

3-8-2011

## Independent - Mar. 8, 2011

Ivan Favelevic

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Arts&Life

## BEHIND THE RED CURTAIN

PERFORMANCES ON HIV

SEE PAGE 11

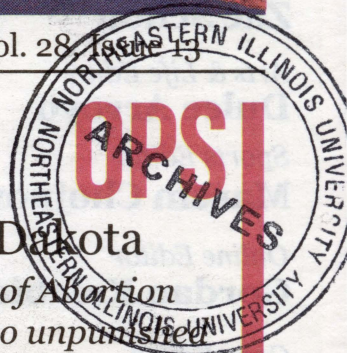
# Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

[www.neuiindependent.com](http://www.neuiindependent.com)

Vol. 28



### South Dakota

*Murders of Abortion  
doctors go unpunished  
in the State of a Great  
Places, Great Faces.*

P.6

## SPORTS

### Fifth Annual Wellness Fair

*Showcasing the best of  
on-campus and local  
athletic and health  
service organizations*

P.9

## ONLINE

### Police Blotter

*View the latest  
happenings on and off  
the NEIU  
Campus*

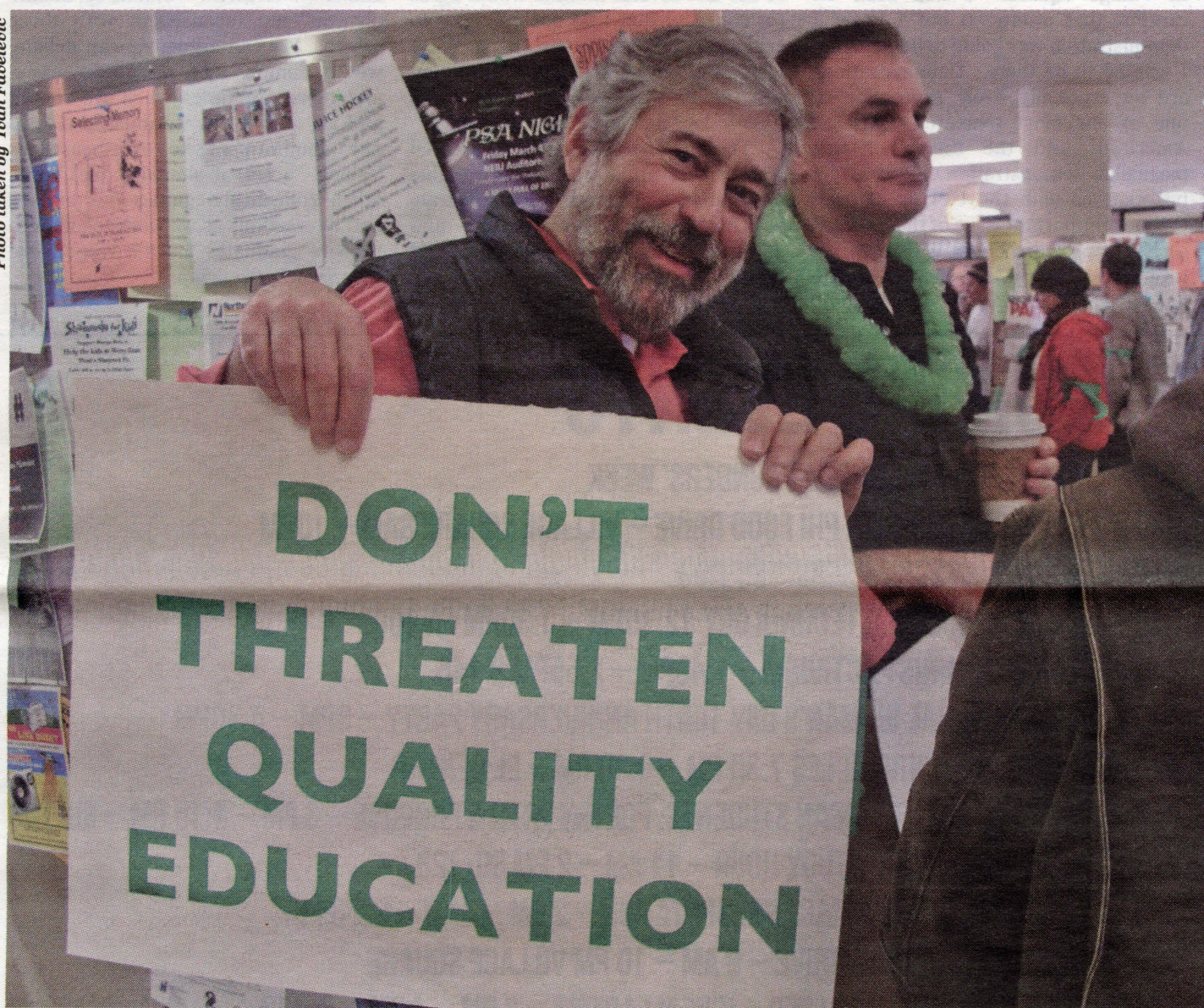
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### What's inside

President's Pen ... 2  
News ... 3  
Opinions ... 6  
Arts & Life .... 9  
Sports ... 15

Online-exclusive articles  
are available at  
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Photo taken by Ivan Favelevic



Professor Zachary Schiffman holds up a protest sign at the February 24 UPI rally.

## NEIU ADMINISTRATION UNDER FIRE

*NEIU Faculty Takes Out Frustration In  
Multi-Day Protest - Grabs President Hahs' Attention.*

See **NEWS** Page 3

## Sports

## CHICAGO BOWLING HOT SPOTS



SEE PAGE 16



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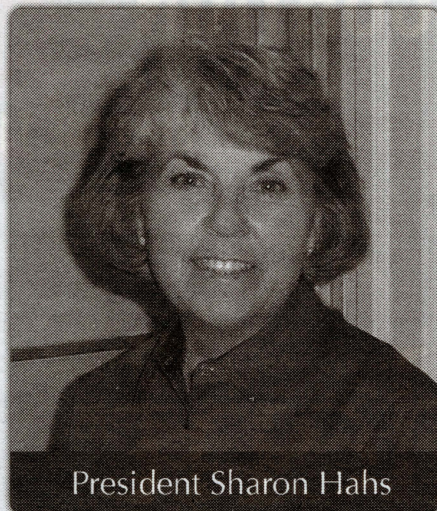
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# The President's Pen



President Sharon Hahs

On Thursday, February 24, I made a special effort to see the demonstration in Village Square. I had been off campus that afternoon but I knew a demonstration was going to happen and I wanted to be there. Demonstrations are an especially lively expression of one of our most treasured rights as Americans—and the theme of this particular demonstration, the contract negotiations with the UPI, is perhaps the most important issue of the moment at Northeastern. Fliers with the UPI logo announced the demonstration time and place and appealed to “Faculty,

Staff and Students” to “Speak Up” and “Demonstrate Solidarity.” Although I think it is fair for me to express a concern about the union deliberately recruiting students to demonstrate, students are fully capable of making up their own minds on this and I do fully support their right to make these opinions known.

For me, Thursday’s demonstration ended on a very disappointing note. As I was leaving to return to my office, chants of support for the faculty shifted to “Shame on you”—obviously directed at me. My immediate response was to give it a literal “Thumbs Down.” I expect criticisms. I even expect that some of them will be personal. It all comes with the job. I hope that fair-minded people who have followed the events of the last several months would agree (or concede) that I do not overreact to criticism, whether fair or unfair. What I found upsetting about the “Shame on you” chant was that it threatens our basic values here at NEIU.

The University as an ideal is essential to the preservation of the rights we value as Americans. The right to demonstrate is a fundamental American right—and as we follow events in North Africa and the Middle East, our sympathies are with those asserting that right because

we value it not just as an American right but as a human right. If the University is the citadel of freedom of expression, it is also the indispensable forum of dialog and debate. Essential to this process is genuine mutual respect and adherence to obvious and acknowledged standards of civility. Without mutual respect we are on a slippery slope.

In what seems to me an ironic moment, one of the speakers at the demonstration read from NEIU’s Statement of Values, speaking of being “committed to honesty, respect, and transparency in our words and our actions” and our environment being “characterized by civility, fostering humanity and engagement,” and creating a sense of community “through inclusion, mutual respect, and empowerment.” Chants of “Shame on you” are inconsistent with those values. We can argue, we can debate, we can demonstrate, we can disagree—and there are times when we should and we must. But we must also keep our commitment to Northeastern’s Values, “a set of shared values, that, taken collectively, guides our actions and interactions as we work together to prepare graduates for the responsible exercise of citizenship.”

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**3/7 – 3/14 ALPHA PSI LAMBDA FOUNDERS’ WEEK**

**3/8 & 3/11 – OMEGA DELTA PHI FOOD DRIVE – VILLAGE SQUARE 8AM – 10PM**

**3/8 – SAO: LEAD SPEAKER SERIES SU-003**

**3/8 – SCIENCE, WOMEN & TECHNOLOGY 12:15PM – 1:30PM FA 108**

**3/8 – GLOBAL FEMINIST ACTIVISM – 1:40PM – 2:55PM B 146**

**3/8 – INTERNATIONAL WOMAN’S DAY 100TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY – 3PM – 4:30PM**

**3/8 – BROWN GIRL CHRONICLES 7:30 PM – 8:30 PM – EL CENTRO**

**3/8 – UNION FOR PUERTO RICAN STUDENTS: POETRY WITH A PURPOSE – 3 PM – 4:15 PM – SU-103**

**3/9 – SIGMA GAMMA RHO STUDY HOUR – 11 AM – 2 PM SU-123**

**3/9 – UIC SCHOOL OF PHARMACY PRESENTATION – 2 PM – 4PM – SCI 311**

**3/10 – OMEGA DELTA FOOD DRIVE – 8 AM – 10 PM VILLAGE SQUARE**

**3/10 HILLEL: NETALLY SCHLOSSER – ISREALI ARTIST – 3 PM – 4 PM – B-146**

**3/10 – NAMING AND PREVENTING THE CYCLES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND YOUTH – 4:30 PM – 6:45 PM – SU-003**

**3/11 – ALPHA PSI LAMBDA: CARNIVAL & BAKE SALE – 12 PM – 6 PM VILLAGE SQUARE**

**3/14 – ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA: VISION IN GREEN ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP INFO TABLE – 2 PM – 4 PM VILLAGE SQUARE**

**3/14 – FEMINIST MAKING HISTORY – 2:25 PM – 3:40 PM – FA 203**

**3/14 – ALISON GREER ART EXHIBIT OPENING RECEPTION – 4 PM – 6 PM 2ND FLR. STUDENT UNION**

**3/15 – OMEGA DELTA SEXUAL HARASSMENT AWARENESS WORKSHOP – 1 PM - 4 PM SU 217**

**3/15 – POETS CORNER: I AM WOMAN! COME HEAR ME FLOE! – 1:40 – 2:40 EAGLES’ NEST**

**3/16 – L.I.P. BAKE SALE – 12 PM – 4 PM VILLAGE SQUARE**

**3/17 – BLACK CAUCUS BAKE SALE – 10 AM – 3 PM – VILLAGE SQUARE**

**3/17 – SU STUDENT SHOWCASE: FEATURING SINGING DIVAS – 1:40 PM – 2:40 PM**

**3/17 – QUEER FUTURES GRASSROOTS JUSTICE ORGANIZATIONS INCORPORATING QUEER FRAMEWORKS – 7 PM – 8:30 PM SU-216**

**3/17 – NPB: ST. PATRICK’S DAY FREE FLOAT GIVEAWAY – 12 PM – 5 PM E-2000**

**3/19 – OMEGA DELTA PHI FRATERNITY FOOD DRIVE – 8 AM – 10 PM VILLAGE SQUARE**





## Frustration Erupts in Protest

BY IVAN FAVELEVIC - EDITOR IN CHIEF

Tension at NEIU reached a new boiling point on Feb. 24 and 28 as dozens of UPI members and student supporters rallied in Village Square. The protests were an effect of prolonged union negotiation agreements, which have been under strict debate for almost 3 years. The message of the rallies was clear: unions and students united for a fair settlement to the negotiations.

Students organized the February 24 rally, and faculty organized the rally on February 28. Both featured a variety of speakers from various departments. Richard Grossman manned the megaphone, as speakers took turns making their statements on the negotiations.

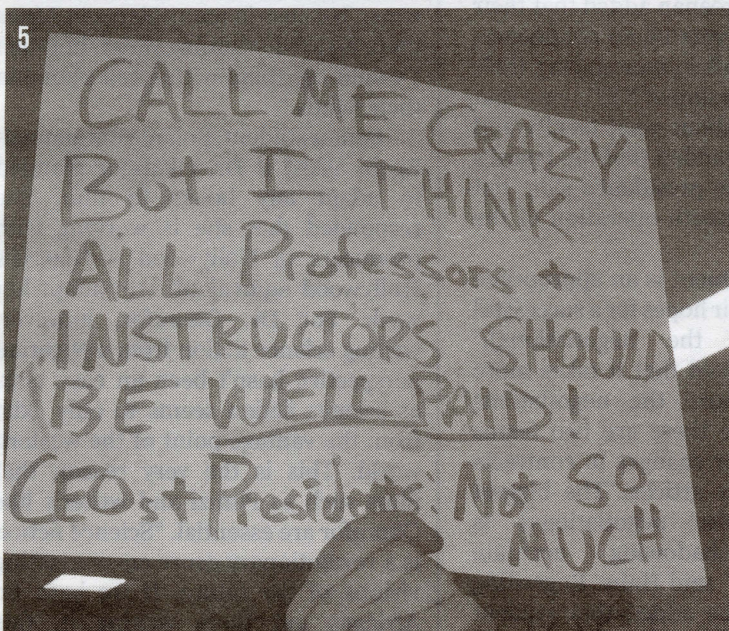
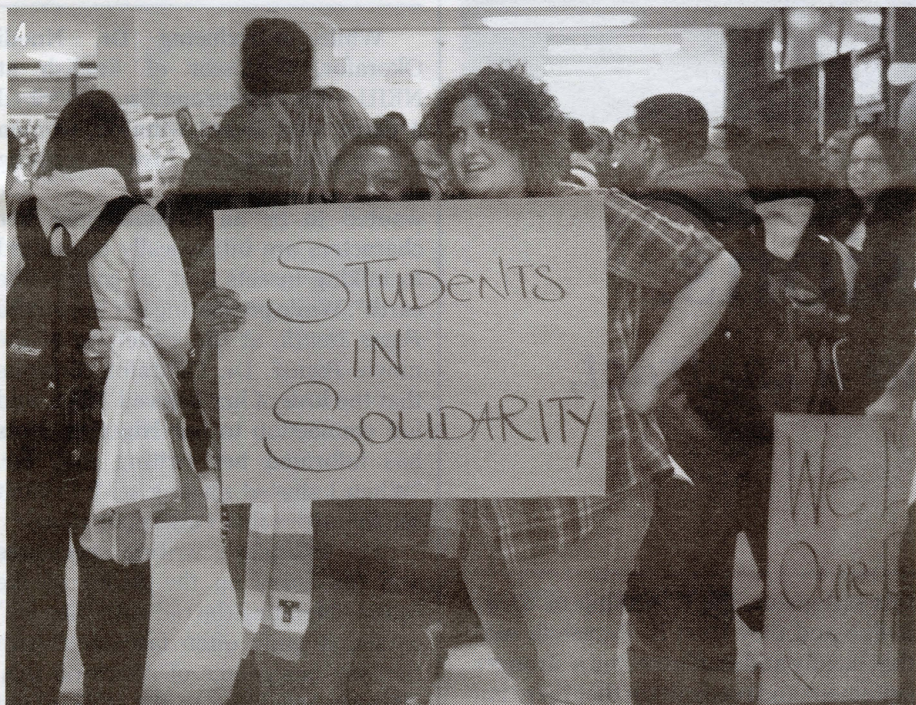
Anna Antaramian, professor in the Communications Media and Theater department and creative director of the Stage Center Theatre, compared what is happening in NEIU to the events occurring in the Madison, Wisc. Driving all the way from Kenosha in order to work at the school, Antaramian spoke strongly against the workloads being placed on instructors. "We need to establish a fair settlement to the negotiations," said Antaramian, "this university is nothing without its instructors."

Various flyers were handed out at the events, highlighting the pay of NEIU instructors compared to other institutions. Union president Terry Schuepfer said that a general manager at Burger King can make more money than an instructor at NEIU. Many tenure track professors spoke about their lack of job security. However, the overarching issue being brought up was the problem with class sizes. Multiple professors reiterated that larger class sizes can only hurt the student body. It overworks the instructors and spreads them out too thin amongst the students. Signs saying "No Mas Hahs" and "Don't Threaten Quality Education!" were being handed out as well and displayed proudly by supportive students.

The February 24 rally, however, took a turn for the worse. As President Hahs was trying to approach the demonstrators, a group of students surrounded her and began chanting cries of "shame." The president was quick to dismiss the hostile crowd, yet the anger only seemed to escalate as the rally progressed.

The February 28 rally had a different outcome. Despite it not being held during activity hour, the amount of demonstrators seemed to match that of Thursday's. After the speakers took their turn, dozens of students and faculty marched around the university, echoing chants such as "union busting is disgusting." The amount of noise being made was increased as the march passed the president's office and the administrative building. The march went full circle from Village Square around the administrative offices, through College of Business Management, passed the Eagles Nest and back up through Student Union.

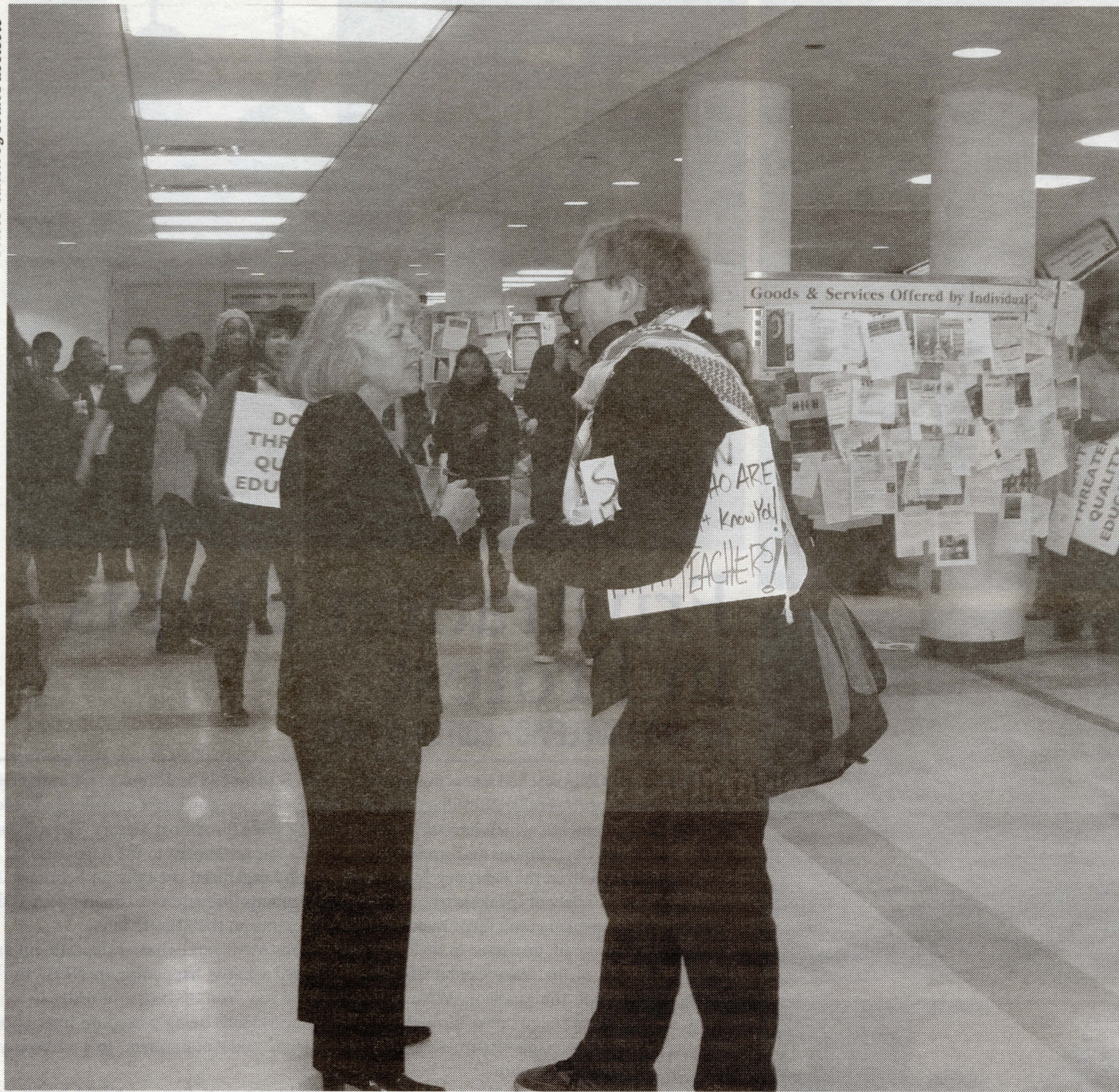
The demonstrations are a clear sign of no more tolerance for the extended bargaining. At the time of writing this story, negotiators should be meeting one last time on Wednesday, March 2 to attempt to create a contract that all parties can agree on.



From top to bottom, left to right: 1. Professor Terry Schuepfer takes shop with fellow protesters. 2. Professor Richard Grossman stands alongside protesters in the February 24th rally. 3. Signs display student and faculty demands. 4. Students Lakeesha Harris and Alison Greer hold up signs of solidarity with their professors. 5. A student holds up their "common sense" signage about faculty vs administrator pay. 6. A protester announces their disdain over union negotiations loud and clear over the



Photo taken by Ivan Favelevic



President Hahs talks with a protester at the February 24 rally in Village Square.

# One goal, different visions.

## *NEIU Faculties and Staff still without a contract, Board of Trustees of no help.*

**BY VASILKA ATANASOVA - STAFF WRITER**

The ongoing negotiations between the NEIU administration and NEIU faculty and staff union are entering their third year. There is still no agreement on many important issues and faculty and staff, as well as the students, are on edge because of this situation. Faculty members of the union bargaining team said that they were trying to be cooperative, and in the beginning of the negotiations they quickly reached a consensus on some articles.

After this consensus, it looks like the negotiations have hit a wall. Jill Althage, a librarian at NEIU said, "I thought they would be over years ago." She said that their biggest concern now is justice for all faculty and resource professionals. Althage explained that the administrative team thought if they complied with the faculty's demands and leave behind the instructors that would make things work. "We are really interested in everybody getting justice," said Althage.

Nancy Sreenan, linguistics instructor, added that NEIU instructors are the lowest paid statewide. "This is the problem that you have instructors that are the lowest paid anywhere in the state," said Sreenan. She also said that the administration team thinks they are offering a raise, when at the same time they are raising the workload, which doesn't make it a raise. "It is probably

a recipe to eliminate jobs, certainly full time," said Sreenan. She said that it is hard to understand why the negotiations have been so ineffective, while the administration has negotiated contracts with other unions on campus without problems.

The board of trustees' public statement of complete confidence in President Hahs was also disturbing for faculty and staff. "I was disappointed of that," said Althage. This says that the Board of Trustees did not give the issues a thoughtful consideration, both Althage and Sreenan said. Deb Bernstein, justice studies professor and practicing attorney, agreed and said, "I think it's kind of foolish to be so lop-sided in their presentation that they completely support the president. I think the correct position would be they need to reflect on this." Bernstein said that their job is not to take one side or the other. "This is not the appropriate role," said Bernstein.

"The board statement would've indicated their desire to move the parties to different position and it doesn't indicate that," said Bernstein. "Throughout the negotiations process, the board has had, and continues to have, confidence in the vision and the leadership of the president of the university," is what part of the board of trustees statement says. According to

this statement, the leadership of NEIU is fine and they trust it. Bernstein said that faculty and staff expected a stronger statement and recognition that there is a huge problem. Sreenan added that their response to the vote of no confidence, within an hour after, announcing their trust in the leadership of NEIU says that they don't care about what faculty and staff think. They added that the board's job is not to take president's side, but to ensure the smooth operation of the university.

"The board statement is an appropriate expression of their hopes for a successful conclusion [of the negotiations]," said Hahs. She said that it takes more than her to move the negotiations forward, because there are two teams who negotiate for changes in contracts with nearly forty articles. "The biggest obstacle [in the negotiations] is emotion overshadowing accurate communication," said Hahs. Regarding the emotions, she added that student protests are fine. "I respect their support of out very fine faculty," said Hahs.

As far as her part in the negotiation process, Hahs stated that her guidance to the administrative team supports the need to reach a fair contract. "A contract that is predictable in workload and fiscally viable into the future in order to provide students a quality education for the long term," said Hahs.



Photo of Nnedi Okorafor

Image courtesy of Nnedi Okorafor's Facebook

## Post-Apocalyptic Africa – Are We Ready For African Sci- Fi?

**BY LAKEESHA J. HARRIS**  
**STAFF WRITER**

While introducing Dr. Nnedi Okorafor, Professor of English at NEIU – Dr. Chielozone Eze, described a fierce, and award winning, women writer who grew to love everything in her environment; "...as a girl she wanted to be an Entomologist...her characters are intrinsically connected to talking insects and, of course, the earth". While presenting her book *Who Fears Death*, at the screening of the movie *Pumzi*, Dr. Okorafor confirms that the love of her beloved Africa and her connection to her Nigerian roots has informed her writing thus far. "When I started reading sci-fi I didn't see the Africa that I knew portrayed."

Dr. Okorafor's writing speculates and fantasizes on the Africa of the future "blending the old with the new" as she is quite often fascinated with the way her people of Africa do this. "Women would go to the store to get water, because in many places in Africa there is still no running water, but then I would see them with a cell phone in their hands."

Senior student, Bolanle Emmanuel-Egobi asked if Dr. Okorafor planned to adapt any books to film. She responded that she is working with producers in Nollywood – Nigeria's Hollywood equivalent – to adapt her work. For Dr. Okorafor, however, writing science fiction from a Nigerian perspective hasn't been an easy task, as science fiction seems to only exist from the vantage point of the western world. This is the very reason that films such as *Pumzi* and writer's like Okorafor are essential. "Science fiction is a revolutionary genre encompassing visions of the future. If we have no Africans out there writing it, this means that African's can't envision our future," said Okorafor.

Fellow panelists included: Dr. Jeanine Nthrigeza, Dr. Shannon Gore, and Dr. Marshall Thompson. The audience participated in a lively discussion with the group about the topic of science fiction, the politics of Africa, and imagining Africa's future. Many left the screening more informed about the genre itself.



# Students Fear Retaliation for Speaking Out

BY SADAF SYED - NEWS EDITOR

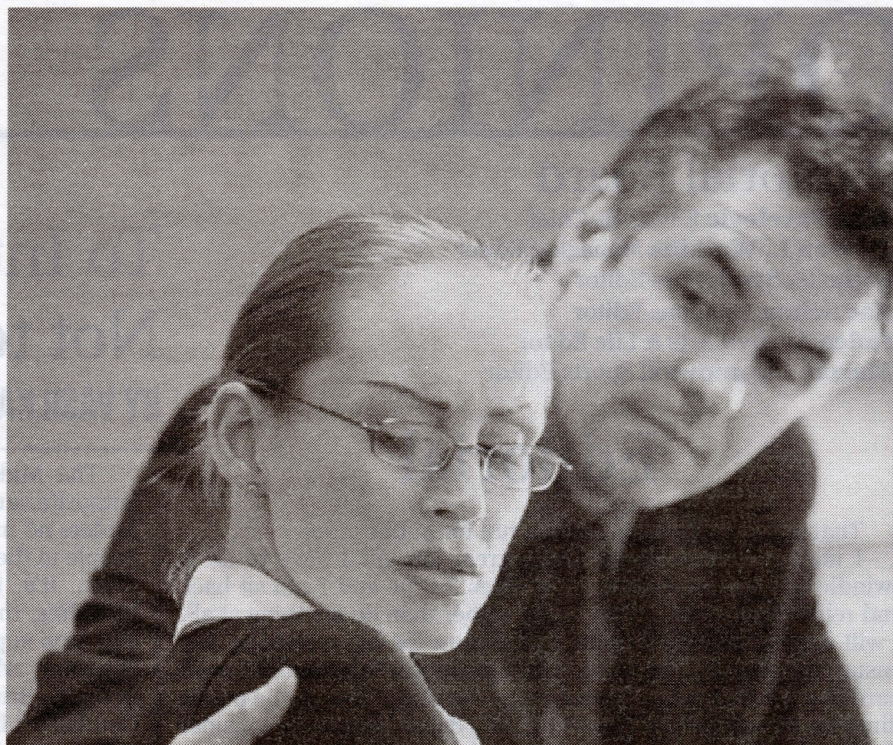
Northeastern Illinois University may be known as the most diverse university in the Midwest, but now it may be known for something more notorious. Over the past few years there have been students and professors alike who were allegedly retaliated against because of alleged sexual harassment suits they have filed against professors of various departments. Unfortunately, neither party's names can be mentioned due to the parameters of legal dispute, and also for fear of retaliation towards the students who came forward to discuss the issues at hand.

According to the NEIU fiscal agent handbook, which has policies and procedures for various departments, including human resources, to follow, it states that, "Harassment on the basis of sex is a violation of Sec. 703 of Title VII. Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when (1) submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, (2) submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or (3) such conduct has

the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment." In this case, the sexual harassment created a hostile or offensive working environment for the students and professor involved, which, based on the reports, did not seem to be thoroughly investigated.

According to an official legal document submitted to the university, the professor who was allegedly sexually harassing the students did so verbally by asking if they would be willing to present themselves sexually to another professor and then report back on it. The student didn't take the suggestion seriously initially, however when asked again by the same professor they felt uncomfortable by the professor's persistence, hence made official claims. An attempt was made to contact the professor for a comment, but there was no response.

An NEIU Media Relations representative made the following statement in response to our inquiry, "Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) was informed that two students filed complaints with the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights. NEIU



and the students now submit this joint statement to acknowledge the matter has been resolved, the complaints have been withdrawn in their entirety, and that neither has any further comment."

Despite this statement, we were given the lead on this incident. There are students who are worried about retaliation if they speak out against their professors, because they have seen their peers retaliated against. There is currently a federal lawsuit in the works. There are, however, students who were brave enough to come forward and discuss the incidents but have asked to remain anonymous for reasons stated above. From what was said, it seems

that these issues are kept out of general student body communication because of the severe consequences that may be faced by the administration to admit what has allegedly taken place.

Many students may never think about the possibility of sexual harassment from the faculty and staff that they trust, but this goes to show that even Northeastern Illinois University is capable of having faculty and staff who abuse their power and trust. The occurrence of sexual harassment is not always easy to pinpoint but it can, and does, happen – even at the most diverse university in the midwest.

## Learn in the city.

## Lead in the world.

**N** Northeastern  
Illinois  
University

Jamila Lang was named Northeastern Illinois University's Student Employee of the Month for January 2011. She is the first student ever to be selected for the honor which recognizes exemplary student employees and is sponsored by the Student Employment Office. January's theme was "Superb Communicator."

Joseph Winfield of the Academic Affairs Office indicated that Jamila continually provides an essential service to the Academic Affairs Office by presenting "the student's perspective" at times when it is being forgotten. Jamila has been a student worker in the Academic Affairs Office for over two years!!!!

CONGRATUALTIONS Jamila and keep up the great work!!!!



Jamila Lang  
Junior  
Social Work/Sociology  
January 2011 SEOTM  
"Superb Communicator"



# OPINIONS

## Editorial Board

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## Editorial

That's it! I am going to make a run for public office.

I may as well, it seems like a great job. All I have to do is swindle people into casting their votes for me and I can sit back and relish the benefits of my work, rather than do anything at all. I will employ staffers to gain momentum for my reelection and ensure my standing for future office positions. Why would I work hard at a job that is so unrewarding, when I can live on the public dime for the majority of my remaining days? When you consider the fact that the majority of people don't even take the time to vote anymore, I don't even have to appeal to the masses, just the few who take advantage of their civil rights. The best part is, I won't even have to go into work when I don't want to.

In all seriousness, it is appalling that people take their responsibilities so lightly. The recent general election, which also decided the next mayor of the city of Chicago, boasted a mere half-million ballots, as opposed to the 4.5 million registered voters. This means that four million people could care less, or worse, couldn't be bothered with the trouble to spend five minutes to make a decision.

This is not isolated to Chicago, as voter apathy is abundant throughout the nation. The Wisconsin voter turnout in November 2010 was a mere 48.9 percent. It makes you wonder why so many people are concerned with the union bill the Wisconsin state senate has been pushing through, with or without a quorum. Essentially, the people are saying they don't care who makes decisions for them, as long as they don't play with their money. The good and bad news is it all has to do with your money.

The missing senators in the Wisconsin issue, who have taken to hotels here in Illinois, are costing an estimated \$2000 per day to the state of Wisconsin. This is a cheap ploy to avoid having to go to work because of bad news. Most people would lose their jobs for this type of behavior. So, why would anyone allow their elected officials to do what they could never get away with? Why would anyone pay people to not attend to their appointed duties? So far, there have been threats to dock the pay of the missing senators, but the only 'ideal' way to coerce the senators to come to work has been to make them show up to receive their paychecks. This is a far cry from the standard, 'an honest day's work for an honest day's pay' that was instilled into my development and work ethic.

Regardless of the stance people take on the issue of the collective bargaining situation in the state of Wisconsin, the matter should be far eclipsed by the fact that people are getting paid for work they aren't performing. In tough economic times, it is difficult to believe that people will argue over the amount of money they are to be paid, rather than take the time to investigate the money they are spending. Anyone with an opinion on the labor disputes should exercise their rights as citizens and become more involved in the process which dictates these events. If voter apathy causes labor disputes, then maybe more people should make it a point to elect the people they are confident will represent them in the respective branch of government.

In the meantime, speaking for the state of Illinois, I would like to thank the taxpayers of Wisconsin for sending your state senators. We appreciate the revenue, as our economy can benefit from every dollar spent. After they return home, I am certain your senators will share great tales and photos from what we have to offer. Let us know when you plan to send more people, as we will do all we can to make it a more pleasant stay. My advice, send them during the spring, when the weather is nicer and there is an array of events for all to enjoy. See you at the polls.

## Letters to the editor policy

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

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

## To Intervene, or Not to Intervene?

BY VASILKA ATANASOVA - STAFF

The Middle East is revolting against the authoritarian regimes. People want their leaders no more, who are some of the richest people in the world, while they live in poverty. Thus, it's time for the western countries, including the U.S., to oppose these autocrats and stop supporting regimes by buying their oil. However, why haven't they done anything yet? Actually, Britain and Switzerland froze Muammar Gaddafi's billions. These are billions of dollars paid by the U.S. and other western countries for Libya's oil. In the beginning, it looked like these countries didn't know what to do. They were afraid that they would lose their oil supplies and didn't make a move in the first few days of the revolt, when close to 300 people died. The economic interest has been leading the western countries' international politics toward Libya and the other Middle Eastern countries. Gaddafi has spent tons of money to create and cultivate these relationships, and since he had what they wanted, nothing else mattered. Libyans have been active by peacefully opposing the regime for the last two years, but no one knew, or didn't want to know. It looks like the western countries' motto, when dealing with Libya, was "keep your pumps open and oil prices low and do whatever you want with your country."

Gaddafi is the main stakeholder in the oil production companies in Libya, so what else could have the U.S. or Europe done. The U.S. has (or had) a strong relationship with this Middle Eastern country and receives a big portion of its oil import from there. Now, the United States is afraid of what will happen after Gaddafi's regime is overthrown. The White House spokesperson said that the President didn't speak out in the first days of the protest because they were afraid for the lives of the American citizens there. While this is probably true, foreigners in Libya have commented that embassies there did not know how to respond to the situation and weren't even sure of what exactly was happening.

The United States is now wondering how to react. Should they send troops to support the revolution for democracy? No, the President probably wouldn't do that, and shouldn't because American military forces in the Middle East are already seen as occupiers, not as peace forces. That is the popular opinion in the Middle East after the Iraq and Afghanistan interventions. Some people believe that America will make the same wrong move in order to support the democratic movement with military power. Nevertheless, we know the President won't repeat the mistake from the Bush-era.

The U.S. is afraid of the shifting powers in the Middle East because of their dependence on oil, and disturbing this relationship may again drag the

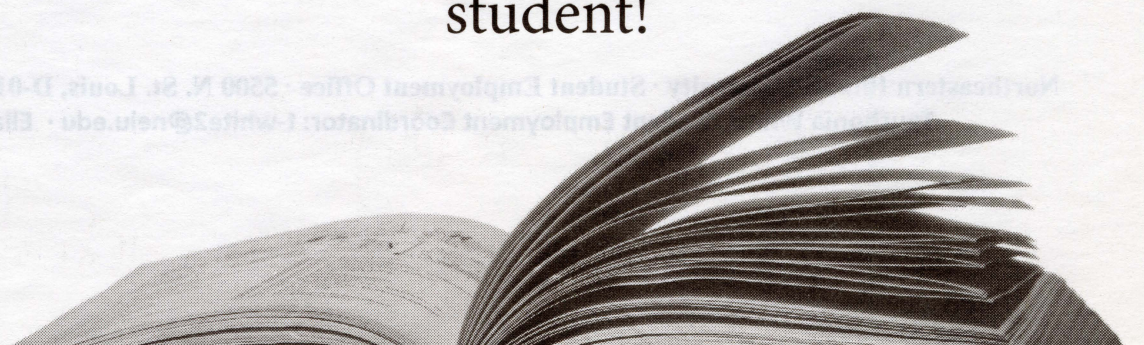
American economy down. Yet, a military move will surely hit the American economy hard. Economists around the world agree on this and they advise their governments to be very careful when dealing with the Middle East now. Knowing the reliance on oil coming from the Middle East, we ought to be certain that the U.S. will surely be careful not to go ahead and make the mistake of 'supporting' the democratic movement in the Middle East. However, some politicians and scholars said that Obama missed a chance to make a historical move. They did not elaborate though. Did he miss to send thousands of troops to Libya? We wouldn't know. In Libya, the situation is different because the U.S. does not have military bases to react and to leverage the situation. Maybe this is why it took Obama so long to speak out on the Libyan rebellion. Whatever the reason was, the fear was a factor and Obama demanded the violence to be stopped. The President condemned the violence in Libya without making the message personal by mentioning Gaddafi by name, and this was one more sign of the fear of what will come after the authoritarian regime fell. Actually, no leader has named Gaddafi, despite the fact that he has murdered people from around the world. After the Holocaust, countries around the world declared that no such thing should happen again. Now though they want to act wisely, because they don't know what will happen when the revolutions get rid of their despots.

And while Obama wonders what to do, people are dying overseas and the sick minded Gaddafi threatens his own nation and destroys his own cities. Moreover, U.S. politicians say that this was a surprising phenomenon. Imagine no one has known that the Libyan people, the nation of one of the richest leaders in Middle East, live oppressed and poorly, so no one expected it. Well, maybe it's true because the U.S. interest is the oil not how people live, yet boast their support of democracy. The U.S. should keep its nose out of other countries' business. Instead of thinking of taking the lead in this situation, as a great guardian of democracy, they should leave this to the United Nations and just follow their lead, otherwise, once again, they will be seen as a cold, oil interested intervener, and people around the world, and in America, are surely tired of that.

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# South Dakota: Home of the Legal Homicide of Abortion Doctors

## BY ASHLEY HOVDE - STAFF WRITER

Before I even begin to pick apart the controversial bill currently making its way through the South Dakota state government, I believe it is imperative to allow readers to actually see the bill as it is written so as to ensure fairness by allowing the words to speak for themselves:

*FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to expand the definition of justifiable homicide to provide for the protection of certain unborn children.*

*BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:*

*Section 1. That § 22-16-34 be amended to read as follows:*

*22-16-34. Homicide is justifiable if committed by any person while resisting any attempt to murder such person, or to harm the unborn child of such person in a manner and to a degree likely to result in the death of the unborn child, or to commit any felony upon him or her, or upon or in any dwelling house in which such person is.*

*Section 2. That § 22-16-35 be amended to read as follows:*

*22-16-35. Homicide is justifiable if committed by any person in the lawful defense of such person, or of his or her husband, wife, parent, child, master, mistress, or servant, or the unborn child of any such enumerated person, if there is reasonable ground to apprehend a design to commit a felony, or to do some great personal injury, and imminent danger of such design being accomplished.*

*-Via the South Dakota Legislature*  
Real quickly- "master, mistress, or

servant"? Whoa! This is 2011, right? I wasn't aware that South Dakota was in a time warp, but apparently they are.

Taken at face value, this is a fantastic law. As a feminist and a woman, I love to see more legal protection for all women, not just those who have found themselves incubating a mass of tissue that could potentially become an independently functioning human being! As it stands, the United States justice system and the legislative forces of individual states are teeming with ambiguous, harmful statutes affecting women. Unfortunately, the proposed South Dakota bill is another example of a meticulously worded, carefully constructed legal slap in the face of all women.

One of the first comments I read in response to an article on the proposed South Dakota bill read something along the lines of "Abortion providers should just move out of South Dakota!" That might be a legitimate suggestion, except that there currently aren't any abortion providers living in South Dakota. Rather, a provider is flown in to a clinic in Sioux Falls once a week. In a state with the strictest, most religiously driven, anti-women laws governing abortion, this is just another attempt by anti-choice religious zealots to ban abortion without expressly saying it.

Moving on, the bill, proposed by self proclaimed 'Reagan Conservative,' Senator Phil Jensen, reflects his objective of protecting gun rights and life, as can be found on his personal website. Furthermore, major supporters of the bill include a number of anti-

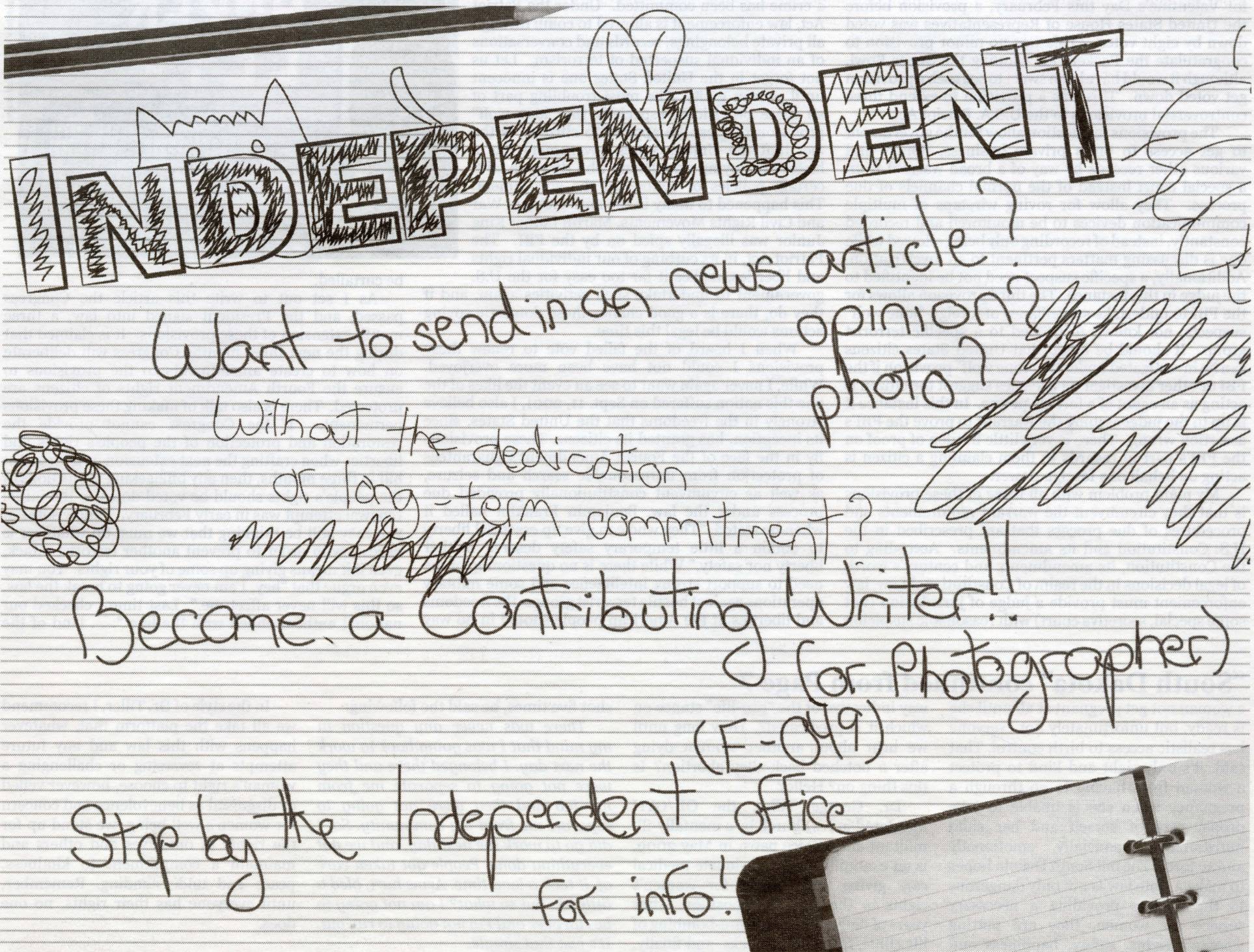
choice fanatics, many of whom support groups that have publicly supported and encouraged those who have murdered United States abortion providers. One group in particular, Concerned Women for America, is still lauding the pathetic "exposés" of Planned Parenthood (PP) at the hands of fellow lunatics Live Action. For anyone not familiar with the issue, Live Action prides in itself on going undercover, duping Planned Parenthood into wasting their valuable time answering questions specifically crafted to put PP staff in compromising positions, and then presenting only ludicrously out of context clips of the visits to make PP look bad. Not surprisingly, all of their claims have been proven bogus, and any alleged wrongdoing on the part of PP has been cleared through factual evidence; i.e. necessary police reports having been filed by PP staff to protect the women they believed to have been underage prostitutes, but were in fact Live Action trolls. The websites of this, and other anti-choice, group are full of comments from members calling for the murder of abortion providers, although those that are not veiled are immediately removed. Thankfully, there are pro-choice activists committed to finding the violent posts before the evidence is deleted.

I can't say for sure whether or not Representative Jensen crafted this bill intentionally to create a loop hole that would allow those who killed abortion providers to claim a justifiable homicide defense, but with supporters like the aforementioned, I wouldn't rule it out. Clearly, the people pulling for the passage of this bill are not above pulling elaborate

stunts against Planned Parenthood, so I wouldn't put it past them to come up with a horrid scheme involving a pregnant member, her gun-toting husband and an unlucky doctor. While this is a horrible scenario, what separates it from the convoluted means of brainwashing the mentally unstable that led to the murders of OB/GYN doctors George Tiller, David Gunn, Barnett Slepian and other doctors and staff members? In the minds of those who have no problem ruining my day with gory pictures outside of public buildings (please get some new pictures, by the way. I've been seeing the same ones since 1983), training their children to hate people they don't know, and lauding murderers of abortion providers as heroes, where do you honestly think a line might be drawn? Again, I would love to live in a fantasy land where any law predicated on protecting women from harm is proposed and enacted for the purpose of increasing women's rights and safety, but I live in reality, and I don't believe for a second that this bill is anything but another attempt by an already misogynist, non-secular state government to keep women down, under archaic stereotypes and resultant legal constraints.

I feel I need to make something abundantly clear: pro-choice does not mean pro-abortion. No one is holding up signs and screaming "I desperately want to go through the physical and emotional pain of having tissue removed from my uterus!" If anyone is, they aren't pro-choice; rather, they're either insane or putting on a satirical act. I, like every pro-choice person I know, would prefer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8





## Letter to the NEIU Community

As members for the NEIU Community, chances are you have heard about the unpopular closure of the Adult and Women's Students Program, as well as the increasing demand for a Women's Center and an LGBTQ Center on NEIU's campus. This semester, NEIU President Sharon Hahs appointed a 13 person working group to develop a proposal for these centers, as well as to recommend other changes in policies or services that would serve the needs of women and LGBTQ students. My name is M. Carter Borho, and I am a senior sociology major. I am one of the two students representing your voices on the committee. We as a working group understand that the 13 of us can't possibly imagine all the concepts and issues important to such a diverse student body as NEIU, which is why we don't want to overlook anything

you as fellow students, staff, faculty, and administration feel that these proposed centers should provide for our community. If you believe that our campus should have amenities like a safe drop-in space or specific programs like violence intervention and resources on reproductive rights, we want to hear from you. No idea is too menial, and we want your feedback to make sure that everyone's voices are heard. After all, these centers will belong to the NEIU community for years to come and we want to make sure that everyone can contribute to what they would like to see. There is a drop box located at the information desk in the Student Union where you can anonymously leave feedback, or you are welcome to email me directly at [M-Borho@neiu.edu](mailto:M-Borho@neiu.edu). We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for your time.

*Disclaimer - The thoughts and writings of this editorial do not necessarily reflect the opinions of NEIU Independent staff. To submit your editorial, email [NEIUIndependent@gmail.com](mailto:NEIUIndependent@gmail.com)*

## This is the Public Way

BY REGINA M. TORRES - STAFF WRITER

Gone are the good ol' days of being able to walk the streets of Chicago without being watched like a hawk. Thanks to the push-push efforts of our mayor, Richard Daley, our street corners and even the sides of buildings are being plastered with cameras that can study our every move and facial gesture, not to mention our habits and contacts. This is not to say that crime shouldn't be addressed in a proficient manner, occasionally using bolder tactics to accomplish the task of making our streets safer for everyone. But, where do we draw the line at protecting our streets and citizens at the cost of total loss of personal privacy?

Recently, the topic of Daley's desire to install zoom lens cameras "on every corner" has raised some eyebrows from concerned citizens. First of all, the cost of conducting such a huge project would put a price tag of \$60 million on the shoulders of Chicago's already winded financial situation. Another issue aside from cost effectiveness is that Chicago already stands as currently having the most extensive and integrated camera patrol system in the nation, with 10,000 spy cameras already installed on its street corners, just waiting to report you to Big Brother. While Daley defends this by claiming that the cameras have cut down on crime, there are no factual figures available to back these claims. Will spending \$60 million to have a camera pointed at every corner really make an impact in the prevention of crime? Apparently Daley thinks so. His argument

is that he wants to install the next series of cameras in high-crime neighborhoods, so that senior citizens can go to church on Sunday morning or stand on a corner at 2am without provocation. Fine. Got it. But, really, how often do you know of a senior citizen that lives in a ghetto to go wandering around at 2 in the morning anyway?

Crime will happen in Chicago with cameras or no cameras, as it has for as long as Chicago was incorporated into a city. In Daley's words recently, "Cameras identify the individual who has committed the crime. Simple as that." Oh yeah? Not if you are a clever enough criminal that knows the value of concealing the face and body from being imaged (think bank robbers and the ever popular hoodie or gorilla mask). Perhaps then it is just a matter of time before the Big Brother cameras will have x-ray capabilities or some other invasive ability. This is exactly the concern of The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Daley shut down the moratorium call of ACLU to address any new camera additions, as well as placing stricter measures on cameras already installed. The ACLU also wants to put restrictions on the use of zoom lenses, facial recognition technology and the physical tracking of going from one vehicle to another. Long story short: Daley's not hearing it.

Goodbye basic human privacy rights. Hello Big Brother.

## Don't Tread on Me: The Unpatriotic Act

BY JEFF DUTTON - STAFF WRITER

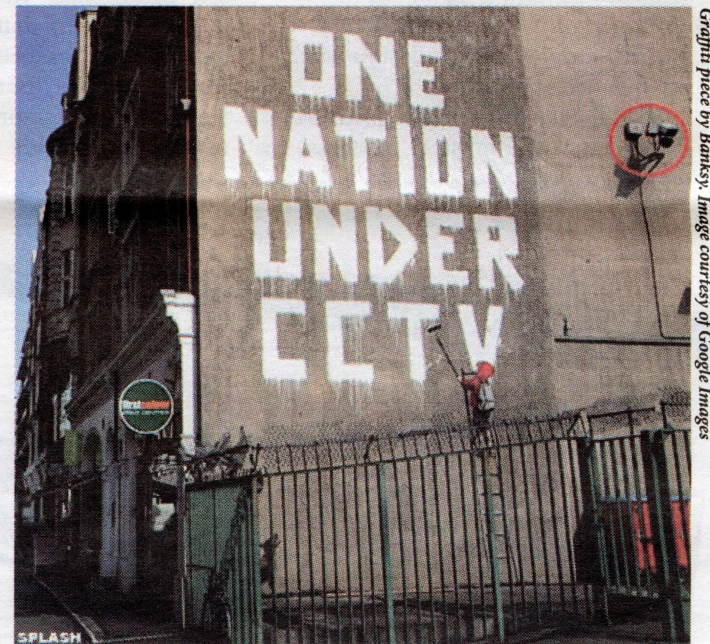
As men and women across the nation were busy searching for gifts and making dinner reservations for Valentine's Day this February, a provision before the United States House of Representatives was voted down by eight votes. This was no minor provision to congratulate the Packers for winning the Super Bowl, although it would have been sweet to see such a provision get voted down. This was a provision to extend three controversial provisions to the U.S.A. Patriot Act.

The provisions in question allow for the government to get access to one's private business, library and various other records by way of a broad warrant from a special court instead of the normal channels of due process. They allow for roving wiretaps of multiple communication devices to be monitored and recorded constantly, instead of recording only being allowed while one is discussing matters pertinent to an investigation. Additionally, a specific suspect need not be identified to the judge in this instance. The third provision allows for the FBI to undertake surveillance of foreign "lone wolf" suspects, not known to be tied to a specific terrorist group. It should be noted that United States citizens can be investigated under the "lone wolf" provision if the FBI or other investigating agencies suggest the citizen is acting as an agent of a foreign power. In this instance it is up to the judge issuing the warrant to prove the FBI's assertion wrong. There is very little burden of proof on the FBI's part in regards to them claiming a citizen is acting on behalf of a foreign power.

My main problem with all three of these provisions is that they circumvent the warrant requirements and procedures of due process that are prescribed in the U.S. Constitution and its amendments. According to the Constitution, its amendments and century's worth of legal decisions in the realm of Constitutional Law, law enforcement must provide a judge of jurisdiction (not some special, secretive court) with reasonable suspicion

that the home being searched, records being taken or conversation recorded will provide proof a crime has been committed. Under the Patriot Act, law enforcement is allowed to comb through all private belongings, records and conversations of an individual suspected of terrorism. Let us not forget in the United States one is innocent until proven guilty. The most troubling part of all these provisions, especially the "lone wolf" provision that can be applied to citizens, is the fact that the United States government has a history of spying on citizens who disagree with certain policies or actions of the government. This happened to many in the anti-Vietnam War and Civil Rights Movements. Martin Luther King Junior was illegally spied on by the FBI. The Patriot Act, in its curbing of our individual rights and liberties, makes it far too easy for the U.S. government to undertake such activities again, and if they do, there is a good chance these domestic spying actions would be legal this time.

When I heard of the failed vote to renew these provisions I could not have been more overjoyed. While, I never again want to see an event the likes of the one this nation suffered on Sept. 11, 2001, I also believe strongly in the freedoms that the United States, since its inception, has granted its citizens. These provisions fly in the face of the Fourth Amendment's guarantees of protection from unreasonable search and seizure, as well as circumvent constitutionally provided due process under the law. Benjamin Franklin nailed it when he stated, "They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety." While there is no questioning of the need to support strong intelligence and some military operations against hostile terrorist groups, the freedoms and liberties of the American people should in no way



Grffiti piece by Banksy. Image courtesy of Google Images

be curtailed.

As I set out to write this article the Congress passed, and the President signed into law, a three month extension of these provisions. It is claimed that during the next three months Congress will deliberate on how to create amendments to the provisions to ensure the Fourth Amendment rights of citizens are protected. There is also talk of making these provisions permanent. If the Congress cannot provide the restoration and protection of the people's rights and liberties when crafting the next extension or permanent bill in three months, then any bill lacking protections of the people's rights should be voted down as the initial renewal attempt was in early February. I know some of you may still be thinking that we must do whatever is necessary in order to prevent another terrorist attack, even if it means giving up some of your rights. You may even argue that "hey, I am never going to break the law, so this will never affect me." Last time I checked our national anthem ended with the line "... land of the

## "South Dakota" continued from Page 7

a woman not get pregnant at all until she is ready, but unfortunately not everyone has realistic access to birth control. That said, it's only right and kind to protect a woman from having to go through a pregnancy when she is unable to take proper care of herself and her child nutritionally, financially, emotionally and so forth. The bill South Dakota hopes to make a state law is not only dangerous to the doctors providing a necessary service for women, they are putting women's rights, safety, happiness and lives on the line. How is this bill in any

way indicative of the "pro-life" stance on which it is predicated? How long until we hear about another woman dying after a botched back-alley abortion? Is this thing on? Hello?

Dr. George Tiller, the OB/GYN murdered in his church by a mentally-ill, militant anti-choice pawn in May 2009, is an example of compassionate medical care giving and respect for women's rights in the face of opposition. After years of daily threats, the fire-bombing of his clinic, failed acid attacks, and finally, an attempt on his life in which he was

shot five times, he said the following:

*There was never any question in my mind that I was going back to work the next day. I belonged there and they were not going to separate me from my job and they were not going to separate me from my community. So, I did go to work the next day, and we got everything done. People got taken care of, it took a long time. Arms hurt, bled a little bit, but so what? I am not going to be run over and I'm not going to run out. It's just that simple.*

In the style of Dr. Tiller, I recommend we all take the platform that, whatever happens with this law and any future attempts at reversing or challenging a woman's right to choose, however veiled or disguised as benevolence and concern for women's well being, we stand up for the rights of ourselves and others and maintain a commitment to kindness, peace and understanding. Remember, until everyone has their rights, no one does.



# Arts & Life

Entertainment & Features

*Red Pump  
Project*

*Contemporary  
Dance Club*

*NEPU  
Black Caucus*

*L.I.P.*

*Walgreens*

*Black  
Heritage  
Gospel Choir*

*Rush  
University  
Medical Center*

*Feminist  
Collective*

*Behind the Red Curtain... Page 11*

**ΓΦΩ**

*Nu Chapter*

*Global Girls*

*Omega Phi Beta*

*Sorority*

*Urban Theater Company*



## MAKING

## MOVIES

Left; Juan-Carlos Chaurand and Brendan Culp. Below: Enrique Chi and Nic Kolar of Making Movies. The Latin based band made themselves at home at the Cobra Lounge located in the Near West Side.

Photos by Dulce Arroyo

## Making a Second Home in the Second City

BY DULCE ARROYO - ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

After performing for two consecutive nights at Estrella Negra and the House of Blues, the guys of Latin rock band Making Movies were thrilled to be playing once again at the Cobra Lounge for their weekend tour in Chicago.

Making Movies, originally from Kansas City, Mo., is made up of Enrique Chi on lead guitar and vocals, Juan-Carlos Chaurand on percussion and keys, Nic Kolar on bass and Brendan Culp on drums. The band's set for the night included songs off of their LP, "In Deo Speramus", as well as a salsa classic, a catchy cumbia cover of "Float On" by Modest Mouse, and a few of their new songs.

The guys strive to maintain a personal and friendly connection with their fans, making them feel right at ease.

"We're never standoffish with our fans," said Chaurand. "We're very appreciative, and we thank them for all of the support they've given us these past two years."

With no publicist or manager, the band makes its goal of being independent much more clearly.

"Our goal isn't to sell as many records as possible—we just want to make the best music that we can for everyone and travel," said Chi. "We're not trying to get signed; I mean, it'd be awesome if someone came up to us and said, 'Hey, we want to sign you guys to our label and let you make music the way you want to,' but that never happens. But it's nice to be able to manage ourselves."

Chi, who was born in Panama, remembers growing up listening to the English rock band Dire Straits,

whose album "Making Movies" serves as the reason for the band's name.

"My dad would play their songs, and I'd go around singing along without knowing any English," he said. "But I always liked how the name looked, so I guess it just stayed with me."

His cultural roots also stayed with him, since the band's sound is an interesting one of alternative rock mixed with a tropical flavor.

"I try to steal some Latino rhythms, which I think are the best in the world," said Chi. "Then from there, we create our own artistic touch to make modern songs."

Chi mainly writes the lyrics based on experiences, or stories, and characters that he creates, though there's much of a collaborative approach in

the overall process.

"The songs are like Enrique's blue prints—his brainchild—and then we add to what he comes up with," said Culp.

Meeting Perrozompopo, the brother of salsa singer and Latin Grammy winner Luis Enrique, inspired Chaurand to want to tour with him in the future—as well as having taught them a thing or two about Grammy after parties.

"He actually snuck us into a party after the Latin Grammys," said Chi, as he and the guys laughed at recalling the memory. "We were on a rooftop with all these famous people, and had an amazing view of the city."

Making Movies also recognizes social injustices

towards Latino communities, and was involved in activism as support in getting the Dream Act passed. The video for their song "Tormenta" featured statistics about undocumented youth, as well as children from the Mattie Rhodes Center in Kansas City, a non-profit organization that offers community services, created especially for Latino families.

The band hopes to be a part of the continuous fight for social progression for Latinos.

"We're very disappointed that the Dream Act wasn't passed, but it's a future goal of ours to include [immigration reform] in our music," said Chi.

Playing in places like New York and California and having a current line-up of Minneapolis, Nebraska, and Texas, the guys have each gained their own insights that traveling in a band has helped them attain.

"I grew up having brothers, and being in a band is pretty much the same thing," said Chaurand. "So, I always remember it's important to take care of my brothers—of my family."

"I've learned there are so many different ways to live life and to view the world," said Chi.

But there certainly is a suggestion that the guys agree on, and it's geared towards bands trying to make it big.

"Learn and practice as much as you can, because no show is ever too small," said Culp.

"Yeah, you never know who you'll meet," added Chi. "Sometimes you'll play for two or three people, but one of those people can end up being someone who's going to host a music festival and wants you to play in it."

Shortly after, Making Movies took the stage. Fans and friends alike came out to support the members, whose vigor before the show was unquestionably visible during their dynamic performance.

**"Our goal isn't to sell as many records as possible—we just want to make the best music that we can for everyone and travel,"**

**-Enrique Chi of Making Movies**



# “Emma’s Child”

## Emotion, Compassion take Center Stage in Thatcher’s Play

BY REGINA TORRES - STAFF WRITER

If a pin was dropped during one of the recent performances of Emma’s Child, chances are an audience member would hear it. The play, written in the early 90’s by playwright Kristine Thatcher, takes an emotionally stark look at the heaviness surrounding the adoption process. Thatcher ups the ante by not only showing the inner and relational strife and legal struggles a couple wishing to adopt a child may go through—matters are complicated even more so by the fact that the child is diagnosed with severe and terminal hydrocephalus, a debilitating disease where the brain swells from retaining fluid.

From the beginning, a premature baby named Robin lays immobile in a Chicago area hospital preemie room nestled in his tiny bed/pod called an “isolator.” He is dependent on the round-the-clock care of a comic-relieving, attentive pair of nurses by the names of Laurence (played by Rand Ringgenberg) and his aid, Mary Jo (Caitlin Inman). What Mary Jo lacks in expertise and worldly smarts, she makes up for in compassion. A compelling performance was given by Laurence’s character, who, while being confined by the bureaucratic principles that run a hospital setting, remained a faithful comrade in aiding the hurts of Robin’s potential adoptive mother, Jean

(Elisabeth Jackson).

Since the play is not in chronological order, we are shown the ongoing intimate unraveling of the adoptive couple’s involvement in the life of Robin. At the heart of this play is the dichotomy in Jean’s loving and accepting stance of adopting an ailing child, pitted against the unaccepting stance of her husband, Henry (Daniel Ochoa).

Henry is open to adoption (preferably of a white girl), since they are not able to have children of their own, though he is not opposed to a boy, even one with “minor” challenges. He is not open, however to involving himself in the bonding processes occurring between his wife and this hospitalized infant, which he is not ready to emotionally father.

Over the course of roughly a year, we see the instinctive mothering role and bonding process that Jean develops with Robin, visiting him often and becoming excited when the child showed physical improvement. Tender and moving performances were shown in such efforts as Jean’s character wanting to learn how to properly hold an infant with a seriously debilitating illness,

with tensions crescendoing between this couple on different emotional and philosophical adoption paths.

Ultimately, tensions build so much that a fuming Henry takes off on a “fishing trip” with his buddy to Michigan, leaving Jean alone in Chicago. The fishing trip culminates in a drinking-binge-psychotherapy-session between the two men, offering insight and humor, but most of all, it allows for Henry to finally turn a new leaf in his attitude toward Robin and Jean.

This is not a play that leaves you with feelings of bliss and visions of rainbows. Just as in real life, there are growing pains we must all go through in order to realize what is truly important to us.

In Emma’s Child, the focus is on individual differences within a marriage, especially in relation to such serious matters as, adoption and terminal

illness. How involved are we capable of becoming at being accepting and compassionate? On that note, it is through our learning experiences with others that we can truly grow as individuals who are able to love unconditionally. This is what Kristine Thatcher seems to be probing us to ponder.

Special mention should go to the fact that although Stage Center Theatre is small in dimension, they did a good job on stage setting and props, not to mention sound. Being that this play is in five acts, it is impressive that scenes were able to transition smoothly.

Overall, this is a play that makes one think about values. Emma’s Child is an enlightening play for the human condition, even if one never sees himself or herself as a parent.



Henry (Daniel Ochoa), Dr. Arbaugh (Carrie Ediger), Jean (Beth Jackson) star in Thatcher’s play ‘Emma’s Child’ at the Stage Center Theatre and directed by Rodney Higginbotham.

# Behind The Red Curtain: Performances on HIV

BY SYED AHAD HUSSAIN - SENIOR STAFF WRITER

“Behind The Red Curtain: Performances on HIV” was an event supported by various student clubs and organizations such as the Black Caucus, Latinas in Power (L.I.P), Black Heritage Gospel Choir, Omega Phi Beta Sorority, Contemporary Dance Club, and Gamma Phi Omega Sorority Inc. Rush University Medical Center, Feminist Collective, The Red Pump Project, Urban Theater Company, Global Girls, and Walgreens sponsored it.

“The purpose of this event is to educate people and raise awareness about HIV,” said Julissa Flores of Gamma Phi Omega, “It’s effecting minorities—55 percent of African Americans in Chicago are HIV positive, so we are encouraging people to get tested.”

It was a sincere, honest and thought provoking event that raised an important concern that HIV and AIDS aren’t only a gay, lesbian, and/or white disease—they can affect heterosexual black men and women too.

“In order to take care of yourself and those who love you, you have to get tested and you have to encourage your friends and family to get tested,” said Craig Johnson of the Rush University Medical Center during his opening remarks. “In June, we are going to mark thirty years of AIDS; we came a long way from not knowing anything about the disease, and now we have some powerful drugs that can make the patients live longer and healthy lives.”

Johnson pointed out that there are over 33 million people around the world who are living with AIDS, and that 1.3 million live in the United States. In the city of Chicago, the number of AIDS patients is 22,000.

The event’s performances included Black Heritage Gospel Choir singers Ahriel Mullings, Keynell Dixon, Alexandra Rambus, Stephanie Brown, Lamaria Howard, Richard Robinson, Carol Martine, Cokeshia Maryan, and Stephanie Mann; Gamma Phi Omega’s Reina Salcedo; composer, singer, and radio host Dana Divine; and Contemporary Dance Club members Laura Jean Burgess, Amanda Illic, and Lyz Krieger.

“Our dance act is about how women treat each other,”

said Amanda Illic, a performer from the Contemporary Dance Club. “Hopefully, our act will make people think to help each other, and being there for each other, especially [those affected by] this disease.”

Other notable performances were the spoken word acts by Bolanle Emmanuel-Egobi from the Black Caucus, and the ladies of Latinas In Power (L.I.P): Wanda Fontanez, Jessica Urbina, Michelle Negrillo, Kimberly Arabu, Isamarie Schiffino, Sandra Gonzalez and its president, Stephanie Gomez.

“My mother was HIV positive, and in 2007 she passed away,” said Wanda Fontanez of L.I.P, whose poem “Invasion of AIDS” was performed. “When I heard about the event, I told Stephanie about the poem I wrote and she agreed right away to perform in the event with me because she knows my situation.”

The guest performers included spoken word artist Keith Romell, who urged men to use condom wallets; Hank Hilbert, an actor from the Urban Theater Company; poetry jam artist and activist Mama Brenda Matthews; actor and creative artist Sanford Gaylord; epidemiologist, and poet Sister Yaa Simpson; and nationally acclaimed jazz vocalist, Maggie Brown.

The most striking and heartfelt performance was the Global Girls’ Everyday People Theater Company, which was about five teenage black girls who, due to the lack of awareness, got infected by their high school classmates and were constantly ignored by their mothers. Much to their horror was the isolation they felt in their homes and society after getting infected. This brought to light the fact that the number of infected African American women is increasing in the United States due to lack of awareness and education.

Autumn Brown, Ryonn Gloster, Nailah Harris, Nicole Jackson, Jamesa Martin, Christina Rice, Tasha Rice, Ava Saunders, Laura Sauners, and Marvenetta-Woodey-Penn performed the act.

Participants of the event agreed that it was imperative to raise awareness about HIV through this creative endeavor.



Wanda Fontanez performs her poem “Invasion of AIDS” at the Behind the Red Curtain event.

“Cultural Art is a powerful tool that can educate people and is a unique way of urging them to get tested,” said Mama Brenda Matthews, a guest performer from HBO Def Poetry Jam and founder of Tap Roots on Chicago’s West side.

“I think this is a much needed event about trying to reach out to the generations who follow us all and who we look up to as our hope,” said Sanford Gaylord, an actor and creative activist. “HIV is greatly infecting youth, so a campus is a great place to create a rippling effect of knowledge and power of understanding.”

The leading sponsors’ representatives, Luvvie Ajayi, the co-founder of the Red Pump Project, and Peggy Austin from Walgreens said that they were proud to be a part of the event, and thanked NEIU and all student organizations and sororities for supporting



# INDEPENDENT READING

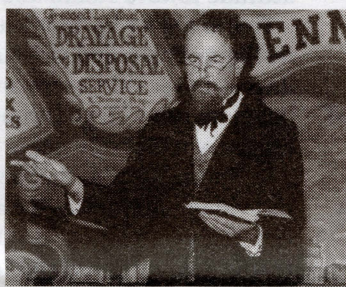
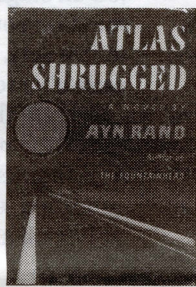
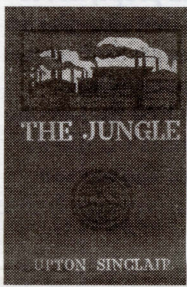
By Jeff Dutton, Staff Writer

*It's hard to turn on the television without hearing one thing or another about the current political discourse in this country, from the protests in Wisconsin to the looming possibility of a federal government shutdown. Here are some books that explore certain issues relevant to what is going on today.*

**The Jungle** by Upton Sinclair - There is a lot of debate about government regulation going on today in Washington. It is not hard to find somebody demonizing regulation at least once a day on TV with its current myriad of news networks and opinions that spew forth from them. This book and the uproar it caused lead to the creation of the Food and Drug Administration and the regulation of our food supply; read it and see why these regulations came about.

**Atlas Shrugged** by Ayn Rand - You have to be living in a cave these days not to have heard of the Tea Party Movement. This movement played a significant role in our last national elections, and will play a significant role in the dealings of the 112th Congress. Within the ranks of the Tea Party there are a number of followers of this disposed Russian aristocrat's philosophies. It can't hurt to read her seminal work and get an idea of where some in the Tea Party are coming from.

**Almost any book** by Charles Dickens - As you see the protesters in Wisconsin taking to the streets in hopes of protecting their rights, organizing into unions and bargaining with employers collectively, take the time to get an idea of what working conditions in capitalists industrial economies were like before the Labor Movement of the late 19th and early 20th century came about. Living in a time when the industrial revolution was taking off full steam and our current economic system was coming together, Dickens wrote stories that exposed the hard lives and miserable working conditions of workers, children included, during this era. Considering how some in government have advocated for the abolishment of child labor laws recently on top of attacking collective bargaining rights, let us not forget history and where our society has come from.



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# Playlist

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

### Regina Torres - Staff Writer

1. Siouxsie and the Banshees- Monitor
2. Jefferson Airplane -Today
3. Bad Brains - Pay to Cum
4. Whitey - A Walk in the Dark
5. The Charleston City All Stars - I'm Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover

### Syed Hussain - Senior Staff Writer

1. You See Me - Annie (Pakistani Singer)
2. Give A Little More - Maroon 5
3. Missing Light of the Day - AIR
4. In & Out of Love - Armin Van Buuren Feat. Sharon Den Adel
5. Pop Art Blue - Zero 7

### Zac Schon - Opinions Editor

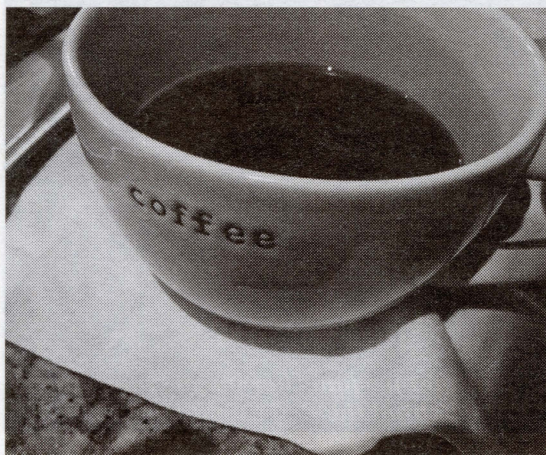
1. Wake Up Exhausted - Alkaline Trio (w/ Tegan Quin)
2. Mmmhmm - Flying Lotus
3. Bizarre Love Triangle - New Order
4. Suffer - Bad Religion
5. Won't Do - J Dilla

### Jacob Jones - Staff Writer

1. Everyone is Golden - Portugal. The Man
2. Red Moon - The Walkmen
3. Sorrow - The National
4. Songs to Haunt Ghosts To - Maps and Atlases
5. Drag Open - Women

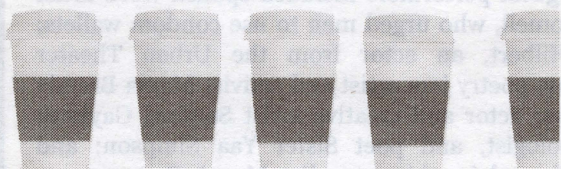
### Dulce Arroyo - Arts & Life Editor

1. On Melancholy Hill - Gorillaz
2. Sirena - Making Movies
3. Chocolate Soup - Julian Perretta
4. You Only Live Once - The Strokes
5. Love You Madly - Cake



## Zac's Coffee Quest - The Coffee Studio

BY ZAC SCHON - OPINIONS EDITOR



North of the main Clark strip of Andersonville sits one of its best gems, The Coffee Studio, located on 5628 N. Clark. The Coffee Studio labels itself as "a modern, independent espresso bar focused on expertly crafting delicious drinks and snacks from fresh locally-roasted coffees and simple, flavorful ingredients," and I would be hard pressed to find a better way to describe the place.

As I walked into the packed storefront, the issue of seating became clear as there was none and I had to make circles around the chairs while squawking in a vulture like fashion, only to wait for the opportune moment to find a group vacating their corner seat. In my three stops at the Coffee Studio, I have had this experience two previous times. However, this is only a minor hindrance, like a security check at the airport, as something far greater waits on the other side.

To quote my company at the time, "this is the best damn cappuccino I've had in months." When I dove

into my skim latte, the rich flavor of properly roasted beans met with a perfect contrast of the steamed milk, to make a memorable cup of coffee that I can still savor days after my visit. Along with the ability to make a great cup of coffee, The Coffee Studio offers a variety of teas, beans, and home brewing apparatuses to bring "proper" coffee tastes to the home.

While coffee tastes are the most important aspect of a coffee shop, the reason to come back lies within the environment of the shop. Another friend of mine once described walking into The Coffee Studio as to walking into a Mac commercial; months after that comment it became increasingly clear that my friend might have had a point, as I saw individuals sat with their Mac books open, eyes transfixed on whatever may be on the screen, sitting at stainless steel tables and sipping their coffees without ever looking at the cups.

The participants of this experience may or may not have noticed the exposed brick and what may be

finished oak accents on the wall, alongside the local artists' work on the walls of various sorts while their eyes were glued to their Facebook pages. Alongside a relatively suitable décor, the seats were actually comfortable (as opposed to a previously reviewed spot). Finally, the music was set at not only an appropriate level for a place that has half of its customers working on homework, but was also outside of the hip realms of other shops and manufactured musical tastes of the nation's largest coffee chain.

While I have not been to this location in the evening, based upon my three afternoon experiences I would give the Coffee Studio a 4.5 rating. Not only is the coffee great, but there are chances of finding parking close by, the environment is suitable to work and socialize in, and when you are done, one door directly south lies another far north gem, Piatta Pronto.





Image courtesy of comingsoon.net

BY IVAN FAVELEVIC - EDITOR IN CHIEF

A Review

Period pieces can be hit or miss in film. Sometimes retelling a historical event can lead some filmmakers to take certain dramatic freedom with true occurrences. However, "Even the Rain" is able to eschew these issues by placing a fictional drama inside an actual historical occurrence. The result is a brilliantly made film that brings powerful metaphors and a very strong message about race relations in South America.

Iciar Bollain ("Take My Eyes") directs the story centering on a Spanish film director named Sebastian (Gael Garcia Bernal) and his producer Costa (Luis Tosar), who are trying to make a film

about Christopher Columbus' voyages to the New World and the subsequent treatment of the natives. However, as they delve deeper into the history behind the colonization of the native tribes, they discovered that not much has changed. While shooting the film in Cochibamba, Bolivia, the "Water Riots" of the year 2000 break out around them. The city houses people of very low income and the increase in water prices is leaving them without steady supply. When some of the members of the cast get involved in the uprising, Sebastian and Costa are faced with uncertainty on where to stand.

The story and dialogue are undoubtedly this movie's strongest points. It presents itself in a way that creates some very interesting moral choices. The way the filming of Columbus' interactions with the native tribes contrasts with the modern day exploitation of the poor villagers forms some of the more impacting scenes. Even the film crew themselves, in their bourgeois demeanor, encounter certain distance from the simple lives of the villagers. Needless to say, this is a finely crafted script with some

interesting characters and some very strong acting to bring them to life. Despite one strange twist of roles later in the film, the story definitely comes full circle.

Visually the film is stunning, with some amazing backdrops of the Bolivian jungle juxtaposed with violent rioting. Seeing some of the extras still dressed in their aboriginal attire take to the streets with pots and pans, creates some striking images that one will not soon forget. The editing is tight and keeps the pace of the film flowing despite there not being many plot points to speak off. The film is a visual treat, and the expertly tuned soundtrack helps benefit the already stellar cinematography.

"Even The Rain" is one of those sobering films that comes with a strong message and makes sure you leave the theatre having understood it. There is little conventional entertainment to be found here, only the harsh reality behind the corruption in our world. Although this is one beautiful film that should not be missed, the dedication to Howard Zinn at the beginning says enough about how one will feel when it all ends.

## Golden Eagles' Nest

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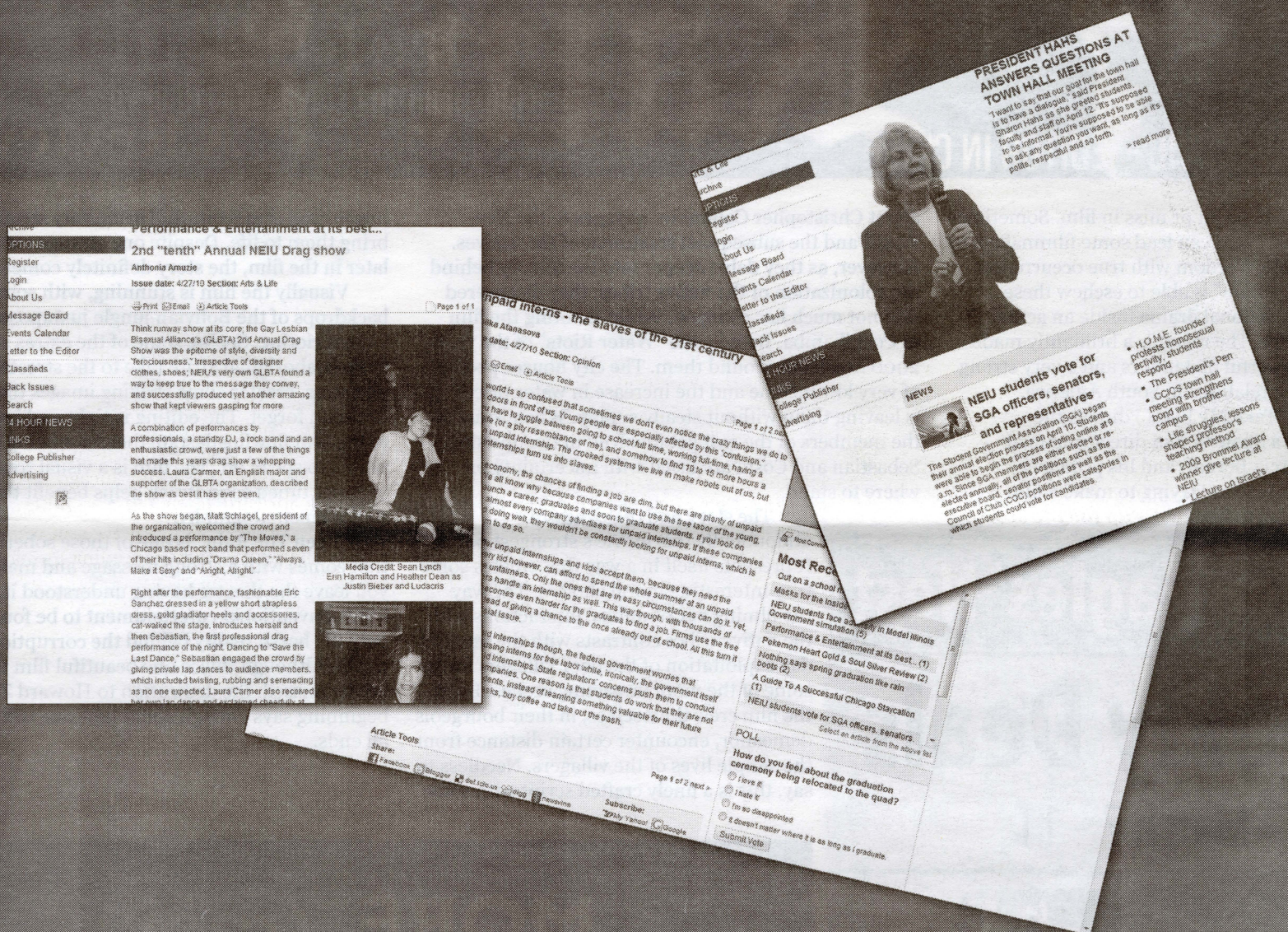
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# Sports

Campus &amp; City-wide



## Chicago Fire Soccer Club

*A Sneak Peek into What is to Come this Season*

**BY ROBERTO RIVERA - STAFF WRITER**

Through the last weeks of February the weather continued to dish out the last couple of cold bursts before the spring season. Despite the weather not being very accommodating, with the arrival of March we have several significant sports events announcing that summer is right around the corner. The Cubs are training in Mesa, NCAA March Madness kicks off midmonth and The Chicago Fire soccer club will be spend the beginnings of March playing in the Carolina Challenge Cup, a four team round-robin competition hosted by the Charleston Battery from the USL Professional Division.

At the end of the Chicago Fire's 2010, season the team saw the departure of three of their most significant players, Brian McBride, CJ Brown and Wilman Conde. Both Brown and McBride chose to retire at the end of the 2010 season, while Wilman Conde signed to play with Mexican First Division team Puebla.

It is now up to head coach, Carlos de los Cabos, to properly compensate for their departures and develop a team worthy of playoff contention. One promising player that the team has to look forward to is Uruguayan Diego Chavez. Team technical director Frank Klopas told MLSsoccer.com that Chavez is set to be a starter for the team since the Fire had lost many of their forwards in the offseason. Chavez has scored 31 goals in 127 appearances in his seven year career.

Unfortunately coach Cabos has a short preseason in which to prepare with only five games before the season opener at Pizza Hut Park against FC Dallas on March 19. Of the five

matches, two friendlies are against the New York Red Bulls and the Seattle Sounders and three games coincide with The Carolina Challenge Cup. The friendly was against the Red Bulls of New York was on Feb. 23, in which the team managed to come back from a 1 - 0 deficit, to tie the game with a goal from Guatemalan Marco Pappa in the 53rd minute. The teams' home game opener at Toyota Park will be against Sporting KC on Saturday, March 26.



Within the first two weeks of March, the Chicago Fire will be competing against Toronto FC, DC United, and the Charleston Battery. Both MLS teams in the competition gave the Fire a challenge last season. With four games played against both teams evenly, the Fire were only able to win one of those matches against DC United with a final score of 2 - 0, back in the

beginning of the season. The Carolina Challenge Cup will act as an alternate preseason, yet at the same time it is also a forum in which the Fire could successfully prepare for a winning season or just be an indication as to whether the team is at all promising for the next season, depending on where they place at the end of the competition.

One thing the Chicago Fire does have to look forward to in the upcoming season is the MLS's new Playoff structure, in which the league is allowing a 10 team seeding format, as opposed to the previous seasons eight, a structure that last year would have allowed the Fire to compete, where the team finished in tenth place in the league with 36 points, after 30 games played and a 9-12-9 record.

## Wellness Fair Showcases NEIU Health Services, Encourages Healthy Lifestyles

**BY IGOR STUDENKOV - STAFF WRITER**

On Thursday, February 24, Northeastern Illinois University's Campus Recreation Center presented the Fifth Annual Wellness Fair. The fair showcased various athletic organizations, health service organizations and healthcare providers that are based either on campus or in the surrounding neighborhoods. The students were encouraged to pay closer attention to their help and to take advantage of the health-related opportunities that were available to them.

University organizations accounted for more than half of the fair exhibitors. The Counseling Office set up a table with information about personal counseling and other mental health services available on campus. The Counseling Office representatives made a point of reminding students that they can use the mental health services for free. The boxing club representatives offered short boxing lessons and sold protein bars and energy drinks. The NEIU Eagles Dance Team, a cheering and dancing team, sold pastries

and performed routines as they proudly informed that they will be an opening act for the April 7, 2011 Bollywood dance show. Students from one of the university's Pre-Health classes presented their projects - memory games that required the fair attendees to match the definitions to medical terms. The games were geared to help the attending students recognize sleeping disorders and the ways in which lack of proper sleep can adversely impact every aspect of their lives. Finally, the Campus Recreation Center employees were registering students for the upcoming Golden Eagle 5K run. It will take place on Sunday, May 1 at 9 a.m. at the NEIU campus.

In addition to university organizations, the fair played host to a number of health-related organizations and businesses. Airborne Inc, the maker of the controversial Airborne dietary supplements, offered samples of its' products. Swedish Covenant Hospital representatives advertised their services and offered free blood pressure tests to students. The Swedish Covenant

Hospital has been a Northwest Side institution for 120 years, and it has been providing services to NEIU students for as long as the university existed. Finally, Vive en Forma, a year-old non-profit health organization, offered health advice and organized a 3:15 p.m. Zumba Party. The organization works to combat obesity in Chicago's Hispanic-American communities. Their services include body mass index screenings, strength training and advice on how to make the traditional Latin American meals healthier.

The Wellness Fair also played host to a number of activities. Various fitness classes were held throughout the day, including Yoga stretching, spin and total body conditioning. Throughout the course of the fair, students could take advantage of free massages on the second floor. There were only two massage tables in use at any given time, so, during the busier times, students had to wait in line to get their turn.



One of the newest members of the Chicago Fire, Croatian midfielder Marko Maric warms up for the season.

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# Bowling: Chicago's Rich History

**BY: REGINA M. TORRES - STAFF WRITER**

The history of bowling goes back quite a few years. In fact, there is evidence that it got its rudimentary beginnings in ancient Egypt, and was even enjoyed by the likes of King Henry VIII and his posse. The first official standardized rules for a game of bowling went into effect back in 1895 in New York City. Today, bowling a few games still proves to be a favorite across the globe, and America still claims this sport to be a favorite pastime.

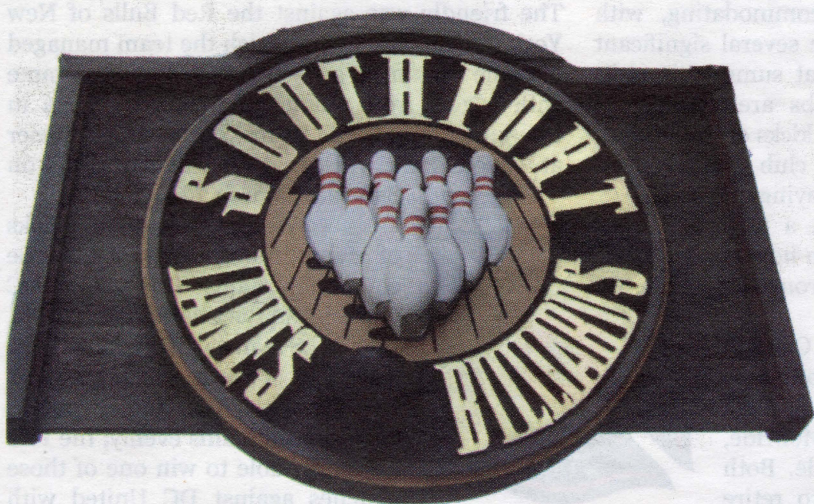
Variations on bowling dynamics exist throughout the world (such as pin or ball styles, play environments such as indoor vs. outdoor, etc) but Americans enjoy the most common form of bowling referred to as Ten Pin. Let's face it; Americans like things big, and Ten Pin bowling uses the heaviest and largest pins, along with the

largest finger-hole-drilled balls (almost 9" in diameter).

Aside, from being a low-impact sport that is fun for both pro or beginner, bowling proves to be a great activity for winter-bound students on fixed incomes. For under \$10, one can bond with friends over a few games, which includes shoe rental and loaner bowling ball.

So, if you've never tried your hand at the sport of bowling, I have done some homework on some particularly interesting places (or not) to bowl within the Chicagoland area. The following is a listing of places, along with any intriguing history and facts that may interest one further in their bowling pursuit. The crunch of pins beckons...

## SOUTHPORT LANES & BILLIARDS



This four lane establishment opened its doors in 1922, when it was built by Schlitz brewery. This wasn't any innocent alley though, as it was originally used as a front for a brothel and speakeasy. Remnants of the past exist in the original wood bar and stained-glass windows. There is even a device still intact called a "dumbwaiter", that was used to run drinks up to second floor "patrons." But, what's perhaps most impressive is that this alley is the last in Chicago (and one of only a small batch in America) to use manual pin set up, through the use of "pin-boys." Go here if you are looking for some nostalgia.

Bowling available after 6pm on weekdays.

Bar/food/billiards open various hours 7 days a week.

Phone: 773-472-6600

3325 N Southport

Chicago IL 60657

<http://www.sparetimechicago.com>

## DIVERSEY RIVER BOWL

If you are looking for a place that has state of the art concert-level lighting and sound that will rock your world, then head over to this high energy alley. Loud music is paired with synchronized computer imagery while you bowl modern-style. Bumper bowling is offered for kids, along with a decent menu of non-bar food such as pastas and entrees.

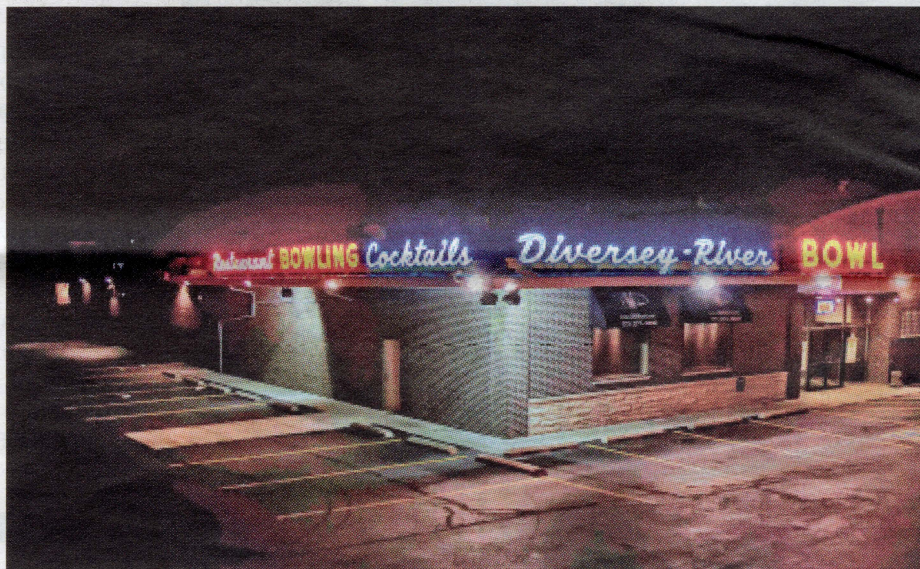
Hours and prices vary.

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Chicago IL 60647

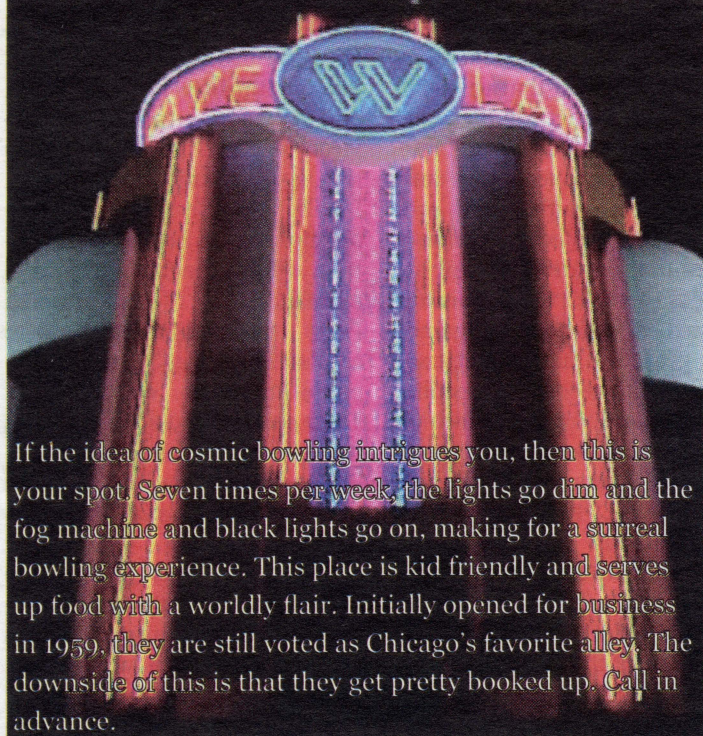
773-227-5800

<http://www.dr Bowl.com/index.php>



All images courtesy of their respective websites

## WAVELAND BOWL



If the idea of cosmic bowling intrigues you, then this is your spot. Seven times per week, the lights go dim and the fog machine and black lights go on, making for a surreal bowling experience. This place is kid friendly and serves up food with a worldly flair. Initially opened for business in 1959, they are still voted as Chicago's favorite alley. The downside of this is that they get pretty booked up. Call in advance.

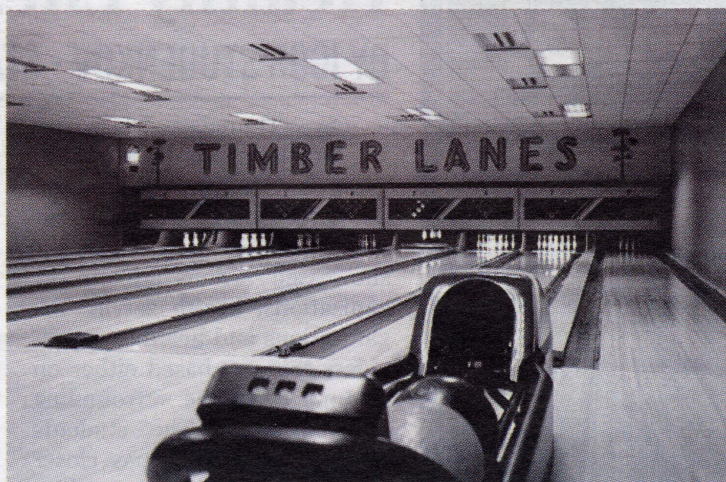
3700 N Western

Chicago IL

773-472-5900

<http://www.wavelandbowl.com/>

## TIMBER LANES



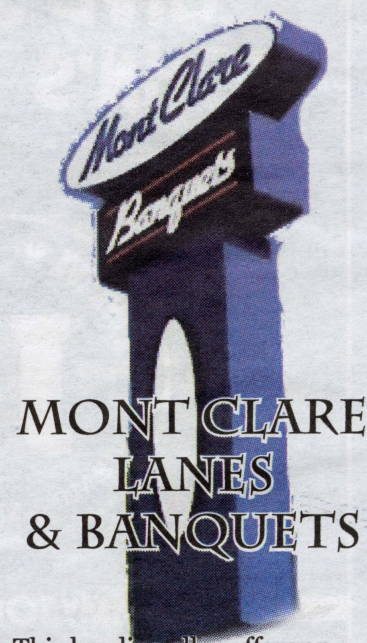
For an old school feel complete with 8 original wood lanes, manual scoring and a genuine neighborhood vibe, head over to Timber Lanes. This alley has a rich history that involves being a 1920's speakeasy, a WWII helmet factory. Not only that, but a tunnel was dug underneath to serve as a fall-out shelter in the 50's. Lastly, the alley is reportedly haunted since it was allegedly built upon Michigamea Indian burial ground! For more on this fascinating alley, please refer to their website. Due to its small size, reservations for lanes are recommended.

1851 W Irving Park Road

Chicago IL 60613

773-549-9770

<http://www.timberlanesbowl.com>



## MONT CLARE LANES & BANQUETS

This bowling alley offers an \$8 All-you-can-bowl night on Wednesdays, as well as cosmic bowling. Food is American comfort style, and there are more spots available for open bowling.

2957 N Harlem

Chicago IL 60707

773-237-9883

<http://www.mclanes.net/>

**Online Chicago Billiard Museum:** <http://www.chicagobilliardmuseum>