conservative media outlets like most of talk radio and Fox News, but the mainstream media is beneficial to Republicans as well. The notion that the mainstream media is liberal is one of the more ridiculous ideas out there. The large networks such as NBC, ABC, CBS and CNN are all members of large corporate conglomerates that benefit greatly from business friendly conservative politics. While the so called mainstream media may not be as radically reactionary and outright deceitful as Fox News, they do very little to call out the Republican Party for its deceitful rhetoric or disastrous policies. They allow the political debate to be framed in conservative terms with other ideas or opinions almost always on the offensive. Which brings me to what may be the biggest reason the Republicans were able to win

back power in the house; they are masters at branding and getting out a unified message.

The Republican Party can market a message as well as any advertising firm on Madison Ave. They are uncanny in their ability to craft a message that plays on people's fears and anxieties, and then push that message relentlessly. An example would be their Cold War era relic of threats of socialism, which is still incredibly effective amongst Baby Boomers. "President Obama is a socialist" has been repeated time and time again since he was elected. Then there was the ridiculous talk of "death panels" when the healthcare debate was raging. Now it is "the job killing healthcare law" that you hear them constantly discussing, which plays directly on peoples anxiety over high unemployment in this country. It is sadistically brilliant how they are able to create these half truths and outright lies that prey on peoples fears and then repeat them until they become the truth for many.

It has to be noted that there are some who are intelligent, can think critically and vote Republican out of self interest. They don't believe society has an obligation to its most impoverished and struggling members. It is about "me," not "we," to these individuals, and all that matters is their own self interest, and Republican policies serve their self interest; whether that is less taxes they have to pay or the ability to operate their business any way they see fit regardless of the damage it does to others or the environment.

So, we have here a confluence of ignorance and fear, a favorable media environment, brilliant marketing, and greed and self centeredness that has wrought upon us Republican power in the House of Representatives for at least the next two years. May we only hope they don't mess things up as bad as the last time they wielded any kind of power in Washington.

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## “Too Cool for School?”

*Continued from pg 6*

give you away.

Ladies, it seems unlikely that the phrase “I’m really looking for a girl who doesn’t let the possibility of a compound fracture stop her from strutting her way around this learning establishment in spike heels” has ever been uttered. On the contrary, I have seen few fashion statements exude a less “come hither” vibe than that of a young woman rocking a leg brace with a mini-skirt last winter.

As its unlikely all offenders are on the prowl, this phenomena is even more mind-boggling. My take away message is this: its freezing, you’re cold, don’t deny it. Your grades don’t go up in tandem with your hemline, and, unless you’re taking a class in wilderness survival, not protecting yourself from the cold, won’t lower your GPA. So, bundle up already!

## “Woolly Mammoth”

*Continued from pg 6*

While all of these things are better uses of great minds than cloning a mammoth, there has to be something said for freak show science.

First, it gets people interested in science. Most people in this country are more concerned about what’s on TV tonight and about paying bills. When they find out animals such as the mammoth are being cloned and will be ready for earth again in five years, a spark of interest should be lit, if they even believe these giant beasts even existed.

Second of all, who is to say what is practical science? Some of the most important works in all of science had no practical use immediately.

Einstein didn’t know his works would someday be used for practical things, like integrated circuitry which is used in every sort of electronic item. Maybe one day there will be some sort of practical use for cloned mammoths.

Last but not least, cloning extinct creatures is quite frankly an awesome thing. Sure, nature had it in for these beasts along with every other species that either died out or speciated into something smaller and by comparison, something less awesome. But, to see something that was once lost for eternity with no possible return, well that is something I think we can all agree is awesome.

## Letter to the Editor

To the NEIU Community:

On behalf of University Technology Services, I would like to apologize to the University Community for the inconveniences experienced during the recent upgrades to the NEIUport portal and the related systems supporting the portal.

Unfortunately, there were a number of problems discovered that had not previously surfaced and these problems caused the loss of NEIUport services to students, faculty and staff.

Please be assured that University Technology Services is doing everything it can to stabilize our systems and return to the exceptional level of service you have been accustomed to in the past.

Sincerely,

Kim W Tracy  
Executive Director  
University Technology Services

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# Arts & Life

Entertainment & Features

## Omega Delta Phi’s ‘Knights of Seduction Dance’

BY SYED AHAD HUSSAIN - SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Omega Delta Phi fraternity of NEIU held an event in Alumni Hall titled “The Knights of Seduction Dance,” referring to the fraternity’s title, “Scarlet Knights.” Sponsored by Monster energy drinks and Popchips, Alumni Hall was turned into a nightclub with the proper lighting arrangements, live music and high heels, which were required for female attendees.

“This is our second dance event; our first one was called ‘Dance the Night Away,’ which was supposed to be a ladies night,” said Omega Delta Phi president Victor Gonzalez. “We try to incorporate our fraternity’s name into our events, [and] ‘Knight of Seduction’ is just a catchy name. High heels is just something new we tried to do, like how some clubs make you wear red or lingerie, but since we can’t do that, we did something [more] feasible.”

The line up of performers included rapper Tony Centreno, Second City Underground crew and Audio-Tekz (which consists of J-Tek, Macro, Seeker and producer Ricky Gutierrez, AKA DJ Quality).

“The event is good,” said DJ Quality, as the music was blasting. “It has great potential to grow bigger.”

While the event was a great way for students to blow off some steam from the start of spring semester, it was also a fundraising idea brought to life by the fraternity.

“One of the purposes of this event is to raise money for the Omega Delta Phi Fraternity Inc. and for a future scholarship program we’re currently working on and trying to get going probably by the next semester,” said Gonzalez, “as well as to provide a stress-free and fun event where students can socialize.”

According to Gonzalez, the fraternity decided to do something

about the lack of events, where students could actually enjoy themselves.

“When we came to this campus, we weren’t [involved in] the Greek system, but we later became concerned that the school really didn’t have any events that could allow students to relax,” he said. “So, we created something nice and safe with no liquor involved, because since we are grown ups, we are able to have a good time without drinking.”

It was a fun and rare event. Omega Delta Phi is optimistic that more student organizations will follow the fraternity’s footsteps and arrange dance events on campus that students can have the chance to attend.

“Hopefully, we’ll be able to change the whole aspect of not having much fun events on campus and do more dances here,” said Gonzalez.



## OUT ON A SCHOOL NIGHT

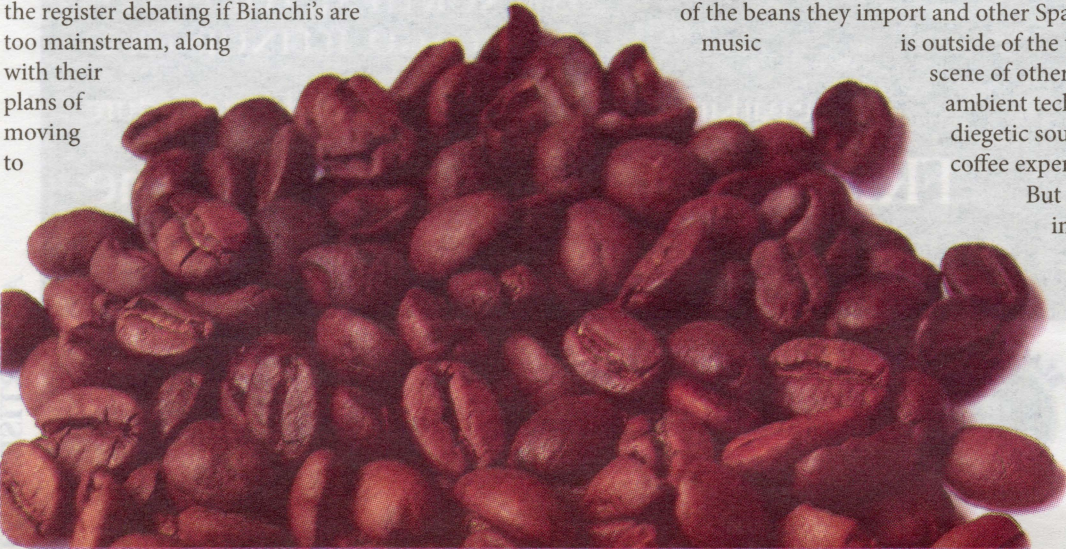
### Asado Coffee Co: The Best Cup of Jose in Lakeview

BY ZAC SCHON - OPINIONS EDITOR



Lakeview is a mecca for coffee shops, since both Clark and Lincoln have a Starbucks every half a mile (along with an independent coffee shop at the same ratio). When we think of an independent coffee house, we often think of the image of exposed brick, worn books on a shelf on the wall for aesthetics and a collection of hipsters behind the register debating if Bianchi’s are too mainstream, along with their plans of moving to

Portland. However, a fresh Iberian take on coffee has found its way to Lakeview and excitement should begin to ensue. *Asado*, located at 1432 W. Irving Park, brings the Spanish style of coffee to Lakeview, and to this reviewer, the bar has been raised. The small shop boasts many decorative Spanish tiles, photography of Spain and Portugal, the coffee sacks of the beans they import and other Spanish accents. The music is outside of the typical indie rock scene of other coffee shops, as ambient techno and other non-diegetic sounds narrate your coffee experience.



But what is most important here is the coffee. Instead of your typical cup of Joe, or in this case Jose, the flavor is obvious, and the roaster that sits behind the counter is a monument to

the painstaking effort of the owner to make the perfect cup. There are no frozen drinks or ones laden with sugar and crème at *Asado*; if you come here, it’s because you like the taste of coffee and can appreciate the flavor, much like a wine drinker can have six bottles of a cabernet and tell you why each of them has a great flavor.

If you’re into lattes, their café con leche easily trumps anything else you can find in the city, as it makes the famous spot on Broadway and Briar’s coffee taste like a glass of water. The menu is quite limited and there is no sort of food sold there. The hours are limited as well since they close at 5pm on Mondays.

However, the staff is not only friendly, but also knowledgeable and passionate about their craft. The effort behind each cup suggests this is not simply a basic customer/owner relationship, but rather, something that exhibits care. Overall, I would give this Lakeview gem 4.5 out of 5 stars—almost perfect, since the horrible hours hinder any sort of ability to work on anything for a long time.



# Anime Club Game Night

BY SYED AHAD HUSSAIN - SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The Anime Club's bi-monthly Game Night was held in SU- 003 on the evening of Jan. 21. The selection of games included "BlazBlue: Continuum Shift," "Halo Reach," as well as card games like Dragon Shield, Magic and UNO.

"Game night is one of the events [that] is free for NEIU students—everybody is welcomed and students can bring their friends too," said Anime Club president Jovan Ebio. "It's a stress-free environment for students to hang out and socialize with other people; if you are a freshman, it's an especially great place to start [plus], you can't get anymore familiar with the video games, comics and card games."

The club has also hosted specific tournaments, and is eager to bring back a fad from the past.

"We try to do more current games—whatever is hot, we'll buy them as soon as they come out and probably [include] in game nights," said Ebio. "We have 'Halo Reach'

tournaments, and pretty soon we will have a 'Marvel vs. Capcom 3' tournament, which we are looking forward to, and will be fantastic. Some of our club members will be having Dungeons & Dragons tournament, which was a big thing back in 80s and is still popular among both boys and girls [because] it's one of those games in which you have to use your imagination."

Don't assume that these expenses are paid for by the school because the club members buy games on their own.

"I am really proud to say that the club likes to share most of the games," said Ebio. "It's great that we all are collaborating and organizing our resources; we try to be as much cost effective as we can with our resources."

According to Ebio, staying in and playing a video or board game is underrated as a way to enjoy yourself.

"You don't need to have lavish parties to have fun, on campus, game night is something you can look forward to [attend] to release stress, relax and meet other people," he said.

The participating students said that they wait for the game night every semester because it's something that they can relate to, and that it's also a chance to share their love and passion for video games with each other.

## NEIU ANIME CLUB'S GAME NIGHT

Friday Evenings in SU-003

Video games      Tournaments      Card games

Ragna (Red) and Jin (Blue) are from BlazBlue: Continuum Shift, one of the few games the Anime Club play during their game nights.

Images courtesy of ign.com

red pump  
PROJECT

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# INDEPENDENT READING

The continuation of some suggested philosophical reads

BY JEFF DUTTON - STAFF WRITER

Are you still wondering why things are the way they are in our society? Here are some foundational philosophies of contemporary American society to help you get in the know.

- *Second Treatise of Government* by John Locke: This work by the famous English philosopher lays out the argument for private property rights. Locke was very influential on the founding fathers of this nation.
- *The Federalist Papers No. 10* by James Madison: The Federalist Papers were James Madison's expanded views of the Constitution and how the fledgling republic should operate. The Federalist Papers played a major role in the political discourse during the early, formative years of this nation. Paper number 10 discusses how the ideals of a Republic and free market commerce system can come together for the benefit of American society.
- *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson: This book is considered by many to have touched of the modern environmentalist movement in the United States.

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# Playlist ▶

*We asked fellow Independent staff members what songs were exactly on their MP3 player of choice as of late.*

## Ivan Favelevic (Editor in Chief)

"Back in Time" - Huey Lewis and the News  
"Sleepyhead" - Passion Pit  
"In Motion" - Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross  
"Monster" - Lady Gaga  
"Yeah 3X" - Chris Brown

## Tracey Washington (Production Manager)

"100" - Wippenberg, Rank 1, Nic Chagall  
"Tri-State" - Above & Beyond  
"11AM (Daydreamer)" - 10 Years  
"Pjanoo Sugar" - Eric Prydz vs Huski  
"Take You for a Ride" - Marvel vs. Capcom 2 Original Soundtrack

## Galini Gkartzonika (Copy Editor)

"Don't Rain on my Parade" - Bobby Darin  
"Every You & Every Me" - Placebo  
"You Make my Dreams" - Hall & Oates  
"Freedom" - Mikael Delta  
"Mercy" - Duffy

## Janean Watkins (Managing Editor)

"Tighten Up" - The Black Keys  
"Crying Lightning" - Arctic Monkeys  
"Rolling In The Deep" - Adele  
"My Philosophy" - KRS- One  
"Follow The Leader" Eric B & Rakim

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JANUARY/FEBURARY 2011

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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SAMPLE TEAS, LEARN CUSTOMS AND TRADITIONS FROM VARIOUS CULTURES

**CHINESE NEW YEAR PROGRAM**  
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HOST - JASON FERGUSON  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15  
GOLDEN EAGLES' NEST (FOOD COURT)

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# Oscar Predictions: Who will lose and who will win?

BY IVAN FAVELEVIC - EDITOR IN CHIEF

Oscar season is upon us; it is time for the Academy to look back on its achievements this past year and pat itself on the back. However, there is always a discrepancy between what the fans (and sometimes the critics) want and what the Academy deems to be the best of the best. Therefore, I've compiled a list of the more notable nominations along with certain predictions.

The "Who will win" category is for who I believe will win based on how the Academy has voted in prior awards; "What should win" is what I think the winner is based solely on the context of the film and its competitors. I've also left a special category for things that are completely missing from the ballot but deserve to be there.

## Best Picture

Who will win: "The King's Speech"

You do not get twelve nominations without becoming the favorite of the Academy. While it is an amazing film on its own, it's safe to bet that it will take Best Picture, Hollywood is not known for taking risks.

Who should win: "Inception"

The most creative and pulse pounding film of the decade. This is without a doubt the best film made this year. Unfortunately it is too mainstream for the Academy to allow it a win.

Who is missing: "The Green Zone"

Probably the most high-octane thriller besides "Inception," the movie is not only a white-knuckle thriller, it is also incredibly smart. Take "True Grit" out and add this baby in.

## Best Director

Who will win: David Fincher ("The Social Network")

Long overdue for an Oscar, the Academy will not let his latest effort go unrewarded, and frankly they shouldn't. Only Fincher could make nerds coding seem like a high thrill chase scene

Who should win: Darren Aronofsky ("Black Swan")

Making ballet seem more beautiful yet haunting is a challenge for any director and Aronofsky accomplishes it in spectacular fashion. However, he still has potential to do better, whereas Fincher may have just made his masterpiece.

Who is missing: Christopher Nolan ("Inception")

The Coen Brothers have an Oscar and frankly True Grit is not their best film by far. Nolan delivered this year with the best film of his career.

## Best Actor

Who will win: Colin Firth ("The King's Speech")

Once again, the man missed the mark last year so the Academy seems keen to reward him. I am not saying it is a consolation prize but it might be another career Oscar rather than a performance Oscar.

Who should win: James Franco ("127 Hours")

Franco carried "127 Hours" on his shoulders. The one man spectacle leaves you breathless not only with the gruesome imagery but by the authentic delivery Franco brings to the screen.

Who is missing: Joaquin Phoenix ("I'm Still Here")

The Academy tends to overlook method actors who take their roles past the studio and into the real world (with Daniel Day Lewis being the exception). When Sasha Baron Cohen transformed himself for "Borat" the Academy didn't even bat an eyelash and this year as Joaquin Phoenix destroyed his public image for a mockumentarian, there is no recognition.

## Best Actress

Who will win: Natalie Portman ("Black Swan")

Long overdue for her, there is frankly not too much competition. The risk involved in this role far outweighs the other candidates.

Who should win: Michelle Williams ("Blue Valentine")

This may be her only chance at nabbing the gold and her dramatically powerful performance is more than worthy of praise.

Who is missing: Anne Hathaway ("Love and Other Drugs")

The Academy seems to always overlook romantic comedies and this year was no exception. Hathaway's performance was good enough to at least land her on the ballot.

## Best Supporting Actor

Who will win: Geophrey Rush ("The King's Speech")

In a movie where acting is the only thing driving it, it would be no surprise that it takes at least two acting statues.

Who should win: Christian Bale ("The Fighter")

When the supporting actor upstages the main actor you know you have a winner. Christian Bale is more than deserving this year.

Who is missing: Andrew Garfield ("The Social Network")

How he is not on the ballot is beyond me. Maybe they think he will do better another year, and they're probably right. However we need to all remember his performance this year before he dons the Spider Suit and falls into the franchise machine.

## Best Supporting Actress

Who will win: Helena Bonham Carter ("The King's Speech")

For such an accomplished actress not to have an Oscar looks bad on the Academy, which is why I see her picking up the statue this coming ceremony.

Who should win: Hailee Steinfeld ("True Grit")

Young talent always surprises anyone who stumbles upon it, however, Steinfeld far from surprised me; she blew me away with her take



Image courtesy of Alan Light, via Wikimedia Commons

on Mattie Ross. The maturity and complexity of the role far surpasses that of the script surrounding it.

Who is missing: Mila Kunis ("Black Swan")

This may be another one time nominee. Nonetheless her take on the carefree ballerina was just as good as Portman's, and deserves to be on the ballot.

## Best Original Screenplay

Who will win: David Seidler ("The King's Speech")

British man with British problems in a period piece. The script in this movie is pure Oscar fodder and it will be shown in the ceremony.

Who should win: Christopher Nolan ("Inception")

If this film did not blow your mind, you were not paying attention. This is by far the best story and downright concept I have ever seen in a film all year.

Who is missing: Vincenzo Natali ("Splice")

This Frankensteinian tale of genetic engineering brought enough cool twists and social commentary to place it on the list. There was tough competition this year, which is why this cult film did not have a chance to shine.

## Best Adapted Screenplay

Who will win: Aaron Sorkin ("The Social Network")

Probably the more deserving one of the Oscars it is nominated for. Sorkin's script is poised to land as the best one of the year.

Who should win: Michael Arndt ("Toy Story 3")

If you did not cry during this film then something is not working inside your inner child. It is truly an achievement to make me care this much about toys and their dilemmas. Who is missing: Steve Kolves ("Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part

1")

Taking a book of this magnitude and making the decision to split it into two movies not for the sake of profit but in order to provide a well developed and clear conclusion to the largest film franchise of the generation is more than deserving to land on any best screenplay lists.

## Original Score

Who will win: Alexandre Desplat ("The King's Speech")

The Academy is bound to pick this over any other. Not that it is a bad score, but there is no risk in picking it.

Who should win: Trent Reznor,

Atticus Ross ("The Social Network")

Risk would involve picking this avant-garde, alternative-electronic soundtrack that fit perfectly into the cold, calculated feel of the film.

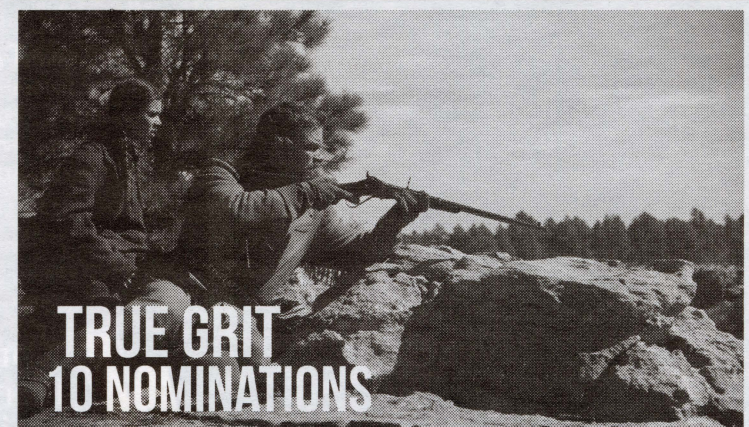
Who is missing: Daft Punk ("Tron Legacy")

What would be risky beyond words is placing techno gods into the ballot. The soundtrack for this movie is so good it can stand alone as a CD purchase and still blow anyone away.

King's Speech official website and True Grit official website



THE KING'S SPEECH  
12 NOMINATIONS



TRUE GRIT  
10 NOMINATIONS

Continued on next page



## Continued from page 12

**Best Documentary**

Who will win: "Restrepo"

Powerful documentary on war and its effect on those involved in it. It paints the most realistic picture of what we are doing in Afghanistan and why we don't belong there. It breaks enough social boundaries as the Academy expects.

Who should win: "Exit Through the Gift Shop"

The tale of renegade graffiti artist Banksy seems too left field for the Academy, but we could be pleasantly surprised.

Who is missing: "Waiting for Superman"

Education reform is a pressing issue and this documentary delivered on its promise while maintaining its position as an amazing film.

**Best Editing**

Who will win: Angus Wall and Kirk Baxter ("The Social Network")

Making coding seem exiting is not easy, yet the editing here did just that. Once again a deserving Oscar should it fall this way.

Who should win: Jon Harris ("127 Hours")

Having a movie about a man stuck in a rock for five days seem like a lifelong trip is not something that should be taken lightly. The editing pressing is tight, calculated and the best I've seen all year.

Who is missing: Dylan Tichenor ("The Town")

Sure, bank heists are overdone,

which is why the ability to make them seem this exciting all over again should have earned this film a place on the ballot.

**Best Cinematography**

Who will win: Danny Cohen ("The King's Speech")

Despite being a period piece, the film does do some really interesting stuff with the camera placement and balance of shots. Nonetheless it falls into the "predictable" category mostly due to the other awards this is nominated for.

Who should win: Matthew Libatique ("Black Swan")

Probably the most visually intrusive movie of the past couple of years. The feeling of tension and beauty delivered with each shot is something that needs to be experienced.

Who is missing: Anthony Dod Mantle and Enrique Chediak ("127 Hours")

The shots created in this film are some of the best seen this year. Everything from the camera angles as we see our main character struggle to survive, to the way they present his needs, makes this film more than deserving of a place on the ballot.



Images courtesy of ign.com

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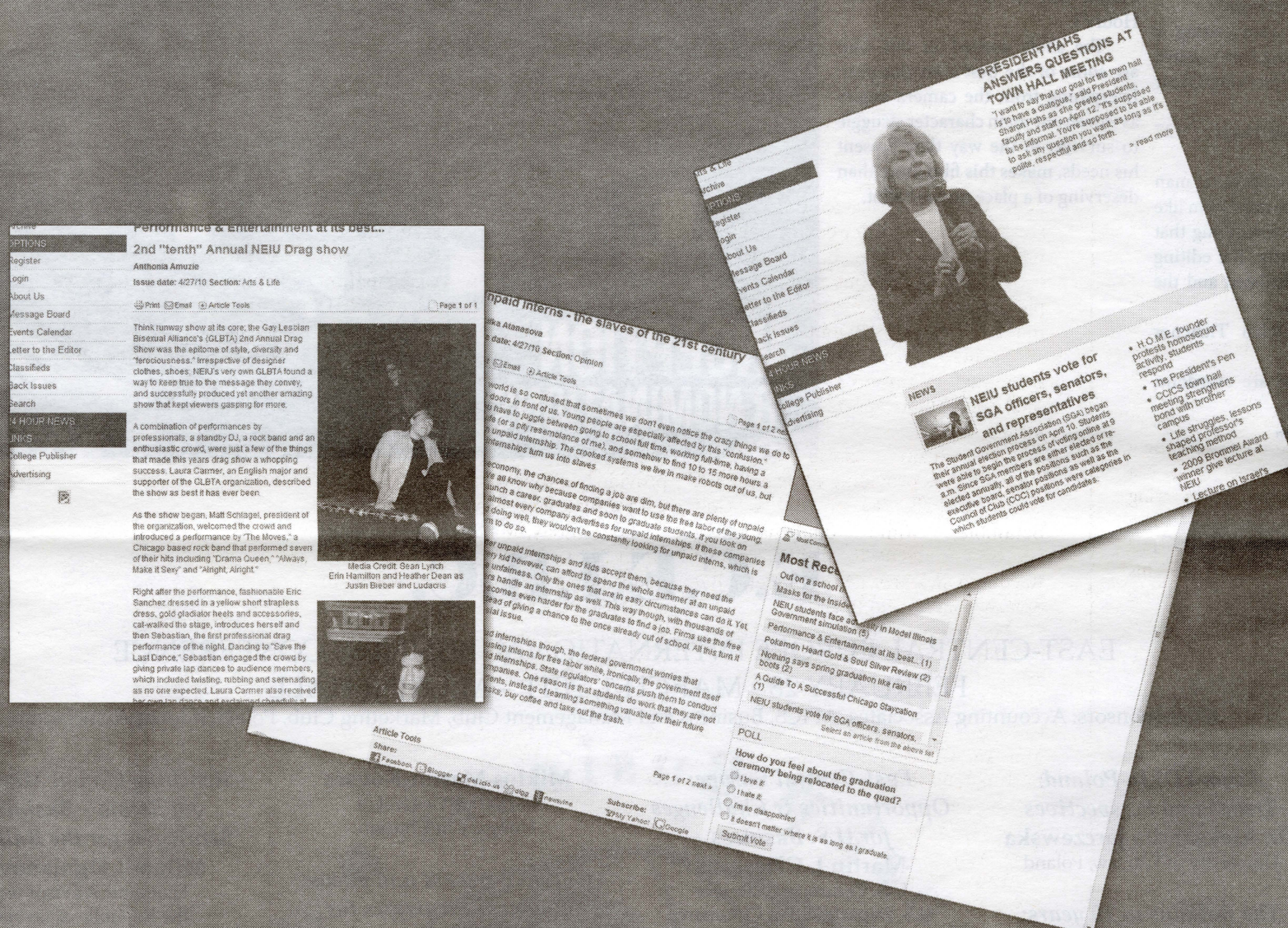
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# Sports.

Campus & City-wide



## Make the Most of Your Semester

BY MATTHEW VON MOSS - STAFF WRITER

The month of January has come and gone, taking with it many of our new year's resolutions. No matter if we swore to lose weight, get out of debt or learn something about boxing, our good intentions could not overcome the unpleasant demands of commitment. After all, when the sweat starts to flow on your third lap around the gym, that initial burst of enthusiasm can quickly give way to boredom, loneliness and a stabbing pain in your left side.

While he can't help you with the last one, instructor Israel Gonzalez can certainly provide a supportive community and an engaging workout. As coordinator of the NEIU Boxing Club and a passionate boxer himself, Israel has made the club a place for anyone to come and achieve their goals.

When posed with the question of what his personal goal was in running the NEIU Boxing Club, Israel, with a big smile on his face, went from trying to become champion of the world to being a champion for the world. Israel is trying to make champions out of his community by helping them rise above their difficulties to discover their own tenacious fighting spirit.

The NEIU Boxing Club offers structured group workouts, that feed off of Israel's energy. They not only teach technique, but are also some of the best cardio workouts available. Frank Trigg, Senior Communications major at NEIU, stated, "Izzy is helpful no matter what level. Izzy offers total body conditioning for anyone who wants to join. Anyone looking to get in shape quick, this is the way to do it."

Stephanie Herrera, secretary of the NEIU Boxing Club, and Sergio Ortega, equipment manager, said that Boxing Club is a great place to learn discipline and even to do better in school. Both Stephanie and Sergio have taken leadership roles in the Boxing Club and found a place where they can grow physically as well as professionally. Sergio has even decided to major in Health and Wellness, due to the great influence that Israel and the Boxing Club has on him.

With the first month of 2011 already gone, you may feel like the window of opportunity may have closed for redeeming that New Year's resolutions or just getting in shape. Israel and the NEIU Boxing Club would like for you to know that not only is the window open but the campus recreation center is too. Information on joining the Boxing Club is available at the NEIU campus recreation building, as well as the El-Centro Campus and, of course, everyone is welcome to join, whether or not you know anything at all about boxing.

## NEIU Intramural Sports Season

BY ROBERTO RIVERA - STAFF WRITER

The hard work that the student body endures every semester also comes with stresses that are sometimes overwhelming. However, these stresses can easily be subdued with some physical activity that is available at the Physical Education Complex. The Spring Intramural Season provides various activities for the student body to participate in, with sports ranging from dual/individual competitions to team competitions.

The spring intramural season started in the third week of January with Five on Five Basketball and Frosty Balls Golf, but there are still plenty of other sports and activities that students can still join.

Spring intramural sports are presented in three categories; team, dual/individual sports and special events.

For team sports, Campus Recreation is providing Floor Hockey, Coed Softball, Soccer and a Golf Scramble, while dual/individual sports are HORSE, Table Tennis, Racquetball, Darts, a Swim Meet, a Big Splash Contest and Bags.

For team sports the registration deadlines run through February, March and May. The deadline for Floor Hockey registration is Feb. 8, Coed Softball and 7 on 7 Soccer is Mar. 18, and Golf Scramble is May 5. Fortunately, there are some sports in the individual categories that don't have registration deadlines because they run on a challenge ladder sequence. Those activities are HORSE, Table Tennis, and Racquetball. Other individual sports include Darts, which

has an Apr. 1 deadline, while the Swim Meet and Big Splash Contest have their deadline on Apr. 26. As for Bags, registration deadline is May 5.

The final category is Spring Special Events which include various other sports including 4 on 4 Indoor Soccer and 8 on 8 Dodge-ball. Deadlines are on Feb. 15 for indoor soccer and Mar. 29 for dodge-ball. There is also onsite registration available for a Basketball shoot out in March and a Fitness Challenge in April.

Most of the Spring Intramural Sports, excluding Darts and the Golf Scrambler that require a participation fee, are free and provided for NEIU students. There are, however, other events available to members of the community. For example on Feb. 24 from 10a.m. - 4p.m. The Physical Education Complex will be hosting the 5th Annual Wellness Fair, that will provide health tips on nutrition, along with raffles, giveaways and massages.

On Sunday, May 1 at 9a.m., there will be the Golden Eagle 5K, here at the main campus. Prices are 10\$ for NEIU students, \$12 for NEIU affiliates and \$15 dollars for the community. There is also a six week boxing program that runs from either Feb 1 - Mar 8 and or Mar 15 - Apr 28. The fee for each six week program is \$30 for students, \$40 dollars for staff, \$50 dollars for the community and \$60 dollars for non-members.

As addressed in the previous issue of the Independent, the NEIU hockey club is still accepting players to join. The team's final match is Feb 22 against The University of Chicago,

but they are still planning to continue play through other leagues after the current season ends.

All information concerning any of the events can be found in the Campus Recreation Spring 2011 Brochure, which can be picked up at the Physical Education sports complex. You can also go to the campus recreation website to download the brochure and find information on various other activities. There are still many things available to participate in.

For further information go to:  
<http://www.neiu.edu/~campsrec/>

or visit  
The Physical Education Complex on the NEIU Campus



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# White Sox and Cubs Hope to Find Success in 2011 with Revamped Rosters

BY JEFF DUTTON - STAFF WRITER

Baseball's spring training kicks off in a couple of weeks with pitchers and catchers set to report to camp in the middle of February. Both the White Sox and Cubs have pinned their hopes of bringing home a championship on revamped rosters. 2011 will see new faces both on the mound and in the field for both ball clubs. Here is a look at the moves both teams have made this past off season:

White Sox

- 2011 Projected White Sox Lineup**
- 1 Jaun Pierre, LF
  - 2 Gordon Beckham, 2B
  - 3 Adam Dunn, DH
  - 4 Paul Konerko, 1B
  - 5 Alex Rios, CF
  - 6 Carlos Quentin, RF
  - 7 A.J. Pierzynski, C
  - 8 Alexi Ramirez, SS
  - 9 Brent Morel, 3B

Kenny Williams and the White Sox began their off season maneuverings with a splash; signing slugging left-handed 1<sup>st</sup> baseman Adam Dunn and moving quickly thereafter to resign veterans 1B Paul Konerko and C A.J. Pierzynski. Dunn, who will primarily play as the DH, will bring the Sox much needed power from the left side of the plate, having hit at least 38 home runs in each of the last seven seasons while compiling a .381 career on base percentage. While the Sox were relatively quiet on the trade front, their free agent acquisitions didn't stop there. After having apparently spent his payroll allotment for the 2011 season, Kenny Williams surprised some by signing two solid relievers in right hander Jesse Crain and left hander Will Ohman. The biggest departures from last year's squad included closer Bobby Jenks and reliever J.J. Putz. Also gone from this last year's roster OF/DH Andruw Jones, 1B/DH Mark Kotsay, DH Manny Ramirez, LHP Erick Threets, RHP Scott Linebrink (traded to Atlanta), and RHP Freddy Garcia.

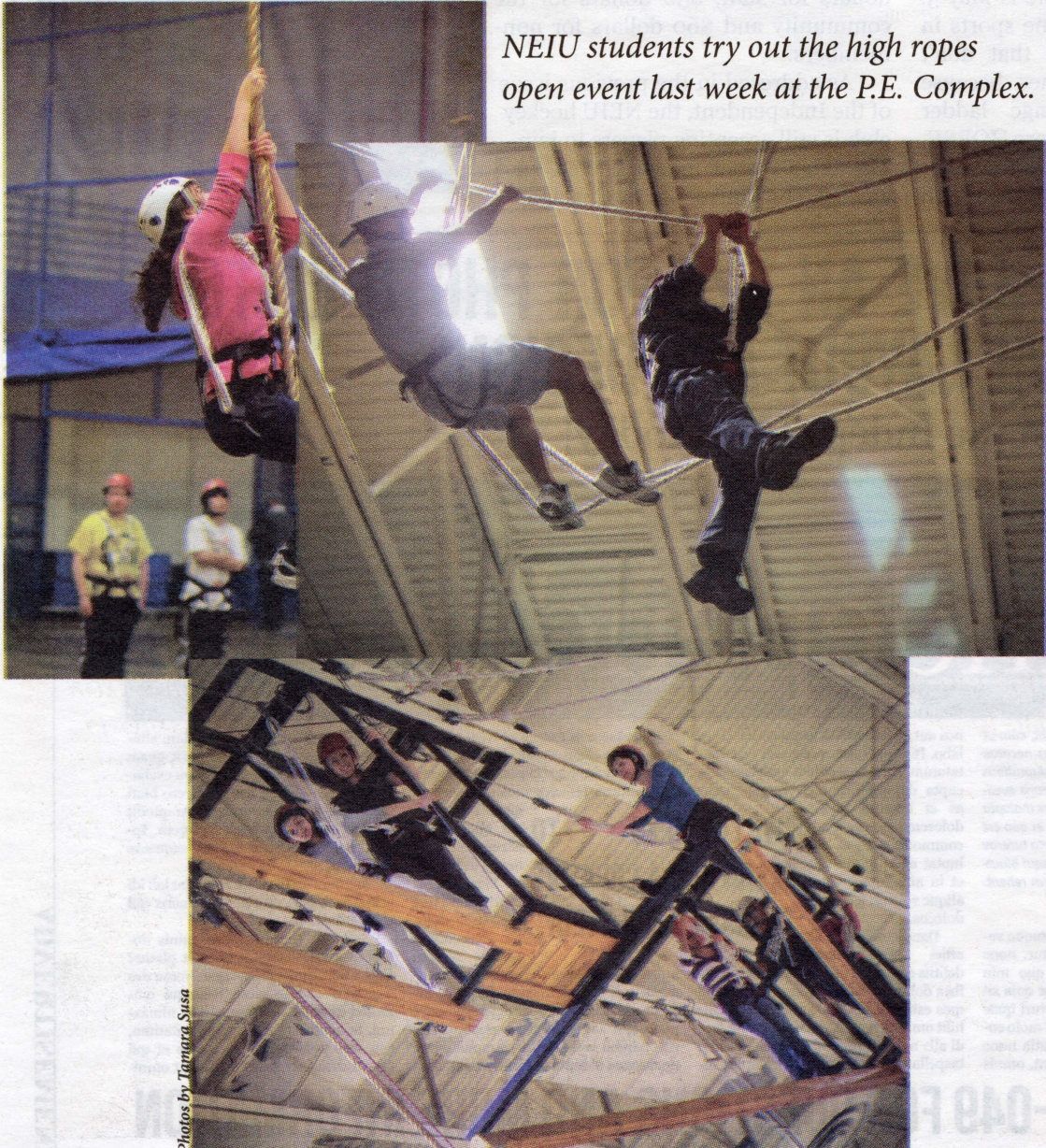
Cubs

- 2011 Projected Cubs Lineup**
- 1 Starlin Castro, SS
  - 2 Marlon Byrd, CF
  - 3 Aramis Ramirez, 3B
  - 4 Carlos Pena, 1B
  - 5 Alfonso Soriano, LF
  - 6 Tyler Colvin, RF
  - 7 Geovany Soto, C
  - 8 Blake DeWitt
  - 9 Pitcher

The Cubs kicked off their off season maneuverings much the same as the White Sox did, by signing a power hitting first basemen in Carlos Pena. Pena had a down year last year, batting only .196 with 95 hits and 158 strikeouts, yet he has averaged 36 homeruns and 102 runs batted in over the last four seasons. The other big acquisition for the Cubs was right handed starting pitcher Matt Garza. Garza came over to the Cubs in a trade that sent five prospects to the Tampa Bay Rays for him and minor league center fielder Fernando Perez. They were also able to add to what amounted to a terrible bullpen in 2010 with free agent signings of former fan favorite Kerry Wood and former Cub, Todd Wellemeyer. Jim Hendry rounded out his free agent acquisitions with the signings of journeyman second baseman Augie Ojeda and scrappy left fielder Reed Johnson. While the team said good-bye to some familiar names during the end of last season (Derek Lee, Ryan Theriot, Ted Lilly, Mike Fontenot), the offseason departures of note include 1B Xavier Nady (free agency), LHP Tom Gorzelanny (traded to the Nationals) and frequent minor league call up Sam Fuld (traded to the Rays).

## PHOTOS AROUND CAMPUS HIGH-ROPES

NEIU students try out the high ropes open event last week at the P.E. Complex.



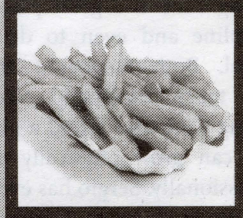
Photos by Tamara Susa

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