

4-19-2011

## Independent - Apr. 19, 2011

Ivan Favelevic

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# Independent

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, April 19, 2011

www.neiuiindependent.com



## HIGH PRESSURE



Photo taken by Brian Long

Students shout their disappointment outside of the Golden Eagles Room during the April 7 Board of Trustees meeting.

*B.O.T. accepts proposal to delay U-Pass consideration until Spring 2012, while simultaneously approving a nearly \$250,000 lounge area for students. Meanwhile, the faculty bargaining team brought in their 998 day with a rally to celebrate National Labor Week.*

*Tensions on campus run high while everyone awaits answers.*

See **NEWS** P. 2

## SPECIAL EDITION

*U-Pass, Voting Results, UPI:  
Board of Trustees and administration face  
crowd of 200 plus protesters*

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**BACK TO THE GARDEN**

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### Siskel Center Asian American Showcase

By Jeff Dutton,  
Staff Writer

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### "King Lives" Dr. King's Legacy Lives On in 2011

By Shantez  
Tolbut

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### ONLINE

### Sex is Good!

By Sadaf Syed,  
News Editor

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## The Value Of Time

*Both faculty and students protest during the Board of Trustees meeting, hoping to force a resolution to this long played standoff*



Photos by - Brian Long, Janean L. Watkins, & Relu Iianu



~In Loving Memory~

### Dr. Sheena L. Warren



Recent doctoral graduate, and former Director of Adult and Women Student Programs at NEIU began her next great journey on Saturday, April 17, at 1:58 p.m. Sheena was self-less woman, who empowered everyone she met. She was a true angel that, for a short time, graced our lives and did the work of millions.

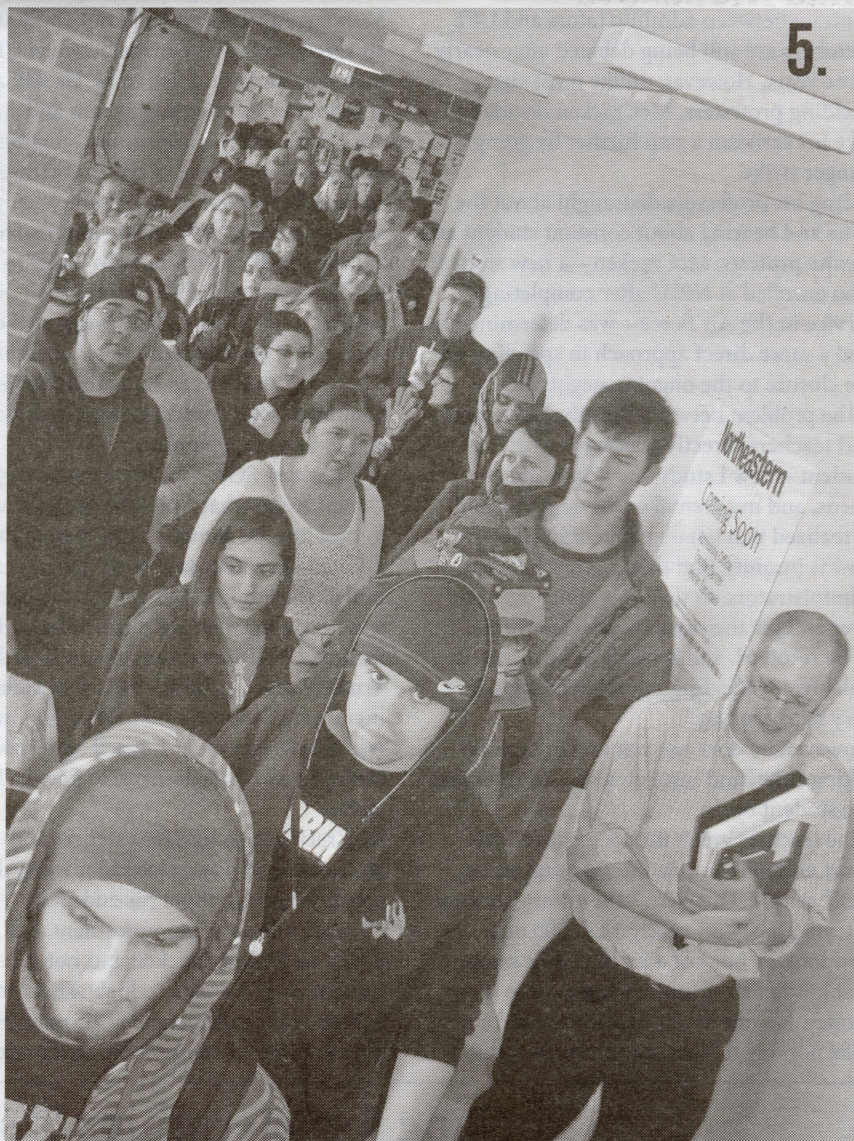
Everyone knew that certain problems could only be solved by the university's resident super hero. She was contacted without a second thought. Those in charge knew they'd have to bring in the big guns – so they made the one intercampus phone call that they knew would give them the results they were seeking. They called Dr. Sheena L. Warren...Super Director Extraordinaire!

She kept late office hours so that the masses of students would have a place to turn to when in need. She tried valiantly to make it to each of her student's special events without fail. She went above and beyond her call of duty by being an inspiration to everyone she met. From military veterans to single moms, her roster was filled with a multitude of college students whom she helped to create a path out of situations that seemed too difficult to handle.

When conducting her dissertation defense, she came out on top with her topic, "A Mixed Methods Analysis of the Perceptions of Leadership Attainment Juxtaposed with Racial Identity of African American Female Administrators in Higher Education", for Argosy University 2010. One doesn't often find a person like Sheena. She will truly be missed.

Sheena is survived by her husband Bryant Warren; stepdaughter, Micaiah Warren; mother, Shirley Glover; father, Hildrey Glover Sr.; brother, Hildrey Glover Jr.; niece, Draylin and a host of family and friends.

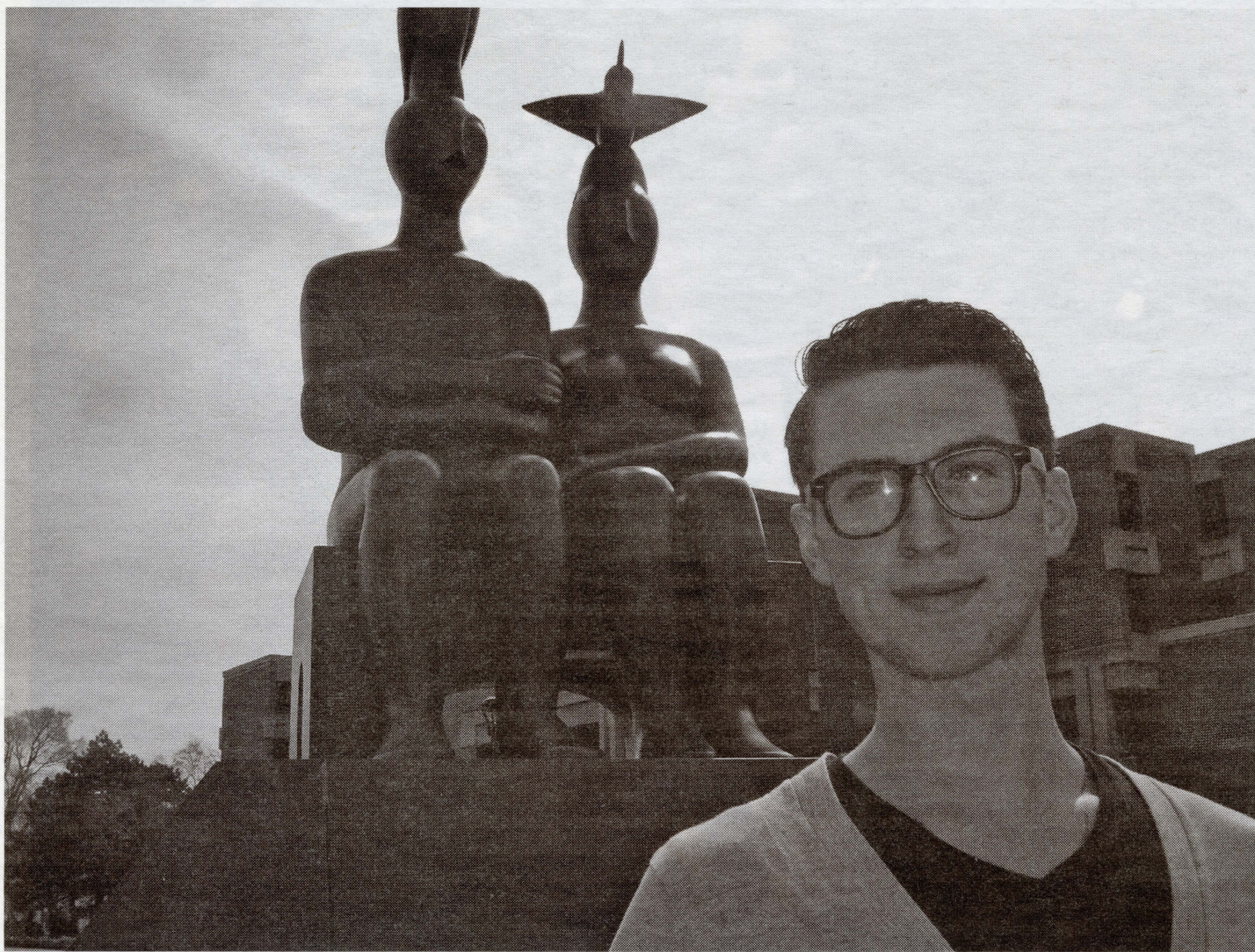




1. (Top left on page 2): Professors speak out against teaching conditions  
2. (Top right on page 2): Students awaiting answers outside the Golden Eagles  
3. (Top of page 3): Protesters congregate by C-Building  
4. (Middle left page 3): UPI members and students chanting and waiting outside Golden Eagles  
5. (Middle right "vertical" page 3): Students walking and chanting through D-Building to the BOT meeting  
6. (Bottom of page 3): Professor Schuepfer speaks about contract negotiations at Board of Trustees meeting



Photo taken by Dulce Arroyo



## Unresolved issue between faculty and administration leads student to hunger strike

BY DULCE ARROYO - ARTS & LIFE EDITOR

Like many students at Northeastern Illinois University, Daniel McCracken cannot understand why negotiations for a fair contract between administrators and UPI members are still being debated after nearly three years. However, unlike most sign-wielding protesters, McCracken decided to take his activism a step further by going on a hunger strike.

Seeing his professors distraught about the issue and hearing about constant student and faculty protests, McCracken—a new student who enrolled at NEIU after completing service in the Air Force—was determined to find a more direct approach in speeding up the closure to the ongoing negotiations.

“The problem between the administration and teachers directly affects me as a student—how I study, my wants and needs, and my mental well-being,” he said. “I realized that what’s happening right now is insanity, and that our teachers and administrators do the same thing over and over and get the same results. This needs to be resolved, and it needs to be resolved quickly; it’s affecting our student body in a very negative way.”

However, he does not want to be seen as taking sides, and instead wishes to represent the student body.

“The teachers aren’t the only ones at the short end of the stick; the students are as well,” said McCracken. “The administration is trying to spend nearly \$250,000 on a new lounge, but not a lot of people know that kind of stuff, and it’s scary—this is our money. No one asked us if we wanted a new café; nobody tells us our tuition is going

up. We have the right to learn this kind of information, and it’s time to let it be known.”

McCracken will begin his hunger strike on Monday, April 18, and will not end it until an agreement can be made between UPI members and administrators. He will arrive at school every morning at 8am and stay until 8pm, without consuming anything except water; instead of going to class, he will sit outside in front of the Serenity sculpture, staying as calm and inactive as possible, and willing to talk to anyone who wants to hear his cause. Although McCracken will not ask anyone to join him in his hunger strike, he is hopeful that this could possibly influence a group of students to show their feelings about the issue, understand their choices, and voice their opinions.

After asking SGA Vice Presidential candidate Danait Araia what would be the best way to mobilize his hunger strike during the VP debate held earlier last week, she informed him of the Student Senate meeting that was occurring. During the meeting, which included a UPI representative, a Board of Trustees representative, President Hahs and members of the administration, McCracken was able to introduce himself and inform both parties of his decision to go on a hunger strike.

McCracken also told his teachers and classmates, who surprised him when they acted optimistic about his endeavor.

“I made a formal announcement and everyone looked shocked, but not disbelieving,” he said, “which was refreshing because I thought people would say, ‘Here goes another extremist looking for attention.’

But I got an enormous amount of positive feedback and handshakes from teachers.”

The idea of a hunger strike was suggested to McCracken by his roommate, who referenced Gandhi’s role in social activism and how it could work in finding a solution to the issue.

“I dug deep within myself and asked, ‘Is this is my calling? Is this something I want to do and truly believe in,’” he said. “And the answer is yes, I can make a difference. I can unite an entire student body and show them that through unity we can accomplish anything. The root of the issue is money—just one change in the payroll could solve it through careful regulation and legislation.” This form of peaceful protesting is something new to McCracken, who was once stationed in Iraq as a mercenary for the U.S. Air Force. “I was a hired gun and I did whatever was needed, whatever I was told to do,” he said. “I used to fight my battles with violence, but with this type of social activism I realized that things can get accomplished without violence.”

McCracken is aware of the physical implications that could potentially arise, but even so, he is determined to go through with the hunger strike.

“There are demons inside that are telling me ‘You don’t need to do this, it’s not your problem,’ but that’s just me conforming to fear,” he said. “The fear of the pain now is a little bit overwhelming, but the cause is what’s helping me fight that. I don’t want to let the student body down—that’s my biggest fear.”

## Mindless TV?: Jennifer L. Pozner not buying it

BY LAKEESHA J. HARRIS - STAFF WRITER

Jennifer L. Pozner, over the span of a year, watched more reality television than she cares to remember. In her discussion entitled *Project Brainwash: Why Reality TV is Bad for Women*, on Monday, April 4 – she asserts that misogyny is in the DNA of reality television. “My goal today is get you to delete the phrase ‘mindless TV.’ from your vocabulary,” said Pozner. Apparently misogyny and profit, which have historically gone hand in hand, are continuously on the make for the bottom line. When one breaks down the “reality” of reality TV viewers can see that this certainly is the case. Reality television is a multibillion dollar industry, with more and more shows cropping up every day. Pozner argues that shows such as “The Bachelor” and “Joe Millionaire” create fictional, fairy-tale worlds where the white male is rich and can have his choice of any woman he wants. Armed with her montage of snippets from reality shows on major television networks, Pozner asserts that these broadcasts cement the male versus female dichotomy, and maintains the status quo of money creation from the bodies of women.

Not to mention, reality TV is continuously engaging because it confirms the stereotypes that society has worked so hard to construct. Take for instance the hit reality series *Flavor of Love*. During this shows stent on VH1, Black women were depicted as gold-diggers, promiscuous, and violent – while Flavor Flav himself was type-casted as the barbarous pimp, eager to tame these wild women. While the Bachelor was rich and treated his princesses to a nice dinner and romance, Flavor Flav bathed his vixens in vats of lard at the KFC down the road. Pozner states, “This it is not by accident that *Flavor of Love* can be likened to a minstrel show and *The Bachelor* was staged as a Fairy Tale. 97 percent of the decision making policies are headed by White men.”

If this isn’t enough to keep the phrase *mindless television* from your vocabulary, consider the fact that networks really don’t care whether you view their show or not. “When networks assert that they are merely ‘giving viewers what they want’ they are lying” Pozner asserts. “Even when reality shows fail to gather viewers they, the advertisers and producers, gain a considerable profit margin.” This is because reality television costs “70 percent less to create than major dramas, and is created to meet the advertiser’s needs not ours” Pozner said. Because of shows like *Extreme Makeover*, the beauty industry and plastic surgery profits have skyrocketed, raking in a hefty sum for plastic surgeons, beauty industrialist, and their advertising executives. Mind control and money, not depicting reality, is what television executives are after. The more viewers watch, the more they buy into the falsification of their reality. What a hefty price to pay for mindless TV.

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# The President's Pen

Even with so much concern about the negotiations between the UPI and the University in the air, Commencement will soon be here. And Commencement will take place as scheduled, on May 7, in the University Commons, with Distinguished Alumna Rae Lewis-Thorton addressing the graduates. I am looking forward to greeting all of our graduates as you walk across the stage.

In the meantime, there continue to be questions, so I will address just three:

1. *"We have been told that NEIU's salary offer is better than that of the other UPI universities. How do we know?"*

Let's take a look. First, there are five public universities in Illinois that are UPI universities—Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University, Governors State University, Western Illinois University, and Northeastern Illinois University. One can go to their websites and look up their UPI contracts and get their salary increase information. At present, Chicago State is also in negotiations, but data is available for the others. The highest set of increases is for Western. The increases are listed by Fiscal Years (FY). We are currently in FY2011, which runs from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

Western reports: FY2011 = 0%; FY2012 = 1%; FY2013 = 2.5%; FY2014 = 3.5% (plus one additional year; Western's contract runs one year longer than the NEIU offer).

The Administrative Bargaining Team's offer to the UPI for all members is: FY2011 = 1.5%; FY2012 = 1.5% + \$500; FY2013 = 2.5%; FY2014 = 2.75%.

To translate these percentages into actual numbers, choose a sample salary of \$50,000. (I picked this number because it is in the middle range of the members' salaries. Any other number could be used to show the same outcome.) The yearly increases and new salaries can be calculated beginning with FY2011.

	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014
Northeastern	50,750	52,011	53,312	54,778
Western	50,000	50,500	51,763	53,574

So Northeastern's is higher. In addition, the offer includes (unique to Northeastern) additional increases for equity and/or promotions for different groups within the UPI membership, so all members will gain even more.

2. *According to a Facebook page titled "NEIU United,"—"the administration has proposed increasing the workload of Academic Service Professionals (ASPs) by 2.5 hours per week with no additional increase in pay." True?*

No. (By the way, they are actually called Academic Support Professionals.) The Administrative Bargaining Team has proposed keeping the current contract language. The UPI Team has proposed reducing the work hours to 35 per week by including a paid lunch for the remaining 2.5 hours. Current contract language provides

for a 37.5 hour "flexible work week." (An unpaid meal period is not included in those hours.)

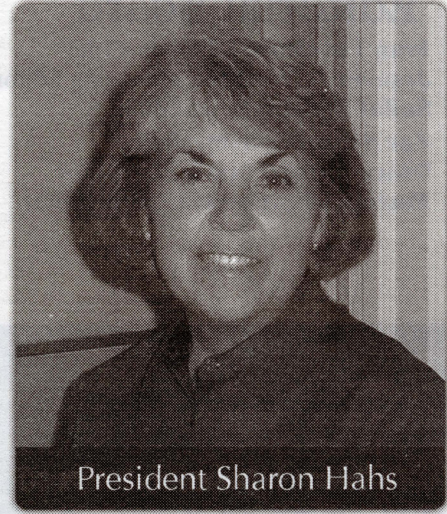
The ASPs include advisors, recruiters, and members of the Chicago Teachers Center who do grant-funded community based projects. They have annual work plans listing their working hours. Not only do the ASPs at

the other UPI institutions (with the exception of Chicago State) have the same 37.5 hour work week, other colleagues at NEIU meet this same standard.

So, the Administrative Bargaining Team is not proposing to increase workload; what is more, the offer includes a salary increase of more than 8.25% over the four years, plus an equity increase of an additional 1.5% specifically for ASPs. Definitely not a true statement.

3. *"After the Board of Trustees meeting on April 7, did the Board members really leave Golden Eagles through the basement?"*

No they didn't. In case you missed it, there was a demonstration outside Golden Eagles during the Board meeting. The Board members scurrying about to avoid further contact with the demonstrators is an evocative image. The problem with this story



President Sharon Hahs

is that it never happened.

Board of Trustees meetings always begin with a public meeting and then move on to an executive (closed) session. After the public portion was concluded, the Board voted to convene in executive session. Everyone left except the Board members, the Board attorney, the assistant secretary to the Board, and the President—those who are authorized by Board Regulations to attend. Executive session took place in Golden Eagles and lasted about an hour and a half. The Board then voted to re-convene in open session. The doors were opened. When this final portion of the meeting adjourned, all participants left through the main doors to Golden Eagle.

That's all for now. Good luck on final papers and exams!

## UGC Greek Week Roundup

BY SYED AHAD HUSSAIN -SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The United Greek Council (UGC) arranged fun events like Greek Jeopardy, Greek Athletes, and Greek Talent Show performances during Greek Week. The sisters and brothers of all the major Greek fraternities attended the Jeopardy game, where categories of questions included: history of Greek fraternities, Greek pop culture, movies, TV shows, Greek wits, Greek administration, Greek fun facts, Snapple facts, Greek dictionary, national Greeks, and campus life in general.

"The event is organized so that all the fraternities can come together because we (the Greek fraternities) are always divided and we have separate events," said Kathy 'Enthusiasm' Baran, the social chair of UGC and proud sister of Theta Chi Omega. "This is to show that we Greeks are a family, [whether] we are separate clubs or groups."

UGC also hosts bigger events every year in order to bring the fraternities together.

"We have events like scavenger hunts, which is a fun game because it helps you learn about your school and your friends," said Baran. "Today we did Jeopardy, which gives a lot of knowledge and [allows you to] learn more about Greek life, your fellow Greeks, and your administrators."

Greek Week may take a lot of effort to plan, but the Greeks embrace any time they are able to spend together.

"Only one week in the whole semester can we come together and do this," said Baran. "It takes a lot of hard work to organize the events and make all the arrangements, but in the end, it feels so worthwhile because it's so much fun and we all have a very good time."

The clubs must also host informational events, since it is vital for all of the Greeks

to know about the different aspects of their organization.

"Each Greek organization has a Founder's Week, where they have events that represent their own organizations, values, beliefs, fundraisers, and dances," said Baran. "The Greeks go out and volunteer, and the feeling is inexpressible—it makes you feel so happy on the inside, and even though you cry because you lose a game, you will feel good and enjoy playing at the same time."

Most importantly, these events also allow students to familiarize themselves with the sororities and fraternities offered on campus.

"The more visible we are, the more we can do for the school," said Baran. "To get recognized is a great feeling, and more and more organizations are forming on campus and joining UGC."

According to Baran, the UGC wants students to know that it has its doors open for new organizations to join.

"We welcome everyone to join UGC, all you need to do is come to C.O.C (Council of Clubs), shows us what your fraternity is about and we will surely help and approve you," she said. "The UGC is an umbrella that covers all the Greek organizations, and is actively engaged in creating fun, and stress free environments for the students."

Big winners for Greek Week were:

**Tuesday** – Scavenger Hunt: Omega Delta

**Wednesday** – Jeopardy: Omega Delta, Alpha Psi Lambda

**Thursday** – Greek Olympics: Fraternity: Omega Delta, Sorority: Sigma Gamma Rho

**Friday** – Greek Showcase: 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Alpha Psi Lambda, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Omega Delta, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Theta Chi Omega



Photo taken by Janean L. Watkins

## A Woman's Worth: Conference and Celebration

BY LAKEESHA J. HARRIS - STAFF WRITER

Conference attendees at the Woman's Worth Conference on March 30, sponsored by Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., were treated to an array of seminars designed to affirm the body and renew the spirit of the women of NEIU's community. Kimberly D. Everett, Director African American Resource Center, provided the Keynote address.

Seminars ranged from salsa lessons, provided by latin dance instructor Esmeralda Roman, self-defense lessons given by professor emeritus Martha Thompson and instruction on writing a narrative which centered on the voice of women, led by award winning author, Bethsheba McGruder. That was not all, professor Olivia Perlow delivered a powerful speech that provided tips on how students can handle the overload of balancing academic life, work and increasing duties of your home. "For women, we often don't have the privilege of just going to school. We often find ourselves holding down several obligations on top of maintaining our academic goals," Perlow said. One example of an organization that provides assistance to women is the Women's Health Center, which provide low cost, women centered, health care.

The closing seminar, centered on informing men on how they can become allies of women and activists for women's rights, delivered by poet and womanist activist Ra Perre Shelton, left the audience inspired to contribute to the lives of women. Participants exited the conference feeling empowered, informed and definitely knowing the value of a woman's worth.



# OPINIONS

## Editorial Board

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## Quality highway requires attention and hard work!

BY VASILKA ATANASOVA, SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Imagine a highway (I-94). A nice, dark asphalt or concrete road shines under sunny weather, its bleak under gloomy conditions, and it cracks under smashing winds, snow and too much salt. We keep repairing it every summer, or sometimes (in a few years) we decide to execute a full renovation. And this is great, no doubt about it. But when the renovation starts taking too long it turns into a barrier instead of bridge to our moving forward.

So, when too many holes appear on the road, we point to a renovation of the road in its entirety.

Now imagine the education system in America. A seemingly useful and developed system is preparing the American children for the global world. Just like the highway, it's all bright under the right circumstances. However, when the dark and gloomy days of the crashed economy came, the holes in the system appeared. Despite the many instances of patching up every few months, or renovating in a few years, nothing has brought the transformation that would change the grim statistic highlighting America's underprepared youth.

The type of renovation includes millions of dollars poured into thousands of organizations and agencies and hundreds of bills aiming to achieve education reforms. At the end though, instead of a nice hybrid of transparent and efficient system running with the only purpose of educating, we get a mutant of disorganized, disconnected and inefficient education institutions where all divisions blame each other for the failing organism.

So, when we ask ourselves why can't that municipality repair or renovate a highway, or a pothole, faster and more efficiently, we have to think about all the elements involved in this act. Undeniably, there are many factors – political, economical, social, cultural and geographical. Thus, knowing the complexity of this and yet looking at the same instances taking place in other countries we see that it is possible. It is possible to repair a pothole for an hour instead of for a day or a week, and it is possible to build or renovate a highway for a month instead of for a year. The Japanese do it. Yes, they can!

It is possible, but why not in the US?

Japan, along with Germany and some other European countries, have some of the fastest trains in the world and quality highways (not to mention the quantity.) A developed infrastructure is one of the most important components to sustain an economy, and Japanese hold on to that. Japan is one of the biggest economies, it has a quality infrastructure and its students are always among the first in math, and science which draws us to a imply there might be a correlation between these? Like these two things depend on each other. It is not only their collectivistic mind (which plays a big role though), but their education system. The society and the politicians both uphold one idea that everything stems from quality education.

Japan tops the chart in math and science, and it has 99 percent literacy rate. This is because after World War II, Japan reformed their education system according to the French and German systems, and the US actually helped the reform to take place. Now over 90% of the students in Japan graduate regular high school compare to 70% in the States. International studies continue to place American academic achievements far behind

many countries, including Japan. Recent study reveals that US is toward the bottom of the chart in math and science! So, we should not pounder our heads why the Japanese can rebuild a highway in a week, whereas in the States it can take years.

The US helped Japan to improve and build a strong education system, producing some of the most competitive students, but did not develop such at home. The fact is that the Japanese invested tons of money into their education system after WWII in order to catch up with the West, while the USA invested in wars. The USA lamented for power and oil and funneled money there overlooking the staple sustaining one country economically – quality education. Now, we reap the fruits of this deficiency.

The American education system is sluggish. College students here learn stuff that Japanese learned in 9th grade, the American mindset is that the "I" is more important than the thou and them and the politicians are still more interested in what is going on oversea than at home. Buildings and roads across the country are not built to last, but to sustain the circulation of the dollar, which gives our union workers the responsibility of walking around the highway lane, that has already been closed for months, with hands in their packets and cigarettes in their mouths.

Municipalities, government and businesses don't care about the people having a quality highway. They all care about the circulation of the dollar. The whole herd of politicians running this country care only about the circulating dollar, despite the fact that this dollar is getting more and more depreciated.

This kind of non-sense we don't see in Germany or Japan, therefore the US can't compare to them. Japan got back in the game long time ago, but the US dropped behind and left its citizens to live with a 50 year old American dream that everything is possible, and it doesn't require much to obtain it.

Problems with the education system and illiteracy extend back to the eighties and nineties. This is when the learning gap became obvious. Now, we see this gap extending and reaching to us in 2011. It is everywhere, from gaps to decrepit old buildings and to the constantly appearing potholes.

*In response to SGA's request,*

**The Ronald Williams Library**

*will have end-of-term*

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# Left-Right Politics – Deadlocked Policies

BY R. EMILIO RIVERA - STAFF WRITER

Where exactly is the middle ground? Is it possible to ever find it? In our political system, we have two sides in a constant dispute over the best policy for the American people. The Left argues with the Right, the Conservatives dispute with the Liberals, and Republicans and Democrats always seem to out-rule the other in various situations and the continued argument of what is the best system to follow is as useless as an argument debating who the best president was, Kennedy or Reagan? So it seems that the whole political spectrum is based on who will end up on top, the Blue Team or the Red Team.

The latest pressing debate that was undertaken between the dueling parties ultimately threatened a shutdown of the US government. In the first week of April, the Democrats and the Republicans were in a bitter struggle over the passing of the budget deal, which dictates the spending of the government for the next fiscal year. With an April 8th midnight deadline, we saw both sides play the blame game. Republicans disputed that it was strictly a

spending dispute, while democrats argued that Republicans were against funding health centers that provided abortion, like Planned Parenthood. Luckily with under an hour left to the deadline, both sides ultimately reached an agreement of \$38 billion in spending cuts.

Just as the budget deal was difficult to settle, other issues are constantly up for debate. It makes one ponder what exactly the goal of these political parties are. Are they out to actually carry out legislation, or is each side more concerned about adhering to what their respective parties want?

It's hard to generalize what each party stands for, but ultimately they all fall exactly opposite in several issues. Legislation is implemented concerning a vast amount of issues but a person could possibly boil it down to two of the most concerning issues being economically and socially based policies. Economically, republicans strive for low spending, more tax cuts, and a smaller less involved government. While democrats are more willing to spend money, are less restrained when imposing taxes and

are more lenient in being involved. Socially, republicans are more likely to adhere to traditional values, and conserve society to little change. Democrats however are more willing to change the social spectrum and follow with the changing of the times.

When it comes down to it, by the grace that makes America great, every four years we are allowed to choose which way the country should go.

It's difficult to understand how people are so easily convinced that their candidate is the person for the job. So convinced, that they must go and see them and cheer for them, as if they were rock stars. As if every word out of their mouths were coming from the mouth of God himself. Something that can currently be seen with the current Tea Party Movement at their rallies, which can only in a way, be seen as a farce, and away for other people to jump on a bandwagon. As if there weren't already any other horrible parties to root for. Unfortunately we might even see a similar movement adhere to the liberal demographic eventually.

But ultimately as stated before we

must choose, discouraged by the constant bitter arguing of both parties, it's difficult to do so. One says this is right, while the other says this is right, how would we, the minions, ever decide who's telling the truth. There must be better way, can we ever see a candidate with common sense ever stand up and say, "Hey, wait a minute, those policies are good for this current situation we can go left, and in this situation we must go right!"

Can we ever decide, obviously we can, and it's the undecided voters that make the biggest impact during an election year. We are a country of people from different walks of life. Not all policies are going to adhere to everyone, but we must expect our policy makers not to fight for the good of the party, which seems to be the preferred method, but the good of the people. The most important thing we should expect from our policy makers is to get the job done, and get it done right – not leaving us in a constant state of deadlock hoping the right people are choosing our policies.

## “King Lives”: A Personal Reflection on the Modern Impact of Dr. Martin Luther King’s Legacy

BY SHANTEZ TOLBUT - CONTRIBUTOR



Image courtesy of Google Images

On Monday, April 4th, 2011, America celebrates a legacy of a constant struggle for social equality, peace, love and justice with the 43rd anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination. When I think of Dr. King, I think of truly loving your enemies. King was not a man of militant violence but a man who enriched the lives of people across races, class, and gender lines through his peaceful

he would be. I feel that African-Americans have come a mighty long way. My classmates and friends are going to school and educating themselves, making a better life for future generations. People are more aware of the system than ever, and there has been significant and impressive progress made within communities of color in great efforts to bring people together. Obviously, we still have a ways

interpretations of resistance.

Recently I finished *Salvation: Black People and Love* by Bell Hooks, in which her work discusses how important it is for black people to love each other in spite of the suffering that we have had to endure while living in a white, imperialist, capitalist, racist, patriarchy. Hooks also shares the center of Dr. King's love ethic as the main ingredient for strategy to succeed in the Civil Rights Movement and beyond regarding the true freedom and equality of humanity.

A question that has been repeatedly asked when regarding King's legacy is "Would King be proud if he was still alive today?" Well, I personally think that

to go, however, for the Emancipation Proclamation to be issued only 146 years ago is truly astonishing.

I remain amazed at the constant and persistent efforts that the black communities have shown. Battles have been won. I am a product of my ancestor's blood, sweat, and tears. I am a product of courageous souls and extreme sacrifices. I realize that probably just 60 years ago, I would not have been able to write and publish this article. Little time has passed since Jim Crow and lynching was the chosen antidote for the genocide of black people. I owe my life, studies, and creative expressions to the wonderful men and women who risked their lives for me to write this article.

So let's continue to strive for justice, peace, greater good and equality of all people. This battle cannot be won by excluding the LGBTQ and feminist communities; nor can short-changing educators on the important work that they do to educate generations permit victories. Let's remember King's dream and make it ours to claim. Let us relish in the intuitive for an active voice and part in advocating for intersectional change.

The future impact of King's legacy lies in the sweat of our joints as we protest for gay marriage, it hydrates our throats as we rally against harmful immigration laws, it moisturizes our finger tips when dial 911 as a woman is being physical abused by her partner...King lives when we take responsibility and accountability for one another through ACTIVE agency. Dr. King once said, "An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity." Individualism can only prosper in a world where oppressive systems don't exist. Only love can fire the harmonic existence of humanity. To believe in human agency is to truly live, reflecting, in realization of a tremendous life lost. I reflect.

Live on Dr. King.

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# Bad Business Protocol in Our Modern Era = Doesn't Compute

BY REGINA M. TORRES - STAFF WRITER

What happened to the days when a small "ma and pa" shop existed where you could ask questions while getting straightforward answers which included eye contact and an authentic thank you? Do you remember a time when you could actually find a friendly cashier to ring up your sale, or an apparently somewhat content and focused aisle employee to help point you in the direction of the frozen broccoli florets? Do you remember the days of the official handshake and follow-up phone call, or God forbid, the forgotten "Thank you card"? It may be hard to believe, but not so long ago people actually served hot (and fresh) coffee to their interviewees and/or newly added employees/co-workers, and maybe even pastries too. I myself remember a time before the total dependency and despondency willfully produced by sitting in front of a computer screen; back before people hurried bleary eyed and half-assed to their power point presentations; back when people actually utilized implements like pens to write statements up. (This may be part of the reason for the obvious lack of general syntax skills found in today's books and magazines, let alone business acumen found in company letters and such).

There is indeed today a lack of general engagement found in the majority of comers and goers at companies everywhere

around you. Instead, you can find bunches of hunched over, frappe sipping, homogenized consumerists at Starbucks who have multi-tasking in mind no matter the consequences. And as long as you are "connected" via whatever latest electronic gadget that is supposedly massed produced to make us all better communicators, then you get the stamp of being a "productive" American citizen, right? When exactly did the degrading and impersonal act of firing someone in an email become the way to conduct business? Unfortunately, this seems like the way the masses are cowardly conducting affairs—sue first and ask questions later. Or better yet, send an office shmuck to the dictionaries/and/or lawyers to find the "proper" wording for "I don't know how to say this, but you don't make the mark." Lovely.

Really. Times are hard enough as it is. Do we need mission statements and rulebooks to make ourselves seem more orderly and productive? Maybe what we really need as a nation is to actually look around at the situations we are in and really immerse ourselves in being truly a part of it all, for better or worse. Then perhaps we will view our fellow earth-bound human beings as not just a contact email name for the time being, a sku number, or an inventory control figure. Maybe, just maybe, we are all more than just avoidant iPod/iPhone/

iWhatevah junkies hell bent on looking cool and saving face. Maybe we can look at things as they really are instead of the blurred conceptual images of what is fed to us through our electronic devices, media downloads and business titles. Maybe we can for just once not depend on spell check to write our words and sentences for us. Maybe I am too hopeful that the human animal race is still acting on human impulses and not exclusively electronic and sterile reactionary modern-day "business protocol." I don't know about you, but I would prefer to work for a boss and/or amongst other employees that can talk to you on their own (in person)—those that think and read conscientiously, while still being able to engage in the timeless art of making meaningful eye contact, instead of say, being always hidden and severed off behind the artificial safety wall of a monitor screen.

Don't get me wrong. Technology has taken our modern era to new heights and it is exciting to think of what awaits in future discoveries. I don't diss technology per se; I diss the people that can't see past their entanglements with it. I especially diss those that don't use this abundance of technology for the betterment of society, as well as those who use it as a blanket for their lack of courageous business acumen.

## Letter From the Community

Good Administration, My Fellow Graduates, and Community Members; My name is Lakeesha J. Harris and

I'm a graduating member of the class of 2011. I am writing to you with two concerns about our graduation ceremony: location and ticket allocation. It has come to my attention that the ceremony will be held, once again, in the University Commons. I believe this is a beautiful venue when the weather is cooperative. However, last year I attended the ceremony and the weather was unkind to our university guests and the graduating class. It was cold and rainy with some snow flurries. Many parents pay a substantial amount of money for their children to attend this university. In as much – it is a daunting mental task to support a student during their undergraduate years. I believe this effort should be rewarded. To make parents sit out in the university commons, unsure of what the weather is going to bring, is absurd - to say the least. Families should be able to view their graduates in comfort. Additionally the students, and future alumni, who have worked so hard to make it to the point of graduation, should dually be rewarded with a better venue.

I also want to address the inadequate amount of graduation tickets you are dispersing. I am the Student Lincoln Laureate of this university, McNair Scholar, and the first of my grandmother's and mother's children to graduate from a four year university. In addition to this, I have six children. Currently, I can't invite my grandmother or my mother, and I will have to choose which two of my children will be left out of this important ceremony. It's a choice that I wouldn't have to make if administration would consider increasing the number of tickets dispersed to the graduates. Four tickets are not enough, and once again you have left our graduating class languishing as victims of circumstance.

I know that a survey was sent to the university community as a mean of rectifying the situation for next year, but this does nothing for the graduating class of 2011. The administration should have learned last year not to gamble with nature, and to work smarter to assure a better venue for our graduation ceremony. I would like to make a motion to change the graduation ceremony to the gymnasium (P.E complex like you did for the December ceremony) and to at least increase the tickets to six. That way I can at least invite all of my children.

What I've heard is that you expect us to solicit tickets from other student's, but is it a realistic solution to the problem at hand? We the graduation class of 2011 asks you to work with us in making this day a successful and special event.

Sincerely,  
Lakeesha J. Harris

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# Arts & Life

Entertainment & Features

## Get Your Garden On: Planting

BY JEFF DUTTON - STAFF WRITER

Now that your garden bed is tilled, loamy, level and ready to go, you are set to start planting. We will now go over how to plant the two staples of any garden: tomatoes and peppers.

If it has rained since you tilled and leveled your bed, you are going to want to take your bow rake and break up the top layer of soil, since the rain should have caused it to crust over. To do so, simply use the teeth of the rake to break up the top crust and then re-level the bed. Once you have a level bed with loose soil you, are ready to plant.

The first thing you are going to have to consider is how you are going to space your plants; generally, you will want to plant in rows of three

or four plants, depending on how wide your bed is.

When planting in rows, you want to have at least eight inches side by side between the plants in a row, and 15 inches between rows. This is the optimal spacing for tomatoes; with peppers you can plant your plants about two inches closer to one another, both in a row and between rows. It helps to use twine and some stakes to mark your rows and planting positions.

With your layout established, the brainwork is over and it is time to utilize your muscles. You are going to have to pick up the spade shovel you avoided using when tilling your bed and get dirty digging some holes.

For tomatoes, you want to dig down eight inches with the spade shovel, dumping the removed soil next to your fresh hole. Peppers require slightly less work, in that you need only to dig down four inches for proper planting. Now that your bed is pock marked by a litany of four and eight inch craters, you are ready to prep each hole for

planting.

The first step in the preparation process is to pour a half of cup of fertilizer into each hole; I use and recommend organic fertilizer for this step. After every hole has been fertilized, you need to fill each hole to the top with water, and then wait for it to drain into the soil. Once you have fertilized, filled, and allowed for the drainage of each hole, you are ready to put the young plants you purchased at your local garden center into the ground.

For tomato plants, you want to make sure that all of the roots and about one inch of the stalk are planted below ground. When planting, use the pile of dirt next to your hole to fill the bottom of the hole in, if needed. This may be required to assure that you get the right amount of the plant (roots and one inch of stalk) underground.

You should then use the soil pile to fill in the remainder of the hole around your plant, and to make soil mounds around your stalk. These mounds are piles of dirt with the stalk at the center of them, and they should rise about two inches above the base level of your garden bed. These mounds They will create depressions between your plants, which will act as water reservoirs after you water your garden or when it rains.

For pepper plants, the process is pretty much the same, except it is not required that you bury an inch of the stalk underground with the roots. The key to proper pepper planting is to make sure that no more than three inches of the stalk is above ground, assuming, of course, that you are planting average sized (about six inch tall) seedlings; if you are planting larger plants, this rule does not apply.

When planting peppers, you want to make the same soil mounds at the plant's base that you did with your tomato plants. Take the mounds into account when you are making sure that only three inches of stalk is above ground. You don't want to have three inches of stalk above your bed's base level and the mound covering two of those inches.

With your neatly laid out garden planted, having appropriate soil mounds at the base of each plant, you are ready for the last step in the planting process: make it rain as if Noah has built an arch in your garden bed. This is to make sure that your freshly planted garden is heavily saturated, but in all seriousness, don't create a pond in your backyard.

If you would like tips on planting other vegetables, herbs, or flowers, check out the Independent on the web ([www.neiuiindependent.com](http://www.neiuiindependent.com)), leave your questions in the comment section of this story, and they will be answered in a timely manner.







Image courtesy of ea.com

## Crysis 2 a technical marvel for gamers

BY IVAN FAVELEVIC - EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Back in 2007, a game came around that was received as more of an interactive benchmark for your computer than an actual video game. Computer freaks around the world would base the performance of their system on how well they could run the game, while others dropped bets of \$500 in the hopes that an upgrade would be able to run this holy grail. This game was Crysis, and despite all the fanfare about its insane graphics, there was a revolutionary game underneath. It sought to separate itself from the obvious and allow the player to make his or her choice when approaching a problem. It sparked a new wave in PC gaming, and left console gamers in the dust.

Now, Crysis 2 is out, and through some work of magic, Crytek has managed to bring the much-adored PC revolution to home consoles without a hitch.

Despite being a sequel, Crysis 2 does not require that users play the original in order to understand what is going on. The game places you in the shoes of a marine named Alcatraz, who has been sent to New York City in the middle of a viral outbreak in order to retrieve the one man that may have the cure. Of course, things do not go as planned and the player is given control of a super suit as you try to complete objectives in the middle of an alien invasion. It may sound ridiculous on paper but the story is delivered in a mature and calculated way. And, sure, some of the voiceovers are on the wrong side of campy, but the game does a good job of making the player care about what you are fighting for.

As mentioned earlier, the player has the control of experimental “nano-suit,” which can greatly shift the odds in your favor. Packed with special abilities, the super suit

will become a second skin to you as you learn its nuances. There are three basic powers at your disposal: armor, stealth and speed, along with a universal power bar that will drain with every power you use. Armor reinforces the suit and makes the user much more resilient to damage, while at the same time making you significantly slower; stealth with make you invisible, Predator style, yet will not allow you to shoot, unless you wish to drain the entire power bar. Finally, speed will make you faster while allowing you to jump higher and perform a couple of cool moves, such as a one-knee slide. It may seem like a handful to control, but the layout on the controller is so intuitive that it quickly becomes second nature in knowing what power to activate.

What sets the Crysis series apart from other shooters is the ability to literally play the game your way. The gameplay goes through a loop of intense scripted sequences interlaced by enormous areas where you have multiple paths to craft your own way to your next objective. While this works great in an open jungle setting like Crysis, Crysis 2 is set in New York, where concrete buildings trap you in a set path. Thankfully, the freedom one experiences in this adventure is delivered through the of the environments. Combine that with the suit powers and Crysis 2 is guaranteed to be different for every person.

A welcomed addition to the Crysis roster is the newly revamped multiplayer, which takes the shape of the often-copied Call of Duty model and comes with customizable classes, a tiered unlock structure and predictable game types. However, the addition of the nano-suit to every player's arsenal can create some really interesting scenarios.

The key to victory in Crysis 2 multiplayer is not watching your health, but keeping a constant eye on your energy bar. If you wish to remain invisible and camp, do so, but be aware that you will be more vulnerable than if you have armor on. Add in the fact that killstreaks are only available by picking up dog tags that other players drop as you kill them, and Crysis 2 brings a very well-balanced multiplayer suite. The occasional crash and server malfunction are also present even though the game is only a few weeks old, but overall the game is more than fun to play.

I would need a completely separate article describing the technical achievement that Crysis 2 has made; the game not only runs on 6 year old hardware at a full 60 frames per second, but it also looks better than the original behemoth. Each area has hundreds of light sources reflecting off of thousands of objects and reacting with one another.

Furthermore, there is some very interesting imagery at play. Seeing how the game takes place in New York during an alien invasion, Crytek utilizes a lot of familiar imagery from 9/11. Collapsing buildings and engulfing dust clouds help shroud the player in a vulnerability that deeply contrasts with the power the super suit provides. It is a mature take on a sensitive subject and it is presented with keen attention to its use in the story, which marks a crucial step forward for video games as an artistic medium.

Crysis 2 is the breath of fresh air that shooters needed. Bringing captivating gameplay, refined multiplayer option and a visual package that you will be showing off to your friends, Crysis 2 is a technical marvel that would be unjustified to be simply described—it needs to be played.



## Panda Bear's “Tomboy”

BY JACOB JONES - STAFF WRITER

As I pressed play to hear the highly anticipated and hyped Panda Bear LP, *Tomboy*, it became almost intimidating in what to expect. Will Panda Bear's LP live up to the hype surrounding it? Will it supersede his critically acclaimed previous LP, *Person Pitch*? Upon listening to *Tomboy* the answer was extremely hard to define, primarily because it came off as a love-it-or-hate-it album to me.

Now, I don't mean to say that I didn't enjoy the album because there are several great moments in *Tomboy*. Panda Bear, the widely acclaimed member of Animal Collective, is known for his ability to create complicated rhythms that defy convention, yet sound effortless to the listener. The controversially termed “chill-wave” genre (a type of drone/electronic mixed with nostalgic textures and effects) is said to be on its last legs, and it's safe to say that this album is a referendum to the relevance of the style.

If you're down with the drone sound, and can really get into the texture and feel of the album, then tracks such as “Long Night at the Jetty” and “Surfers Hymn” offer in-depth atmospheres and harmonies that can carry you off into the world Panda Bear creates for you, the listener. The reverb-soaked and monotone vocals really stand out as the focal point of the album, and this is where the controversy may be found.

Throughout the listen, the vocals can at times be in great harmony with the fluctuating synths, reverb and tangy guitar rhythms that are reminiscent of a beach boy's style. At other times, the vocals can stand out and almost sound abrasive to the ear. I think this can especially be noticed in the song “Slow Motion”; however this facet is still present in and out of other tracks.

*Tomboy* is certainly an album that can't be fully appreciated in one listen due to the depth of many of the tracks with effects that zoom by before you notice and constantly change their melodies throughout the album. This is especially prevalent in tracks like “Alsatian Dream,” and to a certain extent, “Tomboy,” which offer a dynamic sound that can take a couple of listens to fully grasp it. The repetitiveness of some of the tracks may be seen as a drawback; however, this is an intentional aspect to the music given the heavy drone influence, along with the fact that there are, often times, many things going in the music. But most of the tracks offer a complete sound that the listener can really dive into and get lost in a chill and “droney” daze.

This album is widely open to interpretation by each respective listener. It doesn't tell you how to feel about any of the tracks; since there is almost a lack of definition in many of the songs, the listener could even view each track as a blank canvas, painted on by his or her imagination.

While this a plus for many, (given the sensory onslaught of much of today's popular music), I can't blame people for not finding the sound appealing. However, if you're in the market for something new that isn't your conventional sound then I implore you to check out *Tomboy*.



# Filmmakers show off their work at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Asian American Showcase

BY IGOR STUDENKOV - STAFF WRITER

Over the past 16 years the Gene Siskel Film Center, one of Chicago's most prominent venues for foreign, independent and otherwise artistically significant films, has played host to Asian-American Showcase. This year, the Asian American Showcase ran between April 1-14, showcasing comedies, dramas, coming-of-age stories, documentaries and a variety of short films. The festival brought together works from a variety of genres and mediums by new and experienced Asian-American filmmakers, actors, directors, and producers, many of which came from the Chicago area.

The Showcase opened with *Surrogate Valentine*, a naturalistic comedy that stars Goh Nakamura, a cult musician who plays a fictionalized version of himself. April 2 saw the premiere of *In the Matter of Cha Jung Hee*, an autobiographical documentary by Deann Borshay Liem. Liem was adopted by Californian parents when she was 8 years old, but discovered that her identity was switched with another girl's shortly before her arrival in United States, and that she was not an orphan at all. The documentary chronicles her journey to Korea as she tried to trace her past and discover the fate of the real Cha Jung Hee.

April 2 also saw the premiere of the *Mikado Project*, a drama that follows the members of Angry Buddha Theater Co. as they stage their own take on the controversial Victorian opera in hopes of averting bankruptcy. The film is notable for starring Tamlyn Tomita, an award-winning Japanese-American actress, whose resume stretches back three decades worth of film and television roles.

April 3 saw the debut of *One Big Hapa Family*, a documentary by a half-Japanese Canadian filmmaker Jeff Chiba Stearns. In it, Stearns examines the history of Japanese Canadians and the history of the Japanese side of his family. The film was followed by the premiere of *Beijing Taxi*, a documentary that followed the daily routes of three cab drivers from the eponymous city.

April 4 saw a double feature made up of a feature film and a documentary. *Redress Remix* tackled the controversial history of Canada's anti-Chinese legislation using original music, animation and interviews, while *Red Dust* showed how the conditions at Chinese battery factories endangered the lives of their female workers.

April 7 saw the premiere of *Living in Seduced Circumstances*, a feature film by Filipino-American director Ian Gamazon. The film follows a pregnant woman (Quynn Ton) as she takes a gory, torture-filled revenge on her former lover. The film's moral complexity may remind the viewers of David Slade's *Hard Candy*, but Gamazon's film is anything but an imitation.

April 8 featured the premiere of *Macho Like Me*, which follows director Helie Lee as she spent six months living as a man in a way to grapple with male privilege. April 9 featured the premiere of *House of Suh*, a documentary about a notorious 1993 Chicago murder; this was followed by *Saigon Electric*, a feature film that dealt with Vietnam's burgeoning hip-hop culture.

The Asian American Showcase has a long tradition of featuring short film compilations, and this year was no exception. *Uprise! Part 2*, a collection of short films by young Asian-American filmmakers, screened on Saturday, April 9, while the selection of best shorts that from Chicago Filipino American Film Festival archives screened during on Sunday, April 10.

The festival closed with *One Kine Day*, a coming-of-age story by director Chuck Mitsui. The movie presents an image of Hawaii that defies conventional conception of the island state by focusing on its poor, aimless youth. Although this is Mitsui's first full-length feature film, it has already attracted some critical acclaim and positive world-of-mouth; only time will tell if the acclaim will translate into long-term success.

The annual Showcase was the brainchild of journalist Ben Kim and musicians Soo-Young Park and William Shin, who wanted to create a film festival that would give younger, more avant-garde Asian-American filmmakers an opportunity to show their work. In 1995, the trio pitched their idea to Barbara Scharres, the Gene Siskel Film Center's Director of Programming, and worked together to develop the programming.

The first Asian American Showcase took place in the spring of 1996, ending with a reception that was positive enough to ensure that the festival would return next year. Since then, the Showcase has been a Siskel Center programming staple, and remains one of the largest Asian-related film events in the Midwest, and the only film festival dedicated exclusively to the work of Asian Americans.



Image courtesy of siskelfilmcenter.org



Image courtesy of comingsoon.net

## Winter's Bone

BY SHERILYN MADDEX - CONTRIBUTOR

The Communication, Media and Theater (CMT) department, along with the Women's Studies Program and Student Union, hosted a special screening of the Academy Award nominated film, *Winter's Bone*, directed by Debra Granik on March 30. Set in the back-country of the Ozark Mountains, the cinematography is strikingly beautiful, encompassing the film's themes of survival and poverty.

17-year-old Ree Dolly is forced to become the primary caregiver of her mentally ill mother and two younger siblings after her problematic and absentee father, Jessup, turns up missing. Jessup's primary source of income was running a methamphetamines lab along with most of the other townspeople. When he's caught, he puts up the family home for bond, and skips out on his bail. Ree is barely able to make ends meet and sets out on an awakening quest to find her father, and save her family and home. Instead, she discovers the townspeople know more than what they are leading on about the whereabouts of her father, and is confronted with the town's code of silence, for which some are willing to kill. At one point during the film's viewing, the audience seemed to gasp for air during a bone-chilling scene, as the young girl discovers just how far she does go.

Following the film, the audience engaged in a lively panel discussion moderated by Laurie Fuller of Women's Studies. Panelists Shannon Gore and Kate Kane, both CMT professors, gave an in-depth analysis on the impact of the film, as well as the implications of its varied socially constricted themes. Gore focused on the film's remarkable similarities to the movie *True Grit*, with the emphasis on the disturbing amount of poverty and the constraints of women in a patriarchal society.



WATCH THIS!

Zac Schon, Opinions Editor

**Orgazmo** - While performing missionary work in Los Angeles, Latter Day Saint Joe Young gets a chance of a lifetime to star in a pornographic movie for \$20,000 dollars. Low and behold his world turns upside down as he becomes the biggest porn star in the world.

**Ghostbusters** - Paranormal activity begins to peak in mid 80s New York City as three shunned college professors take up catching ghosts in this classic. If I have to explain more than this or you haven't seen Ghostbusters, go get on it. If you refuse to see Ghostbusters, go lay in traffic.

**The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou** - Steve Zissou is a deep water explorer, and icon of the past who is dealing with becoming older, and the inclusion of his son in his plot to exact revenge on a shark that killed his best friend. This Wes Anderson gem has Bill Murray in it just like Ghostbusters.

Regina Torres, Senior Staff Writer

**Harold and Maude**—This 1971 cult classic, still raises eyebrows today for its “controversial” subject matter. A young somber man (Harold) of wealthy status cannot win the affections of his mother, so he passes the time driving a hearse to random funerals, while staging mock suicides. Here he meets a zestful 79-year-old concentration camp survivor (Maude) who breathes back life into Harold’s dark existence. Ultimately, the two share a romantically involved and adventuresome friendship, showing that love can blindly transcend boundaries.

**Benny and Joon**—Two misfits find each other in this 1993 sleeper romantic comedy. Johnny Depp plays Sam, an animated film buff who falls in love with a schizophrenic Joon, played by Mary Stuart Masterson. Though neither party is in control of their lives, they nonetheless form a pair through thick and thin.

**Saving Face**—Here lies a 2004 film that is testimony that a lesbian couple’s fate does not always have to end in tragedy. Wilhelmina is a Chinese American surgeon with a pregnant unwed mother who has been caste from society. Hilarious chaos ensues as Wilhelmina is caught up in the middle of her loyalty for her mother’s well-being and her commitment to her Chinese American ballet-dancer girlfriend Vivian.

Syed Ahad Hussain, Senior Staff Writer

**Little Miss Sunshine** – This movie is enriched with delightful and clever humor, it has performers like Greg Kinnear, Steve Carell, and Alan Arkin who enjoy being ridiculous, stupid, and more importantly – funny. It’s a family movie with some outrageous adult only humor and you don’t see every day. Wait, where’s Olive?

**World’s Greatest Dad** – Robin Williams’ Lance Clayton is the world’s greatest dad, greatest author, greatest teacher, and the greatest jerk that ever lived. The film’s dark and sexually charged humor is surely not everybody’s cup of tea, and you must have a strong stomach to digest this one. The more you hate Clayton’s sex-obsessed, miserable teenage son Kyle, the more you love this movie. The death, isolation, loneliness, and disparity are portrayed in a funny way that actually works.

**Three Idiots** – This is a Bollywood satire on the educational system and the students within it. The film’s antagonist is a teacher bound by his rules and ego, you can’t help but relating yourself to the titular three idiots, every student will say that it’s their story. School life is difficult, grades are hard to earn, and the humor is the only easy way to find relief from exams – that is, besides committing suicide. So keep chanting, ‘All Iz Well,’ and everything will be fine.

Playlist▶

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

Syed Hussain, Senior Staff Writer

1. Ehsaas (Feel) – Atif Aslam (Pakistani Singer)
2. My Everything – ATB Feat. Tiff Lacey
3. Is It Love – Nadia Ali
4. Sleep Together – Garbage
5. Closer – Nine Inch Nails

Regina Torres, Staff Writer

1. This Love - Pantera
2. Erotic City - Prince
3. Why Don't You Talk To Me – Peaches
4. Sympathique - Pink Martini
5. Moribund the Burgermeister - Peter Gabriel

Peter Crowell, Distribution Manager

1. The Little Man From mars – Perrey and Kingsley
2. Eat – Jack Conte
3. Heart Shaped Box – Nirvana
4. Mother – Danzig
5. Get It Together – A Tribe Called Quest & Beastie Boys

Sadaf Z. Syed, News Editor

1. Tanto Tempo-Bebel Gilberto
2. Perfect-P!nk
3. All Apologies-Nirvana
4. Un Dia-Juana Molina
5. Sweetness-Jimmy Eat World

Marcin Chojnowski, Sports Editor

1. The Rover – Led Zeppelin
2. Jet Airliner – Steve Miller Band
3. Don't Look Back – Boston
4. Higher Ground – Red Hot Chili Peppers
5. Magic Carpet Ride – Steppenwolf

OUT ON A SCHOOL NIGHT



Image courtesy of yelp.com

Zac’s Coffee Quest: Safari Cup Coffee

BY ZAC SCHON - OPINIONS EDITOR

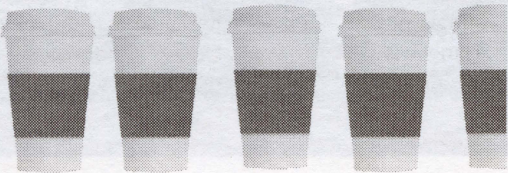
The large windows in the front of this Southport corridor shop automatically show a different dynamic than the usual coffee shops I’ve reviewed, but despite the huge volumes of sunshine coming in, Safari Cup on 3404 N. Southport is still quite the cozy place.

Instead of having old furniture that could have come from someone’s grandparents’ throw-outs 20 years ago, Safari has leather couches that are quite plush; there is a row of round marble tables that line the outer wall, which sit underneath what appears to be African blankets. The remaining walls have African masks and other items from the continent. As someone who has been to a very small slice of Africa for non-vacation purposes, I can say that these are items that are usually sold at the markets and therefore evoke some merit as to not being a crude representation of the continent. To top off the visual atmosphere of Africa, there are small pieces of Irish pride in the store, since a signed rugby jersey sits in the restroom and the Irish flag sits in the front of the shop.

As a person who is particular with his coffee,

Safari Cup Coffee puts out one of the boldest espresso roasts I’ve tasted since this holy quest has begun for the best shop on the Northside. Despite the fact I was drinking a latte, I could have sworn it was a cup of a roast darker than the midnight sky—and I, for one, was not complaining. The small, yellow roaster sitting in the middle of the room, complete with empty sacks that once held their miraculous beans, enhanced this experience.

Overall, Safari Cup Coffee is a pretty solid place. Super friendly staff, excellent coffee, unlimited/free Internet, proximity to the El (right next to the Southport Brown line stop), and comfortable seating are all checked off in the positive column. The negatives would have to be the much-too-loud music and the hours—they close at 6 p.m.—making this establishment a no-go for dates or other night-time activities. Still, I give Safari Cup Coffee a rating of 4.5 cups, with the possibility to elevate to 5, if they extended their hours a little more into the later part of the day.





# Sucker Punch has stunning visuals, lifeless script

BY SYED AHAD HUSSAIN - SENIOR STAFF WRITER

It's not the first time that we've come across a film that has factual epic war scenes with fictional settings, but if this fantasized and fictional depiction of history is helmed by someone like Zack Snyder, moviegoers should have their fingers crossed. Nothing less would suffice. After all, a Zack Snyder film is not merely an experience, it's an event.

*Sucker Punch* is Snyder's first movie based on an original script, which he co-wrote with Steve Shibuya. We've come to expect scintillating visuals in the master film-maker's films and *Sucker Punch* is no exception. But unfortunately, the movie falters in the story narration. In fact, this one's a game of see-saw, with its dull and emotionless characters, some absorbing special effects and a weak, lackluster climax.

Set in 1955, *Sucker Punch* is the story of a 20-year old orphan girl known as Baby Doll (played exceptionally by Emily Browning), who accidentally shoots her younger sister while defending herself from her abusive stepfather. Baby Doll is sent to the Lennox House for the Mentally Insane to be lobotomized. There where she meets other inmates whom she befriends and with whom she hatches a plan of escape.

Escaping a mental institution isn't a new concept in Hollywood. What distinguishes *Sucker Punch* from the rest are the fantasy sequences imagined by Baby Doll every time she is asked to dance for the charity shows. In her imagination, the institution is a brothel, where she and her fellow inmate friends are erotic dancers, the orderly (who her stepfather bribed) is the mob boss and owner of the brothel, Dr. Vera Gorski is the dance instructor, and the doctor who has to lobotomize her is known as "High Roller," for whom Baby Doll's virginity is preserved.

Sounds interesting enough. So, what went wrong?

First of all, the supporting female characters, Amber (Jamie Chung), Blondie (Vanessa Hudgens, who's better seen with guns instead of guitars), Rocket (Jena Malone, who tried too hard to look innocent and naive) and her older sister Sweet Pea (another amazing performance by Abbie Cornish after *Bright Star*), are so shallow and underdeveloped. They might keep you from walking

out from the theater by their attractive presence on the screen, but you won't feel any emotional attachment to them. Also, their makeup and their seductive avatars make them look like ramp models straight out of a Victoria's Secret fashion show, instead of girls with troubled pasts.

Even the finale leaves a lot to be desired. The ending is neither shocking nor engaging. You might develop a little bit of sympathy for Baby Doll, but in the end, she will terribly disappoint you. The writing is flawed—no two opinions on that.

On the plus side, the musical beginning, from the death of Baby Doll's mother – to the flashback scenes is attention-grabbing, and reminds you of the opening of Walt Disney's film *Up*. All of the fantasy/action sequences are equally astounding, while the execution of each and every stunt is exceptional. Every Snyder film is embellished with stunning visuals, and *Sucker Punch* boasts of mind-boggling visuals as well, creating magic on-screen.

Every frame is worth admiring and applauding, especially the very first fantasy sequence in which the character of Wise Man (played with brilliant by Scott Glenn); the subsequent battle of Baby Doll against three giant samurais is also remarkable, jaw dropping, and memorable.

As for the actors, Cornish is unbeatable and that's the truth. Very few actors can rise above the script and she is one of them—she's pretty much the lifeline of this film. Browning also succeeds in making us sympathize with a shallow Baby Doll. Glenn hardly appears in the film, but also leaves an impact; however, Carla Gugino's character is sadly wasted in this film.

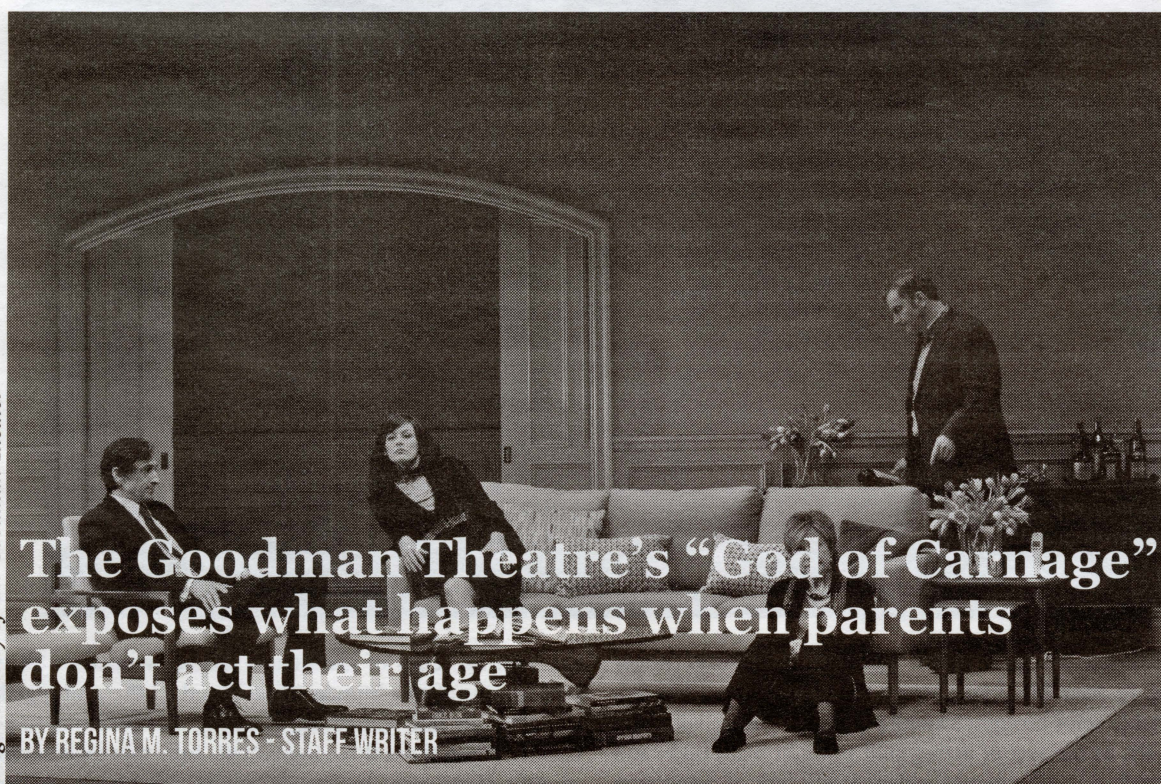
*Sucker Punch* comes with the baggage of humungous expectations, mainly for the one name attached to it: Zack Snyder. One should expect an energetic film with memorable characters, such as those in *Watchmen* and the Spartans of *300*. The benchmarks only get higher and higher every time Snyder makes a film and *Sucker Punch*, unfortunately, is a huge let down. While it may be visually stunning, musically enriched, and have an impactful cast, its disastrous, boring, and lifeless script is its failure.

## “Look, but don’t touch” doesn’t apply with I.D.entity: Interactive student museum exhibit in Ronald Williams Library

BY JUAN GONZALEZ - CONTRIBUTOR

If you've visited the library recently you have most likely noticed the bedroom that is located on the first floor, and the wall of fingerprint art located across from the monochromatic, colored room. The exhibit was put together by 26 students and Dr. Rhoda Rosen for the museum studies class, which was offered this spring.

“We looked at museums and noticed that we put other people and cultures on display, but never ourselves, and so I thought why not put ourselves on display, in a way which forces the person to look at themselves on an individual level,” stated Dr. Rosen. She explained visitors could lie on the bed, or sit at the desk. When asked why it was set up that way, she explained, “We want you to participate, yet at the same time be a part of the exhibit.” When questioned as to the reason behind the walls of fingerprints Dr. Rosen responded by explaining how a fingerprint can distinguish one person from another, and how they wanted people to place their finger print, but also something which described them as an individual. Along with Dr. Rosen, 20 plus students had a hand in putting together this magnificent exhibit. James Poyhonen, who was on the Installation team, Cynthia Flowers, who was on the curatorial team, Rachel Martiniak, who was on the marketing team, and Hector Perez, who was on the education team, were some of the individuals questioned as to their position and what they felt they would take away from the course. Poyhonen said “we were charged with finding and transporting everything on display from the various stores.” When I asked about his experiences in the course, he replied “I’m taking away a clear understanding of teamwork, and what it means to be an individual. I also learned that sometimes if something doesn’t work out it’ll be ok as long as you have the same vision.” Flowers described their duties as “the voice of the exhibit, were in charge of interpreting the exhibit to the guests.” When asked about her experiences, she responded “a great sense of teamwork.” Martiniak said their duties included “making fliers, contacting local news outlets, and getting the word out there.” When asked about the class and her over all feelings, she mentioned all the other aspects that go into an exhibit, such as possible interpretations, and the different collaborations which went into creating the exhibit. Perez said “We looked at this exhibit and the pamphlet and noticed that nothing was geared toward getting kids to looking at themselves on an individual level, so we created packets which asks them questions such as “when you look at yourself in the mirror, what comes to mind?” When asked about the course, he answered “it gave me a greater understanding/appreciation for museum exhibits and teamwork.” If you haven’t seen this impressive exhibit, you still have until, Friday April 22, to go and check it out.



## The Goodman Theatre's "God of Carnage" exposes what happens when parents don't act their age

BY REGINA M. TORRES - STAFF WRITER

The Goodman Theatre has been known to put on plays of a high caliber that tackle a wide variety of subjects pertaining to the human condition. *God of Carnage* is the current sold-out play being produced by the Goodman, which extended the show's performances based on popular interest.

*God of Carnage* was written by the award-winning playwright Yasmina Reza, who was born in Paris of Eastern European Jewish parents. According to Reza, *God of Carnage* stems from a true story that she wrote within a three-month period. The play

seeks to comically and boldly point to how our own adult shortcomings may unfortunately be revealed when trying to resolve issues with other parents involved in the naughty dealings of their respective children.

The play is written and performed as a one-scene deal, lasting only seventy minutes without an intermission. What this means is that the audience sits through the beginning introductions and civil engagements of a pair of well-to-do New York couples who haphazardly meet in order to resolve a conflict between their sons on the school playground.

But what starts as awkward yet well-intentioned discourse between the two couples, culminates to a sordid war of parenting and personality conflicts which result in mayhem.

One son, belonging to the older couple Veronica and Michael, has acquired a few injuries resulting from his playmate's (the other couple's son) hitting him with a stick. The assailant, belonging to the younger power couple duo Annette and Alan, is never present in the adult gathering, as neither is the defendant belonging to the opposing couple. What we do see, however, is the tongue-in-cheek jabs that accumulate

as tension builds over trying to find resolutions (namely, the admittance of wrong) between both parties.

What cordial and tranquil (however awkward) transactions take place at first glance is quickly replaced by escalating defense mechanisms and self-righteousness. I won't spoil it for those readers interested in seeing this play, but I will divulge that this play does delight audiences with plot twists near the end, which involve flying objects and complete, physically acted out anarchy. Appetizers and drinks are also served in play as the conversation digresses.

Special mention should go to pointing out that this play is also a delightful character study, since each of the characters has well written and distinct personalities that match their individual neurosis. There is the younger power couple of Annette and Alan; he is a narcissistic corporate lawyer that uses his phone as a device to unplug from his place within society, while she is a quietly

attuned professional getting inebriated as her husbands phone rings for the umpteenth time.

The older couple also plays an important comedic character study; Veronica is a type A, go-getter-know-it-all that overcompensates in her desire to fix the problem at hand, while Michael, the household goods manufacturer, provides comic relief through his off-handed comments directed at anyone that questions his beliefs or lifestyle.

Each individual within the framework of each couple ends up chaotically trying to get drunk as unresolved tensions build to a climax (I will just disclose that there is action worth waiting for as the drunken and disgruntled actions unfurl). Even if one is not married and never foresees having children or coupling up, this play will colorfully show the darker side of parental disagreements.



# Tasty food but poor service at Red Rooster restaurant

BY JANEAN L. WATKINS - MANAGING EDITOR

Chicago is known for many things, but food is one of its premier attractions. In Lincoln Park, a multitude of eateries, wedged between trendy clothing stores, lure many Chicagoans and tourists alike. One such den of delicacies is Red Rooster, located on 2100 N. Halsted Street.

Red Rooster restaurant has been in operation since 1990, as the accent feature of its predecessor Café Bernard, which has been opened for over 35 years. Owned and operated by Chef Bernard LeCoq, this provincial French bistro is nestled awkwardly behind the main restaurant along a side street. On approaching the restaurant, I'm greeted with the fading yellow paint on the door that features a peeling red rooster. Once inside the door, my friend and I are greeted with a very steep set of stairs that confused her and left me looking for another way in. I finally glean what I think to be an entrance through a door on my right.

Imagine entering a dim lit, tightly packed closet. Directly in front of us was a path between four tables with dining patrons leading to a coat rack laden with a variety of outerwear. Part of our large party of seven sits at a pre-reserved table with somber looks upon their countenance as we approach and take our seats—something about a host with an attitude that pretended not to know the reservation existed. We take it in stride and attempt to enjoy what is noted to be great French food.

The denizens of patrons in the miniscule restaurant make for difficult dinner conversation; fortunately, not long after we're seated comfortably does the waiter come over to tell their specials for the night. In a very rushed candor and without any details he says, "Tonight we have the Beef Tenderloin salad, the grilled sea scallop salad, the Grilled Atlantic Salmon Salad and the Braised Beef Bourguignon w/ Pasta – are you ready for your order?" It was truly amazing that he said all of this with only two breaths.

But it was important not to be rushed, so I respond, "Well we would like to start with your wines. Tell me about your house wine, what would you suggest?" This didn't seem

to go over well, for he gazed haughtily at me and in a very annoyed tone of voice asks, "Well, there are over fifty wines on our list."

Not swayed by his tone, I respond, "Great, do you have any suggestions, any favorites?" He walks away. Yes, walks away. He returns momentarily, though, with a wine list.

After gazing emptily at the list, I sweetly ask him for his favorite, once again annoyed; he wanted to know if we would like to try a red or a white. We go with the red. We end up with a very tasty Syrah. The olive-like tone really gives it good body and aftertaste.

The bread that is given to us was very tasty with rustic flavors bursting in the rye and nice chunks of shitake mushrooms in the mushroom bread. Soft pats of perfectly salted butter spread nicely over the still warm slices. Finally, our waiter is back and, looking as bored with our party as ever, obviously trying very hard not to sneer. He isn't doing so well with hiding his disgust with us.

"Are you all ready to order," he asks, as he seems poised to run for the kitchens to hurry our visit along.

Most of us are and I start us off. We've lined up a pretty nice variety of experiences for the night; there's the braised lamb shank, Apple Bleu Cheese Salad, Baked Brie en Croute, Braised Beef Bourguignon w/Pasta, Grilled Atlantic Salmon Salad, Vegetarian Pasta with Portobello Mushrooms, and the Grilled Salmon Cabernet Sauvignon Sauce. He zips away, not leaving much room for us to ask for separate appetizers. At this point, we are all ready to spend the least amount of money in this establishment as possible and be on our "common" way. It is obvious that we don't belong here, or aren't thought to belong here.

The dark, crowded atmosphere leaves much to be desired and the service is less than acceptable. There is another member of the wait staff who seems to have a much better attitude about "common" people. He is nice enough to offer us refills of water, although we have a decanter on the table; he answers my questions about the establishment,

and talks briefly to my friend, who is Latina and a professor for the city colleges, about the types of people that visit the two establishments.

He notes that Café Bernard's is much bigger than where we are, and that they have a larger menu. I begin to with I'd gone there instead, but the service may have been the same. At least the ambiance wouldn't have been so depressing as it was to sit in the claustrophobic inducing room that we were in, surrounded by boring conversations about what should have been done with this dish and what was done in other French restaurants. We are all aware of some of these complaints and glance wearily around the table to see if our worry is reflected in anyone else's eyes.

My friend who visited France recently noted that she sees what they were going for with the look and feel of the place, but that they don't quite pull it off. I for one am relieved when our food arrives and I've taken my first bite of the lamb shank. The lamb shank is succulent as I chew its obsequious texture and revel in the flavors; there is also a hint of Cabernet in the gravy that it is glazed in and the thyme and garlic mashed potatoes are a wonderful accent to the slightly sweet tastes that burst in my mouth from the lamb. Perfectly steamed green beans are also dusted with a smattering of garlic salt; the only complaint on my plate is the carrots, which seem to have been sitting out for a while, waiting for the pickled cabbage and other accents to be added to the plate.

Overall, the dish is a good one. Point one for the haughty, cramped restaurant.

The sample of the grilled salmon in cabernet sauce isn't as fresh as I would have liked and the two worst dishes on the table have to be the vegetarian pasta (which had absolutely no flavor at all) and the apple-blue cheese salad. The blue-cheese was overripe; you could actually smell the ammonia developing.

All in all, the experience was certainly a mixed one.

## Movie review: The Adjustment Bureau leaves little to rave about

BY ZAC SCHON - OPINIONS EDITOR

Fresh off the heels of *Inception*, *The Adjustment Bureau* takes a stab at recreating the compelling feeling that could best be described by a Keanu Reeves as "whoa" with Matt Damon, Emily Blunt, and John Slattery. The movie shoots for a mental thriller, as the youngest member of Congress and presidential hopeful David Norris (Damon) falls in love with a talented ballerina (Blunt) and reaches constant conflict at every step of the pursuit from forces that he cannot fight, the Adjustment Bureau.

Overall this movie had a feeling that left an impression on you like a piece of sidewalk you stepped over four blocks ago or like a boring sandwich that you had for lunch during the winter in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I left the theater trying to remember what was exactly good about this movie, as it had my attention a good portion of the time, but couldn't conjure a single thought as to why.

So, let's explore the plot a bit more in order to be able to so we can make sense of how such an attention gripping movie can leave anyone so forgetful of its existence a mere two minutes later.

A man has a group of divine beings (which are hinted at to be angels—a religious angle, blah!) watching and altering reality at every turn; every conversation and spilled cup of coffee is planned by these ever-obedient Adjusters. Right away, this would lead some people off to cheer, as we find a movie that deals with free choice over predestination. What would make this better than the already gold premise? How about if the main character can interact with these beings? Fabulous! That means the audience can identify with the character as he battles his destiny controlling nemesis.

Up to this point I thought, "Great, a solid story of man dealing with uncontrollable forces." Then the producer upped the ante by showing how these Adjusters can use a series of doors to cut from one part of the city to the next in an instant (hence, the *Inception* feeling with the altered reality.)

The next question you're probably asking is, "why did it receive such a poor marking?" For starters, let's take a look



Image courtesy of thefilmjunk.com

at the characters: you would think with Slattery (Roger Sterling in *Mad Men*) you would get quality, but I felt this respectable actor brought a small portion of cheese with him to the set, as the rest of acting staff brought blah, meh, and pallets full of mediocre performance with lack of conviction in performance. Ouch.

The love story was farfetched, with a case of creepy unrequited love that one could only define as "stalkerish." What about when they finally come together? A lack of conditions to truly foster any sort of relationship makes you wonder how they would go to such lengths for each other over a few moments of romance, considering how late into the movie the development of love emerges.

However, like many mass-produced Hollywood movies, the true quality failures are the endings. So, we will look at the recipe of this piece: first we will add three cups of great

concept, two cups of identifiable character mixed with two tablespoons of epic human struggle and let them sit together to culminate into something great that has potential to be a classic. When those three ingredients fully mix together over months, if not years, in some talented writer's head, you want to take one whole Matt Damon with a rotten performance, one whole industry of cheesy characters, 14 gallons of mediocrity, and then finally take any remaining integrity that you may find in the mix and replace it with a 100% dumbed-down ending containing strong religious implications.

Take this final mix, and let it sit for 106 minutes and enjoy a spectacle that you will literally forget after you go to the bathroom or check your phone when the movie is done. Overall, I give this movie a C- (or 2/5 stars) on the basis of it having a few good ideas, but throwing them out in the name of mass-produced cinema.



# President Hahs and Board of Trustees Conduct University Business Despite “a few crazies”

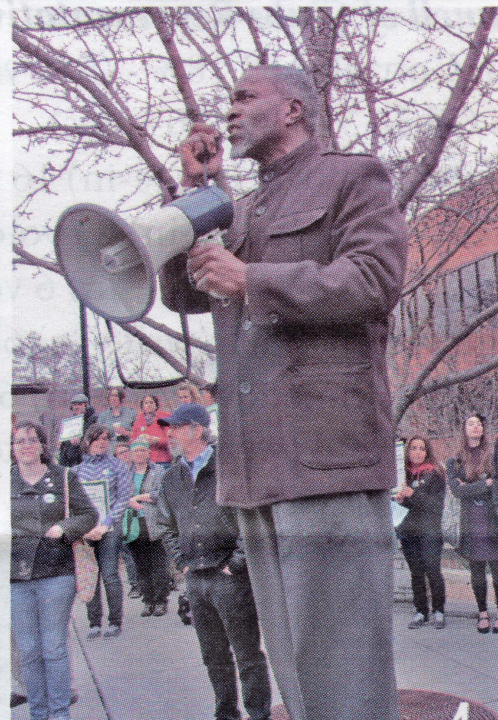
BY JANEAN L. WATKINS - MANAGING EDITOR

PHOTOS BY - BRIAN LONG, JANEAN L. WATKINS, & RELU JIANU



“What do we want?  
A fair contract!  
When do we want it?  
NOW!”

- Various protesters during the rally



1. NEIU Bargaining Team Rep., and Professor Therese Schuepfer ignites the crowd, “According to the president, ‘it’s only a few crazies,’ who look like me... turn to the person next to you, examine them, do they look crazy?”

2. Student, Alison Greer holds up a sign of support for faculty. In a stand of solidarity, students, faculty, and guests took to the Quad for the National Labor Week recognition with hopes to get answers from the administration.

3. Power to the Bargaining Team! A deduction of what’s taking place on the campus is summed up by Labor and Community Activist for In These Times, James Thindwa. The crowd begins their march towards the Jerome Sachs building, one of their stops along the way to the Board of Trustees meeting in the Student Union.

4. “When the administration tells you that what you’ve been doing for 15 months is worthless – what you need to do is DIRECT ACTION” – Jorge Mujica, Immigrant Rights Leader

5. Police standby to prevent the crowd from storming the Golden Eagles Room as 72 people filled the meeting to capacity. Inside, Professor Terry Scheupfer pleads for the Board to consider a commitment “to a fair and equitable contract, that is viewed by the [bargaining] committee as fair and equitable.”



6. Reports confirm President Hahs, and board members escaped through Alumni Hall elevators to avoid the enormous crowd.

7. Stomping the floor, and beating the walls of the Golden Eagles Room, where the Board of Trustees was holding their monthly meeting, the crowd showcased solidarity in what one participant calls, “the face of disrespectful administrative silence.”



# Extra! Extra!

- *U-Pass approval delayed by Board of Trustees until Spring 2012 despite the 94 percent student body referendum vote.*
- *Board of Trustees approves a proposal for a new Beck's Bookstore lounge area. A nearly \$250,000 project.*
- *SGA Voting results are in!*

President – James McNeil

Vice President – Jose Miranda

Treasurer /Council of Clubs Chair – Diana Perez

Secretary – Jessica Dominguez

Student Trustee – Winston Rysdahl

IBHE-SAC Representative – Bridget Blaney

## **Council of Clubs Representatives**

Juan Gonzalez 53.18% - (586 votes)

Zio Gil 35.39% - (390 votes)

Martin Sandoval (write-in) 16 votes

Jonas Chavez (write-in) 23 votes

Kristopher Mika (write-in) 6 votes

Joshua Hernandez (write-in) 6 votes

Khursid Ahmedov (write-in) 6 votes

Rachel Deahl (write-in) 17 votes

Alaine Ross (write-in) 7 votes

## **Senators**

Benjamin Arrington 8.25% - (176 votes)

Benjamin Porter 6.70% - (143 votes)

Claudia Madrid 5.20% - (111 votes)

Davette J. Franklin 5.20% - (111 votes)

Diana Armenta 4.73% - (101 votes)

Dragan Petkovic 5.39% - (115 votes)

Gloriabelle Nguyen 6.94% - (148 votes)

Jacob Topp 5.01% - (107 votes)

Jennifer Nunez 9.04% - (193 votes)

Karen Orozco 6.14% - (131 votes)

Melissa J. McGlynn 5.39% - (115 votes)

Rebecca Ostrega 4.73% - (101 votes)

Rich Xue 5.30% - (113 votes)

Roberto Reina 4.03% - (86 votes)

Sufyan Patel 7.12% - (152 votes)

Syed Ahad Hussain 8.90% - (190 votes)

Ahed Abufelat (write-in) 3 votes

## STUDENT UNION

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### April 2011

**In Celebration of National Poetry Month**

**Poets' Corner**  
With Host  
**Jason Ferguson**  
Saturday, April 19 1:40pm  
Golden Eagles' Nest (Food Court)

**Student Showcase**  
featuring  
**David Woulard**  
Thursday, April 21  
1:40 pm  
Golden Eagles' Nest (Food Court)

**Pre-Finals Study Break**  
**@El Centro**  
Tuesday, April 26 & Wednesday, April 27  
Enjoy snacks, massages and other  
stress-relieving activities

**NETBOOK CHECKOUT**  
Need to check e-mail, complete an assignment or just surf the web?  
Visit the Information Center and checkout a netbook for up to 3 hours.

**CONTACT US**  
Events and times are subject to change.  
For more information about an event please visit our Facebook page at  
[www.facebook.com/NEIUSStudentUnion](http://www.facebook.com/NEIUSStudentUnion)  
Contact the Student Union at 773-442-6052 or [student-union@neiu.edu](mailto:student-union@neiu.edu)  
Or the Information Center at 773-442-4280 or [info-center@neiu.edu](mailto:info-center@neiu.edu)